

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 31

DECEMBER, 1981

NUMBER 12

### O HOLY NIGHT

Our Beloved Elder Bro. Fred Grimm, Now At Rest With The Lord

The history of Christ's birth is not new to most of us. We have been taught about it from childhood up . . . But isn't it refreshing to read it over and over again?

How wonderful it is to read the prophecies in the Old Testament. In Isaiah 9:6,7 we read, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Thus did the prophet foretell the coming of the Saviour to the world. He used these good titles. "Prince of Peace," which He is, and has become by being our Saviour, giving us peace after a true repentance. People often don't understand why we don't have peace here on earth. We have peace now in our hearts, if we have repented, but peace in the world will not be until He, Himself, comes here to reign in the millenium.

In John 1:10,11 He tells us, "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not." All this is already true.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . ." We cannot switch this around and say, unto us a child is given, unto us a son is born. Here we are told of the virgin birth of the Prince of Peace.

In the Gospel of John we are told, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

"The same was in the beginning with God" . . . "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us . . ."

We don't fully understand this, but it is a marvelous way in which God became incarnate. God became flesh in the form of the baby, Christ. He was born of the seed of the woman, entirely free from the man. This was prophesied in Isaiah 7, verse 14. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Immanuel means God with us.

We must continually warn against the new revised version of the Bible, which was sponsored by the Federal Council of Churches, who try to change the great truths—including the virgin birth, which they deny. In this new version, they have in Isaiah 7, verse 14, a young woman shall conceive a son. This is a fearful change, from virgin to young woman. A young woman would be no sign. Multitudes of young women have conceived, but never before did a virgin conceive. Only this way could God become man. The Saviour was born of a virgin. That is how He could be perfect (sinless). He had no human father: Joseph knew not Mary until she had brought forth her first son. Matthew 1:25

The prophecy of Isaiah 7, verse 14 is restated in Matthew 1:20 ". . . Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is con-

ceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." It is proof that Mary was then a virgin, for she had known no man. He had no sin; He went to the cross for us, and took upon Him all our sins.

No wonder Christmas night was a "Holy Night." That night our Saviour was born. Thus was fulfilled the promise to Eve that her seed (CHRIST) would bruise the serpent's head. It is true that the important time of Christ's life was His crucifixion, but He had to be born into this world . . . So let us rejoice in this Christmas season, because our Saviour was born. What a great gift God gave to us, in His only Son. If we now believe and repent and our sins are washed away, we have eternal life. Oh HOLY NIGHT WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN. There were some humble people, like the shepherds who received Him. Strangers, wise men, from the East came; they were led by a star to Jesus. When they found Jesus, they worshipped Him and gave Him three kinds of gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. All these gifts had prophetic meanings. Gold prophecies of kingship, and predicted that Christ would become a King. He will be a king in the millenium when He will be King over all the world. Incense is what the High Priest offered. This gift of frankincense predicted that Christ would be a High Priest. Now He is at God's right hand, making intercessions for us. Myrrh was a material used to embalm the dead. Christ's death was predicted, and came to pass almost 2000 years ago. The prediction of the gift of gold is left to be fulfilled.

May this be a very Blessed CHRISTMAS.

# HERITAGE OF AMERICAN YOUTH

Bro. Arthur Gudeman, Minister, LaCrosse, IN

We are the heirs apparent of all that has been accomplished, all that man has done to improve his lot, and the world in which he lives. But our inheritance is not wholly golden. Today we face the greatest challenge history has known. Great political philosophers are in head on collision; a mad race is on for supremacy of munitions and instruments of destruction; fear grips every heart; and the marketplace bids for the minds and souls of men.

When Jesus came to bring a new philosophy of life, by which people might live better and happier lives, they reviled Him, spat upon Him, criticized Him, found fault with Him, and when they could not put an end to His teachings, they put Him to death.

When our Founding Fathers adopted the Constitution of the United States of America, here was a group of 13 underpopulated, undernourished, backward colonies attempting to unite into an harmonious and prosperous nation. Again people found fault and were ready to predict that this new republic could never make the grade.

Today we stand at a crossroad in the history of our great nation. The time has come when we must act, not defer; when we must lead, not follow; when we must speak, not listen; when we must unite, not divide. In this crisis, we have at our command the strength, the courage, and the inspiration which lay in the faith of our founding fathers. Men who signed the constitution, men and women who braved the prairie and the mountain to pioneer our land, lived and died by faith in God.

What about our faith? Let us remember that, down through the ages, faith in God has been an all powerful force in the lives of men. It has been a never failing source of strength in time of trouble.

Let us remember too, that all of the great and lasting monuments of civilization have been dedicated to, and founded upon, faith in a supreme power.

When our Pilgrim fathers waded onto the shores of New England,

there was no government ready to give them aid, comfort or support. All they had to sustain them was a deep and abiding faith, that was sufficient. Their voices rang through the hills with the great songs of faith.

We shutter today when we hear the songs over the air, compared to the songs of faith of long ago. This faith has given us strength when we faltered, courage when we were afraid, unity when we were divided. As the Psalmist wrote, "in what time I was afraid, I trusted in God."

Between the America of yesterday, and the America of tomorrow, stands our generation. To us has fallen the duty to preserve. By looking to God, by dedicating ourselves to His teachings, we and our children can be filled with renewed and strengthened faith.

The scriptures remind us that, as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. This Biblical admonition tells us that we cannot think in terms of failure, and then succeed, in terms of weakness, and then be strong, in terms of fear, and then be courageous, in terms of doubt, and then have faith.

So the United States was born, fathered by men who considered death preferable to loss of liberty.

So our faith was born by fathers of faith, who chose death, and burned at the stake, or sawn assunder, cast into prison, and chose death rather than give up the faith.

In 1912 the call went out that the great Titanic struck an iceberg and sank. The staggering fact is not that the ship went down, but after continued warning of danger ahead, the band played on, and dancing continued, nobody caring that there was ice ahead.

Today warnings are sent out, and people continue to sing silly songs, up to the moment, when we should be singing "Nearer My God to Thee."

Only 700 and some souls were rescued, and 1502 drowned. Noah's Ark stood the storm, but only 8

souls were saved. Only two of God's servants were spared to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. And only half of the ten virgins reached heaven. What will eternity hold for this generation? It is high time to awake.

Our generation will face the future with the same grim determination, sacrifice and sacred dedication to our Founding Fathers, which makes this country "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

In closing I want to add this poem.

## ARE ALL THE CHILDREN IN?

I think ofttimes as the night draws nigh

Of an old house on the hill,  
Of a yard all wide and blossomed starred

Where the children played at will.  
And when the night at last came down

Hushing the merry din,  
Mother would look around and ask,  
"Are all the children in?"

Tis many and many a year since then,

And the old house on the hill  
No longer echoes to childish feet,  
And the yard is still, so still.  
But I see it all, as the shadows creep,

And though many the years have been

Since then, I can hear Mother ask  
"Are all the children in?"

I wonder if when the shadows fall  
On the last short, earthly day,  
When we say goodbye to the world outside,

All tired with our childish play,  
When we step into that other land,  
Where Mother so long has been,  
Will we hear her ask, just as of old,  
"Are all the children in?"

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

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME**  
**Doug Kellenberger**

As I write, our four little girls, Dawn (8), Angela (6), Rachel (6), and Becca (4), have their backs to me and their faces toward Mommy, standing on chairs and hanging over the counter busily engrossed in cutting Christmas cookies. At one point, two of them were fighting about something and Sue just simply said, "Either work it out or you are going to have to leave the counter." They evidently felt it worthwhile to pay the price of "give and take" to get along because it is a half hour later and they are all still up there and at it.

A day before Thanksgiving, I leafed through the concordance and found an appropriate verse to write on our blackboard. As I wrote, Dawn read, "It is a good thing to give thanks . . .", but before she finished, Gary Lee walked in and then out of the room, quoting the remainder, ". . . unto the Lord. Psalm 92:1." In amazement I turned my head and pursued him down the hall asking, "How did you know that?" His reply was the reason for quoting this incident, because it indicates the influence that a Christ-centered atmosphere can have on these young people. He simply and unassumingly said, "Oh, I just opened Jav's Bible last night and read in it. I noticed that verse and remembered it was in Psalm 92:1."

The Wieland's have had their challenges lately with their growing and developing teenagers (Paul and Leanne also inherit the same challenges by being the alternate houseparents). One afternoon Debbie was asked what could be prayed for her? Her reply was, "More faith, courage, and hope." The peer pressure is great on these children. Can you sense her innermost struggle? There is a lot you dear readers can do just from your closet to minister to these young people. There have been a lot of spiritual and emotional needs answered in these children's lives through prayer. Christ was manifested to be the answer to all our salvation and problems, I John 3:5 and 8; and the avenue to Him is by faith in prayer. Thank you again and again for all prayers you have sent our way.

As indicated above our newest staff members, Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne Fischer, have experienced

many and various new struggles as well as victories during the past months while alternate houseparenting. We are very happy to have them with us. They are a special couple and a precious brother and sister in the Lord. Since being employed, they have not had any idle moments. Paul works on maintenance during the day and Leanne is kept busy in Bro. Bob's office helping him and Sis. Sue with a lot of paperwork. We want to publicly express our appreciation to them for trusting and obeying the Lord's call to work here.

We also want to lay to your hearts a need for couples and single sisters to work here at the Home. With the coming of summer, we will be having vacancies on our staff. If the Lord is moving you to work for Him in this area, please earnestly pray about it. We will be needing you to continue this "work of faith and labor of love."

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME**  
**NEED FOR HOUSEPARENTS**

Gal. 6:10: As we have therefore, opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

The Apostolic Christian Children's Home has been operating at a near capacity level for some time now, thanks to the support of our many brethren and friends and to our brothers and sisters who have willingly come to fill the staffing needs of our Home. The Home has provided Christian homes, families, and love for many children in the past, and is doing so now. However, the time has come when we will be needing to replace houseparents and helpers who feel led to move on. In order for this work of faith to continue, we must have dedicated Christian people, strong in the faith, willing to take over in order that the needs of our children can be met uninterrupted.

We are appealing to our married brethren who have felt the Lord's guidance to pursue this labor of love, to prayerfully consider it.

Bro. Bob Cockburn  
 Administrator

Houseparent applicants between the ages of 21 to 55, brother and sister in faith, with the approval of their local elder, should send their resume and letter requesting an interview to:

Bro. Nelson Beer  
 R. 1, Box 101  
 Milford, IN 46542  
 219-658-4607

or  
 Counseling Elder Bro. David Bertsch

R. 2 Grabill, IN 46741  
 219-627-2823

Resume will be promptly and prayerfully answered.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

Reflecting quietly, not only over the past year but over all ten years which have slipped quickly by since our Home had its beginning, we think deeply and gratefully of the many whose hands and hearts have been offered to help shoulder our responsibility here; and at this

**THE SILVER LINING**

Grabill, Indiana 46741

USPS 496780

**EDITORIAL STAFF:**

Lynn Stieglitz  
 Robert Cockburn  
 Albert Frautschi  
 David Bertsch

**ADDRESS VOLUNTEERS:**

Sue Stieglitz  
 Jane Weiss  
 Kathy Price  
 Renee Stieglitz  
 Marlise Stieglitz  
 Judy Luginbuhl

**MAILING VOLUNTEERS:**

Doug Kellenberger  
 Al Frautschi  
 Lloyd Klopfenstein  
 Otto Bertsch  
 Lester Meister  
 Phillip Schlatter  
 Katherine Norr  
 Marie Bertsch  
 O. W. Maxfield

Published Monthly By the Apostolic Christian Church of America.

Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller, David Bertsch.

**SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

The Silver Lining  
 c/o David Bertsch  
 R. #2, Box 157A  
 Grabill, IN 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$5.00 per year. Send zip no. with address. Remember to send changes of addresses. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

**IN MEMORY — EDITORS:**

HENRY SOUDER  
 EDWARD SOUDER

time, we express a most sincere Holiday Greeting to each one. To the parents with whom we share a precious bond of caring for a loved one, we wish PEACE, knowing that one day our Heavenly Father had sent a special child and then had provided someone with strength and courage to provide care. To the many volunteers and donors, we wish rich blessings. You have done what you could to help soothe the unuttered cries and meet the many unspoken needs. Your kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the dumb can understand. The Innkeeper was the first to say he had "no room" for Jesus. May your blessed reward include the warm feeling of knowing that with God's help, you have been able to "make room" in your busy lives to lend a helping hand. The love which Jesus' birth brought to earth dwarfs all other. You have remembered this when setting your priorities.

The usual Christmas activities: the visits of many, various community groups who bring gifts and come to entertain, the anticipated visits to home and family, and the annual Christmas party for the residents, all combine to create an air of happy expectancy among our family members. No words can measure our gratitude for all benevolences. Prayerfully, we intercede "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." St. Matthew 24:35. We are grateful to our visiting ministers for so freely sharing God's Word with us. Our visitors were: Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena), Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson), and Bros. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS), Harold Kraft (Fort Scott), Bill Emch (Lamont), and Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS).

Nov. 14, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of three dear souls and to be reminded of our own testimony. Once again we were reminded by our converts, that just nothing seems to go right, unless we're right with God. Following the baptisms Nov. 15, we welcomed Bro. Todd Roth (Bro.

Earl and Sis. Lorene), Sis. Jill Beres (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Karen Kraft (Richard and Sis. Dorothy) into our fold. We trust and pray God may continue to guide them in their new life with Him.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." I Cor. 11:26 Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger assisted Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach with Communion services Nov. 15.

Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Pulfer hosted a sit-down dinner for the church Nov. 15, in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary. We truly wish them God's blessings.

Travis James Getz was born Oct. 15. Travis' parents are Ron and Sis. Jean Getz. Danny and Chad welcome little brother Travis, as does grandmother Sis. Liza Getz (Remington).

Our annual Church cleaning was Nov. 7. We thank each one who gave of their time to help.

"The blessed story of the Christ,  
The babe of Bethlehem,  
Is worthy of our song and praise,  
And stirs the hearts of men.  
The fullness of God's love divine,  
Surrounds the Christ so mild  
Alas, how many only know,  
The Saviour as a child."

Hymns of Zion #36

We look forward to our many dear "winter" visitors as the Christmas time draws near, though mid-November still finds us with mid 80 degree days.

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON

Rose Huette

#### "O COME LET US ADORE HIM"

As the time draws near to the beautiful Christmas season of the year, may each of us take time to praise God for all he has done for us. Most of all for sending His Son, the most blessed gift of all.

Recently, we were richly blessed to have with us visiting minister Bro. John Kokanovich from Phoenix. We do thank him for coming and hope he will come again soon.

How wonderful it is when a dear soul can feel the need of a Savior. We rejoice with the angels that Maynard Beery, who has been so very ill, has found grace to repent. He is a heart patient at St. Joseph's Hospital here in Tucson. We are happy to say he is feeling and doing much better.

We are so sad to hear that Orville Schmidt's brother was killed in a tragic farm accident in the Midwest. We wish Orville and Bee and all the family our deepest sympathy.

Wednesday evening we had our annual meeting and installed Bro. Tim Kaupp as our new Sunday School superintendent to take the place of Bro. Curtis Kaufman. We also installed Bro. Rudy Bertschi as a trustee to take the place of Bro. Don Bauer who served his three years. A short time ago we installed Bro. Jay Knapp as a trustee to take the place of Bro. Raymond Cooper who moved to Oregon. We wish them all God's help and blessings.

In the mail this week I received this beautiful poem and want to share it with you.

#### FOOTPRINTS

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your time of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Author Unknown

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Mary Beth Klotzle

On Oct. 25 a group from the Rockville congregation was with us to worship and sing praises to our Lord. The tie of Christian love that is felt when we meet with our brothers and sisters in Christ cannot be expressed by mere words.

The most we can do is thank the good Lord for giving us this fellowship which is so encouraging as we strive to live as separate from the world as possible. What a joy it is to be told to keep ourselves from the sin of the world. Although we must live in this world, we need not take part in its evils. We know this is possible as Christ prayed to God, "...not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." St. John 17:15-16

Sis. Doris Hecker was able to return from the hospital to the rest home where she had been previously.

We were all deeply impressed by the presence of God's Holy Spirit as we observed the ordination of Bro. John Klotzle as deacon on Nov. 8. All were reminded of their personal responsibility to God and to the church to help preserve this faith we love through prayer, obedience and support. We trust Bro. John will be blessed as he depends upon God for the needed grace for his new duties. Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Gene Marti (Lamar, MO), Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ), and ministering Bros. Leland Hirschey (Naumburg, NY), Noah Herman and Jim Funk (Tucson, AZ), and their wives were all here for the special day. A group of visitors from San Diego were also with us. In the evening the memorandum was read, reminding us of the importance of living a good Christian life so we may be found worthy of Heaven when we stand before God on judgment day. We are thankful for His many blessings and find strength to remain true through His undying love for us.

#### COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." St. Matthew 18:20 One of the "unscheduled" Sundays several from the Denver area drove down to Colorado Springs to Sis. Katherine Ries' home and held services via tape. The spirit of the Lord was felt and the precious fellowship was deeply appreciated.

The only visiting minister this month was Bro. John Steiner of Oakville. A nice sized group gathered together that Sunday to par-

take of the spiritual food sent from God through Bro. John. May he, and his family who were with him, be richly blessed for their labor of love.

Anyone traveling through the area, even though not on a Sunday, is encouraged to get in touch with someone.

Bro. Steve Scheitlin  
1308 Morgan St.  
Ft. Collins, CO 80521  
303-221-1969

Vera Jivan  
5819 S. Lowell Blvd.  
Littleton, CO 80123  
303-798-4424

Sis. Katherine Ries  
2450 Lark Dr. Apt. 8  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
303-633-7257

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at the Victory Grange Hall, 2009 Tower Rd., Aurora. Services start at 10:30 and 12:30 with lunch served in between.

#### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Dorothy Viens

In recent weeks, we have been uplifted and inspired listening to the tapes of our brotherhood conference. Much advice and many timely warnings were given by our elder brothers. If only we could remember all that we hear and apply the teachings to our lives each day.

We have had several babies join our congregation, gladdening the hearts of their families. Born Nov. 2, a son, Jonathan Daniel, to Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou Goric. He has two sisters, Karen and Jennifer. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mildred Gerber and Sis. Janet Goric. Also, on Nov. 4, little Amber Kay joined the family of Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter. They also have three sons, Nathan, Derek and Kirby. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner and William and Sis. Anna Marie Reutter, all of Cissna Park. Also, born Nov. 15, a girl, Sarah Jo, to Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne Lanz. They have two sons, Benjamin and Steven. Grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Alaine Ballasy and Bro. Otto and Alma Lanz. May we take an example from each little innocent child we see, that even as our Father in heaven expects us to be innocent,

pure, and childlike and as earthly parents care for the needs of their little ones, so will He care for us if we put our trust in Him.

We are thankful that Bro. Kenneth Virkler (Sis. Christine) is able to be at home again after his hospital stay.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) shared many good teachings with us, for which we thank him. He reminded us that the brothers who speak God's Word are like a man climbing an unsteady ladder. Even as the person who holds and steadies that ladder is as important as the one on the ladder, so are the prayers and support of the congregation necessary that God's spirit can work and His Word can come forth.

Also on Nov. 15, the congregation witnessed the vows made by Bro. Loren Gerber and Sis. Anne Farney as they were joined together in holy matrimony. Parents of the couple are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mildred Gerber and Bro. Clifford and Sis. Harriet Farney. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

#### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Sally Gress

We wish to thank ministering Bros. Al Schneider of Rockville, CT, and Marshall Heinold of Washington, IL, for proc'aiming God's Word to us.

Many of our winter residents have returned and we welcome them all back.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Char Graff and their children, Matt and Michele, have moved to our area from Akron, OH. We are very happy to welcome them to our congregation.

#### FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Doris and Diane Rocke

We were happy to hear of the blessed arrival of Lindsey, born Sept. 12 to Alan and Sharon Maibach. She was greeted by her sister, Courtney, and grandparents, Lil Zummach and Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo were blessed with a new bundle of love when Christopher Henry was born Oct. 21. His homecoming was joyous for his brothers and sister, Nathan, Jeff, and Melissa. Happy grandparents are Harold and Dot Spicer and Raymond and Betty Sabo. Doug's parents came to assist them, but unfortunately, Bet-

ty became ill and was hospitalized for some time at Venice. We pray that she has fully recovered, and want her to know that our prayers and thoughts were with them. May she soon be able to enjoy her new grandson.

The Port Charlotte Harbor church services will begin Sunday, Dec. 6. Pulpit services are 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Call Doug Sabo 813-966-2343 or Roland Keller 813-629-2650 for information.

Approximately 75 attended our annual Sunday School weiner roast held Sunday, Oct. 24 at Myakka State Park. We thank the teachers for their willing efforts and patience with our youth.

At this time, our building plans have been given to the architect, who will review them, and if approved by the congregation, we will soon begin construction.

Bro. Bob Reiman has just returned after surgery and several stays in the hospital. He is in good condition and recuperating satisfactorily. He wishes to express his thanks for all kindness and gifts during this time. May God bless his recovery.

Sis. Louise Joos asks for God's blessings upon those who offered prayers, gifts, cards, and assistance to her. She is cheerfully enduring the misfortune of having her right wrist in a cast. We wish her God's speedy recovery.

Our Sis. Dorothy Norr has been in Tampa General Hospital for open heart surgery. She has made some progress, and is patiently enduring her cross. She expresses thanks for prayers, gifts, and all kindness given her. She will soon begin therapy and we offer a special prayer for her during this time.

May we all remember Thanksgiving, "The season when the earth displays her finest works of art, And the poetry of thankfulness is written in the heart."

John Gray

GEORGIA, ATLANTA  
Brenda Stoller

Have faith in God, the sun will  
shine  
Though dark your path may be  
today;  
His love has planned your way  
and mine,  
Have faith in God, have faith  
always.

Anon.

We were thankful for God's servants, Bros. Roy Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT), and Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN) this past month. The Lord has truly blessed our small flock with many willing servants to come and proclaim His Holy Word.

We are glad Bro. Don Sellers is recovering from his short stay in the hospital.

Our congregation is encouraged when those traveling through Atlanta stop in for services and worship with us. We meet at the Ramada Inn in Marietta, GA, on I-75, the second and fourth Sundays of each month. If you need further information, call Bro. Linn or Sis. Brenda Stoller at (404) 471-0349.

#### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Jean O'Shea - Mary Huber

On Sunday, Nov. 1, Bro. Ken Hoerr from Peoria spent the day with us. We were really thankful for his many good teachings and pray God will bless him for his efforts.

Monique Carter, daughter of Bro. Adam and Sis. Margaret Maurer, gave her testimony and was baptized Nov. 16. Bro. Glen Dill from Tremont and Bro. Don Sauder from Roanoke were here to help Monique as she started her new walk of life.

The Lord is again touching the hearts of friends as Ivan and Maxine Stoller have decided to take the narrow and less traveled road that leads to Heaven and leave the old life behind. We know that God will walk with them.

Peg Woerner, Connie Zimmerman, and Jerry Koehl were announced as having peace with God and man and we are looking forward to bringing them into the fold in the near future.

#### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Evelyn Endress

While looking at a book of Christmas songs, I came across the origins of these familiar carols. SILENT NIGHT: The parish priest of the little church of Arnsdorf, Austria, wrote the words for this beautiful Christmas song on the day before Christmas Eve in 1818. Mice had eaten at the bellows of the church organ. The priest and organist were sadly troubled by the lack of music for the midnight service, but when the organist, Franz Gruber, heard the words, he set them to the love-

ly music now so familiar to all of us. O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM: One of the few carols by American writers, this lovely hymn was composed by Phillips Brooks in 1868 while he was rector of a church in Philadelphia. His Sunday School classes asked him for a Christmas song, and after writing this, he took it to the church organist for a tune. The organist, Lewis H. Redner, says he heard this melody in a dream on Christmas Eve and finished the arrangement in time for the service the next day.

Visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor), Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana), Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor), and Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville). We thank God for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit so that we can be fed through these willing servants.

We are thankful Bro. Mark Ehnlé is home from the hospital and is able to assemble with us. Others hospitalized recently were Bro. Don Knobloch and Mark Rumbold (son of Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta).

#### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

Is too much of the world on a salt-free diet? Whose fault is it? Not God's.

I have often admired those who create recipes, managing a perfect combination of a dash of this, splash of that, and hint of something unusual, achieving the desired result. Our Lord can do the same in our lives, even though we sometimes wonder, especially about the amount of liquid (tears) or heat.

Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin from Goodfield was our mentor as we partook of the precious privilege of communion Saturday, Oct. 31. Through his message, we were better able to understand the tear-stained, yet glorious cross. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16 We are his debtors as well for his ministry Sunday, Nov. 1. Bro. Carl Wyss, Washington, was a welcome visitor Sunday, Nov. 8. We are so grateful for the love and fruitfulness of the Word planted by God among us through His stewards, our ministering brethren.

The Sunday School children shared a short program with us before our afternoon dinner at church Nov. 1. One song, with words by Bro. Henry Beer, "Thankful for those who daily impart, Strength for the journey, cheer for the heart," struck me, for the Lord does so often surround us with uplifting fellowship. Our days may be busy and wearing and tiring, but we have been given the buoyancy of God's support. How do those who have not reached out for His peace, nor the fellowship of other believers, ride the waves and survive?

Russell Huette has a new job in El Paso, TX. Knowing that he is in the Lord's care, we pray that all will be well with him. Though we are sorry to say farewell, may we meet again, here or hereafter.

We welcome new faces among us. Bro. Brad Getz, Elgin, is with us, mostly Wednesday evenings. He is working toward a degree in math at the University of Chicago. Mark Flaugh, now stationed at Great Lakes Naval Base with the Navy, has sought us out. Mark formerly spent some time at the Apostolic Christian Children's Home in Leo, IN. We have enjoyed both young men's company so much. As the Lord leads, we wish them both His continued blessings and guidance—and somewhat selfishly, a lot of time to worship and fellowship with us. Leo and Barbara Grimm have also come to worship with us from the Naper-ville area. We extend a loving welcome to them, as well as our prayers and support. Leo has just recently been hospitalized for an operation. May the Lord grant His healing.

Bro. Tiber Bozay has been allowed to return home after a month in the hospital. For God's goodness in all ways, and the cards, gifts, and prayers of so many around the country, Bro. Tiber and Sis. Pearl want to express their thankfulness. Truly, this Thanksgiving, Sis. Pearl's tenth in the U.S., will be extra-special.

"In the beginning God . . ." Genesis 1:1. If only we ordered every part of our lives that way. . . At Christmas, God and His Son should be our focus. In spending our money, we should remember, "In the beginning God. . ." In disciplining our children, planning activities, speaking our minds, what would be different if first we thought, "In the beginning God. . .?"

Sermon note: Yet our Lord would have us say, not "I should," but "I want to." Burdens result from the first. Satan accuses when we have too much to do and not enough time, when all does not appear to have gone well. He tells us we can't do that, we're not good enough, we hurt someone. But "I want to" leaves us motivated, but malleable, eager but pliable in the Lord's hands—and He gives us the shield of faith to hold up, protecting us from Satan's darts of doubting.

May we anticipate life's end as the welcome to a warmly lighted mansion, with the approach lighted by luminaria, and the Lord and Master there to lovingly greet us as we enter, to join the beaming throng of joyful saints in harmony and companionship everlasting.

May we shudder and consider the other extreme, a life ending in total darkness, as in a lonely shack, where one may wander around forever, in utter loneliness, rejection, and regret, tortured, and isolated from any good thing. Let us not forget to let our lamps burn brightly, lest any should perish.

#### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Melba Funk - Joan Waldbeser

We rejoice with three of our young couples, who have recently been blessed with a precious little bundle from heaven.

On Oct. 23, Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger became parents of a daughter, Valerie Marie. She is also welcomed by two sisters, Rebecca and Melissa. Grandparents are David and Sis. Marie Kupferschmidt and Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Rinkenberger.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee Anderson welcomed their first child on Nov. 8. A little son, Zachary Loren, has come to live with them. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Marge Rocke (Eureka) and Sis. Mary Anderson.

Nov. 10 is the date a daughter, Jacqueline Lee, was born to Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Knapp. She is welcomed home by a sister, Jennifer. Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy Walder and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Verena Knapp are the grandparents.

Bro. Harry Hoffman was injured in a farm accident, requiring 35 stitches in his leg. He was confined to his home for a few weeks, but is recuperating nicely, and has been able to again fellowship with us the past couple of Sundays.

Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) was our visiting minister this past month, giving us precious thoughts and blessings to take home with us and meditate upon later.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Esther Hodel, Sis. Ida Rocke, and Sis. Anna Marie Young, medical. Bro. Bill Feller and Les Bauer were surgical patients. Both had successful surgery. Les is doing nicely at home, while Bro. Bill is still recuperating in the hospital. Ben Merkle, a former Cissna Park resident, is in the Fairbury hospital, with a broken hip. We pray the Lord will be with all the sick and lend His healing power.

A history of the Cissna Park church has recently been compiled. It is a small booklet, dating from 1881 to the present. All those who would like to have a copy should contact anyone from the Cissna Park congregation. There is a \$1.00 fee to cover printing costs.

Also, we have just received our new church plates. They show a view of the present building and the large wooden building which was across the road. There are a few extras if anyone should be interested.

We sympathize with Sis. Mary (Joel) Hofbauer over the death of her brother.

Sis. Lydia Moser wishes to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and kind deeds, since the death of her husband, Bro. Carl.

He came, the Babe of Bethlehem, not for the very wise, nor for the holy ones did He come here from Paradise.

He came to hold the trembling hands  
of those who lost the way.  
It was for men whom we scorn  
most

that Jesus came that day.

Peggy Day

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Shirley Ifft - Mardell Ott

We are certainly thankful for the many visiting ministers who came and labored in our behalf this past month. They are Bros. Kenneth Weertz, Kenneth Eisenman (Cissna Park), Larry Weninger (Latty), Bill Schlatter (Junction), and Kenneth Knapp (Taylor). Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) assisted in the testimony and baptismal service of our new sister-in-faith, Susie Ott (Bro.

Don and Sis. Carolyn). It was brought out in her testimony that it is by God's great mercy, grace and love that we can break the hold that Satan has on our lives. We cannot do it by our own strength, and no one can do it for us, only God can.

Clarence Miller has found this to be true as he is turning to the Lord in repentance. We can never thank the Lord enough for allowing His Son to come and suffer and die on the cross, that we could find forgiveness for our sins through His atoning blood.

We were privileged to share Holy Communion together before the departure of some of our brothers and sisters for their winter homes. We thank Elder Bros. Joshua Broquard and Art Bahler (Fairbury) for helping our Elder Bro. Bob in serving this Holy Feast.

Hospitalized this month are Bro. Dick and Sis. Kathie Hasty and their daughter Kim, Dave Zimmerman, and Clarence Miller. Sis. Margaret Ott wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and gifts that she received while hospitalized. These kindnesses were very much appreciated.

As this Christmas season approaches, and we reflect on our Savior's humble birth with thankful hearts, let us remember that when He comes again, it will be in the full power of His glory, and He will gather His children home. Oh what a wonderful day that will be when Jesus comes again!

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Ruth Ann Getz

The beautiful meaning of Christmas! How the true believer rejoices in the birth of the Saviour of fallen mankind! We are no longer required to look forward to Salvation as did the godly men of the Old Testament. It is available now and whosoever will may partake. We can scarcely comprehend such a powerful love. . . that Christ would become flesh and bear the sins of all mankind who believe in His sacrificial death and become soldiers of the cross. Now we can look at the finished work of His resurrection and ascension and, truly, He is as Isaiah prophesied, "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Our sympathy is extended to the Graf family in the death of their

sister, Elsie Newberry. Death causes separation, and separation causes pain. May the Lord be with them in their sorrow.

We were also saddened to hear of the untimely death of Merlin Schmidt (West Bend). We know the family bears much sorrow and we especially wish to gird his two brothers (Bro. Arthur and Bro. Delbert) of our Elgin congregation with our prayers. Surely the Lord hears when we pray for one another and surely our grief is easier to bear when we have the assurance that our brethren in the Lord are holding us up in prayer.

Little Natalie Rose came to bless the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin on Oct. 30. Ann, Renee, Tony and Benjamin make up the rest of this family unit and they welcome their new little sister home. Bro. Ben and Sis. Martha Greiner (Morris) and Sis. Florence Martin are the grandparents.

Gottfried Schock (brother of Sisters Barbara and Louise) has been hospitalized following a stroke. He is slowly improving but is still confined to the hospital.

Sis. Ruth Schurter, Walter Foell, and John Foell all have been recently hospitalized but are home again. May the Lord bless them with fully restored health.

Stacia Schambach (daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) met with an accident and fractured her wrist, which will have to remain in a cast for some time.

#### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

We have had a very pleasant fall season, a lot of sunny, mild days. November hasn't been a "gray" month so far. We have much to be thankful for if we just take the time to name our blessings. "If you don't get everything you want, think of the things you don't get that you don't want." Wings of Silver.

We were privileged to have a number of ministers visit us these past few weeks. Among them were Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Carl Wyss (Washington), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), John Lehman (Bern, KS), Fred Knapp (Congerville), William Gudeman (Elgin, IL), and Bruce Leman (Roanoke). We appreciate brothers who are willing to bring us the true Word of God.

Bro. John and Sis. Julia Dapper were very appreciative of all the loved ones who remembered them

on their 60th wedding anniversary. An open house was held at the Home where they live.

We have had only two hospital patients recently. Sis. Clara Lou (Louis) Blunier has had surgery and is recovering at home. Sis. Anna Hartter is still there following a fall at her home. We hope they feel the prayers uttered on their behalf.

On Oct. 18, the engagement of Sis. Becky Knapp and Bro. Doug Germann was made known. Sis. Becky, formerly of Eureka, is working in Phoenix, AZ. Bro. Doug, formerly of LaCrosse, IN, is also employed there. They are planning a December wedding here. We wish for them God's blessings as they plan their life together. Their parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Jean Knapp, and Alberta Germann of LaCrosse.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy Blunier have a new little son, Clark Alan, born Nov. 4. He is welcomed by Bruce, Randy, Merle, Teresa, and Brent. His grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier and Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah Ehle of Princeville.

A little girl, Sara Jean, was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller on Nov. 7. Her sisters and brother are Rachel, Darrell, Brenda, and Paula. Bro. Tim and Sis. Edie wish to express their deep appreciation to all who remembered them during the past couple of months and at the birth of Sara Jean. Along with their love and thanks they wish for each one God's blessings. The baby's grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Wilma Stoller and Henry and Wilma Blunier.

We have added a precious new lamb to our flock. Sis. Lynn Eastman was baptized on Sunday, Nov. 15 after giving her testimony on Saturday evening. We know God will be near all who put their trust in Him and we pray for this guidance for Sis. Lynn. Her parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma.

#### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Carol Bazzell - Joann Zehr

On Sunday, Oct. 25, our Bible Class students hosted Forrest, Tremont, and Bradford. Our young people enjoyed the day and we hope all will have found fond memories and will continue the friendships they have established. Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) was willing to bring us the Word. We thank him and all of our visitors for being with us.



We were reminded of the spiritual concerns of our dear elder brethren as the memorandum was read and expounded upon. Our brothers and sisters from Forrest gathered with us. We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Steve Rinkenberg (Cissna Park) and Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest), along with our dear shepherds. The past month we have also enjoyed having Bros. Merle Bucher (LaCrosse) and Marshall Heinold (Washington).

We were richly blessed the weekend of Nov. 15 as we were privileged to hear the testimony of a dear convert, Michelle Walter. How thankful we are that the day of grace is still here and that she could answer God's call. We welcome her as our dear sister and pray that we may all walk the path of humility, that when our life here is over, "we have a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Michelle's parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita.

There has been sickness among us and we hope all are recovering. We know that affliction does come, but we trust in our loving God who knows best. We realize He will heal where it is His good will and that His grace is sufficient. We think of Bro. Henry Maurer who has been hospitalized for some time now. Sis. Dorothy Steffen and Bro. Herbert Fehr are home recuperating from recent surgery.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I feel so privileged to be a member of such a beautiful faith. The love you've shown through your prayers, visits, cards, flowers, and gifts have encouraged me so very much. I cannot express what it meant to me while I was in such pain, to know that you cared enough to remember me. The love you have shown me has made me very happy. I feel very blessed through our Lord. I realize that my rapid healing is because of God's answer to your prayers. I wish to thank each one of you for your kind deeds while I was in the hospital and during my stay at my daughter's. May God's blessing be upon you.

Your Sister in Faith,  
Louise Moulton

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold - Kathy Leman

We have been blessed with a number of visiting ministers this month. Bros. Walt Anliker and

Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), Bro. Edmund Kloter (Goodfield), Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville), and Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin) shared God's Word with us.

Hospital patients were Bro. Joe Kaisner, Bro. Henry Kilgus, Bro. Sidney Leman, Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith), Sis. Mary Metz (Bro. Joe), Sis. Betty Ifft (Warren), and Sis. Bernice Cox (Wayne). God knows the needs of each and can provide His help.

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on Saturday, Oct. 24. Assisting with this work were Bros. Josh Broquard and Art Bahler, Fairbury. It is a very important and solemn occasion when we remember our Lord's suffering and death.

Two brothers have been elected to serve as Sunday School teachers. They are Bros. Alfred Kupferschmidt and Jerry Leman. May God grant them grace and wisdom to carry out this work according to His will.

The engagement of our friend, Sharon Roth (Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth), to John Payne, Fairbury, was made known. Also, Sis. Carol Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Beverly) and Bro. Ernie Leman (Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna) are engaged to be married. May God be with these couples as they plan their lives together.

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life." Nov. 22 was the wedding day of Sis. Carla Kuntz (Bro. Leland and Sis. Marge) and Bro. Curtis Stoller (Bro. Edward and Sis. Marie) of Gridley. We pray that God will bless this union as they walk the path of life together, trusting in Him. Bros. Elmer Witzig and Byron Stoller, Gridley, and Bro. Kenneth Schneider, Remington, IN, spent the day with us.

We have five new bundles from Heaven. Art and Jana Lehman have a new little girl, Jennifer Ann. She has two sisters, Janelle and Jodi. Her grandmother is Sis. Alice Lehman. Pete and LaRae Walter are first-time parents of Jenna Leigh. Her grandparents are Ray and Sis. Dorie Steffen. Paula Kay was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold. She joins Marsha, Melody, and Ted at home. Grandparents are Sis. Dorothy Bachtold and Bro. Albert and Sis. Nathalia Wenger. Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin welcome Heidi Joy into their family circle. Scott, Andy, T. Anne, and Kenton

are her brothers and sister. Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman, Forrest, and Bro. Willard and Sis. Tillie Rudin of Cissna Park are her grandparents. Tory John was born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman. He has one brother, Todd. Grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman, Forrest, and Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard, Fairbury.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." St. Luke 2. We are fast approaching the Christmas season when we can gather to hear the Christmas story from our young children in Sunday School. Let us each remember the true meaning of Christmas in the busy holiday season.

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Verna Hartter

#### LET US BE QUIET

Let us be still awhile this  
Christmastime;  
O hurrying hearts restrain your  
restless beat;  
Let us go journeying on some  
upward climb  
Into the pure air, rarefied and  
sweet,  
With the memory of another far-  
off night  
When the Christ was born beneath  
a star's white light.

We have been loud and boisterous  
far too long,  
Let us be silent, and perhaps we  
will,  
By listening, hear the angels'  
heralding song  
Ring clearly out above some  
distant hill,  
And if we leave the clamoring  
word unsaid  
A voice will guide us to Christ's  
manger bed.

It was a silent night, the night He  
came,  
A holy night and may we keep it  
so;  
There is one star God's own hand  
set aflame,  
Its lengthening rays will guide us  
as we go;  
It is a silent fire, its rays point far  
And through the centuries they  
will not dim  
For every silver line of light  
directs  
Mankind on the shining road that  
leads to Him.

Grace Noll Crowell

Joe and Sally Quast have a new little son, Joshua Lee, born Oct. 31. Grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman, and Mrs. Ann Quast of Eureka. Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne Monfree have a new little daughter, Meika Leigh, born Nov. 1 Karen Monfree of Bloomington, and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene Steffen are the happy grandparents. May God bless the homes and families of these new little ones.

The engagement has been made known of Mary Graham of Bloomington, and Steve Hohulin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Sandy). Mary's parents are the Robert Grahams of Springfield. We pray God will be with them as they plan this very important step in their lives.

We pray for a speedy recovery for Sis. Cindy (Sam) Hohulin who has been hospitalized this past week following surgery.

At a recent church service, following the reading of II Chronicles 24, we were inspired with the realization of the great blessing we may derive from the combination of righteous leaders and the righteous conduct of the brethren in the church. Just as the children of Israel were blessed with joy, peace, and happiness when this situation was present, so can it be for us as spiritual children of God, who truly want to serve Him.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

God sends us many precious gifts  
But none that can compare  
With the wonder of a baby  
Who's so tiny and so fair. . .  
A baby with a smile as warm  
As sunshine's golden light  
And eyes as bright and merry  
As the twinkling stars at night.  
An angel child with velvet lips,  
A tiny button nose,  
And skin as soft and perfect  
As the petals of a rose. . .  
No miracle's as wondrous—  
Not the sun, nor sky, nor trees—  
As this little bit of Heaven  
That you hold upon your knees!

Author Unknown

Katy Lynn Schlipf is the precious new daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy. She was born Oct. 31 and is the sister of Robert Lynn. Carl and Lola Schlipf of Gridley, and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer of Milford, IN, are Katy's grandparents.

Sis. Marge Meiss has been in the

hospital for surgery. Ollie Rich has been moved to McDaniel's Nursing Home in El Paso to recover from her recent injury. Bro. Albert Grusy and Sis. Brenda Stoller were in the hospital and are now home again and feeling better.

We appreciated the visit of ministering Bro. Ernest Graf, Jr., of Akron, OH. Our common faith and understanding in the Lord is such a special blessing. It enables us to travel in many states and find comfort, joy and peace when we sense the presence of the same Holy Spirit among the brethren there.

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney - JoAnn Roecker

Gary and Vickie Greene welcome into their hearts and home their first son, Caleb Andrew, who was born on Oct. 21. Robin is very happy for a baby brother. The happy grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Mavis Kaiser and Robert and Mary Greene.

A church potluck was held at the Morton Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall on Oct. 25. We were all indeed filled to overflowing with delicious food. We also had precious fellowship one with another. We ended our blessed Sunday by singing praises unto our Heavenly Father.

We are rejoicing with Anna Wiedman. She gave her testimony of faith and was baptized on Oct. 28. May our Heavenly Father richly bless, lead, guide, and direct her as she walks the narrow pathway of life.

Sis. Kathryn Belsley was sweetly called Home after many years of suffering. She was an inspiration to us all and always had a smile on her face when we walked into her room at Restmor. Her funeral was held on Nov. 3. May the Lord comfort and bless her family and friends.

Louise Krug was gently called Home. Her funeral was held on Nov. 9. May God comfort and bless her husband, Reuben, her family, and friends.

The family of Sis. Kathryn Belsley wishes to express their thanks and appreciation to friends, neighbors and relatives for the many cards, plants, flowers, food, and deeds of kindness received during her illness and recent death. May God richly bless all who were so kind.

Marie Ziegler was called Home. Her funeral was held on Nov. 18.

May God comfort and bless her family and friends.

We wish to express our thanks to Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), for being with us and ministering God's Holy Word to us. May God richly bless him for his labors of love.

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent time in the hospital: Elizabeth Bauman, Sis. Lisa Kaiser, and Bro. Harry Wick. May God continue to be with these loved ones and all who are shut-in or ill at home. May we remember them in our prayers.

### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner - Mary Ann Plattner

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

Isaiah 9:6

Nov. 8 was the wedding day of Sis. Jenny Waibel (Bill and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Craig Wieland (Bro. Don and Sis. Lu Ann) of Bay City, MI.

Wedding vows were exchanged between Debbie Fehr (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Shari) and Rick Landers (Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Landers) on Nov. 14.

Sis. Patti Eisenmann (Bro. Harry and Sis. Loretta) and Bro. Chris Kummer (Lazlo and Helena) were united in holy matrimony on Nov. 15. We wish these couples God's richest blessings in their new life together. We will miss our Sis. Jenny and Bro. Chris and Sis. Patti as they move to make their new Christian homes.

A daughter was born to Bro. Carl and Sis. Debi Hoerr. Kary Lee is welcomed home by her brother, Ryan, and sister, Cassandra. Grandparents are Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Carl and Sis. Ev Hoerr.

Hospital patients this month were Leland Swadley, Bro. Walter Plattner, Bro. Al Kiefer, Bro. Walt Hess, Frank Merison, Mark Causey, Sis. Tina Schwind, Heidi Reinbeck, and Dustin Plattner.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley), Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Virgil Metzger (Urbana), Roy Wieland and Jim Ramseier (Bay City), and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA). We thank

them for sharing with us the Word of God.

We express our sympathy to Sis. Gertrude Sauder, Sis. Eva Bauer, Sis. Wilhelmina Bauer, Sis. Lillian Koehl, and Bro. Ben Bauer on the death of their sister, Sis. Mary Koch of Tremont.

A German singing held at the Apostolic Christian Home on Oct. 11 was enjoyed by all who were present.

Oct. 31 was the Senior Citizen Dinner held at the Fellowship Hall and was given by the Peoria Young Group. May God bless them for their efforts and kindness.

Our Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht and their family have been led to move to Roanoke. We will miss them in our congregation and pray God's blessings will be upon them as they make their new home.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all of you who were so kind and loving during the loss of our dear son Jim.

A special thanks for cards, gifts, money, food and flowers that were given to us. May God bless you all for the prayers and comfort you have shown to us.

Robert Waibel Family

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Arlene and Arlys Martin

Give thanks for:

- His Holiness—Psalms 30:4
- His Name—Psalms 75:1
- His Judgments—Psalms 119:62
- His Mercy—Psalms 136:1
- His Righteousness—Psalms 140:13

Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Dale Eisenmann of Chicago and LeRoy Hartman of Peoria.

On Oct. 24, Bro. Roy Grimm of Taylor, MO, showed pictures at our Fellowship Hall of his trip to India in February.

On Nov. 13, Bro. Bob Cockburn of Leo, IN, showed us pictures and explained the work of the Children's Home.

Two of our congregation were involved in car accidents. Scott Streitmatter, son of Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny, was in an accident Oct. 24. Sis. Arlene Knapp was in an accident Oct. 7. We are grateful that they were spared serious injury.

Lavina Sloan is recovering from

knee surgery which she had Nov. 11. Our prayers are with her.

Congratulations to Bro. John and Sis. Julia Dapper who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Oct. 18. Bro. John and Sis. Julia live at the Eureka Home.

Please remember the family of Bro. Robert and Sis. Esther Herrmann in your prayers. Their son, Robert of Roanoke, was killed in a pickup truck collision Nov. 13. We give our sympathy to Bro. Robert and Sis. Esther; Robert's wife, Kathy; his children, Jason, Justin, and Julie; his brothers, Bro. Howard of Dunlap and Bro. Allan of Princeville; and his sister, Karen Burgess of Dunlap.

#### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Joyce Hodel - Carol Rumbold

"Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,  
Sing His mercy and His grace;  
In the mansions bright and blessed,  
He'll prepare for us a place.

When we all get to Heaven,  
What a day of rejoicing that will be!

When we all see Jesus,  
We'll sing and shout the victory."  
Melodies of Praise #173

Our Bro. Ezra Schlipf was unexpectedly called Home. His wife, Sis. Velda worships with us. He has one son, James, and two daughters, Sis. Betty Bauman of Goodfield and Mary Jane Wettstein. He spent many hours working at the Nursing Home from early morning until late at night. We all hope to meet and rejoice with him some day.

Nick Herbst, brother of Sis. Matie Leman passed away. His funeral was held Nov. 1. We offer our sympathy to the family.

A daughter was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Aeschleman. Little Jodi Marie is the granddaughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Maddell Aeschleman and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher.

It's a real thrill to see the Lord forming a new Christian home. Sis. Julie Schumacher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Rich Lindberg (Ronald Lindberg's) announced their engagement. We thank God that young couples have chosen the "better part" first and now are able to have Christ-centered homes.

We enjoyed working together at the annual bazaar held at the

Fellowship Hall on a beautiful day in November. The proceeds will go to our Nursing Home.

We appreciate the assistance of Elder Bros. Dave Kieser, Princeville, and Dan Koch, Tremont, in reading the conference letter to our congregation. It is always good to be reminded of our Christian duties.

"Joy to the World, the Lord is come." As we receive joy this season, remember to give "joy" away to those in need. Start by making a list of ways to bring joy and carry one out each day.

#### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach - Phyllis Lang

May this Christmas season bring you deep joy and many pleasant experiences. May you have wisdom for your problems, help in every time of need, and may you have true friends all along the way, to the very end of life's journey. This is our wish for you and yours at this Christmas season.

We are glad to report that Sis. Hannah Koch is getting along well after her brief hospital stay. She wishes to thank the many dear ones that remembered her in prayer, visits, gifts and cards during her stay in the hospital and also for food shared after returning home. May God bless. Lisa Koch, daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie, was also a hospital patient this month. Lisa has a new baby brother, Jonathan Daniel. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Koch and Sis. Madelyn Tobler.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. June Zuercher and family in the passing of her father.

The past few Wednesday nights our congregation was privileged to hear the conference tapes. Many blessings were received.

Sadness swept over our church as we learned our dear Sis. Mary Koch had passed away. She is survived by 12 children, Sis. Carolyn Bolliger, Sis. Violet Koch, Sis. Miriam Frank (Marvin), and Bro. Dave, Bro. Eugene, Bro. Jess, Bro. Daniel, Bro. Vernon, Bro. Cleo, Gerald, and Bro. Elmon. Her kindly manner will certainly be missed.

We have missed Bro. John Moser for sometime in our assembly. We pray the Lord will be with him and bless him each day anew while he is recovering.

ADDRESS CHANGED?  
INCLUDE OLD AND NEW ZIPS

**ILLINOIS, URBANA**  
Charlen Banwart

"The door is on the latch tonight,  
The hearth-fire is aglow,  
I seem to hear soft passing feet—  
The Christ child in the snow.

My heart is open wide tonight  
For stranger, kith or kin.  
I would not bar a single door  
Where Love might enter in."  
Kate Douglas Wiggin

A baby daughter, Erica Joy, was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Marla Ringger of our congregation. Two older sisters, Amy and Allison, helped welcome her home. Rick and Marla marveled at the wonders of modern medicine as they spent time with Erica in the neo-natal unit, where she was placed after her premature birth. They could feel God's nearness in this setting and appreciated the prayers of those they love.

We have been blessed with sermons from the following visiting ministers recently: Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse), Bro. Leonard Meyer (Chicago), Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty).

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
Joan and Mary Schick

"And in the Father's image pure  
He came earth's trials to endure  
He leads us with a gentle hand  
To that long cherished happy  
land."

Zion's Harp #7

What a joy Christmas time can be for those who are led by God's hand. It is a joyful time, a time for praising God for sending His Son, knowing the agony and rejection He would have to endure. But to so many the Christmas season brings no joy. May we all reach out to someone who is lonely, depressed, or discouraged and give of ourselves, as God has so abundantly and unselfishly given to us.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville). We thank them for being with us and sharing God's Word.

Our monthly hymn sing was held on Nov. 15. We enjoyed the singing of the Mortonairens and appreciate the fellowship we can have when we gather together to praise God.

Bro. Gary Rauhaus and Bro. Henry Simon have been in the hospital, and we pray that they may have speedy recoveries.

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**

Tammy Gerber  
Gayla Baumgartner

"Then Peter said, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.'" Acts 2:38

On the weekend of Oct. 24 and 25, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of nine precious souls. We joyfully welcome them: Bro. Craig Baumgartner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Denny Meyer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet), Bro. Mark Fiechter (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy), Bro. Vince Gerber (Bro. Vernon), Bro. Von Ringger (Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn), Bro. Brent Troxel (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Bev), Bro. John Eisenmann (Roger and Linda Eisenmann, Gary and Jeanne Waibel), Sis. Beth Kipfer (Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie), and Sis. Rose Steffen (Sis. Marie).

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Schladenhauffen welcomed into their hearts and home a little girl, Amanda Lynn.

Bro. Alan and Sis. Susan Stoller were blessed with the arrival of a son, James David.

Nicholas Alan is the name given to the first child of Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori Steffen. His grandparents are Bro. Sherman and Sis. Lucille Steffen and Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky Leyse are the happy parents of Shawn Michael. Troy, John, and Tammy welcome their new brother.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Darlene Reinhard welcome their first precious bundle, Matthew Gene. His grandparents are Bro. Alphie and Sis. Lucille Reinhard and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucy Isch.

On Nov. 15, Bro. Jon Kaehr and Sis. Juli Isch were united as one in the Lord. May God be near to them as they walk the path of life together. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Pat Kaehr and Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn Isch.

Our hospital patients this month were: Sis. Sylvia Isch, Sis. Ber-

neice Maller, Bro. Jack Schwartz, Bro. Claire Yerglers, Bro. Charles Kaehr, Sis. Dorothy Kaehr, Sis. Lillian Bertsch, Bro. Alvin Honegger, Alan Steffen, Bro. Steve Reinhard, Bro. Homer Clark, and Sis. Ida Winzeler. May God heal them according to His will.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness. . ." II Timothy 4:7-8 Our loved one, Bro. Glen Barger, was called from this life into his heavenly home. May God comfort Sis. Queenie and her family during this loss.

We were privileged to have Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty), Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit), and Bro. Elmer Hartter (Milford) in our presence this month. We received many good teachings from the Word of God brought to us through His chosen men. We thank them for their deeds of love.

As we see winter come, we are once again reminded of the humble birth of our Lord. We are so thankful that we have His perfect example to follow and that through His life and death we have the hope of eternal life.

**There Will Be Peace and Good Will**

It was love and peace, good will  
to men,  
The angels once did sing;  
When they announced in wondrous  
chorus  
The Birthday of a King.

And was it peace the angels sang  
With all the world at war?  
With violence and strife rampant  
As ne'er was seen before.

Good will to men? Is God then  
mocked  
With this our time and age?  
For hatred, wrath, and strife  
prevail  
And men and nations rage.

The great fulfillment of God's  
word  
The prophecies of old,  
Will in that great millennial day  
Unto the world unfold.

Yes, men will give God glory  
And hatred will then cease  
And men will love, as we are loved.  
There will be peace—sweet peace.

H. Beer

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE****Wendy Gutwein**

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."  
Psalms 139:14

This past month, four of our families have realized the miracle of God's creation with the birth of new little ones. Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich, along with Heather and Seth, welcome Sean Christian into their hearts and home. Grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

Jeff and Elaine Sanders are first-time parents of a sweet little girl, Kristen Lyn. Her grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Peg Bucher and Mr. and Mrs. Doug Sanders.

Charles and Karen Eide have a new son, Jon Raymond. Jason and Stacy complete their family circle. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eide, and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hendershot.

The fourth little one added to our congregation this month is Tami Paige Inoue. Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathy are Tami's parents, and her two older sisters are Rebekah and Heide. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Huber, and Sis. Tomino Inoue are the grandparents.

Bro. Ben Anliker was hospitalized, but is now back at Parkview Haven. We pray he can always feel the sustaining strength of God's grace.

Bro. Harry Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), and Bro. Jack Bollier (Leo) were our visiting ministers this month. We thank them for their visits and for feeding us from the Word of Life.

**CHRISTMAS WISH**

May you know the truth of  
Christmas

That Jesus Christ is King,  
Both in a lowly manger  
Where heavenly angels sing,  
And on the throne of God  
Where hosannas ever ring.

May you know the peace of  
Christmas

That Christ alone can give,  
Not only in your home  
And daily as you live,  
But hourly, weekly, yearly  
And onward to life's eve.

May you know the love of  
Christmas

Made incarnate on that night

When Jesus came to live with  
men

Bringing hope and light;  
Atoning, healing, giving life,  
Conquering wrong, enthroning  
right.

May you know the joy of  
Christmas,

Joy that only Christ can bring,  
As you give and then receive,  
May the warmth of Christmas  
cling

To you and every one of yours.  
May you find Christ in every-  
thing.

Pollyanna Sedziol

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

**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS****Bobbi Erb - Lynn Klopfenstein**

Indianapolis was fortunate to have two precious new babies born during the month of October. Little "Emily Suzane" Ringger was welcomed home by her two older sisters, Allison and Tracy. She was born to Bro. Art and Sis. Sue Ringger on Oct. 21.

As parents often have prayers upon their hearts for their children, I am reminded of this timely advice, "A Life anchored in God will hold steadfast." (Author Unknown)

First time parents, Blake and Sis. Kim Wuethrich were excited to bring their little girl, "Tiara Kai," born Oct. 25, home from the hospital. With all newborn babies there will need to be many adjustments made in the home, but how thankful to have an extra pair of helping hands available. The grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich and Mr. and Mrs. Jason Bailey of Demotte, IN.

We thank ministering Bro. Ed Alt for an unexpected but blessed mid-week service.

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

Lord God, we honor Thee, And  
praise Thy mild compassion,  
That Thou so gracefully Dost hear  
our supplication!

Thy love is truly great; Thy  
mercies are untold;

Thou givest food and drink for  
Spirit, flesh and soul.

Zion's Harp

We are happy to make known the engagement of Sis. Rebecca Knapp and Bro. Douglas Germann, formerly of our congregation. They are employed in Phoenix, AZ. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan their future together.

There's a song in my heart that  
my lips cannot sing,  
'Tis praise in the highest to Jesus,  
my King;

Its music each moment is thrilling  
my soul,

For I was a sinner, but Christ  
made me whole.

Rodehaver's Gospel Songs

Victor and Cheryl Heinold (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Ruth Heinold) gave their testimonies of faith and told us how Christ made them whole. They were baptized upon the testimony of their faith in the name of The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. May God bless their home and help them to train their children in the love of God. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer assisted Elder Bro. Edward Frank in this work.

I loved Him that day when in  
bondage complete,

I asked for forgiveness and knelt  
at His feet;

When soft as a bell-note that  
sounds as from heaven,

I heard Him say sweetly, "Thy  
sins are forgiven."

Rodehaver Gospel Songs

Dean and Patty (Sis. Gwen) Bucher have peace in their hearts and wish to tell us of their experiences and be baptized.

Another dear soul, Ruth (Libby) Hoh, is ready to turn her back to the ways of the world and seek her salvation at the foot of the cross. May she build on a firm foundation.

Funeral services were held Oct. 25 for our dear Sis. Ellen Troxel. She was residing at Parkview Haven. May her children find comfort that she has laid her armor down in exchange for a crown.

After much suffering, God called Mrs. Walter (Dolly) Troxel from this life into eternity. May the family find their comfort in God who is able to heal all wounds.

We received much food for  
thought and timely warnings

through the efforts of our Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf (Akron), Joseph Ramsier (Rittman), Perry Zimmerman (Forrest), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville). May God bless them and be their reward for visiting us.

Our dear aged Bro. Edward Wittmer is a hospital patient at this writing.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Jill Hitz are the proud parents of a son, Jonathan Edward, born Oct. 24. Little Sarah enjoys helping to care for him. Grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Audrey Hitz (Detroit), and Bro. Jack and Sis. Vera Nuestr. Great grandmother is Sis. Esther Hitz.

#### INDIANA, LEO

Mrs. Phil Schlatter

Mrs. Al Frautschi

The Sunday School program of thanks and praise honoring our Lord's birth is scheduled for Dec. 13 at Fellowship Center.

A building for the Silver Lining, also for World Relief materials and storage is presently being erected on a lot adjacent to the church.

#### READY FOR CHRISTMAS

"Ready for Christmas," she said with a sigh  
As she gave the last touch to the gifts piled high.  
Then wearily sat for a moment to read  
Till soon, very soon, she was nodding her head.  
Then quietly spoke a voice in her dream,  
"Ready for Christmas, what do you mean?  
Ready for Christmas when only last week  
You wouldn't acknowledge your friend on the street?  
Ready for Christmas while holding a grudge?  
Perhaps you'd better let God be the judge."  
She woke with a start and a cry of despair.  
"There's so little time and I've still to prepare."

Oh, Father! Forgive me, I see what you mean!  
To be ready means more than a house swept clean.  
Yes, more than the giving of gifts and a tree.  
It's the heart swept clean that He wanted to see,

A heart that is free from bitterness and sin.  
So be ready for Christmas—and ready for Him."

Alice Hansche Mortenson

This writer wishes every reader a Christ-filled, Christ-honoring Christmas.

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

O God of wisdom, life and love,  
Thine is the blessed plan  
In holy bonds of love to join  
The twain, created man.  
These souls betrothed before Thee stand;  
Thy blessings we implore;  
Unite Thou them in heart and hand  
And guide them evermore.  
As they go forth upon life's way  
Sustain them by Thy grace;  
May they Thy holy laws obey  
And live in joy and peace.

Hymns of Zion #286

Sept. 19 was the wedding date of Sonia Hoover (Sis. Virginia and Don) and Thad Tinkey (Mr. and Mrs. Rex Tinkey). Bro. Elmer Hartter, Sonia's grandfather, performed the ceremony. The newlyweds will reside in Fort Wayne.

Eva Kish and Dr. Robert Hoerr were married Oct. 10 in Indianapolis. The bridegroom's grandfather, Theo Beer, united them in marriage. Eva is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kish of Indianapolis, and Robert is the son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite. The newlyweds reside in Somerville, MS.

Bro. Elmer Hartter performed the ceremony of his granddaughter, Marla Hoover, in Omaha, NE. She is the daughter of Sis. Virginia and Don, and was united in marriage to Jim Simpson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Simpson, on Oct. 17. The couple reside in Omaha.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Aldine Reimschisel, Sis. Madine Lehman, Bro. John Martin Sr., Bro. Andy Kammerer, and our ministering Bro. Walt Steffen. We are thankful that God has restored each of them so they can again worship with us.

"I say unto you, likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." St. Luke 15:7. We joyously received Bro. Sam Beer (Elder Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley) into the fold on

Sunday, Nov. 8. On Saturday evening, Nov. 7, we heard the testimony of his repentance and conversion. Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) assisted Bro. Jesse in this important work. Many were here to share in this blessed day.

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28 We are happy for another convert, and we pray for many more.

We were privileged to have the Goodfield Choir here on the weekend of Oct. 24 and 25. They ministered to us with beautiful singing. It's really a joy to be able to have visitors from so many areas, who share the same common faith. We just pray that we can continue to enjoy the unity of our brethren.

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. John Lehman, Sr., Bro. Ray Haab, and Traci Speicher (daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Tammy).

We wish to sincerely thank the following brethren for their messages brought to us recently: Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield), Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton), Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka), and Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR).

Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Christy, to Kent Doty of Milford. A May wedding is being planned.

"But Jesus said, 'Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'" Matthew 19:14. Love has come into the home of Bro. John and Sis. Leona Martin with the birth of their second child, Dustin William. Dustin was born Nov. 8 and welcomed home by his big brother, Spencer. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Martin.

In just a short time, the Christmas holidays will be here. Already the children in Sunday School are beginning to prepare for their program. The carolers, who spread so much cheer to the shut-ins, are making plans for their visits. May we all feel the real spirit of Christmas in our hearts. "Until one feels the spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. All else is outward display—so much tinsel and decoration. For it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow, it isn't the tree nor the firelight's glow. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again." (Sunshine Magazine)

May the Lord bless each and every one this Holiday Season.

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

Greetings Brethren in Jesus Love!

Fall is one of the busier seasons for all of us. Farmers are harvesting, students are taking more tests than ever, and everyone else is preparing for the holidays. As we go about our busy lives, we need to pause for guidance from above. Let us be as wise men of old.

1.  
As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.

2.  
As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

4.  
Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way,  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last,  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.  
Hymns of Zion #14

We are looking forward to our Christmas program and the blessings involved in planning it. We enjoyed our Thanksgiving supper and fellowship together. We also received many lasting blessings from College Weekend in Bloomington, IL. May God richly bless those who worship and pray with us!

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

This month, we were visited by Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). Bro. Lavoyd encouraged us to take every possible opportunity to profess with our tongue the plan of Salvation; it may be to that man beside us on the train, the people we work with or the salesman that comes to our door. These are all opportunities to give our Savior the glory He deserves. Bro. Lavoyd, along with Bro. Wen-

dell Gudeman (Francesville), helped read the memorandum to our congregation.

Bro. Maurice Getz spent some time in the hospital and we are thankful that he is home again.

Two cripples entered a church one day;  
Crippled—but each in a different way.  
One had a body strong and whole,  
But it sheltered a warped and twisted soul;  
The other walked with a halting gait,  
But his soul was tall and fair and straight.

They shared a pew, they shared a book,  
But on each face was a different look.  
One was alight with hope and joy  
And faith that nothing could destroy;  
The other joined not in prayer or hymn;  
No smile relaxed his features grim.

His neighbor had wronged him—  
his heart was sore,  
He thought of himself and nothing more.  
The words that were read from  
the holy Book  
Struck deafened ears and a forlorn look.

To one came comfort—his soul  
was fed;  
The other gained nothing from  
what was said.  
Two cripples left the church that  
day;  
Crippled, but in a different way.  
A twisted foot did one body mar,  
But the twisted soul was sadder  
far.

**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND  
Gayle Bucher**

We want to thank Bros. Karl Westfall and John Bollier for sharing God's Word with us this month. May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts.

Recently we held our mid-week service in the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Hazel Clauss. Sis. Hazel is not able to attend regular church services. We spent a blessed evening together. May the Lord comfort and strengthen them during these difficult times. I can do all things through Christ, who strengtheneth me. Phil. 4:13

With the Christmas season upon us, let's not be caught up in the

materialism our society associates with Christmas, but strive to share its sacred meaning each day of our lives.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring Him a lamb—  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part—  
Yet what I can, I give Him,  
I give my heart.

C. Rossetti

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO  
Mary Huber - Claudia Thomas**  
The school of life has taught me  
much

Of living, planning, dreams and such.  
I've learned to work and learned to play  
But this is my promotion day.  
There is a mansion I've been told  
Of silver, precious stones and gold.  
It's finished now, and so I'll say  
Good-bye to you—it's moving day.  
I've waited long to see His face  
Since He redeemed me by His  
grace.  
I've served Him without thought  
of pay.  
But this is now my crowning day.  
Ever since my second birth  
I've been a truant on the earth;  
Was held by chains of earthly  
clay,  
Now this—my liberation day.

J. C. Brumfield

Our dear sister, Ellen Troxel, has found that release. She was one of the older sisters in our congregation, and had for the last year lived in the retirement home. When visiting Sis. Ellen, one was always impressed with her desire to be kind to everyone and to appreciate everything she had—a true Christian light.

Our visiting ministers for this month have been Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto), Art Gudeman (LaCrosse), and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest).

**NO GLASS BETWEEN**

The story is told of a little boy whose family was very poor. He received no gifts at Christmas, but he spent what time he could looking in the store windows at the pretty things other little boys could have, but he couldn't.

One day he was run over by a car and taken to a hospital. One of the nurses bought him a toy, a troop of soldiers. As he touched

them, what do you think he said? "There isn't any glass between!" Some day we shall see Christ face to face, with no "glass" between.

May we at Christmas time realize more fully who Jesus is. He alone can save us and stand by our side on that day when we stand before God.

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

In quietness and reverence the body of believers gathered together to hear the exhortations of the memorandum. We were so thankful to have our Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville), sharing the admonishments and encouragements with us.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel Schwab are happy with their precious little daughter, Teresa Marie, born Nov. 10. Grandparents that are also rejoicing are Sis. Elizabeth Shambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab.

"When a Christian dies precious is the prize! Lasting joys for days of sorrow, Rest from conflict on the morrow follows when he dies." Hymns of Zion. Nov. 6 marked the passing of our friend Walter Kyburz after a long illness. Walter had just found peace with God and man a few weeks earlier. We are thankful that our merciful God gave Him enough time to find his soul's salvation before he was taken from this life.

On Nov. 15 we were privileged to hear the Word spoken to us by Bro. Merle Bucher (La Crosse). We thank him for letting himself be used in the service of the Lord.

**IOWA, BURLINGTON**  
Judy Gehring - Kim Salek

We have had many joyous happenings this month. The engagement of Sis. Mindy Taeger (Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Mark Kiefer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Delores) of the Oakville congregation was announced Sunday, Nov. 8. We wish them God's richest blessings as they journey through life together.

Nov. 8 was also the Sunday we welcomed a new sister into the fold. Beverly Woodward (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Verna) gave her testimony on Saturday evening and was baptized the next day. The testimonies of converts are always such an uplifting event. These precious souls who so rec-

ently have undergone their conversion can tell us of their experience in such a beautiful way. They bring us back so often to our own time of repentance and we reflect on our own experience. It is so strengthening and once again brings us a little closer to our Savior as we think of what great and wonderful things He has done for us and the great price He paid to redeem us. It was such a blessed day and we pray for God's grace and nearness for our Sis. Beverly.

Bro. LaVerne and Sis. Kim Salek were blessed with a daughter born Oct. 20. She has been named Melinda 'Lindy' Suzanne. Lindy has three sisters, Cari, Erika, and Jaime to welcome her. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Rosie Obermann.

Bro. John Lehman of the Bern, KS, congregation and his family spent a Sunday with us recently. Our cups were again filled as the Holy Spirit was allowed to work through man. Bro. John read Psalm 27 as one of the readings and it was so comforting to again hear of how we can depend solely upon our Lord to deliver us from anything that troubles us. "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Ps. 27:14) We thank Bro. John and his family for being with us.

**IOWA, ELGIN**  
Eleanor Butikofer

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the people.

Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him; talk ye of all his wondrous works.

Glory ye in his holy name; let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

Seek the Lord, and his strength; Seek his face evermore.

Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders; and the judgments of his mouth.

Psalm 105

"Good Morning God"

You are ushering in another day Untouched and freshly new.

So here I come to ask you God If you'll renew me too.

Forgive the many errors

That I made yesterday

And let me try again, dear God,

To walk closer in Thy way.

But, Father, I am well aware

I can't make it on my own.

So take my hand and hold it tight For I can't walk alone.

H.R.

With Thanksgiving day so near one is filled with many pleasant thoughts. Not the least is to note how God has so bountifully blessed us with good harvest. We think too of how friends and relatives will be gathering for a nice dinner and pleasant conversations after having spent some time at a church service where the truth of God's love was expounded.

At the moment I hear a crow sending out his "caw," see a chickadee flying from branch to branch and giving its cheery "deedee" and then fly into a feeder for some sunflower seeds. Looking north a downy woodpecker is seen busy at the suet placed in an apple picker basket and then to round out the momentary gaze a nuthatch is spied partaking of seeds put out for him and for any other birds that might enjoy them. From time to time we see hairy and red-headed woodpeckers as well as the red bellied ones too. The trees are quite bare of their leaves right now but the winged creatures brighten up our premises to quite an extent.

Sis. Lena Pulfer is in the West Union hospital but expects to be dismissed real soon, for which we are thankful. Her brother, Bro. Ed has been transferred from the nursing home at Fayette to the one in West Union. This makes it closer for him to come to our church services. Sis. Marie Schneider, who spent a few weeks at Rochester, MN, taking treatments, is now at home and feeling quite well for which we are truly thankful.

Your Christ and Mine"

To the artist he is the One Altogether Lovely.

To the architect he's the chief cornerstone.

To the baker he is the Living Bread

To the doctor he is the great physician

To the farmer he is the Sower and the Lord of Harvest

To the preacher he is the Word of God

To the lonely he is the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother

To the geologist he is the Rock of Ages

To a Christian he is the Good Master.



**IOWA, IOWA CITY****Susie Gramm**

Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville), Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Bro. Harve Heiniger (Burlington), Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington), Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford), and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville). We appreciate their efforts in bringing God's Word to us here in Iowa City. As we are reminded in James 1:22, to be "doers of the word and not hearers only," we must take this precious word to heart and put it into action.

We are rejoicing with the angels that Kirk Massner, a dental student here at the University of Iowa, has found grace to repent. Our prayerful support is with him and his dear parents, Ken and Rose, of Burlington.

Our Sunday School teachers and children are planning to have a Christmas program on Dec. 20 at noon. We welcome any visitors who would like to come. Celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus, is indeed a joyous occasion. Had it not been for His birth and life here on earth, there would not have been any redemption for our sins at Calvary.

**IOWA, LESTER****Alice Metzger**

The farmers in this area have harvested a bountiful crop, which has all been safely garnered in before the winter storms begin. God has given the increase, as most yields were beyond our expectations.

The wedding of Sis. Myra Moser and Bro. Arnie Wulf took place on Nov. 8. Elder Bro. Leo Moser, Sis. Myra's dad, conducted the service, explaining to them and all of us the need to have God as an important partner in our marriages and lives. Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Bro. Jon Schmidgall were among the visitors here for the occasion.

Parents for the first time are Tom and Sheryl Bauman. Amy Michelle was born Oct. 21. Her grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Donna Gerber and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bauman, Sr. On Oct. 28, Cory Allen was born to Don and Pat Metzger. He has one brother and grandparents Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann Metzger, and Mr. and Mrs. Goettsch, Des Moines. These cherished little ones are gifts from Heaven.

Lisa Wulf, daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky, and Bro. Alvin

Leuthold were our hospital patients this month.

We were grieved to hear of the accidental death of Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia Mogler's little grandson. We sympathize with them and their family, especially Sis. Joyce and Bro. Bierne Messner of Morris, the parents.

We look forward to commemorating the birth of Jesus. His quiet, humble mother, His lowly birth, and His gift to the world are all so precious to hold in our hearts every day of our lives. The blessings of the season are many, but one of the best is having loved ones come home.

Season's blessings to all our Silver Lining readers.

**IOWA, OAKVILLE****Jerilyn Wagenbach**

On Oct. 15, Kelli Renae was born to Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank. She has two brothers, Danny and Brent. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Clara Frank, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Jenny Schambach (Elgin, IL).

Nov. 1 was the wedding date for Bro. Chris Grimm and Sis. Mary-Lou Kiefer. The couple's parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Margaret Grimm, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Delores Kiefer. May God ever be in their home, to guide and comfort them. "Where God in truth abides, Where two join hand and heart, We find a three-fold cord, Not lightly rent apart." Zion's Harp #79

Another wedding is in sight. On Nov. 8, we learned of the engagement of Bro. Mark Kiefer and Sis. Mindy Taeger (Burlington). Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Delores Kiefer, and Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington). We extend our best wishes to this couple as they prepare for their wedding. May we all prepare ourselves that we may be present at the wedding of Christ and His bride, the Church!

Again, we wish to thank our visiting ministers. This month Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria), Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton), and Ernest Graf (Akron) were among us to share in the Lord's work.

As we pass through this Christmas season, may we be reminded of Christ's birth and His purpose for coming to earth. We thank our Heavenly Father for sending the Savior, to live and die for us, that we might have hope of eternal life

with Him!

" 'Tis not the babe, but Christ,  
the man, Who walked in Galilee;  
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,  
That sets the spirit free!"

Hymns of Zion #36

**IOWA, PULASKI****Ginny Wuthrich - Mary Wiegand**

Another bountiful harvest season is past, and the holy season is upon us. No matter what the season, may we always be thankful to God for all His rich blessings.

Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) was with us recently. One of the many thoughts he shared with us was to be thankful that we are tempted by the devil. This is so we know that we are not his, but that we are God's children. "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse temptations." James 1:2. Thank you, Bro. Vernon, for coming.

Mark Musselman, son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy, broke his arm recently, but it is healing very nicely. Sue Ann Schaer was in the hospital and is fully recovered now.

We have happy news! Jean Wuthrich, daughter of Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley, has found peace and is eagerly awaiting the day she can be welcomed into the fold.

**CHRISTMAS PARABLE**

The stable boy had finished work that day,  
Had filled the manger with new, fragrant hay,  
Had fed the beasts, and usually would sleep  
Snuggled for warmth among the placid sheep;  
But not tonight, for he'd conceived a plan  
To join a merchant's camel caravan  
And travel to far places. He had heard  
Exciting tales of cities, which had stirred  
His longing for adventure. He would go  
Where things were happening; his friends would know  
Why he had gone. He often said to them.  
"Oh, nothing happens here in Bethlehem."

He looked back once, before they traveled far  
And wondered vaguely: Why that brilliant star?

Velma West Sykes

**IOWA, WEST BEND****Elma Mogler - Judy Fehr**

Bros. William Schlatter (Junction), Walt Anliker (Eureka), and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop) visited us recently and were willing to lend themselves to preach the Word. May God bless them all.

Our community was saddened by the death of Merlin Schmidt as the result of a tractor accident. Our sympathy goes out to all his family.

Sis. Evie Bruellman was hospitalized for tests and is home once again. Bro. Ervin Mogler was fortunate to receive only minimal injury to his eyes when working with an anhydrous tank.

Christmas is here and with it comes the thoughts of friends and relatives and giving of gifts. But, we must never forget the greatest gift given by our Heavenly Father for all of us—His only Son.

For many of us, that feeling of "giving a son" can somewhat be felt because of a loss of a dear one in the family circle, and perhaps at Christmas we feel it so much more. Precious memories surface and with them come a true regard for the really important things in life. We think of all the many gifts of Heavenly Blessings we have been given and we are humbled.

We pray that all will have a blessed Christmas and that the love and humility we feel as we celebrate His Birth can be kept in our hearts for every day of the New Year.

Sis. Katie Dogotch is hospitalized and is improving at this writing.

**JAPAN, SHIODA****Vicki Ramseyer**

"... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

At this Christmas season we look to the Prince of Peace, with all thanks and praise, for coming to earth as a baby. We are so thankful that He was willing to live among man, and then was willing to die for our sins. It is no wonder this verse from Isaiah holds such joy for the Christian.

Here at Shioda the Kindergarten and Sunday School children are practicing to portray the story of Christ's birth in a simple program for their parents, friends, and neighbors. Again I am reminded of Isaiah:6, "a little child

shall lead them." You can just see the happiness on their dear faces as they hear again the story of the birth of our Savior! Our prayer is that these children will remember these simple truths until they are old enough to decide for themselves the path they will choose.

While many people are remembering Christ's birth, we at Shioda had the opportunity to gather around the Lord's table to remember His death. On Oct. 25, Bro. Akito Inoue, from Tokyo, came and ministered to us and assisted Bro. Willis in serving Holy Communion. We were reminded that the Jews could be saved when the father of the household sprinkled the blood of the lamb on the doorpost, because they were God's chosen people, but we must have the blood of Christ on our individual hearts to be saved. It is only through our willingness to do God's Will that we can have His blood sprinkled on our hearts. What a joy it was to later greet all our dear brothers and sisters. Surely this is a taste of joys to come in our heavenly home.

We have again been blessed with guests from America. On Nov. 5, Sis. Jane Weiss and Sis. Renee Stieglitz (Leo, IN) arrived for a two-week vacation. Sis. Renee experienced many new and different things in Japan, but for Sis. Jane, it was more like a homecoming. After teaching here for three years, Sis. Jane had established many close ties with the Japanese brethren and friends of the church.

**JAPAN, TOKYO****Marie Inoue - Yoshio Yamazaki**

We partook of the Lord's Supper Sunday, Oct. 18. It was a blessing that Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle came from the country church and he assisted in the communion service. How wonderful that we could remember Jesus' body and blood which He sacrificed on the cross for our eternal salvation.

Sis. Shizuko Utsuki just returned from the U.S. where she was visiting her daughter in New York.

Jim Whipple of Oakville visited us here in Tokyo in October. He came to Japan on business. We surely enjoyed his visit and hope he can come again.

Sis. Jane Weiss, who taught the kindergarten children at the country church for three years, visited

here last Thursday afternoon with Sis. Renee Stieglitz from Leo, IN. Sis. Jane shared experiences and photos of our Children's Home in Leo, where she is presently employed. We hope she and her friend enjoyed their short visit here in our country.

**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Esther & Stella Moser****THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

Turn with me to the Bible's page,  
Where we can now recall  
The story of the Savior's birth—  
God's gift—the King of all.

Turn with me to Matthew, where  
He tells us God's dear Son  
Was born in a dreary cattle stall;  
That wise men, one by one,

Came from afar to bring their  
gifts,  
To bow before His bed,  
(And even now it seems we see  
The Halo round His head).

Then turn over to Mark's account,  
Where shepherds viewed the  
star  
And gathered there at Bethlehem  
From near and from afar.

Oh, read the story once again,  
And, in our mind's eye, we  
Will gather there at Bethlehem  
To worship reverently!  
Georgia B. Adams

We are thankfully rejoicing with the angels in heaven over two young converts. May the Lord grant them much grace and courage as they start their journey to Zion.

We were richly blessed by God's Word brought to us through several guest ministers: Bros. Bruce Leman and Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Charles Sinn (Fort Scott), and Ernest Graf (Akron). Several couples accompanied the brothers from Roanoke, and a blessed time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Our hospital patients are all able to assemble with us again. Sis. Emma Hami had X-rays and tests. Bro. Joseph Rokey was a surgical patient, and Harlan Wittmer lost three fingers on his left hand in a feed-unloader mishap.

The holiday will be in full swing by the time this gets to our readers, so we want to wish one and all a blessed Christmas, and a happy, healthy New Year.

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

The birth of our Savior reminds us of the values that are important to God. Because Joseph and Mary obeyed the human government laws, prophecy was fulfilled, and Jesus was born in the city of Bethlehem! When Caesar Augustus made the decree to conduct a census—Mary and Joseph respected that law and made a difficult trip, for the mother-to-be, from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Christmas reminds us of our duty to show respect and uphold the law officials of our land—for years ago God established this value for human government which became a prophetic fulfillment. "Jesus did not come as an angel in order to save angels. He came as a man in order to redeem lost mankind."

Our visiting ministers have been especially meaningful to us—as we have so few assemble with us. They have been Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron, OH), and Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita). May the Lord bless their efforts.

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY****Mary Wernli****WHAT MORE CAN YOU ASK**

God's love endureth forever—  
What a wonderful thing to know  
When the tides of life run against  
you  
And your spirit s downcast and  
low.

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

God's presence is ever beside you,  
As near as the reach of your hand,  
You have but to tell Him your  
troubles,  
There is nothing He won't  
understand.

And knowing God's love is  
unfailing,  
And His mercy unending and  
great,  
You have but to trust in His  
promise—  
"God comes not too soon or too  
late."

So wait with a heart that is patient  
For the goodness of God to  
prevail—

For never do prayers go  
unanswered,  
And His mercy and love never fail.  
Helen Steiner Rice

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Loren Strahm and Lloyd Kraft from Gridley, and Bro. Joe Aberle from Sabetha. We thank these dear brothers and all who assemble with us here on campus. Our hearts are uplifted to be able to gather together and worship our Lord and Saviour. What a joy and a privilege is ours!

**KANSAS, KIOWA****Janice Bahr**

Oh, Father up in heaven, we have  
wandered far away  
From the Holy little Christ Child  
who was born on Christmas

Day,  
And the promise of salvation  
that God promised when Christ  
died

We have often vaguely questioned,  
even doubted and denied . . .  
We've forgotten why God sent us  
Jesus Christ, His Only Son,  
And in arrogance and ignorance  
it's OUR WILL, not THINE, BE  
DONE . . .

Oh, forgive us our transgressions  
and stir our souls within  
And make us ever conscious that  
there is no joy in sin,  
And shed THY LIGHT upon us as  
Christmas comes again

So we may strive for PEACE  
ON EARTH  
and good will among men . . .

And, God, in Thy great wisdom,  
Thy mercy and Thy love,  
Endow man with the virtue that  
we have so little of . . .

For unless we have HUMILITY  
in ourselves and in our nation,  
We are vain and selfish puppets  
in a world of automation,

And with no God to follow but the  
false ones we create,

We become the heartless victims  
of a Godless nation's fate . . .

Oh, give us ears to hear Thee and  
give us eyes to see,

So we may once more seek Thee  
in TRUE HUMILITY.

Helen Steiner Rice

With the Blessed Christmas  
Season upon us once more, may  
we lift our hearts in praise and  
gratitude to our Father in Heaven  
for sending us the most precious  
gift this world has ever known—  
His own Son—Jesus Christ—our  
Savior and our Blessed Redeemer.  
Without Christ, there would be no  
Christmas, so let's remember to  
keep our Christ in Christmas, and  
in our hearts the whole year  
through.

What a blessed evening we had when we gathered one evening this month to remember the suffering of our Lord through the Holy Sacrament of Communion. To partake of Christ's shed blood and broken body offered in payment for our sins is the most humbling experience a Christian can know, for we are so unworthy of such grace, and God grants it so lovingly, and freely to the entire human race. Elder Bro. Sam Huber, Sabetha, and Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson, quoted to us the words of Jesus as they served the Lord's Supper to us, and our hearts were so full that our eyes filled with tears of love and gratitude for our Savior. We fervently thank Elder Bro. Sam Huber and ministering Bro. Alphi Strahm, Bern, who were also here that blessed weekend, for the messages of love and truth they shared with us from God's Word. We also thank Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT) who was in our midst on another weekend this month and shared so many precious thoughts and treasures of God's wisdom and simple truth. Looking back, all we can say is that our cup truly does run over with blessings.

Our dear Sis. Kathleen Schrock underwent surgery this month to have a troublesome appendix removed. We are truly thankful all went well and she is again in our midst, as is Sis. Esther Hodel, whom we are so happy to welcome home after such a long stay at Mayo Clinic.

**KANSAS, LAMONT****Mary Isch****A CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

"Oh God our help in ages past,  
Our hope in years to be"—  
Look down upon this present  
And see our need of thee . . .  
For in this age of unrest,  
With dangers all around,  
We need Thy hand to lead us  
To higher, safer ground . . .  
We need Thy help and counsel  
To make us more aware  
That our safety and security  
Lie solely in Thy care . . .  
And so we pray this Christmas  
To feel Thy presence near  
And for Thy all-wise guidance  
Throughout the coming year . . .  
First, give us understanding  
Enough to make us kind,  
So we may judge all people  
With our heart and not our mind,  
Then give us strength and courage

To be honorable and true  
 And place our trust implicitly  
 In unseen things and You . . .  
 And help us when we falter  
 And renew our faith each day  
 And forgive our human errors  
 And hear us when we pray,  
 And keep us gently humble  
 In the greatness of Thy love  
 So some day we are fit to dwell  
 With Thee in Peace Above.

Helen Steiner Rice

Visiting ministers this month have been: Bro. Corbin Bahler, Rockville, and Bro. Ernest Graf, Akron, OH. We thank them for their timely messages and wish them God's manifold blessings in their work in the Lord.

Sis. Matilda Emch is happy to be well enough that she could move back home after several months in Madison Manor. She makes her home with her sister, Eva, at Madison.

#### KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron), Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend), and Bro. John Lehman (Bern). We do appreciate their visits and invite them to return.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Susie Brunner observed their 60th wedding anniversary in November. We congratulate them on their many years together. May the Lord continue to bless them in their remaining years.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Lena Wenger, Bro. Dave Brunner, and Bro. Nathan Grimm.

As I write this the Thanksgiving season is fast approaching. Our custom is to assemble on Thanksgiving morning to hear the Word. Then our mid-week services will begin again, and the Sunday evening hymn singing will be discontinued. Next comes the Christmas season with all the activities. May we not lose sight of the real reason for Christmas, that the Christ Child was born to be a Saviour for mankind. Then the New Year marks a new beginning for all. We wish all a Happy Holiday Season.

#### KANSAS, WICHITA

Priscilla Frank

Thanksgiving is a season when many of us take the time to stop and ponder and remember to thank God for our blessings. Blessings which we appreciate daily and may

somewhat take for granted. I'm sure many of us list our land (the privileges we are afforded here), our health, our church, or, simply stated, our freedom — freedom which allows us to choose our goals, our occupations, and our way of life. May we always be thankful for the opportunities granted us to pursue God in peace and safety, and pray for those who can't. May we always be thankful most of all for our souls' salvation. May we lift up our voices unto God as David instructs us in Psalms 95:1-3 and Psalms 100.

Psalms 95:1-3

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with Thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all Gods."

Psalms 100

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness: Come before His presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord, He is God: It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting and His truth endureth to all generations."

We are especially thankful for Bro. Ernest and Sis. Nellie Lambert who were joined in holy matrimony on Nov. 29, 1931. They now reside at 1727 Giltner, Wichita, KS. To this union were born three children, Sally Lou, Bonnie Jo, and Andrew Alfred, and eleven grandchildren. This union has now been blessed with fifty years of togetherness and many of us can testify to the fact that their lives have not waned. There is still gentleness in their touch and their eyes still shine with the love they possess. They have also been a firm example and encouragement to their children, grandchildren, and many of their brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank them both for their many years of dedication spent as Sunday School teachers, trustee, usher and also

for the many hours spent in the kitchen. May God bless them both with more years if it is His will, that others may enjoy the smiles, kindness, and love we presently enjoy.

We have been invited to share this occasion with them at their daughter's home, Sunday, Nov. 29.

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

" . . . there shall be showers of blessing." Ezekiel 34:26

A couple of weeks ago, we were blessed as Bro. Joe Waibel, from Bay City, joined us to share Holy Communion. We feel much closer to God when we think of Christ's love and suffering for us as we participate in this blessed sacrament.

We join Sis. Sandra and Steven Schutte in welcoming their new son, Timothy, to the Alto congregation. Sis. Virginia Schutte, Timothy's grandmother, and Mark and Stevie Schutte, his two brothers, are very pleased to have him as a part of their family.

We extend special wishes, and pray for many blessings, for Bro. Chris and Sis. Anna Weigele as they make their new home in Toledo, OH. Their new address is 2737 Alisdale, Apt. 103, Toledo, OH 43606. The Toledo congregation will be richly blessed with this special couple joining them. Bro. Chris and Sis. Anna will be missed by all of us.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier are enjoying their winter home in Sarasota, FL. We pray that all will be well with them.

"This is the time for singing, for prayer, and for thanks. This is the time for compassion, for mercy, and for acceptance of God's grace. Let us prepare our hearts and our minds for the beauty and spirit of Christmas."

R. Ebberts

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Linda Ramseyer

The Lord has once again brought joy to two families in our congregation. Bro. Blaine and Sis. Cathy Wieland were blessed with a daughter, Casey Lee. She is welcomed home by her brother, Brady. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Margaret Wieland and Mr. and Mrs. George Hasso. Bro. Rodney and Sis. Evelyn Wieland have been blessed with a son, Timothy Howard. His brothers and sisters, Bonnie, Stephen, Andrew, and Bev-

erly, were at home to greet him. Grandparents are Bro. Howard Wieland and Sis. Alice Polk of Detroit.

"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. Pro. Craig Wieland and Sis. Jenny Waibel were joined together as one. They were united in marriage on Nov. 8 in Peoria, IL. Parents of the couple are Bro. Don and Sis. LouAnn Wieland and William and Sis. Joyce Waibel of Peoria.

A sunshine box was given to our dear Sis. Louise Lambert to help cheer her, as she has been ill for quite some time.

Our congregation hosted the annual World Relief Meeting on Nov. 14. Many visitors were here from Indiana, Ohio, and Connecticut, as well as Detroit and Alto, MI. We were pleased that many remained for Sunday, especially our ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Joseph Ramsier (Rittman, OH), Bros. Donald Gudeman (La Crosse, IN), Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH), and Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI). We always feel privileged to hear God's Word ministered to us. Also, in the past month, we were pleased to have Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) with us for a weekend of blessed worship.

We want to thank Sis. Patsy Bragiel for writing the Silver Lining news for the past several years and pray that the Lord will continue to bless her in the many years ahead.

As we are approaching the Christmas season, our thoughts turn to the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and the wonderful gift of salvation He brought us. We also think of our many dear loved ones across the nations and the following is our wish for them during this joyous time.

May your Christmas be a happy day

Filled with joy and cheer,  
And may the Dear Lord be Your Guest

Throughout the coming year.

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Helen & Bonnie Popp

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." Romans 14:19

The memorandum was shared by Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch as-

sisting our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach. Bro. Harold Emch (Girard) was able to be with us that same weekend. We are most grateful for the time and effort put forth by our ministers and elders—and especially for the unity of Spirit.

Bill Shaw is home recuperating after being hospitalized for a few days. We wish him a special blessing and a quick recovery.

"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord." Psalm 34:11

The Akron Sunday School was able to spend a weekend in Detroit. It was a special blessing and privilege to have them and see the young people together. We were so very glad for their visit.

#### THIS DAY

This day is mine to mar or make,  
God keep me strong and true;  
Let me no erring by-path take,  
No doubtful action do.

Grant me when the setting sun  
This day shall end,  
I may rejoice o'er something done,  
Be richer by a friend.

Let all I meet along the way  
Speak well of me tonight.  
I would not have the humblest say  
I'd hurt him by a slight.

Let there be something true and fine,  
When night slips down, to tell  
That I have lived this day of mine  
Not selfishly, but well.

from "Inspiring Poems"  
Compiled C. B. Eaney

#### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Deb Tilbury

On Oct. 18 we hosted the Morris Senior Bible Class. We listened to Bros. Art Nohl, Morris, and Leroy Messner, Winthrop, bring us God's Word.

Nov. 8, Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) was here. We always look forward to visits from Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily. They farm in Wisconsin so are frequent visitors here. Bro. Floyd Schmidgall of Morris was also a visitor. May God richly bless them for their labors.

Our oldest sister is Sophia Gudeman. She has been living with her daughter and son-in-law. Ella and Chuck Stoller at 2180 Kings Terrace, Woodbury, MN 55125. A month ago she suffered a stroke and was hospitalized for several

weeks. She has now been moved to a nursing home, and our prayers are that God will be with her.

#### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Jan Schock - Pam Sutter

The Lord picked a beautiful little flower for his bouquet when he called Ben Lee Messner home. What a happy reunion Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce will have some day with their small son! May their lonely hours be filled with the knowledge that Ben has already attained the goal for which we all strive.

The family of Ben Lee Messner wishes to express deep gratitude and appreciation for the many prayers, concern, love and sympathy shown them in the loss of their precious little Ben. God heard your prayers and Ben was found. Times like this humble us at the power of prayer and the overwhelming concern God's children have for each other. It is a precious heritage.

Our thanks go to visiting ministers Bro. Uriel Gehring (Burlington, IA), Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA), and Bro. Carl Feucht (Lester, IA).

Bro. Len Minke is a hospital patient at this time. We wish him a speedy recovery and God's special care.

A note of thanks goes to my friends and relatives for their prayers, cards, and gifts, also the good food brought in and visits during my stay in the hospital and at home. Your kindness will always be remembered.

God bless you all.

Sis. Thelma Dogotch

Sis. Lizzie Schmidgall wishes to thank all who were so thoughtful during her hospital stay.

#### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Messner - Mary Lou Schmidt

As the Christmas season is upon us once again may we remember the miracle of our Saviour's birth knowing that wise men still seek Him. "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11) Are we taking time from our earthly preparations to pause and thank God for the most priceless gift of all? And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

On Oct. 24, Bonnie Witt, daugh-

ter of Don and Idabelle, and Dallas Loverrude were united in marriage. Russell Messner, son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce, and Teresa Toupal were married on Oct. 31. Bro. Darrel and Sis. Darlene Schmidt's daughter, Denise, was married to Mike Mathison on Nov. 21. We are happy for all these couples and wish them God's blessings.

Vern and Vicki Messner are the proud parents of a new baby son, Joshua. His brother, Jeremy, welcomes him home. Elder Bro. Harold and Sis. Gerry are the paternal grandparents.

Bro. Ray Messner is back in the hospital again for tests to determine the cause of his headaches. We sympathize with him for the pain he has had to bear these past many years. We know prayer changes things and pray God will ever be by his side to give him the grace and strength to bear his lot.

Our sympathy is extended to ministering Bro. Elmer, Bro. Darrel, and the Gene Schmidt families of our congregation in the loss of their dear brother Merlin of Whittemore, IA. May God comfort the Schmidt family in their sorrow.

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR

Vera Frieden

We were encouraged by the words of our visiting minister, Bro. Ernest Graf from Akron. May God bless him for bringing forth the true Word of God.

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judeah, unto the City of David, which is called Bethlehem; to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

St. Luke 2:4-7

The Christmas season is approaching, reminding us of the birth of our Lord and Saviour. We should not only remember this during the holiday season, but all year through. Our journey here on earth doesn't end with the Babe in the manger at Bethlehem, but we must go with Him to the cross at Calvary.

Jim and Mary Probert are first-time parents of a little son named Kellen Kim. The happy grandpar-

ents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti.

At this time, Clara Lehman is in the hospital as a medical patient. May the Lord bestow good health to her according to His will.

#### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel

"God's Love is Forever"

The seasons swiftly come and go  
and with them comes the thoughts  
of all the various changes,  
That time in flight has brought. . .  
But one thing never changes,  
It remains the same forever,  
God truly loves His children,  
And He will forsake them never.

Helen Steiner Rice

We appreciate the visiting ministers and their families who shared God's Word with us this past month and may He bless their efforts. They were Bros. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS), Arnie Gerst (Chicago, IL), Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), William Hodel (Ranoke, IL), Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Garth Steffen (Portland, OR), Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), and Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL). We can be sure our ministers can identify with the appeal of the Apostle Paul. "Now I beseech you, brethren—that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me." Romans 15:30  
One of the brothers left us with this "food for thought"—Our church has withstood the poverty era—now will it be able to withstand the prosperity era?

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell are happy grandparents of little "Hannah Marie" born Oct. 23 to their daughter and her husband, Sandi and Dale Cramer of Columbia, MO.

Bro. Brian Knapp, who was injured in a pickup truck accident that required several days hospitalization is home again and recovering satisfactorily.

"How beautiful is the day that is touched by love." Steve Riney (Gene and Irene) and Marsha Bross were married Nov. 6. May God bless all these dear ones, the new parents, those who have met with accident and the newlyweds as they establish their home.

There is never a life without  
sadness,

There is never a heart free from  
pain;

If one seeks in this world for free  
solace,

He seeks it forever in vain.  
So when to our hearts comes the  
sorrow

Of losing some dear one we've  
known

'Tis the touch of God's sickle at  
harvest,

Since He reaps in the fields He has  
sown.

Author Unknown

Quoted in memory of my brother Robert Walter, Fairbury, IL, who passed away suddenly Oct. 19 at age 58. Altho "Bud" had suffered severe heart damage 7 years ago, he was at this time enjoying travels and hobbies and his death came as a shock to all of us. Among some clippings he had saved were these few lines, which in part would relate some of the "thoughts" that those who experience reverses in health would find so true.

"A man does not really appreciate life until he plants a tree, knowing full well that he'll never be able to sit in its shade."

E. Trueblood

#### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

Elder Bro. Robert Beyer of Naumberg visited our small congregation and lent himself on our behalf. The inspired Word was provided and appreciated along with good fellowship with other visitors from the New York churches and also some from Rockville.

#### NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

The blessed story of the Christ,  
The babe of Bethlehem,  
Is worthy of our song and praise,  
And stirs the hearts of men.  
The fullness of God's love divine,  
Surrounds the Christ so mild.  
Alas how many only know  
The Savior as a child.

Our saving hope is all in vain,  
If here our 'ove should cease,  
For in the man of Galilee,  
We find the gift of peace.

'Tis not the babe, but Christ, the  
man

Who walked in Galilee;  
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,  
That sets the spirit free.

Be not content this babe to know,  
Nor stay at Bethlehem,

But go with Christ to Calvary's  
brow,  
Beyond Jerusalem.  
'Tis there men learn to know the  
Christ,  
For there He bore man's sin.  
Then open wide the door of heart,  
And let the Savior in.

Henry Beer—Hymns of Zion #36

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior at this season of the year, we are reminded of a babe in a manger. However, as the words of this beautiful hymn tell us, our hope is all in vain if we do not know this babe as our Christ who walked upon this earth to teach and leave an example for us to follow. We must follow the babe throughout His life until His death upon the cross for your sins and mine. May it be at this season each of us remembers this Babe also as our Savior.

We have been privileged to listen to the tapes of the conference held this past summer. We are thankful that our Elder brethren show such a great love and concern for our continued well-being. May each of us heed the warnings and words of love given by our beloved brothers and may God richly bless each of them in their future duties of love.

Bro. John Virkler and Sis. Maureen Gerber were united in holy matrimony in Rockville on Sunday, Oct. 18. We wish to welcome Sis. Maureen to our congregation and extend our best wishes and the Lord's blessings to them as they begin their new life as one.

Sis. Pearl Lehman remains a hospital patient with a broken leg as the result of a fall on her cellar stairs. Sis. Esther Ulrich was also a medical patient a few days. We are happy to see Bro. Ted Virkler, Sr., assemble with us after several weeks of absence and days of hospitalization. May each of those in hospitals and upon beds of affliction look unto our Heavenly Father for daily strength and guidance.

Roger and Laurie Farney have welcomed their first child, Nicole Lynn, who was born on Nov. 7. Also welcoming Nicole are her grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Farney, and Bob and Margaret Mowers. Her great-grandmother is Sis. Huldah Farney. May she bring an added blessing to this new family.

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

### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

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

When we have exhausted our  
store of endurance  
When our strength has failed ere  
the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our  
hoarded reserves  
Our Father's full giving is only  
begun.

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

Annie Johnson Flint

Croghan and Naumburg congregations had a birthday singing for Sis. Minnie Rauhe at the Greenbriar Nursing Home and for Sis. Rachel Rohr at the Kallett's Adult Home. Also a blessed evening of singing was spent at the Valley View Courts where Sis. Rosella Schultz resides.

Our dear ones in the hospital are Sis. Clara Merz in Lowville hospital and Sis. Pearl Colgrove is still in the hospital at The House of the Good Samaritan, Watertown. She has had to have another operation. Bro. James Beyer has spent a few days in the Mercy Hospital, Watertown, for tests.

We have now finished running the tapes of our Brotherhood Conference. It surely shows us the handiwork of the Lord, how He leads the dear Elder Brethren to speak so clearly of that which is so needful for us to know. Let us one and all take heed, knowing that the words have been sent from God, our Heavenly Father.

### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Bob and Diane Horn, daughter and son-in-law of Bro. and Sis. Ellsworth Graf, are moving to the Pittsburgh area, as Bob has accepted a position in the real estate department of Gulf Oil Company. Their new address, upon moving

the first of the year, will be 2508 Saddle Drive, Allison, PA 15101.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Marjorie Collins' daughter, Christine, was united in marriage to Loren Rufener, son of Bro. Joseph and Sis. Lilas Rufener of Rittman. Grandparents are Robert Kaufman, Sis. Elda Indermuhle, and Sis. Merle Rufener. Sis. Edna VonGunten is a great-aunt.

Sis. Gail Spangler is home recuperating from surgery, and Bro. Noah Baumgartner is home from being hospitalized for pneumonia. We pray for both to gain strength speedily.

Our Sunday School class was happy to accept an invitation to spend a weekend at Detroit, and all returned safely from an enjoyable and blessed trip.

### OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

Oh give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth forever. Psalm 118:1.

We are most thankful to the Lord. We have a new family worshipping with us. Bro. Ron and Sis. Karen Laparo and little son, Michael, have moved into our area. We praise God for them.

We had a blessed Sunday with visitors from Akron, Mansfield, and Pittsburgh. Bro. Rudy Graf served us Holy Communion along with many precious teachings from the Word.

### OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Visiting the Junction congregation and ministering God's Word to us this month was Bro. Homer Reineck, Toledo. We appreciate the labors of our ministers, both visiting and at home, and pray that God's Word will continue to come to us inspired by God's Spirit.

Cynthia Gwen is the newborn daughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz. Marvin, Tony, and Larry all welcome her home and are eager to help. Indeed, it is not only a privilege but a grave responsibility when God gives His children the opportunity to guide and pray for these young souls.

When we think of birth, especially at this time of year, how thankful we should be for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Christ Child born many centuries ago. How difficult our lives would be were it not for His coming to this earth.

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

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized this month. They are Shelli and Brad Grant (Bro. Phl and Sis. Gloria), Jaymee Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne), Sis. Louise Sinn, Sis. Vera Laukhuf (Bro. Lester), and Bro. Jerry Rager (Bill and Sis. Elsie). We hope they are all able to assemble with us again soon.

Little Jonathon Todd is the newborn son of Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn Stoller. Welcoming him are his brothers, Timmy and Jeff, and his grandparents, Bro. Lester and Sis. Vera Laukhuf and Bro. Delmar and Sis. Marguerite Stoller. May they feel the Lord's guidance in raising this precious little soul.

The weekend of Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Stoller, (Bro. Ralph is the son of Sis. Alice), Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay Miller (Sis. Kay is the daughter of Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther Stoller), and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam). (Bro. Todd is the son of Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane). Sharing this blessed weekend with us were Elder Bros. Orville Ringger (Bluffton), and Joe Ramsier (Rittman). We pray the Lord will richly bless these brothers for their efforts. We are thankful to have five more soldiers to help fight in our army for the Lord.

Elder Bros. Joshua Broquard and Art Bahler (Fairbury) were with us for the reading of the memorandum. After such a blessed evening, it gives us much courage and zeal to serve our God more faithfully. May we ever strive to uphold the traditions of our precious faith, not only in words but in works, so that those that follow after us can enjoy this precious faith.

We also wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. John and Sis. Martha Stoller in the loss of their son, Warren, of Willard, OH.

Sis. Nettie Stoller wishes to thank everyone who remembered her with cards, gifts, and most of all the many prayers. She is thankful to be up and around caring for her home and attending church again. She also expressed her desire to remind everyone to continue to pray for the doctors and nurses throughout the country as they certainly have an important work in our society. May God richly bless each one.

**OHIO, MANSFIELD****Lucille Groh**

Glory to God in the highest  
And peace, goodwill toward men,  
Sang the angel choir in Heaven  
Praising again and again  
His star shown down to brighten  
The place where Jesus lay  
While shepherds followed its  
leading

Came and knelt there in the hay.  
And as they all knelt in worship  
On that Christmas long ago  
E'en so we all should worship  
Our dear Lord who loves us so.  
And let's daily love and praise  
Him

Let us worship at His feet  
Draw near the Christ of Christmas  
You'll find life in Him complete.

Luella Fitch Perrin

As we commemorate Christmas and reflect back to that joyous time when the shepherds knelt at the feet of Jesus, our wonderful Lord and King, the greatest of all Shepherds, how thankful we are that He not only came as a babe in a manger, but suffered and died on Calvary for all who will believe on Him. The wonderful peace He gives to the believer can only be known to those who trust and love Him.

It was once said that a group of people were traveling in a very mountainous area. The path was extremely narrow and winding and seemed filled with unnecessary detours. At one particular place, it especially appeared that the guide should have proceeded straight ahead, but instead, he turned sharply and began to take a roundabout course. One man became annoyed at the constant detours and decided to take a short cut, so he went straight ahead instead of following the leader. Immediately the guide rushed back, grasped him by the collar, and with no gentle hand dragged him back. Then he pointed to a patch of snow upon which the man had intended to walk. Instead of being a sure foothold, it was a mere crust of ice covering a great crevasse opening into the deep recess of the glacier. The short cut would have been disaster. So, too, sometimes our Heavenly Shepherd seems to be leading us too slow, but it is much better to take the detours with Him than to take the short cuts without Him.

How wonderful He can also comfort those who mourn the loss of

loved ones. We extend our sympathy to Beulah Sauder in the passing of her brother and to Wilma Sauder McCutchen in the passing of her husband. We are also saddened at the departure of Sis. Theresa Kissel, 88, who died on Nov. 8 of a stroke. She is survived by two sons, Raymond and Carl Kissel. We will miss her presence in our midst.

We are happy to report that Sis. Naomi Cordrey has been released from the hospital after having been confined for six weeks.

Sis. Eva Fuhrer, who lives in Maywood, CA, visited our congregation and, unfortunately, upon her return to go home, suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized. She has now been released, for which we are thankful.

In late October, the Sunday School had their fall outing, and an afternoon of fellowship was enjoyed by a goodly number.

In closing, we wish all a joyous and blessed Christmas and the peace and love of Jesus, our Lord and coming King.

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

As the joyous, busy days of Christmas draw near, let us all remember its true meaning, that of the birth of our Savior. Sometimes we all get so busy preparing for this great celebration that we almost forget what it is all about—God's love being so great toward us that He sent His Son as a baby in a manger, to grow to manhood and die on a cross for us.

We wish good health to those in our congregation who had to be hospitalized. Bro. Herb Bauman, Sis. Minnie Hartzler and Sis. Ruth Hilty are home again and we pray our Lord will heal their afflictions. Pat Ramsier is on crutches after breaking a bone in her foot.

The wedding of Chris Collins and Loren Rufener took place Nov. 6. We wish them God's blessings in their life together. Chris is the daughter of Bro. Hank and Sis. Marge Collins of Akron, and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas Rufener are Loren's parents.

Brian Indermuhle and Bev Norris have announced their engagement. Brian's parents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vera Indermuhle.

We wish to thank Bro. Don Sauder of Roanoke for bringing us the Word of God. May the Lord add His blessings.

We want to welcome three little



bundles that have arrived in three of our homes. Jonathan Glen was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Bauman. Jonathan has one sister, Krysta, one brother, Jeremy, and grandparents, Bro. Herb and Sis. Bernice Bauman of our congregation, and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Ede Stoller from Latty to welcome him home. Great-grandmother is Sis. Bertha Bauman. Karen Sue is Keith Stoller's new little sister. Karen and Keith's parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Lutzelda Stoller and Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder. Great-grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Rhoda Riggenbach and Sis. Mary Stoller. Bro. Walt and Sis. Linda Beery have a new baby girl. Her name is Michelle Dawn and she has an older sister, Laurie. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer of Akron. Great-grandparents are Bro. Reuben and Sis. Velma Hartzler, Sis. Jennie Bauman, and Bro. Paul and Sis. Rose Pamer of Akron. May these little ones' add blessings to their homes.

### CHRISTMAS

Once in a manger lowly  
 Hundreds of years ago,  
 A little babe so holy  
 Came to this world below.  
 Near was a crowded city,  
 Bethlehem, dark and old.  
 Here Joseph sought for pity.  
 Chill was the night and cold.

Joseph and Mary, weary  
 No one would take them in,  
 Slept in a stable dreary  
 Nigh to a crowded inn.  
 Out on the hillside, frightened,  
 Shepherds beheld a sight,  
 For all the sky was brightened  
 On that December night.  
 Angels sang out the sweet story,  
 "Fear not for lo this morn  
 Jesus, the Christ of Glory  
 A little babe is born."

Far from the East, three strangers  
 Led by a star, their way  
 Kept safely from great dangers  
 "Seeking the Christ" they say,  
 Came to the manger lowly  
 Bringing their gifts of love,  
 Worshipped the babe so holy  
 Gift of the world above.

Glory to God in the Highest  
 Peace and good will to men!  
 Glory to God in the Highest  
 Ever amen, amen.

Author Unknown

### OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehkla

#### THE SON OF GOD

Know ye the Son, the sacred Son  
 of God?

The Hero great is born in  
 Bethlehem!

He came to us from His exalted  
 throne,

As Prince of Peace, as God's  
 eternal Son!

Know ye this Son? Yea, He is  
 known,

The dauntless Hero, God's own  
 Son!

Know ye the Son, who came of  
 royal birth?

A star foretells His coming to this  
 earth!

The seeking men it leads to  
 Bethlehem,

In manger low they find and  
 worship Him!

Know ye this Son? Yea, He is  
 known,

The most Exalted, God's own Son!

Know ye the Lord, the gracious  
 friend of Man,

Who clothed Himself in pilgrim's  
 garment plain?

He came to us the Prince of  
 David's house!

An angel's message did the world  
 arouse!

The Son has come! From heaven's  
 dome

Resounds the angel's joyous song!  
 Hymns of Zion #249

Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and  
 Aaron Steffen were with us on  
 Oct. 25. They shared the reading  
 of the conference memorandum.  
 We thank them for spending the  
 Sunday with us.

### OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Saturday evening, Oct. 24, the  
 Silvertown congregation and a car-  
 load of brethren from Portland  
 gathered at the home of Bro. Ben  
 and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger for a  
 housewarming singing. As the  
 brother mentioned in the parting  
 prayer, "we hope we warmed their  
 hearts as well as their home" with  
 our fellowship.

We are happy to welcome Sis.  
 Jane Metzger (Bro. Jake and Sis.  
 Donna) of the Lester, IA, congre-  
 gation, to Oregon. May she always  
 feel the nearness of the Lord.

Our monthly Sunday night sing-  
 ing was Nov. 1. Although we are

usually happy to get together and  
 sing praises to the Lord, we were  
 saddened to hear of the death of  
 the young son of dear ones from  
 Morris, MN, Bro. Beirne and Sis.  
 Joyce Messner. Though many miles  
 separate us, our hearts are closely  
 tuned and we grieve with the par-  
 ents and family of the little one  
 taken so early in life. "We sorrow  
 not, even as others which have no  
 hope." Still, many sympathizing  
 tears fell as we sang together . . .  
 "When we see a precious blossom,  
 that we tended with such care,  
 rudely taken from our bosom, how  
 our aching hearts despair! Round  
 its little grave we linger, til the  
 setting sun is low, feeling all our  
 hopes have perished with the  
 flow'r we cherished so. We shall  
 sleep, but not forever, in the lone  
 and silent grave; blessed be the  
 Lord that taketh, blessed be the  
 Lord that gave. In the bright, eter-  
 nal city death can never, never  
 come! In His own good time He'll  
 call us from our rest to Home,  
 sweet Home. We shall sleep, but  
 not forever, there will be a glori-  
 ous dawn; we shall meet to part,  
 no never, on the resurrection  
 morn!" Hymns of Zion #125.

Lest men should forget their  
 frailty, the awesome power of  
 God was again displayed in the  
 Northwest with a violent storm  
 late Friday evening, Nov. 13. Bar-  
 ometers dropped near 28 as 70-  
 MPH winds and rain whipped  
 through Oregon and headed north  
 to Washington. Falling trees  
 caused a lot of damage and nearly  
 everyone was without power for  
 days. We were all made quite  
 aware of our dependence on elec-  
 tricity, but with their typical op-  
 timism, the children took cooking  
 over the fireplace, candles, kero-  
 sene lamps, and no baths in stride!  
 For some folks, the storm meant  
 hard work and sorrow, especially  
 those with livestock to care for by  
 hand, or those families with ex-  
 tensive property damage or loss  
 of life. Thankfully, the electricity  
 was restored at our church so we  
 were able to hold services as usual.

May the joy and peace of that  
 first Christmas be with you and  
 yours.

### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Dolores Rapp

The weekend of Nov. 14-15, fif-  
 teen young brothers and sisters  
 from the Rittman church drove to  
 Philadelphia to spend the weekend

with us. A church dinner and singing was held Saturday night, after which the guests were dispersed to the homes of the four area families.

On Sunday a dinner was again served, following the afternoon services and as they were about to depart, we gathered together and sang, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." The love, fellowship and beautiful singing brought by those young people were appreciated by all.

Bro. John Bahler of the Rockville congregation so graciously agreed to minister to us in the absence of Bro. Ed Aeschleman and his wife, Nancy, Oct. 25. Bro. John was accompanied by his wife and others from Rockville.

Our guests this past month were from Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota and Ohio.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA

Margery Koehl

Our November visiting minister was Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron, OH) and his wife, Sis. Louise. We enjoyed their short stay with us, as we do all visitors. Each Sunday now our attendance increases as we welcome back our winter Texans—even though some are not as spry as they once were, we are glad they make the effort to return, and hope the warm Texas sun makes them stay hale and hearty.

### 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."  
And mothers have a special way  
Of filling homes with love each day,  
And when the home is filled with love  
You'll always find God spoken of,  
And when a family "prays together,"

That family also "stays together."  
And once again a mother's touch  
Can mold and shape and do so much

To make this world a better place  
For every color, creed and race,  
For when man walks with God again,

There shall be peace on earth for men.

H. S. R.

### Sermon . . .

Continued From Page 28

son did get better. But, unfortunately, as her son matured, he got into problems and difficulties and he finally became a murderer and was convicted for that. She lived to see her son executed as a murderer.

Again, how much better it would have been if she had prayed to God, "Your will, not mine, be done. You know best." God holds our future in His hands. We should put our complete trust and confidence in Him.

I want to touch on a few other things pertaining to Josiah. The amazing thing that happened when the priests found the Word of God (the Old Testament) in the temple that they were repairing, was that they read it! And their hearts were convicted.

They came to the King with that Word and told him what it said. The king rent his clothes because he realized how evil the country had become. He asked them to inquire of the Lord about what they had read. The priests went to a prophetess, and she told them that because Josiah had humbled himself, the Lord would not punish the people until after he had died.

The point, I think, that we should get here, is the fact that they did turn to God's Word, that they humbled themselves, and that they wanted to serve Him. Then, because Josiah wanted to do what was right, God dealt kindly with him.

In the New Testament Scripture of John, we have read something which touches our hearts. Jesus knew that Lazarus was sick, but He knew that the glory of God had to be shown to the people. So He waited.

Martha, Mary, and Lazarus were close to Jesus. He had been in their home often and had enjoyed their hospitality, just as you and I enjoy one another's hospitality in our homes.

Bethany, where they lived, was only a two, or maybe three, mile walk from Jerusalem. Out the Eastern Gate, beyond the temple where Jesus often walked, across a little valley, and then two miles up the mountain was Bethany.

Jesus often went there for rest and for fellowship. They trusted Him. They knew Him and they loved Him. They had seen the miracles that Jesus had done. Probably they wondered, "Why doesn't Jesus hurry? Why doesn't He come before Lazarus dies?"

No doubt everyone of us has wondered at times (if we haven't, we will) when a tragedy or sickness comes to us, our family, or loved ones, why God doesn't answer our prayers. Or, perhaps we will be like the disciples in the boat in that storm with Jesus. They came to Jesus and woke Him up and said, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" Mark 4:38. Maybe there will be times when we will wonder if Jesus is sleeping when we pray.

Yet, it tells us in Revelation that every sincere prayer of every believer is kept under the altar of God. It may or may not be answered in our life time. We get a lot of mail, junk mail, that we sometimes barely give a glance before we toss it into the wastebasket. But every sincere prayer that is prayed to God is kept and not thrown away. That should comfort us. It should comfort the aged. It should comfort those parents who have prayed for their children all their lives and perhaps go to their graves in disappointment because the children haven't followed in the faith. Those prayers can be answered when the parents are gone. Those prayers are still vital and effective.

In another place we can read about Martha, who was always busily working, and about Mary, who would take more time to visit and sit at the feet of Jesus. Mary knew Him well and she loved Him so much. Both women had talents that were necessary and useful. Many women went to the grave that morning when Christ arose, but this Mary was not one of them. She was one of the few who really believed Jesus meant it when He said that He was going to arise. The other Marys were at the tomb, but not this Mary. She believed that Jesus was going to arise again.

"The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there." John 11:31.

But Mary saw Jesus and said what they had all felt: "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." John 11:32.

They had a trusting faith, but they didn't realize that their prayer could have been answered whether Jesus was there or not. They didn't know that Lazarus' death was to occur to glorify God.

Do you remember that when the Pharisees asked Him for a sign, Jesus said, "... there shall no sign be given . . . but the sign of Jonas the prophet"? Luke 11:29.

And do you remember when Jesus told of the rich man and the beggar, Lazarus? The rich man pleaded that Abraham would send Lazarus back to his brothers to tell them what had happened to him, and about the terrible place where they were going. The rich man said, "If one went unto them from the dead, they will repent." Luke 16:30. He wanted some one to warn them. Hell will be one place where misery won't love company. It will be too miserable.

Do you remember what Abraham's answer was? He said that the rich man's brothers wouldn't repent even though one come back from the dead. This is the actual account of Lazarus (the beggar) in life after death.

The Pharisees did not believe. They would not believe. We might wonder why they would not. The main reason is that they did not want to believe. You have to want to put the Lord's will first. Self-will keeps us from serving God.

The Pharisees wanted their own way. They were comfortable in their areas of authority. They had control of much of the wealth of the country at that time. They didn't want anything to disturb that. They wanted their own way and they did not intend to let anyone take it away from them.

Stop and analyze it. I asked an old brother one time why so many in his family had not repented. He thought awhile and "boiled" it down to a couple of words: self-will. They were not ready to yield their wills to the Lord. They were not ready to pray, "Thine, and not my will, be done."

Later on after Lazarus was

raised (to continue this thought), the Pharisees wanted not only to put Jesus to death, but they wanted to put Lazarus to death again. Because Lazarus had been brought back from death, many believed on the Saviour, Jesus Christ.

When Jesus asked, "Where have ye laid him?", he knew the answer; but they took Him there. It says that, "Jesus wept." John 11:35. That is comforting to all of us. There isn't anything you or I or anyone else has experienced that the Saviour didn't experience before us. He experienced what it is to be poor, to be lonely, to sorrow.

Jesus knew what it was to fast for forty days in the desert. The devil tempted Him there in many ways. The devil can't tell you anything that he didn't already tell Him. When you pray to Him, He understands. Probably when those forty days were over, the devil told Him, "You really aren't the Son of God. You aren't a Child of God. No way. God wouldn't let any child of His be out here in the desert. There is no one who cares for You. You haven't got anything to eat. You don't have a roof over your head. You can't be God's Child." How often Satan puts doubts in our mind such as, "Am I really God's child?"

Several weeks ago I visited with a soul who was very disturbed. She couldn't believe and had trouble holding on to the fact that she had repented and had peace. She was very disturbed. We visited and talked about a number of things.

Our faith is increased by the reading of God's Word, by studying and meditating on it. When we read, we are strengthened. Faith comes from hearing and reading the Word.

If we neglect this manna from above, it is to our own hurt. Our souls grow lean and lukewarm.

Another thing experience has taught us is that it is much better to read the Scripture in the morning. Gather the manna (the dew) from heaven in the morning before the severe heat of the sun makes it disappear. Then you have something to take with you the rest of the day.

I like to read it in the evening, too; but at the end of the day, we haven't had the help of the Word all day long. So it pays to gather our manna in the morning and apply it to our lives throughout the day. It's a big help.

To return to the story in the

gospel of John, Jesus told them to take away the stone from in front of Lazarus' grave. Martha was dismayed at that because she knew what happens to flesh when it has been dead for four days. But Jesus said something like, "Don't you believe me? Don't you think you are going to see the glory of God? Wait and see."

When they took the stone away, Jesus immediately prayed to God and thanked Him for hearing Him, and for providing the miracle in front of the people. He knew that it would strengthen and comfort them, and that it would open their eyes to the mystery that God was revealing to them.

Then He spoke those few beautiful words, "Lazarus, come forth." John 11:43. You can almost sense the hush that must have been in that audience right then. You wonder what kind of voice would command the dead to come forth!

Not long ago, we were reading in Revelation. It says there that Jesus' voice was like a trumpet sound. I used to play a trumpet when I was in high school but I could never really make it talk. The trumpet has a sure tone, a tone all its own. You can identify it.

I think the apostle tried to tell us (for lack of other words) that the voice of Christ which will call us to heaven is going to be a voice like no other. It will be a voice like we never heard before. Even though we haven't heard it, I don't think any of us will have any difficulty in recognizing it as being the Saviour's voice.

Just as He said here, "Lazarus, come forth." He is going to call His children sometime. "Come here." Then they will leave this earthly tabernacle.

The result of the activity at Bethany was that many of the Jews who saw these things, believed.

Today we have the benefit of the Word and all the witnesses who saw those things happen. We should believe them. We shouldn't have any difficulty in believing them. But we are like the flowers around the house which have to be watered several times a week to sustain life.

To sustain our Spiritual lives we have to read from this Word. We need manna from above, so that we can say in our hearts without any reservation: "I know that my redeemer liveth." Job 19:25.

## SERMON BY BROTHER CARL WYSS OF WASHINGTON, IL

Text: 2 Kings 22, John 11:31-57

The mystery that the world had waited so long to know about was taking place before the people's eyes as we read from the gospel of John. These were things that the ancient patriarchs had hoped to see, that David had looked for, that were promised to Abraham. Even Abel, Adam and Eve's son, had knowledge of these things as did Enoch, who walked with God. Many people had looked for the mystery of God which was to be revealed in Jesus Christ for the salvation which would come to all mankind through the One who was to give His life on the cross of Calvary.

Looking back to the chapter we read together in Second Kings, it is interesting to note the faith of those people in serving God. Did you notice that, when the silver was given to the priest to pay the carpenters and the people who worked on the temple of God, there was no reckoning? They gave it and had faith that it would be used properly. That's the kind of faith we should have in one another and that Christians should always be worthy of.

Do you remember that Paul wrote that we should keep on the whole armor of God? We should wear the helmet of salvation and keep the sword of the Spirit in our hands. Our feet should be shod with the gospel of peace. We often read those things but unless we stop and meditate, I think that we sometimes miss the meaning of the words.

Consider the manna given to the Israelites when they came out of bondage and slavery. After they had reached the wilderness, they were destitute as far as having food to eat. They depended on God and He supplied them with manna.

Out of curiosity this past week, I searched to discover just what manna was. We can read in the Scripture that manna was little,

white, and frost-like. God supplied the people in the morning so that it came with the dew. Because it was small and like coriander seed, it took a lot of effort to gather enough for the day. The people couldn't just walk out and pick up what they wanted and go back in again; they had to work. They had to pick up the little pieces of manna to have enough to grind and bake for their families. If they waited too long and weren't diligent, the severe heat of the sun melted it.

The thought occurred to me that manna is like the Word of God. This Word, little words put together, has much meaning. We have to search. We have to be diligent. We have to take time to read and then to meditate. Otherwise, when we read a chapter we can miss the message that God has had for us.

The people of whom we read in Second Kings were repairing the temple during the reign of Josiah. Josiah's grandfather, the wicked king Manasseh, was probably the most wicked of all kings in the Israelite line, but Josiah did that which was right in the sight of the Lord.

Manasseh was Hezekiah's son, and here is a case to make us ponder. Hezekiah was the one who, when the Lord told him He was going to require his life, pleaded with God to extend his days. Hezekiah was favored by God because he had served Him, and after he pleaded with tears God did extend his life for fifteen years.

Unfortunately, he probably would have been much better off if he had said, "Lord, Thy will be done. If that is what You want, that's what I want."

His son Manasseh, who was twelve years old when he began to reign, was born after the extension of Hezekiah's life. Manasseh was the most wicked king to ever reign

over Israel. He killed many innocent people and shed much blood. He caused the country to worship idols and was wicked in God's sight. He was very cruel and very adulterous.

If Hezekiah could look back and see what happened, no doubt he would wish that he could relive that part of his life.

This reminds me that last Sunday we read about Jephthah, a judge who delivered the people of Israel in battle. He prayed to God. He wanted God's help so much to win the battle that he bargained with God. He said (this is in my words), "God, if You will let me win this battle, I'll sacrifice the first thing that meets me on my return home." Well, God gave him the battle and the first thing that met him brought sorrow to his heart. He had one child, an only daughter, and she was the first to meet him. He told his daughter what he had promised God, and she told him that he should do whatever he had promised.

Jephthah and his daughter knew that a promise to the Lord must be fulfilled. "Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, then that thou shouldest vow and not pay." Eccl. 5:5

The daughter of Jephthah asked for two months to go to the mountains with her friends. After the two months, she came back and Jephthah kept his promise.

When I think of that Scripture, I think also of another story that is supposed to be true. It is of a woman whose only son was very sick and about to die. Here again is a case which shows us that we should not bargain with God. Rather say, "Thy will, not ours, be done."

In this case, the woman prayed and asked God to heal her son. She said, "God, if You don't heal him, I'm not going to serve You." Her

Continued On Page 26