

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 32

JANUARY, 1982

NUMBER 1

Wishing You All A Blessed New Year

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

Written 30 Years Ago By
Bro. Henry Beer,
Minister, Milford, Ind.

The New Year has come,
As the annals record,
What an opportune time,
'Tis the year of our Lord.
Awake, O my soul,
This year is not mine,
For His is the day,
And each moment of time.
If life be my portion
And health be my lot,
Improve every minute
And squander them not.
Shall striving for riches
Or honor or fame,
Shall transient possessions
Become my soul's aim?
A higher objective
My soul would pursue,
For things everlasting
More blessed and true.
My soul's meditations,
My life may He bless,
He came to give all,
Ought I then give Him less?
It is the Lord's year,
If I'm granted to live
What privilege my all
In His service to give.
For faithful endeavor
I give Him my word,
By His grace I shall make it,
A year for my Lord.

STANDING THE TEST OF TIME

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle

Our neighbor's house continued to stand proudly as I gathered with a few others to watch as a single man, sitting in the cab of a huge crane and bucket, moved his machine into position to demolish the house. As the huge bucket was brought to bear on the roof of the house, causing the whole structure to reel, shake, and fall, one young woman wept and another grandmother turned abruptly and left, pushing her grandchild in a stroller, mumbling about how cold and heartless machines are. The houses must come down to make way for an expressway to pass within approximately 100 meters of our church and home.

The whole operation was quite traumatic as the man who owned the house stood by himself watching in mute silence while his wife and mother, standing apart from him, watched with hearts filled with emotion. I observed that the big bucket came many, many times with devastating blows before all traces of the house were removed.

Christ, speaking of the house built upon the sand, said in Matthew 7:27, "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." When a spiritual house falls, it is a tragic thing, whether it be for an individual

or a church, and we must exert all effort to avoid it. If it happens, anyway, we must then by persistent prayer and reasoning, try to rebuild on the solid rock, our Lord Jesus Christ.

I wasn't there, but I was told that when the house belonging to Sis. Haruko Saegusa and her husband was demolished, it defied the attacks of the machine. The huge pillars of this old house built by excellent workmen about 100 years ago, required many, many blows to knock them over. In Ephesians 6:13 we are exhorted, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

We face 1982, standing firmly on the Lord Jesus Christ. We ask others to join us for Christ and against Satan, sin and evil. With the passing of time, Satan is delivering blow after blow after blow. Can we stand the test of time in 1982? By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we can, but it requires persistent prayer and effort on our part. Grace does not supplant our making an effort to steer clear of those things not wholesome for our spiritual house and to embrace with fervor those activities which strengthen our spiritual house. What will your standing be at the end of 1982?

JAPAN EXPERIENCES

by Sis. Kathy Klotzle

A few years ago in Altadena we were blessed with visitors from Japan. Standing in the foyer of our church, a dear older Japanese sister found out that I am a teacher and smilingly told our interpreter that someday I should come to Japan to teach. At the time it was a casual statement, but tonight, sitting in our small Japanese-style home, I think back to how that has become a reality and give thanks to God that not only this dear sister but many special people and invaluable experiences have become a part of my life.

That night was not my first touch with our churches in Japan. Over the years I have met and talked with quite a few people as they stopped in Los Angeles in their travels across the Pacific. I knew few details about life and the work in Japan, but I sometimes wondered how God would reveal it to me if it were His will for me to go there. Then one day in January almost two years ago, He began to point the way to Japan definitely and unquestionably through scripture I opened to, sermons I heard, and events in my life. I felt a burden similar to the one I felt when I repented and it was not removed until I admitted to my parents and my elder the way the Lord was working in my heart. That began the chain of events that fit perfectly together, leading me to today, and I thankfully rejoice that God has granted me the privilege of living and teaching in Japan.

At home in America, two years seemed like a long time to be away. I knew that I would miss my family and friends, and would not be home for some probably important events in their lives. This has been true, but the time has passed unbelievably quickly. I can hardly believe that my time in Japan is more than half over and on those special days that were hard to miss at home, God has provided blessings here in His own perfect way. Our time here passes quickly because there is much to keep us busy. We don't have much time to be lonely. When we come to Japan we are told that our main purposes are to fellowship with the believers, striving to uphold a Christian example within

and without, and to teach in our church's American kindergarten. The fellowship has been such a blessing, getting to know our brothers and sisters in Christ. The love becomes deeper and the attachments stronger as we live through more and more of the ups and downs of life. Love in Christ transcends any language barrier. I've felt it in my own experience, and have seen it over and over with the many American guests we've been privileged to have this past year. One of our sisters told us recently that because of our bond in Christ she often forgets that we're foreigners. We went to visit her school and when someone told her that her "foreigner" friends had arrived, she at first didn't know who they were talking about.

On Sundays, the fellowship and our Sunday School classes often provide the blessing we receive, as of course the sermons are spoken in Japanese. Four of us presently teach in our Sunday School's three classes which are usually attended by about thirty children. Most of these children are present or future students in our kindergarten or kindergarten graduates. We American sisters teach mostly in English. The sermons are translated occasionally and we've been blessed with quite a few visiting American ministers in this past year, but we usually hear English sermons on tapes we receive from America. On Saturday night we listen to a tape with the Ehle family. It's been amazing that although the sermon may have been spoken weeks or months before, it still can supply a present need or maybe even speak on something we'd recently been talking about.

In addition to being blessed by fellowship with our brethren in Christ, our lives are also enriched by the twenty-seven precious Japanese children we are privileged to teach in our Christian kindergarten. How wonderful it is to not only begin each day with greetings, the calendar and exercises, but more importantly, a prayer to the living God, a Bible story, and simple songs of praise. Often during those times on the rug I want to draw the children to me and

keep them there, sheltered from the world outside and other forms of worship they're exposed to. Our kindergarten is an American kindergarten, so our curriculum is much like that in America, but we're teaching English as a second language. Our new students enter in April each year when they're four years old, and graduate two years later in March. Those first few weeks are a challenge, but it's amazing how soon the children begin to understand simple English. Our school day lasts for five hours, and once a week we teachers have a scheduled staff meeting with Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehle. It's a joy to be part of a staff that is like-minded in spirit and striving towards the same goal. In our decisions and discipline we strive to carry out the same teachings we give to the children each day.

Although we spend much time each week teaching kindergarten, we also have many other activities that keep us busy. Once a week we each teach an adult conversational English class, and we also study Japanese. (It's very beneficial if a sister can study the language some before coming to Japan, but it's not mandatory.) On Wednesday nights we have a Bible class at church, and twice monthly we've been teaching English to a brother and sister's children. We also have the responsibilities of some of the upkeep of our church school building, managing some of the funds, ordering supplies, and making curriculum decisions. As many believers do, we often fight the battle of prioritizing our time. It's hard to strike a balance between time devoted to correspondence with our loved ones in America and time spent with our loved ones in Japan.

In coming to Japan, I didn't experience a drastic adjustment. There are differences in culture and sometimes in thinking, but we trust God for His help in making decisions and pray for Him to smooth any rough edges left by our unconscious mistakes. I did feel the language barrier immediately when I arrived, but God is helping me in my language study and His love crosses that barrier. Illiteracy has been the cause of some rather humbling experiences. It never dawned on me in America that

I wouldn't be able to read a bus's destination, a menu, or a simple road sign when I arrived here.

I've loved Japan from the beginning — our dear brethren, the special people, and the beautiful country. Over the past year, that love has grown even deeper and more meaningful as I've lived through not only joys but trials and struggles as well. We sisters sometimes hear of the "sacrifice" we are making in giving two years of our lives here in Japan. There are some sacrifices, but we receive many, many, blessings and life-changing experiences. The gains are great and I now find myself fully sharing and understanding a feeling stated by a former teacher years ago on her return to the states: "I'm so afraid I'm going to lose what I've gained." It's a good, simple life. We do need a sister to become a part of the work in Japan in the coming two years. If you are a credentialed teacher and feel led by the Lord to share in the privilege of living and teaching in Japan, please talk with your elder who will then get in touch with Bro. Ben Maibach and the Mission Committee.

"I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places wither thou goest."
Genesis 28:15

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
Philippians 4:13

SUBSCRIPTION DUES COLLECTION

Subscription — \$5.00 per year
January 1982 is subscription collection date for the following list of churches.

- Remington, Ind.
- Ft. Scott, KS
- Eureka, Ill.
- Toledo, Ohio
- Tuscon, Ariz.
- Sardis, Ohio
- Princesville, Ill.
- Tremont, Ill.
- Junction, Ohio
- Champaign-Urbana, Ill.

NOTE OF THANKS

We want to thank all of the Silver Lining subscribers who sent an extra contribution during the past year. These contributions have helped so

much to cover expenses and have given much encouragement in continuing the work of sharing our Heavenly Father's and our Saviour's love with all.

Bro. David Bertsch for
the Silver Lining Staff

HELP NEEDED CONCERNING ADDRESS CHANGES

When we receive a notice from the post office concerning delivery of the Silver Lining with a note "No forwarding address," we have no way of knowing the new address. Please send a note of the address changes, either by the church news correspondent or by the subscriber. Thank you so much for helping to keep the mailing list up to date.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

To repeat the phrase, "Happy New Year" to our loved ones is to wish each one the richest of blessings which come from the One "from whom all blessings flow." Though time gently moves on without interruption, our calendars say we have a new beginning. The gift of time is given in equal portions to everyone. We have varying amounts of money and possessions, but no one is given more or less time than anyone else. It follows then that the difference is what we do with that time. Have you ever stopped to think what chaos there would be if clocks and calendars did not exist? We are grateful that God is a God of order.

Therefore, with new inspiration, we look toward the new year with the thought that when at last the tale of our years, added together, is told, we may hear in gentle tones, In as much as ye did it unto the least of these, you did it unto Me." Matt. 25:40

For business to succeed, there must be records kept. This month, perhaps, you would like a visit to the office. The first concern, of course, is the resident. Records are begun for each one on the day they are admitted to the Home. From that time on, everything must be documented. To qualify for state aid, each type of care must be recorded. This includes trips to the doctors and dentists, any outings they may take, any little money they may earn at workshop, etc., as well as the specific care they are given inside the Home. The Home

then must do billing for each resident for each month. Personal accounts are also kept for each resident. It is also in the office where all accounts for operating expenses are processed, all income recorded, all mail is sorted, payroll is accomplished, to mention a few of the duties. The pleasure of answering an ever-ringing telephone and of greeting all guests who come during office hours is also ours. To summarize, everything which involves finances is in some way connected with office records.

The holiday excitement, so beneficial to our dear family, will be but a happy memory when this reaches print. In behalf of the residents, we express heartfelt thanks for each one's efforts to make their holidays a little happier.

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

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Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller,
David Bertsch.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
co David Bertsch
R. No. 2, Box 157A
Grabill, IN 46741

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

Now as we leave you for this month, let us join hands and hearts to help those who need our assistance; so that when this new year becomes old, someone can think in their own minds that they have lived more peacefully because we helped when they faltered by the way.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Bob Cockburn

It is a quiet day here at the Home as the only ones here are my wife and I; everyone else is gone for the Christmas holidays. The staff are all at their respective homes and the children are either at their homes or else at the homes of various people who have opened their hearts to our children this Christmas season. Within a few days, all of our travelers should be back and eagerly awaiting the start of school again.

Sue is working on some of the many office chores that pile up on the days when she is not here and I am working on this article (obviously). It is a great help to have her volunteering her time to carry out the office procedures, thus freeing me to do the administrative functions.

The Lord has blessed the Home this past year and we trust in Him to provide for this labor of love in the coming year. We have had many opportunities to help many children this past year, and, unfortunately, do not see the end of children in need in the future. If all indications are correct, the future looks bleak for thousands of children. There is a continuing need for providing services to children who are victims of neglect or abuse. We are thankful that we are in a position to help even a small number of these children. Through the staff and many of you who have given of your time, talents, and resources, our children are coming to know the Lord and the blessings that He bestows on His children.

Our two family units are functioning as smoothly as possible considering the varied children and their backgrounds. It is amazing that so many different personalities can be thrown together, and still blend into a family. God is truly the reason why this can happen. We have a family of two brothers and two sisters who have been with us for almost three years, with the other children having been

here for periods of over two years to just over five months. Our children range in age from six years to seventeen years of age, and we have both boys and girls. It is to God's glory that our living arrangements have been so successful and are looked upon favorably by the state and county agencies, as well as by other children's homes in the state.

We are looking for Christian couples to come and continue the work of providing for these children, as we will be losing some staff in the not-to-distant future. We may also have an opening for a single sister in faith this summer. Please contact us for further information.

On behalf of the staff and children, my family and I pray that God's blessings will be with each of you in this coming year and we all thank you for your prayers, past and future, for this work and for our children.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

"The blessed story of the Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, is worthy of our songs of praise, Hymns of Zion No. 36. On Sunday, December 13, we were privileged to hear this story in verse and song at our Sunday School Christmas Program. It surely is a joy to see our young folks' enthusiasm and happiness as they tell the story of Jesus.

Friday, December 18, many gathered together for our annual Christmas caroling. I'm sure those who are "shut-in" enjoyed hearing the Christmas story in song.

Our annual business meeting was held December 2. Bro. Bill Sanders was elected to the board of trustees, and Bro. Jim Meiss was elected as usher.

Many from our congregation have been ill this month. We're glad when each of our dear ones are able to be with us again. Bro. Roy and Sis. Minnie Farney are still unable to gather with us at this time, truly our prayers are with them.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Patty Roth and Bro. Floyd Banwart. We trust God will grant each of them a healing hand that they may again enjoy their health.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Emma Moser in the loss of their loved one.

Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee.

Another year of progress, Another year of praise,
Another year of proving, Thy presence all the days.

Hymns of Zion No. 150

We of the Phoenix congregation wish you God's rich blessings and love in the New Year.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Rose Huetten

It is hard to believe that 1981 is almost over. We really have a lot to be thankful for. The weather is sure beautiful. It was in the 80's last week and the nights get in the 40's. That makes good sleeping weather. We welcome any visitors who would like to visit Tucson. Some of our winter visitors have already arrived.

We enjoyed hearing the Sunday School children's program last Sunday. It was so beautiful. The Bible class, young members and whoever wished, sang hymns. It was enjoyed by all.

Sis. Martha Blessman has been hospitalized for tests. We hope she will soon be feeling better and again return home. We miss her smiling face.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

Bro. Ronald Nelson of the Kiowa congregation visited in Denver to bring God's word to those assembled there. His efforts were greatly appreciated and we trust God will reward him.

Bro. Steve Scheitlin is home in Elgin, IL for the holiday break from college. His absence from the small assembly in Denver is keenly felt.

We encourage anyone traveling in the Denver area to assemble with the friends and brethren. 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 a lunch served in between.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Amman

On Sunday, Dec. 6, we were pleased to see Sis. Eva Fuhrer back home from her visit to Ohio. Sis. Eva wishes

to thank all those who extended their kindness to her during her illness and visit in Ohio.

On Sunday afternoon we went to the Altadena church to hear the Sunday school children recite their verses of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. It was a blessed day for us.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Dorothy Viens

As the Christmas season approaches, may each and every one be reminded of the Gift that God gave to his unworthy children on that first Christmas night. May we not reject the Christ-child, as did so many that walked on the earth at that time, but may our every heart be open to receive the gift of salvation which He brought to us. "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. Once again, there are several new babies to report. Coleen Beth was born on Nov. 23 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan. Melinda, Katie, and Betsy are glad to welcome their new little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mildred Gerber and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ryan. On Nov. 27, a son, Kurt John, was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl. Rebecca and Theresa are thrilled with their new little brother. Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena) and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Viola Luginbuhl are the happy grandparents. Also, on Dec. 16, a son, Douglas Richard, was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Susan Luginbuhl, their first child. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson (Bay City) and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Irma Luginbuhl. On Dec. 17, Matthew Ezra joined the family of Bro. Ed and Sis. Terry Mangold. Happy to welcome their new little brother are Scott, David, Jennifer, and Jeanette. Grandparents are Warren and Sis. Carol Gottier and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold.

We enjoyed many blessings hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of four dear souls, now a part of the family of God. We rejoice with Sis. Jody Spielman (Bro. Harry and Sis. Joyce Hunt), Sis. Sheila Ballasy (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Aline), and Bro. Vern and Sis. Janis Lanz (Bro. Richard and Sis. Freida). May the Holy Spirit, now sealed

within their hearts, always guide them "in ways of truth and righteousness".

On Nov. 29, the engagement of Bro. Arlo Hoffman (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Elsa) and Sis. Lynn Moser (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane) was announced. May God be their constant companion as they walk down the road of life together.

We rejoice and are encouraged in our faith when we see that dear friends are still heeding the loving call of our Saviour. Kevin Ballasy (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina), Jane Andrews (Clayton and Sis. Marion), and Beth Schneider (Bro. Roy and Sis. Joyce) have laid down the burdens of sin and are beginning to walk in the footsteps of the Saviour. Our prayers are for many more dear souls who are still enjoying the pleasures of sin. We know, as the hymn writer reminds us, that "they glisten and then they are gone." May many more search for the lasting and eternal pleasures that are only found in Jesus, our Lord.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Sally Gress

On Dec. 13 the Sunday School children presented their annual Christmas program. Afterwards, we all enjoyed an evening of hymn singing and fellowship.

Christy Sutter, daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy, and Tim Lawson, son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon were hospital patients this month.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Doris and Diane Rocke

We welcome ministering Bros. Joe Schrock, Congerville, IL, Homer Reineck, Toledo, OH, Art Gudeman, LaCrosse, IN, and their wives back for the winter months. Our elder Bro. Ben Maibach, his wife, Sis. Lorene, and son Doug (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Miriam Hemmer, Peoria, IL were guests this past month. We thank these brothers for their support and willingness that through them God's work may be done.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Dorothy Norr, Bro. Bob Reiman, Bro. George Beard, and Sis. Esther Schrock. May they feel the presence of the Almighty power and the love and concern of us all.

We have received a tentative plan

from the architect for a church addition which is being reviewed by the committee authorized by the congregation. We pray for God's guidance thru this undertaking. We enjoyed the youth with their messages and singing on Sun., Dec. 13. A social hour with refreshments for all followed the program. We were overjoyed to have most of our benches full for the program this winter.

Our new baby, Joseph Charles, was born early on Sun., Dec. 13, to William and Sis. Becky Sauder. Welcoming him are Denise, Diane, Debbie and William. How blessed it is to have another son and playmate for William. Proud grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue Sauder and Dave and Margaret Saltz from Mansfield, OH.

Jesus, we know that you are perfect love, but we confess that there are blind spots in our souls that hide this love from us. We ask for your light in these dark places. Now, although we know that light can be painful, burn away any false old images we have built and show us yourself. Then let us live in your light this Christmas. Amen.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Brenda Stoller

We received many scriptural truths this past month as we were blessed by the teachings from two visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Andy Virkler of Bay City and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz of Leo were here to proclaim God's Word to us.

The second and fourth Sundays of the month are the scheduled meetings. We look forward to those traveling through this winter to stop in and worship with us. Bro. Linn or Sis. Brenda Stoller may be called for additional information at (404) 471-0349.

During this busy holiday season we need to take time to reflect on what Christ did for us at Christmas. "...though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor ..." 2 Cor 8:9

Selfishness makes Christmas a burden, love makes it a delight.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Mary Huber — Jean O'Shea

What a blessed experience to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of seven souls whose lives had been purified by Jesus' blood and

were ready to walk forever with their hand in His. On Nov. 21 Jerry Koehl, Peg Woerner, and Connie Zimmerman were given the opportunity to tell of their conversions and were then baptized on Sunday. Elder Bro. Roy Sauder assisted in this wonderful work. How marvelous to be able to feel the Lord's peacefulness and joy in one's heart after having experienced the unrest and wretchedness of Satan!

"What a fellowship, what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine

Leaning on the everlasting arms."
Gospel Hymns no. 790

Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger was here to assist in the testimonies and baptisms of two dear couples, Clyde and Charlene Knoblock and Bill and Shirley Dennick on the weekend of Dec. 12-13. Our hearts were filled with gratitude for God's rich mercy and grace as He called these souls unto Him and helped them complete the work of repentance to the point where they could be immersed pure and white and rise to a new life in Christ. His compassion to all of us is incomprehensible! We must dedicate our lives to serving Him in appreciation and thanksgiving for all He has done for us.

"Deeper, deeper in the love of Jesus
Daily let me go.
Higher, higher in the school of
Wisdom
More of grace to know.
Deeper, deeper blessed Holy Spirit
Take me deeper still
Till my life is wholly lost in Jesus
And His perfect will.
Deeper, deeper tho it cost hard trials
Deeper let me go
Rooted in the holy love of Jesus
Let me fruitful grow.
Deeper, higher every day in Jesus
Till all conflict past
Finds me conqueror and in His
own image,
Perfected at last!

Gospel Hymns no. 790

We were happy to have Bro. Vernon Wettstein of Congerville with us for services on Dec. 6, and we thank him for his efforts in expounding the Holy Word unto us.

Our annual Christmas program was

held Wednesday evening, Dec. 16. Again we could let our minds go back to the humble birth of Jesus in the manger and reflect on the events which transpired on that most holy night. How good it is for us to remember the simplicity of our Lord, not only as He was born, but as He walked upon the earth, so that we may pattern our lives after His and be pleasing in His sight.

One and all were able to enjoy an evening of Christmas caroling on Dec. 19 as our congregation visited several area nursing homes and later gathered for a lunch at the church.

Karen Brummitt wishes to express her heart-felt thanks to each and every one for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and gifts of love while she was in the hospital and since returning home. She was deeply touched by each kindness shown unto her. We are rejoicing that God has touched her heart and has granted her the grace and strength to trust Him to lead her on the pathway of repentance to a new life in Him. How important it is to remember to pray for one another and to lift each other up along the way.

SOMEONE NEEDS YOU

"If you're feeling low and worthless,
There seems nothing you can do,
Just take courage and remember
There is someone needing you.

You were created for a purpose,
For a part in God's plan;
Bear ye one another's burdens
So fulfill Christ's law to man.
"Are you father, son or daughter?
You've a work none else can do.
Are you husband, wife, or mother?
There is someone needing you.
If perhaps in bed you're lying,
You can smile or press the hand
Of the one who tells his story;
He will know you understand.
There are many sad and lonely,
And discouraged, not a few,
Who a little cheer are needing
And there's someone needing you.
Someone needs your faith and courage
Someone needs your love and prayer
Someone needs your inspiration
Thus to help their cross to bear.
Do not think your work is ended
There is much that you can do

And as long as you are here on earth
There is someone needing you."

Author Unknown

May we all dedicate ourselves to the Lord with new zeal as we begin yet another year of serving Him, that we may grow in the fruits of the Spirit, in Godly wisdom, and perhaps most of all in charity. . . "but the greatest of these is charity." I Cor. 13:13

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Evelyn Endress

The weekend of Nov. 28 and 29, it was our privilege to hear the testimony and to witness the baptism of Denise Duckworth. May God grant much grace to Sis. Denise in her daily walk of life. Her parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Delores Duckworth. Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) assisted our Elder Bro. Dave Kieser in these labors of love.

Other ministers visiting us during the past month were Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal) and Don Manz (Junction).

Funeral services were held for Bro. Mark Ehnle, 24, who died Dec. 1, following a long illness. We thank God that Bro. Mark's suffering is over; but we grieve with his family, as his absence will be sorely felt. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Cathy (Despain); a daughter, Janis; his parents, Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle; three brothers Bro. Gary, Donn, and John; a sister, Sis. Karen Ringger; and a grandmother, Sis. Julia Ehnle.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich wish to thank everyone for their prayers and the support offered on their behalf during Dan's recent surgery and recovery.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Wilma Kieser and her family, as her mother, Sis. Emma Moser, passed away recently.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

As the old year concludes and a new one unfolds, we think of this continuum of events called "time" in which each one of us has the opportunity to shape occurring events to good or to evil. The apostle Paul exhorted the Ephesians in chapter 5:15,16 to, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil." May the Apostle's

exhortation continually guide us throughout the coming days.

Dec. 12 we came together once more to hear the conclusions of the Brotherhood Conference. Truly it is an anchor for our souls when we can see and feel that the brethren still treasure the Word and strive to pattern the church after those holy truths. Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) assisted Bro. Nathan Steffen in this work.

We wish to extend God's blessing to Bro. Dean Steffen, son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Kathryn, and Sis. Carol Miller, daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl from Fort Scott, in their recent engagement made known to our congregation.

On the evening of Dec. 20, our Sunday School children presented a Christmas program. It always lifts the heart to see the innocent beauty in their small faces as they express simple verse and song proclaiming the Christ Child's birth.

December has brought its illnesses for several of our brethren and friends and it always creates loving concern for those afflicted. Emily Schambach (small daughter of Ed Jr. and Gayle), Sis. Marie Hugh, Sis. Ada Mae Schrock, Bro. Brad Getz, Jacob Leuthold, Ed Gould, and Carol Siecrest have all been hospital patients. Gottfried Schock was released from the hospital since the last writing and has been re-admitted at this time. When the heart becomes discouraged and troubled over the various illnesses that beset mankind, we are so grateful to know and feel there is One who is never too busy to hear our pleas — never too busy to console and comfort. How can we ever sufficiently thank such a loving God?

Sis. Emma Moser was called to her eternal rest Dec. 15. Her body had been racked by arthritic pain for many years, leaving its crippling effects. It is a glorious thought that now she can realize a new body and be asleep in Jesus. To her family we wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy because we know that parting causes pain. She was born Apr. 20, 1900, in Legeter, IA, the daughter of Bro. Jacob and Sis. Christina Honnegger Schmidgall. She lived in Elgin most of her life but had been a resident in the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home in Eureka, IL, since 1978. Surviving are

five daughters, Lucille Smith and Sis. Lois Schock, both of Elgin, Sis. Viola Metz of Forrest, IL, Sis. Marie Feucht of Lester, IA, and Sis. Wilma Kieser of Bradford, IL and four sons, Bro. Earl and Bro. Gene Moser, both of Elgin, Harold of Uppland, CA, and Lester of Scottsdale, AZ, a sister, Sis. Rose Goll of Elgin, and a brother, Bro. Joseph Schmidgall of Forrest.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

"If you wish to make an apple pie truly from scratch, you must first invent the universe." Carl Sagan, Cosmos (Random House). This quote from our faculty bulletin made me ponder our (my, anyway) arrogance-- certainly pride sometimes-- at what I have "made from scratch." Truly only the Lord is worthy of praise.

The Lord has so bountifully blessed us with visitors from far and near. "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:42 Especially, of course, we treasure the visits of ministering brethren who, of the power of the Spirit, are the mouth-piece of His Word. Bro. Virg Metzger (Champaign) spent the Sunday after Thanksgiving with us. Dec. 5, Sat. evening, Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) gave support to our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in the reading of the annual brotherhood conference report. So much was inspiring as we were exhorted and chastened, "...for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness." Hebrews 12:10. As our brothers spoke of our first love, the spiritual disciplines in our lives, and numbering our days, ending in one of two final destinations, I was most struck by a reference to Hell. Its description in the Bible is horrible, but since we can only imagine, sometimes perhaps we become blase and tend to gloss over its horrors. But Bro. Nate was inspired to approach it from this standpoint: Hell must be terrible. Look at all Christ did for us that we might escape it. Bro. Roy and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) shared their God-given words with us Sun., Dec. 6. To these brethren, their wives and families as well as Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington) who was with us for the Christmas

program, we wish the Lord's measure, "...pressed down, and shaken together, and running over," (Luke 6:38) blessing upon blessing.

The Sunday School Christmas program Dec. 12 was, as always, a real joy. The behavior of the children and young adults, as it often is, was at a high point, each one showing effort and concern to reflect the wonder and beauty of Christ's birth and its message. All grow so fast -- it seems so short a time ago that the tall young men and women of junior and senior high school were beginning Sunday School. Now they are the "stars." May they be His, too, someday. Why does one child falter in his lines? Is it perhaps so each one leans forward and listens ever more carefully to the verse being said? "And has He entered there to stay, Your heart His Bethlehem?"

There are yet those for whom "flows the sympathizing tear." Dear Sis. Theresa Stammler has had eye surgery, and though the doctor pronounced the operation a success, recovery seems slow. Bro. Jim Grivet is back in the hospital. Oh, what can we say? Naught but pray. There are those near whom death has come. Sis. Maria Benko received news of her brother's death in Hungary, and Sis. Elizabeth and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman lost their mother (she had been in the Eureka Home). We extend our sympathy to these beloved sisters in their loss, yet rejoice that those who are gone, died "in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." Titus 1:2

As the new year begins, we think about undone deeds, time-management problems, and resolutions anew that by the grace of God we might fulfill. Getting organized is a major effort. A book I read told me just how to do it. One of the most interesting suggestions was that of getting rid of materials in closets. If a person says yes to: "does it have only sentimental value?" or "might I need it sometime?" the book said the article should be thrown out. Perhaps there are like areas in our spiritual closets, habits of "sentimental" value, things we've done a long time, even though they may be questionable for a child of Christ. What about things we do because "it may come in handy" to do this or that,

go here or there, be seen with him or her, rather than because Christ would direct us in those paths? I don't know about you, but I have lots of spiritual organization, as well, to take care of.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Melba Funk - Joan Waldbeser

ANOTHER YEAR

Now that the toils of '81 are ended,
And God's rich blessings have descended,
We find many reasons to thank Him now,
As we in true worship before Him bow.

May this year be filled with adoration,
For all the good things in God's creation.

So even amid'st our trials and woes,
We are grateful each time we conquer our foes.

May the Lord continue our efforts to bless,
Even though the world is full of distress.
While here we are surrounded by vice and sin,
May His grace be sufficient the victory to win.

EJF

Bro. Everett Hari was here with us Thanksgiving Day. He reminded us we should be thankful for everything, in good times and bad. God knows what is best for us and we should always put our trust in Him and be thankful in all things.

A baby girl was born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher Nov. 28, Sarah Michelle was welcomed home by two sisters, Rachel and Elizabeth. Grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Arlene Stock and Bro. Ben and Sis. Marie Laubscher.

Bro. Henry Hodel and Sis. Violet Maul were in the hospital for surgery, but are home and able to assemble with us again.

Tim Eisenmann, son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon, and Tommy, foster baby of Bro. Les and Sis. Marilyn Maul, were both hospitalized this past month. We are happy to say they are better again.

Sis. Blanche Steffen is in the hospital at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with her.

Our Christmas program is to be held the evening of Dec. 23. We look forward to hearing from the lips of our children the wonderful story of our Saviour's birth.

Renewal subscription dues to the Silver Lining are payable in February.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Mardell Ott — Shirley Ifft

As we write this month, the ground is covered with snow, beautiful and white. May our hearts be as clean and pure. Last evening, Dec. 16, we assembled for our Sunday school program and received such boundless blessings hearing of "The True Spirit of Christmas." We heard of Christ's lowly birth, of His life on earth — how He was despised and rejected of men, of His suffering and death and His innocent blood shed that we might have a hope of eternal life. We heard of our need to repent, confess our sins and become converted, and we heard of the fruits of the spirit our lives should show. As we enter a new year with its pages clean and unblemished, let us daily show forth these fruits to our brothers and sisters in the Lord, our helpmates, parents, children, and the world around us.

We are thankful Bro. Richard and Sis. Katie Hasty have returned from Calif. where Bro. Richard underwent surgery to help alleviate the constant pain he has long endured. Clarence Miller and Dave Zimmerman are able to assemble with us again after surgery — for which we rejoice. May God be very near to each of these loved ones, granting them grace, patience and courage as they continue to recuperate. Our thoughts and prayers go to our dear sister Francis Schumacher (Bro. Joe) as she will be confined to her home for sometime following eye surgery.

On Nov. 30, a precious little bundle was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock. Jason Michael was warmly welcomed by Sis. Joan, Jeff, Jill, Jenny, John, Jim, Julie and Jodi. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Irene Schrock of our congregation and Robert and Lillian Schierer, Eureka.

Many good teachings and instructions were brought forth when Bro. Uriel Gehring (Burlington) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) spent a Sunday with us. May God richly bless

our ministering brethren for laboring so faithfully in our behalf.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Melba Mangold

Although Christmas is past, wouldn't it be nice if we could remember one another all year, not with material gifts but with kind deeds and thoughtfulness?

We extend a warm welcome to several who have moved to Eureka. Sis. Wilma Huber has come from Peoria and Bro. Chris and Sis. Alice Rinckenberger are formerly of Tremont. We hope they will be happy here and we welcome their fellowship.

Bro. Leroy Stoller has had surgery but is home and able to gather with us again. We are thankful we haven't more shut-ins at this time.

We rejoice with Bro. Randy Knapp who was taken into the fold the weekend of Nov. 22. His parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean. We thank two of his uncles, Bro. Kenny Knapp of Taylor and Bro. Fred Knapp of Congerville who were willing to serve us on Sunday.

Elder Bro. Paul and Sis. Mildred Butikofer of Elgin, IA, spent the weekend of Dec. 5 and 6 with us. On Saturday evening Bro. Paul helped with the Conference Conclusions and on Sunday ministered to us. We enjoyed their visit and especially thank Bro. Paul for his willingness to bring the Word to us.

One of our dear old sisters was taken to her rest on Nov. 28. Sis. Nima Zimmerman was 95 years old, would have been 96 in Dec. She was the widow of Bro. John. Our sympathy is extended to her family, two sons, Bros. Lawrence and Walter of Eureka; seven daughters, Sisters Laura Stoller of Haviland, OH Elizabeth and Dorothy, Chicago, Alma Baum of Minneapolis, Evelyn Gudeman and Gladys Schmidgall of Eureka and Mrs. Margaret Kercher of Denver.

We have three new babies to tell you about. Jonathan James was born Nov. 23 to Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet Stoller. His brother and sister are Justin and Jennifer. His grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Mildred Schlipf of Gridley and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Ruth Stoller. Bro. Robert and Sis. Marlene Prather have a new little son, Kirk Andrew born on Nov. 28. His little

brother is David. Kirk's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand and Bro. Jack and Sis. Milly Prather. On Dec. 6 Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Beth Wettstein welcomed their third son, Peter Jacob. His brothers are Phillip and Alan. His grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier and Harold and Loretta Wettstein.

On Dec. 11 Bro. Noah Gerber of the Home was unexpectedly called to his eternal rest. He and Sis. Hulda, who survives, have lived there since 1974. His funeral and burial was at Latty, OH, his home congregation. His family deeply appreciated the many kind expressions of sympathy and kind deeds shown to them at the time of his passing away. May God bless all who remembered them.

Another of our Home residents died on Dec. 15. Sis. Emma Moser had lived there three years. Her funeral services and burial were in Elgin, IL at her home church.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

On Sun. Nov. 29, Sis. Jane Broquard (Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione) and Bro. Jay Luthi (Bro. Lloyd and Joann) of Lamont, KS, were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Sam Anliker. We will certainly feel a vacancy in our congregation as Sis. Jane makes her home in Lamont, but we sincerely wish them God's richest blessings in their future life together. Other visiting ministers that Sunday were Bros. Bill Emch, Lamont; Tom Leman, Elgin; and Wayne Anliker and Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman, Forrest.

Our Sunday school students presented their Christmas program the evening of Dec. 13. It is always very impressive as they tell and sing about the birth of our precious Saviour. May each student be blessed for his efforts put forth.

I want to thank all my relatives and friends for all the cards, gifts, and prayers and also those who came and sang for me while I was at the hospital and since I am home. May God bless you all.

Sis. Louise Sohn

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

December 6 was the wedding day of

our Sis. Beth Leman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna) and Bro. Charles Mogler (Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma), West Bend, IA. We wish them God's abiding love as they make their home in West Bend. We also thank Bros. Earl Banwart (West Bend) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City) for bringing us God's Word on this special day.

Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) recently spent a day with us and brought forth many good teachings out of the Word of Life.

Recent hospital patients were Sis. Dorothy Rieger, Karen Honegger (Bro. Roger), Sis. Ida Kaisner (Bro. Joe), and Corey Zimmerman (Rod and Micky.) We are thankful they are all home again and we hope on the road to recovery.

Our congregation has reason to rejoice as two precious souls have surrendered their hearts to the Lord. They are Brian Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean) and Alan Gerber (Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther). May they feel God's nearness and grace as they take this most important step in life.

We have several "bundles from Heaven" to report. Dayton John is the first child of Tom and Pam Kilgus. Grandparents are John and Barb Kilgus. Ryan Louis has joined the family circle of Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman. Little Josh is happy for a new baby brother. Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman are the grandparents. And little Janae Lanette is the newly adopted baby of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Drayer. Jared is her brother and grandparents are Carl and Sis. Dorothy Bachtold and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Louise Manz (Junction OH)

The year has brought so many things
To give my spirit soaring wings,
I cannot think to name each one...
A new day blessed by morning sun,
The memory of woods in snow;
Beloved peaceful hills I know,
At night, the mystic stars above;
Companionship with those I love,
My garden, bright with blossoming,
The miracles the seasons bring.
Oh, help me to be worthy, Lord,
Of these good gifts,
a treasured hoard.

Edith Shaw Butler

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Pam Wiegand

We were blessed with five visiting ministers this past month. They were: Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville), Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville), Bro. Donald Manz (Junction), Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse), and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville). Our thanks is extended to all.

Our high school class hosted the ACYF singing. Also the Peoria choir was here for our family hymn sing. It's always so enjoyable listening to others sing praises to our Lord.

The Sunday School had their annual Christmas program. We are thankful for such a large group of children. There are 187 in all, the biggest group we have ever had.

For every hill I've had to climb,
For every stone that bruised my feet,
For all the blood and sweat and
grime,
For blinding storms and burning
heat,
My heart sings but a grateful song-
These were the things that made me
strong.

For all the heartaches and the tears,
For all the anguish and the pain,
For gloomy days and fruitless years,
And for the hopes that lived in vain,
I do give thanks, for now I know
These were the things that helped me
grow!

— Unknown

Hospitalized are Bro. Chris Hohulin, Bro. Jesse Hunziker, and Sis. Hilda Leman. Sis. Lavina Ott was hospitalized and is now home. Our prayers are with each one of them in their time of need.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

We were blessed by the kind words of exhortation and inspiration that were brought to us when we assembled to hear the memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference. Elder Bro. Arthur Bahler (Fairbury) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) were with us for the occasion. May we all have more grace to dare to be a Daniel and dare to stand alone for what is right in this evil world.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail Romersberger are the delighted parents of a

new daughter, Ashley Erin, who was born Nov. 29. Ashley's grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty Hari of Cissna Park, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lucille Romersberger of Gridley.

Bro. Curtis Stoller, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie, was united in marriage to Sis. Carla Kuntz of Forrest on Nov. 22.

Peggy Meiss, daughter of Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge, was recently in the hospital.

Bro. Harold Kaupp is thankful and glad to be back home from the hospital in time for Christmas.

"We feel so humbled at this time to try and thank everyone for the love and prayers that were offered to us at the time of the accident, in the hospital and since coming home. We greatly appreciate the cards, gifts and food that were given to us. It is times like this that we feel completely united in our faith. We have to take one day at a time, but we never have to walk alone."

Bro. Harold Kaupp and family

The beautiful Christmas story warmed our hearts as the Sunday School children sang songs and recited verses the afternoon of Dec. 20.

"He came in humble modesty
And brought to us all blessings.
There in a manger slumbered He,
Eternal gifts possessing.
Arrayed in feeble flesh and blood
Appeared the gracious Son of God
To bring us all redemption."

Zion's Harp No. 107

ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Jane Herrmann

The ISU annual Christmas program was held on Dec. 10. The ISU group sang and Bro. Kent Heimer from Taylor, MO gave an inspirational message on glorifying God at Christmas. Many times we get so busy with the Christmas rush, we forget the true purpose of Christmas.

GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE

Our Father up in heaven
long, long years ago
Looked down in His great mercy
on this restless world below,
And He saw that folks were lonely
and lost in deep despair
And so He said, "I'll send My Son

to walk among them there. . .
So they can hear Him speaking
and feel His nearness, too,
And see the many miracles
that faith alone can do". . .
And so though centuries have passed
since Jesus walked on earth,
Time has not dimmed the wonder
of the Holy Christ Child's birth,
And through the countless ages
this Son of God above
Remakes the lives of sinful men
and saves them with His love.

Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

We are indeed sorry for failing to mention that Bro. Eli and Sis. Bertie (Schiltz) Leman have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May the Lord continue to richly bless them.

We rejoice with Bro. Rudy and Sis. LaVina (Meiss) Kilgus who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May the Lord continue to richly bless them.

We heard the testimonies of faith of Mona Hall, Steve Dietrich, Tim Ackerman (Roger's wife) and Teresa Haley. We witnessed their baptisms on November 22. We welcome them as our brothers and sisters in faith and wish them God's grace and blessings as they walk the narrow pathway of life.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi welcome into their hearts and home, Aaron Daniel. Aaron was born on December 4. His "big" brother, Joshua helped to welcome him home. The grandparents are Raymond and Cleda Rinkenberger, Tremont, IL, and Bro. Eli and Sis. Pearl Rassi, Morton, I L.

Sis. Lorene Schieber wishes to thank all who were so kind in remembering her while in the hospital and at home. God bless you all.

December 13 was our annual Sunday School Christmas program. We were richly reminded of our Saviour's humble birth. May God bless our precious children and young people who were in the program.

December 20 was our church Christmas Carol sing for our loved ones who are shut-in and or ill. We appreciate the wonderful turn-out of young and old alike. Afterwards we

had precious fellowship and a delicious lunch in our church dining room. It was truly a blessed evening.

We wish to thank visiting Bros. Elmer Hartter, Milford, IN, Fred Knapp, Congerville, IL, Edwin Ringger, Gridley, IL, Glenn Dill, Tremont, IL, Bill Emch, Lamont, KS, Ed Alt, Cissna Park, IL, Carl Wyss, Washington, IL, Don Wagenbach, Washington, IL, David Wiegand, Champaign, IL, and Loren Strahm, Gridley, KS. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent some time in the hospital: Bro. Bruce Schmidgall, Bro. Chris Rassi and Bro. Bill Aupperle. May God continue to be with them and all those who are sick or shut-in. Let us remember them in prayer.

The Morton Congregation would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a blessed holiday season and new year in our Lord. May each one of us strive to do God's Holy Will daily and to have a closer walk with Him.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner

Mary Ann Plattner

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

Hymns of Zion Pg. 150

We were very blessed to have visiting ministers with us again; they were Bros. Roy Wieland (Bay City), Vernon Leman (Eureka), and Floyd Wieland (Detroit). We wish to thank them for sharing their talents with us.

December 3 was the funeral of Bro. Mark Ehnle of Bradford. He is the grandson of Sis. Julia Ehnle of our Apostolic Christian Home. We express our deepest sympathy to her and the family of Bro. Mark.

Hospital patients this month are Bros. Walter Witzig, Al Keefer, Adam Marx, and Frank Ferrero, and Sisters Lila Witzig, Lydia Hoerr, Evelyn Thomas, and Mary Bowald. May God strengthen and restore each one according to His will.

Tapes of the Brotherhood Conference were played at the church on Monday evenings in November and December.

The Bible Class entertained special guests from the Peoria Area Retarded Citizens and the Morton

Home for the Handicapped on December 13 at the Fellowship Hall. The day was a blessing to all who participated.

We want to welcome Sis. Marie Kaupp who has moved to Peoria recently after spending many years in California.

Jason, Jeremy, and Justin Hopwood welcome home their new baby sister, JoLynn. Parents are Steve and Sharon Hopwood. Grandparents are Bro. Walter Feucht and Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Hopwood.

Bro. Walter Hess wishes to thank everyone who remembered him with prayers, gifts, cards, and visits while he was hospitalized and since returning home. May God Bless each one.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

Spiritual victory comes through the power of the Word.

On the evening of November 18, our congregation, along with Bradfords' heard comments on the church conference held in August. Bro. Edwin Ringger of Gridley and Bro. Donald Sauder of Roanoke assisted our Bros. Dave Kieser and Joe Stoller that evening.

Bro. Joshua Broquard of Fairbury was our visiting minister on Thanksgiving day.

On November 22, Laura Sue Streitmatter was born to Bro. Alan and Sis. Janet Streitmatter. Grandparents are Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter of our congregation and Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand of Eureka.

On November 29, David William Ehnle was born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Barbara Ehnle. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah Ehnle and Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter.

Sis. Lavonne Stoller, daughter of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller, slipped on ice and broke her leg November 22. She is on the road to recovery.

Those still on the sick list are Bro. Phillip Musselman, Hilda Streitmatter, and Marian Riley.

Hilda Streitmatter wishes to thank everyone for the cards and other acts of kindness during her illness.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Esther Herrmann and family are grateful for the love and kindness given to them after the death of their son, Robert. The love and care shown to them at this time was an encouragement to them.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joyce Hodel - Carol Rumbold

We extend a welcome and our good wishes for a happy home to Sue Moser and Ray Garber who were married Nov. 7. Their parents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser and the Rich Garbers. On Nov. 28 the marriage of Andy Sauder and Jayne Banwart took place in Lester, IA. Their parents are Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn Banwart and Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith Sauder. We wish a blessed life together for each of these couples.

After our Thanksgiving Day services we learned that God has lead our Bro. Keith Fischer and our Sis. Dorie Hodel to believe it is His will that they establish a Christian home together. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge Fischer and Betty Hodel, all of our congregation. Also believing it is God's will that they unite their hearts as one in the Lord are Bro. Ed Stoller and Sis. Bonnie Hodel. Their parents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Barb Stoller and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel. May God's blessings ever enrich their lives as they walk life's road together.

The gift of a newborn babe was received with joy in two of our families this Christmas season. God gave Luke Nathan to Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl, Amanda, and grandparents Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Luginbuhl on Dec. 1. Kory and Keri Kaeb and Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy welcomed Kasey Lyn into their family on Dec. 9. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Helen Zimmerman and Bro. David and Sis. Mary Kaeb. "Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord. . . ." Ps. 127:3.

We are thankful to God for willing servants who travel to our congregation to minister to us. We enjoyed the visits of Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor), Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso), and Bro. David Bertsch (Leo).

It is our prayer that our hospitalized Bros. Warren and Vince Hodel might enjoy improved health if it be the Lord's will.

The Sunday School children sang with praise in their hearts to the Lord at our annual Christmas program. We enjoyed the evening with them and we can believe our Father in heaven was pleased too.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Sis. Phyllis Lang

Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach

As we start another new year, may we each strive a little harder to

be a shining example.

We were blessed with visits from Bros. Steve Rinckenberger (Cissna Park) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA). We were strengthened and uplifted in the spirit with the word of God. May God be your rich rewarder.

Little Andrew Lee Wagenbach, son of Simon Jr. and Sis. Lavonne, was born Nov. 26. He has brothers Simon III, Jeff, Jonathon, Kurt, Daniel, and Timothy and sister Jody to welcome him home. The grandparents are Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach and Bro. Sam and Sis. Louise Witzig from Gridley.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia Kaiser are the happy parents of Carmen Paige, born Nov. 28. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha Kieser of Bradford.

Bro. David T. Koch and Sis. June welcomed Dale Michael into their home. He was born Dec. 13 and has a brother, Tommy, and a sister, Kelly, to help take care of him. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Frances Koch and Bro. Willis and Sis. Pauline Sauder.

Hospitalized for surgery this past month were Sis. Carrie Bolliger and Bro. Ernest Schaefer. Both are at home recuperating, for which we are thankful.

On Dec. 13 the Sunday School presented us with the wonderful Christmas story. We appreciated the efforts of both the teachers and students.

January is collection month for the Silver Lining.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Mary and Joan Schick

Our congregation is rejoicing over two new converts, Marty (Rose) Schlatter and Elaine Winkler (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold). We are thankful for God's grace and that Marty and Elaine have yielded to His tender call.

We were fortunate to have Bro. Ron Kellenberger home for Thanksgiving. Bro. Ron is employed in Kansas City for the building of the new Apostolic Christian Church there. We are looking forward to having him home permanently.

Our thanks go to our visiting ministers who so freely gave of themselves. They are Elder Bros. Leroy Huber, Don Sauder, and Roy Sauder. Special thanks are extended to our elder brothers who brought us the conference conclusions.

We enjoyed the message in song and poem and shared with us by our

Sunday School children at our annual Christmas program on the afternoon of December 13. They told us the true meaning of this holiday season.

"I wish to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, visits, and prayers while I was in the hospital. May God bless you all." Bro. Henry Simon

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in Him will I trust. Surely he will deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Psalm 91:1-4

As the winter months cover us with snow and cold, God is still with us to blanket us with His warmth and that of friends and family. May this season of togetherness just be a taste of the greater joys we shall share forever together with Jesus.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Gayla Baumgartner
Tammy Gerber

"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

On Nov. 29, Sis. Joleen Kipfer and Bro. David Sinn were united as one in the Lord. May God richly bless them as they begin their life together. Bro. Carl and Sis. Nova Kipfer and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn, Fort Scott, Kansas, are the parents.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ben Mantz (Junction), Bro. Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott), and Bro. Elmer Hartter (Milford). We ask God's blessings on them for bringing forth His message to us.

May God ever care for the dear ones who have spent time in the hospital: Kim Baumgartner (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jean), Marvin Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jenny), Bro. Alan B. Steffen, Bro. Steve Reinhard, Bro. Vince Gerber, Sis. Martha Moser, Sis. Mary M. Steffen, Bro. Russell Steffen, and Sis. Nancy Herring. Our thoughts and prayers are always with those who are sick or shut-in.

Gary and Michelle Gerber were blessed with a little girl, Sara Jo.

A little bundle of joy was sent to the home of Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger. "Big" brothers

Matthew and Michael welcome little Jonathan.

"Blessed rest, when earthly toil is ended, Shall be mine in all eternity, From the Father, who His call extended to me, that I serve Him faithfully! O how blest, to cease from toil and care, then to enter heaven's rest so fair."

Hymns of Zion No. 267

After faithfully serving the Lord, Bro. Homer Clark went to meet his Savior. Our sympathy is extended to his family. We pray that they can look to the Lord for strength and comfort.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Jacki Huber

It isn't the thing you do, dear,
It's the thing you leave undone,
Which gives you the bitter
heartache
At the setting of the sun;
The tender word unspoken,
The letter you did not write,
The flower you might have sent,
dear,
Are your haunting ghosts at night.

The stone you might have lifted
Out of your brother's way,
The bit of heartsome counsel
You were hurried too much to say;
The Loving touch of the hand, dear,
The gentle and winsome tone,
That you had no time or thought for,
With troubles enough of your own.

These little acts of kindness,
So easily out of mind,
These chances to be angels,
Which even mortals find —
They come in night and silence,
Each chill, reproachful wraith,
When hope is faint and flagging,
And a blight has dropped on faith.

For life is all too short, dear.
And sorrow is all too great,
To suffer our slow compassion
That tarries until too late.
And it's not the thing you do dear,
It's the thing you leave undone,
Which gives you the bitter
heartache,
At the setting of the sun.

— Adelaide Proctor.

How wonderful to realize we don't have to have "haunting ghosts" — at night or any time if we follow in Jesus' footsteps each day of the year!

We're happy to say that two of our dear ones have decided to follow in Jesus' footsteps, and were recently baptized as an open testimony to us all. We welcome a new sister,

Glenda Gutwein, (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mary Anne), and a new brother in faith, Todd Erb (Don and Millie) into the fold. To share with us in hearing their testimonies, we were glad to have Elder Bro. Jesse Beer of Milford with us on Saturday evening, as well as on Sunday. Ministering Bro. Art Ringger from the Indianapolis congregation was also with us on Saturday evening. We thank these brothers for being with us.

It is always a blessing to have brothers and sisters with us from near and far away. Recently we enjoyed having some of the young members from Washington and Peoria, IL., in our midst, as well as some from our neighboring Indiana churches.

What would we do without our faithful brothers who "serve" us by proclaiming God's Word? This past month we were blessed to have ministering Bros. Ed Bahler (Remington), Gene Lehman (Wolcott), and Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL.) with us. Bro. Perry was here to assist Bro. Wendell in the reading of the memorandum on a Wednesday evening. We thank all these ministers for giving their time to be with us. May God bless them all.

In II Timothy, 3:1-2, we read that "... in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy." So many times I'm reminded of those verses, especially when I'm not as thankful as I should be. Our annual Thanksgiving program was held on the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving, reminding us to be thankful for God's great love and goodness to us.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Madeline Gutwein (Bro. Fred) in the death of her father, Ernie Smith.

On Nov. 20, we rejoiced over the birth of little Jordan Bruce Wuethrich to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy. Several weeks later God took little Jordan to his eternal home, to await his dear family.

Our hearts ache here on earth, missing precious souls God calls home, but it brings to mind that "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." II Peter 3:8. It also brings to mind promises such as found in Isaiah 51:3; "For the Lord shall comfort Zion: He will comfort

all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody."

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bruce, Kathy and Miranda, Jordan's older sister, and look forward to meeting little Jordan on the "Streets paved with gold."

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Klopfenstein

Bobbi Erb

Progress is well underway on the expansion of our church building. Last Sunday's worship services were held at a nearby Corporation Chapel, due to the construction. We are all anxiously awaiting the remodeled facility.

As we look back over 1981, we have so much for which to praise our Lord. In 1981 He blessed our congregation with 9 healthy babies and 6 more souls turned to Christ in repentance. We can all think of personal blessings we have received during the year and be stimulated by the challenge to draw still nearer in 1982.

MY TASK IS SIMPLE

As I analyze myself I find several things happening to me as a result of these two months of strenuous effort to keep God in mind every minute. This concentration upon God is strenuous, but everything else has ceased to be so. I think more clearly, I forget less frequently. Things which I did with a strain before, I now do easily and with no effort whatever. I worry about nothing, and lose no sleep. I walk on air a good part of the time. Even the mirror reveals a new light in my eyes and face. I no longer feel in a hurry about anything. Everything goes right. Each minute I meet calmly as though it were not important. Nothing can go wrong excepting one thing . . . God may slip from my mind if I do not keep on my guard. If He is there, the universe is with me.

My task is simple and clear.

— Frank Laubach

INDIANA, LA CROSSE

We all were privileged to hear God's teachings on Thanksgiving Day, delivered by Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington) and Bro. William Schlatter (Junction). We have so many things to be thankful for, including the faith of our forefathers and the fact that we still have free-

dom of religion. Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) also were present.

We enjoyed a short Thanksgiving program of verse and song on Sunday, Nov. 29.

Saturday, Dec. 12, Duane Bucher, son of Sis. Gwen, and Teri Ann Liedtky were united in marriage. May God bless the union of these hearts.

Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) were with us Sunday Dec. 13. May all of our ministering brothers be blest for their labors of love.

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Our thoughts oft return to the day
long ago
When heaven looked down on the
grief and the woe
Of a world so estranged from the
Father above,
That He sent His dear Son in His
infinite love.

But the Father whose love is as wide
as the sea
Looked down on the world He so
longed to make free
So with a plan of redemption, the
world to reclaim,
The Son of the Highest, the dearest
one came.

O joy to the world! Fallen men to
redeem
The Saviour was born, what a
wonderful theme!

This message of love reverberates
clear
From Jesus Immanuel, year after
year.

Garden of Verse

As we all meditate on the birth of our Saviour, let us all rejoice that He didn't remain in the manger but grew to man, suffered the cruel death on the cross and arose again.

Sis. Clara Heiniger has moved to the retirement home. Her mailing address is: Parkview Haven, Francesville, IN 47946.

May she continue her work for the Lord by lending a helping hand to those in distress. She would appreciate hearing from her many friends.

Let us welcome the new year with rejoicing.

It may be the last of the years
swiftly flying.

It may be the year when the Master
will come;

When the land of the holy, for which

we are sighing,
Will burst into view — the Father's
glad Home!

It may be the last! When all
mystery ending
In radiant light from the sunshine
of God!

And, O, what a welcome, as we are
ascending!

'Twill more than make up for the
difficult road!

M. I. Reich

We will have the blessed opportunity to hear the memorandum from the latest conference. Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) plans to assist.

INDIANA, LEO

Mrs. Phil Schlatter

Mrs. Al Frautschi

Sympathy is extended to the Pfister Family in the death of one year old Jacob Levi, who was burned in a home fire. He was the son of Dan and Karen and grandson of Bro. Levi and Sis. Lillian Pfister. A few lines of a poem in memoriam to Baby Jacob are: "God walked through His garden today, In search of that one perfect rose, And with His loving hand He made His choice, For a reason that only He knows."

Louis and Sis. Ruth Garman are the happy grandparents of Matthew Louis born Nov. 18 to James and Ginger Garman.

The following poem was submitted by Sis. Mildred Schlatter:

ANOTHER YEAR WITH JESUS

Another year is dawning —
A path unknown, untried.
'Twould fill me with foreboding,
Had I no hand to guide;
But He who walked beside me
All through the yesteryear,
Whatever may betide me,
Has promised to be near.

Another year to trust Him —
Yes, I can trust Him still,
Who never yet has failed me
As I have sought His will.
His rod and staff He giveth
To be my strength and stay,
And tenderly He leadeth
Along the homeward way.

Another year to love Him,
Whom I have loved so long;
Another year to praise Him
In glad triumphant song.
Whate'er the future holdeth
Of sorrow, toil, or pain
His precious Love endureth

Forevermore the same.

Another year with Jesus!
I thank Thee, Lord, today
For Thy unfailing presence
Along life's rugged way.
Guide me, O blest Redeemer,
Teach me to do Thy will,
And Thine own perfect purpose
In me each day fulfill.

— Avis Burgeson Christiansen

INDIANA, MILFORD
Connie Beer - Marcy Haab

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:4

Sister Laura Wutrich, 87, passed from this life into eternity on Nov. 12, at the home of her daughter Sis. Irene and Jim Sumpter. Sis. Laura had an extended illness. She is survived by four sons: Wayne, Donald, Harlan and Glen. She is also survived by four sisters: Mrs. Barbara Beer, Sister Mary Gerber, Miss Edna Graff, and Mrs. Tillie Kasbaum; three brothers: Bro. Oscar Graff, Albert, and Everett.

My heavenly home is bright and fair,
No pain nor death can enter there.

Sunday, Nov. 22 our Thanksgiving program was presented. What a joy it is to hear the various age groups express thankfulness to God for all of our rich blessings.

Kimberly Troup (Sis. Ann and Bill), Lee Price (Stanley and Ginger) and Bro. Andy Kammerer were hospital patients. Bro. Alvin Haab has been confined to his home due to a back injury. We are thankful that Bro. Ray Haab is now able to return to his work following his back injury. May these dear ones and their families feel His presence and strength as they bear these physical afflictions.

Elder Bros. Loren Stoller, (Latty) and Orville Ringger (Bluffton) assisted Elder Bro. Jesse Beer & Bro. Elmer Hartter in presenting the conference memorandum on Sat., Dec. 5. On Sunday, Dec. 6, Bro. Dale Strassheim was selected to serve as our minister. Bro. Dale is the son of Mayme Gerst of Burlington, IA. Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol (Rinkenberger) have four children and reside in Goshen. "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea woe is unto me if I preach not the

gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward." . . . Cor. 9:16-17.

How grateful we are that God can by inspiration have an earthly vessel proclaim His word. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 11:17.

As we begin this year, let us all be more aware of what God would have us do and how He might use us, so that, unaware, we do not pass Him by.

On life's busy thoroughfares
We meet with angels unawares—
But we are too busy to listen or hear,

Too busy to stop and recognize
The grief that lies in another's eyes.
Too busy to offer to help or share,
Too busy to sympathize or care,
Too busy to do the good things we should

Telling ourselves we would if we could . . .

But life is too swift and the pace is too great
And we dare not pause for we might be late

For our next appointment which means so much,

We are willing to brush off the Saviour's touch,

And we tell ourselves there will come a day

We will have more time to pause on our way . . .

But before we know it "life's sun has set"

And we've passed the Saviour but never met,

For hurrying along life's thoroughfare

We passed Him by and remained unaware.

That within the very sight of our eye,

Unnoticed, the Son of God passed by.

— Helen Steiner Rice

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
Verene Von Tobel

We had a wonderful white Christmas season here at Purdue. Our annual Christmas dinner & exchange was held at Bro. Mike Fritz's apartment club room and we had our Christmas program at the Temple. May all those activities that have taken place over the holiday season be to God's glory. Now, we look forward to another blessed year.

We wish to welcome all of our brothers and friends enrolled here for the short courses. Each New Year is a wonderful challenge to

glorify God more than the year before. Let us change good intentions into good works.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler - Annette Bahler

Joy and thankfulness were expressed from Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller for their new healthy girl, Lea Dawn, born Dec. 10. Bro. Glen and Sis. Edie Stoller (Latty) and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank (Lacrosse) are the grandparents. Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Prov. 22:6). We trust these little ones will learn to love our Savior as we do.

Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury) was our visiting minister. May we always appreciate the blessings of visiting ministers who encourage and strengthen us through God's word.

I searched and searched for something special to think about in starting a new year. I finally came across a story illustrating "service." What really is more important than a full surrender and service to our Lord? He knows our thoughts and our needs, and is waiting for us to listen.

"It was a dark and stormy night. Most of the sheep had come back to the fold, but three were missing. The faithful watchdog was lying in the corner in her kennel with her young and thought her toils were over for the day. Suddenly the shepherd called her, and pointing to the flock cried: 'Three are missing, go.' She gave a sad look at her little ones, and then a look of obedient love at her master, and off into the darkness she plunged. Back she came after an hour with two of the sheep. There was blood upon her and upon them. Hard she had fought for their lives with the thorns and torrents, but they were saved. With a grateful look she threw herself down in the kennel and gathered her brood to her bosom once more.

But once again the master called, with his stern but kind voice, and pointing to the wilderness, said: 'One is still lost, go.' She looked up in his face with a look of unutterable longing, but he still pointed to the wilderness, and if looks could speak, her glance entered one last farewell, and into the darkness she plunged once more. It was long ere she returned. Late in the night a feeble scratching was heard upon the door. The shepherd rose and opened it, and there she crouched half dead, and the poor wounded sheep was

trembling by her side. She had found the lost one but it was at the cost of her very life. One look she gave into his face, which seemed to say, 'I have loved you better than my life,' and then she crawled over into her kennel and lay down with her little ones and grew still in death. She had loved her master and had given her life for his lost ones.

If a dog could love like that, with no eternity to reward her, no heaven to await her, only the smile of her master's approval in the last instant of her life, what should He not expect from us for whom He has given His life already, and to whom He wants to give a recompense that can never fade away? Shall we catch His glance as He looks out into the darkness and cries, 'A thousand millions are lost, go ye?' — Mrs. Charles Cowman

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Gayle Bucher

"May we in perfect love be found When we Thy table, Lord, surround; Keep soul and body purified; Thy blessings, Lord, be multiplied Upon this feast." Zion's Harp #200

Recently we were privileged to sit at the Lord's Table and share Holy Communion together. We sincerely thank Elder Bros. Loren Stoller and Wendell Gudeman for sharing this beautiful evening with us.

We also want to thank Bros. Bill Gerst and Merle Bucher for proclaiming God's Word to us this month. We also appreciate the love and fellowship of their families.

Our Sunday School children favored us with a Thanksgiving program reminding us of the sacrifices our ancestors were willing to make for the sake of religious freedom. Several weeks later, they presented a Christmas program expressing the joys of the season and spent an evening carolling with our shut-ins. May we all have the enthusiasm of our children as we share our Christian joy with others.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Henry Souder and his family concerning the death of his dear wife, Leah. Although she will be missed, we rejoice that her earthly trials are over and she is resting in the Lord.

Our Sis. Hazel Clauss has been hospitalized. It is our prayer that the Lord will grant His healing power to those in need.

Congregations Today Need:
not great plans and programs, but
more of Christ!
not more up-to-date schemes and

gimmicks, but more of Christ!
not more business meeting and
gatherings, but more of Christ!
not more highly educated preachers,
but more of Christ!
not a more pleasing self image, but
more of Christ!
not a more elite and socially minded
people, but more of Christ!
not great numbers, but more of
Christ!

— J. Banister

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Suzanne Hoerr

Laurel and Kris Widmer

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine." Zion's Hope #209. On December 6 we witnessed with joy the testimony and baptism of Sis. Sheli Furrer (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Jan).

Dec. 13 we were privileged to hear the word of God spoken to us by Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL). We thank him for this effort.

Born to Scott and Diane Mallioux on Dec. 9 was a baby girl, Lindsay Amber. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller. Paternal grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mallioux.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Ed Kyberg and Bro. Walter Stoller. We wish them a speedy recovery.

The Christmas season is here again. On Dec. 23 the Christmas program was held with songs and recitations by the various classes. We always look forward to this time each year.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring

Kim Sakek

Bro. Paul Butikofer spent the Thanksgiving Day service with us. Many blessings were brought forth and he reminded us to count our blessings every day. Do we do this?

Sis. Minnie Siegle is back in church with us again. She had eye surgery and can now see better. Won't it be wonderful when we get to heaven and our eyes will all be perfect?

We rejoice with our friend Ken Buehler who was announced to the church Sunday. In the near future he will be given the opportunity to tell the members what the Lord has done for him, and then be baptized according to his faith.

"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." Is. 9:6

Soon it will be Christmas Day, the birthday of our Saviour. This should be a time of rejoicing, yet the world is anxious and divided, and many fear what tomorrow may bring. The believers need have no fear nor despair, for they have so many promises of reward by being true and faithful. He is with us wherever we are, and has promised grace and strength to the lowly and faithful.

Remember the old, old story that when he was born, He first opened His eyes in a lowly stable, because there was no room at the inn. Is there any room for Him today in the wide world? There is trouble everywhere it seems: wars, famines and earthquakes. People are so restless, and rush here and there. We wonder what are they striving for. There is jealousy, greed and selfishness prevalent everywhere.

This time of the year is a time for peace, love, forgiving, and sharing. If each of us tried a little harder to strive for these virtues with humility, the Lord would be especially near us. We should be more ardent in prayer and think more of others and less of self. We could go visit the shut-ins, cheer up the lonely, and by doing for others we find we have done more for ourselves.

We should keep ourselves unspotted from the world and don't pick up the things we have once put away. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16) Then those around us may inquire how we achieve our happy, peaceful attitude.

Let us all appreciate our church and its members, but most of all that God sent His only Son to this earth, gave His life, and shed His blood for us all. Let us all be more fervent to do His will, and keep this Christmas blessed and holy. There was no room in the inn; is there not room in your heart, Friend?

Mamie Taeger, wife of John, had a stroke and she is in a coma. Let us pray for her family and that God's will be done. They have one living son, Bro. Richard Taeger. To Bro. Richard's family, "Not now but in the coming years, someday sometime we'll understand." May we all strive to this end.

IOWA, ELGIN
Eleanor Butikofer

We are looking forward to the

20th of December because that evening we are invited to join a group which is planning to go caroling to homes of the elderly. There are two songs which we always include, namely Silent Night and Joy to the World.

"Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace."

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing."

We are anticipating a real pleasant evening at our church on the 22nd of Dec. You may have guessed, that's when we will see and hear our Sunday school boys and girls give their annual Christmas program. Their readings, songs, and so forth bring to mind the true significance of Christ's birth.

We can go along with the poet who penned the following line. "The snow had begun in the gloaming and busily all the night, had been heaping field and highway with a silence deep and white."

We really have a pretty landscape with its snow cover. The evergreen trees stand at times with huge amounts on their tops, just as if they were wearing a crown and when the sun casts a shimmery gleam on them its really beautiful. These wintry days have a positive aspect, too, for now the wild birds are coming into the feeding areas for suet and seeds in larger numbers. It's a real pleasure to see purple and gold finches, four kinds of woodpeckers, juncoes, jays, nuthatches, cardinals and chickadees.

I must tell about the three deer that came into our garden recently. By pawing some snow away they found where we had planted our beets and since we had not harvested quite all of them they enjoyed partaking of them. It was fascinating to see them at close range and to watch them clear the fence with ease and grace, finally disappearing into the wooded area.

At our recent annual election the results were: Bible class teacher — Bro. John Schupbach — Bro. Lon Butikofer, substitute. Junior Bible class teacher — Bro. Floyd Frieden — Bro. Tim Butikofer, substitute. Primary class teacher — Sis. Gloria Frieden — Sis. Kathy

Butikofer, substitute. Trustees — Bro. Lon Butikofer — Bro. Elmer Butikofer — Bro. Tim Butikofer. Song leaders — Bro. Al Butikofer in charge. Ushers — Bro. Charles Schneider — Bro. Lawrence Butikofer. Loud speaker — Bro. Tim Butikofer.

Ring out the old year fading
with its failures, let it go,
Ring in the joy and promise
Of a new year's rosy glow.

My dear readers, may you all be blessed with God's richest gifts of love and peace in the coming years and always.

October 26 Bro. Floyd and Sis. Friedere were blessed with a baby girl — Beth Elaine — brothers Bruce, Bobby, and Brien.

IOWA CITY, IOWA Susie Gramm

As the new year approaches we tend to become reflective, thinking about the things we have or haven't accomplished in the past year. We resolve to turn over a new leaf and do better in the year to come. This is a task that can only be done by daily taking up the cross and following Christ.

DAY BY DAY

Charge not thyself with the weight
of a year,
Child of the Master faithful and
dear:
Choose not the cross for the coming
week,
For that is more than He bids thee
seek.

Bend not thine arms for tomorrow's
load;
Thou mayest leave that to thy
gracious God.

"Daily," only He saith to thee,
"Take up thy cross and follow me."
— Anonymous

We are rejoicing with Sis. Becky Banwart and Bro. Andy Virkler that God has worked a miracle of love in their hearts for one another. A Jan. 31 wedding is planned. Becky is the daughter of Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Rose Banwart of West Bend, IA., and Andy is the son of Sis. Charlotte and the late Clifford Virkler of New Bremen, NY.

Visiting ministers to our little flock have been Bro. Harvey Heiniger (Burlington), Bro. Leroy Hartman (Peoria), and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Burlington). We appreciate the efforts of these brothers in

bringing God's word to us; and we want to especially thank and give our prayerful support to Bro. Joe Gerst for his continuous service in the ministry here.

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

"Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be, In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee. Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace. Another year of gladness In the shining of Thy face. Another year of progress, Another year of praise, Another year of proving Thy presence all the days. Another year of service, Of witness for Thy love; Another year of training For holier work above. Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be, On earth, or else in heaven Another year for Thee." Hymns of Zion #150

Our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on the evening of Dec. 17 to a very large audience. We appreciate the efforts put forth by the children and their teachers.

Sis. Sheryl Knobloch and Lou Moser underwent surgery and are recuperating at home. Also hospitalized was Bro. Jake Knobloch.

We have had 14 baby girls and 8 baby boys born in 1981. The two newest are Jordan Eric Metzger, born on Dec. 2 to Bro. Art and Sis. Cris Metzger and Brett William Kellenberger, born on Dec. 5 to Bro. Bard and Sis. Theresa Kellenberger. All twenty-two are beautiful, healthy babies. All are precious gifts from heaven.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Jeryllyn Wagenbach

We rejoice with Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy Schaer at the Dec. 5 birth of their first child, Jaclyn Kay. The happy grandparents are Bro. Bernard and Sis. Leah Schaer (Pulaski, IA), and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Wilma Stoller.

As ever, the Lord has blessed us with many good teachings through His Word this past month. Among our many visitors have been ministering brothers Art Bauer (Princeville), Gerald Sutter (Taylor), Dale Wulf (Lester), and Duane Metzger (West Bend).

As we glance over the past year and view the deeds and misdeeds we have done, may we anticipate the new year with a desire to learn and do God's holy will.

HOW TO FIND HAPPINESS THROUGH THE YEAR

Helen Steiner Rice
HAPPINESS is something
you create in your mind,
Not something you search for
but can't seem to find,
Not something that's purchased
with silver or gold,
Not something that force
can capture and hold —
It's just waking up
and beginning each day
By counting your blessings
and kneeling to pray,
It's giving up thoughts
that breed discontent
And accepting what comes
as a gift heaven-sent —
It's giving up wishing
for things you have no.
And making the best of
whatever you've got,
It's knowing that life
is determined and planned
And that God holds the world
in the palm of His Hand —
And it's by completing
what God gives you to do
That you find contentment
and HAPPINESS, too.

IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Wiegand
Ginny Wuthrich

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Vernon Schwab of Wolcott and Elder Bros. Ed Lanz, Oakville, and Leo Moser, Lester.

The evening of Dec. 5 we were able to hear the testimony of Jean Wuthrich, and then witness her baptism. We welcome Sis. Jean into the fold. Sis. Jean is the daughter of Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley.

Elder Bros. Ed Lanz and Leo Moser read the memorandum following the proving on Saturday evening. May we ever strive aright, remembering that our shepherds have been given the duty of feeding and protecting their sheep. Let's not make their duties difficult.

Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich is hospitalized for tests and we hope she can be home for the holidays.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Judy Fehr - Elma Mogler

We were happy to hear the announcement of Sis. Becky, daughter of Sis. Betty and Bro. Albert Banwart to Bro. Andy Virkler son of Sis. Charlotte and the late Bro. Clifton Virkler of the Croghan congregation. Sis. Becky resides at Iowa City but was born and raised in our midst. We feel the Lord has and will bless these two souls.

Debbie and Jerry Larson have moved from our community recently. They have moved to Baltic, So. Dakota. Our thoughts and prayers are with them often.

Sis. Judy Schmidt (Bro. Jerry) had surgery at Rochester and Sis. Kathy Fehr (Bro. Wayne) was hospitalized for tests. We wish them God's healing power.

God has blessed our congregation with three new babies since our last writing. Nov. 30, Erica Gerene was born to Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa Bruellman. Her grandparents are Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman and Mr. and Mrs. Russel Frazee. On Dec. 1, Molly Marie was born to Mark and Sis. Lori Skogland. Her grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman and Mr. and Mrs. Skogland. On Dec. 4, Amy Marie was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Wirtz. Her grandparents are also Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman and Bro. Verner and Sis. Beverly Wirtz. May each of these parents ever look to God for help and guidance as they rear these little ones. We look forward to seeing them in church.

Jayne Banwart and Andy Sauder were united in marriage at our Apostolic Fellowship Center by Bro. Don Sauder of Roanoke. We wish them much happiness in their new home at Davenport.

Bro. Charles Mogler and Sis. Beth Leman of Forrest were united in marriage by Bro. Perry Zimmerman. We welcome Sis. Beth into our midst.

We at West Bend wish everyone a blessed New Year.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Kathy Klotzle

Another year is beginning as we continue on in our walks of life. In a recent sermon tape we listened to, we were reminded of the many miracles and ministries Christ performed as He was "passing through." He didn't wait for a more convenient or a set-aside time, but gave of Himself as He came upon opportunities. May we strive to follow this example as we pass through life.

Dec. 11 was a special day as Sis. Vicki and I welcomed Sis. Mary Beth Klotzle, from Altadena, to Japan. What a joy to not only reunite as family, but to also meet one another for the first time as sisters in Christ. The miracle of salvation and the love and mercy of God is so evident as I watch and listen to a different person than the

one I said good-bye to seventeen months ago. It's a privilege to share our lives here in Japan with her for awhile, and we anticipate times of blessing and fellowship in the three weeks she hopes to be here.

Satou Ozawa, who has attended our church at different times since it was built, is now very ill in the hospital. May God be with her each day, and heal her if it is His will.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki & Marie Inoue

Time passed so fast, as fast as an arrow. It is almost finished, the year of 1981. I was just thinking about how much did we do to repay for His greatest love, mercy and grace? Probably not so much as we thought. The world goes around so quickly and busy, far away from the will of God.

According to a specialist publication on disarmament, the nations of the world spent a total of \$550 billion on arms last year, equal to the total income of the poorest half of the world's population.

Christmas comes at hand again. So many people of the world celebrate God's Son Jesus' birthday. However, what do they celebrate on this day?

We are really fortunate that we could understand the real meaning of Christmas. John 3:16-21

That God loves us so much as He gave us his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are preparing for our Sunday School program for Christmas. We should teach the children what the real meaning of Christmas is and why Jesus is coming to this World. Especially, most of our Japanese people do not understand what a true Christmas is nor have any chance to hear the Gospels.

Thank you very much for your love and kindness and prayers this whole year. We really appreciated it. You brethren and dear ones are always remembered in our prayers.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year in the Lord.

KANSAS, BERN

Esther & Stella Moser

As the Preacher says in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the Heaven: A time to be born..."

Jason Christopher was born on Nov. 25 to Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey. A brother Aaron and sister Rebekah welcome him. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis.

Florence and Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer (Sabetha).

"A time to die. . ." Bro. John Strahm, 90, passed away on Nov. 28 at the Apostolic Home, where he was a resident for the past four years. His beloved wife, Sis. Marie Frieden Strahm passed away two years ago. John faithfully served his Lord since early youth. Survivors include one son, Oscar Strahm, two daughters, Sis. Pearl Stoller, (Harlan), Sis. Mavis Meyer, (Louis) and one brother, Bro. Alpha Strahm, Sr. Memorial services were conducted by our ministers, Dec. 1, 1981.

A time to come nearer to the Lord . . . On Dec. 6, we listened to the testimonies of three dear souls, John Grunder, James and Louise Menold. We then welcomed them into our fold and fellowship as brothers and sister in faith. Bro. Sam Huber assisted Bro. Lester Hartter in this work. Bro. Sam had many good teachings for us on that day. Bro. Wayne Miller, Fort Scott, was also a guest minister recently.

A time to listen, learn and heed. . . We spent the past three Wednesday evenings listening to the tapes from the conference. It was interesting to hear the different Elder brothers speak. On Dec. 12, Elder Bro. Sam Huber, (Sabetha), and Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar) assisted Elder Bro. Lester in reading the Conference memorandum.

Larry Meyer (Bro. James and Sis. Jeanie) was hospitalized for throat surgery.

A time for a change . . . For the past fifteen years we have shared our joys and sorrows with you as Silver Lining reporters. I feel it is now time to pass it onto someone else. Starting next month, Sis. Linda Esslinger will be our correspondent.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm
Doris Bahr

Like a new day, the new year lies before us like a blank page. For each thought and each moment, may we allow Him to fill our pages in all His glory.

I recently read something very impressive to me. It read "Clothing - though voiceless, is not expressionless." The manner in which a person is clothed, reveals a great deal about his character and values. As Christians, our choice of clothing should reflect our separation from the world and its secular values. As we clothe ourselves, we should keep in mind that

we are actually clothing Christ.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Jeanie Edelman are the parents of a new baby girl, Tanya Marie, born Dec. 24. She has 3 brothers and 1 sister. Grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm and Levi Edelman of Fairbury.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathy go to the Sam Bahr family in the loss of their beloved Mother, Sis. Lydia Bahr.

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

'Tis the season we celebrate our Lord and Savior's birth here on earth. Dec. 20 the Sunday School presented to us a program of poems and songs in honor of Jesus' birthday. Then one evening a group (of all ages) went Christmas caroling to private homes and rest homes to spread our joy in song of Christ's birth. But, in all our rejoicing, let us remember that "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, No. 36)

On Dec. 13 the engagement was announced of Sis. Carol Miller (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl) to Bro. Dean Steffen from Elgin, IL. A March wedding is planned.

Bro. Roger Kraft was recently a hospital patient for tests.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Mary Wernli

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." II Corinthians 9:15

This verse filled our hearts as our group recently caroled to the elderly and those confined to places of care. How uplifted we feel when we can share the story of Christ's birth with the less fortunate.

Ministering to us this month were Bros. Roy Wernli and Bill Emch from Lamont. May God richly reward them for sharing the many timely teachings with us.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

A New Year! Most of us find it hard to believe that a brand new year is upon us once again. Time passes so swiftly, and before we know it another year is gone, and another, and what have we accomplished? More broken resolutions? Greater material gain? More pleasure in the things the world offers? What about peace, or love, or joy, or fulfillment? If we haven't found these last, then something surely is missing in our lives, and that something we're missing is Our

Lord Jesus Christ, the only One who can make our day to day walk on this earth have any meaning or be worthwhile. Jesus, the precious Babe born in a manger, that we heard of so recently during the Blessed Christmas Season through Sunday School programs, caroling, special gatherings, and special services to celebrate the Holy Birth. And, just as the Christ child's birth was the beginning of Grace for the entire human race, so can this new year be the beginning of a new life for us if we will open this stubborn, willful heart and let the Lord come in. The lock is on the inside, and we have to let Him in as the Scripture says in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." It is our fervent prayer that many more souls may open that heart's door of Faith before God forever shuts the door of Grace and it is forever too late. Do you want to have a really happy year? Let Jesus come in.

We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Florence Guthrie and family at the passing of her sister, Louise Kaug (Morton), who went home to her Lord just recently. A Scripture comes to mind in Phillipians 1:21, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." These precious words could well apply to Louise and three other precious Sisters in Faith who have now laid down their burdens and gone home to be with the Lord they so faithfully served while here on earth.

Services for Sis. Glenis Allenbach were held first in Wichita on Dec. 14. for that was her home church; then a second service was held here where her childhood was spent. Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and ministering Bro. Raymond Roth officiated at the services held here. Services for Lydia Bahr were held in Gridley, KS, with Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont) and ministering Bro. Loren Strahm officiating. Sis. Lydia lived the greater part of her life in Gridley, but for a number of years the Wichita and Kiowa congregations became her home and were richly blessed thereby, for she was a shining light and inspiration to all who knew and loved her. Services for our beloved Sis. Esther Miller, who was a sincere, loving sister in our midst for many years, were held here Dec. 19, with Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and ministering Bro. Ronald Allenbach officiating. Will we miss them? Oh yes, we will, and our thoughts

and prayers go out to their precious families in their loss; but how we also must rejoice for the Blessed Home wherein they now abide, knowing there is no pain nor suffering there, only eternal peace and rest.

We enjoyed the blessed privilege of having ministering Bro. Roy Wernle (Lamont) one Lord's Day this month as he, his wife, and daughter were in our midst. We truly appreciate his lending himself to bring us precious teachings from God's Word. We also enjoyed the services we shared at the Kiowa Manor one Lord's Day afternoon this month, and again one evening as the Sunday School children held a Christmas Party for the aged. Our blessings were multiplied and the people loved the children so very much. God is so good to give us the aged to love.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

"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

Nov. 29, Sis. Jane Broquard (Bro. Don & Sis. Ione) of Fairbury, IL., and Bro. Jay Luthi (Bro. Lloyd & Joan) were united in holy matrimony at Fairbury. We wish them God's blessings to guide them in their life together. We welcome Sis. Jane into our congregation.

Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was a visiting minister on Dec. 13. We thank him and his family for their visit and labor of love.

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

Today, dear friends, we stand upon the verge of the unknown. There lies before us the new year and we are going forth to possess it. Who can tell what we shall find? What new experiences, what changes shall come, what new needs shall arise? But here is the cheering, comforting, gladdening message from our Heavenly Father, "The Lord thy God careth for it." His eyes are upon it even to the ending of the year. All our supply is to come from the Lord. Here are springs that shall never dry; here are fountains and streams that shall never be cut off. Here, anxious one, is the

gracious pledge of the Heavenly Father. If He be the source of our mercies, they can never fail us. No heat, no drought can parch that river, "the streams whereof make glad the City of God."

The land is a land of hills and valleys. It is not all smooth nor downhill. If life were all one dead level the dull sameness would oppress us; we want the hills and the valleys. The hills collect the rain for a hundred fruitful valleys. Ah, so it is with us! It is the hills of difficulty that drive us to the throne of grace and bring down the showers of blessing: the hills, the bleak hills of life that we wonder at and perhaps grumble at, bring down the showers. How many have perished in the wilderness, buried under its golden sands, who would have lived and thrived in the hill-country; how many would have been killed by the frost, blighted with winds, swept desolate of tree and fruit, but for the hills — stern, hard, rugged, and so steep to climb. God's hills are a gracious protection for His people against their foes.

We cannot tell what loss and sorrow and trial are doing. We can only trust. The Father comes near to take our hand and lead us on our way today. It shall be a good, a blessed New Year.

From Streams in the Desert

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner

Judy Hartter

We are thankful to say Lanette Meyer, daughter of Sis. Lois and Bro. Eli Meyer, has made a good beginning in Christ. May the Lord grant her the grace to continue onward.

Curtis and Valerie (Wenger) Keim are the parents of their first child. Crystal Dawn was born Nov. 15, 1981. Maternal grandparents are Sis. Arleta and Bro. Harvey Wenger.

Bro. Gene Marti, (Lamar), was here to assist Bro. Sam Huber and Bro. Lester Hartter in bringing us the Conference Letter at the Bern church one Sat. evening. Bro. Gene and Bro. Alpha Strahm, (Bern), were with us on Sunday.

At our midweek services the Wednesday evening after Thanksgiving we started listening to the Conference tapes. Tonight was to have been the 3rd and final time, but due to snow and bad weather we were unable to assemble.

Hospitalized this month were Natalie Wysesong (she is home again)

and Sis. Verna Strahm who is to undergo surgery at K.U. Medical Center in Kansas City. May the Lord grant the surgeons the necessary skills.

We welcome Sis. Jan Mogler who now assembles with us here as she is employed in Falls City, Nebraska.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Priscilla Frank

Christmas — A time of caring, sharing, merriment, and good cheer. For many, that's all they will experience. As Christians, I pray there runs a deeper vein vibrating with joy, because we know and have experienced the purpose of the Christ child. I don't know if we can quite imagine the joy Simon experienced as he beheld the Christ child in the temple. Christ, the Salvation of Israel. I believe we can come mighty close when we remember the joy we felt as we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Christmas is a time that we are granted the privilege to worship and honor the birth of our King. This is one time in the year when even the world will allow us to acknowledge Him openly. This affords us the opportunity to share His life, beginning at Bethelheem and ending at Calvary. Let us share Christ with others this Christmas. Also, as the New Year unfolds, and we make our lists of New Year's resolutions, let's reevaluate our priorities and put God at the top. So often we head our list with, "I'm going to start a diet," "I'm going to exercise more," "I'm going to take more time to do the things I want to do," etc. Then, someplace near the bottom we seem to add, "more quiet time with God," almost as if He is an afterthought, rather than a forethought.

I guess we have all been recently reminded of where our priorities should lie, as we have two souls in our community who have closed the book of life and there is time to do no more. Sister Glenis Allenbach died Friday, Dec. 11, and Sister Lydia Bahr (formerly of Gridley) died Sunday, Dec. 13.

Many of you may remember Sis. Glenis, as she wrote the Silver Lining article for several years. Glenis was the wife of Bro. Oliver, the mother of two sons, Stan and Aaron, a mother-in-law to Barbara, and the grandmother to two grandsons — David and Matthew. Glenis became a sister of the Apostolic Christian Church in 1972; not quite 10 years prior to her death. At the time of her conversion I was a Senior in high

school and unconverted, a condition which enables you to either be impressed or unimpressed with the conversion of another. With Glenis and Oliver I can remember being impressed. It was really interesting to watch both Glenis's and Oliver's conversion. It was like witnessing the budding and opening of a rose. Petal by petal they seemed to blossom with a new love for each other and for those who attended church here — both member and friends alike. I'll always remember Glenis as a ray of sunshine. She was what I would call a stately woman with a very pleasant and charitable smile. There were very few Sundays when Glenis was not one of the first to arrive at church to welcome others. Even through her illness she radiated warmth and energy to others. Glenis seemed to vibrate with the presence of our Lord. Truly she was an inspiration to many of us; an inspiration that will be deeply missed. There are many wonderful things we could say of Glenis for she was truly a grand lady and sister in Christ. Glenis, however, would not want us to praise her for her deeds, but rather, to give God the glory and honor for the things she has done. Therefore to God we do give the glory, and thank him for sharing such an inspiring witness with the Wichita congregation. We pray God will fill the vacancy with His love and the joy of the precious memories left behind. May God be with Oliver, Stan, and Aaron and the Allenbach family.

We also express our sympathy to Sisters Anne Greiner and Emma Miller in the passing of their mother, Lydia Bahr. Although Sis. Lydia attended Gridley most of her life we were privileged to have her with us in the last few years, as her daughters assisted in her care. Truly it is hard to say goodbye to a mother regardless of her age, for we often think of the steadfastness of a mother's love. It's a love that lives in spite of faults, it's always there to pick us up if we tumble, brush the tears from our eyes, and then, set us on the road again. Mothers seem to have the ability to do this most of their lives, regardless of the age of the mother or child. It's something I'm so thankful we never outgrow. It's so nice to always have someone who is supportive through the good and bad. Few of us are ever granted the privilege to repay our mother's kindness but Anne and Amma were, as Lydia needed a lot of personal care in her final years. These sisters

have been a light and example to many of us here. The love and concern with which they cared for her will long be an endearment to many of us. May you both cherish your memories of time spent with her and may they soften your farewell until you meet again. God bless you both.

The Wichita congregation wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

It is that time of year when we come to realize just how fortunate we are to have been blessed with our Savior's birth, so many years ago. This beautiful story was presented by our Sunday School at our Christmas program a few weeks ago. We thank these children, and their teachers, for filling our hearts with not only a deep feeling of peace and goodwill, but with a very special meaning of God's precious love for us.

Prayers are being offered for Bro. Curt Kaeb, our Sunday School Superintendent, who received accidental injuries at home the day preceding our Christmas program. We trust that he will soon be well.

Bro. Andrew Verkler (Bay City) visited us at the beginning of the month. He and our shepherd, Bro. Aaron Steffen, shared in presenting the memorandum to us. It is our Lord's will that we follow in the path He has laid. We thank Bro. Andy and Bro. Aaron for giving of their time, and of their love, in presenting this message. We pray for grace that we might be better able to abide by our Holy Father's will.

Another year is upon us. Let us grow strong in faith that we may reap the very best harvest possible in the New Year.

"Nothing before, nothing behind:
The steps of Faith fall on the
seeming void
And find the rock beneath."

— John Greenleaf Whittier

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Linda Ramseyer

The Lord has richly blessed our congregation as, on three Wednesday evenings during the month of Nov., we were privileged to listen to the tapes of the annual meeting. We can be encouraged by the words of our elder brothers, as they spoke on issues concerning us all. The memorandum was read to the congregation on the following Sunday.

We rejoice with a soul who has

found peace with the Lord. It was made known to the congregation that Kurt Munsel has received peace and is looking forward to baptism. Kurt's parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Delores Munsel.

A reception was held on Nov. 22 for Bro. Craig and Sis. Jenny (Waibel) Wieland. They were recently married at Peoria, IL, and are making their home here in Bay City. We want to welcome Sis. Jenny to our congregation and wish them the Lord blessings.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Vera Frieden

As another year draws to a close, we reflect back over the happenings of 1981. The many changes that we've seen make us realize that only God knows what the future holds. We must put our trust in Him. We had four weddings and three births this past year.

The Sunday School children are memorizing their verses for our Christmas program on Sunday evening, Dec. 20. It is a blessing to hear the children tell the story of Jesus' birth.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Sis. Rose Widmer, who spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful that she has been released from the hospital.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Jan Schock - Pam Sutter

You helped us before, God, help us again . . .

Could this be a prayer for 1982?

"O 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 danger 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 . . .
Give us strength and courage
To be honorable and true
Practicing your precepts
In everything we do,
And keep us gently humble
In the greatness of Thy love
So someday we are fit to dwell
With Thee in Peace above.

Helen Steiner Rice

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Mabel Schmidgall (medi-

cal), Bro. Wm. Zeltwanger Sr., (surgery) and Bro. Ort Nohl (medical). God has heard and answered many prayers for them.

Nathan John was born to Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger. Bro. Ken and Sis. Edna are grandparents and Nathan has one sister, Emily, to welcome him home. Chip and Deb Fehr are parents of their first child, Derek Paul. Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Judy are the happy grandparents.

On Dec. 6, Bro. Jim Kaufman and Sis. Nancy Schmidgall were united in holy matrimony by Bro. Steve Rinkenberger. Also visiting for the occasion was Bro. Walt Steffen.

Bro. Carl Hartman visited us on Thanksgiving day and we thank him for his labor of love.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Helen and Bonnie Popp

"Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant." Psalm 135:3. We were blessed to have the Princeville choir visit with us. Their sweet message of song was an inspiration, and the time of sharing will be long remembered. With the choir and able to be with us then were ministering brothers Art Bauer (Princeville) and Don Wagenbach (Washington). We pray a special blessing upon each one.

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1. Our Sunday School and choir brought forth the Christmas message to us in word and song. The evening was special: may we carry with us the story of the light and glory of the world which is Jesus.

We held an election for the following offices: Bro. Phil Bahr and myself, Sunday School; Bro. Bill Kujawa and Bro. Pat Allen, Trustees; Bro. Kaywin Martin, Treasurer. We are grateful to those who previously held these positions and are glad that others are willing to lend themselves in the days ahead.

Hospitalized recently were Bro. George Popp, Sis. Mary Pentek and Louise Polk. Our special prayers are with each one.

As we approach the New Years, may we think upon this: "Our Father: We know that Thou wilt be in the future as Thou has been in the past. We know that Thou wilt lead us on through all the tomorrows as Thou hast led us through the yesterdays. We know that Thou wilt not let us go . . . So may we feel Thee

closer in a new and wonderful way, knowing that we shall never be alone again." (from PRAYERS FOR ALL SEASONS)

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Deb Tilbury

Bro. Harold Messner, Winthrop, brought us God's Word this month. May God bless him for his efforts.

Sis. Katie Olson was hospitalized for about two weeks. We are thankful that she is able to assemble with us again.

On Dec. 13 we went caroling to a children's hospital, and gave stuffed animals to the children there. We so much more appreciate God's gifts to us when we visit the less fortunate. We all, especially the children, received a blessing.

Our children's Christmas program was after church on Dec. 20.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel

"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

We welcome ministering Bro. Arnie Gerst (Chicago), who was transferred from his position with "Gardner Denver" in Chicago back to their Quincy office where he was employed several years ago.

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell are residing at their Florida residence for the winter months. We miss them so much but we're glad for this arrangement which hopefully will alleviate some of Bro. William's health problems that he experiences here because of the colder weather. Our farewell song on Wednesday evening, Dec. 2, was "God be with you 'til we meet again."

We are appreciative and grateful for the many blessings we received the weekend of Dec. 12 and 13 when Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), assisted our Elder Bro. Roy in reading and deliberating the conclusions of the current memorandum. May we try harder to support these teachings and to retain the many examples related that have proven so valuable in bringing these conclusions about.

Other visitors this month were Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena, CA), Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville), Lenny Meyer (Chicago), and their families. May God bless each one now and in the days ahead and may He give all our teachers wisdom, courage, and enthusi-

asm to stand up and preach the word in its truth and simplicity "in season and out of season."

Little Joseph Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) was a hospital (medical) patient, but is home again.

"Eyes that shine, a small precious smile, and a tiny hand that holds tight to your finger — that's our new baby." Dec. 13 was a special day for Lori and David Marquart, when they brought their new baby, Bradley Alan, born on Thanksgiving Day, to church. First time grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine (Hodel) Hoerr and paternal grandparents are Joe and Marion Marquart (Palmyra, MO). May God care for and bless this little family in His own special way that they can raise up their little boy in a way that would be pleasing to Him.

Our Sunday School children presented an inspiring and enjoyable Christmas program Wednesday evening Dec. 15. We appreciate the new happy little faces as well as those who have been in Sunday School before. "Thank you" to each teacher and student and may God bless your efforts.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14. I was impressed to hear through one of our news commentators that our President quoted this verse as an answer and solution to the many problems our world is facing today. It's good to remember and is a command to pray for those in higher authority.

We are master of everything we "don't" say, and servant of all the things we "do" say.

February is Silver Lining collection month for Taylor.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

Minister Bro. Lee Bahler, his wife, and several other Rockville families visited our church on Sunday, Dec. 6. A true blessing was ours through the power of the word and good fellowship of the Saints.

Sister Mary Piggelman was able to attend church again after several weeks of illness. We thank God that she has improved.

Dec. 20 was the last Sunday that Bob and Sis. Deanne Horn could meet with us before their move to Pittsburgh where Bob is employed. We will sorely miss them but wish them God's blessings and happiness

in their new home and surroundings.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Gwen Herzig and Frank Lehman were united in marriage on Nov. 21. Gwen's parents are Brad and Sis. Regina Herzig and Frank's parents are Milton Lehman of Lowville, and Ellen Minor of Dexter. May God richly bless this couple as they begin their life together.

On Sunday, Nov. 29, the engagement of Sis. Becky Banwart of Iowa City, and Bro. Andy Virkler was made known to us. We ask for God's blessing and guidance as they begin plans for their new life together. A late January wedding is being planned. Becky's parents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart of West Bend, IA, and parents of Andy are Sis. Charlotte Virkler and the late Bro. Clifton.

The report of the memorandum from the August conference was read and meditated upon recently. It is refreshing and uplifting to hear of the love and concern of our elder brothers for each of us.

Sis. Celia Virkler was a hospital patient a few days and at this writing Sis. Sarah Virkler is a medical patient. Sis. Pearl Lehman is slowly improving but also remains in the hospital. We remember each of those who cannot go in and out as we do in our prayers daily.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Messner and
Mary Lou Schmidt**

The dawning of another new year, 1982, is upon us. Looking back upon 1981, we can see that Satan has dealt in areas of our lives; but know by faith that God is always in control. "... But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13, 14.

Our dear Sis. Carrie Messner's health has not been good lately. She has not been able to attend services with us. We pray the Lord will give her the needed grace and encouragement to go on. "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord." Psalm 27:14.

Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie Schmidt are the parents of a precious bundle, Nicholas James. He is their first child. Gene and Sis. Ella Mae

Schmidt are the paternal grandparents. This is their first grandchild.

The engagement of Craig Stresemann, son of Shirley Stresemann of Winthrop, and Mitzie, Haefner of Gaylord, MN, was announced. Sylvester and Louise Haefner of Gaylord are Mitzie's parents.

The engagement of Pam Messner, daughter of Sis. Julia Messner of Winthrop, and Charles McMaster of New Ulm, was also made known. We are happy for both couples.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

The birthday singings for the month were Bro. Jesse Karcher, who resides at the extended care facility of the Lowville Hospital, and Sis. Barbra Bachman, who resides with her daughter and son-in-law, Alice and Norman Lehman. Sis. Barbra is 104 years old and is still very active. She comes to church almost every Sunday. We always look forward to seeing her pleasant smile.

We are thankful that the Lord has been with our dear Sis. Pearl Colgrove, who has had to spend quite some time in the hospital. She is now home and doing well. Also Sis. Clara Merz has been able to return home. We are also happy that John Schultz, son of Norman and Mary, has returned home again after a lengthy stay in Rochester Hospital. Our thoughts also have been with Bro. Everett Virkler and Sis. Maude Pelton, who have had to spend some time in the hospital.

Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner (Croghan) read over the conference report and explained it to us.

Our Sunday School children are preparing for a Christmas program.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Our hearts are rejoicing for John and Janice Graf, who has turned to the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour. We rejoice with Bro. Rudy and Sis. Bethi Graf for their answered prayers for their children. We know God will give them more grace, peace, and joy, and enlighten their paths.

Our Sunday School children presented an inspiring program telling the real meaning of Christmas in song and Scripture verse. We enjoyed inspiring words from Bro. Ben Hartzler of Rittman who spoke after the children sang. We pray that Jesus will take preeminence in the

hearts of each one that was present.

Bro. Gary Maibach gave us an inspiring sermon recently, for which we are thankful.

Our calendar of events for the past year includes the joy of 2 baptisms, 4 marriages, 3 births; and there were 4 deaths.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Andrew Hunyady

"O come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

For He is our God; and we are the people

of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand."

Psalm 95:6,7.

It was a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing in the Lord as visiting brothers and sisters from Akron and Mansfield joined the local brethren and friends on this first meeting for worship services in Columbus on Sunday, November 22, 1981.

Our hearts were warmed and our souls inspired by God's Word as it was read and expounded to us by our beloved elder brothers John Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Rudolph Graf (Akron, OH). We all felt the love of God and the strengthening of His Spirit as the brothers ministered and prayed for God's grace and blessings upon this spiritual endeavor, a new beginning in this area. Twenty-seven adults and seven children attended.

About 18 brethren and church-related friends live in the Columbus area, including four college students.

As the capital of Ohio, Columbus is located in the center of the state, and is a lively city with diverse industries, state and government offices, fine universities and technical schools affording opportunities for learning and developing higher skills and professions.

We have the faith to believe that by opening a door of opportunity for worship meetings in Columbus, God can and will provide the heavenly manna for those who hunger for it, so that the inner man also can be nurtured, edified and developed into a fuller stature for a closer walk with Him.

Future meetings are scheduled to be held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM at the Holiday Inn, North, on State Route 161 at I-71, on the north edge of Columbus.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our beloved Elders, the Missionary Com-

mittee and the many brethren for their support and prayers for the continued success of this new beginning. We pray that God's word may be heard in truth, in the power of His Spirit and unhindered, for the glory of God and His son Jesus Christ, and that many precious souls may be drawn to the light of His saving Word.

We wish to extend a hearty invitation to everyone to come worship and visit with us.

For further information please contact:

Andrew L. Hunyady
859 Kenwick Road
Columbus, OH 43209
Phone 614-231-8508

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

We had a blessed weekend when Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest), assisted Bro. Loren in the reading of the memorandum. May we always strive to follow the teachings and traditions that our forefathers kept.

Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz are happy parents of Randolph Russell born Dec. 21. May the Lord give them guidance in raising their precious little soul. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and JoAnne Varga (Detroit) and Bro. Eli. and Sis. Evelyn Manz.

Bro. Gene Fetter (Toledo), was our visiting ministering brother this month. We thank him for his efforts.

OHIO, LATTY

Cheryl Wenninger - Susie Sinn

Our congregation has been blessed with the arrival of Jessica Ann, the first child of Rocky and Monica Martinez. The grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Ellen Stoller and her great-grandmother is Sis. Leah Stoller.

Also first-time parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Connie Gordon as they welcome Curtis James into their home. The grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Viola Schlatter and Ray and Alice Gordon.

Kathy Plummer (Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann), has turned her back on the world and is following in our precious Savior's way. May the Lord give her grace to do His will as she walks the path of repentance.

Roy Klopfenstein (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen), and Deb Hubbard have announced their engagement and plan a March wedding. We pray that God will bless them in their planning.

Love of all gifts is the greatest . . .
On November 22, the engagement of

Sis. Susie Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann), and Bro. Earl Beery (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth), Rittman was made known. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan their future together.

On Thanksgiving Day, Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford), ministered to us. May the Lord bless him for his efforts.

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized this month. They are Shelly Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria), Jaymee Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne), Samantha Wenninger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice), Sis. Lori Stoller (Bro. Dwight), Noah Souder, and Natasha Boyce (Jim and Penny). We hope that before long they can all assemble with us again.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Laura Stoller in the passing away of her mother and Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Gerber at the death of his father, Bro. Noah Gerber.

On Dec. 16, the Sunday School children presented their annual Christmas Program. It was truly a blessing to hear the recitations and songs about the birth of Christ and we hope that each one could feel the real meaning of Christmas in their hearts.

As we embark on a new year, may we look to our Heavenly Father for His strength and grace each new day and may we sincerely strive to do His Holy Will.

A NEW YEAR PRAYER

Be with us, Father, through the coming year,
In time of sorrow be our strength and cheer.
In time of gladness keep us near Thy side,
Be our Protector, dearest Friend and Guide.

Be with us, Father, through the coming year;
Speak to our hearts and make us quick to hear;
Help us each day Thy guiding Hand to see,
And make us willing just to follow Thee.

Be with us, Father, through the coming year.
May we the future meet without a fear:
Knowing that Thou wilt choose for us the best
Till earth's toils ended, we with Thee shall rest.

SEL.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way thou shalt go . . ."
Psalm 32:8.

I cannot always see the way
That leads to heights above
I sometimes quite forget He leads
Me on with hand of love
But yet I realize the path must lead
Me to Emmanuel's Land
And when I reach life's summit, I
Shall know and understand.

Author Unknown.

A young couple were discussing the coming blessed event of their expected child. One said to their three year old, "What would you like, a baby brother or a baby sister?" The little fellow looked up at them and in his beautiful innocent way said, "Whatever God gives." Well, said the parent, "if God gives a baby brother, we will have to buy another truck for you to play with. If God gives you a baby sister you won't get another truck to play with." The little one said, "Well, if it is a sister, we won't have another truck!" How beautiful is the faith and love of a little child. If only we as God's children could truthfully say, "Whatever God gives."

We have experienced so many blessings this past month. We have had many visitors. Nov. 22, Bro. Harold Kraft (Ft. Scott), proclaimed God's precious Word to us and on Thanksgiving Day, Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto), brought us a beautiful message of our many blessings we have shared. On Nov. 27, Bro. Rudy Graf, Bro. Joe Ramsier and Bro. Aaron shared with us the reading of the memorandum of the recent Brotherhood Conference. We truly thank them for their words of encouragement and concern for the church.

On the weekend of Dec. 5 and 6, the Bluffton choir shared with us a beautiful program of God's Word in song. Bro. Phil Stettner brought us many good teachings of the Holy Word. We thank all of our visitors for coming and sharing with us.

Bro. Dave Roberts fell and broke his ankle and was hospitalized for a number of days. We are happy to report he is now home.

Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue Sauder are the grandparents of a new baby boy born to Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder. Sis. Sue was able to go to Florida for a few days to help the family and see the new grandson.

We regret to report that friend

George Levy, age 76, passed away on Dec. 1 after an extended illness. His last illness and death was caused by a fall which resulted in a broken hip. Surviving is one son, Tom, four brothers, Amos of Bluffton, IN, Ralph of Kouts, IN, Walter of Venice, FL, and Ray of Warsaw, IN and two sisters, Mrs. Mayme Getz and Miss Emma Levy, both of Bluffton, IN.

During the Christmas season different groups enjoyed singing and caroling to the sick, aged and shut-ins.

The Sunday School Christmas program was held December 20.

In closing, God bless thy year, the rough, the smooth, the bright, the drear, God bless thy year.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Florence Hartzler
Janette Blough

Jesus has taken a beautiful bud out of our garden of love, borne it away to the city of God, home of the angels above. Full blooming flowers alone will not do, some must be young and un-grown. So the frail buds He is gathering, too, beautiful gems of His throne. Little Crystal Irene Rufener, 4 months old, has gone to be with the Lord. Our sympathy is extended to the family, parents Bro. Ike and Sis. Verna, sisters Judy, Suzanne, and Sheila, brothers Steve, Matt, and Bro. Jim, grandparents Bro. John and Sis. Elda Hartzler, and Sis. Myrle Rufener. Even though her life was short, many of the friends and neighbors of the family helped to make her short life a little easier. Our precious child! O is it true that we shall see her face no more? Her life was like the morning dew — 'tis gone! Our hearts are bleeding sore. Our babe has only gone before; she's safe at home on Jesus breast. We by the empty cradle knelt, poured out our souls in prayer, a stronger tie to heaven we feel, because we know our babe is there.

We have rejoicing also, with the birth of three new babies. A son was born to Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori Rufener, and is named Samuel Lee. Little Sammy has a sister Heidi, and grandparents Bro. Orin and Sis. Anna Rufener, and Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf, Akron. He also has three great-grandmothers, Sis. Maggie Bauman, Sis. Myrle Rufener, and Sis. Juliet Graf, Akron. A daughter, Carrie Sue, was born to Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller. Brian, Eric, and Seth are all glad for a sister. The grandparents

are Glen and Sis. Ella Miller, and Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bertha Gasser, and great-grandmother Sis. Maggie Bauman. Bro. Duane and Sis. Joan Indermuhle have a new daughter, Laurel Suzanne. At home to welcome her are Chad, Tony, Troy and Shannon. The grandparents are Richard and Sis. Melba Miller, and Sis. Elda Indermuhle, and great-grandmother Sis. Bertha Bauman.

The wedding of Carol Dotterer and Ken Rupp was November 21, at Knupp Church. The parents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer and Ken and Lillian Rupp. The date of Nov. 22 was chosen for the wedding of Sis. Dianna Stoller and Bro. Doug Bauman. The parents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Stoller, and Marion and Sis. Delores Bauman. Bro. Alpha Maibach Jr. and Sis. Denise Zollinger were united in marriage on Dec. 6. The parents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger, and Bro. Alpha, Sr. and Sis. Helen Maibach. We pray the Lord will bless these dear ones as they walk the path of life together. May they feel His guidance in all their ways.

We were thankful to have Bro. Pete Baltic, (Mansfield), with us recently, and we want to thank him for bringing us the good Word from God our father.

The good Word tells us that as in the days of Noah they were remarrying and given in marriage, and as it is today, the engagement of Bro. Earl Beery and Sis. Susie Sinn (Latty), was made known to us. Also, the engagement of Bro. David Steiner and Sis. Lynn Maibach was announced recently. The parents of the happy couples are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery, Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn, Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Steiner, and Bro. Alpha, Sr. and Sis. Helen Maibach.

We are glad Bro. Neil Gasser is home following a short hospital stay. Sis. Jennie Bauman was in the hospital for removal of a cataract and we are glad Sis. Ruth Hilty is progressing nicely following a hip replacement.

Does my Savior care if my life is hard, if my way be thorny or steep? Does He really care if the storm clouds break, or the tempest o'er me shall sweep? Will my Savior care if I bear the cross, till I faint 'neath the awful load? From His throne on high will He know that I am so weary on life's rough road? Will my Savior care when life's sun goes down, and the night winds sadly shall moan, will He come to me, or in that sad hour must I walk the valley alone?

Oh yes, my Savior both knows and cares when I am in sorrow and pain; for there's not a fear, not a pain or tear but on earth He has felt the same. — Homer F. Morris

We want to wish a happy birthday and a blessing from God to Bro. Jesse Beer, a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home, Rittman, who was 100 years old on December 18. Bro. Jesse is from the Mansfield church, and is still able to be up, and gets around well with the help of a cane.

The year 1982 is well on its way. We have many things to be thankful for in the past year. Will we have as many joys in the new year? We pray He will continue to bless us on our way through this another year that is upon us. May we walk closer to Him, and not stray from His side so that we become lost. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps. 119:9 thru 11.

OHIO, SARDIS
Joyce Indermuhle

Another year is dawning and as always it seems natural to pause and reflect on the past year. We would like to thank all the visitors we've had, especially all the ministering brothers. Everyone that comes, in some way, brings a blessing.

We are thankful for another baby born in our midst. Sara Rose Brake is loved by all, especially her parents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam, and Cliff, Lisa, Laura, Sheila, Julia, and Matthew, her brothers and sisters.

It was a joy again to sit and listen as the children took part in our Christmas Program. I had to think how easy it is for the children to imagine, believe, and picture Baby Jesus being born in a manger, Jesus the boy growing up, and Jesus Christ dying on the cross. As we grow older and these happenings never change, we must strive to always believe with the simplicity of a child.

As the new year starts, and many of our brothers and sisters have new or added responsibilities, may they look to God for guidance and understanding.

Our numbers in Sunday School are increasing. We now have 23 children in attendance. It is a wonderful bustle on Sunday

morning as they all go to their various classes. Let us all remember, whether we are parents, teachers, aunts, uncles, grandmothers, or grandfathers, some one thing we might do could stick in that child's mind and someday cause them to yield or not to yield their life to Christ. May we ever strive to be living examples of the life that Jesus lived.

OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehklau

To love your work and to do it with contentment in your heart is one of the secrets of happiness. Discouragement brings the temptation to say people cannot be trusted and the world is bad. You may be where you are to receive training in courage, faith and patience in God, your fellow men and yourself. We need God's help to overcome evil thinking.

Jesus lived in this world. It is helpful to listen to Him when He said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." God will bless us with peace and His strength, if in faith, we commit ourselves and our affairs in His care and keeping.

We were thankful to have Bro. Paul Gasser and his wife with us on Thursday evening, Dec. 3. Bro. Paul brought to us an encouraging message from the Word of God through the inspiration of His spirit.

On Dec. 20, we had our Sunday School Christmas program. The children gave to us the marvelous story of the birth of Jesus, the only begotten Son of God.

We welcome into our congregation Bro. Chris and Sis. Anna Weigele. They have moved here from Alto, MI. It is a pleasure to have them worship with us.

OREGON, SILVERTON Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Many thankful prayers ascend for the blessed weekend we have recently shared. We sincerely want to thank Elder Bros. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena, CA), Leo Moser, (Lester, IA), and Alfred Bahler, (Wolcott, IN) for giving of themselves by coming to Oregon to carry out the joyful work that was accomplished.

Friday night the Silverton congregation gathered at the Portland church with the brethren there to hear our elders read the Memorandum of the 1981 Brotherhood

Conference. We heard many good teachings that will surely help us to walk the narrow way if we will but heed the warnings of our Shepherds.

Saturday afternoon, Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger opened their hearts and home to serve supper to the elders, the ministering brothers from both Oregon churches, those dear ones who would later in the day bring forth their testimonies of faith and their families. This labor of love was greatly appreciated by all who were present.

Saturday evening the testimonies of five dear souls were heard and Sunday, Nov. 22, we witnessed the baptism of Bro. Richard Kuenzi and Sis. Mary Ann Kuenzi. Also welcomed into the fold were Sis. Sharon Hari (Phil), Bro. Paul Dettwyler, and Sis. Esther Dettwyler. How wonderful to be a part of the family of God!

Our little church was joyously crowded with visiting brethren and friends from near and far including those from Wolcott, IN, Bloomington, Cissna Park, Eureka, and Fairbury, IL, Bern, KS, and Portland, OR, in addition to the visiting elders and ministering brothers and their families already mentioned.

Sunday afternoon we gathered together for a supper in the nearby Silverton Grange building. A delicious ham dinner was planned and prepared by the sisters who did a fine job of feeding around 115 people. These opportunities for fellowship provide us with precious memories.

We again gathered at the Silverton Church Sunday evening for the ordination service of our own ministering Bro. Clarence Dietrich. Bro. Clarence and all who listened were exhorted and encouraged in our Christian walk. Our dear Elders clearly brought forth the responsibilities and gravity of the office Bro. Clarence now undertakes; And also, how we, the people of the church, have not only a duty to walk aright to make the load lighter for those who carry those responsibilities, but also to pray for them that they can remain the true Watchmen on the walls of Zion. After the consecration prayer we who were gathered there, members and friends, each took our turn greeting and encouraging Bro. Clarence and Sis. Mildred in the duties that lay before them.

The first three Wednesday night services of this month were devoted to listening to the Conference tapes. It is indeed a privilege to hear these exhortations.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich have welcomed a sweet little one to their family circle. Jill Marie was born on Dec. 2. Becky, Lori, Kristy, and Brian are enjoying their new baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Mildred Dietrich (Silverton, OR), and Bro. August and Sis. Martha Feucht (Lester, IA).

TEXAS, ZAPATA Margery Koehl

We appreciated Bro. Vernon Wettstein of the Congerville, IL congregation visiting us while in our state on business, and his efforts in bringing us the word of our Dear Lord and Saviour.

This is a pleasant time of year in Zapata. Our 100+ degree temperatures have given way to comfortable 70's and 80's. Many days we use neither the furnace nor the air conditioner.

SILVER THREADS

IF JESUS CAME TODAY?

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two,
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder, what you'd do?
When you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door,
With arms outstretched in welcome, to your heavenly Visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes, before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard,
And wish you hadn't uttered that last loud, hasty word?
Would you hide your worldly music, and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in or would you rush about?
And I wonder—if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say,
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?
 And would you find it hard each meal to say table grace?
 Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read?
 And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
 Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you've planned to go?
 Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?
 Would you be glad for Him to stay, forever on and on,
 Or would you sigh with great relief, when He at last was gone?
 It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,
 If Jesus came in person, to spend some time with you.

Sermon . . .

(Continued From Page 28)

going to stand if we fail? I don't think that we can stress this too much, dearly beloved. I think this is more serious than we realize because they weren't living under grace as we are. They didn't have a Saviour in their time who suffered and shed His blood and died for their sins as we have today. We should be thankful and grateful to God that He sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him need not perish but can have everlasting life.

We are a most fortunate people even though we are living in an evil day and time, a time of great uncertainty. We don't know from one day to the other what might happen. We are in a time of perplexity, nation rising against nation. Leaders have problems they cannot cope with. No man can find an answer to them. We are living in perilous times but we are most fortunate to be living in the day of grace, inasmuch as we have a Saviour who died for us on the cross, in our place. We ought to appreciate this, and understand that God expects more of us, I think, than He did of those people in earlier times.

We were taught in our reading from the Gospel of Luke about repentance.

Some of the people spoke to Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus answered them, "Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered these things? I tell you nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:2,3.

I know that a lot of people don't like to hear about repentance. People look upon repentance as something distasteful, something to shun, something to fear; but that isn't so. Repentance is an experience I often think of as an adventure that we wouldn't give up for anything. I know that when I was young, I wanted to repent for quite some time before I could break the ice, so to speak. I wanted to repent long before I did, but I couldn't. I couldn't tell my parents that I wanted to repent. Perhaps I had too much pride or didn't have the grace, but I feared this thing. I have found out, and I tell every convert who comes to me, that when they can once break the ice, so to speak, and make their wishes and feelings known, the worst is over. Expressing ourselves openly is the hardest part of repentance, I believe, even though we experience the burden of our own sin.

I remember well the time when I was living in sin and iniquity, and was without hope. I knew that if I died in my unconverted state, I would have nothing in store but eternal damnation and destruction in a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. What a wonderful thing it is when God grants grace to repent, as He teaches us here, through Jesus Christ who died upon the cross for all of us.

We can find forgiveness for our sins and can feel the burden removed and cast into the sea of forgetfulness. In its place we experience peace, an inner peace and satisfaction and contentment, and can receive into our hearts the hope of eternal life. This is something most precious, and it's a wonderful experience. I'm sure that every one of you who has gone through this can testify that this is true.

A great day comes when the sinful nature, the Adamic nature that became dead through repentance, can be buried. The "old man" is laid away through baptism, and out of baptism we arise to a newness of life. We are then children of God. I

remember that when I went home, the first thing I did was to fall down in my bedroom upon my knees and thank the Lord that I was a child of God. I wouldn't give this experience up for anything in the world, and yet people fear this thing and try to get away from it. They try to satisfy themselves with husks, so to speak, as the prodigal son did.

I often think of the prodigal son. When he left his father's house and went into a far country he wasted his inheritance with riotous living. Then, there came a day when he was in great want, and he tried to satisfy himself with the husks that the swine ate, but it didn't satisfy. It couldn't. That's what people in this world try to do; they try to satisfy themselves with husks. You could eat a truck full of husks, and it wouldn't do you any good. There is no value in those things, no nutrition. It couldn't sustain life too long, just empty husks. Really, they wouldn't even taste good, and yet the world tries to satisfy themselves with such things. We want the corn, the real grain. That's what we live on. That's what we eat. It satisfies, and how thankful we ought to be.

Yet, people try to get away from all this. They fear it just because Satan, who is the power of darkness and a liar, tells people that this is no good. He tells them that it is hard to do, that it is something to fear. There isn't anything further from the truth.

I remember a friend from my youth who said, "Lester, I could never repent. I couldn't confess my sins," but that's what Satan tells people. He tells them a lie and people believe it. But let's believe the One who tells the Truth.

The Lord said, "come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. Rest for your souls.

God tells the truth. He's the Father of Truth, and what He says is the truth. We ought to put our trust in Him and believe Him. After all, we are going to give an account some day, not to Satan, the power of darkness, but to God. He is the One we want to serve and live for. He is the Truth, and we read that the Truth shall make us free.

We are told in this chapter from St. Luke, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." That will be the lot and portion of people who do not heed

God's Word. We can also read that the wages of sin is death. It's the same as two plus two is four, you know; it just adds up to four. Sin brings death. So, inasmuch as we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, we all should die.

Without the Lord we would have nothing to look forward to but eternal death. That's what we deserve, but how thankful we ought to be, brethren, that God sent His Son who died for us in our place. Through faith in Jesus Christ, repentance and conversion we can escape the condemnation of our own sin and become God's people, God's children. We need not perish, but can have the hope of eternal life.

The Lord continued: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none." Luke 13:6. Quite discouraging, isn't it? In a natural way, when we plant a crop and don't get any fruit or a harvest, it's discouraging. We seek fruit and there is none.

"Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down." Luke 13:7,8,9.

Often man is likened to a tree. John the Baptist said, "Now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Luke 3:9. But every tree that bears good fruit? It is purged so that it will bring forth more fruit.

We are likened here to a tree, and we are to produce fruit. What are the fruits that we are to produce? I would like to read it to you. In Galatians, chapter five, we are reminded first of the works of the flesh. "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like." These are the works of darkness.

Then Paul goes on to tell us the

fruit that we are to produce. These are the things that should show forth in our lives, brethren. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Are we producing the fruit of the Spirit? I hope we are. Let's always do; let's not produce the works of the flesh, which will get us into trouble every time. Let's produce the fruit of the Spirit. After all, we read that a good tree cannot bring forth corrupt fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. That's where repentance and conversion come in.

What is in the beginning a corrupt tree must be made into a good tree, so to speak. Through repentance and conversion we are to produce the fruit of the Spirit. If we don't we read here that the tree is going to be cut down.

I am thankful, brethren, for the dresser of the vineyard, who is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ. He is kind and merciful, and is pleading for you and for me. He came here upon earth, as we have often mentioned, and He was crucified and put to death. He rose again the third day and when the time came, He ascended into the heavens where He is today sitting at the right hand of God as an Intercessor, as a Mediator pleading your cause and mine.

I wonder how often the Lord pleads with the heavenly Father, as He looks down upon this earth, to be merciful to the sinner. Perhaps He pleads that the "day of grace might be extended just a little bit longer so that more will have a chance to repent and become converted, producing the fruit of the Spirit which are so desirable. God is love and He is merciful, but perhaps the patience of God would have run out long ago if His Son were not pleading for you and for me. I believe that He is the Dresser of the vineyard.

When we of the household of faith see the circumstances and the conditions of the world today, we may (like the apostle Paul) long to go "home" to a better world and a better place. Paul said, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21. He also said, "I am in a straight betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is

far better: nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." Phil. 1:23,24.

How often we hear people, especially when they become old and feeble and have to endure physical affliction, say that they would like to go "home". Perhaps they even pray for it. Those of us who are younger also have our trials, and we live in the hope and anticipation of a better world to come; but we pray that the Lord will extend the day of grace for only one reason and one purpose, so that our children, friends, and neighbors, those who are as yet unprepared, might have a little more time to repent and to become converted. Maybe some will still be saved, but we know that the time is going to come when the door of grace will be closed.

God is going to send His Son to this earth again, and all who are ready and prepared can go with Him. Those who aren't prepared will be left.

Everyone of us is a free moral agent, free to make our own decision to accept or to reject the Lord. Let's be like the wise virgins who gathered oil for their lamps; when the Lord came, their lamps were trimmed and burning. The lamps of the foolish, you know, had gone out. The foolish ones were left outside and they didn't get in. Let's be among those who get in.

I want to add that I think we should be a people who are true, upright, and honest, who serve the Lord truthfully and faithfully. This is not only for our own eternal welfare, but I feel that the way we conduct ourselves is going to have an influence upon our children, our friends, and our neighbors. Our unconverted children and others should be able to see that we have something they don't have. If they can't see it, there is something wrong.

We ought to be leaders. Instead of following the world, the unconverted should have a desire to follow us. After all, we have been chosen; we have been called and chosen.

Our standing is a high standing, brethren, and I hope we appreciate it. Let's show our appreciation by serving the Lord truthfully and faithfully, and by producing the fruit of the Spirit of which we read together. We know it shall then be well with our souls, and we hope that we can be a good example to our children and to the people around us.

CHARLES W. ALDER
EAST LYNN, ILL 60932

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SERMON BY BRO. LESTER HARTTER OF BERN, KS

Text: St. Luke 13:1-10

We have assembled together this afternoon for only one purpose, I trust, and that is to worship God. I don't think that we could find a better way to worship the Lord than to read in His Word and to meditate upon it. There might be a lot of things we could talk about that would be interesting, important things that concern us, but spiritual things are more important.

Paul said, "we look not at the things which can be seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor. 4:18. Children of God look upon those things as the essential and most important things of life. For after all, everything we see with the human eye is composed of matter and time deteriorates all such things upon the earth. It's only a matter of time until everything will fade away and perish for they are corruptible. We of the household of faith look upon things which cannot be seen; things which are eternal, incorruptible, and immortal. Those are the things that bring inner contentment and satisfaction to God's people. Those things have lasting value and are the things we live for, strive for, and work for here upon this earth.

I am somewhat reluctant to leave our fore reading (Joshua, chapter 23) because there is much to think about in that chapter. Joshua, the man of God, was old and feeble and about ready to pass out of this life; but he was greatly and deeply concerned about his people, the children of God, the children of Israel, and he gave them kind admonitions and exhortations. He warned and cautioned them to hold fast to the teachings and commandments of God, and to do those things that God had taught them.

Joshua also reminded them of all that God had done for them, of how He had led them out of captivity in Egypt and across the Red Sea. Joshua didn't mention that in this chapter but in the next. He spoke of the time when the children of Israel were held captive in Egypt under King Pharaoh. Pharaoh was a hard taskmaster, a hard driver, and they were slaves to him; but God delivered them you know, through the hand of Moses. He led them through the Red Sea, through wilderness to the promised land of Canaan. By the hand of Joshua they were led into the land of Canaan, and God drove out their enemies. God fought their battles. Even the walls of Jericho fell to the ground for the children of Israel, and the hearts of their enemies melted because of the fear of the people of God. Just a few Israelites could put a whole army to flight when God was with them.

Joshua told them here, now, that they should remember those things and hold fast to the teachings and commandments of the Lord, and then God would continue to be with them and bless them. He also warned them because he loved them. He was concerned about them and wanted to help them.

Today, God still warns us through His Word. We read about terrible things that could happen to people if they are disobedient. God warns us because He loves us and wants to spare us the ill or harm that might befall us, so we are taught to hold fast to the teachings of God.

Joshua warned the people that if they disobeyed God's commandments, He would bring upon them a lot of trouble, misfortune, and tribulation. As I read that chapter, I thought of what Paul said: "if word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Heb. 2:3

The Word of God in time of old was spoken to men through angels. Angels made their appearance from time to time and told people of things that were going to happen, and said that the Word couldn't be changed or altered. The prophecies came to pass as the angels said they would. An early prophecy concerned Abraham. An angel appeared to Abraham and Sarah when they were old, and told them that they would have a son. They did, and they named him Isaac. Well, time and time again angels appeared, and whatever those angels of God said came to pass. Paul pointed this out when he said, "if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape?"

This is what we would like to stress and emphasize and point out today. How are we going to escape the judgment of God if we disobey His Word and don't do as He asks? Furthermore, the Lord said that if the mighty deeds had been done in Tyre and Sidon that were done in Bethsaida, they would have repented sitting in sack cloth and ashes. The men of Ninevah repented at the preaching of Jonah and a greater One than Jonah guides us.

We know what happened to the people of Sodom and Gomora. They perished because of sin. They became sinful cities, and they perished as a result of that. What does God expect of you and me today?

I think that God expects more of us. We don't want to be alarmists, but God expects more of us today than He did of those people, so where are we

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