

# The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 32

FEBRUARY, 1982

NUMBER 2

## THE CASE AGAINST A WORLD CHURCH

Submitted by Elder Bro. Noah Schrock (written in 1964) Now at rest with the Lord.

Christian churches are preparing to unite as one great world church. This will include the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Protestants.

Consider what conditions have resulted where there has been a one (world) church monopoly. By the 5th or 6th century, the Church at Rome had gained dominion over all others in western Europe. The dark ages settled, until the Reformation and the break away of those who protested.

In eastern Europe, it was the Greek Orthodox. The end of this rule over the lives of the people in Russia did not come until the Communist revolution. A primary target of this revolution was against the domination and corruption of this church.

Volumes could be written about one Protestant church or another, where that church was made the state church, resulting in persecution and discrimination.

In Spain . . . it is the Roman Catholic. The police and other government agencies bowed to the will of the big church and did their bidding, arrested pastors, closed their churches.

The Greeks believe that all should belong to one great Greek Orthodox Church. Because of its size, and because it is the state religion, the government backs them up in their persecution of other groups.

What will happen if a great, world church is formed?

They say that, with such unity

and greatness, they will be able to make themselves heard throughout the world, and thereby be a great power for good to all mankind. We can expect that the will of this world church will not only be suggested, but enforced. Great churches in the past forced even kings to their knees.

Liberty will be threatened the moment a great monopoly is organized. This mammoth may begin to throw its weight around, and thousands, yes millions, may suffer as a result.

The mind and heart of unconverted man is centered in himself. His supreme desire is to satisfy his personal appetites. He is completely separated from God. His thoughts and ambitions are earthly — not godly.

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“ . . . PREPARE TO MEET

THY GOD . . . ”

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Christ's prayer for the eleven, and indeed all who follow, is oneness of heart with God, the Father, and Christ, that their very lives would prove that Christ lived within them.

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”

The burden of His prayer is for the salvation of those who believe on him, that they might be with Him forever. God does not depend upon the strength of numbers to accomplish His purposes!

The world is impressed when it sees a person who is genuinely sold out to God, and is truly in oneness with Him. The world seems to sense and know God loves that person.

A tragic mistake is that this great prayer has been misinterpreted by the great majority. The wheels of movement are turning ever faster. The world church is approaching culmination faster than we ever thought possible. Already the Roman church is preparing herself to be more acceptable, so that this can come about.

**Warning! Danger Ahead!**

This great world church will dictate in every sphere. The anti-christ will arrive and declare that he is God.

Your children brought up in such a church will soon be going right along with the rest. Your influence on others is vital. In speaking of a great church in Revelation, the message says, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

Now is the time to come out of all lukewarm and apostate churches. It's much later than you



may think. Come out now, while you can still bring your children and others with you!

It's time to pray. Don't let your church slip. It's time to fight for that which is right. It's time to join ranks with Peter, Paul, and the host of others who contended for the faith, even unto death!

The time of the end is near. Stay awake!

## THOSE OF QUALITY REMAIN

Bro. Carlton Lanz — Rockville

As the wheels of time leave their tracks, and their marks on the earth, so does man leave his mark on the lives of others. While some marks are soon erased, those of quality remain. Their marks and deeds are here to stay.

With the time here to observe the birthday anniversary of our sixteenth president of the United States of America, we remember famous documents of his. The Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation and finally the Thanksgiving Message have thus far stood the test of time.

President Lincoln's loyalty to the high office to which he was elected put him into the class of those whose marks and deeds are here to stay. A plain and impressive message of his is found in his writings:

"I NEVER BEHOLD THE STARS THAT I DO NOT FEEL THAT I AM LOOKING INTO THE FACE OF GOD. I CAN SEE HOW IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR A MAN TO LOOK DOWN UPON THE EARTH AND BE AN ATHEIST: BUT I CANNOT CONCEIVE HOW HE COULD LOOK UP INTO HEAVEN AND SAY "THERE IS NO GOD!" We have been recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God! We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, multiplied,

enriched and strengthened us. We have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these things were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving GRACE, too proud to pray to the GOD that has made us.

Abe Lincoln

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

## WORLD RELIEF REPORT

World Relief Brochures covering activities for the past five years, 1976-1981, were completed and mailed with the assistance of the Silver Lining staff, mailing list, and facilities. We are most appreciative of their cooperation and help in getting the brochures directly into our homes. It is hoped all will save the latest brochure for future reference and information regarding the Relief Arm of the Apostolic Christian Church.

With the increase of solicitations and pleas for help domestically and internationally from organizations presently being helped and new ones seeking contributions, plus our own hardship cases to underwrite, the World Relief Committee saw the need for better communication among the Brethren and Friends to obtain assistance and implement additional opportunities as the Lord directs our efforts.

As stated in the World Relief Brochure, "The basic goal of the Apostolic Christian World Relief is to assist the suffering and underprivileged, disaster and tragedy-afflicted persons with material aid as well as volunteer labor."

The World Relief Brochure contains a format for project consideration and approval, which was adopted at a joint meeting of the Apostolic Christian Missionary and World Relief Committees on Oct. 16, 1981. It

would be beneficial if this format would be used to encourage wholesome growth of our World Relief effort, along with the unity of the Brethren. Thus with proper approval of the local Elder, and the World Relief Committee we can share the opportunities and Blessings together.

Yearly, combined meetings will be held with the Missionary and World Relief Committees to

## WE APOLOGIZE!

We sincerely want to apologize for some of the problems with the January issue of the Silver Lining. Some changes are being made in the printing of the Silver Lining, and hopefully we will soon have the bugs worked out. If your issue had a page that wasn't printed or an over-print, please let us know if you desire another copy. Again, please forgive us for the complications last month. With the help and grace of God, we plan to continue to do our best for the Lord.

### THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

#### EDITORIAL STAFF:

Lynn Stieglitz  
Robert Cockburn  
Albert Frautschi  
David Bertsch

The editorial staff wishes to acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers from the Leo Apostolic Christian Church who willingly give of their time to handle the many address changes, help mail the monthly issues and spend hours in editing. May God reward you.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic Christian Church of America.

Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller, David Bertsch.

#### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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c/o David Bertsch  
R. No. 2, Box 157A  
Grabill, IN 46741

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#### IN MEMORY — EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER



coordinate inter-action of projects involving both spiritual and material assistance and to sanction and approve current and new activities.

World Relief Brochures were mailed to the local treasurer representatives of each church for local distribution as needed. Additional copies of World Relief Brochures, windshield and billfold cards are available. Mail requests to:

World Relief Committee  
6140 N. Evergreen Circle  
Peoria, Illinois 61614

James Hoerr  
Secretary World Relief

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

##### NEED FOR HOUSEPARENTS

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

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

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

Bro. Bob Cockburn  
Administrator

Houseparent applicants between the ages of 21 and 55, brother and sister in faith, with approval of their local elder, should send

their resume and letter requesting an interview to:

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

or

Counseling Elder Bro. David  
Bertsch  
R. 2 Grabill, IN 46741  
219-627-2923

Resume will be promptly and prayerfully answered.

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

We just finished supper. It was great — nice juicy hamburgers, french fries, and onion rings. The most special thing about the meal was that our 16 year old Jay P., fixed the onion rings. The whole thing was entirely his idea.

Some of our boys are becoming fine chefs. Gary Lee loves to get up early in the morning and fix eggs. He does the entire job from cracking to cleanup. This morning he forgot to grease the pan for the second batch, but after Jay I. reminded him, he just plopped in a hunk of butter. It worked.

At the Wieland house, some of the children have had their victories also. Debbie has experienced her Lord, yet she still struggles with growing up difficulties; but last week people noticed a difference. Even our Administrator complimented her at a staff meeting. Brenda explained that one day Debbie simply went back to her room and prayed and prayed until she got everything out. Her relief was manifested in a peaceful and stable attitude. People noticed it. Didn't the Lord say, "By their fruit you shall know them?"

The Willis children are still with us. Chucky is still looking for some work to do. John is probably reading a book and Bertha and Thelma are likely to be cooking a pizza with a whole wheat crust.

There are people interested in adopting them — both Christians and non-Christians. Please in-

tercede for them so that they can be placed in the right homes. Their caseworker is willing to split them up if they will live in close proximity to each other.

Ronda is about to be graduated and has a desire to attend either Purdue University here at Ft. Wayne or in Lafayette. She wants to become a veterinary technician. She has the normal fears about getting out on her own, being with strange people, and being in foreign places. She really has a love for horses and would be very fulfilled in this occupation if she could only get over those first hurdles of anxiety. If you could offer her any assistance by praying, or advice and encouragement through the mail, it would be greatly appreciated.

Some of our faithful supporters are kind enough to send happy birthday wishes to our children. Those cards and notes are very appreciated. The following is a list of children and their birth dates: Thelma W. 11-17-67; Bertha W. 1-10-69; John W. 5-11-70; Charles W. 9-18-71; Gary H. 5-6-67; Ronda K. 5-19-64; Debra L. 8-21-66; Gary E. 8-19-70; Jay I. 6-7-68; Greg H. 10-6-66; Jay P. 3-22-65; Dawn H. 5-17-73; Angela H. 2-24-75.

As many of you have probably heard by now, some of the staff will be leaving in the near future. There is a serious and definite need for Christ centered people to fill the positions of full-time houseparents. We have heard of some of you having an interest for work like this. Now is your chance, and the need is definite for you to apply to Bro. Bob Cockburn, P.O. Box 151, Leo, IN 46765.

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. . ." In the year which is yet so new, we can do no less than to turn to our Heavenly Father, as we take inventory of where we have been and of where we hope to go. Credit



for any past merit is due to the providence of Him who sees all our needs and provides through the hearts and hands of man. Faith in God's promises assures a rich reward to all who helped.

While visiting the various departments of our Home, we surely want to make you acquainted with the Kitchen department. Our kitchen supervisor and her ten well-trained staff members accomplish the amazing feat of feeding approximately 75 people, three times daily. Menus are planned by our own supervisor, and are then approved by a registered dietitian who surveys them for nutrition, balance and propriety.

There must be a system of ordering and maintaining the necessary inventory of supplies, which are for the most part purchased through institutional suppliers. (Imagine needing fifteen pounds of potatoes for one meal!) The government also supplies a few of the staple commodities. However, the generous, continuous donations of food make a definite difference in our menus, and our gratitude is greater than what we can express.

Not everyone may have the same menu. Some are diabetic, some are limited in the number of calories they may have and some are on bland diets. Besides those who eat in the dining room of the home, there are fourteen people who go to workshop carrying lunch pails.

One staff member works two to three days per week, just doing the baking. All of our bread, hamburger and hot dog buns, sweet rolls, cakes, etc. are baked from scratch in our own kitchen.

Cleanliness is of utmost importance and is subject to strict government regulation and inspection. The post-meal clean-up is accomplished with the help of some residents, the maintenance department and the kitchen staff.

While this whole operation is vitally necessary, the kitchen

department realizes that "man lives not by bread alone" and tries to make this area a pleasant place, both by their cheerfulness and by the decor which they take time to change with the seasons. Perhaps they would often reiterate what an unknown nineteen-year-old servant girl once wrote:

"Warm all the kitchen with  
Thy love, and  
Light it with Thy peace.  
Forgive me all my worrying,  
and make  
All grumbling cease.  
Thou who didst love to give  
men food,  
In room or by the sea,  
Accept this service that I do —  
I do it unto Thee.

Daniel Webster once said, "The most important thought I ever had in my life was that of my individual responsibility to God." It is clear that our responsibility to God has been and continues to be the complete care of some of His "special" people, your loved ones. To this end we need your prayers and His blessing.

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

Tim Sutton has found the wonderful peace of God, which passeth all understanding. Tim is now awaiting the time when his desire for baptism may be fulfilled. We trust God may continue to grant him peace and faith in his new walk of life.

Our dear ministering brothers which visited during the past month were Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle and Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville) and Todd Feller (La Crosse). We thank them for sharing their time and God's Holy Word with us.

December 27, Bro. Doug Germann and Sis. Rebecca Knapp exchanged wedding vows in Eureka, IL. Several from our congregation were able to travel to Eureka for the wedding. On Jan. 10, a wedding reception was held in our congregational room to welcome Bro. Doug and Sis.

Rebecca.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ron and Sis Evelyn Hoerr in the death of Bro. Ron's eldest brother Richard, of San Francisco. Bro. Ron and Bro. Jacob traveled to San Francisco to be with Lena Hoerr (Peoria) and other family members.

Sis. Francis Schrenk has been a hospital patient this month. We pray that God may grant Sis. Francis a measure of strength and that she may be able to return home soon. Bro. Roy and Sis. Minnie Farney are still unable to assemble with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

At the time of this writing our Elder brothers are gathered in Wolcott, IN for their winter conference.

Many of our dear winter family have arrived. How wonderful it is to have them in our midst.

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON

Rose Huette

#### THANK GOD FOR LITTLE THINGS

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

by Helen Steiner Rice

We really have so much to be thankful for with all the beautiful weather we have been having. It has been an added blessing to also receive the rain we have been needing. It will help make the desert bloom beautifully this spring. After the rain I looked out at the mountains and it was so



pretty to see the snow on top of the Catalina mountains which we can see from our kitchen window. After hearing how cold it has been in the central and eastern states, we really wish we could share the weather here. We love visitors, so come any time. The sun is shining so beautifully to day. It is really nice to be outdoors.

We were richly blessed to have with us this past month Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle from Japan and Bro. Frederich Knapp from Congerville. It was a beautiful day hearing God's Word and then being able to fellowship together and having dinner with singing later. We also want to thank Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle for telling us about Japan and their way of living. It was really interesting. We hope that they will visit again soon with their families.

We are happy to have Sis. Martha Blessman assembling with us again after her stay in the hospital. She is feeling much better. Her daughter and son-in-law from Wisconsin are staying with her for a while this winter. We know this means so much to her and I'm sure its a special joy for them. Ruth Murphy has also been in the hospital. We are so happy she is again home and feeling better. They were gone for a while, and I remember Ruth mentioned to me that she sure hopes to stay well this time. We sure hope she continues to improve.

**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**  
Mary Beth Klotzle

Safe in the arms of Jesus  
Safe on His gentle breast,  
There by His love o're shaded,  
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion No. 218

Our dear Bro. Bill Hecker passed away on January 6. Bro. Bill will be remembered as a strong pillar and faithful servant of the Lord. Many of us younger ones knew him as our candy man as he was always well prepared to

leave a treat in our hands after a friendly handshake. He is survived by his wife Sis. Doris, and his son and family Richard, Marian and John. May God comfort each of them.

Bro. Dan Stoller, (Rockville, CT) shared God's Word with us on Dec. 6 and 9. Bro. Frederick Knapp, (Congerville IL), ministered to us on Jan. 13. We thank the Lord for sending us encouragement through His servants.

I was able to spend three weeks in Japan over the Christmas season with my dear sister Kathy. After listening to the frequent tapes we receive from her, I thought I had a good idea of what life is like in Japan. But not until I went could I fully comprehend the importance of the work our church has been led to do and how necessary it is for it to go on! The kindergarten students are so willing to simply trust and believe all that the teachers tell them of Christ and His life. How I pray that they would all be able to go home to a believing family as many of us were able to do each day. Words cannot describe the love that is present in the kindergarten and churches there; not only for each other, but the almighty love of God. Although Japan is very different in many, many ways from the states, the Spirit of God among the brethren is the same one felt here at home. It was a beautiful experience and I pray that God will bless all the dear folks in Japan for their kindness and love. If it is possible for anybody to visit Japan, I strongly urge you to go and receive the wonderful blessings that God gives to those who journey there.

**COLORADO, DENVER**  
Marlene Leman

God has again provided ministering brothers for the small congregation in the Denver area. Bro. Roy Grimm held Christmas service on Dec. 20. His wife, Sis. Dona, was with him. Their encouraging words and support

were much appreciated.

The first Sunday in January we (Bro. Tom Leman and family) were privileged to again spend time with the loved ones in Denver. We were happy for the opportunity to visit and worship together and feel we received many blessings.

Sis. Katherine Ries hasn't been able to make it up to Denver for services very often this winter. The distance (she lives in Colorado Springs) and the cold weather make it difficult for her. We look forward to Spring hoping she will get around better then.

While the weather in Colorado has been cold, it hasn't been as severe as in the midwest. The third week-end in January a big snow storm and extremely cold temperatures prevented Bro. Noah Gerber of West Bend, Iowa from making the trip. Even though he was greatly missed, church was held via tapes, so singing and fellowship could be enjoyed.

Elizabeth Jivan is in a nursing home and unable to attend church most of the time. She has quite a lot of pain but still enjoys hearing from friends. Her address is :

Elizabeth Jivan  
Parkview Manor Nursing Home  
3105 W. Arkansas Ave.  
Denver, CO 80219

Remembering those who are shut-in is one way we can serve God and do His commandments.

After many prayers, much soul searching, counseling with our elders and believing God is directing our lives, our plans are to move to the Denver area this summer. We plead with each and every one to pray for us for there are truly "many things about tomorrow we don't seem to understand" yet "we know who holds tomorrow and we know who holds our hand."

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



area is invited and encouraged to assemble.

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Dorothy Viens

We enjoyed the many visitors who worshipped with us over the holidays. Among them were Bro. Joe Aberle and his family from Sabetha, KS. We appreciated the words of admonition and encouragement brought to us through Bro. Joe. May God bless his labors in our behalf.

A new son, Jacob Paul, was born to Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler on Dec. 29. Jacob has a brother Chad and a sister Carla to welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Bernard and Sis. Caroline Virkler from Croghan, NY, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Frieda Lanz.

On New Year's Day, Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra (Gerber) Schneider left our congregation to make a new home for themselves in Forrest, IL. We will miss Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra along with their children, James, Sarah, and twins, Michael and Matthew, but wish them God's blessings in their new endeavors even as they have felt His guidance thus far.

Another new household has been set up as Bro. Arlo Hoffman and Sis. Lynn Moser were united in holy matrimony on Jan. 3. Parents of the couple are Bro. Edwin and Sis. Elsa Hoffman and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Moser. May God, as a third partner, bless this union of hearts.

Recent hospital patients, Bros. Leonard Luginbuhl, Wilbur Schneider, and Ken Virkler have all felt God's nearness. We are thankful for His healing power. Our prayers are with Bro. Ken as he will once again go into the hospital for surgery.

At the close of our annual business meeting on Jan. 3, we bid farewell to our dear Elder Bro. John Bahler and his wife, Sis. Julia as they left for a few month's rest in Zapata, TX. May God bless and protect them and watch between us until we meet again.

### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Sally Gress

"Never Borrow Sorrow  
From Tomorrow"

Deal only with the present,  
Never step into tomorrow  
For God asks us just to  
trust Him  
And to never borrow sorrow—  
For the future is not ours  
to know  
And it may never be,  
So let us live and give our  
best  
And give it lavishly—  
For to meet tomorrow's  
troubles  
Before they are even ours  
Is to anticipate the Saviour  
And to doubt His all-wise  
powers —  
So let us be content to solve  
Our problems one by one,  
Ask nothing of tomorrow  
Except "Thy Will be done."

Helen Steiner Rice

We wish to thank ministering Bros. Al Schneider of Rockville, CT and Lenny Meyer of Chicago for visiting us this month.

Congratulations go to John and Robin Klopfenstein on their recent marriage. John is the son of Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein and Robin is the daughter of Mrs. Ted Lefferts and the late Mr. Ted Lefferts.

### FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Doris and Diane Roche

Looking forward to a new year, our thoughts turn inward with prayers and meditations, that our heavenly Father would gently guide us unto his most perfect will.

"When we are outside the will of God, we are like a caged eagle; freedom is found in obedience." by John R. W. Stott.

We are enjoying the many friends and brethren visiting the sunny south. Among our ministering brothers this month were Bro. Edward Alt and Sis. Marjorie, Cissna Park, IL, Bro. Dale Eisenman and Sis. Judy,

Chicago, IL, Bro. Larry Weninger and Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH, Bro. Elmer Witzig and Sis. Marjorie, Gridley, IL, and Bro. Edwin Bahler and Sis. Lois, Remington, IN.

Sis. Dorothy Norr has returned to her home and is well pleased with her progress. We are reminded how helpless we are when loved ones are ill or impaired. It causes us to wait patiently for the touch of Jesus to heal and provide. Sis. Julie Kittl is in the hospital, as well as Lynn Blunier, following a car accident. They are both improving slowly. Just recently, our Sis. Marie Martin and Bro. Ted Baumgartner were admitted. May the healing powers and comfort of the Almighty be with them all.

Berdean Shiffer wishes to express his thanks for the love and concern from his many friends during a short hospital visit.

Bro. Joe Schrock wishes to thank all as he appreciated prayers, visits, cares and expressions of love during his recent minor foot surgery.

Bro. Bob Reiman has been able to be with us again for some services. His efforts have been rewarding as we all missed him and all those who suffered illnesses. We pray they will bear with our weakness to understand when our visits of love are detained.

Bro. Roland and Sis. Viola Keller wish to thank all who were with us to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary, for the cards, gifts, etc., and a special thanks to those who traveled so many miles. May God bless you all for the love and best wishes.

It was our pleasure to join in best wishes as we gathered for an anniversary dinner here in Sarasota.

Building plans are still pending. We have again felt the need with the large attendance again this year.

### GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Brenda Stoller

We were especially thankful for



Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley) and Bro. Harvey Heiniger (Burlington) who ministered to us this past month. Time after time our hearts and spirits are lifted as these visiting ministers proclaim God's Holy Word.

We welcome to our area Mr. and Mrs. Terry Frieden and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sillers.

Our congregation appreciates those who can take the time to stop in and worship with us. We plan to have services the second, third and fourth Sundays in March. For additional information, you may call Bro. Linn or Sis. Brenda Stoller at (404) 471-0349.

ILLINOIS,  
BLOOMINGTON — NORMAL  
Jean O'Shea — Mary Huber

How to Find Peace of Mind

We listen to the newscasts  
that come daily to our ears,  
We read alarming headlines  
that intensify our fears,  
We grow more and more  
dissatisfied  
and feel less and less secure  
As our days become more  
anxious and the future more  
unsure.  
For with violence and dis-  
sension and chaos all around  
We no longer feel with  
certainty that we stand on  
solid ground.  
But in place of reading headlines  
that disturb our peace of mind  
We should once more read the  
BIBLE and on its pages we  
would find  
That this age is no different  
from the millions gone before  
And that in every hour of  
crisis God has opened up a  
door  
To all who seek His guidance  
and trust His all-wise plan,  
For God provides protection  
beyond that devised by man  
—  
And while God's almighty power  
is not ours to understand,  
We know Who Holds the Future  
and we know Who Holds Our

Hand—  
And to have the steadfast  
knowledge that we never walk  
alone  
And to rest in the assurance  
that our every need is known  
Will help dispel our worries  
and in trusting Him we'll find  
Right in the midst of chaos  
God can give us Peace of Mind!  
Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD  
Evelyn Endress

Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller became the parents of Heidi Marie on Dec. 20. She has two sisters and two brothers to help take care of her. Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Princeville) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller (Forrest) are the grandparents.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Esther Streitmatter and their family, as his mother, Sis. Sallie Streitmatter, passed away recently.

The family of Sis. Julia Ehnle wishes to thank everyone for remembering her in such kind ways at Christmas time.

The family of Bro. Mark Ehnle wishes to express their deepest appreciation to everyone for the many deeds of kindness during Mark's long illness and at the time of his death. They feel they cannot thank everyone adequately, but they hope and pray you can feel their love. Bro. Mark's family wanted to share the following poem which was sent to them. They believe it certainly expresses how Mark would feel.

SAFELY HOME

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;  
Oh, so happy and so bright!  
There is perfect joy and beauty  
In this everlasting light.  
All the pain and grief is over,  
Every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever  
Safely home in Heaven at last.  
Did you wonder I so calmly

Trod the valley of the shade?  
Oh! but Jesus' love illumined  
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me  
In that way so hard to tread;  
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,  
Could I have one doubt or  
dread?

Then you must not grieve so  
sorely,

For I love you dearly still;  
Try to look beyond earth's  
shadows,

Pray to trust our Father's Will.

There is work still waiting for you,  
So you must not idly stand;  
Do it now, while life remaineth —  
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,  
He will gently call you Home;  
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,  
Oh, the joy to see you come!

Author Unknown

Starting next month, the Bradford correspondent will be Sis. Shirley Kieser. Shirley and Bro. David live on a farm west of Bradford and are the parents of six daughters and one son.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." I John 3:18 In other words, it's not so much what we proclaim, but how we act that determines if we are loving in Jesus' way. Truly God forgives us so very, very much (at least I can speak for myself), and yet, I often am critical — sometimes, I must confess, nastily so — of one for whom Christ died. I have seen a plaque which says simply, "I asked Jesus 'How much do you love me?' and He said 'This much' and stretched out His arms and died." Why should He expect less of us?

On a short trip to Arizona, we had the chance to explore the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Among the fascinating displays and creatures were huge and



beautiful crystals mined from the ground. Then close by were very tiny nondescript-looking specimens (compared to the ones in the wall case), but through a microscope, one saw breathtakingly, lovely tiny crystals — perfection, even in miniature. And what had these rocks done to achieve this perfection: allowed themselves to be crushed and molded. For his willingness to be given into the Lord's mold and his ministry to us Jan. 3, we thank Bro. Ron Schambach.

The Lord has given us imaginations as human beings, which set us apart from His other creatures. So much has been written about "imaging," which can be defined as picturing so clearly a belief in regard to future events that one's life reflects the image and the belief becomes reality. Certainly the Word gives us many pictures to focus on. Let us think of Psalm 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." If we center on that image like a miner with his beam of light, no matter how dark the caverns on either side, nor the number of tempting side trails, our path will be steady and straight and lead us to the desired end. How about Ephesians 6 with its description of the whole armor of God, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Ephesians 6:16 Surely imagining ourselves with a shield — from the Lord of faith, will help us, strengthen us in our knowledge and belief that the enemy has no power over us — that every fiery dart will not burn us but become ash instead. Christ we have not seen, but His Word He has given that we might see.

#### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Melba Funk — Joan Waldbeser  
We were privileged to have Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton) with us on Sunday, January 3. His ministry to us was a blessing and we are thankful for his visit.

Also on January 3, Bro. Steve

Rinkenberger united Sis. Barb Walder and Bro. Larry Stevig in marriage. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they establish their Christian home. Sis. Barb is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy Walder. Bro. Larry is the son of Bro. Keith and Sis. Alice Stevig of Morton.

We have had several hospital patients this past month. Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger, having had chest pains, was hospitalized a couple days for tests. He is now on medication and doing fairly well. Sis. Blanche Steffen, Jim Bauer, Bro. Lucien Kuntz, Bro. Bill Beer and Sis. Irene Hauptli were medical patients. Mark Wilkening, Bro. Walter Kaufman and Sis. Edith Stock all underwent surgery. May God's healing hand be on each and every one.

Hulda Rentsch, age 83, passed from this life on January 12 at Fairview Haven Nursing Home in Fairbury. Surviving are two sisters, Sis. Mary Lawless (Peoria) and Sis. Rose Sauder (Roanoke).

We also sympathize with Sis. Lillie Waldbeser in the passing of her brother, Bro. Carl Huette of Morton.

We rejoice with two young souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance and confessed peace with God. They are Joan Waldbeser (Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser) and Kathy Kaufman (Eileen and the late Earl Kaufman). They are looking forward to giving their testimonies and baptism.

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Shirley Ifft — Carol Craig

Another day of grace is here  
O, Lord, I pray be ever near;  
And fill this heart with  
strength and light  
As yonder sun that shines  
so bright.

Hymns of Zion No. 79

The Lord has granted us another day of grace in this new year. Let us strive together to do that which is right and good in

God's sight.

The engagement of Cindy Zimmerman (Bro. Sam and Sis. Luella) and David Lee of Normal was made known. May God bless them as they plan their lives together.

The message of salvation was once again brought forth by Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) who were our visiting ministers this month. May God bless them for the effort put forth by each.

Sis. Beverly Schieber (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Fannie) returned home to our congregation after spending several years in Haiti. We are thankful to God that she is once again with us. We hope that she can adjust to the cold weather that we have been having.

Our Elder Bro. Bob Walder attended the Elder conference in Wolcott, IN. Our prayers and thoughts are with him and the other elders as they seek to do God's will.

Hospital patients this month were Douglas Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Susie Ott. We are thankful that they are both home and doing well.

When I look out and see the freshly fallen snow, it reminds me of this promise that God has made to us . . . though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Isaiah 1:18

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

During January, northeastern Illinois experienced high winds along with the coldest weather in recorded history. Temperatures dropped to 26 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit) and it truly was frigid!

Such extremes threatened the very life of anyone inadequately protected from it, and certainly could not be taken lightly. It controlled our coming and going in no small way. In reflecting upon the matter, we find an interesting account of God's role in ordering the weather in Job 37:5-13 where Elihu said, "God thundereth marvellously with his



voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend. For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength. He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work. Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places. Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north. By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened. Also by watering he wearieth the thick cloud: he scattereth his bright cloud: And it is turned round about by his counsels: THAT THEY MAY DO WHATSOEVER HE COMMANDETH THEM UPON THE FACE OF THE WORLD IN THE EARTH. He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy.

Belatedly we welcome little Otto Joseph, born Oct. 28 to Jim and Becky (Steffen) Miller. We wish many rich blessings to this family in rearing their new child. The grandparents are Calvin and Velda Miller and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen.

James and Julie Lindoerfer (Normal, IL) also have a new son since Nov. 13. Daniel Joseph is their first child and is also the first grandchild for Bro. Ken and Mary Lindoerfer. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson of Bloomington. To them also we extend our best wishes.

Elizabeth Esther was born Dec. 31 to Jon and Janine Steffen. Little Elizabeth is also a first child and we share in the happiness of this young couple. Elizabeth's grandparents are Casmir and Jennifer Sawicki of Elgin and Sis. Eleanor Steffen of Peoria.

On Dec. 23 Gordon Rager was able to realize his hope of coming home. Four years ago in October Gordon was in an automobile accident which fractured his neck and left him a quadraplegic. He has spent all of this intervening time in hospitals and nursing homes. He still requires nurses

around the clock and has many obstacles to overcome daily. Certainly we need to remember him in prayers.

Jan. 16 marked the wedding day of Sue Martin (daughter of John and Ella of Marengo) and John Henning (son of John and Carol of Huntley). John and Sue will be making their home in Huntley, IL, where John will be engaged in farming. May they be blessed with a long and happy married life.

Several loved ones suffered illnesses that required hospitalization and it continually keeps us in mind of our frail frame. Surely, but by the Grace of God, calamity and illness can be the portion of anyone of us. It therefore, behooves us to have bowels of mercy and compassion for those who suffer. Bro. Ken Lindoerfer, Bro. Matt Hein, Sis. Leola Schambach, and Sis. Carol Leman have all been hospital patients and have been able to return home. Bro. Ed Schambach is presently hospitalized with phlebitis and we trust that the Lord will lay His healing hand upon him.

Truly we have times of refreshing whenever we gather around the Word and have the inner man strengthened and nourished. This was our experience when visiting brethren gathered with us and taught us in God's word. We were thankful to have Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont), Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott), and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Japan) visit with us during the past month.

#### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

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

We walk the path of life,  
While cheer and trust  
increases.

Where God in truth abides  
Where two join hand and heart,  
We find a threefold cord,  
Not lightly rent apart."

No. 79 Zion's Harp

We sang this beautiful song after the wedding of Sis. Rebecca Knapp and Bro. Doug Germann on Dec. 27, 1981. We pray God will bless this union through all their days together. They will be living in Phoenix, Ariz. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp and Alberta Germann of La Crosse, Ind. Among our guests that day were Bros. Todd Feller, La Crosse and Kenny Knapp of Taylor, Mo. We thank them for being with us.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller are happy to have a new baby boy, Merle Joe. He was born Jan. 3. His three little sisters, Leann, Cheryl and Cindy are glad to have a little brother. His grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Verda Blunier and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber.

We welcome our new Bro. Bob Link into our brotherhood. He was baptized on Jan. 10. Bro. Bob had been assembling with us for some time and saw the need of a change in his life. We rejoice with the angels in heaven over every sinner that can repent.

Bro. Tom Leman and his family of Elgin, Ill. spent Sun., Jan. 10 with us. We appreciated his labor in our behalf.

We sympathize with Maurice Crawford in the loss of his mother, Ann Crawford of Eureka.

January has been real wintry with snow, cold and bitter winds. So far we have been able to have church. We appreciate this. Of course, some of the ones who live farther out in the country could not get into town.

Sis. Esther Kaeb of the Home is in the hospital with pneumonia. We hope she will be able to return home soon.

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

Our hearts were saddened as our Bro. Willard Wenger, 68, was so suddenly called from this life on Jan. 15. It reminds us once again of how quickly God can call us from life. Even though we die, yet with the hope of Salvation, we shall live. Our sympathy goes to



his wife, Sis. Dorothy, and his children, Joy Spence, Woodsboro, TX and Charles, Phoenix, AZ.

We have several new converts as God performs His healing power upon the souls of men. How thankful we are each time a loved one has been able to answer the call and by God's grace, can turn his back upon the old life and begin anew.

We were thankful to have Bro. Paul Gasser, Akron, OH, visit us and share God's word.

The winter elements are so evident these past few weeks. Surely we could not survive if it were not for the blessings of warmth and shelter that God provides. We can compare this to the end of time and the judgment. We will not pass through without taking advantage of the plan of salvation that God so lovingly provides.

In the year of 1981, we had eight births, seven deaths, eight weddings, and four baptisms in our congregation.

#### ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

"Our love shall not diminish. It is the Lord's command." Zion's Harp. January 10 was the wedding day of Sis. Carol Eisenmann and Bro. Ernie Leman, both of Forrest. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Bev. Eisenmann and Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna Leman of Forrest. Spending the day with us were Bro. Kenny Eisenmann of Cissna Park and Bro. Dale Eisenmann of Chicago. May God be with them as they start their new life together.

Our dear Sister Mary Metz (Bro. Joe) is in the hospital. May God strengthen her faith and give her peace during this time.

Little Bryan Arthur has joined the family circle of Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne Aberle. He joins Jamie, Shelly, Shane and Shawn at home. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Jean Aberle. Harry and Matilda Johnson are the happy parents of Trent Michael. His grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Marion Rieger.

The congregation extends a welcome to Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider and their children Jimmy, Sarah, Matthew and Michael who have moved to our community and are now worshipping with us. May they feel the love of God among us.

Sis. Juanita Schneider (Bro. Duane) is now serving in the capacity of Sunday School teacher and Bro. Ben Metz was elected as the new Sunday School superintendent. May they feel God's help in their new duties.

In 1981 we had three baptisms, 18 births and five deaths.

#### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Verna Hartter

We sincerely thank Bro. James Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) for visiting us and bringing the wonderful Word of Life to us this past month.

Steve Hohulin, (Bro. Sam and Sis. Sandy), and Mary Graham (Robert Grahams of Springfield), were united in marriage on Jan. 2 in Carlinville. A reception for them was held in our fellowship hall on Jan. 10. May God richly bless them as they begin this new life together.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Wiegand are parents of a new little boy, Frederick Lee, born Jan. 18. He is a brother to Rudy and Joan, and grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ida Mae Klaus, Morton, and Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand.

Our dear Bro. Jake Ott passed away Jan. 18, at Eureka Hospital. He became ill Sunday, and entered the hospital that evening. It was so pleasant to observe how very much his faith and his church meant to him. He faithfully performed his duties as custodian of our church for many years. Surviving are his wife, Sis. LaVina, a daughter Elsie Jean Knobloch, of Algona, Iowa, a brother Joe, of Peoria, a sister, Lucille Hohulin, of Morton, and also three grandchildren. Funeral services are planned for Thursday, Jan. 21.

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Sis. LaVina and her daughter and family in the loss of their dear one.

#### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

Jan. 10 and 17 were very unusual Sundays as church was closed on the 10th and open only for morning worship services on the 17th. The winter weather was fierce and soon made us realize how much we take our comforts for granted. After enduring adversities resulting from near record breaking cold temperatures on the 10th, many of us found ourselves thankful and appreciative when the storm on the 17th didn't seem to cause as many problems. If we hadn't had worse weather the previous weekend, we well may have been complaining rather than feeling grateful during the storm that occurred a week later. It is apparent that adversity can benefit us since there can't be a victory if there is no battle. Victory comes when we trust and wholly depend on our Maker, realizing how much we need Him for our life and sustenance. No doubt this is why the apostle James instructed us to "... count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." (James 1:2-3)

In some ways, we did enjoy the miserable weather that kept us in our homes, cancelled plans and disrupted routine. We felt so good to just be safe and warm and to feel the nearness of our heavenly Father watching over us. Sometimes we tend to get so caught up in the rush of this world about us that we are glad and even refreshed to be slowed down.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany have been blessed with the arrival of their first child, Matthew Paul, who was born Jan. 2. Matthew's grandparents are Sis. Marcella Hany of Gridley, Alfred Hany of Gridley, and Bro. Phil and Sis. Kay Thames of Fairbury.

Bro. Harold Kaupp was home with his family for the holidays.



but has since been back in the hospital for more surgery on his burn wounds. Walter Yergler was also in the hospital.

#### ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney

JoAnn Roecker

Our Morton congregation had three weddings, 28 baptisms, 15 births and ten funerals in 1981.

Bro. Carl Huette was suddenly called Home. His funeral was on January 2. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless his wife, Anna, his family and friends.

We wish to express our thanks to Bros. Glenn Funk, Garden Grove, IA, Charles Sinn, Ft. Scott, KS, Ron Heiniger, Blooming-Normal, IL, and Clarence Kachelmuss, Forest, IL, for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

Many of us journeyed to Cissna Park, IL, for the wedding of Bro. Larry Stevig (Bro. Keith and Sis. Alice) and Sis. Barbara Walder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy). We wish them God's blessings as they walk life's pathway together.

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent time in the hospital: Sis. Rose Teubel and Bro. William Aupperle. May God continue to be with them and all those who are sick or shut-in. May we always hold them up in our prayers.

#### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner — Mary Ann Plattner

December 27 was the wedding of Sis. Margie Weber (Bro. Peter and Sis. Mabel) to Bro. Stan Schick (Herbert and Sis. Helen) of Washington.

We were very happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Louise Schmied and Bro. Walter Plattner. They are planning a February 7 wedding. May the blessings of the Lord be with these dear couples as they start their new lives together.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Dan Koch from

Tremont and Bro. Marshall Heinold from Washington. We thank them for their labors of love.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam Ober were blessed with a new son, Christopher John. He is welcomed home by Angela and Ken Jr. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Ethel Waibel and Mr. and Mrs. John Ober.

Kristy Jo was born to Norm and Judy Rocke on December 17. She has a sister, Holly and brother, Casey waiting for her at home. Grandparents are Norm and Sis. Emma Rocke and Don and Bev Seiler of Danvers.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Ruth Yoder, Sis. Tina Schwind, Sis. Lois Elsasser, Marie (Jerry) Hoerr, and Bro. Jack Koehl.

The funeral of Sis. Tina Schwind was January 11. She is survived by two sons, Ed of Springfield, Bro. Walter of Roanoke, and several grandchildren. We express our sympathy to her family.

Our annual business meeting was held January 10. We also elected our new Sunday School teachers and trustee. They are Bros. Ken Ober, Bob Gangloff, Merle Weyeneth, and Sisters Pat Meister and Eunice Kaisner. Our trustee elected was Bro. Herb Stoller.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held on December 20.

Our prayers and support are with our dear elders as they meet in Wolcott, IN on January 13 and 14 for the mid-year elder conference.

As we listened to the conference conclusions on January 6, we were again exhorted in love and reminded how to walk close to our Lord so that we might remain true and faithful. We thank Elder Bro. Dan Koch from Tremont for assisting our Elder Bro. Roy Sauder as they brought these conclusions to us.

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene Martin — Arlys Martin

The Bible uses the word

“remember” about twice as often as it does “forget”. Visiting ministers who told us to remember what God has done for us and to remember His mercies have been Bros. Wendell Gudeman of Francesville, IN, and Ed Ringger of Gridley.

Congratulations are extended to Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick of Washington who were married Dec. 27. Bro. Stan's parents are Herb and Sis. Helen Schick of our congregation. Sis. Margie's parents are Bro. Peter and Sis. Mabel Weber of Peoria.

On Jan. 10 we welcomed Bro. Keith Knobloch into our fellowship. Bro. Keith was baptized Sunday afternoon, and he gave his testimony Sat. evening, Jan. 9. His parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch.

Sis. Geraldine Streitmatter fell on the ice and broke her wrist on Jan. 7. She is recovering from her accident.

Sis. Lucille Knobloch (wife of Bro. Ed) is a hospital patient at this time.

Our sympathy is given to the family of Sis. Sallie Streitmatter. Sis. Sallie passed away Dec. 22 at the Apostolic Christian Restmor Home in Morton. She was born Oct. 15, 1887, to Bro. John and Sis. Libby Frey in Elgin and married Phillip Streitmatter in Oct., 1910. He passed away in May, 1958. Surviving are one son, Bro. LeRoy Streitmatter of Bradford; one daughter, Alice Mellott of Morton; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one brother, Bro. Henry Frey of Eureka; and three sisters, Sis. Julia Frey of Eureka, Sis. Rose Bahler and Sis. Kathryn Gudeman of Francesville, IN.

Sis. Sallie's family expresses heartfelt thanks to all who remembered their dear mother with kindness during her years of illness and also for the prayers, cards, gifts, and memorials given at the time of her death.



**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold

Even in the coldest winter weather, the warmth of God's love is felt. Harvey Fischer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Wilma) and Kathy Thierer (Peg Thierer) were united in marriage and we wish them every happiness.

Rich and Janet Knepp now have a family of four with their new son, Adam Richard. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp and the Bud Hinthornes of El Paso. The new year also brought a new son to Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Schwind. Their first child, Andrew David is lucky to have two sets of grandparents also. They are Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary Schwind and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pat Landes of Morton.

It seems as the young are born, the old die. Sis. Minnie Leman reached her rest and we are thankful. She served a great purpose, even in her last days, as her smile and cheerful attitude through her suffering gave God much glory. She had one son from Roanoke, Bro. Richard, and three sisters, Sis. Anna Heiligenstein, Sis. Rose Minger and Sis. Ella Belsley who worship with us.

We appreciated the visits of Bro. Art Bauer and Bro. David Bertsch as God's work continues.

Our Bro. Vince Hodel has been in the hospital this month and we are confident God's hands are guiding it all. We are thankful that surgery is over for Bro. Slim Hodel.

**ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

Jane Herrmann

As the spring semester starts and a new year begins we renew our vows to our Lord and strive to walk closer with Him as each day goes by.

Christmas vacation gave us more time to spend in quiet communion with Christ. How easy it is to worship Him when time is not so precious. However, as the semester starts and time becomes busier, it is important to keep

taking time out for Jesus, for He is what living is all about.

Bible study has begun again this semester. The turn-out has not been as large this year. We would appreciate anyone who will come. The study is at 7:30 in Schroeder Hall, room 214.

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

Phyllis Lang

Dorothy Wagenbach

Because of extremely cold weather we were not able to assemble in God's house on Jan. 10. Although many of us enjoyed listening to tapes in our homes, it makes one realize the blessed privilege of assembling on the Lord's day.

After an illness of many months, our Bro. John Moser, 79, passed away Dec. 23, 1981. We extend our sincere sympathy to his dear wife Sis. Lila, three sons, Charles, Glenn, and Jack, and three daughters, Marcelle Oswald, Judy Mooney, and Janice Litwiller. We also wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. John Huette in the death of his brother, Carl, and to Bro. Dan Steiner, Sr. in the death of his mother, Sis. Edna Steiner.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Christine Koch are happy parents of Kevin Michael, their first child, born Dec. 29. Grandparents are Bro. Jess and Sis. Amy Koch and Aaron and Iris Gschwind.

We wish to thank Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) for ministering to us Christmas morning. May the Lord bless him for his willingness.

The family of John Moser wish to thank loved ones for their love, prayers, and gifts of kindness during John's illness and death.

Bro. Ernie Schaefer wants to thank everyone who offered prayers for him while he was in the hospital, for cards, gifts of money and fruit baskets. He appreciated it very much. May God bless you all.

"What think ye of Christ?"  
On that question dwell:

The answer you give  
Means Heaven or Hell!

Author Unknown

**ILLINOIS, URBANA**

Charlen Banwart

**A HAPPY HOME**

"Among the most important privileges of parents is the making of a happy home — a home where children want to be, to which they will want to return: not a place of perfection, not a place of spotlessness, but a place of pleasantness, of helpfulness and hospitality, of some reasonable order and of understanding, of love and loyalty, not marred by the tension of expecting the impossible, nor strained by constant quarreling and contention; a place where mealtime is not for scolding or for finding fault, but for good memories of getting together."

Richard L. Evans

How thankful we are for the warmth of our homes during this harsh winter weather. Our hearts go out to those who are not so blessed. One of our ministering brothers recently pointed out that the "good" to be gained from reading the "bad" news in the papers is that we should be made more humble as we realize what a fortunate people we are.

Ministering brethren who have visited us recently include Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna) and Bro. Leroy Hartman (Peoria). "Send Lord the Holy Teaching to us in Humble Preaching, Yet, in the Spirit's Power." (Zion's Harp No. 207)

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**

Mary and Joan Schick

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." I Thess. 4:14



It's such a joy to know that the Lord doesn't leave His children comfortless, but gives the promise of eternal life to those who believe in Him, so that even death's sting is softened by the assurance of heaven. The funeral of Bro. Ray Streitmatter who lived at the Peoria Home was held Jan. 18 in Princeville, IL. Bro. Ray began coming to our church in his old age after feeling an emptiness in his life and a deep need for peace in Christ. He was baptized as a brother in Christ in 1980, and reminded us all that the Lord never stops looking for His lost sheep, but gives mercy and forgiveness to the end.

Bro. Stan Schick of our congregation and Sis. Margie Weber of Peoria were united in marriage on Dec. 27 at Peoria. We wish them the Lord's nearness in their life together and welcome Sis. Margie to our congregation.

Bill and Ruth Hoerr were blessed with a baby son, Andrew, on Jan. 14. He was also welcomed home by a brother and sister, Brett and Becky.

Bro. Harold Schmidtgal from Gridley was with us on Christmas Day, and we thank him for his efforts as he related to us the birth of Christ.

Our thoughts have been with Sis. Kelly Koehl who was hospitalized for surgery recently. We are thankful that she is home and feeling better.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Tammy Gerber  
Gayla Baumgartner

"Happy the home when God is there  
And love fills every breast;  
When one their wish, and one their prayer,  
And one their heavenly rest.

"Happy the home where Jesus' name  
Is sweet to every ear;  
When children early lisp His fame,  
And parents hold Him dear.

"Happy the home where prayer is heard,  
And praise is wont to rise;  
Where parents love the Sacred Word,  
And live but for the skies."

Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan Reinhard were blessed with their third son, Braden Dean. Justin and Grayson welcome their new playmate.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Joan Gerber welcome into their home little Beverly Joan. Bro. Frederick and Sis. Margaret Gerber and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Elizabeth Schwartz are her grandparents.

Also first time parents are Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Becky Bertsch. Nathan Lee was born on January 13. Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Marie Gilliom are the pleased grandparents.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis). We want to thank these brothers and wish them God's richest blessings.

Those who spent time in the hospital this month were Sis. Marti Moser, Katie Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard), Abby Longenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joni), Sis. Lucille Reinhard, and Bro. Al Honegger. We pray that God's healing spirit will be with them, according to His will.

#### Speak Out For Jesus

You talk about your business,  
Your stocks, your bonds your gold,  
And in all worldly matters  
You are so brave and bold.  
But why are you so silent  
About salvation's plan?  
Why don't you speak for Jesus,  
And speak out like a man.

You talk about the weather,  
And the crops of corn and wheat,  
You speak of friends and neighbors  
That pass along the street.  
You call yourself a Christian

And like the gospel plan,  
Then why not speak for Jesus,  
And speak out like a man.

Are you ashamed of Jesus  
And the story of the cross  
That you lower His pure banner  
And let it suffer loss?  
Did He die for you in vain?  
If not, then live and speak  
for Jesus,  
And speak out like a man.

Author Unknown

#### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Jacki Huber

We've had very cold, snowy weather the past few weeks. The winter's first snowfall is always so beautiful to watch, but sometimes as winter goes on it is easy to get too caught up with slippery walks, bitter cold and perilous roads to appreciate the beauty. I was reminded of my own weakness when one evening I was listening to my 3-year-old say her prayers. After she was about finished, she added, "and thank you Jesus for the snow." I had to think that many times my attitude would be better if it were more like hers!

On a recent Sunday afternoon, friends and brethren gathered together for the church's annual Christmas program. It was such a blessing to see all the children praising God by singing songs and reciting verses. That evening many were together again to join in singing Christmas carols for many of our friends and brethren in Francesville and the surrounding area. On New Year's Eve we were together once again for a blessed evening. We appreciated Bro. Rod Huber from Valparaiso spending the evening with us. After a short service, sandwiches and cookies were served as has been the custom, followed by the remainder of the program. Everyone seems to agree that the Christmas and New Year's season is busy, but it is such a wonderful time to share the love of our dear Lord with those around us.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy



Gutwein started the new year in a special way! Very early on Jan. 1, they welcomed a precious little bundle into their family. Her name is Shawna Lyn and she has one brother, Ryan and a sister, Alyssa to help take care of her.

We miss Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tianne Overmyer and little Joshua as they recently moved to Valparaiso where Jerry is employed. We're sure the Valparaiso congregation is blessed by their presence as we have been, and want to welcome them to come back to visit us often.

"A Christian now baptized, to me much grace is given." These first few words of the Baptismal Hymn are true for five of our loved ones who were recently baptized. On Saturday evening, Elder Bros. Don Sauder and Ben Maibach were with us to witness their testimonies. They stayed with us on Sunday for the baptisms. We were reminded how precious our heritage of faith is and we sincerely thank these brothers for their time taken to be with us. The five who have chosen to walk "in the steps of the Saviour" are new Bros. Alex Gutwein (Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann), Brent Gutwein (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marian), Mark Wuethrich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb), Matt Gutwein (Phil and Julie) and one new sister, Joetta Gutwein (Phil and Julie). We wish them all God's grace and nearness on each step of their way to heaven.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich and Miranda as a fire recently destroyed their home. We're so thankful no one was seriously injured. Romans 8:28 comes to mind, "and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." What comfort a verse like that can bring! God shows His power in so many ways. The "inner strength" our brothers and sisters possess in adversity is just one of those ways.

#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Bobbi Erb — Lynn Klopfenstein

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: PSALMS 127:1. We are very thankful for the progress on our church addition. It has reminded all of us of how the Lord has blessed our small congregation, and we look forward to His use of our new facility.

We are rejoicing with Marla Wuethrich, who has begun a new walk in Christ. Marla is working here in Indianapolis.

We appreciate the ministered word of Bro. Walt Steffen. Also, our beloved Elder Bro. Alfred, and Sis. Francis Bahler were here during the hospitalization of their son Chris. We are thankful that he is recuperating at home in Wolcott.

#### INDIANA, La CROSSE

The Sunday School children told us of the birth of the Christ Child through verse and song.

Christmas caroling was enjoyed by young and old as they sang at nursing homes and stopped at homes of the aged and shut-ins.

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

Zions Harp

Bro. Douglas Germann and Sis. Rebecca Knapp received many well-wishes for happiness as his mother held an open-house for them. They were united in marriage at Eureka, IL on Dec. 27. May God bless this union of hearts.

Sis. Shari Bucher (Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona) and Bro. Mark Schwab (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene of Wolcott) made their wedding vows before many relatives and friends. We wish them many rich blessings. We were happy to have Bro. Roy

Wernli (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Vernon Schwab, Wolcott, present with us. May the Lord bless them for their labors of love.

Faithful was he until deaths'  
day,  
Now God will wipe his tears  
away.  
What are the sorrows of this  
time  
Against God's glory, so  
sublime?

Zion's Harp

After many months of suffering God called Bro. Edward Wittmer to his rest. May God comfort his children and bless them for all the loving care they gave him.

We extend our sympathy to the Pfladderer family in their sorrow of the death of their sister, Carrie Shultzs.

Now I have vowed to fear and  
love thee  
And to obey thee, Lord, alone;  
I feel Thy Holy Spirit move me  
And freely pledge myself Thine  
own,  
Renouncing sin to keep the faith  
And war with evil unto death.

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of three dear souls. We welcome Bro. Dean and Sis Pat Bucher and Sis. Amy Bucher, into our brotherhood. Sis. Gwen is Dean and Amy's mother and Sis. Pat's parents are Connie and Judy Paarlberg.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Sam Anliker, Lamont, KS and Wendell Gudeman for their labor of love in this important work.

#### NOTE OF THANKS

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,  
Or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,  
If so we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest  
words,  
As any friend could say;  
Perhaps you were not there at  
all,  
Just thought of us that day,



Whatever you did to console our hearts,  
We thank you so much whatever the part.

The family of Edward Wittmer

**INDIANA, LEO**

Mrs. Phil Schlatter

Mrs. Al Frautschi

Jesus gave the great commandment: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind . . . And thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Are we living this daily, or are we guilty of just talking "Christianese"? The important directive in Matt. 22:37-39 will keep a Christian busy a lifetime! This is where the rubber meets the road!

Appreciation is expressed to visiting minister, Bro. Vernon Leman Eureka, for a message and visit, Wed. evening, Jan. 13.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Janet Hartman were blessed with a baby girl, Carrie Lyn. She is also welcomed by two sisters, Angela and Melissa. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hartman and Bro. William and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein. A Christian father and mother have the best "Parents' Manual" and "Book of Instructions" on rearing children. Its title is the Holy Bible. As a starter, read Prov. 22:6 and Ephesians 6:4.

Lowell Lantz was a recent hospital patient. Better health is wished for him.

Church services were cancelled a couple of Sundays, making us aware of how much we miss meeting and worshipping together.

A thought to ponder: "It was never loving that emptied a heart, nor giving that emptied a purse."

**INDIANA, MILFORD**

Marcy Haab — Gwen Steffen

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Genesis 8:22

Thank you God for this fresh new year in which we may serve

you! Believers could be pleased to have the Lord return; taking us from this world into the bliss of heaven; but how thankful we are that He carries his return as long as sinners continue to seek Him. The Bible promises that the Lord is "longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come in repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

The angels in heaven rejoice with us as Tim and Marlene Steffen (Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy) no longer want to be enslaved by the world of sin and have now opened the door of their hearts to allow Christ to bring new meaning into their life.

In the deep silent depths and far out from the shore,  
Where they never may rise up to trouble you more,

I have buried them where no mortal may see;

I have cast all your sins in the depth of the sea.

— Anon.

We had our annual business meeting Jan. 6. Those elected to offices are as follows: Bro. Stan Wuthrich, Trustee; Bro. Bob Hoerr, Treasurer; Bro. Ray Haab, Bro. Carlton Beer, Bro. Tom Price, and Bro. Steve Kaiser, Sunday School teachers; Sis. Carol Haab, secretary; Sis. Gwen Steffen, Silver Lining reporter; and Bro. Maurice Beer, world relief.

We extend our sympathy to Don and Sis. Ginny Hoover and family following the death of Don's father, Bob Hoover.

**"JESUS HEARD YOU"**

Jesus heard when you prayed last night.

He talked with God about you.

Jesus was there when you fought your fight,

He is going to bring you through.

Jesus knew when you shed those tears,

You did not weep alone.  
The burdens you thought too heavy to bear,  
He made them His very own.

Jesus Himself was touched by that trial,  
You could not understand.  
Jesus stood by as you almost fell  
and lovingly clasped your hand.

Jesus cared when you bore that pain,  
indeed, He bore it too.  
He felt each pain, each ache  
in your heart  
because of His love for you.

Jesus, your Saviour, will always be with you,  
no need to be anxious or fret.  
Wonderful love, He will be there all the time,  
He has never forsaken you yet!  
Corrie ten Boom

Bros. Ken Beer, Andy Kammerer, and ministering Bro. Elmer Hartter have been hospital patients. Bro. Andy needs to have monthly therapy at Fort Wayne and Bro. Elmer will return to the hospital soon for surgery. Isn't it just wonderful to know the strength and comfort needed during illness will be given by our precious Saviour? He, with his wonderful love, has never forsaken you yet!

Bro. Oscar and Sis. Hulda (Beer) Graff celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Jan. 10. They are the parents of four daughters, Mrs. Ray (Mildred) Levy, Mrs. Eugene (Kate) Sauder, Mrs. Richard (Sis. Clara) Kaiser, and Mrs. Herbert (Phyllis) Hueni. They also have 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Our congregation has so enjoyed their being able to assemble with us. They are both so happy to be living a life truly for Jesus, striving to please Him as they go down the pathway of life.



## INDIANA PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Verene Von Tobel

Recently, you may have received a red paper heart or simply a wish for a Happy Valentine's Day. This special day was created for man's need to express his love and appreciations. As Christians, we not only want to express it, but we find it our responsibility. In a Bible dictionary, I found some of the following references to these responsibilities:

— The Christian must love God supremely and his neighbor as himself (MATT. 22:37-39).

— He must love his enemy as well as his brother (MATT. 5:43-48; ROM. 12:19-20; I John 3:14).

— Our love must be "without (hypocrisy)" (ROM. 12:9) and be "in deed and truth" (I JOHN 3:18).

Love is the bond uniting all Christian virtues (COL. 3:14). The supreme expression of love was Christ's self-sacrifice on Calvary for us.

The "little extras" we do for those around us are just as important as our other responsibilities. We are thankful that we have ministers who put "extra" effort in their lives to come and share the gospel here when we meet bi-weekly on Thursday evenings for services and fellowship. This truly creates a bond of love, through God, for each other.

The Holy Spirit directs us in love also. Sis. Dolores Topp, Francesville and Bro. Keith Schladenhauffen, Francesville (Bluffton) announced their engagement on Jan. 17, according to God's will. Dolores is a student here at Purdue. She will be graduating from nursing in May.

The verses in "Christian Friendship" (Hymns of Zion No. 91) can best express the feelings we share as we grow to know our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We were blessed with a nice group of brothers and friends who have spent eight weeks at Purdue for a short-course program. As

they return to their respective churches, we know they not only grew in knowledge, but also in bonds of friendship. These brothers and friends were: Bro. Mark Wuethrich, Francesville; Bro. Chris Wuethrich, Francesville; Bro. Brent Gutwein, Francesville; Cary Miller, Francesville; Bro. Sam Beer, Milford; Bro. Mark Fiechter, Bluffton; Bro. Lynn Fiechter, Bluffton; and Jerry Isch, Bluffton.

## INDIANA, REMINGTON

Annette Bahler — Beth Virkler

... in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. Proverbs 11:14. We were thankful for the privilege of being able to take part in hosting the winter elder conference along with the Wolcott brethren. It touched our hearts to witness the concern our shepherds have towards their flocks and the efforts they put forth. May we strive to remember them more often in our daily prayers.

Sis. Anna L. Waibel wishes to thank all that sent her cards and flowers while she was in the hospital and for her 80th birthday. She appreciated it very much.

## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Gayle Bucher

We want to thank Bro. Walt Rager and his family for sharing Christmas Eve service with us. On New Year's Eve we were privileged to have Bros. Ken Hoerr, Elmer Hartter, and Dale Strassheim with us. The meditation centered on I Cor. 13. The brothers emphasized the importance of "love in action". After the service, sandwiches, cookies, and hot chocolate were served and everyone enjoyed a blessed time of fellowship. It was a beautiful beginning for the New Year.

We held our Annual Meeting recently. Those elected to new responsibilities were: Bro. El Schumacher, Trustee; Bro. Cliff Wieland, Secretary; Bros. Bert Aeschliman, Mike Mangold, Vern

Lehman, Ushers; Sis. Mattie Clauss and Lavilla Langhofer, Dinner Chairman and Co-Chairman, Sis. Sue Beebe, Bible School Director, and Sis. Emma Lou Gerber, Silver Lining Reporter. May the Lord help each one as they accept their new duties.

Sis. Hazel Clauss has been released from the hospital after a lengthy stay. Our prayers are with her daily.

Because of the severe weather conditions we have not been able to assemble the last two Sundays for services. We so often take for granted the wonderful privilege of attending church until we are not allowed to do so.

I would like to close with this thought: If we are not as close to God as we once were, let us make no mistake about which one has moved. Unknown

## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Mary Huber — Claudia Thomas

Greetings. We at Valparaiso would like to welcome Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tianne Overmeyer to our area. We hope they enjoy their new home in Valparaiso as much as we enjoy having them here.

This New Year has started out with plenty of snow. Then, as the sun shines so brightly across the snow, it almost blinds us. I often wonder if this is not a gentle reminder from God of how He can still wash us whiter than snow. Then we too can reflect his Glory, even when days are dim. May you have a good month, and may God be with you.

## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Laurel and Kris Widmer  
Suzanne Hoerr

Commonplace

"A commonplace life," we say  
and we sigh,

But why should we sigh as we  
say?

The commonplace sun in the  
commonplace sky  
Makes up the commonplace day;  
The moon and the stars are



commonplace things  
 And the flower that blooms, and  
 the bird that sings;  
 But dark were the world and  
 sad our lot  
 If the flowers failed, and the sun  
 shone not.  
 And God who studies each  
 separate soul,  
 Out of commonplace lives makes  
 His beautiful whole.

Susan Coolidge

Bro. Chris Huber shared the day with us Jan. 3. We appreciate the time he spent with us.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18

Bro. Mark Schwab, son of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene, and Sis. Shari Bucher, daughter of Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona (La Crosse), exchanged their vows of faith and love on Jan. 3. May God bless their home. We welcome Sis. Shari to our congregation!

We surely enjoyed hosting the Mid-Year Elder Conference Jan. 13-14. Together with the Remington brethren, we sought to provide for the physical needs of all of them as they counselled together for our spiritual welfare. We thank them for their labor of love on our behalf and ask the Lord to reward them. We felt fortunate for the break in the severe weather while they were here. We also trust that they had a safe trip home to their respective churches.

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner — Kim Salek

Another New Year has come and with it another day of grace. As we so often do at the start of a new year, we need to take stock of our lives, clean out the dusty places and strive to walk a little closer to the path Christ has laid out for us. We have so much to thank Him for. Our lives are overflowing with the good gifts He has given us. The best gifts we can give Him are our lives in total submission and obedience to His Will.

Also with the new year has come winter weather. The cold and blowing snow prevented some of us from going to church one Sunday. We often do not realize how much we take for granted our freedom of mobility until we can't go anymore. There have been several days where the weather has kept us from venturing too far from home. But that too can be a blessing. Often we are so busy with moving about that we don't take the time needed to meditate on God's Word. Perhaps the weather is God's way of telling us to slow down and take time for the important things.

Along with the holidays and many family gatherings we had visiting ministers Bro. Bill Gerst, Alto, and Bro. Joe Gerst, Iowa City. Bro. Dale Strassheim of the Milford, IN congregation spent Christmas Day with us. We thank these brothers and pray that God will bless them for their continued efforts.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to our friend John Taeger and his son and family, Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy Taeger in the loss of their wife and mother Maime. We pray for God's nearness and healing in their sorrow.

Our ministering Bro. Harvey Heiniger is in the Iowa City hospital. We pray that God will be near him and his family and that God's healing arm may be extended to Bro. Harvey in His wisdom and will.

Congratulations are sent to Greg Obermann and his new wife, Kathy (Tietjens) as they were united in marriage on December 19. We wish them God's nearness in their lives as they journey together as one. Greg is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Rosie Obermann.

The Sunday School children had their annual Christmas program in Dec. It is always enjoyable to hear the children recite and sing the Christmas story in their innocence. Their love for the baby always shines through their glowing faces. It is no wonder that

we are to be as little children, as their love for the little Christ Child is so pure and true.

Our annual meeting was held in January. Bro. LaVerne Salek was put in as trustee for a five-year term and Sis. Edith Massner (Bro. Lloyd) was elected to fulfill the expired term of Silver Lining reporter. May God grant them grace as they carry out their duties in His holy church.

#### IOWA, ELGIN

Eleanor Butikofer

We are experiencing some frigid weather as the mercury tobogganed down to -16 degrees during the night and when we gaze across the meadows and hills a vast whiteness meets our eye. Yes, the snow is many inches deep. A quote comes to mind, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" We will take one day at a time, realizing that eventually the snow will melt and once again the earth will be covered with vegetables, bathed in warm sunshine and loveliness.

God has a purpose for each one of us, a work for each one to do, a place for each one to fill, an influence for each one to exert, a likeness to his dear Son for each one to manifest and then a place for each one to fill in His holy place.

A.H.

Among the happy news we want to send you the following. On Dec. 16 a baby girl was born to Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach. Her name is Darla Rose. She has three brothers, Greg, Nathan and Kent and one sister, Gill, all of whom I'm sure are very delighted with the new sister.

This is what I found out about true religion. It gives you courage to make the decisions you must make in a crisis and the confidence to leave the results to a higher Power. Only by trust in God can a man carrying responsibility find repose.

D. D. Eisenhower

Bro. Kent Banwart, son of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart of West Bend, is tentatively staying



at the Tim Butikofer residence. He is assisting Bro. Tim until spring.

The following are attending the Technical school at Calmar, IA: Milton Schneider (son of LaVern Schneider) in electricity; Tracy Butikofer (son of Bert Butikofer) in farm management technology; Leo Banwart (son of the Albert Banwarts, West Bend) in farm equipment mechanics.

In this inclement weather period it is very rewarding to feed the various wildlife residents. It's a real joy. We are seeing more cardinals coming to feed than ever before in our area and we are thankful that we have some cracked corn, oats, suet and sunflower seeds to offer the many varieties of birds that appear daily. I have seen two kinds of finches along with juncos, chickadees, jays, nuthatches and four kinds of woodpeckers.

I have no yesterdays,  
Time took them away;  
Tomorrow may not be —  
But I have today  
So may I see what God would like  
for me to do and ask Him for help  
to do just that.

#### IOWA, IOWA CITY

Susie Gramm

As we experience the snow,  
wind, and cold it's a comfort to  
know that God's grace is sufficient  
to help us endure even the  
trials of this remarkably cold  
season.

His grace is sufficient,  
Then why need I fear,  
Though the testing be hard  
And the trial severe?  
He tempers each wind  
That upon me doth blow,  
And tenderly whispers,  
"Thy Father doth know."

His pow'r is sufficient,  
Then why should I quail,  
Though the storm clouds hang  
low,  
And though wild is the gale?  
His strength will not falter,  
Whatever betide,

And safe on His bosom  
He bids me to hide.  
by Avis B. Christiansen

Our assembly has been small lately due to inclement weather and students home for the holidays. We look forward to their return.

#### IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

Wintry blasts have been prevalent since the beginning of the New Year. As with many other churches, we were forced to cancel services the second Sunday of the year due to the inclement weather. Though we were thankful for the shelter of our homes, we longed to go to church and the next Sunday was a special blessing.

On Christmas Day and the following Sunday our visiting ministers were Bros. Jon Schmidgall, Oakville, and Virgil Metzger, Champaign.

The engagement of Sis. Lois Knobloch, daughter of Bro. Si and Sis. Edith, and Bro. Rodney Mogler, son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie, was announced. A February wedding is planned. Also announced was the engagement of Sis. Jenell Wulf, daughter of Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice, and Bro. Roy Koehl, son of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys, Morris. We wish and pray for the Lord's blessings for them at this special time in their lives.

Our recent hospital patients were Lucas Metzger, son of Alvin and Marilyn, and Leah Doorneweerd. Sis. Vicki Leuthold broke her arm when she slipped on the ice. May God add His healing touch.

Two families have recently moved away. Bro. Orlie and Sis. Mary Kellenberger and family now attend the Lamar, MO church having moved to Iantha, MO. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Sue Leuthold and family have moved to Winthrop, MN. We miss them and wish them well in their undertakings.

Twenty-three new babies were

born here in 1981. There were six baptisms and no deaths. Our blessings are many.

#### IOWA, OAKVILLE

Jerilyn Wagenbach

On Jan. 17, Bro. Mark Kiefer and Sis. Mindy Teger (Burlington) were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Delores Kiefer, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington). We trust the Lord will be part of the "three-fold cord" in their home.

#### A Marriage Blessing

May God bless you with  
hope enough to keep  
morning in your love and  
fear enough to keep you  
holding hands in the dark;

unity enough to keep your  
roots entwined, and  
separation enough to keep you  
reaching for each other;

harmony enough to keep  
romance in your song, and  
discord enough to keep you  
tuning your love.

Marilyn Morgan Helleberg

We rejoice with our friend Mark Larson in that he has found peace with our Lord, and has expressed a desire to be baptized into the faith.

Notice: At Christmas time, Bro. Vernon Stoller reports that someone, possibly a visitor to Oakville, accidentally took his coat from church — a light beige, London Fog coat, size 40. Left in its place was a similar coat, but a size 38. Anyone who discovers this mistake might contact Bro. Vernon Stoller, RR 2, Burlington, Iowa 52601, or Phone — 319-937-5326.

#### IOWA, PULASKI

Ginny Wuthrich — Mary Wiegand  
How glad we were to see Bro. Dale Strassheim and his family over the holidays! Although very new in the ministry, we certainly appreciated having him help Bro. Russell Wuthrich. One very



important point that he brought out was to stand ON the Word of God — not by it or close to it, but on it. We are to stand on the Word of God and not on other books that would be man's interpretation.

One very cold and wintry day in January, several couldn't get to church because of the icy and snowy roads. Those of us who could get out met at Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich's for short services. Bro. Tim Zimmerman from Gridley, Kansas was here. He reminded us again about how evil deception is. When we think we are getting by with something that we know isn't right, we are only deceiving ourselves. It's one of Satan's best tools. We can't deceive God.

On this same day Bro. Russell Wuthrich spoke a few very timely words. We put on several layers of clothes to protect ourselves from the elements while we are outside until we can get into the protection of our homes. Are we also putting on our layers of spiritual garments to protect ourselves from the elements of the world until we can get into the protection of our Heavenly Home?

Sis. Karoline Wuthrich had surgery and is home now. She is thankful to say that she is feeling stronger every day. Chad Wuthrich, Bro. Bill and Sis. Ernestine's youngest, had an emergency appendectomy one Sunday afternoon. We hope he, too, will recover rapidly.

#### IOWA, WEST BEND

Elma Mogler — Judy Fehr

Jeff and Beth Fehr are first-time parents of a son, Christopher Lee, born Dec. 29. His grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole Fehr and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Anderson. May the Lord guide his every footstep in life.

The engagement of Tim Mogler, son of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lilly, to Gloria Wilcox of Emmetsburg was made known. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Max Wilcox. May God's blessings be upon them.

Bro. Philip Fisher was hospitalized in Rochester and is

home once again. Little Betty Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula) suffered an acute attack of appendicitis and required surgery. She is also home and doing well.

We are always grateful for ministers who visit us and feed us Spiritual Bread as did Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Dale Wulf (Lester), and Virg Metzger (Champaign-Urbana). One of the brothers exhorted if we rely upon God and not ourselves, we will have a more contented and happier life. In the coming year, we should seek to be godly and content with the Lord's provision for us, whatever it may be.

During this year the Lord has blessed us with 15 babies and five souls added to the fold. We have had five marriages and one death. We trust that the Lord will again go with us throughout another year.

#### A Creed

I'm not waiting for the sunset  
As the swift years come and go,  
I am watching for the sunrise  
And the morning's golden glow.

I'm not going down, but upward  
And the path is never dim,  
For the sky is ever brighter  
As I journey on with Him.

So my eyes are on the hilltops,  
Waiting for the sun to rise,  
Waiting for His invitation  
To my Home beyond the skies.

Author Unknown

#### TO GREET THE DAWN by Edith Jenkins

As you go through the world from  
one day to another,  
You remember all times that each  
man is your brother;  
If you like your own job whether  
menial or grand,  
And do every task just the best  
that you can;  
If you've shouldered each burden  
with courage and grace,  
You can greet each new dawn  
with a smile on your face.

If you've given a child a hope  
for tomorrow  
And have shared with a friend a  
joy or a sorrow;  
If you've dealt with your days  
in an orderly fashion,  
And looked upon suffering with  
tender compassion,  
And shared in the load of the  
whole human race,  
Then you can greet each new  
dawn with a smile on your  
face.

If you've kept your mind pure  
and your heart filled with  
love,  
And sought all your answers from  
Heaven above;  
If you've made a day brighter  
for someone you know,  
And shared your own wisdom to  
help someone grow;  
If when pursuits were immoral  
you refrained from the chase,  
Then you can greet each new  
dawn with a smile on your  
face.

If you've kept your head high,  
never let yourself mope,  
And diluted despair from the  
wellspring of Hope,  
Each time you count them, your  
blessings will double,  
You'll have so much good there's  
not room for trouble;  
If life drags or it rushes, you  
can always keep pace,  
And you'll wake up each morn  
with a smile on your face.

#### JAPAN, SHIODA

Vicki Ramseyer

Christmas was the center of many joyful events here at Shioda. On the 20th of December, the Sunday School children sang and told the wonderful news of our Savior's birth in both Japanese and English so that all who were present could understand. That same afternoon a group of us went caroling for the elderly in a local nursing home. We were particularly impressed by one dear old woman who said, she "could tell we were Christians by the looks on our faces." We also went caroling on December 21 and 23



for some of the brethren and friends in our area.

The children's play of the first Christmas really made Christmas come alive for me. Seeing the love and joy on "Mary's" face as she held her newborn son was the highlight of the whole play. The glory of the bright-faced angels made a lasting impression!

On Christmas eve we had a church pot-luck followed by a special Christmas Eve service. We were so thankful for every friend and believer who gathered with us to hear of the miraculous birth of our Savior.

Three of our members have gone abroad for winter vacations. Sis. Hiroko Natori has just returned from Spain, but Sis. Reiko Furuya will not return from Israel until January 15. Bro. Willis Ehnle is in America visiting their two sons and attending the elder meeting. We pray that God will watch over them and bring them all safely home.

In Bro. Willis' absence, Bro. Akito Inoue and Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki have shared the ministry in the country church. We want to thank Tokyo congregation for sharing so abundantly with us.

On New Year's Day many of us gathered in the house of the true and living God to hear the truth spoken by Bro. Akito. On a holiday when many Japanese go to the shrines, we were again thankful for every precious soul who chose to worship with us.

We are always so uplifted by our American visitors, but soon comes the sad time of saying farewell. Sis. Mary Beth Klotzle returned home on January 2. How we look forward to that wonderful day when there will be no more partings.

#### JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue  
"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:5

A blessed New Year to all the

Silver Lining readers! We had a blessed Sunday School Program on December 20, and quite a few children attended to celebrate Jesus' birthday. We believe that it will be a great help to them to be good believers someday. After that we served Christmas dinner. We thanked God who blessed and gave us such wonderful spiritual and physical food. Also, we had Christmas Eve Service on the evening of December 24.

Sis. Kathy's younger sister, Mary Beth Klotzle, from Altadena, California, visited Japan for several weeks and stopped here at the Tokyo Church. We enjoyed having her here and enjoyed the love and greetings from the brethren in the Altadena church. We wish to thank all those who sent us Christmas greetings. We appreciated each one of them. Thank you.

KANSAS, BERN  
Linda Esslinger

February

The month of February  
Is a snow-lace valentine  
God sends from his heart  
To yours and mine.

Author Unknown

Paul and Joan Kaeb gave their testimonies on Jan. 10. Even though the weather was bitter cold outside, inside we could feel the warmth and love that flowed from heart to heart as we welcomed them into our fold.

There were no services on Jan. 3 due to icy and snowy conditions. We were grateful to the Sabetha congregation to be able to assemble with them.

We wish to thank Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) for the inspired message on Christmas Day.

At our annual business meeting Bro. Allen Rokey was reelected as trustee and Bro. Arden Stoller was reelected on Public Address System.

Wanda Esslinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene) and Joe Guerro

have announced their engagement. They are living in Phoenix, AZ.

Sis. Minnie Meyer, age 88, passed away at the Apostolic Christian Home on Jan. 10. Services were held on Jan. 13. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Will; two sons, Bro. Harlan (Sabetha), and Harry (Salt Lake City); and two daughters, Eileen (Reuben) Lehman (Sabetha) and Elva (Roy) Lehman (Hiawatha).

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT  
Teresa Bahr

May God bless Bro. John Lehman, Bern, and his family for being with us and ministering God's Word to us.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn are the grandparents of Marla Dawn, born Jan. 12 to Joe and Sondra (Sinn) Chapman.

Doug Sinn, son of Bro. John and Sis. Carol, has been admitted to our hospital for treatment of an infection in his legs. It is our prayer that God will extend his "Healing Hand" to Doug soon as a hospital bed is not exactly a fun place for a young boy! Our sympathy is extended to the Sinn family living here at the death of their sister and aunt, Sis. Tina Schwind, Peoria, IL.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr — Gay Farney

Many years ago near the royal English residence on the Isle of Wight stood several homes for the poor and aged. A missionary, visiting some of the elderly people one day, asked a lady, "Does Queen Victoria ever call on you here?" "Oh, yes," was the answer, "Her Majesty frequently comes to see us." Then, wondering if the woman was a Christian, the missionary inquired, "Does the King of kings ever visit here?" The lady immediately gave him a happy, knowing smile and replied, "No, sir, He doesn't visit here — praise God, 'He Lives Here.' That's why we're so richly blessed!"

Our Daily Bread



Can we say as this lady did, that God lives at our house, and that's why we're so richly blessed, or would we have to be ashamed to welcome God in our home because of the things we do and allow therein? Would we talk, or act, or even think the same? Or would God's presence make a difference? We each have to come to our own conclusions, but with all our hearts, we pray that each one's answer might be "yes — praise God — He does live here — That's why we're so richly blessed!"

How precious it is when God places within our homes a tiny baby to love and care for and rear to know and love their Master, Creator, Savior, and Lord. A child is a great responsibility, but an even greater joy. Such is the case for Brenda and Brad Shur with whom little Jeramey Charles has come to live, and also for Lynne and Sharon Johnson, with whom little Sarah Elaine has come to live. Jeramey's maternal grandparents are Dale and Sis. Marie Tucker and paternal grandparents are Paul and Mary Shue, Harper. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Frieda Freiden are his great grandparents. Sarah's maternal grandparents are Bud and Sis. Helen Murrow, and paternal grandparents are Iva Beth Johnson, Kiowa, and Larry Johnson, Ames.

Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont, was in our midst with his dear wife, Sis. Clara, one weekend this month for the reading of the memorandum. To know how deeply concerned the Shepherds are for their precious flock, and to hear the many words of truth from the Scriptures, made for a truly Blessed weekend for all of us.

Bro. Arnold Ott underwent surgery for a blockage this month and we are so thankful to report that at this time all seems to be going well. Our prayer is that he may be up and out of the hospital soon and again in our midst.

Recently, we held our annual meeting on a Wednesday evening,

and as each person was elected to the various offices, a Scripture came to mind which teaches of our working together as the Body of Christ. As we begin our year of service for the Lord, may each of us read I Corinthians 12 and especially remember verse six. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God who worketh all in all.

God Bless Our Year!

Silver Lining Dues For Kiowa In February! !

#### KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

"... God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." Psalm 46:2,3,5.

"Shall not be moved" — what an inspiring declaration. Can it be possible, that we, who are so easily moved by the things of earth, can arrive at a place where nothing can upset us or disturb our calm? Yes, it is possible; and the Apostle Paul knew it. When he was on his way to Jerusalem where he foresaw that "bonds and afflictions" awaited him, he could say triumphantly, "But none of these things move me". Everything in Paul's life and experience that could be shaken had been shaken, and he no longer counted his life, or any of life's possessions as dear to him. If we will but let God have His way with us, we may come to the same place, so that neither the fret and tear of little things of life, nor the great and heavy trials can have power to move us from the peace that passeth understanding, which is declared to be the portion of those who have learned to rest only in God.

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God; and he shall go no more out." To be as immovable as a pillar in the house of our God is an end for which one would gladly endure all the shakings that may be necessary to bring us there. Hannah Whitall Smith.

When God is in the midst of a kingdom or city, He makes it as

firm as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved. When He is in the midst of a soul, though calamities throng about it on all sides and roar like the billows of the sea, yet there is a constant calm within, such a peace as the world can neither give nor take away. What is it but want of lodging God in the soul, and that in His stead the world is in men's hearts, that makes them shake like leaves at every blast of danger?

Archbishop Leighton

Our annual business meeting was held January 7. Sis. Jane Luthi was elected to Sunday School and Sis. Mary Lynn Wernli was chosen to serve as substitute. Sis. Lorene Anliker was elected to the food committee, Bro. Jay Luthi as church treasurer, Bro. Lloyd Luthi to the Personal Property Board, and Bro. Max Burnham is in charge of the parking. Those reelected were: Bro. Floyd Isch, Personal Property, Bro. Glen Anliker to Building Aid and Bro. John Wernli as an usher.

Bro. Tim Zimmerman, Gridley, was our only visiting minister. We thank him for his labor of love and wish him God's grace and blessings.

#### KANSAS, SABBETHA

Clara Steiner — Judy Hartter

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Mark Bahr, Detroit, and Bro. Tom Leman, Elgin, IL. May the Lord bless them in their labors of love. We also had all four of the Bern ministers with us on a recent Sunday. They were unable to hold services at Bern due to snow and bad roads. Many of the Bern brethren assembled with us. We enjoyed the fellowship together.

Again the waters have been stirred. Pam Edelman and Jana Meyer made their decision to turn to the Lord. Pam is the daughter of Cliff and Sis. Barbara Edelman and Jana is the daughter of Sis. Lois and Bro. Eli Meyer. It was reported in last month's news that Jana's sister, Lanette, had



also made a beginning. May the Lord grant them all His grace to continue.

Sis. Edna Steiner, 94, died Dec. 24, 1981. Survivors include one daughter, Sis. Marie Kellenberger, Sabetha; one son, Bro. Daniel Steiner, Tremont; 24 grandchildren, 62 great-grandchildren and 25 great-great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held on Sunday, Dec. 27, and burial was in the Sabetha Cemetery.

The engagement of Sis. Joleen Schmidt and Bro. Rodney Edelman was announced recently. May the Lord be with them as they make their plans for their coming marriage.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Verna Strahm and Sis. Marie Plattner.

#### KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Mary Wernli

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10

We are all rejoicing that Jana Meyer, daughter of Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois from Sabetha, has expressed her desire to seek the Lord while He may yet be found. Our prayers are that the Lord may always be her guide as she continues her education here.

We welcome Bro. Kyle Strahm, son of Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie, and Jeff Baumgartner, son of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy, both from Bern, to our group. They are on campus to take the Young Farmers' Short Course.

We welcome everyone to assemble with us again this semester for Wednesday evening services.

#### KANSAS, WICHITA Priscilla Frank

We've had very little snow here yet, but we did have one that was wet and thick enough to garnish the trees here in Wichita. I was amazed at the beauty of the trees — trees that had formerly held no attraction for me, seemed to be

wonderfully alive and beautiful. The snow had covered the imperfections, torn bark, crooked limbs, hollow knobs, and the barren state. Then the phrase came to mind — "Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." How true this phrase is.

As I think of my life and the tree that represents it, there are many imperfections — times when the bark has been stripped, times when the path has seemed crooked, and definitely times when hollow knobs have formed — thus presenting the barren state. Barren represents to me our sinful life — the time when we have nothing to give to others. There are not any leaves to hide us and we have no shade to offer to others. For me this was definitely a time of self; a time when I was not concerned about anyone else's desires but my own.

I think many of us have experienced this. It's a time when if someone were to come along and strip our bark, that we would be more than ready to return the favor, thoughtless of the pain we might cause, but, satisfied that maybe we had hurt them as much as we were hurt. This attitude definitely develops crooked limbs; for where the limb was extended in friendship, it is drawn back towards ourselves because of the broken friendship, thus resulting in a crooked limb. Then the hollow knobs begin to appear. For it's a time when we feel lonely, forsaken, and very hollow. For many of us it is also a time of regret. Regretting our actions, yet too proud to correct them. Thus we remain hollow — unless at this time we have called unto God. Called because of the conviction which has engulfed our hearts. Thus we can no longer tolerate the hollow feelings with which we are left to deal. Then we decide we've had enough and we want to change. Then the washing begins — the going and trying to make restitutions for our offenses and erring ways. As the cleansing progresses, we gain more snow on our tree until we stand amazingly

before others. The barren tree now stands before them as a beautiful tree.

The miracle of love has once more been performed. Love, like the snow, has blinded their eyes to the imperfections we possess and has covered the torn bark, crooked limbs, and hollow knobs. We now have something to offer to others — the beauty of Christ. When He is there our branches are full and we have plenty of shade and comfort to share and offer to others.

We are grateful for the new branch which has sprouted on our Wichita tree. Lori Gallantin (daughter of Joe and Sis. Kathleen) shared her testimony with us on Dec. 26 and was added to our fold Dec. 27. We pray God will strengthen her as she continues her walk with Him.

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO Jane Grawburg

We join with Bro. Paul and Sis. Margaret Jackson in welcoming their new son, Bradford. Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman, Brad's grandparents, are pleased to have him as part of the family. Carmen, Brad's sister, is also very glad to have him home.

Bro. Ferdinand Grawburg was in the hospital this last Christmas. He was home in a few days. Lord willing, things will be somewhat better now.

My class in Sunday School is learning about the love God shared with the children of Israel, while He helped them, in so many ways, to reach the Land of Canaan. God's love is so very wonderful. In our daily walk of life, let's be sure of the promise that God's love will be with us, always.

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Linda Ramseyer

We appreciated having visits from Bro. Donald Gudeman from LaCrosse and Bro. Homer Reinick from Toledo during the past month. We thank them for coming to minister God's word unto us.



Our annual meeting was held on Jan. 6 and the congregation gave new responsibilities to the following brothers and sisters. Bro. Jim Schwartz, Bro. Bill Waibel and Sis. Janet Kober were chosen as Sunday School teachers. The treasurer is Bro. Wallace Wackerle, the new trustee is Bro. Victor Knochel, and Sis. Alvina Wackerle was chosen to be on the cooking committee. Our prayers and support will be with them as they take on their new duties.

Sis. Faye (Bro. Frank) Wackerle has been hospitalized this past month. Our prayers have been with her daily during the time she has been in the hospital. Our thoughts have also been with Sis. Sue (Bro. Don and Sis. LouAnn) Wieland, as she was hospitalized for a few days after a car accident. We are glad to hear she is at home again and pray for her quick recovery.

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT Helen and Bonnie Popp

Each day has many opportunities for us — that in our daily walk of life we can show others of our living faith. Also, we have the opportunity to remain close in God's will to allow His will to be carried out more fully. May we ever strive to do this more graciously — and never become an obstacle to His will and purpose.

#### THIS DAY

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

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

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

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

Bro. Dan Knochel was elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the Apostolic Christian Children's Home at Leo. This will be a five-year term. We offer our prayers and support for Bro. Dan in this work.

There was so little news to report this month. And yet, the greatest news of all is ever present — that of Jesus and His love. May His love warm our hearts and brighten our lives more each day.

#### MINNESOTA, MORRIS Jan Schock — Pam Sutter

The clock of life is wound but  
once,  
And no man has the power to tell  
Just when the hands will stop  
At late or early hour.  
Now is the only time you own:  
Live, love, toil with a will,  
Place no faith in tomorrow;  
For the clock may then be still.  
Author Unknown

We rejoice with Tim Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane) that he has answered the Master's call while there is yet time. Our new Sis. Sara (Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma) Dogotch gave her testimony and was baptized on Jan. 3. Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) were here for the joyous occasion. They also shared the memorandum with us.

Bro. Eph and Sis. Eunice Koehl recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them God's blessings.

Our thanks go to Bro. Carl Hartman (Sabetha, KS) who spent Christmas Day with us.

Hospital patients this month have been Doug Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen) and Barry Koehl (Bro. Dale and Sis.

Lillie). May the Lord provide healing and strength for each one.

#### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Carol Messner Mary Lou Schmidt

#### GOD'S THREE ANSWERS

Remember when you pray to God — The answers are but three: Yes, No, or Wait A While — Whichever it may be! If right away you get your wish — you know that God said yes — as He so kindly favors you — with special happiness! If He rejects a certain dream — that you would have come true — He is denying something that would not be good for you! These answers are quite obvious — as you may weep or smile — but now and then God asks that you would wait just a little while! So when it seems that you receive — no answer right away — be patient and have a faith in God — at least for one more day!

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together — Heb. 10:25 — we are reminded of this in God's precious word. Because of the elements of winter storms in MN, we have cancelled church twice. How thankful we were to be in God's house on Sunday, praising Him and fellowshiping with one another.

Many times we take our church services for granted, not realizing how precious they are to us, until we cannot gather together.

One Sunday we enjoyed hearing the word ministered to us by Bro. Noah Miller of Minneapolis. Thankfulness fills our hearts for those who take time to visit and remember us.

On Dec. 27, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt and Elder Bro. Harold and Sis. Geri Messner, were surprised to find friends, relatives, and loved ones gathered in the basement of Bro. Elmer's house for a surprise 40th Wedding Anniversary singing for them.



Truly it is a joy when we can share in the happiness of our precious loved ones!

We welcome Bro. Jerry and Sis. Sue Leuthold to our small congregation here at Winthrop. They are formerly of the Lester, Iowa area. Their children are: Stacy, Sherri, Quinn and Chet.

Construction of our new fellowship hall is progressing nicely. If all goes well, we hope to have it completed sometime in late April. We are all getting anxious to see it completed.

#### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Janice Lehman

"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph. 2:21-22.

After many months of planning and building, we assembled for our first service in our new edifice on Dec. 20. Ministering Bros. Gene Marti, Sam Huber, Harold Kraft, Wayne Miller, and Glen Funk were present with us for this blessed day.

The same week-end, we witnessed the first baptism in our new church. Bridget Mahon of Kansas City gave her testimony and was welcomed into our little flock.

Another new addition to our group is Benjamin Wayne Miller, who was born to Sis. April and Bro. Dennis. Grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Martha Wiegand of Oakville, IA, and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller of Ft. Scott.

Hospital patients were Sis. Wilma Farney and Bill Rogers. They are both assembling with us again.

Visiting ministers during January have been Bros. Willis Ehle, Gene Marti, Ben Wysong, and Bill Emsch.

We appreciate the effort put forth as the ministers of the Kansas churches and Lamar, MO make it possible for us to have services every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Our new address is

301 W. Blue Ridge and the telephone number is 816-941-0851.

We that assemble here in the Kansas City church would like to express a thank you to all who gave donations to make it possible to have a new house of worship. Many brethren and friends donated uncountable hours of labor. May the Lord richly bless each individual who contributed in any way to the building of another holy temple in the Lord.

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Hohulin — Sandra Marti

We extend a warm welcome to the Orlan Kellenberger family who have recently moved to our area from Lester, IA. We hope that they can feel God's love and nearness as they settle in their new home.

Our annual business meeting was held on Jan. 11. Bro. Ray Luthi is our newly elected trustee. Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Dan Braker and Sis. Becky Marti. May they follow God's leading as they fulfill their duties. Each of us have our responsibilities in the household of God. We must strive to work together in peace and unity.

Bro. Dean Marti was a hospital patient recently. Our prayers were answered, as he is able to assemble with us again.

On Jan. 8, Roger Marti and Nancy Hurst were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Alice, and Phil and Thelma Hurst. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

#### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Dan Gudeman

The elder body has given approval and encouragement to hold services in the St. Louis, MO area. Elder Bros. Steve Rinkenberger and Roy Grimm will provide schedules for visiting ministers on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Morning and afternoon services will be held at the Harley Hotel (13440 Riverglen Drive, St. Louis, MO, 63015) starting at 10:30 a.m. The Harley

Hotel is located at the first exit west of interstate 270 on I70. If you know of anyone interested in attending, please contact Bro. Dan and Sis. Becky Gudeman, 14359 Lake Tahoe, Chesterfield, MO, 63017. Phone: 314-275-2227. Visitors on business, vacation or in St. Louis for medical care are invited to worship with us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR  
Loida Hodel

Happy New Year!

Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear; rather look to them with full hope that, as they arise, God, whose you are, will deliver you out of them. He has kept you hitherto — do you but hold fast to His dear hand, and he will lead you safely through all things; and, when you cannot stand, He will bear you in His arms. Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow, and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, and put away all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

Frances De Sales

Among the special blessings of 1981 were nine new babies (eight boys), eight marriages and seven baptisms. The author, Helen S. Rice, quotes our wishes for all in '82 in the following:

"You are ushering in another day  
Untouched and freshly new  
So here I come to ask Thee, God,  
If you'll renew me, too,  
Forgive the many errors  
That I made yesterday  
And let me try again, dear God,  
To walk closer in Thy way —  
But, Father, I am well aware  
I can't make it on my own  
So take my hand and hold it  
tight  
For I can't walk alone!"

"Commit thy way unto the Lord;



trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass."

Psalms 37:5

"In the breast of a bulb  
Is the promise of spring;  
In the little blue egg  
In a bird that will sing;  
In the soul of a seed  
Is the hope of the sod;  
In the heart of a child  
Is the "Kingdom of God."

Stidger

Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp are happy first time parents of "Jordan Adair," born Dec. 21. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp of our congregation and Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz of Oakville, IA, are grandparents.

Danny and Jody Meyers have a new little son, Cory Mark, born Jan. 12. Eight-year-old Dana is thrilled to have a baby brother and maternal grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Charlene Sutter, are very happy to have a grandson, their first. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Meyers of Palmyra, MO.

Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm are visiting their daughter and husband, Sis. Wendy and Bro. Jeff Gutwein of Francesville, IN and getting acquainted with a new granddaughter, Shawna Lynn, born Jan. 1, 1982.

We have been experiencing a very cold January, but we have so much to be thankful for. May we always remember those less fortunate with our gifts, prayers and words of encouragement.

"May God bless you with . . . a clear dawning, a cool morning, a warm noonday, a golden sunset, a gentle twilight, a starlit night, and if clouds should cross your sky, may God give you the faith to look for the silver lining.

R. Schuller

"Thou wilt keep Him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in Thee." Isa. 26:3.

### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

Sis. Minnie Cook has been able to attend church more regularly during recent weeks. Her nephew, Bro. Walter Rumpf, drives many miles out of his way on Sunday morning to pick her up at her rest home in Lincoln Park, N.J. Her presence is appreciated by all. The numbers in our little church have dwindled to a very few which makes the weekly fellowship ever more precious and the Holy Word more meaningful and comforting.

### NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 20.

On Dec. 27 funeral services were conducted by Bros. John Widrick and Norbert Steiner for Sis. Sarah Virkler who was taken home from this earthly life. Sis. Sarah patiently endured many years of disability while she was confined at the homes of her sons and in the later years at the Extended Care Facility of Lewis County General Hospital in Lowville. Her survivors include her sons, Bro. Howard and Bro. Clyde of Lowville, and Bro. Lowell of Croghan, and grandchildren and great grandchildren. Our sympathy is extended to her family. The family wishes to thank everyone who so kindly remembered them with prayers, cards, and donations at the time of her death, and also the many deeds of kindness extended during the years of her confinement. May God richly bless each one for their love and concern.

We assembled with the Naumburg congregation on Wednesday evening, Dec. 30, for a covered dish supper and evening of singing and fellowship. It was a special occasion for us to be with our friend Benjie Herzig who was visiting his family for the first time since his accident in Virginia two years ago. We are thankful to see the improvement in his condition and pray that sufficient progress can be made so he can

again return to his home.

We are thankful that God still calls loved ones unto His ways even in the sunset years of life. Antoinette and Martha Schulz have felt the need of their souls' salvation and are awaiting the day when they can become Children of God. They are unable to assemble with us but we remember them in our prayers.

Our hospital patients this month have been Bro. Ted Virkler, Sr., and Pernal Virkler (Bro. Howard), as medical patients and Sis. Mable Ebersol and Sheila Virkler as surgical patients. At this writing, Sis. Pearl Lehman is a hospital patient.

### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

The Sunday School children did very well with their Christmas program. It was enjoyed by all.

Bro. Leland Hirshey is in the House of the Good Samaritan, Watertown, for knee surgery.

Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner returned home safely from the conference for which we are so thankful. They traveled through a lot of stormy weather.

### OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

"We must continually read the Scripture, we must rehearse it, and speak oft one with another upon the Word." This was among the inspiring teachings brought to us by Bro. Loren Strahm of Kansas, when he and his family favored us with a weekend visit.

Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako had the joy of their two daughters having a double wedding ceremony. Their oldest girl, Rose, was united in marriage to Azam Yahi and their next daughter, Esther, to Tibor Zsoldos. Since both of these husbands are from out of the country, we welcome them into our community and into our church fellowship.

We are sorry Sis. Bethi Graf slipped on the snow, fell, and broke her pelvis. After a short hospitalization, she is at home



recovering well.

Bro. Joe Ramseyer came to assist Bro. Rudy Graf and Bro. Gene Pamer in reading the memorandum from the 1981 conference.

### OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

Visiting us this month and sharing with us the Word of Life was ministering Bro. Ken Sauder from Mansfield. We were strengthened by the Bread of Life he shared with us.

Many of us learned to more fully appreciate our Sunday worship together on Jan. 10. Because of very cold temperatures and high winds, church services were cancelled and we spent Sunday at home with our families. I believe we also learned during this Sunday to better appreciate the brethren across the land such as Bro. Eli Manz of our home congregation, who spends time recording our sermons on tapes. Bro. Eli has collected hundreds of sermons and would be more than willing to share these with any interested brethren. Inquiries can be mailed to Eli Manz, PO Box 48, Paulding, OH 45879.

Dec. 26 will be a day Roger Manz and the former Lisa Larimore will always remember as the day they exchanged vows of faithfulness until death before God and earthly witnesses. Roger's parents, Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn and his family welcome Lisa into their family.

Bro. Les and Sis. Karen Manz are thankful for their little daughter, Kari Lynn, born Jan. 8. Chad also enjoys his little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Klopfenstein (Latty) and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn.

### OHIO, LATTY

Susie Sinn — Cheryl Wenniger

Our congregation has again been blessed with two new additions. Mitchell Ross Schlatter is welcomed home by his brothers, Matthew, Adam, and Vince, his

parents, Gus and Sis. LeAnn, and his grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Elsie. Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Rager are also first-time parents with the arrival of David Joseph. The grandparents are Bill and Sis. Elsie Rager and Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller of Wolcott.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized this past month. They are Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy), Ross Laukhuf (Larry and Charlotte), Shelly Grant (Bro. Tom and Sis. Delores), and Sis. Barb Stoller (Bro. Bill). May they feel God's healing hand and nearness.

Ministering brothers John Isch (Indianapolis) and Dan Stoller (Remington) brought us the true Word of Life. We thank them for their labors of love and pray that God will bless them for their efforts.

Our congregation is rejoicing with angels in Heaven as many souls have found the need of repentance and conversion. Our new converts are Gary Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann), Todd Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee), Jason and Jody Williamson (Robert and Sis. Janet), Kirk Stoller (Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva), Bruce Rosswurm (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman), Scott and David Gerber (Roger and Sis. Eunice), Jerry Plummer (Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann), and LaVonne Stoller (Bro. Gail and Sis. Janet). We are thankful that they could answer the call and pray that God will give them grace to do His Will.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

LOVE OF ALL GIFTS IS THE GREATEST . . . Some years ago, Bro. Merrill Laukhuf spoke the following of an incident which he had read which illustrates true love. He said, "There was a small school, I believe in the Virginia hills, a one room school where there were boys and girls of all ages. They had a difficult time getting an instructor or a teacher to come into that community and to stay there and teach because

the older boys were hard to handle. Finally, a young man came in and he said, 'I will take the job.' He went into that room and his heart was filled with fear. Before he went into any instructions, he said, 'First of all, people, we must make some rules. I will write them and you tell me what to write.' The children's hands went up. One said no stealing, another said no cheating, another said no "this" and another said no "that". Soon there was a nice list of rules and the teacher said, 'Now, we have some rules, but these are of no value unless we have a penalty. There must be some punishment for those who break these rules.' Again, the children participated and they said for those who steal, ten lashes upon the back without even a coat on and so forth. Soon the list was completed. Classes then began. One day, one of the older children's lunch came up missing. They found that little Timmy had taken this lunch. He was called forth to the front of the room and the instructor said, 'Remove your coat.' He cried and he pleaded, 'Please let me keep my coat on.' He came from a poor family. He was hungry, that's why he stole the food. The instructor said again, 'Remove your coat.' He took his coat off. He didn't even have a shirt on, as he only had one shirt and today his mother was going to wash it. But yet there was the penalty that had to be given. The instructor's heart ached, knowing that he would have to beat this child with the wooden rod, 10 lashes upon the back. As he was about to begin, the big boy whose lunch he had stolen, stood up and said, 'Pardon me, if you don't mind, I will take his beating.' He came forward and the teacher, feeling sorry for the little boy, began to give him the lashes. As the rod broke on the fifth strike, the young man came forward and he embraced big John. He said, 'I am very sorry I stole your lunch. I'm awful sorry, I will love you forever for taking my beating.' This was only 10



lashes upon the back but the young man demonstrated a love which we should think about when we think of our Lord and Savior hanging upon the cross and the blood flowing from his side. We should have hung there, we should have been in his place."

Our beloved Bro. Jesse Beer celebrated his 100th birthday on December 19. He was well enough to come to Mansfield from Rittman for the occasion where he was honored at a family gathering. The students at Jesse Beer School, a school named for Bro. Jesse, also helped him to celebrate the occasion.

We are pleased to report that several new babies have been born since our last report. The happy new parents are: Dale and Cindy (Roberts) Fry who have a new baby girl born December 16, 1981, named Lachelle Lynn. Bro. and Sis. Dave Roberts are the grandparents.

Jerry and Sis. Claudia Gadd welcome a new son, Jonathan Edward, born December 21, 1981. Mildred Dolce is the pleased grandmother.

Rick and Sis. Susan Foss are first time parents of a new son, Elijah James, who arrived on January 3, 1982. Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara Zimmers are the grandparents.

Dave Roberts has been hospitalized twice this past month due to an accident where he received a broken leg. Marilyn Griffon Daugherty suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized.

Loving sympathy is extended to Sisters Martha Mayer, Frances Gage and Esther Zody in the recent passing of their brother, John Gage, who died January 2, 1982 at the age of 63. We trust the Lord will comfort these dear ones.

#### OHIO, RITTMAN

Janette Blough  
Florence Hartzler

We are pretty well into another new year once again. May we strive to try a little harder in our daily walk of life to serve Our Lord.

#### Your Own Version

You are writing a Gospel,  
A chapter each day,  
By deeds that you do,  
By words that you say.

Men read what you write,  
Whether faithless or true;  
Say, What is the Gospel  
According to you?

Paul Gilbert

Annual church elections were held at the beginning of the year. The following positions were filled: kitchen help, Sis. Hope Gasser; Nursing Home Auxiliary, Sis. Liz Gasser and Sis. Yvonne Beery; Nursing Home Board, Bro. Elton Rufener; Fellowship Hall trustee, Bro. Ken Hartzler; Church Trustee, Bro. Ike Rufener; Usher, Bro. Dave Rufener.

Debbie Zollinger and Mark Steiner have become engaged. Debbie is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger. We wish them our Lord's blessings.

Holly Nicole is the name of Bro. Stan and Sis. Margy Winkler's new little baby girl. Holly has a little brother, Ryan, and her grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Stella Winkler and Bro. Karl and Sis. Ruth Beery. Great-grandmother is Sis. Maggie Bauman.

Bryan and Wendi Fetty are first-time parents with the birth of their little daughter named Breinne Quinn. Grandparents are Roy and Sis. Wilda Fetty and great-grandmother is Sis. Mildred Ruesser.

Also first time parents are Ivan and Wanda Maibach who have a little son, Ryan Wayne. Ryan's grandparents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Lillian Maibach.

Bob and Sis. Deanna Arnold are first time parents with the birth of a son, Charles Rudolph. Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger are his grandparents and great-grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Lillian Zollinger.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Gail Emch

have a new little daughter, Melanie Gale. Melanie has two little brothers, Bryan and John, and her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen Emch. Great-grandmother is Sis. Caroline Emch.

We are glad that those from our congregation who were hospitalized are home again. They are Bro. John Hartzler, Nathan Garrison and Ellen Blough. We hope the Lord will bless them and give them good health once again.

#### OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehklau

Prayer has many inspiring aspects. One of most importance is the realization that we are not alone in this overwhelming universe. God who made us and the world in which we live has a purpose for His creation.

When we think of the truth, that God really cares for people as insignificant as we, it overwhelms us with wonder. But we are not insignificant. We are a part of a created order and have an important part to fulfill in this order.

We can talk to God through prayer. As a part of His creation, we can commune with Him. If one wants to go through life indifferent to the God who made him, he can do so, but his life may become one of despair. The God of love controls His creation and we can have the benefits of that love if we so desire.

Bro. Chris Weigele has been in the hospital for medical care. We are thankful that he is again able to worship with us.

#### OREGON, PORTLAND

Connie Steffen

Winter, with its snow and ice, or whatever may come in cold weather, is not always appreciated. Perhaps it is rain or wind in the West; maybe it's the bitter cold of the Midwest and East, but what would we do with out these adversities? We plan for winter's crispness and "work out" the things we will do through



these times. We become aware of certain things and prepare for them. In some ways that's the way our lives are; we look ahead and see the time fast approaching when we will be in the winter of life, and if we are wise we will prepare, and begin now to diligently lay up our treasures, not for the winter of life, but for the Beautiful Spring of Eternity. Just as spring follows winter here, the Glory of Heaven will be like spring for those who await the day when the Lord will call our name.

Election was recently held for two trustees; Bros. Ray Moser and Steve Miller were chosen. We wish them the Lord's blessings, that all things may be done to the glory of the Lord.

Now seems like such a nice time to look forward to the pleasant days of summer, with it's vacation times, and hope you will plan to come west and visit us. Please call or write and let us know when we can look forward to fellowshipping with you.

#### OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We welcome Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Edna Kyburtz and their grandson David Kyburtz of Wolcott, IN, who are spending a few of the winter months here in Oregon.

Thirty-one children and youths participated in the Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday evening, December 20. As we listened to their presentation of poems, readings and songs we were again impressed with the beauty of childhood. It is no wonder we are told to come "as a little child", when one can observe the innocent enthusiasm of the little children as they joyously tell of their love for Jesus through the pieces they have carefully learned for the occasion. Brethren, parents, friends and children concluded our evening sharing Christmas cookies and hot chocolate together. The Sunday School teachers and the brothers who helped with the young people's singing group are

sincerely appreciated.

Two well-packed vans of adults and teenagers spent one enjoyable evening Christmas caroling. Half a dozen or more stops were made at various homes and one nursing home. Our last stop was at the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich for hearty refreshments. We hope we brought as much joy to others as we ourselves received in the process.

We were recently pleased to hear one of our grade school children support our custom of attending church on Christmas morning to their astounded schoolmate who had inquired what we do on Christmas morning. At what better place could we be to acknowledge the birth of God's only begotten son? We were thankful to see that so many of our young people thought it worthwhile to worship with us on Christmas Day.

Visitors over the holidays were enjoyed by several of our families. We had company from Phoenix, AZ, Roanoke, IL, Wolcott, IN, Bern, KS, and visiting min. Bro. Robt. Miller and Sis. Pearl from Portland, OR. Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane Winkler hosted a singing at their home on New Years Eve. The year of 1981 ended, singing praises to the Lord.

In looking back on 1981 our church recorded three births, no deaths, one marriage, three baptisms, six new members and three families relocated in Silvertown from other areas. This brings our congregation to 18 families, 33 members and 28 in the Sunday School.

We agree with our ministering brothers when they pray that our little flock grow in Spirit as well as in number.

The first Saturday night of the new year the brothers held their annual business meeting at the home of Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi. As a result of the prayerful consideration of the brotherhood it was decided to hold elections by the membership for

all church offices. On Sunday, January 10, four new Sunday School teachers and two new ushers were chosen; Bro. Nick Kuenzi and Sis. Barb Metzger each with two year terms and Bro. Jim Dietrich and Sis. Carol Dietrich each with a one year term in the Sunday School. Bro. Ben Bolliger was chosen for a two year term as usher and will be assisted by Bro. Rich Kuenzi who will serve a one year term. May the Lord bless each one for their labors in His service and may we all support them with our prayers and our actions. Brothers to serve as treasurer and trustees will be selected at a later date.

#### PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA DEVAULT

Dolores Rapp

Each of us in Philadelphia had a blessed Christmas gathering with family and friends and all are anticipating a prosperous 1982 in the Lord.

With winter's chilly winds and snows our visitors have been few, so we were pleasantly surprised to have guests from Bay City, Chicago and Rockville the first week of January.

Bro. Dave Wegman, who has been working as a pharmacist in Carlyle, PA and worshipping with us, has accepted a position at a hospital in Galena, IL. We miss his presence very much and wish him the Lord's blessings in his new job.

#### TEXAS, ZAPATA

Margery Koehl

We enjoyed hearing Bro. Carroll Gerber from the Bluffton, IN congregation who was our visiting minister on Wed. Jan. 6. Elder Bro. John Bahler and Sis. Julia are new winter residents with us. We enjoyed Bro. John's message Sun., Jan. 10. We welcome them to our community.

Sis. Esther Wyss Beer died in Eureka, IL on Sat. Oct. 10, 1981 at 12:15 p.m. A note was later found in her bed-side Bible at home. It read:



So long a time has passed since  
 I was free  
 to walk or even sit and be  
 like others are  
 yet, I have learned so much  
 that they may never know  
 a nearness to God, a greater  
 love and so  
 I think that I've been  
 blessed by this  
 my seeming helplessness.

Esther Beer

#### WEST VIRGINIA NEW MARTINSVILLE

Minnie Weltz — Della Witschey

We have experienced the same kind of weather that has hit most of the United States the early part of January but at this time, much better weather is here.

Frank Barth who was very badly injured in a tractor accident on October 1, 1981 has been moved to his home in Parkersburg and is being cared for by his family. He has spent almost fifteen weeks in two hospitals, endured several operations, and endless days of anxiety for his family, but at this writing is slowly showing improvement.

W. E. Durig was a hospital patient during December and is recuperating at his home.

The annual meeting of the country church was not held in January due to illness and weather conditions, but will be held soon.

Miss Della Witschey was a hospital patient in December but is now back in the nursing home. She had skin grafting on her legs but is still able to do a bit of quilting at times.

The descendants of the late Fred and Rosa Thomas, formerly of Limestone Ridge held a "cousins party" on October 10th, 1981 in the home of Elizabeth, Naomi and Margaret Witschey. There were 26 cousins present, including one from St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Carolers from the Sardis Church did their annual visitation of homes, hospital and nursing homes at Christmas time. The group was large enough to divide

into three groups, going different ways and ending up at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Indermuhle for a bounteous supper.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Akron, OH, were spending a few weeks in Florida but were called home on January 16 by the death of a sister-in-law of Mr. Williams in Parkersburg, WV. They will return to Florida for a few more weeks of warmer weather.

#### Hymn of the Month THE SECRET PLACE OF PRAYER

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When we go alone at evening  
 To the secret place of pray'r  
 We will find the Savior waiting,  
 For He longs to meet us there;  
 He's a friend so true and  
 faithful,  
 For He notes the sparrow's fall,  
 And He'll hear the faintest  
 whisper  
 When in faith on Him we call.

Here we meet with disappoint-  
 ments,

Pain and sorrow oft we bear,  
 For we fail to go to Jesus,  
 At the secret place of pray'r;  
 There He's waiting to receive us,  
 Yes, He longs our souls to bless,  
 When to Him we come repenting,  
 And our ev'ry sin confess!

Just like Daniel, always  
 faithful,

Go to God each day in pray'r,  
 Pow'r He'll give you over Satan  
 Who seeks ever to ensnare;  
 As you tarry there in secret,  
 Sweetest fellowship, divine,  
 For He always gives the  
 blessing,  
 Yes, He answers just in time!

Chorus —

What a privilege to carry  
 ev'rything to God in pray'r  
 When our hearts are torn and  
 bleeding,  
 And we need His tender care;  
 He's a friend so true and  
 faithful,

Even notes the sparrow's fall,  
 And He'll hear the faintest  
 whisper,  
 When in faith on Him we call!

## KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

Elder Bro. Ezra Feller  
 Cissna Park, IL Congregation

Upon request, I will endeavor to give a brief autobiography of my Pilgrimage to Zion.

My youthful years were spent on my father's farm. I did get a minimum of schooling when we were not too busy on the farm and had two six-week terms of German schooling.

The year 1917 was very outstanding to me. On April 2, my mother passed away at the Proctor Hospital in Peoria, IL at the age of 55. My brother Albert drowned on June 5, the same year at the age of 20. After this tragedy we found his Bible open on his dresser in I Samuel 20:3 ". . . but truly as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death." Verse 5 ". . . but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even."

And so it was, the third day Albert was found 1½ miles down stream. This was to me the loudest sermon ever preached. My repentance began that very evening at the age of 14. The year 1917 held much gloom and sorrow for our family, however, when God spoke peace to my soul, the brightness seemed to overshadow the gloom.

Among other testimonies and omens, Song No. 36 in Zion's Harp stood out. "Tearful sowing brings glad harvest." However, the same hymn also pointed out there would be sultry days.

The winter of 1922-23 I spent working in Peoria, and lodged with Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Caroline Hugh. I felt I was taken into their home as one of the family. When parting time came, real tears were shed.

As trees began to green up and the birds began to sing in the spring, I became lonesome for the country. I didn't really feel the city was for me, so I took my burden to the Lord in prayer, and was led to the 23rd verse in Romans



15: "But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you. . ." So I did board the train headed for Oakville, IA, where I had longed to go for some time. I found employment first with Bro. Emil Bessler. Later I was hired by Bro. Noah Schrock tending and repairing machinery, which he had plenty of. I really enjoyed my work, also the spiritual environment and Godly atmosphere. Here I sensed the Godliness with contentment is great gain.

On March 8, 1925, I married Sis. Ollie Bucher at LaCrosse, IN. Elder Bro. Rouch from Bluffton, IN had the wedding ceremony in the German language. We enjoyed a very simple wedding, but have had many hundreds of blessings ever since. My dear wife made the remark some time before she had by proposal, "No Cissna Park for me!" However she has endured 56 years in this vicinity, and I do not recall one complaint concerning the matter. We were blessed with nine healthy children, including twins, Sis. Loretta (Ken) Bauer, Sis. Elna (Bob) Grimm, Bro. Lynn Feller, Sis. Gerry (Al) Neukomm, Bro. Don Feller, Sis. Dona (Roy) Grimm, Bro. Todd Feller, Bro. Dale Feller, and Sis. Joan (Fred) Waldbeser.

I did render my weak service in the Sunday School approximately 15 years. Sometime in the 1930's we attempted a singing school in our home with a few neighbors. Later we held singing school once a week in the old church Sunday School room. At times this room was filled to near capacity.

I served in the Sunday School until the year 1943 when Bro. Ben Walder and I were elected to serve in the ministry. It was with much reluctance that I accepted this duty. In the year 1965 the mantle of eldership was laid upon me. Here again many comments could be made, however the scriptures bear out "many books can be a weariness of the flesh." I only wish to say "dark clouds do have a silver lining. The song writer said it well, 'Burdens are lifted at Calvary.'"

\* It is with concern that I lay down this mantel. If it were not for the many answered prayers it would be difficult. The Word of God is the anchor that holds. I did find rest and ease when the Lord led me to the scripture in Ezra 10:4: "Arise; for this matter be-

longeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it."

I feel grateful for the cooperation and good support of the great majority of our members. Many, many prayers have been answered. I also feel at ease knowing that our congregation is well provided for. May God's richest blessings rest upon our congregation forever. Many thanks to everyone for your love, patience and prayers. I invoke God's richest blessings upon you all.

#### WE APOLOGIZE!

We sincerely want to apologize for some of the problems with the January issue of the Silver Lining. Some changes are being made in the printing of the Silver Lining, and hopefully we will soon have the bugs worked out. If your issue had a page that wasn't printed or an over-print, please let us know if you desire another copy. Again, please forgive us for the complications last month. With the help and grace of God, we plan to continue to do our best for the Lord.

Address Changed? Give Your Old and New Address to Your Reporter and Include Your Zip Code.

Sermon —

(continued from page 32)

little season." Rev. 20:1-3. Beloved ones, let us be wise enough to understand how evil Satan is. The devil is a spirit which goes to and fro among men and deceives them. Man is often unaware of what is going on, and it is pitiful when man is so deceived that he does not realize whether he is walking in the light or whether he is walking in darkness. Satan is very powerful, and it will be a blessed time when God sends the angel to bind him. Then the blessed of the earth will reign with Christ for a thousand years. I ask you "Is there a soul here who wouldn't want to take part in the first resurrection and be a part of this?"

Beloved, at that time it will be revealed who belongs to the

kingdom which God is erecting today upon the earth and which was revealed to Daniel. The stone which became a great mountain refers to our Saviour whom God sent to build His kingdom.

We are thankful when we see evidence of the building. Souls who confess that they have lived in sin and make restitution where they can gain peace. Beloved ones, we must walk in "newness of life" as servants of God.

When we read the Old Testament, we find that God told His people, "I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight." Jer. 9:24.

Beloved ones, the Saviour sent the Holy Spirit to guide us in our way. We find that we are poor fallible beings with no strength of ourselves and we need the grace of God. But let us not be deceived. Let us not let Satan lead us to think that we will be the dwellers of heaven if we do not walk in the Spirit. Righteousness can only be accomplished through faith and the Spirit of God. I invite every person, all of us, to search the Scriptures to see whether or not this is so. God will reveal this to the humble and to the meek.

Think again of Daniel. Did Daniel take any credit? Daniel took no credit when he came before the king. The king asked a lot. He asked to be told his dream. He himself couldn't tell a word of what it was about, and so we have to recognize that God revealed to Daniel both the dream and the interpretation of it. Beloved ones, did Daniel take the credit? When the king asked if he could reveal the dream and its interpretation, Daniel said, "There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets." Dan. 2:28. It is the same today.

What did Jesus say to Peter? He asked Peter, "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter said, "Thou art the Christ." The Lord said, "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 16:15-17. The things which will count in all



eternity are only revealed by God himself, and man can never take the credit.

In fact, let us never take any credit for the redemption of the souls of men. It is the work of God. It is only the work of God. Fathers and Mothers would help sons and daughters if they could. Brothers or sisters would help their brothers or sisters if only they could, but this is something that God must reveal. It must come out of a heart that wants it and recognizes it. It must come to one who is willing to be humble and meek as Daniel was.

The first resurrection is going to be a blessed event. Satan will be bound and I've often wondered how it will be when Satan is bound. I've often thought how beautiful it would be here on earth if Satan were not present, with no temptation but only peace and joy abounding. There would be no evil thoughts; all the former evil things would be gone. This would be a most wonderful and blessed state.

God desires that such a blessed state would be in the hearts of men. Is this an impossibility? No, it is not an impossibility. If anyone thinks that, he discredits the power of God because this is what God expects to establish. He expects his Holy Spirit to dwell and rule in converted souls. If the Lord rules, there is peace in the heart.

Beloved brothers and sisters, let us be wise enough to recognize the presence of the devil, Satan. Satan brings things to us in our great weakness because we carry flesh and blood. Satan is a deceiver who can sometimes trick us so that we might do something that would defile the blessed state of peace in our hearts. If this should ever happen, while we still can let us re-establish the state of peace; if this peace is disturbed, we always feel it. When God sends His angel, in the twinkling of an eye, to bind this great devil, Satan, we want our hearts to be in peace to welcome the sight of God bringing an end to

this world and the beginning of the new one.

Let us also consider the second death after the thousand years have expired. "Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth," and he will "gather them together to battle; the number of whom is as the sand of the sea." Rev. 20:7,8.

It is a sorry thing in this great battle that the number of people who have been deceived is so huge. They will take part, but we all want to escape. I often think of the longing in my heart to escape that which is going to come upon the earth. I hope that I'm no longer here. I hope, when God appears in the clouds of glory, that I can arise from the sleep of death to meet Him, or be caught up if I should be alive. I hope that everyone here can escape this great thing which is going to come. It is going to come, beloved. God has said it. God is faithful and, as we heard this morning, God is fair because He forewarns us.

"And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: (I hope I'm there in the city) and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." Rev. 20:9. These are things we should consider. Perhaps we don't understand everything in these words, but if we fear God, we will look within our hearts to see whether the Lord dwells there or whether Satan dwells there.

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them." Rev. 20:10,11.

Isn't there a longing in your heart to see that day? Isn't there a longing to see the majesty of God?

We are given a glimpse of it here on this earth when we see the good things in the hearts of our brothers, when we see the love of God, meekness, and forbearance. We see it in our brothers and sisters when with the grace of God they do right and escape evil and temptation. We can see these good things and rejoice when we think of the majesty of our great God. We all want to be in the heavenly city and not part of those who have walked in evil here on this earth.

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Rev. 20:12.

What have we done? What we have done here upon this earth is what we are going to be judged for. If we rely upon ourselves, if we rely upon flesh and blood, the end result will be eternal death. If we rely upon the power of God, the end result will be eternal life, joy, and peace forever. May it be that we all may see each other there.

This noon, as you came filing in and we were sitting upon the bench, I saw one of my beloved brothers and felt tears come to my eyes to think that I hope to see that brother in heaven. I hope it's that way with all of us. I hope we can see each other there, but it's all up to us. The Bible says, "My grace is sufficient for thee," but He leaves it up to us. The grace is there but we must do something about it. To this end may we be wise, for the words have been recorded here that whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. These words are true and faithful because God has written them. May we realize that our great God will bring judgment upon the earth, good to those who have done His will and evil to those who have done evil. May the grace of God abound to His glory and to the comfort of our souls.



## SERMON BY ELDER BRO. LEROY HUBER OF EUREKA, IL

Text: Revelation, Chapter 20

We know, and we have read, that God is a revealer of secrets. Whenever I read in the book of Revelation, I hesitate; and I hesitated now to even read that which had opened because we do not know many of the things that are recorded in this book. I hardly believe that the time is here when God will fully reveal all the things which are recorded. However, beloved ones, I am sure that God reveals to everyone enough understanding to make us examine ourselves very, very carefully.

As we read in the book of Daniel, which was recorded many thousand years ago, of predictions revealed to the king through God's servant, we see that God reveals things to the humble and to the meek rather than to the mighty and great upon the earth.

Beloved ones, the Lord in heaven reveals things to those who are humble enough to realize what they are in the sight of God. Consider what a great God we have. When we think about the fulness of the earth and all that God has created, it is evident that He is great. God has created man and therefore we should not lift up ourselves and think that we are "very much." Let us consider what we can create. We know that it is very little even though men take great pride in their accomplishments when the accomplishments are really a sorry thing.

The great accomplishments of this day have evil as their root. This is a sorry, sorry thing and reveals the true condition of man's heart. Therefore, man

surely has nothing to brag about as a creator. Let us think of a creator such as He is, a living God whose delight is in righteousness and truth, whose thought is on the thoughts of men.

What really counts, beloved ones, is the condition of our hearts because God has decreed that heaven and earth and all things therein shall pass away. It is sure and it is true. So the prime question is, "What is in the heart of man?" Dearly beloved ones, this is a very important thing.

We might go back to the day when men conceived the idea to build a great city and a tower which would reach to heaven. They began to build what was referred to as the city of Babel. There, God brought confusion to men who had exalted themselves. Satan worked deception, and God brought confusion from which the nations sprang. Beloved, there was a parting of the ways. The nations started from that place and they spoke different languages.

As we read in Daniel, I thought of how one nation follows another when we read of the nations which were represented by miry clay and iron. It says that they did not stick to each other. Surely this also describes men because their hearts are full of strife and they do not love each other. Finally a stone came which became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This should bring joy to our hearts. God will ". . . set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed . . . it shall stand forever." Dan. 2:44.

It is marvelous that when God changes a heart, a soul becomes part of His kingdom; in that heart is erected the kingdom of God. The Lord said, "Behold, the kingdom of God is within you." Like 17:21. How wonderful it is that we can be part of this kingdom which is being built so quietly without a sound, without a strike of a hammer. It is being done quietly, beloved ones, yet we know how it is being done. It is being built with tears which flow silently out of the eyes of the saints. It is being built very, very silently where hearts are changed.

There is great preparation being made, both in heaven and on earth. In heaven a dwelling place is being prepared for the saints, and on the earth those who will dwell there are being prepared. Let those who are wise look into their own hearts to see whether there is strife and turmoil or peace and quietness. In that wonderful place which God has built, wherein the majesty of God is going to dwell throughout all eternity, will dwell those who bear the mark of our Saviour.

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a

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