

# *The Silver Lining*

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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NUMBER 3

## *The Promise of Spring*

*For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.*

*Isaiah 61:11*

*The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing . . .*

*Isaiah 35:1,2*

*And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*

*Gen. 1:11,12*

## KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

After 52 years of service as a minister at Milford, IN, Elder Bro. Theo Beer retired from active ministry Dec. 6, 1981. He will be 84 years old Jan. 23. Bro. Theo was ordained minister in August, 1929, to assist Bro. Ed Haab, following the death of Bro. George Stieglitz. In August, 1957, he was ordained elder. Bro. Theo preached in the German language when he first became a minister. From 1905 until 1935 morning services were in German, afternoon in English. Bro. Theo and Sis. Naoma have seven children: Mrs. Robert J. (Sis. Marguerite) Hoerr, Bro. Phil, Mrs. Lewis (Sis. Miriam) Speicher; Mrs. Carl (Sis. Mary) Fiechter, Mrs. Arnold (Sis. Becky) Doll, Dr. Alan Beer, and Bernie. They also have 34 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Theo and Sis. Naoma have seen the Milford church grow and have assisted with many church functions in the local church as well as many other of our churches. They have shared with others numerous times throughout these 52 years. They have shared in joy as well as sorrow with the congregation. They have been happy with those who had reason to rejoice, and they have wept and ached with others whose lives were touched by sorrow or grief. Their home and hearts have always been open to those in need, ready to serve as directed by Him.

Bro. Theo and Sis. Naoma enjoy good health and feel blessed that they are able to yet assist others. Even though Bro. Theo has retired from the ministry, God will continue to use the talents of Theo and Naoma. They will continue to witness to those about them; showing their love for the Savior and God's love for all mankind; that their walk of life will be a light in the world.

They will continue to visit the sick, support the church, and pray for salvation for the unbelievers.

Bro. Theo and Sis. Naoma will readily admit that of self, none of this service for the Lord could have or would have been possible. They have been stewards of His; not owning these spiritual gifts or talents,

but rather have been given them to use as God directs. I Peter 4:10,11 tells us that "as every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God, if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth, that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever."

I am thinking today of that beautiful land

I shall reach when the sun goeth down;

When thru wonderful grace by my Savior I stand,

Will there be any stars in my crown?

In the strength of the Lord let me labor and pray,

Let me watch as a winner of souls; That bright stars may be mine in the glorious day,

When His praise like the sea billow rolls.

Oh what joy it will be when His face I behold,

Living gems at His feet to lay down; It would sweeten my bliss in the city of gold,

Should there be any stars in my crown.

J.R. Sweeney

We are told in the Bible that there are eternal "crowns" set aside for God's servants. At least five specific crowns are mentioned. The Imperishable Crown, (I Cor. 9:24-27), this incorruptible one, is for believers; those who live victoriously for Christ. The Crown of Exultation is a crown of rejoicing for the "soul-winner". (Phil. 4:1; I Thess. 2:19-20). The crown of Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:7-8) is promised to all those that love His appearing; who anticipate His eminent return. The Crown of Life (James 1:12, Rev. 2:10) awaits those who endure trials and yet love the Savior; those believers persecuted for Jesus' sake. The Crown of Glory (I Peter 5:1-4), the shepherds crown is for the elders, pastors, and teachers. All believers will receive at least one crown. How marvelous it will be for some who have served Him in a manner that will allow them to cast more than one crown at His feet as they give praise, honor, and glory to the Lord, bowing in worship.

Bro. Theo and Sis. Naoma have, as the apostle Paul wrote, "fought a good fight and kept the faith." What a welcome joy it will be when they can hear "Well done, good and faithful servant," as they cast their crowns at the feet of Jesus. What a blessed day that will be!

## URGENT NEED FOR HOUSEPARENTS

**To our brothers and sisters in faith:**

Greetings in our dear Saviour's name, and we pray the Lord's grace and blessings be with you.

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night, there stood a man of Macedonia, beseeching him and saying, Come over into Macedonia and help us." Acts 16:9

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

The Apostolic Christian Children's Home has been operating

at capacity level for some time, 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 the homes. The Home has provided Christian homes, families, and love for many children in the past and is doing so now.

There is a need for houseparents for one home. This would be a fulltime responsibility for the brother and sister. Houseparent applicants, aged 21 or over, brother and sister in faith, and with the

approval of their local elder, may send their resume and letter of application to:

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

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

or  
Bro. Bob Cockburn  
P.O. Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
219-627-5138 or 219-627-5468

The brother and sister, with qualifications as houseparents, will receive compensation monthly starting at a yearly rate of \$13,000.00, paid health insurance, room and board, and a paid one week vacation after one year of employment.

All resumes will be promptly and prayerfully answered.

Counseling elders Bro. Loren Stoller  
Bro. Alfred Bahler  
Bro. Wendell Gudeman  
Bro. Orville Ringger  
Bro. Jesse Beer  
Bro. David Bertsch

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

It has been over five years that Sue and I have been on the staff. We have learned many things, benefited very much and have abiding concerns for these children; but it is time for us to move on and have others take over.

The Home has a definite need for full-time houseparents. To assume that responsibility and subsequent job change may seem difficult, but if God's Spirit is producing the desire, He will enable you to make the move. God's reward for obedience is always peace and an abundant life.

We have two new young people at our home: Wendy (14) and Dawn Marie (15). Wendy's birthday is Oct. 24, 1967 and Marie's birthday is Oct. 7, 1966. These two girls offer a good addition to our homes. Wendy is a very talented girl residing at the

Wieland house. Marie resides in the other house and offers a helpful hand to Jane in the kitchen. She also loves little children and enjoys doing helpful things for them.

Our Annual Auction and Sale date has been set by the Board. It is Saturday, Aug. 28. We have appreciated and been encouraged by your support in the past, and trust that God will Bless you for your continuing efforts on behalf of our children. We hope to see you on Aug. 28.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

Esther York Burkholder has written: "February is a month of snowfall and thaw, of winter winds and spring promises, of icy cold and cozy warmth, of ruggedness and renewal. February is a bare tree whose branches are buffeted by storm, but whose roots know the stirrings of spring. In these contrasts lies strength, whether in seasons or in people. It takes hardship to build endurance and to build strength of character. It takes love to bring out the gentleness in all of us."

In the time of discouragement, God reminded Job that He was still in control, telling Job of His manifestation of power through the elements of nature. The snow and the rain are given "for correction, for the land and for mercy." (Job 37). At this time of the year we relate easily to these writings. Gladly do we acknowledge our Heavenly Father's omnipotence and give thanks that it is and always will be so.

Please join us in welcoming our new resident, Lois Schlipf, formerly of Gridley, IL. She is the daughter of Rose Aberle Schlipf and the late John Schlipf, Sr. Her brothers Elmer, John, Clarence and sisters, Dorothy Witzig, Ruth Ann and Marilyn Schlipf, nine nieces and five nephews make up the family. Before coming to the Home, handicrafts occupied much of her time, as she made latch hook rugs and covered hangers, among other things. Birthday time for Lois is July 23. We are happy to have her join our family circle and look forward to enjoyable times together.

On our tour of visiting the various departments in our Home, let us stop in for a visit to the laundry. Keeping a family of 78 active people in clean, pressed and mended clothes is no little task; therefore, we are thankful for the two commercial-sized washers, the three commercial-sized dryers, one household-sized washer and dryer, a mangle, an iron and many clothes racks and baskets. Each item of clothing for each resident has a name tag on it, and each resident has a container in which his clean clothes are placed after being processed through the laundry. Working six days per week, this department averages 750-800 lbs. of laundry per day. It is closed only on Sunday. Volunteers have spent countless hours helping with this important work, both in the actual operation of the laundry as well as in mending, altering, etc. A few of our residents have been trained to do their own laundry and to help with the general duties there.

Because our residents are up and about in the community every day, it is important that they look neat

**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.

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**IN MEMORY — EDITORS:**  
HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER

and well-kept. Therefore, we express appreciation to both staff and the laundry volunteers for the important part they play in the lives of our residents and in the keeping of a clean and sanitary facility.

"The world is the Lord's and the fullness thereof;  
Its glories are wholly His own;  
The treasures of earth and the planets above,  
By their splendor His greatness is shown.

The sun in its splendor e'er rises to shine,  
The moon through the ages the same.  
The stars, all unnumbered, reflect His divine,  
His great, and omnipotent name.  
Excerpts from Henry Beer

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Julie Hoerr

The weekend of January 16 and 17 we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Tim Sutton. We welcome Bro. Tim and enjoyed the opportunity to recall our testimonies once again. Many attended a church dinner Sunday evening.

Our cup has been filled to overflowing with many dear visitors. What a joy to greet our dear ones. One Sunday morning we received greetings from 14 congregations, and during the month we've been blessed with eight dear brothers who willingly shared God's Word. Our ministers were: Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson), Bro. Todd Feller (La Crosse), Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford), Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron), Bro. Francis Rother (Morton) and Bro. Arthur Nohl (Morris). Sunday evening, February 14, we had evening services as four of our visiting ministers were with us. A reception was held January 10 for Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca (Knapp) German. We enjoyed the opportunity to greet them following their wedding in Eureka on December 27.

It was a real joy to once again have Bro. Roy and Sis. Minnie Farny in our midst. We are grateful for God's healing powers and the health

He has granted to our dear ones.

Several of our congregation have been ill or required hospitalization this past month. We trust God may grant a measure of health to each of them; Bro. Gene Fehr, Sis. Tillie Gerst, Bro. Earl Sanders, Bro. Henry Schrenk, Sis. Francis Schrenk, and Tony Ehnle.

Two of our dear couples have celebrated their 40th anniversaries. Our wish for God's blessings are shared with Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach and Bro. Ted and Sis. Madeline Knochel.

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON Rose Huette

Wherever he may guide me,  
No want shall turn me back;  
My shepherd is beside me,  
And nothing can I lack.  
His wisdom ever waketh,  
His sight is never dim,  
He knows the way he taketh,  
And I will walk with him.

Anna L. Waring

How thankful we are that we have a Shepherd to guide us. We are so happy and do rejoice to have Maynard Beery as our brother in faith. It was a beautiful and blessed weekend. May our Shepherd be always by his side. We enjoyed so much having Elder Bro. Roy Sauder from Peoria, IL and our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach from Phoenix, Az. We hope they will visit us often. We are so happy to have Elder Bro. Roy Sauder and his wife spend some time with us this winter. We sure enjoy them.

On Feb. 7 we had our annual pancake supper. We want to thank all of our visitors who came for the supper and all the workers for making it possible. It was special.

This past Wednesday, Elder Bro. Don Sauder from Roanoke, Bro. Roy Ehnle of Bradford and Bro. Francis Rother of Morton were with us. We always enjoy those who visit and hope they will come again soon.

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Mary Beth Klotzle

Not so very long ago, a few of us took some visitors hiking in the mountains above Altadena; at one point we looked out over the valley and could see all the way to a golden

strip which was the sun shining on the ocean. Thinking of the vast number of people between the mountain and the ocean reminds one to be thankful that we are among the few who have been blest with the Truth of God's plan of salvation. We must ever strive to become more worthy of that greatest gift of all from the Lord.

We have had many visitors in the last month and are very thankful for each one. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan), Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bros. Kenneth Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Francis Rother (Morton, IL) and Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL). The Lord blessed us with much encouragement, strength, comfort and warnings, all of which we need in this life on earth. May "the race of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all." 2 Cor. 13:14

#### CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD Ben Ammon

Our congregation is pleased to announce that Irene O'Hara has turned to the Lord as her saviour.

Our Bro. Ed Ruelle is home with an illness and could not meet with us. We pray he can return to good health.

We had several visiting ministers this month, including Bro. John Tanner and wife on Sun. Jan. 31. On Feb. 7, Elder Bro. Don Sauder of Roanoke, IL served us God's Word. On Feb. 14, Bro. Ezra Steffen and his wife were with us and on Feb. 21, Bro. Paul Gasser of the Akron church provided us with God's Word and direction.

We are always pleased when we have visitors and may God give them an extra blessing for their labors.

#### COLORADO, DENVER Marlene Leman

Bro. John Lehman of Sabetha came to serve the Denver congregation Feb. 7. His presence, as well as Sis. Connie's and those who came with them, and his inspiring words were much appreciated.

We are happy to report that our little group is growing. Sis. Barb Unsicker of Peoria and Sis. Sue

Esterling of Minnesota have moved to the Denver area. We trust God will bless them in their new location.

Feb. 21 Bro. Dan Koch of Tremont was in Denver to serve. His kind, soft-spoken message was an inspiration for all. We were happy Sis. Carol could be with him. After church, those who could, went to one of the mountain parks for a picnic, the temperature being a mild 70 degrees.

Again we invite anyone traveling in the area to assemble with the friends and brethren. Services are the first and third Sundays of each month at the Victory Grange Hall, 2009 Tower Road, Aurora. Services start at 10:30 and 12:30 with lunch served in between.

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Dorothy Viens

Though the last months have brought much cold weather our way, we feel very fortunate that we were able to assemble together without hindrance, only missing one Sunday and one Wednesday evening due to weather conditions. When we can be together, warming ourselves around God's Holy Word and enjoying the precious fellowship of the brethren outside conditions don't matter that much, do they?

We have had several brothers and sisters hospitalized over the last month. Among them were Bros. Arthur Lanz, Ken Virkler, Ed Ludwig and Sisters Ella Marti, Rose Zahner, and Emma Moser. We are thankful for the healing that they have been able to experience thus far and pray that God's nearness will be felt among them until all are recovered according to His will.

A son, Benjamin David, was born to Bro. Walter and Sis. Judy Carlson on Feb. 6. Benjamin also has a sister Heidi to play with him. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser.

"Ring the bells of Heaven, there is joy today. . ." We are so thankful and rejoice with another dear friend, Sue Ellen Schneider (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge) who has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. We have heard much recently about the great harvest that is approaching and our prayers go out that many more souls will

heed the Saviour's loving call before that great day dawns when man's work will be over.

### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Sally Gress

We have been blessed with many visitors this month. We welcome them all and are always glad to see old and new friends.

On February 6, Elder Bros. Ben Maibach of Detroit and Joe Braker of Morton were with us to read the memorandum of the brotherhood conference.

Other ministering brothers visiting us were Ed Alt of Cissna Park, Dave Wiegand of Champaign-Urbana, Bob Meyer of Bluffton and Al Langhofer of Witchita.

### SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Doris and Diane Roche

Bro. Ben Maibach and Sis. Lorene Maibach have returned to Sarasota for several weeks. During this time our annual election of officers was held. The treasurer will be Bro. Jeff Streitmatter; trustee: Bro. Michael Siladie; Sunday School Teacher: Bro. Bill Roscher with Bro. Tom Gudeman as substitute teacher; intermediate class: Sis. Elaine Schambach with Sister Diane Roche and Sheryl Maibach as substitute teachers. Sisters Ruth Streitmatter and Edna Rosher were added to the kitchen committee. We want to give a word of thanks to the willing laborers during their time in office and may God reward the outgoing officers.

We have three souls who have turned to God for help. They are Lloyd and Margaret Pfladderer of Morton, IL, and Mrs. Steve (Sue) Alexander from Sarasota. These new converts along with Al Dygert and Maria Bartoni have felt the need of a Saviour. We wish them grace from above to find real peace with their Maker. May we all give of our love and ask God to bless and guide them.

We welcome our newcomers and may God bless you. They are Sis. Beth Alt of Cissna Park, IL, Sis. Mary Moser of Elgin, IL and Sis. Becky Stoller of Peoria, IL. Becky has come to Florida and is staying with Sis. Gloria Streitmatter.

Sis. Gloria Streitmatter was home

over the weekend of February 14 along with Katrine Streitmatter from Duke University in South Carolina. We are happy for all these young folks and their new adventures.

Our brothers Ted Baumgartner and John Joos submitted to surgery and have returned home. We are happy to have them assembling with us again. May God bless Joe Feldman with a speedy recovery as he is hospitalized at this time.

We were pleased to be blessed with the brothers in the ministry and their wives. Those visiting were Bro. Lester Hartter from Bern, KS, Bro. Ed Aeschleman of Philadelphia, PA, Bro. Carrol Gerber of Bluffton, IN, Bro. Dave Keiser of Princeville, IL and Bro. Sam Anliker of Lamont, KS. We welcome our guests and ask God to bless them as they give of their talents while on vacations.

Bro. John Joos and Sis. Julia Kittl have asked to express their thanks for all the deeds of kindness, cards and prayers given in their behalf.

Because somebody cared today, I  
knew God's love was strong.  
I found new hope to bear my cross  
and courage for my song.  
My neighbors heart conveyed the  
love I needed for my pain;  
And happily I felt the faith to dream  
and smile again.

Author Unknown

### GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Brenda Stoller

This month we were blessed with teachings from Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss of Forrest and Bro. Steve Gutwein of Francesville. May God bless them for their efforts to come and minister to us.

Present plans are to have services the second, third and fourth Sundays in the month of March. Contact Bro. Linn or Sis. Brenda Stoller at (404) 471-0349 if further information is needed.

This moment, Lord, Thy will I  
choose,  
Nor let me live except for Thee;  
My life, my all, I'll gladly lose  
To know Thy perfect victory!

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

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD****Shirley Kieser**

Jan. 24 was the date Bro. Don Knoblock and Sis. Jennifer Belsley became husband and wife in the Lord. We welcome Sis. Jenny and pray for God's blessings as they walk life's pathway together. Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knoblock, Wyoming, and Bro. Louis and Sis. Vilas Belsley, Morton, are the parents of this new young couple.

Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser announce the engagement of their daughter, Pamela, to Mark Fritzenmeier of Peoria. His parents are Bob and Delores Heilman of Freeport. We wish them God's blessings in this important step.

We have enjoyed visiting ministers, Bro. Vernon Leman, Eureka, Bro. Jim Rinckenberger, Bluffton, Bro. Virgil Metzger, Urbana, and Bro. Simon Wagenbach, Tremont. May the Lord bless them in their labors.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Jack Knoblock was elected Sunday School teacher, Don Duckworth: trustee and Bill Ringger: usher. Our prayer is that each brother will consider his duty as a service unto the Lord and be led by Him.

On Feb. 10, little Ryan Jacob Pyles arrived. He's welcomed into the loving family of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky, 4 sisters and 3 brothers. Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Guingrich are the grandparents.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO****Kathy Schlatter**

"... Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." Matthew 6:8 "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." Romans 8:28 ALL (not one, but every incident) THINGS (those events allowed by the power and order of God) WORK (This is an active statement, full of energy, directed in a plan.) TOGETHER (Each of itself we may not understand, but together in His hands the threads will weave a clear tapestry.) FOR GOOD (The Lord does not want evil to fill our lives, but good. As He is GOD, all works

for our good, that we may become more like Him.) TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD (Perhaps we are admonished, reminded, and exhorted that the promise of this verse rests on our being of those that love God. And we show that love by doing His commandments.), TO THEM WHO ARE THE CALLED (If we are called, even if we have previously answered, we must still and ever be listening and listening; then following, following.) ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE (This great God who gave us life and meaning also gave us choice. He would draw us to Him, yet we may draw back. His is such a larger purpose. Can we not submit and believe, love and wonder and strive to reflect His blessedness?)

"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:5 Certainly the cold and harsh weather has tested the seeds and prepared them for the blossoms of springtime. In this year's beginning we have been already blessed with the joys of springtime and new buds. The Lord led us, His people, with the clouds by day and the fire by night as we, the Chicago congregation, pondered, without discussion, who the Lord would have minister to us, one of the brethren "grave, not doubletongued. . . holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience." I Timothy 3:8,9 Bro. Greg Rassi was chosen, examined in Spirit, and on Sat. Jan. 23, 1982, given the support of all. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) lend his insight to us Sun., Jan. 24, when Bro. Greg was entrusted with the work of the ministry, both the mantle of grace and the enormity of responsibility. We also enjoyed the fellowship of one another afterwards with a church supper. Such a miracle from above has the power to fill us with awe and to knit us more closely into one body, singlemindedly committed in all things unto Him. Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) in his visit Sun. Feb. 14, also encouraged us in our submissive walk, that we may truly feel the Spirit of adoption, the joy of belonging and being cared for, each by the other, as befits the family of God.

Our hearts were still singing and winging praises to God for His answers to prayer when our cups were filled to overflowing. Brad Eisenmann, son of Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy, turned his convicted eyes unto Christ, the only Saviour. Now his eyes, the window of the soul, are clear and joyful. Thus we have yet another, altogether lovely, reason for praising and thanking Him.

At our church business meeting Sun., Jan. 17, several brothers and sisters were given specific new duties. Bro. Jim Schlatter replaces Bro. Lonnie Steffen as trustee. For many "behind-the-scenes" improvements and taking care of the church we thank Bro. Lonnie. Bro. Glen Pfeifer is taking Bro. Steve Lau's place as usher. Thank you, Bro. Steve. As we add interest in the Brotherhood Aid, Bro. Jeff Leman will be the one to contact as our representative. Sis. Peggy Klaus joins our church dinner committee, replacing Sis. Gladys Fisher. We appreciate Sis. Gladys' special service on behalf of the church. Later, Bro. Norm Stahl was named to replace Bro. Greg as Sunday School superintendent. May we strive to continue to support each brother and sister in their duties, their troubles, their concern and tragedies, their rejoicings, their victories; in all that would befall us may we be a phalanx, as in Casar's army, so in god's, that our shields would overlap and Satan find no chinks to twist within and divide. "Let brotherly love continue." Hebrews 13:1

We welcome Bro. Tim Roecker from Morton and Steve Schrenk from Ft. Wayne, IN. Bro. Tim is working in our area; Steve is attending school and now worships with us in the church where his great-grandfather Bro. Eli Winzeler ministered. "Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied." Jude 2. May we be brethren and friends in unity of spirit.

Sis. Charlotte Meyer has been hospitalized due to an accident. The Lord knows why it was to be, yet we are grateful that the injuries are no worse. We always appreciate her love and gentle humor; perhaps we were to be more decisively reminded to give love and thanks con-

tinually: not one of us is promised the rest of today. We pray for her and her family and for her recovery, as quickly as He wills.

Have you ever worked furiously on a problem using the calculator, only to discover, when you stopped to check your answer, that the power wasn't turned on the whole time. . . I have. Not only did I fail to get an answer, but I also had wasted much time and energy and had to do it over. I wonder if that is how God views us, friends and brethren, when for whatever reason, we run ahead of His will, with the best of intentions, hoping for all good and fitting results, to the benefit of others also, but we have not "checked in" with Christ so that the POWER is turned ON. "There is POWER, POWER, wonder-working power, in the precious blood of the Lamb." p. 46 Tabernacle "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work." II Thessalonians 2:16,17

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

#### Joan Waldbeser — Melba Funk

On Sunday, Feb. 7, we witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls who have repented and found peace with God and man. Joan Waldbeser, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Carol, and Kathy Kaufmann, daughter of Eileen and the late Earl, brought their testimonies before the congregation on Saturday eve. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann of Chicago was here to help our Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger in the joyful labors of the weekend. He brought us many good teachings from God's precious word as did Bro. Fred Knapp of the Congerville congregation.

Our Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger submitted to open heart surgery on Feb. 16 at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. At this writing he is getting along as well as can be expected. We trust God will hear and answer all prayers and provide for Bro. Steve and his family.

Other hospital patients this month were Bro. Melvin Stock, Bro.

Ben Neukomn, Sis. Anna Sauder, and Sis. Helen Knapp.

Sis. Ida Rocke passed away Feb. 1, 1982 at the age of 92 years. Surviving are four daughters, Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann, Sis. Lorine Rocke, Sis. Aldean (Walter) Kaufmann, all of Cissna Park, and Sis. Doris (Clarence) Koehl of Fairbury; two sons, Bro. Lester and Franklin of Cissna Park; two sisters, Sis. Emma Klopfenstein and Sis. Nettie Stoller both of Paulding, Ohio, 12 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

One week later, our dear Sis. Blanche Steffen, 53, passed from this life into eternity after battling cancer the past few months. Her husband, Bro. Eldon, survives along with five sons, Kenneth of Hyattsville, Md., Dean of Flamingo, FL, Marvin of Paxton, Jon of Hoopeston, and Greg of Cissna Park; one daughter, Sis. Teri Steffen of Cissna Park; her father, Bro. Emil Fisher of Cissna Park; one brother, Bro. Eli Fisher of Eureka; and one sister, Sis. Edith (Glen) Stoller of Latty, Ohio.

Sis. Elise Maul, 89, died suddenly in her home on Feb. 10. Survivors include three daughters, Sis. Eleanor Maul of Hoopeston; Mrs. Earl (Lula) Young of Edinburgh, IN, and Mrs. Alfred (Gertrude) Pate of Wellington; three sons, Norman of Cissna Park, Bro. Clarence of Rankin, and George of Hoopeston; one sister, Mrs. Freida Rudolf of Germany; 14 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren.

### Going Home

Gone to rest and her reward,  
Faithful servant of the Lord.  
Weary pilgrim of earth's shore,  
Now at rest for evermore.

Laid aside earth's toil and pain,  
And our loss is but her gain.  
Saints will live e'en though they die,  
In the realm beyond the sky.

Gracious, meek, and mild in life,  
Loving, gentle, in earth's strife.  
Oft in mortal pain was she,  
Bore afflictions patiently.

Bless her loved ones here, O Lord,  
Let them share in her reward.

For all loving service shown,  
Keep them, leave them ne'er alone.  
Fairer tribute there is none:  
Just to know her work well done.  
Gone to dwell in mansions fair,  
Just asleep in Jesus' care.

H.B.

Bro. Jake and Sis. Sophia Funk wish to extend their thanks to all who so lovingly remembered them on their 60th wedding anniversary. May God bless you all.

### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

#### Carol Craig — Shirley Ifft

Jan. 17 was a most inspiring day with Elder Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern, KS) in our midst. In the evening we assembled to hear the conclusions of the brotherhood conference. Many kindly admonitions and warnings were laid to our hearts by Bro. Lester and Elder Bro. Bob Walder. May we willingly heed them knowing they are given in love and concern for our eternal gain.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Susie Ott (Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn) and Bro. Allen Schrock. We are thankful they are home again. At the time of this writing Sis. Tillie Sauder is hospitalized. We hope it won't be long until she can return to the Eureka Home where she abides.

Friday evening, Jan. 22, Debbie Zobrist, daughter of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Joyce, was united in marriage to Steve Schippert, son of Mrs. Lee Schippert of Carlock. We wish them God's richest blessings as they establish their home.

Our dear Sis. Ida Rocke was called to her eternal rest Jan. 26. She had been a resident of the Eureka Home since 1976. She was born July 31, 1895 at Congerville, a daughter of John and Catherine Schrock Zimmerman. She married John Rocke Oct. 24, 1920. He preceded her in death. Surviving are her daughter Lorene (Mrs. Clarence Schlipf) of Carlock and two grand-daughters, Sis. Alice and Sis. Emily Schlipf. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family; truly their loss is Sis. Ida's gain. Bro. Fredrick Knapp conducted the services.

The annual meeting was held Feb. 1. Bro. Ernie Stahl was elected to be usher. Bro. Ernie and Sis. Norma

Stahl replaced Bro. John and Sis. Alice Schieber on the food committee for church meals.

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

In Issiah 55:10 and 11, the rain, the bud, and the harvest are likened unto the word of the Lord where He says,

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

It is beautiful thought to entertain as we watch the advancing of spring time. Surely the rains come and water the earth and make it bring forth the bud. Can we not help but also believe that the word has such power to go out from the mouth of the Lord and bring forth fruit as the Lord would please it. Oh, if only our hearts were always prepared to receive the word of the Lord and that it could constantly motivate us to faithfulness!

Because of gradually deteriorating health, Jake Leauthold has gone to reside at Crystal Pines Rest Home in Crystal Lake, IL (60014). May we remember him there, when no doubt, his days become long and lonely.

In honor of Roger and Sis. Gertrude Sauder's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, family and many friends remembered them in many special ways. Roger and Sis. Gertrude would humbly like to extend their thanks to all for the love, cards, and gifts rendered unto them.

We greatly rejoice that Bro. John Feucht has recovered sufficiently from a fall last September in which his cervical spine was fractured. We're thankful that he can again be at home with his wife, Florence. He has spent the past several months at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and surely he experienced loneliness, frustration, and pain.

Again, loved ones have ex-

perienced illness and hospitalization. Sadly enough we often disregard our health until we suddenly lose it, and then we become keenly aware that it should have been one of our most guarded possessions. Those hospitalized have been: Carl Jepson (father of Bro. Dave), Sis. Kathryn Williamson, Julia Schubert (mother of Sis. Carol Kellenberger and Walter Schubert), and Ann (Kellenberger) Madeen. May they all be blessed with the return of good health.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Melba Mangold

A summary of 1981 shows that we had nineteen baptisms, nineteen new babies, four weddings and three deaths.

On a snowy, cold Sunday we were pleased to have Bros. Vernon Wetstein and Mike Rinkenberger of Congerville, along with their families spend the day with us. We appreciated their coming and thank the brothers for serving us.

We have had several in the hospital this month. Bro. Henry Frey had the misfortune of falling and breaking his pelvis. He is home now and getting around with a walker. Sisters Laura Getz and Inex Mogler were also hospitalized but are now out and getting along better. Candy Kupferschmid has had surgery but is also on the mend. Our prayer is that God may heal and restore them according to his Will.

Sis. Esther Kaeb wishes to express her gratitude for the many expressions of love shown her while in the hospital; the visits and prayers of the brothers and the many beautiful cards and gifts given to her. May God bless you all.

"Without the Way, there is no going,

Without the Truth, there is no knowing;

Without the Life, there is no living." from Apples of Gold

We are very thankful and happy that another dear friend, Mike Schmidgal has felt the need of a Saviour and wished to walk in His Way. Mike's parents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy.

We give our love and sympathy to

Bro. Eli Fisher in the passing away of his sister, Sis. Blanche Steffen. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Jean Knapp whose sister, Eddis Swinehart passed into eternity.

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

The winter weather has been quite forceful in our area. We have had much snow and ice, which was accompanied, at times with very cold temperatures and strong winds, causing much drifting. It seems some of our worst storms came on the weekends and for several Sundays many of our farm families were not able to get into town for church services. As we are now experiencing a little warmer temperatures and some of the snow and ice is beginning to melt, we have to think of Song of Solomon 2:11,12, "For, lo, the winter is past. . . the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come." Just as sure as winter has been with us, the season of spring will soon be here. Truly God's universe is wonderful.

On Feb. 3, Randy and Ronda Stoller were blessed with a baby boy, Ryan Duane. Ryan has an older brother, Jeremy, and his grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus, Fairbury, and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller, Forrest. On Feb. 11, Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn Steidinger were blessed with twin boys, Kyle Duane and Karl Dean. The grandparents are Maurice and Alma Steidinger, Fairbury, and Bro. William and Sis. Jean Aberle, Forrest. May both couples seek God's help in raising their little sons.

It is with a grateful heart I wish to express my thanks for the prayers I feel have been offered for me during my severe illness and for the many, many beautiful cards and gifts. I appreciated it very much. God bless you all.

In Christian love,  
Sis. Esther Kaeb

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent. . . as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them

that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

We wish to thank ministering Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign) for recently bringing us the precious Word of Life. May we never take these brethren for granted, who so faithfully serve us Sunday after Sunday.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Josephine Schlatter (Bro. Dan), Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith), Marvin Wenger (Rita) and Bro. Carl Waibel. May the Hand of the Great Physician intercede for all those who are in need.

As we approach the beautiful Easter season, let us again be reminded of the price that was so dearly paid for each one of us.

In everything both great and small  
We see the Hand of God in all,  
And in the miracles of Spring  
When everywhere and everything  
His handiwork is all around  
And every lovely sight and sound  
Proclaims the God of earth and sky  
I ask myself "just who am I"  
That God should send His only Son  
That my salvation should be won  
Upon a cross by a sinless man  
To bring fulfillment to God's Plan—  
For Jesus suffered, bled and died  
That sinners might be sanctified,  
And to grant God's children such  
as I

Eternal life in that Home on high.

Helen Steiner Rice

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Pam Wiegand**

Our Goodfield congregation had services for the ordination of Bro. Bob Grimm as junior elder. It was a very special evening. We felt so close — like one big happy family. Our special thanks are extended to Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont), Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), and Elder Bro. Roy Sauder (Peoria) for their part in the ordination. Other visiting ministers that evening were Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton), Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley), Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana), and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Urbana). Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington) also visited this past month.

Our Sis. Becki Hohulin (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia) is engaged to Bro. Jim Oshea from Gridley. We are very happy for both of them.

### What God Hath Promised

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

But God hath promised  
Strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor,  
light for the way,  
Grace for the trials,  
Help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy,  
Undying love.

Annie Johnson Flint

Bro. Jesse Hunziker passed away on Feb. 5. Services were held on Feb. 8. It is especially lonely, not having him here with us, as he was a special friend to my husband, but we are so glad he was ready and willing to go to his home above. Surviving are his son, Wayne Hunziker (Washington), and his two sisters, Sis. Marian Blunier (Roanoke) and Sis. Esther Hartman (Goodfield). We extend our sympathy to all, especially Sister Esther.

Bro. John Striet was hospitalized and is home again.

Sis. Elizabeth Hartman is now hospitalized, after having undergone surgery.

Sis. Hilda Leman wishes to thank everyone who remembered her with prayers, gifts, cards, and visits while hospitalized, and since she is home again. May God bless each one.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

**Carol Klopfenstein**

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; . . ."

Hebrews 12:2

We rejoice that He has granted grace to two dear souls to begin their walk of faith through repentance and conversion. We have the assurance that He will also give them the grace to finish their earth-

ly sojourn with this same faith, if they continue to look unto Him. Steve and Donna Ringger are looking forward to the opportunity to give their testimony and be baptized soon. Steve is the son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary. Donna is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Zehr. May we all fasten our spiritual eyes on Jesus, so that we can resist the many lures and cunning devices that the enemy uses to pull us back into his worldly domain.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Darletta Gramm are the blessed parents of a new daughter, Tara Lyn, who was born Feb. 6. Her grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Delores Marti and Sis. Annie and the late Bro. Butch Gramm, all of Gridley.

Our recent hospital patients have been Sis. Marcella Hany, Bro. Harold Kaupp, Bro. Ray Meiss, Bill Adams, Chet Hany and Duane Krug.

Gridley has been privileged to be the host of the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship on Feb. 14 and 21. The singing is so pleasant and such a worthwhile way to worship God and be reminded of His continued care. Many a stony heart has been mellowed and broken up by the stirring beauty of a simple godly hymn.

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker**

On January 9, we gathered together to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin, Goodfield, IL, was with us that evening to help Elder Joe Braker in reminding us of our high and heavenly calling and our duties as children of God. May each of us continue to uphold our most precious faith.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathi Hermann welcome into their hearts and home their first son, Jared Andrew. Jared was born on January 9. He was welcomed home by his sister, Jessica. The happy grandparents are Sis. Mabel Roeschley and Bro. Fred and Sis. Ruth Hermann. Great-Grandmother is Sis. Naomi Bauman.

We were pleased to have Bro. Joe Ramsier, Rittman, OH, with us on Sunday, January 17. We wish to thank him for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. We enjoyed

church potluck on Sunday evening. After everyone enjoyed the delicious food, we had precious fellowship and singing. Bro. Joe Ramsier shared his slides of his trip to India. I believe all of us came away with our "cups" running over. We thank Bro. Joe for sharing his slides with us.

Sis. Jennifer Belsley (Bro. Louis and Sis. Vilas) and Bro. Donald Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen) were united in holy matrimony on January 24. We wish them God's blessings as they walk life's path-way together. We will miss Sis. Jennifer here in Morton, but know she will be welcomed by the Bradford congregation.

We have had the following loved ones recently spend time in the hospital: Hollis Roby, Bro. Willis Geiger, Bro. John Kelley, Sis. Ann Ackerman and Sis. Shirley Stephens. May God continue to be with them and all those who are ill or shut-in in their homes. May we continue to uphold them in prayer.

We would like to thank Bro. Dave Kieser, Princeville, IL, Bro. Don Sauder, Roanoke, IL, Bro. Joe Stoller, Princeville, IL, and Bro. Nate Stoller, Bradford, IL, who ministered God's Holy Word unto us. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

#### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Mary Ann Plattner — Mary Plattner**  
Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Dave Kieser from Princeville, and Ed Hohulin from Goodfield, and Bros. Virgil Metzger from Urbana, Bruce Leman from Roanoke, and Bob Grimm from Goodfield. We thank all these ministers for giving their time to bring us the Word of God.

Thus united and in concord, Sis. Mary Knobloch (Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma) and Bro. Ben Tanner (Bro. Ben Sr. and Sis. Leona) have begun their walk of life together. They were united on Jan. 17.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Sophie Ball, Donna Ferrero, Martha Streitmatter, Frieda Kipfer and Priscilla Bittner, Howard Eilers and Bros. Jack Koehl, Bud Fehr and Walter Plattner. We pray that God will look down upon each one and strengthen them.

Jeffery Marcus was born to Mike and Sis. Janet Weber. He is welcomed home by his brother Tony. Grandparents are Sis. Bertha Kieser and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Weber.

We wish to express our sympathy to these dear families who have lost loved ones.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Clara Schubert who lost their sister Sis. Sophie Klaus, Pauline Whittemore who lost her brother Emil Hager of Morton and Susie Getz who lost her brother William Getz of Tremont.

We want to welcome back Bro. George and Sis. JoAnn Koehl from Morton. We wish to thank the Princeville choir for being with us and bringing us a blessing through song and fellowship at our monthly hymn sing.

Our Elder Bro. Roy and his wife Sis. Gertrude are vacationing in Tucson. May God watch over them and bring them safely home.

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Arlene and Arlys Martin**

Righteousness is the attribute of God that reveals His love of holiness. Justice is the attribute of God that reveals His hatred of sin.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Leroy Huber of Eureka.

On Jan. 22, Karl Baer was born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Deann Baer. Grandparents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baer of our congregation and Bro. Ray Klumpp of Bradford.

Feb. 10, Suzanna Marie Herrmann was born to Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann. She is welcomed home by six sisters and two brothers. Her grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Esther Herrmann of Princeville and Milford and Iza Nolder of Pekin.

Bro. Noah Herrmann has been a hospital patient. We are happy that he is home and able to assemble with us again.

Sis. Marie Musselman fell and fractured her pelvis on Jan. 20. She is grateful for the cards and gifts she received and for the many prayers offered in her behalf.

#### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold**

Though we have been experiencing the bitterest of winters,

God has blessed our congregation here on the prairie with five new babies and a marriage in the Lord. These events seem to us as a preview of springtime flowers and we are thankful.

Amanda Lynn Monk, born Jan. 18, is the first daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Charlene. Her brother, Dustin, and grandparents Bro. Charles and Sis. Jean Kupferschmid welcome her. Jan. 21 brought daughters to two families. Nicole Jeanette was born to Bruce and Rita Sauder. Her grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Edna Sauder and the Roy Springers, all of Roanoke. Bro. Roger and Sis. Debbie Bertschi welcomed Nicolette Linnae into their home. Nicolette's grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy Bertschi and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia Hohulin of Goodfield. The boy born this month (on Feb. 4) in our congregation is Jared Alan Hodel, son of Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita. Big brother Kevin and grandparents Betty Hodel of our congregation and Bro. Ray and Sis. Emily Eisenmann of Cissna Park are happy to share their love with him. Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley Leman, Matt and Scott are delighted to share their home with a little girl. She was born Feb. 16 and has been named Stephanie Jo. her grandparents are Bro. Rollie and Sis. Verla Leman and Bro. Emery and Sis. Mabel Getz, all of our congregation.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Emma Blunier, who is enjoying going in and out again, and Sis. Barbara Schlupp, who is a new resident of our church home.

Since church was cancelled several times this month due to inclement weather, we especially enjoyed our monthly family sing, where our young brothers sang for us. How pleasing it must be to God when young people spend their time so wisely.

Valentine's Day was the wedding day of Bro. Rich Lindberg and Sis. Julie Schumacher. Their parents are the Ron Lindbergs of Roanoke and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher. We share their joy, that God has enriched their lives by giving them each other.

We thank Bro. Ed Ringger of

Gridley and Bro. Marvin Leman of Bradford for sharing with us manna from heaven.

Let us try to remember in our communications with others and as we make decisions — God first, you second, and me last.

### ILLINOIS STATE

#### Jane Herrmann

During this cold and snowy weather, it is easy to complain and forget that this, too, is from God. It seems like all we see is the bad in it and do not appreciate all the good things we have.

Thank you, God, for everything — the big things and the small, For every good gift comes from God — the giver of them all — And all too often we accept without any thanks or praise the gifts God sends as blessings each day in many ways — First, thank you for the little things that often come our way, The things we take for granted but don't mention when we pray, Then, thank you for the Miracles we are too blind to see, And give us new awareness of our many gifts from Thee, And help us to remember that the Key to Life and Living is to make each prayer a prayer of thanks and every day Thanksgiving.

Helen Steiner Rice

"For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever." Romans 11:36

Bible study has grown in size this semester and we thank everyone who comes. This month's topics were: II Thess. 1, Liberty, Promises to Lean On, and Using God for Your Decisions.

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Phyllis Lang — Dorothy Wagenbach

#### The Pebbled Path

Each day I walk the pebbled path;  
It takes me o'er the hill,  
In the quiet of the evening,  
When the world at rest is still.  
I like to take my soul in hand,  
For He is there to see;  
Upon that cross in yonder land  
Christ bore that cross for me.

I sit there at the summit,  
With His sorows and His cares;

I think not only of His past,  
But the cross that I must bear  
I'd like remaining on that hill  
In view of Calvary,  
For then I'd know the gates of  
Heaven  
Would be opened wide to me.

My goal is not that easy,  
For temptations come my way.  
That's my reason for the pebbled  
path;  
I test my soul each day.  
Just to sit there at the summit  
When my evening chores are done,  
Brings back years and years of  
memories,  
Of what family prayers have won.  
(Written by one who had gone  
through sickness and suffering.)

We extend our sincere sympathy to our Bro. Simon Wagenbach in the death of his brother, Bro. John Wagenbach. Our sincere sympathy is to be extended to the family of Ernie Getz, who passed away Jan. 28. He is survived by two sisters, Anna Carius of Elgin and Lucy Bolliger of Tremont, and a brother, Ben of Tremont.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally Koch are happy parents of their first child, a daughter, Sharon Kay, born Jan. 23, 1982. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Eunice Beutel and Bro. Dave and Sis. Franci Koch. We pray the Lord will bless this new family.

Hospital patients for the month are Timothy Wagenbach, son of Si Wagenbach and Sis. Lavonne, Nelson Koch, son of Sis. Nancy Koch and Halo Koch, wife of Bro. Cleo and Bro. Ed Koch.

### ILLINOIS, URBANA

#### Charlen Banwart

"However much I have to do,  
However hard I strive,  
I always tell myself that I  
Am glad to be alive.  
My heart is grateful for the sun  
That keeps my body warm;  
And for the comforts of this earth  
Against whatever storm.  
I have my friends to cheer me up  
And books to read at night  
With boundless beauty to behold  
Whenever stars are bright.  
I have enough to eat and drink,  
And clothes enough to wear;

A normal mind and healthy lungs  
To breathe the vest of air.  
So why should I object when I  
Have this my job to do,  
As long as I have everything  
To help me see it through?"  
(James J. Metcalfe)

Our visiting ministers at recent Sunday and Wednesday evening services included: Our Elder Bros. Ed Hohulin and Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville). "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. A day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Psalm 54:1-2,4,10.

### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

#### Joan schick — Mary Schick

"A visitor at a school for the deaf and dumb was writing questions on the blackboard for the children. By and by he wrote this sentence: 'Why has God made me to hear and speak, and made your deaf and dumb?'"

The awful sentence fell upon the little ones like a fierce blow in the face. They sat palsied before that dreadful 'Why' And then a little girl arose.

Her lip was trembling. Her eyes were swimming with tears. Straight to the board she walked, and picking up the crayon, wrote with a firm hand these precious words: 'Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight.' What a reply! It reaches up and lays hold of an eternal truth upon which the maturest believer as well as the youngest child may alike securely rest — the truth that God is your Father, and will make all things to work together for good."

Arthur Christopher Bacon

We're grateful to Bro. Phil Stettner from Bluffton who was with us on Jan. 31. We're sorry we could only be with him half a day because of the snow, but we greatly appreciated the inspiration he brought.

A precious new daughter was born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Marilyn Schellhammer. Her name is Dixie May and she was also welcomed home by her sister, Kami. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Esther Banwart.

Bro. Harvey Martin was in the hospital recently for surgery, and we are happy to have him back with us. Sis. Pam Huber was in the hospital for tests, and we're thankful that everything turned out okay.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Gayla Baumgartner  
Tammy Gerber**

Several couples in our congregation have been blessed with precious bundles of love. May God grant them much joy and happiness in raising their children.

On Jan. 5, Alan and Claudia Brandt welcomed their first child, Kristi Kae. Her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Ringger.

Little Tamara Melane was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bruce and Mary Lou Raber. She was born on Jan. 8. Her grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Pat Kaehr.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller were blessed with a girl, Jacquelyn Marie, born on Jan. 12. Her grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Gladys Maller and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Ileen Steffen.

Ginger Renee was born on Jan. 24 to Bro. Ked and Sis. Shelly Ringger. Micki and Lacey are happy to have a new sister. Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Ringger are her grandparents.

Brooke Michelle is the first precious bundle sent to Scott and Rita DeHoff. She was born on Jan. 31 and is the granddaughter of Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois Gerber.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Frauhiger were blessed with a girl, Erin Nicole, on Feb. 12. Big brother Kent is enjoying her along with grandparents, Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Frauhiger.

Eric Michael is the name given to the first child of John and Sis. Verona Myers. He was born on Feb. 12 and is the grandson of Bro. Dwight and Sis. Bev Troxel.

"Our love shall not diminish  
Nor fade nor pass away;  
Bind us till life we finish  
And in the grave we lay."  
Zion's Harp 137

Jan. 16 was the wedding day of Darryl Ringger and Annette Jassa. Darryl's parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Ringger.

Bro. Eli Gerber and Sis. Ida Schwartz were blessed with love for each other and were married on Jan. 27. We pray that they will find peace and contentment together.

On Feb. 13 Phil Ringger and Becky Taylor were united in marriage. Phil is the son of Sis. Marge Ringger.

Julie Ringger and Joe Stroup have announced their engagement and are planning a June wedding. Julie's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxione Ringger.

June 12 will be the wedding day of Sonja Meyer and Richard Yeates. Bro. Vernon and Sis. Carol Meyer are Sonja's parents.

The engagement of Lila Ringger and Ron Gerber has been made known. They are planning to be married on Aug. 7. Their parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Rosetta Ringger and Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille Gerber.

Sandy Kaehr and John Lichtle have announced their engagement and are planning a Sept. 11 wedding. Sandy is the daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen Kaehr.

Our prayer is that God will guide and direct each of these couples as they plan their lives together. May they be blessed with much love and joy as they walk life's pathway together.

We are thankful that the Lord brought Bro. Simon Wagenbach into our midst this month. May God richly bless him for his labors of love.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Keith Honegger, Bro. Alvin Honegger, Bro. Elmer Isch, Bro. Don Fiechter, Sis. Mary M. Steffen, Sis. Martha Moser, Sis. Mary E. Steffen, Jameson Ringger (Bro. Kendal and Sis. Sandy), and Sis. Tammy Gerber (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline). May God heal each of them according to His will.

A special prayer is in our hearts

for Bro. Steve Reinhard and his wife, Sis. Renee, and children. Bro. Steve has suffered an illness in the past months and has spent much time in the hospital. We pray that they feel our love and prayers and God's presence at all times.

Let me be worthy, Lord of Thee,  
I pray that I may always be  
A source of strength, a force for  
good;

Living life the way I should.  
Helping others when I can,  
Understanding my fellowman.  
Only then will my life be  
Truly worthy, Lord, of Thee.

Author Unknown

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Wendy Gutwein

We would like to give our prayerful support to all those with new duties and thanks to those whose terms expired as of our annual business meeting on Jan. 27. New Sunday School teachers are: Bros. Doug Leman, Perry Neihouser and Ken Wuethrich. Bro. Ron Anliker will be one of our church trustees, and Bro. Perry Neihouser will assist on our Missionary Committee. New ushers are Bros. Phil Gutwein, Bob Cook and Wayne Putt. Trustees for the Fellowship Center are Bros. Wally Bucher and Jeff Gutwein, and on the Parkview Haven Board of Directors are Bros. Nate Gutwein and Sidneý Leman.

We rejoice with Bro. Keith Schladenhauffen (Bro. Everett and Sis. Luella) and Sis. Delores Topp (Dale Topp and Louise Topp) as they feel it is the Lord's will for them to be united in holy matrimony. Their engagement was announced to our congregation on January 17. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Hospital patients this past month have been Brian Cook (Sis. Suz and Herb), Sis. Tillie Geyer and Kristen Sanders (Jeff and Elaine). Brian and Kristen are home, and our prayers are with Sis. Tillie as she is still hospitalized.

Our thanks go to our visiting minister this past month, Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington), for bringing the precious Word to us on Feb. 14.

"There is only one thing," said a village blacksmith, "that I fear, and

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

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

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

#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Klopfenstein  
Bobbi Erb

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1,2

On February 20th Elder Brother Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Elder Brother Orville Ringger (Bluffton) shared with our congregation, the Memorandum. We had a blessed evening together and were encouraged to devote a time each day to reading and studying the Word.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Steffen were blessed on February 11th with a baby girl. Katie Louraine was welcomed home by her big sister, Elizabeth. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Lucille Steffen (Remington) and Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Kanitz (Tuscola).

Tiara Wuethrich was hospitalized during the month for bronchialitis. She is the daughter of Blake and Sis. Kim. Her hospital stay was short

and she is now recovering at home.

We are all very thankful, Bro. Steve Rinkenberger, who underwent surgery here in Indianapolis this month, has been reunited with his family and is having a successful recovery.

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INDIANA, LEO  
Mrs. Phil Schlatter  
Mrs. Al Frautschi

I love this book!  
Revealing love divine  
That reached to me from calvary  
And made this great salvation mine.

I love this book!  
It is my treasure chest  
Of wisdom pure...of comfort sure...  
A pillow where my soul can rest

I love this book!  
'Tis my beloved's voice;  
So tenderly he speaks to me  
And makes my longing heart  
rejoice.

I love this book!  
It is a chastening rod.  
When from the way my feet would  
stray,  
It firmly leads me back to God.

I love this book!  
It is my daily bread,  
My portion sweet of royal meat  
On which I'm bountifully fed.

I love this book!  
But some day I shall look  
Upon His face...O wondrous grace!  
No longer will I need this book.  
By Joyce M. Hart

Appreciation is expressed for the ministry and visits of Bro. Loren Stoller, Latty, O. and Bro. Orville Ringger, Bluffton, Ind.

Bro. Wade Stoller returned safely under His protection, from a recent business trip to Romania.

Beware of a half truth: you may have gotten hold of the wrong half.

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INDIANA, MILFORD  
Marcy Haab — Gwen Steffen

One Wednesday evening, as we gathered for our midweek service, we sang together, "One sweetly solemn thought comes to me o'er and o'er; I'm nearer home today,

today, Than I have been before." (Hymns of Zion No. 221) This song touched my heart as our congregation has seen the Spirit of the Lord come and soften the hearts of more souls. Two of these souls have found peace and are anxiously awaiting baptism. We rejoice with Clark Schieler and Amy Kroh, for they are truly nearer their heavenly home today than they have been before.

We are especially thankful for these times when we can assemble together. This was not our privilege three Sundays in January as winter storms passed through our area. Many of us found that when two or three gather together, He is there. (Matt. 18:20)

We are grateful to have our ministering Bro. Elmer Hartter back with us after spending time in the hospital and recuperating from surgery. Bro. Ted Baumgartner has recently undergone surgery in Florida, where he is spending the winter months. We understand Bro. Ted has felt His healing hand. Sis. Debbie Beer was hospitalized for tests and Bro. Steve Haab had the misfortune of falling and injuring his arm. We also want to remember Bro. Andy Kammerer as he continues his monthly therapy in Ft. Wayne. We can never appreciate our health enough.

Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth, gave advice that is very applicable today, "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." (II Cor. 13:11) This should be our utmost desire.

#### INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler

I have been reading of the starvation in the Third World countries. I am sure many of you have read articles on the hunger and despair of our fellow human beings, created of God even as we were, yet doing with so little while we have so much. Can we imagine holding our own thin, sickly child in our arms, listening to its faint whimpers, ourselves too weak to do anything about it? How must a Mother feel? God spoke to Isaiah of our duties in this respect in Isaiah, chapter 58. May He give us a will to help where we can.

"Teach us to care, Oh God, in such a way, that we do not hoard nor store for the future — but share gladly regardless of how little."

B. Beachy

We are thankful for our brothers' efforts in loading and transporting grain for shipment overseas. We are so thankful we can give food in the Lord's name.

We elected three new Sunday School teachers at our annual meeting: Bro. Rex Clauss, Sis. Helen Waibel, and Sis. Brenda Clark. We encourage them to be confident in the Lord who gives wisdom to those who pray for it and desire to teach his lambs.

We are thankful that Ed Getz (Bro. Morris and Sis. Eileen) has expressed his peace and forgiveness from the Lord. Can we appreciate it enough that we still have Grace today to become one of His? We look forward to witnessing Ed's testimony and baptism.

Sis. Clara Braker has been hospitalized for tests. We miss her gathering with us and pray for her recovery.

### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Emma Lou Gerber

In February we found many beautiful cards on display in the stores. It could have been aptly called the Month of Hearts or Love. Many sentimental expressions decorated these cards which traditionally were sent to loved ones on St. Valentine's Day. It has been said 350 million are sent yearly.

The human heart is capable of great love. However, it cannot be compared to the indescribable depth of love in God's heart for mankind. God's Divine love is manifested, shall we say mysteriously, in his children. We must be in the Word consistently to guard that spiritual flame of love so it will never diminish. Many a soul's salvation could be ignited through God's great gift of Grace and Love in the hearts of his children.

THE LOVE OF GOD IS GREATER  
FAR THAN TONGUE OR PEN  
CAN TELL...

Hymns of Zion No. 289

On Feb. 6, Bro. Lenny Meyer, his son, Bro. Ross, Mike Ryan and Alex Jankowich of Chicago spent the day with us. Bro. Meyer gave a timely reminder that just as God was faithful to the Abrahamic Covenant, he is faithful in his promises to us today. Great is His faithfulness and how important it is to keep these thoughts uppermost in our minds. Their visit was inspirational, and again we thank them for their acts of love.

Ernest Germann, Sis. Marie's husband, was hospitalized Feb. 3. Committing his recovery to the Lord, we wish him a quick release from the hospital. Thursday Feb. 11, Sis. Hazel Clauss (Bro. Dan) after an extended illness, passed through death to her Eternal Home. She had a wonderful testimony of her love for the Lord, and though her passing saddened all who knew her, we rejoice in the alleviation of her pain and suffering. She is survived by two daughters, Sis. Doris Reinhard, Bluffton, Martha Hershberger, Bourbon, one son, Glenn, of Bourbon, and their families. We sympathize with them in their great loss.

### PURDUE UNIVERSITY WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

Verne Von Tobel

Greetings brethren! For lack of news, I looked up the word "March". Besides being a month, Webster also describes March as: "To move in order, as soldiers; to proceed at a steady pace; . . . a steady advance." As Christians, we relate marching to our daily lives. Our steady advancement is to take one day at a time, in faith. Many Christian songs relate to marching as soldiers also. Some of these are: "Marching to Zion", "Soldiers of the Cross," "Onward Christian Soldiers," and "Soldiers of the Lord." Even if our "battles" seem large, we can take comfort knowing that each "battle" won is a step closer to winning the war.

### INDIANA, VALPARIASO

Mary Huber — Claudia Thomas

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the

hearers" (Eph. 4:29)

We can truly say this verse became the Living Word when we were ministered to by our visiting Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott), our elder Bro. Ed Frank (La Crosse), and Bro. Wendall Gudeman (Franceville). We want to thank them for giving us strength to go on to honor God.

### My Friend

I stand in judgment now, and I feel that you are to blame somehow. On earth I walked with you each day and never did you point out "the way". You knew the Lord in truth and glory but never did you tell the story.

My knowledge then was very dim. You could have led me safe to Him. Though we lived together on earth You never told me of the second birth. And now I stand this day condemned because you failed to mention Him.

You taught me many things that's true. I called you friend and trusted you. But now I learned and it's too late, you could have kept me from this fate. We walked by day and talked by night. But yet you showed me not the light.

You let me live and love and die. You knew I would never live on high. Yes, I called you friend in life and trusted you through joy and strife and yet I am come to the end. And cannot now call you "My friend."

May we all do our part so we may see many friends in heaven.

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Suzanne Hoerr

Kris and Laurel Widmer

"I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for the many prayers on my behalf following my accident, during my hospitalization, and now since returning home. From many churches people expressed their concern for me and I want you to know I appreciate everything."

Chris Bahler

Bro. Ed Kyburz was hospitalized for hip surgery but is recovering well and able to assemble with us once again.

Born to Kent and Robin Blume, a son, Landon Elliott, on Jan. 29. Paternal grandparents are Ivan and Jean Collins. Big brother Cody welcomes his new baby brother.

### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Kim Salik — Edith Massner**

We haven't had a wedding here for several years, so Jan. 17 was an especially blessed day when Sis. Mindy Taeger (Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Mark Kiefer, Oakville (Bro. Bob and Sis. Delores) were married. A beautiful account of a marriage by faith was read from Genesis 24. How fortunate we still are to observe such faith! From Ephesians 5:25 we were reminded of a husband and wife relationship as compared to Christ and the church. "Such wondrous love, it is so marvelous, that such for me should be reserved." Zions Harp No. 220

On Jan. 23 we were all refreshed in spirit by hearing our dear friend Kenneth Beuhler give his testimony of faith as he expressed how God had helped change his life. Our prayers go out to many others who we wish were prepared for baptism as was Bro. Kenneth!

Announcement was made of the engagement of our Sis. Tonya Taeger (Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy) to Bro. Keith Lanz, Oakville (Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan). They will be making careful and prayerful preparation for marriage. Are we all, likewise, making special preparation for that marriage, in heaven, of Christ and His bride, the church?

### IOWA, ELGIN

**Eleanor Butikofer**

We are seeing a continuation of quite severe weather conditions so that our snow cover has remained at about twenty four inches. However, the temperature has risen for which we are thankful. Yesterday, someone sighted a herd of twelve deer west of here. No doubt this has been a difficult time for all wildlife to find sustenance. Salt has been placed near here for the wild animals to take at will. It's quite easy to feed the wild birds and very rewarding to those who participate. It affords one such a lovely picture to see the many different colored birds against the white covering of

snow. God's creations are truly wonderful. May we ever thank Him for His love for us.

A baby boy, Jerry Lynn, was born to Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Sandy Butikofer. He was born on Jan. 13. His sister is Melissa and his grandparents are Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah Butikofer and Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart of West Bend.

On Jan. 11 a baby boy was born to Eugene and Julie Moore. He was named Joshua Jerome. He has two sisters, Heather and Jessica and one brother, Wesley. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brehme of Wadena IA and Sis. Elizabeth Moore of Elgin.

It's so easy to love the little folks. One of the many lessons learned from children is showing gratefulness in small things.

Funeral services were held on the 29th of January for Bro. Gottlieb Pulfer. He was born in Rueggisberg, Canton Bern, Switzerland on Sept. 26, 1883. He is survived by one son, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, one sister, and two brothers. We extend our sympathy to his family. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:4

Gracious Father, your Son came to earth to bring us to heaven. Give us we pray the resolve to follow hard after Him. We humbly ask for saving grace through Jesus.

Correction: In the Elgin, IA news in the Feb. issue, the word "vegetables" should have been "vegetation."

### IOWA, IOWA CITY

**Susie Gramm**

We are thankful that God has bestowed a calm in the winter weather we've been experiencing. This made it possible for many from our congregation to attend the Jan. 31st wedding in West Bend of our dear Sis. Becky Banwart to Bro. Andy Virkler from New Bremen, New York. We wish them God's richest

blessings in their new life together.

We've also been privileged to have many visiting ministers recently, they were Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville), Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington), Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Bro. Bill Funk (Garden Grove), Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton), Bro. John Schmidgall (Oakville) and Bro. Harvey Heiniger (Burlington). God's Word is our source of strength in these wicked times.

### His Word is Powerful

His Word is like fire consuming,

His Word is a hammer to break;  
His Word is a sword with two edges,  
His Word like a lamp you can take.

His Word is against the false prophets,

His Word is opposed to all sin;  
His Word will endure forever,  
His Word will the victory win.

His Word is both written and living,

His Word will outlive sword and pen;  
His Word is His eternal edict,  
His Word: — it is yea and amen.  
H. H. Savage

### IOWA, LESTER

**Alice Metzger**

We are enjoying moderating weather and melting snows after an extremely severe winter. Although we look forward to spring, we marvel at the changing seasons and how they respond to a time clock we cannot fathom.

Bro. Carl Wyss was our most welcome visiting minister the 1st Sunday in January. He and Sis. Lydiann along with other family members were here to help Grandpa Fred Metzger observe his 97th birthday. He thoroughly enjoyed the many greetings he received from relatives and friends.

Our hospital patients have been Bro. Alvin Leuthold, Sis. Betty Jean Leuthold, Viola Moser and Sara Metzger, daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb.

To the dear friends, brothers and sisters in the Zapata area who so willingly gave of their time and energy in picking the citrus fruit for our church, many thanks.

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

Jesus, Lover of my soul, Let me to  
Thy bosom fly,  
While the nearer waters roll, While  
the tempest still is high!  
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the  
storm of life is past;  
Safe into the haven guide, O  
receive my soul at last!  
Hymns of Zion No. 279

There is comfort in the words of that hymn, one of the favorites of our dear Bro. John Henry Wagenbach, Sr., 84, who passed away on Jan. 30. He was born Dec. 9, 1897, in Peoria, to Bro. George and Sis. Mary (Wiegand) Wagenbach. He was baptized in 1919. On Feb. 26, 1922, he married Sis Bertha Gerst at Oakville. He was called into the ministry in 1937, and retired, due to reasons of health, in 1967. Surviving: his wife, Sis. Bertha; three sons, Bro. Paul, John Jr., and Bro. Gerald, all of Oakville; nine daughters, Sis. Verna (Bro. Marvin) Woodward (Burlington), Sis. Ada (Bro. Earl) Massner, Sis. Barbara (Bro. Virgil) Massner, Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Myron) Schulz, Sis. Emma Jean (Bro. Robert) Lanz, Sis. Bertha Lee (Bro. Doss) Massner, Sis. Delores (Bro. Danny) Anliker, and Sis. Teresa (Bro. Ervin) Marti, all of Oakville, and Sis. Edith Wagenbach (Morton); three brothers, Bro. George (Princeville), Bro. Simon (Tremont), and Bro. Lester (Peoria); 54 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. Two sisters and one brother preceded him in death. Though he will be sorely missed by many who knew and loved him, we trust that Bro. John is now "safe in the arms of Jesus."

We joyfully welcome a new brother in Christ, Mark Larson, who gave his testimony of faith and was baptized Jan. 31. We wish him much grace and the nearness of the Holy Spirit.

On Feb. 7, we learned of the engagement of Bro. Keith Lanz to Sis. Tonya Taeger (Burlington) We wish them God's guidance and blessings. Their parents are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz, and Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Brulington).

The old Huron School in our community has recently been demolished, and the gymnasium was made available to us for use as a fellowship hall, if we so desired. After much deliberation, the congregation voted to buy the structure, and remodel it into a building useful for various occasions. We trust that our gatherings there can be pleasing to the Lord, and edifying to us all.

**IOWA, PULASKI**

**Mary Wiegand — Ginny Wuthrich**

Serving us in the labor of the Lord this past month were Elder Bro. Leroy Huber, Eureka and Bro. Gerald Sutter, Taylor. We thank them for their labors of love. We were left with this thought: Will we be able to say when our time is over, as it reads in St. John 17:4, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do"?

Hospitalized this past month were Chad Wuthrich, son of Bro. Sill and Sis. Ernestine, Sis. Shirley Wuthrich (Bro. Joel) and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich (Bro. Roger). All three are home and doing quite well now.

In making others happy  
You will be happy too,  
For happiness you give away  
Returns to "shine on you."

By Helen Steiner Rice

Chad, Sis. Karoline, and Sis. Shirley all wish to thank the many who remembered them and their families in thought, deed, and prayer. May God bless you.

**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Judy Fehr — Elma Mogler**

We appreciated hearing God's word in humble preaching from visiting ministers Bro. Paul Butikofer, Bro. Dale Moore, both from Elgin, IA, and Bro. Joe Gerst, Iowa City. They came to share the happy wedding day of Sis. Rebecca Banwart and Bro. Andrew Virkler from Crogan, NY. Sis. Rebecca's uncle, Bro. Earl Banwart, assisted in the ceremony. Our best wishes and God's blessings are with them as they establish a new Christian home.

The Lord has wonderful ways of

leading His own. The engagement of Sis. Joleen, daughter of Sis. Betty and the late Bro. Richard Schmidt to Bro. Rod, son of Cliff and Sis. Barbara Edelman, Sabetha, was made known recently. Leo, son of Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart has also announced his engagement to Tami Samek of Hawkeye, Ia. Leo is presently employed at Elgin, IA. Our best wishes go out to both of these couples as they make plans for their wedding day.

Our sympathy goes out to two families at this time. Adolph and Jean Knoblock of our congregation lost a loving parent, Bro. Jacob Otto, from Goodfield. We also sympathize with the family of Sis. Blanche Steffen of the Cissna congregation. Sis. Blanche was born here and spent her childhood years in this area.

Our Sis. Christine (Sid) Schmidt had the misfortune of breaking a hip. May our prayers be answered that she can soon be home with her husband. Miriam Frieden is home from the hospital and is slowly improving from a back disorder. Bro. Arnold Ludwig is improving after a visit to the hospital for tests. Joel Kellenberger was also a hospital patient for a short time. May God grant His healing power to all.

Alan and Joan Grimm are the parents of a new son. They have named him Daniel Michael. May God bless their home and family of three boys.

**JAPAN, SHIODA**

**Kathy Klotzle**

Sister Asakawa Obasan is a name we've often heard in listening to stories of days gone by in Japan. Full of life and spirit, Sis. Asakawa lived in a little room of our church for awhile, helping the Ehnles. Now in a hospital in Chiba prefecture, Sis. Vicki and I were privileged to meet her for the first time. She took our hands, cold from our walk from the train station, and warmed them in hers. As is often the case in visiting a shut-in, we were the receivers of warmth within by the time we left her. She assuredly and thankfully said that it has been the prayers of brethren in Japan and America that have helped her recover from her stroke as well as

she has.

Satoe Ozawa is now home from the hospital and feeling quite well after being severely ill. We pray that God will continue to give her His strength, and that she will be able to assemble with us once again soon.

Our dear friends, Minoru and Kuniko Iijima, have been blessed with a baby girl, Rena-chan. May this gift from God help them to realize more fully their need of Him in facing the responsibility of raising another child, and may they continue to seek in the way of salvation. We're thankful that they and their daughter Rie-chan have been worshipping with us for some time.

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle has returned from his month in America, and we thankfully welcomed him home. We thank Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and his family and Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki for coming from Tokyo to minister to us in his absence. We enjoyed the opportunity to share times of fellowship in Christ while they were with us.

Sis. Hiroko Natori's father passed away recently. We hope that God's love and her faith in Him will fill her with peace and comfort at this time.

Thursday, Feb. 11, is a national holiday in Japan. It is also the day of the annual Brotherhood Meeting of our churches here. As I sat in Tokyo church last Thursday, surrounded by dear, dear brethren in our Lord, I thought that there wasn't anywhere else that I'd rather be. Bro. Akito and Bro. Willis translated and meditated on the memorandum of the conference in America last summer, following the theme of "The Life of a Believer". We enjoyed a spiritual day in Christ Jesus, and thank the Tokyo brethren for their love and labors. We parted after singing the hymn "Unity" together. This song means more to me than ever before because of the brethren I've been privileged to get to know and love during my time in Japan.

In Sunday School recently, I've been teaching stories of Jesus' miracles, trying to get across the concept of the word "faith". At the end of our lesson today, I asked the children to think of three things for which they wanted to pray to God. Each week they try to think of one

thank you, one thing about that day's story and one favor, thus hopefully learning that they can pray about different types of things to the one true and living God. Today they decided that they wanted to say thank you for healing Jairus' daughter (our story), and to pray that more boys and girls would come to Sunday School. They were stumped on a thank you, and I said, "Oh, there are so many things to be thankful for," thinking of the beautiful day or any of the many simple blessings in life. My seven-year-old Hiroki-kun out did me though, when he said, "Thank you for faith."

#### JAPAN, TOKYO

**Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue**

Feb. 8, early in the morning, The Hotel New Japan had a big fire and quite a lot of people were killed and injured. The next day, Feb. 9, JAL's domestic liner crashed into the ocean near the Haneda, "The old International Tokyo Airport." Again, the accident killed and injured a lot of people. These accidents were really terrible, weren't they? We don't know what is going to happen tomorrow. We, of all the people, should realize that the man can not escape from all trials or tribulations of God. So man should wake up and look up to God and repent of their sins. We are very sorry for those who had such terrible accidents. We heard the cause of the hotel misfortune was smoking and over intoxication. We are so glad our brethren discourage such habits.

Our beloved sisters Hiroko Utsuki (Tokyo church) and Reiko (country church) have been in Israel for a few weeks. Sis. Hiroki said that she really enjoyed that trip much more than her trips to other places. She wishes to go there again once more. If it is possible, the church members and dear friends might travel there together by charter flight someday. Especially, we as believers can get some spiritual meanings from it. Israel is a beautiful country.

#### KANSAS, BERN

**Linda Esslinger**

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound

thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth. . . ." St. John 3:8. This verse reminds me of the March winds.

A daughter, Tessa Noel, was born to Marcia and David Reist on Dec. 28. She is welcomed home by Thad, Tabitha, Thatcher. Bro. Louis and Sis. Mavis Meyer are the grandparents.

Bro. Curtis and Sis. Ellen Strahm were blessed with a son, John Curtis, born Feb. 2. Clinton welcomes him. Grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm, and Richard and Dorothy Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

On Feb. 4 a daughter, Tamra Helen, was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb. Welcoming her home are Troy and Kimberly. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb. (Cissna Park, IL).

Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita) was a visiting minister.

Hospitalized was Bro. Joe Rokey for tests.

As Easter season will soon be upon us, may we celebrate His glorious rebirth, and may it inspire and enlighten us with spiritual peace and love.

#### KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

**Jamie Marti**

On January 26 we held our annual business meeting. Elected as Sunday School teachers were Bro. Roger Kraft, Sis. Aleta Banwart, Sis. Ruth Bahr, and Sis. Teresa Bahr. Also elected were: Bro. Harold Kraft — Trustee, Bro. Jim Bahr — song leader Bro. Steve Fischer — usher, and Sis. Mable Springer — food committee.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Earl Banwart of West Bend, IA. We thank him for ministering God's word to us.

#### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

**Julie Strahm — Doris Bahr**

Our annual Business meeting was held in February. Those elected or reelected were — Bro. Rudy Bahr, Board of Trustees; Bro. Eldon Metzger, Building aid and Song Leader; Bro. Al Grimm, property aid; Bro. Ivan, Cemetary Board and World Relief Representative; Bro. Ephriam Young, Representative for Children's Home; Bro. Albert Edelman, Home for the Handicapp-

ed Rep. and Sunday School Supt.; Bro. Eldon Metzger, Rep. to Sabetha Home; Bro. Rudy Bahr, usher; Bro. Doug Kraft is in charge of the parking. Bro. Brian Bahr, Senior Bible Class Teacher; Sis. Marilyn Owens, Primary Sunday School Class; Serving as substitute teachers are Sis. Vola Young and Bro. Doug Kraft; Silver Lining assistant reporter, Sis. Doris Bahr; Sis. Eileen Bahr, World Relief sewing chairman; Sis. Nadine Kraft, food committee chairman. We seek the blessings of God in utilizing our talents to the fullest for His Glory.

Belatedly we wish to express our sincere birthday wishes to our dear Bro. Jacob Beyer who celebrated his 100th birthday on Jan. 29. "So march then boldly onward, Our Saviour's in the lead" Our dear Bro. Jake has experienced the guiding hand of Our Lord as he has made his long journey of 100 years through life — towards Zion, the City of God.

On February 7, Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm were so very blessed with the presence of many dear ones who shared their joy in celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary together. A special thank you is extended to each and everyone who remembered them in prayerful thought, with cards, and with gifts of love.

Jeanie Young, daughter of Karen and Harvey, has expressed her desire and choice to seek her soul's deep need of salvation. May she find abiding peace for her troubled spirit.

As Easter approaches, the occasion reminds us to prepare our hearts for Holy Communion. I'm reminded of something I read recently. "Many of us sit at the table of Jesus, but few wish to fast with Him when the cup of Sorrow is filled with anguish." It seems that sometimes we as human beings would rather desert His Name, than proclaim it. We need to be aware of times when we wish to confess His wisdom, but then do not wish to embrace His shame. Let us always proclaim Him in praise whether he smiles upon us or decided to try us.

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Address Changed?

INCLUDE OLD AND NEW ZIPS

## KANSAS SABETHA

Addition:

We are so sorry that the names of the brother and sisters were omitted from Sis. Edna Stieners obituary. They are Ted Grimm and Emma Holcomb both from Washington State and Mrs. David (Anna) Rassi of Morton, Illinois.

## KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Mary Wernli

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

Serve the Lord with gladness:  
come before his presence with singing.

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

Enter into his gates with  
thanksgiving, and into his courts  
with praise: be thankful unto him,  
and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is  
everlasting; and his truth endureth  
to all generations.

Psalm 100

Bringing us the message of God's  
goodness and mercy this month  
were Bro. Harvey Grimm and Elder  
Bro. Lester Hartter, Bern, and Bro.  
Carl Hartman and Elder Bro. Sam  
Huber, Sabetha. May God bless all  
those who gather with us on Wed-  
nesday evenings to worship the  
Lord.

## KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr — Gay Lee Farney

One day this past week, we awoke  
in a winter wonderland. God gave us  
a beautiful, white, sunlit morning.  
All the trees and fences were white  
with frost, complementing the  
white, snow-covered ground. My  
husband and I were commenting on  
the beauty and our small son said,  
"If you think this is beautiful, just  
think — heaven will be even more  
beautiful!" It is truly inspiring to  
hear words such as these "out of the  
mouths of babes."

Visiting ministers and their  
families this month were Bro. Roy  
Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Mar-  
vin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We thank

them for sharing God's word with  
us.

Other visitors this month were  
Bro. Glen and Sis. Velma Domnick  
and family from Morris, MN.

Bro. Arnold Ott and Ed  
Stranathan have been in the  
hospital. Sis. Edna Reid has also  
been ill. May the Lord bless them in  
their recovery.

## KANSAS, LAMONT Mary Isch

"We are troubled on every side, . .  
." 2 Cor. 4—

Why should God have to lead us  
thus, and allow the pressure to be so  
hard and constant? Well, in the first  
place, it shows His all-sufficient  
strength and grace much better  
than if we were exempt from  
pressure and trial. "But we have  
this treasure in earthen vessels,  
that the excellency of the power  
may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor.  
4:7 "It makes us more conscious of  
our dependence upon Him. God is  
constantly trying to teach us to  
depend on Him, and to hold ab-  
solutely to His hand and trust in His  
care. This was the place where  
Jesus Himself stood and where He  
wants us to stand, not with self-  
constituted strength, but with a  
hand ever leaning upon His, and a  
trust that dare not take one step  
alone. It teaches us trust. There is  
no way to learn faith except by  
trial. It is God's school of faith, and  
it is far better for us to learn to trust  
God than to enjoy life. The lesson of  
faith once learned, is an everlasting  
acquisition and an eternal fortune  
made; and without trust even riches  
will leave us poor."

Days of Heaven Upon Earth

"Why must I weep when others  
sing?

To test the days of suffering.  
Why must I work while others rest?  
To spend my strength at God's  
request.

Why must I lose while others gain?  
To understand defeat's sharp pain.  
Why must this lot of life be mine  
When that which fairer seems is  
thine?

Because God knows what plans for  
me  
Shall blossom in eternity."

Streams in the Desert

Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and his wife, Sis. Shirley were welcome visitors this month. We thank Bro. Ronald for sharing God's precious word with us.

Bro. Charlie and Sis. Carrie Gliedman would like to thank everyone who remembered them with cards and prayers or helped in any way while Sis. Carrie was in the hospital.

We are happy to report Sis. Carrie is again assembling with us after the absence of several Sundays.

### KANSAS, WICHITA

#### Priscilla Frank

February is a month when we think of valentines and what we can do to show or express our love for our loved ones. It's a time we let them know we appreciate them and care. I had to think as this valentine's day came and went — "What act of love did I show to or for God?" Often it seems we don't know how to tell God of our appreciation for him. It's amazing how schooled we are in our society on how to tell others of our love and yet we fail often to tell our Creator. This thought really penetrated until I felt guilty because I wasn't sure just exactly how. I knew we could simply tell him but that did not seem enough. I asked God just how we could express our love for him (You know the old saying — Action speaks louder than words.) Little by little, or verse by verse, he has shared some ways with me and I in turn would like to share them with you. The first verses shown to me were in Ephesians chapter 5 — verses 1 and 2 — "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour." I think this one is fairly plain. We should sacrifice our self unto God. Sacrifice our desires for His will.

The second passage was in I John chapter 3, verses 16-19. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how

dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him." These verses showed God's love for us and how we might return it. There are several other passages I could share with you, but, this last passage seems to pretty well sum them all up. In St. John chapter 15 verses 12-14 it states, "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." May we all seek out his commandments and do them that we might all be pleasing in his sight.

We would like to welcome Blake Allen Langhofer who was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Jeannie Langhofer Feb. 6. We pray God will grant them grace, strength, and wisdom as they raise this little one.

### MICHIGAN, ALTO

#### Jane Grawburg

A special flame of love has been kindled in each of our hearts. Something very special, and wonderful, has happened. We have been blessed with two more very precious souls who have decided to turn to our Lord. It is our most humble prayer that Carol Schlatter (Bro. Ott and Sis. Pat) and Renee Steffen (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta) receive much grace and inner strength that they may continue in the beautiful life they have so rightly chosen. May God richly bless both of these dear souls.

We held our annual meeting a couple weeks ago. Bro. Wally Gerst and Sis. Penny Erissman are new in Sunday School this year. Substitutes are Bro. Ron Erissman and Sis. Myrna Steffen. Our superintendent, elected at our teachers' meeting, is Bro. Wes Daniels.

Bro. Lyman Feldman has taken on new responsibilities as trustee. Sis. Pat Schlatter has joined the dinner committee. Sis. Judy Gerst has once again joined the sewing and World Relief committee.

We support these brethren and

pray that all goes well in the coming year.

### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

#### Linda Ramseyer

Bro. Merle and Sis. Elaine Wieland were blessed with the arrival of three new grandchildren. A daughter, Michelle Dawn, was born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn Bahr of Detroit. Michelle's brother, Scott welcomed her home. Kirk and Debbie Wieland were blessed with twin sons, Michael Kirk and Keven Duane. The boys are their first children.

We were also glad to hear of the birth of a son, Eric Glenn, to Glenn and Joy Knochel. Heather and Kim welcomed their first brother. Eric's grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Marian Knochel. Our prayers are with these three couples as they are rejoicing with their new babies.

Our thoughts go to those who have been in the hospital this past month. Sis. Ida (Bro. Sam) Wieland is a medical patient and we hope she will be home soon. We are sorry to hear that Sis. Faye (Bro. Frank) Wackerle is still hospitalized, but we pray the Lord will continue to be with her and that she, also, can soon be home. We were glad to see Elder Bro. Andrew Viriker assembling with us once again, after being ill, at home, for a few weeks.

### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

#### Helen and Bonnie Popp

"Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart."

Psalm 26:2

Communion — It is always a time of deep feelings and reflection upon our lives. There is something so special in gathering together on a Saturday evening — believers all — and breaking bread together. We were so very grateful that Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier could be with us to assist our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach. May this time cause us to be more ready from this day forward — that our lives could be in more perfect harmony with God's will.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn Bahr welcome into their hearts and home a new daughter. Michelle Dawn was born Jan. 22. Scott welcomes his

new baby sister, too. Grandparents are Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise Bahr and Bro. Merle and Sis. Elaine Wieland. We wish a special blessing upon this dear young family.

Bro. Bill Schlatter was able to be with us for our Wednesday evening service, Jan. 27. We appreciate his visit and that he could lend himself to minister unto us.

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**MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**  
**Deb Tilbury**

It was so blessed to be able to assemble in God's House again. Three Sunday services were cancelled due to bad weather. On Feb. 7 we were thankful to have Bros. Elmer Schmidt of Winthrop and Art Nohl, Morris, visit us and bring us many good teachings.

Sis. Laura Miller was unable to assemble with us the past month. We are glad that she is able to get around again.

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

"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ." II Thessalonians 3:5. A special loving thanks to Bro. Bob Pflederer and his dear wife for sharing these and many teachings with us. As we wait for Christ's return, may we reflect the love of God in our lives as Bro. Bob emphasized. Being husband, wife, or parent, if we acknowledge Him, He shall direct our paths.

Other visitors included Bros. Sam Huber, Bob Grimm, and Elmer Witzig. They came to attend the wedding of Tim Gramm (Bro. Harold and Sis. Ida) to Gwen Nohl (Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra) We pray a blessing on the newlywed's home.

Bro. Harold Gramm was a hospital patient for several days and we're thankful he could return home again. May he find grace to "glory in tribulations."

Gary Fehr (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane) and Sandy Brandt were married in February. May they follow the Shepherd in their life together.

There are several families rejoicing over their new little lambs: Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane Kellenberger welcome a daughter, Janae;

Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra Joos have a girl, Kayla; and Bro. Dave and Sis. Joyce Wulf were blessed with Marcy. To them all we pray for God's rich blessings and patience to "train them up in the way they should go."

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**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**  
**Carol Messner — Mary Lou Schmidt**

And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from Heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. "He is not here: for He is risen." Matt. 28:2,6.

As we find prophesied in the Old Testament, Jesus arose from the grave the third day. He has proven that He is truly the Son of God and has arisen from the dead so that we can also be redeemed and rise from sin and death. This is the conclusive evidence of our faith: that Christ is the Son of God, our Saviour and Redeemer, and that there is life after death.

May we always remember to thank our Lord for what He has done for us. Not only at Easter-time, but each and every day of our lives!

Bro. Donald Miller and family of the Minneapolis congregation visited here one Sunday. From Heb. 12:1,2, we heard many good teachings: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses; let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us; looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

We must not be like the someone who gives good advice, but sets a bad example. Others will not believe if our actions contradict our faith.

Bro. Ray Messner wishes to thank all those who remembered him with cards, gifts, prayers, and visits while he was hospitalized.

Sis. Darlene Schmidt (Darrel) was also hospitalized for surgery this past month. She is now home and doing fine. May God speed her recovery.

Elder Bro. Harold and Sis. Gerry Messner extend their prayerful thanks to all those who remembered them on their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

Travis, son of Darrel and Jane

Redmann, was hospitalized for a tonsillectomy. He is home doing fine and back in kindergarten.

The engagement of Sis. Michelle Messner, daughter of Bill and Sis. Marilyn, to Bro. Merle Knoblock, son of Bro. Alfred and Sis. Salome of Lester, Iowa, has been announced. "Where God in truth abides; where two join hand and heart; we find a three-fold cord; not lightly rent apart."

Zion's Harp No. 79

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Janice Lehman**

On Jan. 31, our church was completely filled as many witnessed the baptisms of Bill and Cora Rogers. Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Marti for this blessed weekend. Our hearts were touched as we listened to the testimonies and heard how a mother's prayer was answered even with the passing of many years.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Wayne Miller, Raymond Banwart, Carl Hartman, Loren Strahm, and John Lehman.

Once again, we can all witness how refreshing it is when we see that Spring is beginning to appear after a very cold winter. I am reminded of a little poem which I would like to share.

Birds don't complain when  
 snow storms come  
 And cover food and lawn;  
 Instead of grumbling when it snows,  
 They sing when it is gone.

Thelma Ireland

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Sandra Marti — Becky Hohulin**

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die. . . Ecclesiastes 3:1,2. We of the Lamar congregation have experienced both happenings this month; the joy of a new born baby, and the sorrow in the death of a loved one.

Our new baby in our congregation was born to Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker. Sarah Jo is her name and she has a sister, Carol, to help welcome her home. Proud grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman (Eureka, IL) and Bro.

Raymond and Sis. Luetta Braker.

We were saddened at the death of Clara (Braker) Lehman. We extend our sympathy to her family and to those that knew and loved her. Brothers Ervin Knecht and Charles Marti had the funeral services.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Luetta Braker (surgical) and Phil Braker (surgical). Phil is the son of Bro. Danny and Sis. Janice Braker. Both are home now and recovering nicely.

Many prayers were offered as Ryan Braker, son of Terry and Janelle Braker, was in the hospital with a serious illness. God does answer prayer and Ryan is now at home.

Three Wednesday evenings were set aside to hear the tapes of the conference. There were loving warnings and timely admonitions shared by our elder brethren. We should always be thankful for our elders who care for us, and are willing to lend themselves on our behalf. May God richly reward them for their labors of love.

"Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul."

Ezekiel 3:21

We enjoyed the blessed privilege of loving fellowship on the weekend of Feb. 13 and 14. Young groups from Elgin, IL, Morris, MN, Sabetha, KS, Bern, KS, and Fort Scott, KS were with us here in Lamar. We realize how true the words of the hymn, "Blest Be the Tie" are in times such as these.

"Blest be the tie that binds,  
Our hearts in Christian Love.  
The Fellowship of kindred minds.  
Is like to that Above."

Hymns of Zion No. 156

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel

Rejoice! Know that God's love protects you and His light is there for you, no matter how dark the night. We are happy to have our hospital patients, Sis. Nancy Knapp (Bro. Jerry), surgical, and little Joel Hastings (Maribeth and Greg), medical, back with us again. May God restore full health, according to His will.

Our annual Business meeting was held Jan. 26, Elder Bro. Roy, being in charge. New officers are Bro. Louis Hoerr, church trustee, Don Grimm, fellowship hall trustee, Richard Sutter and Rod Heimer, ushers, and Sis. Barb Heimer, Food Committee. We thank Bros. Don Hoerr, James Sutter, Norman Hoerr and Sis. Lois Sutter for their fulfilled terms. We appreciate all who take part in the physical and operational part of our church as well as the ministering brothers and Sunday School teachers who provide spiritual sustenance. May we work together to keep our "inn" a place where all can feel welcome and where the "Holy Bible" and God's word is the "Nucleus."

We ask God's blessing and protection for Elder Bro. Roy as he, along with three other brethren, are leaving for their trip to India in regard to the "Rural Gospel and Medical Mission". May God's will be done and His abiding presence be felt among them as well as among their families who are waiting at home.

The following poem was read by Bro. Clarence Yackley, Phoenix, during his recent visit here, as a tribute to his "Uncle Adolph Gerst", age 91, who is a loved one in our congregation.

I'm sure we can all think of someone "special" who fits these lines and God will surely bless those with the sensitivity to hold a hand or pat a shoulder and show tenderness to any older person whose lifetime was spent in giving.

### Not Growing Old

They say that I am growing old;  
I've heard them tell it times untold  
In language plain and bold.  
But I'm not growing old!  
This frail old shell in which I dwell  
Is growing old, I know full well.  
But I am not the shell.  
What if my hair is turning gray?  
Gray hairs are honorable, they say.  
What if my eyesight is growing dim?  
I still can see to follow Him,  
Who sacrificed His life for me  
Upon the cross of Calvary.  
What should I care if time's old plow  
Has left his furrows on my brow?  
Another house not made with hands

Awaits me in the glory land.  
What though I falter in my walk?  
What though my tongue refuse to  
talk?

I still can tread the narrow way;  
I still can watch and praise and pray.  
My hearing may not be as keen  
As in the past it may have been.  
Still I can hear my Saviour say  
In whispers soft, "This is the way."  
The outward man — do what I can  
To lengthen out this life's short

span —

Shall perish and return to dust  
As everything in nature must.  
The inward man, the scriptures say,  
Is growing stronger everyday.  
Then how can I be growing old  
When safe within my Saviour's fold  
Ere long my soul shall fly away  
And leave this tenement of clay?  
This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise  
To seize the "everlasting prize!"  
I'll meet you on the streets of gold  
And prove that I'm not growing old.

By John E. Roberts

### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

Church services were cancelled two Sundays because of heavy snow in the area. The blessings of the Word and close fellowship are sorely missed when Sunday worship together is denied us.

We greatly appreciate elder Bro. Corbin Bahler's visit on Jan. 31, along with his wife and a number of other brethren from Rockville. The word of God is very precious to us all and we can certainly be thankful for faithful ministers to proclaim it.

### NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 24, baptismal services were held for Antoinette and Martha Schulz at their home as they were unable to assemble with us. We rejoice with them and their family as we welcome them as sisters in faith. Services were held by Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner and Robert Beyer.

On Sunday, Jan. 17, we were privileged to assemble with the Naumburg congregation for services together.

Bill and Beth Widrick have welcomed their second child who was born on Jan. 13. He has been named Jacob William and his sister

Jackie has welcomed a new playmate. His grandparents are Gilbert and Betty Widrick and Roger and Mary Griffin of Hannibal. Bro. John and Sis. Berdina Widrick are great-grandparents.

The Naumburg congregation was with us on Wednesday evening, Feb. 17 for a covered dish supper. We spent the evening in fellowship and singing.

Bro. Andy Virkler and Sis. Becky Banwart exchanged wedding vows on Jan. 31 in West Bend, Iowa. We welcome Sis. Becky into our congregation and wish them God's richest blessings as they walk life's pathway together.

Our hospital patients this month were Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner for tests and Bro. Bernar Martin also for tests. Sis. Pearl Lehman who has been hospitalized since October has moved into the Extended Care Facility at Lowville. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of our loved ones who are hospitalized or confined to their homes. May they look to God for their comfort and strength for each day of this earthly life.

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**NEW YORK, NAUMBURG**  
**Rachel Snyder**

A group from Croghan and Naumburg gathered at Sis. Minnie Taube's to sing a few songs. It was her birthday.

We are sorry to hear that Sis. Barbara Bachman had to go into the hospital.

"I am my neighbor's Bible,  
 He reads me when we meet,  
 Today he reads me in the house,  
 Tomorrow in the street.

He may be relative or friend,  
 Or slight acquaintance be,  
 he may not even know my name,  
 Yet he is reading me."

Author unknown

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**OHIO, AKRON**  
**Joyce Gasser**

Our thanks go to those whose terms expired: Bro. Leon Graf as Sunday School Superintendent; Bro. Ron Palitto and Sis. Gail Spangler as teachers; Bro. Randy Miller as usher; and Sis. Evelyn Walker on the kitchen committee. Those who

will be taking the duties are: Bro. Ned Spangler as Sunday School Superintendent; Bro. Duane Collins and Sis. Joyce Shamback as teachers; Bro. Bob Ritzman as usher; and Sis. Carol Gasser on the kitchen committee. We know the Lord will help them in their new responsibilities.

Bro. Glenn Greenbank is attending several weeks of computer classes in Pennsylvania which his employer, the Burroughs Corporation, is sending him to. He is close to Philadelphia and attending church there until his classes are finished.

Mickey Walter is home from the hospital recuperating from knee surgery. Bro. Stanley Francis had been hospitalized for several days.

Sis. Bethi Graf is feeling better as she is recuperating at home after having fallen on the ice. We miss her at church and look forward to having her strong enough to again gather with us.

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**OHIO, COLUMBUS**  
**Andrew Hunyady**

We continue enjoy the blessings of shared fellowship with many visitors and loyal friends as we gather for worship services in our city. The paralyzing effects of the January winter weather hindered some of our attendance, and forced the cancellation of our Jan. 10 meeting.

"O send out thy light and thy truth:  
 let them lead me:  
 let them bring me unto thy holy hill,  
 and to thy tabernacles."

Psalm 43:3

God's message of hope and salvation was brought to us by visiting ministers Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Gary Maibach (Rittman, OH), Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH), and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). We appreciate their service of love. The number of those attending varied from 20 to 39 adults with visitors included.

Meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the Holiday Inn, North, on State Route 161 at I-71. Time of service are 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM.

Stop in and visit us. Our new home address is:

Andrew and Theresa Hunyady  
 4800 Moreland Dr. W.  
 Columbus, Ohio 43220  
 Phone 614-459-9713

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**OHIO, GIRARD**  
**Karen Laparo**

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down:  
 let us kneel before the Lord our maker." Psalm 95:6

We were richly blessed and privileged to have many visitors this past month. We are truly thankful for each one.

We are thankful, too, that Sis. Ella Deislinger, Sis. Mina Emch, and Sis. Freda Gasser are again able to assemble with us after their illnesses.

**The Fight Of Faith**

Like as the armed Knighte,  
 Appointed to the fielde,  
 With this world will I fight,  
 And faith shal be my shilde.

Faith is that weapon stronge  
 Which wil not faile at nede;  
 My foes therefore amonge,  
 Therewith wil I procede.

As it is had in strengthe,  
 And forces of Christes waye,  
 It wil prevaile at lengthe,  
 Though all the devils saye naye.

Faithe of the fathers olde  
 Obtained right witness,  
 Which makes me verye bolde  
 To fear no worldes distress.

I now rejoice in harte,  
 And hope bides me do so;  
 For Christ wil take my part,  
 And ease me of my wo.

Thou sayst, Lord, whoso knocks,  
 To them wilt thou attende;  
 Undo, therefore, the locks,  
 And thy stronge power sende.

Anne Askewe

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**OHIO, JUNCTION**  
**Les Manz**

Visiting ministers, Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman), Bro. Joe Waible (Bay City), and Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) were with us Feb. 9 to participate in the last rites of our Bro. Henry

Manz. Bro. Henry was born in Fulton Co. near Archbold, OH on Nov. 9, 1893. He was the son of Jacob and Anna (Dotterer) Manz and passed away Feb. 6, 1982 at his residence in Paulding. On Nov. 4, 1923 he married Lena Suttor who died on Dec. 26, 1964. He is survived by two sons, Bro. Elias and Bro. Ben; and two daughters, Sis. Madeline and Sis. Henrietta, all of Paulding; twenty grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by four sisters, Sis. Mary, Sis. Hulda, Sis. Frieda and Sis. Anna, and two brothers, Bro. Adam and Bro. Emmanuel, all of Paulding. His wife, six sisters, two brothers, and one grandchild preceded him in death. He was converted on Nov. 15, 1914, and served in the ministry from June 3, 1951, until his illness in Aug. of 1973. He was a WWI Veteran and farmed until his retirement in 1958.

The family of Henry Manz wants to thank all those who remembered their father in so many different ways during his long years of sickness and helped to make his days more pleasant. May God bless you all. They really appreciated it.

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**OHIO, LATTY**  
**Cheryl Wenninger**

"Love of all gifts is the greatest, which the spirit does bestow". . . (Zions Harp) Believing it is the Lord's will, the engagement was made known of Sis. Diane Stoller and Bro. Tom Hartzler of Rittman. Sis. Diane's parents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene. Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian are Bro. Tom's parents. Bro. Bill Eisenman (Bro. Lee and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Carol Stoller (Bro. Delmar and Sis. Marguerite) are also planning to walk life's pathway together. May God lead and guide these couples as they plan their future together.

Sis. Martha Zeltwanger from our congregation passed away. We know she will be missed, but we know from her walk of life that she is in a better land. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Those hospitalized this month were Bro. Charles Dunham (Sis. Laura) and Rocky Martinez (Monica). May they feel the healing power of God in their lives.

"For whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God." Ruth 1:16 On February 21, Sis. Susie Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) and Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman) (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth) were united as one in the Lord. We will miss Sis. Susie, but we pray the Lord's richest blessings upon them as they make their home in Rittman. With us for this occasion were ministering brothers Gary Maibach (Rittman) and Walter Steffen (Milford). May the Lord bless these brothers for their efforts.

**Satan And The Spirit**

I have a whole world to offer you!  
 Yes, you have the world to hold  
 Till the day when God declares  
 Time on earth shall be no more  
 Fire and brimstone shall rain down  
 and melt it like the snow.  
 What will you have to offer then to a  
 dying soul?

But think of all you're giving up!

I'm giving up the chance to die  
 To spend eternity in hell  
 Burning in a lake of fire  
 I thank God he's made a way  
 That I might escape  
 By the living grace of God  
 I shall see His Face.

You don't sin, you're good enough!

There's not a just man upon earth  
 That doeth good and sinneth not  
 We all like sheep have gone astray  
 We have turned everyone to his own  
 way  
 And the Lord has laid on him the  
 iniquity of us all.

But life will be too dull for you.

Everything you offered me  
 Meant nothing to my heart,  
 For from sin I've been set free  
 Praise the Lord! I'm going home  
 ever to rejoice.

Take the world and get behind,  
 I have found a peace of mind.  
 Everlasting joy is mine,  
 Jesus is my choice!

Unknown

Our congregation is again

rejoicing as two more souls have made Jesus their choice. Rocky and Monica Martinez have felt their need for a Saviour and have turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that God will give them grace and strength as they walk this new path of life. Monica is the daughter of Bro. Willis and Sis. Ellen Stoller.

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

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. . . Psalm 23.

How wonderful it is that God thinks of each of His children by name.

What a precious promise to know that He will lead each of us with His nail-scarred hand through the green pastures of spiritual blessing, up the blood-sprinkled way, until we reach the fold of God in Heaven. I recently read this beautiful thought: "I looked at the mountain. 'It is too hard, Lord,' I said. 'I cannot climb.' 'Take My hand,' He whispered, 'I will be your strength.' I saw the road. 'It is too long, Lord,' I said, 'So rough and long.' 'Take my love,' He answered, 'I will guard your feet.' I looked at the sky. 'The sun is gone,' I said, 'Already it grows dark.' 'Take the lantern of My Word,' He whispered, 'That will be light enough.' We climbed. The road was narrow and steep, but the way was bright. And when the thorns reached out, they found His hand before they touched my own. And when my path grew rough, I knew it was His love that kept my feet from stumbling. Then I grew very tired. 'I can go no farther, Lord,' I said. He answered, 'Night is gone. Look up, my child.' I looked, and it was dawn. Green valleys stretched below. 'I can go on alone now,' I said. . . and then I saw the marks: 'Lord, Thou art wounded. Thy hands are bleeding, Thy feet bruised. Was it for me?' He whispered, 'I did it gladly.' Then I fell at His feet. 'Lord, lead me on,' I cried, 'No road too long, no valley too deep if Thou art with me.' We walk together now, and shall forever!" R. G. Zwall

Just a closer walk with Thee  
 Grant it, Jesus, is my plea  
 Daily walking close to Thee  
 Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

We trust the Master will be with those of our loved ones who have experienced sickness and accident this past month. They are: Sis. Lena Beer (surgery), Sis. Katie Sauder (broken ribs), Sis. Katie Bocka (hospitalized), Sis. Hermine Beer (broken wrist), Sis. Alm Beer (in-out patient) and Kent Kemper (hospitalized).

Thought: When God puts a burden upon you, He also puts His own arm under you.

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**

**Janette Blough  
 Florence Hartler**

The book of Matthew, chapter 11 verses 28 thru 30 are inviting: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." What beautiful words spoken by our dear Lord! Isn't it marvelous that we can still come to Him, and find His peace? We are thankful to have more souls in repentance, and we rejoice with Bob Riggensbach, Lori and Brian Acker, and Darlene Steiner, and we pray the Lord will give them the grace to find peace of heart and mind.

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1. In this house is where we hear the word of God, where we learn how to live and to stay true to Him, and also where souls can find salvation and the peace of God. We thank Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron) for their messages to us. This same house is where we gathered to hear the Memorandum from the 1981 Conference read to us. Assisting Bro. Joe Ramsier were Bro. Rudy Graf and Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron). We also welcomed as our new sister in Christ, Helen Szakal, a resident of the Church apartments.

Welcome, little babes! You are so precious, almost as sunbeams, shining so brightly, bringing much joy into your homes and families. Wendy Renee Dotterer was born to Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy, and is also welcomed home by one sister,

Lisa. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger (Fairbury) and great-grandmother, Sis. Bertha Bauman. A little girl, Kori Renee was welcomed by parents, Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman, and sisters, Kimberly and Kara. The grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estella Winkler and Bro. Herb and Sis. Bernice Bauman, and great-grandma, Sis. Bertha Bauman. A little boy, Steven Mark, was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner. He has one brother, Milan, and two sisters, Marsha and Sheri, to welcome him home. The grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Dorothy Ramsier and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner, and great-grandmothers, Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier and Sis. Emma Ramsier. Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener have a new son, Jacob Allen. One sister Jenny completes the family circle. The grandparents are Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank, and Bro. Chet and Sis. Roma Rufener. The great-grandmothers are Sis. Maggie Bauman, Sis. Elizabeth Musser, and Sis. Myrle Rufener. May the Lord bless these families with their precious souls.

The Lord said it is not good that man should be alone, so He said: "I will make a help meet for him. . .", and we have faith the Lord still does this today, as Bro. Tom Hartzler and Sis. Diane Stoller have faith they were brought together by the Lord. The parents of the engaged couple are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Hartzler and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane Stoller (Latty). Pam Bachman has recently become engaged to Michael Musselman. Pam's folks are Bro. Gene and Sis. Kathryn Bachman.

Feb. 14 was the date chosen for their wedding, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn (Maibach) Steiner have become united as one. The wedding date of Feb. 21 will now be the anniversary date of Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie (Sinn) Beery, as they were united in the Latty church. We wish to welcome Sis. Susie to Rittman. "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord lift up His coun-

tenance upon thee, and give thee peace." Num. 6:24-26

Those needing hospital care this past month were Sis. Wilma Ramsier, Lori and Jason Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy) as outpatients, and Charles Arnold, infant son of Bob and Sis. Deanna, who is recovering from surgery. Sis. Dolores Bauman and Sis. Pearl Marty also had surgery. We are thankful all can be at home again.

"O soul, are you weary and troubled?

No light in the darkness you see?  
 There's light for a look at the Savior,

And life more abundant and free!  
 Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
 Look full in His wonderful face,  
 And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace."

Helen H. Lemmel

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**OHIO, SARDIS  
 Joyce Indumuhle**

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5.

We are healed! What a beautiful and blessed privilege. In this new spring season of rebirth, we pray that God can heal every sin-sick soul. May we be instruments in His hands to help Him reach the lost and lonely.

We all look forward to spring, and each in his own way. I am amazed at what Helen Keller writes of spring. "The natural world is suddenly transformed into an orchestra of silver trumpets, singing birds, laughing streams and a fairy land of bursting buds. Snow drops, crocuses, violets, primroses, buttercups, and daisies tint the earth with purple, yellow and blue. Each tree and bush puts out tiny leaves of tender green loveliness. It is the festival of Eastertide, and Easter bells of joy ring softly in every heart. . ."

There is a lot of beauty in this passage that comes from hearing, a lot of joy that comes from seeing; but even more, a lot of faith that comes from God, as Helen Keller

could neither hear nor see.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**

**Josephine Rehklau**

God has our future in His hands. To think and plan is a natural trait of man, but more blessings can come our way if we submit our plans to God, Who is guiding our life's destiny.

It is wiser to trust in God than to give oneself over to anxieties and worry. By placing our trust in God, we receive strength from Him to meet the problems of life.

God remembered his servant Elijah in a time of desperate need by sending ravens so that he could have bread to eat. The still quiet voice of God found him when he was alone, hiding in a cave and overwhelmed with despondency.

No matter what the future holds for us, God will be our refuge, our strength and give sufficient help in every situation. God always opens a door to us to show us that he cares.

We need the aid of divine powers to keep our thoughts positive and bright. We need to realize that God is where we are and that we need to live one day at a time.

Kenneth Newman, son of Warren and Sis. Lois, was in a snowmobile accident and suffered severe injuries. With thankful hearts we can now say that he is home recuperating from his injuries.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Minnie Fetter (John) in the passing from this life of her sister, Sis. Martha Zeltwanger, Latty.

Our regular annual meeting was held on Feb. 14.

Let our service to others be as our service to God.

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**OREGON, SILVERTON**

**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

After prayerful thought our membership elected the following officers: Treasurer, Bro. Art Metz; Trustee (one year term) — Bro. Gus Dietrich; Trustee (two year term) — Bro. Ray Cooper and Trustee (three year term) — Bro. David Peasley. The Trustees's wives, Sis. Dorothy Dietrich, Sis. Ginnie Cooper and Sis. Margene Peasley were appointed to the Kitchen Committee and will have the responsibility of planning and organizing the church suppers.

We know they take their duties seriously and will seek God's guidance in this labor of love. The congregation appreciates their efforts and willingness to serve. Each of us, whether we have a specific duty to perform or not, needs to let our light shine in our church, our home, our work and in our lives every day.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to our dear Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger, Altadena, CA, who so willingly came to help our Bro. Clarence Dietrich serve Holy Communion on Sat. evening, Jan. 29. The words of the sixth verse in our beautiful song No. 26 in the Zion's Harp so well describe our experience. "Come then to the feast of his New Covenant, Members of His Church, your faith renew; Thank the Founder of this precious Covenant through the chalice He pours out for you. Here your hands in faithfulness uniting and the fire of brother-love new lighting, Let your common prayers rise to His throne. Thank and praise Him who hath made you one!"

Sunday, Jan. 30 we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger with us all day and brothers Robert Miller and Garth Steffen with us for the evening. We had a blessed day and enjoyed sharing supper together at church, followed by a singing in the evening.

Bro. David and Sis. Margene Peasley planned a quiet evening having Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and family for supper, but shortly after 7:00 P.M. there was a knock at the door. Nearly fifty brothers, sisters, friends and children stood on the porch and the sidewalk and came streaming in from their cars. They came bringing chairs, songbooks, coffee pots, desserts, and hearts full of love and a sincere desire to welcome the Peasleys to our congregation and community. We shared a very enjoyable evening of song and fellowship. Sis. Margene learned just how many people her new living room can hold and we can testify that Bro. Dave's new woodstove is very efficient.

Our young people have been working on a song for Easter. We can agree that it is a good choice.

I saw One hanging on a tree,  
In agony and blood;  
He fixed His languid eyes on me,  
As near His cross I stood.  
Sure, never, till my latest breath,  
Can I forget that look;  
It seemed to charge me with His death,  
Tho' not a word he spoke.  
'my conscience felt and owned the guilt,  
And plunged me in despair;  
I saw my sins His blood had spilt  
And helped to nail Him there.  
Alas! I knew not what I did,  
But now my tears are vain:  
Where shall my trembling soul be hid?  
For I the Lord have slain.  
A second look He gave, which said,  
"I freely all forgive:  
This blood is for thy ransom paid,  
I die that thou may'st live."

Chorus

Oh, can it be, upon a tree The Savior died for me?  
My soul is thrilled, My heart is filled,  
To think He died for me!  
Gospel Hymns No. 837

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**PENNSYLVANIA,  
PHILADELPHIA  
DEVAULT**

**Dolores Rapp**

Winter's snow and ice, along with a mechanical failure, succeeded in closing our church one Sunday. Bro. Ed Aeschleman and his family chose to drive to Union City for services that day. I'm certain their presence was welcomed.

The weekend of February 6-7, ten young brothers and sisters came from Bluffton. After an enjoyable tour of historic sites in the area, we had a dinner and singing Saturday evening and a dinner again on Sunday. We here in Philadelphia were blessed by their presence.

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**TEXAS, ZAPATA  
Margery Koehl**

Among our many visitors from different places we enjoyed the efforts of visiting ministers and their wives. Those who visited us were Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft of Gridley, KS, Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand of Congerville, IL,

Bro. Carrol and Sis. Louise Gerber of Bluffton, IN, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr of West Bend, IA, and Bro. Walter and Sis. Wilhelmina Anliker of Eureka, IL.

Sis. Lucy Rokey, Bern, KS, had the misfortune of breaking her hip and spent ten days in a Laredo hospital. We are happy to report she is now recuperating at her winter home in Zapata.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS**  
**Darthy Barnett**

Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day. Psalms 71:8

We can never praise our Lord enough for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. As we look back over the past few months, we have truly prospered in our Lord. Bro. Leroy Huber (Elder, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Clara, his wife, were our visitors on Sunday, February 28. We enjoyed our Christian fellowship with them. We sincerely thank Bro. Huber for ministering God's wonderful word to us. On this Lord's day, two dear loved ones have by faith believed in Christ as their personal Saviour — Rebecca Emerson, Sis. Doris Moore's sister, and Tammy Wallace. How thankful we are when each dear soul, by God's grace, answers His call and turns away from their old life and begins a new walk with Him.

Our Pre-School, by the help of so many dear loved ones both near and far, was readied and opened. We wish to express our deep appreciation to each one who offered their services so willingly. God knows each one by name, although we couldn't begin to name each one here. Certainly each one will be rewarded in Heaven some day for each kind deed. We do especially wish to thank Bro. Ed Hohulin for giving his time so freely and for providing so much support toward getting the Pre-School started. At this time we have nine full-time students and a few part-time students. Our prayers are that God will continue to add His blessings to this project, as He so graciously has already.

We are enthusiastically awaiting

the visit of the Peoria Choir, which is planned for April 17 and 18. It is hard to believe it has been almost a year since they so graciously sponsored a visit for our choir to Peoria. It seems as though it was only yesterday that we were enjoying the wonderful Christian fellowship with all the Peoria loved ones. May God continually shower His blessings on each dear one who made our visit to Peoria so pleasantly memorable. We are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to once again fellowship with each dear one in April.

**It's Up To You**

Have you made someone happy,  
 Or made someone sad?  
 What have you done with the day  
 you had?

God gave it to you to do as you  
 would.

Did you do what was wicked,  
 Or do what was good?

Did you lift someone up,  
 Or push someone down?

Did you lighten some load,  
 Or progress impede?

Did you look for a rose,  
 Or just gather a weed?

What did you do with your beautiful  
 day?

God gave it to you,  
 Did you throw it away?

Author Unknown

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**Sermon . . .**

Continued From Page 28

scoffers will come and say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." II Peter 3:4.

In Noah's time people scoffed until the flood came. Didn't we learn in Sunday School how God spoke to Noah and told him to build the ark? He told him just how to do it, and that poor man endured much from the scoffers and mockers. They said such things as, "What are you building this for? There is not even any water, no rain." He surely had to have faith and obedience to carry out God's will. But God had decided that wickedness was too great in the world and that it had to be

destroyed. So, as we understand the Word, the flood came.

The people may have scoffed at one time, but when the water came to their ankles. . .to their knees. . .to their waists. . .when they sought higher ground and couldn't find a dry place, they didn't scoff any more. They didn't scoff, but too late they realized they were wrong. It is going to happen the same way after the resurrection; not because I say it, dear ones, but because the Lord Himself said it. There will come a time when people will cry out for the hills and mountains to cover them from the fearful coming of the Lord. They will know that when He comes there will be judgment.

Can you see the comparison? The flood is past, but the judgment resurrection is before us. Peter said that the world overflowed with water and perished. "But," he said, "the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." II Peter 3:7. Yes, it teaches us plainly that there will be no place in heaven for the ungodly and unrighteous. Let us remember also that the Word says that the righteous shall scarcely be saved. Am I righteous enough? As it says here, ". . . be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." II Peter 3:14.

We don't want to discourage any one but in this new year, let us think of it just a little more carefully. Peter told us that even today some may say, "Well, look how many years have passed. My father and my grandfather grew up, and then they went to the grave, and the world is still going on." True. "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." II Peter 3:8. If we have faith in the Living God, we don't question where he came from or how long He will be. We accept in faith that God is everlasting, that He was and will be forever. Time is as nothing to Him, but he sees us and has a plan for us. Time will run out because all things will be fulfilled that are prophesied in this Book.

We can rest assured that the time

will come when the Lord will return. The time will come when this whole world, including the super highways, the great skyscrapers, and the wonderful works of man will be destroyed. Scientists tell us that if this earth would go out of its place in space, it would be as a meteor; it would burn and it would be gone. Do we have faith that God is able to do this? Do we have enough faith to believe that He can do all things? Let us never question it, but let us not worry about the time that is allotted to us. Let us just take one day at a time in serving Him, in knowing that God is almighty and that the very breath of life is within His hand. Even though He has often spared us, the time will come when this will be fulfilled. In the ninth verse we find comfort again. Peter said, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering. . ."

Longsuffering. We can thank Him today, dear ones, that He is longsuffering. There have been times in the past year when I felt that I wasn't worthy of the patience and grace of God. But He was patient and He heard our pleadings. He strengthened and encouraged us, and He will continue to do that in this coming year, I believe. ". . . but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish. . ." II Peter 3:9. Some might interpret this that God has such love for man that He is not going to let anyone perish. Are we then going to wipe away all the things that are spoken in the Scriptures? If everyone is going to be saved, why did He have to die for us? Why do we need to repent? No, it isn't going to be that way.

In heaven there will be no sin or unrighteousness. There will be no evil. The adversary is going to be destroyed at the time the world is destroyed, and then there will be peace and joy forevermore. Peter went on to say, ". . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. . . the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein." II Peter 3:9,10. The works that are therein. There won't be an underground passage; there won't be a

building or vault or insulated place that can escape this destruction of God. No, man is going to be able to hide from Him.

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness." II Peter 3:11. Let us think of these things a little. Conversation. How many times can you kneel at your bedside and after thanking God for the blessings of the past day, say to Him, "I haven't slipped once with my tongue today?" I would like to have that kind of day for myself. But rather, as James wrote, if we are able to control this little member of our bodies, we are perfect persons. So many times just a few words slip out which are foolish or hurt someone. The Word teaches us that we must give an account for all these things. Can you see how careful we must be? We should walk in "holy conversation and godliness." Peter says, "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God. . . Nevertheless. . ." (then he makes this exception) "Nevertheless we . . look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." II Peter 3:12, 13. This brings questions that I cannot answer. We think of heaven as a place where we are going. But let us remember that Paul wrote that he was taken up to the third heaven. Perhaps I could try to explain it as I understand it, but I do not know fully enough that it is right. Rather, let us just think of it in this way. If God is going to destroy the earth and the heavens, He will not go back on His promise; there will be new heavens and a place for His children throughout eternity.

Let us show our faith in Him. Let us believe His Word. Peter went on to say that Paul also in all his epistles wrote things that are hard to understand. Today enough is revealed to us to keep us encouraged and close to Him, enough to help us work out our soul's salvation. Yet, we do not understand everything. "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." II Peter 3:14 Today, dear ones, at the beginning of this

new year, we think of what lies before us and wonder how many of us will still be here next year. Will the earth stand then? Isn't it all a great question? Yet, Peter says that we should be found "without spot and blameless" and that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation." II Peter 3:15. He died for us, and we are looking to Him for help and guidance daily. He will return again and take us to Himself.

If everyone's loved ones were ready, I believe our prayers would be much more fervent in saying, "Come soon." But in our love for others, we say, "Lord, draw them." Yet we should never say, "Wait a little longer." Rather we should be as Peter said, ". . . without spot, and blameless" joyfully waiting the coming of our Lord."

There couldn't be another year like those past, dear ones, if He came. Will it be this year? Only God can answer. For our part, let us try to fulfill the Word in loving one another, in trying to do the good we can for others. But above all things, let us love Him who died for us. Remember that we made a covenant with Him to stay true day by day. This will be a great year for our salvation, if we will do this.

## PRAYER

How sweet the privilege of prayer,  
When we our cares and sorrows share  
With Him who understands.

Our Father's house has large  
supplies

He owns and rules the earth and  
skies

And bounteous are His hands.

'Tis not command nor mere decree  
That makes men come on bended  
knee

To seek His Holy face.  
When'er the soul's deep needs arise.  
In fears and trials it relies  
On His sustaining grace.

As friend to friend will oft confide,  
In prayer we seek the Saviour's  
side,

And tell Him all our grief.  
If we but ask He'll lend His aid;  
When on His altar prayers are laid,  
He'll send the soul relief.

Hymns of Zion No. 205

CHARLES WALDEK  
EAST LYNN, ILL 60932

## SERMON BY BRO. PERRY ZIMMERMAN OF FORREST, IL.

Text: II Peter 3

Couldn't you feel, dear ones, as we read this together, that Peter was concerned about the souls of men? He showed concern for those who had found forgiveness for their sins and were then living in hope. He had instructions for them, and we are also reminded of God's power and of what will come.

Today, we have much to be concerned about, and we seem to let the things that press us down, the needs of our daily living, come first, don't we? Sometimes, at least. We are very concerned about the confusion and the turmoil in the world, but, dear ones, let us bear in mind that we will not and cannot change any of these things. Somehow, God's Word is going to be fulfilled, and no man or nation can stop it.

We have read often in the Scriptures that the time will come when Israel will stand alone with all nations against her. When we see the unrest in the Mid-East, we think that we are near to that time. And yet we know that our nation, whom God has blessed so wonderfully, has stood by the people of Israel when it seemed that most all else were against them.

Before the world's last battle takes place, if I am not in error, the times of the gentiles will cease; we must consider this Word seriously. Don't think of the end times as progressing slowly, step by step, taking years to come about. The resurrection won't require great preparation. We read: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night." II Peter 3:10. There isn't one here who doesn't understand how a thief works. The thief doesn't announce ahead of time that he is

coming into your home when you are gone; he waits until he can work freely and unhindered. He doesn't announce his coming. Peter was telling us that the Lord will come unannounced, quickly and quietly.

Peter said that he wanted to stir up our pure minds. So, in the beginning of this new year, let us allow our minds to be stirred up, dear ones. Let us remember how many blessings we had during the past year. We prayed for one another, for our own welfare, and for our children many, many times. How many times God answered our prayers! Don't you find that sometimes you almost feel ashamed to kneel and ask God, "Wilt Thou again this night spare our children so that they might return safely? We ask again and again for this or that, when in the past a multitude of prayers have been answered. But where else can we turn for help?

God doesn't limit our prayers or our requests as long as they are sincere and we don't ask "amiss." Some might pray that the material for a building project would arrive in time. Some might pray that the business would increase. I fear, dear ones, that we pray amiss, if we kneel and ask God, "Let my crop be 150 bushels instead of 100."

When we kneel and pray, let us thank Him for what He has done for us, and ask, "Lord, keep me from sin." This is the most important thing.

We need to stir up our minds and realize that, although many things will come to pass, the most important thing for us is that we work out our soul's salvation. Even if we are hungry, the Word gives us our hope of eternal life, not just strength to work tomorrow but hope

beyond this life. That is most important, dear ones.

We know, too, that our Lord and Saviour Himself said that the last times will be perilous. "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matt. 24:21.

The elect are those who have repented, found peace with God, and are counted as His children. They have been granted His grace. They have been elected because they turned to Him and believe in Him.

Even though we feel that we are strong, "let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall." I Cor. 10:12. It isn't that we need to fear, dear ones, for the grace will be given; but it is necessary that we stay close to Him. I believe, I firmly believe, and I believe many of you agree with me, that in the coming year we will need more grace than we have needed before. If older brothers and sisters who passed away, say 10 years ago, would come here today and read our newspapers, they would perhaps wonder what has happened. They might ask, "Where is law and order? What is all this wickedness?" But you see, we are growing accustomed to it day by day, and it doesn't strike us quite as strongly as I believe it should. Still, in considering all these things, dear ones, we can stand if we stay close to Him.

Peter said that he wanted to stir up our minds so "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets." II Peter 3:2. He said that there will be those who laugh because the prophets long ago predicted the end times. Then the

Continued On Page 26