

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 32

DECEMBER 1982

NUMBER 12

### Jesus Christ — His Birth

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

And, lo, an angel of the **Lord** came upon them, and the glory of the **Lord** shown round about them; and they were very much afraid.

And the **Angel** said unto them, fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is **born** this day in the city of David, a **Savior**, who is **Christ** the **Lord**.

And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising **God** and saying,

**Glory to God** in the highest, and on earth **peace, goodwill** toward men.

Luke 2:8-14

### Silent Night

JOSEPH MÖHR  
*Tranquillo*

FRANZ GRÜBER

*p*

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight, Glo - ries  
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light, Ra - diant

*poco cresc.*

Vir - gin Moth-er and Child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts bring Al - le - lu - ia;  
beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

*mf* *pp*

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace. Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - iour, is born! Christ, the Sav - iour, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth! Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.



## FAMILY DISCOVERS ANSWER TO DISTRESS IN TRUE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

Pain was Billy's ever-present companion. It delayed his falling to sleep at night. It was with him through the long dark hours, and it was his first wakening awareness every morning. For the last two of Billy's 11 young years, the pain had shadowed him. He grew thinner. His cheeks were drawn and his eyes haunted. Billy's pain was the terrible aftermath of a tobogganing accident. He had been flipped from the rear of one toboggan, and as he was sitting in the snow, another toboggan came from behind and struck him in the back. A tumor developed on his spine, and though his parents were unaware, it was turning cancerous.

Desperately, Billy's parents sought a cure. Billy was their only child. There could be no more. They took the boy from doctor to doctor, hoping one would say "I think I can help him." But never was there any encouragement. The search didn't end until the day a wisened, aging doctor in a small town far from Billy's home examined the boy.

"Billy will soon be free of pain," he said. "Soon he'll know it no longer."

"Billy's mother knew that soon Billy would die. But his father refused that interpretation. In his grief, he accepted only that Billy would live. He needed that belief—that faith—to keep going. He couldn't let the boy down. The lad needed his strength, and the father needed his son's."

The week before Christmas, Billy's fever rose. His pain worsened and only constant medication brought "token" relief. The father raged in his anguish. He ranted to the futility of it all . . . the cruelty of God and the pointlessness of taking a life so young. Everything was a lie. He knew no solace.

Then came Christmas Eve. The father was awakened by the sounds of Billy tossing fitfully in his bed. Walking into the darkened living room, the father looked at the presents under the tree. There were so many unopened gifts there for Billy. They represented the plans so carefully made for the boy.

The father slumped into a chair. He put his hands to his face and wept. Then, when grief could no longer come, he sat still for long minutes. The clock on the mantle ticked silently. He searched into himself, painfully and with determination. Then he remembered.

Slowly, awkwardly, he got down on his knees. Claspng his hands until the knuckles whitened, he raised his head.

"God," he said in an anguished whisper, "something has happened. I ask that You hear me out. As I sat here, I remembered what a personal success I've been, and how you've responded when I asked you to give me a hand. But I know now that these were selfish prayers, for my own personal gain. And when I asked You to save Billy, that was personal too. I couldn't stand to lose him. I had such great plans for him and wanted some day for him to carry on for me. You know what I remembered now? I remembered Your Son and Your great love when You gave Him to the world. What sadness you must have known when He died. And so, God, if You would do this great thing for all of us, then I must be comforted by Your sacrifice. It's long past the time, oh God, when I must put my trust in You. So I pray that You will welcome little Billy when he comes . . . I know he'll be in good hands. I know that it is 'Thy will be done'."

The Father got to his feet and went into Billy's bedroom. It was time for a pill. The boy lay still. It almost seemed as if he wasn't breathing. On his cheek was a dried tear brought by the pain of only minutes before. Tenderly the father took Billy's limp hand. He looked upon the boy he loved. Suddenly the little hand tightened. Billy opened his eyes.

"Dad," he said simply, "I won't be needing that pill tonight."

Desperately, the father closed his

eyes. Then he took a deep breath and asked the question that he knew he must.

"Why not, Billy?"

"I've been dreaming, Dad. I've been dreaming about Jesus. He seems very close. It might sound funny, but it's almost like He's here in the room with us right now."

Billy's fingers loosened in his father's grasp. The breath of life so silent, it could barely be heard, escaped his lips in a sigh and his eyes closed. The father bent over little Billy, and he took the tiny hands and folded them. Straightening, he quietly spoke his final words to his son. "That wasn't a dream, Billy, and what you said about it sounding silly—it didn't. He's here and He's watching over you . . . and me. He's watching over both of us. Good bye son."

By Gordon Hanson

Give Your Address Change  
to Your Reporter.

### THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

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#### EDITORIAL STAFF:

Lynn Stieglitz  
Robert Cockburn  
Albert Frautschi  
David Bertsch

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Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller,  
David Bertsch.

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#### IN MEMORY — EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER

### THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS Bro. Carlton Lanz — Rockville, CT Congregation

As our Christmas season approaches, we look forward to a renewal of this ancient miracle with its softening and forgiving effect upon mankind. This remarkable event, although it may be of ancient lineage it has never grown old nor has it become outdated. Many centuries have since passed when Hope and Love descended over the Bethlehem plains in Jerusalem when the Angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds, on that Holy Night bringing those tidings of great joy to the world.

Little did those shepherds realize at that time as they followed the Star to the lowly manger, the Child born therein would cast His light across the world and across the centuries even into our Western cultures and lives, bringing the promise of Eternal Life to all who will accept and keep the miracle of Christmas.

It is also a time to remember when we meet together with our families to keep alive the true spirit and meaning of our Saviour's birth. Also at this time our hearts glow with new joy and special warmth as we remember our good Christian friends and the blessings and privileges of life we have here in a Christian nation.

Let us by our actions and deeds strive to keep alive the spirit of love and freedom and pray for our leaders, both at the nation's and church level. The eternal struggle for peace and freedom cannot be won without prayer and sacrifice. God-fearing men and women, through prayer, received their testimonies and went on to win the goal they had striven for.

### SUPPORTING THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good into all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Gal. 6:9-10.

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister. Heb. 6:10.

On Oct. 29, 1982, a joint meeting of the World Relief and Missionary committees was held. As certain duties of the two committees overlap, it was felt that a joint meeting would be profitable. In answer to our prayers, the presence of the Lord was felt throughout the day.

Our object was to decide, following the directives of our Lord, where we could be of the greatest assistance in supplying the spiritual and physical needs of the less-privileged. With the liberal contributions of our brethren and friends, the Word of God can be made available to many people throughout the world. While not underestimating the need to spread the Gospel to other areas of the world, the great opportunities for missionary work in our own land and communities was emphasized.

We always experience a true blessing in helping new churches become established, and in seeing them prosper. However, there is a real concern for some of the older churches here in our land, that seem

to be struggling to survive. It was the hope of the brothers that a number of families could be led of the Lord to find employment in both of these areas. If several families could go together, it would be an added blessing that the children could fellowship together with those of like mind and faith. Including a minister in the number would certainly be a great help, also. All should be willing to uphold the beliefs of our precious fellowship, as we are led by the Holy Spirit.

The Sardis, OH church is a good example of a struggling church that now has new life, including young members and families with children. We are thankful for the Lord's blessing.

Some of the areas presently needing help are Girard, Columbus, Union City, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Kansas City, St. Louis, Garden Grove, Iowa City, Maywood, Denver and possibly others.

It is always our prayer that we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. If He opens doors, we go through; if He closes doors, we remain content in all things, that glory and honor be given to our dear Lord, and that His will be done.

Humbly submitted by a member  
of the Missionary Committee

#### THANK YOU VERY MUCH

The Silver Lining Staff wishes to thank all the members and friends for the special contributions sent in this year to help cover the printing cost deficit.

The Silver Lining Staff

## EASTERN EUROPEAN VISIT — WORLD RELIEF REPORT

Continued from November 1982 issue.

Submitted by Bro. Leon Graf — A member of the World Relief Committee.

**BAJA**—We arrived at the home of Bro. Fumacs Sandor (Aleksander Fumacs—our correspondent there) about 9:45 a.m. on August 12. Upon returning from Romania we also stopped here August 14. We attended Saturday evening song services at their church which we enjoyed very much. They, too, went "all out" to welcome us, as in all

other places.

The aid to Baja is also doing good and no changes are needed here. Bro. Fumacs Sandor is very active in helping the needy since his family has only one child to care for and he has very much love for the poor. He tries to visit Russia and Romania periodically to help the needy there, and is an inspiration for all of us.

**HODMEZOVASARHELY**—No aid is being sent here, but we were privileged to visit here on our way to Romania and back. We had lunch on August 12 at the home of Elder Albert Sandor and stayed overnight there on August 13. We attended evening church services there on August 13 and the next morning visited Elder Nyari Jozsef (Joseph)

who is 86 years old and cannot go to church. Both elders are very satisfied with the aid methods being used and were happy to meet someone from the Committee.

**OROSHAZA**—We visited here August 12 to complete plans for the Romanian trip and attended church services that evening. Elder Denes Ferenc welcomed us to the church. After services we had a brief visit at their home for the aged which houses about 12 to 15 old sisters in two buildings behind the church. A new elder, Kovacs Ferenc (Frank), is our correspondent here and we were blessed to review the aid work with him.

**HUNGARY CONCLUSIONS** — This country has more freedoms and opportunity than any other nation in Eastern Europe. The young men in Hungary have the privilege of noncombatant military services and do not need to swear the oath of allegiance, privileges granted by law in 1977. No other nation in Eastern Europe allows these. The people work hard and have a head of government who is sympathetic to their needs for food, shelter and clothing. Accordingly, their standard of living is better, but they still have many needy persons just like in the U.S.A. and they are limited in personal income to meet all those needs.

The country is very productive in growing food products because of a lot sunshine and longer growing season than in northern Europe. However, a real problem is developing since much food is being exported to help Poland and Romania. There was a nationwide increase in food prices, effective September 1, 1982. The increases on some foods were 100% indicating that our World Relief Aid there will be even more important than before.

The church order and respect was very impressive. Everywhere we were welcomed as brothers and could observe the closeness of the believers and friends. Most churches have at least two mid-week gatherings, one for worship and one for singing. Sunday has at least three services, morning and afternoon for worship and a song service afterwards. Greetings are announced after the friends are ex-

cused and travel plans are announced also so that greetings may be sent to the church to be visited. The members say "kosonom" (thank you) in unison for the greetings, which have a deep meaning to them.

**GENERAL CONCLUSIONS** — God blessed us richly to make this visit to Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Romania. We pray that this report may impress you in some way, as we were impressed in many ways during the visit to Eastern Europe. Perhaps as important as our economic aid, or more so, is the spiritual impact upon the believers there. For them to know that someone cares enough to help is a great spiritual lift. I heard about this from Bro. Sandor before we made the trip but now personally observed with my eyes, ears and heart. Our past efforts have been blessed by God beyond what we can imagine and leave a strong message of encouragement to us to prayerfully consider to continue strong support for the needy believers in Eastern Europe, as God directs.

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

**Bob Cockburn**

It has been said that as one gets older time seems to pass all the more quickly. I do not know about the "getting older" part, but time seems to be passing more and more quickly. The world is once again in the Christmas season and with it the hustle and bustle of shopping for gifts, baking cookies, making candy, sending out cards, visiting family and friends, and all the other things that go with the season. Isn't it comforting to us to know that we can set aside these worldly concerns and find a peace that comes from Him whose birthday we will soon be celebrating? Our Home is no different from yours during this holiday season in some respects — our children are excited with the prospect of giving and receiving gifts, no school for a few weeks, etc. — and very different in other respects — this is one of the few times during the year when they have the opportunity to visit home (when possible) or to stay with church

couples who open their hearts and houses to them.

Almost all of the children with us today have been with us for at least one other Christmas, and four of them will be marking their fourth anniversary with us in February. These four children, Thelma, Bertha, John and Chuck, have been adoptable for some time now but the placing agency has not been able to find a home where they could all live together. Their caseworker recently decided that they would place the children in separate homes if there would be assurances that the children would be able to stay in contact with each other. I know that many of you have expressed interest in this family and the caseworker was informed. However, if you are still interested, or are interested in one or more of the children, please send me some information about yourself and I will send it to the children's caseworker. The two little sisters who were mentioned some time ago should be placed soon. All children deserve loving parents and Dawn and Angela should be with their new permanent parents soon.

Also, two new staff members should be arriving soon. Sis. Bridget Mahon (Kansas City) and Sis. Cindy Baurer (Princeville) have accepted positions as assistant houseparents. With their arrival our staff needs will be met except for the very important positions of alternate houseparents. We are still in need of a Christian couple to come and serve on a full time basis. Please contact us if you have any questions (there is no obligation) about this.

It is a joy to see our children grow physically and spiritually under the love and guidance of our staff and for all of us to experience the love and guidance of our Heavenly Father. May all of us share this Christian unity as we celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"*Silent Night, Holy Night . . .*" Indeed let it be a "silent night". Let our hurrying hearts quiet their restlessness; let us leave the clamoring word unsaid and let us be still awhile. Then, in holy meditation, let us listen as if to hear

this spirit create within us the joy with which we, this beautiful Christmas season, wish to greet the parents of our residents, the many, valued volunteers and those who have supported and helped us in any way this past year. In behalf of residents, Board of Directors and staff, we wish for you that your cup of blessing be full and running over. And as we look onward to our continuing responsibilities, pray with us that during each day, we may not miss even one opportunity for giving spirit-filled comfort, love and direction to the often unspoken need; that the pleading eye and the falling tear from a silent tongue may be translated into a proper feeling of self-worth, because of Christ's love.

Still another reason to rejoice is the recent addition of Mark Gundy to our family circle. His parents are Dale and Shirley Gundy of Morton. Two brothers, Michael and Scott, and two nephews make up the family circle. Chocolate chip cookies are Mark's favorite food. Watching football games and playing with his pet cat have been his favorite pastimes. His daytime activity consists mostly of going to the Tremont workshop. His pleasant smile and personality have already won many hearts. We heartily welcome him to our Home. Birthday time is April 17.

As always, the Christmas season promises to be full of activity. It is heart-warming to see the many groups and individuals who spend much preparation time to come to our Home to make the season more meaningful for our residents, many of whom are confined. The magnanimity of their reward can only be imagined when we realize that our Savior, who is the Alpha and the Omega of Christmas, said that a cup of cold water will be worthy of reward.

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

##### Ron and Ev Hoerr

Oct. 24 was a good time for all at our annual Sunday School picnic. We thank everyone for making this event so enjoyable.

On Sept. 20, Joel Edward made Joe and Patty Greenbank first time parents. Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank are Joel's grandparents.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Loren Knapp and Jim Funk (Tuc-

son) and Bro. Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia).

Our hospital patients were Paul Doolittle, Ron Getz and Sis. Clara Zollinger.

The conference tapes were played several evenings.

Jay Fehr, son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge and Patty Greenbank testify of having peace and are looking forward to baptism.

Nov. 13 was house-cleaning time for our church building. On Nov. 14, we had the opportunity for spiritual cleansing by taking Communion.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Barbara Schupbach and family on the death of her sister-in-law in Oklahoma.

Rocky Dale Beery was born Nov. 12 to Rob and Vicki. Bro. Dick and Sis. Marie Beery are Rocky's grandparents. Rocky's sister, Crystal, welcomes him home.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Services.

December 31 — New Year's Eve Services.

We extend Seasons Greetings to all.

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON

##### Lisa Bauer - Sandy Bauer

We were happy to hear of the blessed arrival of Lindsey Dawn Kaupp, born Oct. 19. Bro. Tim and Sis. Betty are rejoicing over their first child, as are grandparents, Bro. George and Sis. Isabel Bauer (Cissna Park) and Bro. Harold and Sis. Wava Kaupp (Gridley). Lindsey will certainly be a source of joy to her new family.

Little Melinda Sue is our newest bundle from Heaven who was joyfully received into the home of Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy Bauer. Mindy was born on Oct. 31 and is their first child. She is cheerfully welcomed by her grandparents, Bro. Willis and Sis. Gloria Hunziker (Peoria) and Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer of our congregation. We thank our gracious Father in Heaven for both Lindsey and Mindy; each one is truly a beautiful, healthy example of the miracles only God can perform.

On Sunday, Nov. 7, we were privileged to have two visiting ministers with us. Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix) and Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and their families

traveled to Tucson to spend the day with us. We certainly want to thank Bro. Bill and Bro. Jon for their efforts to be with us, and we thank the Lord for providing a refreshing day of fellowship with our dear Phoenix brethren.

Our friend Marty Thenhaus has been hospitalized recently. Our prayers are with Marty and his family as he recuperates. He has gone home now and is feeling much better.

We are currently being given the privilege of listening to the conference tapes. As we listen, we are inspired when we realize how much prayer and effort is put forth to make these words of exhortation and encouragement possible. It is most definitely a precious faith we share.

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not" . . .

And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans — and all that lives and moves upon them.

He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit — and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused — and to save us from our own foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself.

Abbey Press

As this Christmas passes and we are given another year, LET US RECEIVE HIM!

Reminder: Silver Lining dues of \$6 for the Tucson Congregation are due January 1.

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

##### Mary Beth Klotzle

#### A WISEMAN'S WALK

Let me travel the path of life  
As the Wisemen traveled long ago,  
Let my eyes be fastened on the same star  
That shines a pure and gentle glow.  
The Wisemen's journey was long

the angels' heralding song, and let  
and slow,  
Let me patiently walk as they did;  
With faith and eyes on the light  
ahead  
Let it not by worldly pleasures be  
hid.  
Deeds of kindness, actions of love,  
Cheerful words spoken to a lonely  
soul,  
Let those be the gifts I carry along  
As I continue to that eternal goal.  
And when the long journey is over,  
And I see the face of Thy Child, O  
God,  
Let me feel Thy embrace and hear  
Thy words,  
"Faithful servant, thy path was well  
trod."

S.S.

What an example the Wisemen's journey to Bethlehem! We need to patiently follow, with faith, God's light wherever it leads us, even if it's beyond our reasoning or understanding. Let us bear gifts that He'll accept with love and gratefulness. Our lives are the greatest gifts we can give Him, and by doing so, we will receive life in Heaven forever; in addition to a life full of blessings while still on earth. When considering the gifts of God, it makes one wonder why all mankind doesn't accept them. Yes, the way becomes steep and rough at times, but God is always there to help us if we just have faith in Him. What a beautiful and simple gift the Lord gave us when He gave us His Son. Since one must be born to die, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ!

Visitors are also a blessing from

God. We thank Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha) for sharing God's Word with us while he and Sis. Mary were here visiting their family. We thank all of the visitors we had this past month for sharing their time with us.

I'm a little late in reporting that Dora Smith, sister to Sis. Laura (Bill) Oppliger has moved to our area from Michigan. What a joy it is to welcome a warm smile and loving heart into our little congregation. Otto Kinsinger has come to spend the winter with us from his home in Peoria. We welcome both Dora and Otto, and wish them God's blessings.

## COLORADO, DENVER

**Marlene Leman**

It's Christmas time! A time that the world recognizes as a special time and spends much money, time and effort letting everyone know that they realize this. How many know why this season is important? How many of us do the same things? Do we take time to read that "sweet story of old" even though we "know it by heart"? Are we pleasant to one another or are we in too big a hurry or too pre-occupied to even smile as we meet people on the street? Do we think that the parties, decorations and merrymaking are so important? Isn't the true meaning of Christmas love? Without love, all the gift-giving, etc. would amount to nothing. "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity — doth nor behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil. I Corinthians 13:3, 5.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ernest Graf of Akron and Bro. Joe Aberle of Sabetha. We really appreciate these brothers coming and speaking God's Word to us. May God bless them richly for their loving service.

Elizabeth Jivan has moved to the home of her daughter, Sis. Vera, from the nursing home. Sis. Vera recently retired from her job and will now be able to give her the loving care she needs. May God be with them both.

## CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

**Dorothy Viens**

As the Christmas season once again is upon us, let us all take time to meditate upon the true meaning of Christmas, not letting ourselves get so caught up with the hustle and bustle, the tinsel and glitter and all of the many tools and devices that the enemy uses to block our minds from what God wants us to associate Christmas with. Is the spirit within us motivating us to give with the hope of receiving in return, or are we remembering the words of the Lord Jesus when He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Let's take time to give the

gift of love to those around us who are needy, always mindful of the gift of salvation that God gave us in sending His son that first Christmas day.

We are thankful to see Bros. Urban Luginbuhl and Albert Schneider and Sis. Huldah Luginbuhl assembling with us again after their recent surgeries and hospital stays. How precious to feel the nearness of God and the prayers of many loved ones during affliction.

We welcome Bro. Denis and Sis. Diane Bucher and their family into our congregation. They have moved from the Akron area. We hope they will feel welcome and a part of our congregation.

October 31 was the wedding day of Bro. Dean Reutter (Bro. Alden and Marion) and Sis. Miriam Bahler (Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia). Also on November 7, we witnessed the vows made by Bro. Kevin Ballasy (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina) and Sis. Jane Andrews (Clayton and Sis. Marion) as they were united in Holy Matrimony. We pray that these couples will always feel God's presence and His blessing upon their union, and that the love that He has placed in their hearts for one another will continue to grow.

Reminder: The Rockville Silver Lining dues of \$6.00 are due in January. Please see your reporter.

## FLORIDA, FORT LAUDERDALE

**Sally Gress**

On October 16 and 17, we shared a blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Brad and Sis. Dahlys Troxel. We thank all the visitors who were with us that weekend, especially Elder Bros. Joe Braker of Morton, and Ed Ringger of Gridley, and Bro. Doug Sabo of Sarasota. We also thank Bro. Bob Pflederer of Morton for ministering to us later in the month.

## FLORIDA, SARASOTA

**Doris and Diane Roche**

We welcome our visiting brethren and the many residents who will be here over the winter months. We are enjoying messages so willingly given through our visitors, Bros. Joe Schrock (Carlock, IL) and Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH).

The awakening of the soul has given a repentive heart to Art Keller, who has answered His call and found peace with God. He lives in Venice, FL with his wife, Marie, and their son. They have been in our fellowship for several years. Art's parents are Roland and Viola Keller (Port Charlotte).

Our dear Sis. Marie Martin has undergone surgery again this week. She has endured so much suffering and pain but yet speaks pleasantly of the Lord's help and nearness. We were happy that her daughter, Sis. Jan Getz, arrived in time for this surgery. Her presence was a great comfort to her. We pray for her continued courage.

Our building project is progressing nicely. We hope to be starting construction right after the holidays. We are pleased that everyone is in unity and the committees are working hard on details to finalize the plans. Even though there will be a general contractor in charge, there will be opportunity for volunteer labor. We look forward to working together with all the northern brethren who spend time here in the winter.

#### ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Charlene Knobloch - Shirley Devick**

We are so very fortunate to have brethren who are willing to come and labor on our behalf. Visitors include Bros. Elmer Witzig, Gridley; Walter Steffen, Milford, IN; Byron Stoller, Gridley; Ken Weerts, Cissna Park; Ken Hoerr, Peoria; and Elder Bro. Dan Koch, Tremont. We thank the dear brothers for sharing God's Word with us.

The weekend of Oct. 23-24 was a blessed one, of meeting and greeting those of like mind and faith. The Bluffton choir sang hymns of praise to our Saviour. We thank them for spending that time with us.

Hospitalized this month were Louie Kieser and Sis. Sue Kupferschmid. They are home and feeling much better.

First time parents are Bro. David and Sis. Debbie Huber. They have a little boy, Jaron David, born Nov. 2. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy Zimmerman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Huber, Ft. Lauderdale,

FL.

Summer Lee, born Nov. 5 is welcomed home by big brother Clayton. Happy parents are Ben and Mary Daily. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladys Koehl, Forrest and Shirley and Margaret Daily, Wilmington.

We bid farewell to Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Huber with the "God Be With You" Hymns of Zion No. 216, as they move to Ft. Lauderdale, FL. They will surely be missed in our congregation. We wish them many blessings in their new home.

#### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

**Shirley Kieser**

The weekend of Nov. 20 and 21, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of Carol Kieser, Mary Ann Kieser and Joni Leman. We pray God will grant them much grace to battle Satan in these evil times. Their parents are Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman. Elder Bro. Dan Koch and Bro. Joe Stoller assisted Elder Bro. Dave Kieser in this important work and we thank them so much for their labors of love. Praise be to God for His mercy and that He is still tenderly calling souls to repentance. Our thanks, also, to other visiting ministers Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington).

We were invited to Princeville to have the memorandum read to us. We are grateful that the concern for the faith and church is so genuine and can be felt so keenly at this reading.

Ralph and Jenny Joos are first-time parents. Their little son, Ralph Tyler, arrived the day before their move into a new home. We pray the Lord will bless this little family in their new surroundings. Bro. Robert and Sis. Loraine Joos (Peoria) and the Norman Rouses (Bradford) are the grandparents.

A baby was born many years ago in a lowly stable on a bed of hay. This will be portrayed many times this whole Christmas month, but will He be remembered as the Saviour, Jesus, who then grew to be

a man, died and arose again for us?

#### ILLINOIS, CHIGACO

**Kathy Schlatter**

Christmas can become a rat race, a financial burden, a time of depression — or it can be a season of joy and love, a month of family bonds renewed and spiritual awe invoked. Our daily perspective can make the difference. At the Morton Handicapped Home Benefit, I couldn't pass up a piece of wood (about 3" x 7") with smaller pieces glued onto it, in what might appear to be a random, though geometric in manner. But what one sees depends on one's perspective. The name above all others — JESUS — can be very clearly seen: if one is looking for it, if it is pointed out, or if one is given the insight. Truly, day by day, we need to keep JESUS in view, searching for His guidance, allowing the Word, our brethren and the Spirit to direct our thinking, and praying for the wisdom and grace to see Him in each one with whom we come in contact.

We are granted so much through or prayers for our ministers and the blessings from their words through His Spirit each Wednesday evening and Sunday. Our prayers are answered above what even seems possible. We are always appreciative for our home ministering brethren. We especially want to also thank those who travelled to Chicago, knowing they would be called upon to give of themselves in His service. Visitors were Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL); Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL); and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). For our very personal gifts of wisdom from the conference report, we are so grateful, giving God the glory, but also remembering Bro. Aaron's labors, along with those of our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann. We were given so many teachings to take with us. Bro. Aaron spoke of road maps, our losing them or ending up with one out of date, so that we get on the wrong road or entirely lose our way. But in regard to our heavenly journey, there is only one way to go. We don't have to be concerned that our Bible (road map) will become outdated nor do we have to fear that the information we get is

no longer relevant. Jesus Christ and His Word is the same yesterday, today and forever. A grandmother who so often read the Word was questioned by her granddaughter, "Why?" Grandma said she was studying for her final exam. We were reminded not to procrastinate in our study and preparation, for our life consists of two points, the beginning of which was determined by God and the end of which is also determined by Him. Only He, not we, know when we're halfway between the two points — or even closer to the end.

Once more the Lord has entrusted a precious individual with a special God-given purpose to earth, and specifically to his parents, Dave and Sis. Sheila (Baumgartner) McCoy. Jonathan Ross, born October 24, was warmly welcomed, especially by his sisters Alisha and Andrea. God not only gives but He also takes away. There are those whose work and time on earth has been accomplished, and they have been taken home to Him. We often cannot understand and we must weep for the ache and void in our own lives. Yet we are thankful for our faith that our loved ones, being gathered into the Lord's presence, have no pain nor sorrow, but await our coming. We extend our own tears of sympathy and prayers for strength to Bro. Matt Strahm at the loss of his sister (Kansas) and Sis. Louise Knecht for her brother's sudden death (Indiana) — and to all those, who, so recently, have felt the knife-edge of parting from a husband, a father, a son. What would we do if the Lord had no balm for healing, no loving brothers and sisters to rally around us in love, no hope to offer us of a future, heavenly reunion. Perhaps we can even somewhat rejoice for the Lord is still God.

Today, so often, we find striving for earthly gain a real temptation. Advertising is rampant, so our wants increase even faster than our cash flow. In many jobs, our minds of necessity are occupied with the thoughts of our work, so perhaps we are not as often reminded of appreciation to our Lord and Savior. All around us there seem to be many more showy evidences of those things of temporal importance than those of spiritual importance.

Sometimes we have to look up, out of the hubbub, to reflect on God's creation. May we always remember that people and their souls are far more important than that which we can purchase. If someone else is hurt, whatever we paid is not a bargain. And especially for the Lord's work, we need to be cheerful, sacrificial givers — with our finances and our time.

#### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Melba Funk - Joan Waldbeser**

On October 24, our Bible Class journeyed to Elgin, IL for the day. It is a great blessing that they can have this fellowship together.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Tillis Rudin and Sis. Clara Vogel. Both have been medical patients.

Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) visited us on a Wednesday evening, which was a great blessing to us. We greatly enjoyed his visit and the inspiring message he brought to us.

We sympathize with Bro. Joe Clauss in the loss of his brother, Charles Clauss of Fort Wayne, IN. Also our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Gladys Winger over the loss of her brother-in-law, Otto Foell (Elgin, IL).

Our Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits, and many deeds of kindness shown to him and his family since his accident. He wishes God's blessing on everyone for the love that was again shown to them.

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Shirley Ifft - Carol Craig**

The month of December is sneaking past us and our lives are busy with holiday activities and plans. Whether we are buying gifts for loved ones or singing Christmas carols on a snowy night, we should never forget the true meaning of Christmas. We should thank God that He sent His Only Son as a babe to live a perfect life and then to die on the cross for our sins so that we might live.

In November, Congerville hosted ACYF for all the Illinois churches. Beautiful singing took place as each Bible Class got in front of the congregation and sang songs to

glorify God. Each song was a sermon to members and friends alike. We thank God for blessing us with these songs and we thank each group for their participation.

Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Josh Broquard (Fairbury) assisted Bro. Bob Walder as we gathered together to hear the Memorandum from this year's Brotherhood Conference. Many timely warnings and exhortations were given that evening. If only we can strive to be more perfect in the sight of God and to help our brothers and sisters along this narrow path of life.

We partook of Holy Communion the next day after the Memorandum and relived the suffering and pain that Christ endured on the cross as He died and shed His innocent blood.

We had many visiting ministers this month for which we are always thankful. They were Bros. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS), Josh Broquard (Fairbury), Charles Marti (Lamar, MO), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Joe Braker (Morton), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Kenny Dietz (Bradford), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) and John Isch (Indianapolis, IN). We thank these brothers for lending themselves and we welcome them back anytime.

Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Wales are delighted with the arrival of their new baby boy, Jonathon Edwin. Jonathon will receive much love and attention from his three older sisters, Jennifer, Holly and Amity. His grandparents are Evelyn Watts of Roseville, IL and Dorothy Wales of Palm Harbor, FL.

Little Becky Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnne) was hospitalized this month. She is now back home with her family. Sis. Bena Steffen would like to thank all those who remembered her with their prayers and cards while she was in the hospital.

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Ruth Ann Getz**

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'"

St. Luke 2:13,14



With the heavenly hosts we wish to praise God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." We are a blessed people in that we are privileged to openly proclaim our praise without fear. We very deeply and humbly thank our God for His "unspeakable gift" (II Corinthians 9:15) at this Christmas time.

Death has visited several of our dear families, and our hearts share in their grief. We cannot know God's timetable, but of this we are sure — that death will visit us all whether it come soon or late.

Edwin Gould (husband of Margaret Schock Gould) passed away November 3 at the age of 71. We extend our sympathy to Margaret and her family.

On November 10, Otto Foell, 83, passed away. He is survived by his wife Lillian and three sons, Howard (Stuart, FL), Ronald (Newport Beach, CA) and Wesley (Madison, WI).

Gordon Rager, 50, passed away November 17 after five years of suffering as a quadraplegic. He is survived by his wife, Carol Fehrmann Rager and a son, Jay.

Lena Dietrich, 98, passed away November 21. She was the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn Brenner Schambach, and is survived by a daughter, Emily Dietrich, and a son, John.

Amanda Rae was born to Bro. David and Sis. Jean Martin on November 18. We ask that God bless this family which also includes Ann, Renee, Tony, Benjamin and Natalie. Sis. Florence Martin and Bro. Ben and Sis. Martha Greiner are the grandparents.

Intercessory prayer for restored health is extended to a number of loved ones again this month. Presently hospitalized are Les Heiniger and Helen Reber. Those who have been hospitalized and are now home recuperating are: Sis. Mary Gasser, Bro. Nathan Kellenberger, Sis. Mary Getz and Gottfried Schock.

Several ministering brethren, Bro. Merle Bucher (LaCrosse), Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria) and Bro. James Hoerr (Peoria), have visited us this past month and we are grateful for the time that we could sit together around God's Word and be taught from these beautiful

teachings. May the Lord bless these dear brothers for their labor.

Bro. Herman and Sis. Della Kellenberger plan to leave this week to again spend the winter months in Zapata, TX. May the Lord watch between us while we are absent one from another.

#### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

##### Melba Mangold

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Don Sauder, Roanoke, Bros. Willis Wiegand, Goodfield, Francis Rother and Joe Zimmerman both of Morton. We thank them for serving us.

On Oct. 22, another dear one, Sis. Anna Mangold, was called to her eternal rest. She had lived in the Home seven years to the age of 94 years and 6 months. She is survived by three sons, Bro. Clarence (Rockville, CT), Harley (Ft. Wayne, IN), Willis (Leipsic, OH), and two daughters, Sis. Clarice (Bro. Harry) Isch (Bluffton, IN), and Sis. Melba Mangold (Eureka). Although parting is indeed hard, we are thankful for the hope of meeting again if we, too, can be true and faithful to the end.

Myron and Elaine Blunier are the parents of a son, Michael Jay, who was born Oct. 31. His older sister, Jill, completes their family. His grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Verda Blunier and Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Tremont).

Nov. 14 was the wedding day of Sis. Carol Stoller and Bro. Jerry Braker of Lamar. Many good wishes and petitions for God's blessings go with them as they begin their new life together. We will miss Sis. Carol but we know God leads us aright when we put our trust in Him. Their parents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara S. Huber and Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEttta Braker of Lamar. Many visitors were with us that day, including Bros. Roy Ehnle of Bradford and Greg Rassi of Chicago. Other ministering brothers were also here. We invite them to come again.

Dale and Sis. Fredora Wiegand have a new baby girl, Rachel Anne, born Nov. 15. She has seven brothers and two sisters who are happy to help take care of her. Her grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis.

Anna Wettstein and Sis. Fanny Wiegand.

Sis. Lydia (Bro. Harry) Rocke has had surgery but is home again doing fine for which we are thankful. Other hospital patients are Bro. Ray Rocke and little Brent Alan, son of Bro. Alan and Sis. Sharon Martin. Sis. Rachel Hodel has had eye surgery. We pray for their recovery.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues of \$6 for the Eureka congregation are due in January. Please see your reporter.

#### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

##### Carol Bazzell - Joann Zehr

We rejoice with Bro. Randy and Sis. Joy White at the birth of their little daughter, Bonni Marie, born Oct. 22. She has a sister, Kelli, who welcomes her. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vi Bachtold and Mr. and Mrs. Ben White.

The past month our Bible class traveled to Burlington, IA for a Sunday of fellowship with their youth. Our students enjoyed the day and made friendships that we trust they will cherish always. Also our young people here hosted Roanoke, Francesville and Burlington. We were thankful to have with us Bros. Uriel Gehring (Burlington) and Bruce Leman (Roanoke). We were richly blessed by the Word and heard many good instructions. Bros. Al Aberle (Tremont) and Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) have visited us and so willingly shared with us the Word.

Several of our congregation have suffered illness of injury, or have had surgery. Sisters Alene Broquard and Luella Sohn have been hospitalized for some time. Sis. Dorothy Hoffman has returned home following surgery, and Georgia Steffen is home again after a car accident. Sis. Elsie Denick is much improved and is able to be back in her home once again. She wishes to thank all those who remembered her with cards, visits, and the many deeds of kindness shown to her. Sisters Lola Young, Carol Kafer and Minnie Sutter and Bro. David Kaeb have been hospitalized recently. We have also missed Sis. Marie Broquard as it has been some time now that she has been able to assemble with us.

Our congregation gathered with

Forrest and together we listened as the memorandum was read and expounded upon. How it renews and reminds us of the importance of keeping our spiritual house in order. We are thankful for the efforts and love of our home elders and also Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville).

Our hearts go out to our dear Elder Bro. Josh and Sis. Marie Broquard as they have experienced the loss of a dear grandson. Dan Feucht, son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht, was killed in a truck accident on Nov. 13. Our sympathy is indeed extended to this family as we continue to trust the hand of God in whatever he brings to pass.

Not until each loom is silent,  
And the shuttles cease to fly,  
Will God unroll the pattern,  
And explain the reason why.  
The dark threads are as needful  
In the Weaver's skillful hand,  
As the threads of gold and silver,  
For the pattern which He  
planned.

Author Unknown

#### ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold - Kathy Leman

Again we were reminded of the conference conclusions as our elder brethren read and meditated on the memorandum. Helping Bro. Perry in this work were Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Art Bahler and Bro. Josh Broquard (Fairbury). We want to support these brethren by being obedient to the teachings they brought to us.

We thank Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AR) for so willingly bringing us God's Word. We know it is necessary for our spiritual well-being to gather as often as possible to hear this Word of Life.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Henry Kilgus who resides at Fairview Haven, Bro. Harvey Leman also at Fairview and Sis. Carol (Bro. Ernie) Leman.

We have several new babies in our congregation.

Bob and Sis. Elaine Mueller have a new son, Keith Jeffery. Welcoming him home are Steven, Stephanie, Brian and Robby. Grandparents are Bro. Si and Sis. Marie Hohulin (Gridley, IL).

Terry and Debbie Nussbaum were blessed with a little boy, Lucas Dean. Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty Nussbaum. Lucas has one sister, Abbey, and one brother, Joseph.

Rachael Dawn joined the family of Bro. Mark and Sis. Sherri Schlatter. She has one sister, Erika. Grandparents are Sis. Juliet Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma Jean Ifft.

Jay and Kay Davis have welcomed Devin Jay into their home. Dustin welcomes him home. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Velda Huette.

"There's a song in the air!  
There's a star in the sky  
There's a mother's deep prayer,  
And a baby's low cry.  
And the star rains its fire  
While the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem  
CRADLES A King."  
Streams in the Desert

As the Christmas season approaches let us remember the true meaning of this time. It was the birth of a little boy in a manger that brought joy and salvation to the world.

#### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

"O give thanks unto the Lord; Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people."

Psalms 105:1

"Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom the world rejoices."

Zion's Harp No. 236

We most graciously give thanks to these visiting ministers who gave of their hearts, hands and voices to make known His deeds among the people: Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont), Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington), Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria), Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor) and Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson (Kiowa).

Little Joshua Quest (Joe and Sally) was hospitalized but is now home.

On Nov. 18, the home of Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand was blessed with the birth of a precious new daughter, Bethany Sue. Waiting to give her a welcoming hug are two little sisters, Roxanne and Susanne. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Elna Grimm and Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand.

May this Christmas season fill our lives with joy, true peace and deeply thankful hearts, as we remember "The babe of Bethlehem."

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

Hymns of Zion No. 36

#### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

A ministering brother once coined a new word: "Thanksgiving". "Thanksgiving," he said, "is closely related to the fruit of the Spirit, joy." When we express our thanks to God, fills us with His joy. And as we appreciate His goodness, it increases our love for Him. The brother then pointed out that Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." And so our love for Him prompts us to be obedient and we begin to understand the meaning of "Thanksgiving". Our thankfulness to God for His goodness and His gift of salvation, is reflected in our lives. We prove the sincerity of our love and devotion by striving to please God and the brethren—and not to please ourselves.

We welcome Bro. Mike, son of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Winifred, and Sis. Debbie Schlipf into the family of God. Nov. 7th they were baptized into the death of Christ to rise a new creature in Him. Old things are passed away and behold, all things are new. We were glad to have Elder Bro. Dan Koch of Tremont with us for this occasion.

We extend our best wishes to Bro. Dennis Hodel, son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Jean, and Sis. Brenda Stoller, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Carol. all of Gridley, whose marriage engagement was announced.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Annie Grusy

are moving to the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home.

Our hospital patients have been: Sis. Anna Klopfenstein, Sis. Matilda Stortz, Ched Wettstein, son of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda, and Todd Witzig, son of Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller are the happy parents of Lisa Marie, born Nov. 19. She has a sister, Rachel, and a brother, Brad. Lisa's grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie Stoller of Gridley and Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm of Taylor.

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**ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Renee Baurer**

Time is getting busy as we come to the close of this semester. ISU had a wiener roast for a few surrounding colleges and churches on Nov. 5, and College Weekend was hosted by Illinois Central College on Nov. 13 and 14. We appreciate very much everything the students from ICC did to make the weekend so encouraging and uplifting.

Ministering Brothers we've had speak at Bible Study this month are Bro. Art Baurer, Bro. Ralph Garber, Bro. Jim Byrd, Bro. Don Wagenback and Bro. Chuck Hemmer.

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**ILLINOIS, MORTON**

**Phyllis Farney - JoAnn Roecker**

Sis. Lydia Huette wishes to thank all who were so kind in remembering her with prayers and deeds of kindness during her recent illness. May God bless all who were so kind.

Sis. Emma Huette was called Home. Her funeral was held on November 3. May God comfort her family and friends.

We enjoyed the sweet fellowship and delicious food at our church potluck which was held on Sunday, November 7. Elder Bro. Roy Grimm, Taylor, MO, shared with us his experiences and slides of India. I am quite sure each one of us went to our homes feeling very blest. Truly these loved ones need our prayerful support for their spiritual life as well as providing much needed material items and medical needs. We want to thank Bro. Roy for coming and sharing with us.

We wish to extend our heartfelt

sympathy to the families of Mrs. Rose Milhahn and Bro. Bill Martin. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless their families and friends.

Sis. Ida Huber wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, food, flowers, plants and many deeds of kindness shown unto her while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless all who were so kind. We have the following loved ones who have recently had to spend some time in the hospital: Sis. Faye Pfister, Sis. JoAnn Roecker, Sis. Lavina Kilgus, Hollis Roby, Bro. Robert Byrd, Bro. Rudy Kilgus, and Bro. William J. Roecker. May we continue to remember these loved ones and all those who are shut-in or sick in our prayers.

We wish to thank Bros. Earl Gerber, Forrest, IL, Jim Hoerr, Peoria, IL, Harold Schmidgall, Gridley, IL, Carl Kinsinger, Altadena, CA, Carl Wyss, Washington, IL, Nathan Steffen, Elgin, IL and Roy Grimm, Taylor, MO, for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

May each one of us remember the true meaning of Christmas. Let us think that God sent His only Son to live among man, to minister the Word and then go to the Cross and shed His precious blood so everyone of us can have full Salvation. May all our Silver Lining readers have a blessed Christmas.

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**  
**Margo Marx - Susi Herman**

**THANK YOU, GOD**

We're coming to that time of year  
 That's filled with joy and love and cheer.

The gifts are wrapped, the wreaths  
 are hung,

The trees are lit, the carols sung.

But midst our hurried, rushed

December,

Let's stop - let's remember:

That through a Baby's lowly birth,  
 God gave His greatest Gift to earth.

And we, who in His name believe,  
 The gift of LIFE we have received.

With all the tasks we've got to do,  
 Let's take the time to say, "Thank  
 You."

Donna Russell

Visiting ministers this month were: Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena) and Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) and Everett Hari (Bloomington). We warmly thank these brothers for the many miles they traveled to share God's Word with us.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Jean Hoerr were blessed with a baby boy, Matthew Allen, on October 27. The happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr and Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis Lang of Tremont. Matthew was also welcomed home by his big brother, Jason.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Corda Leman on the death of their sister, Sis. Anna Mangold of Eureka.

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized this month: Sis. Lydia Herman, Sis. Mary Lou Bowald, Sis. Sarah Baer, Evelyn Thomas and Amy Reiker. We are grateful that the Lord has extended His healing hand so far, and that they can again enjoy a reasonable measure of health.

We were fortunate to be able to hear the tapes of the Princeville General Conference. They were played on Wednesday evenings.

The Peoria Young Group hosted a Senior Citizen's Dinner at the Fellowship Hall on Oct. 31. Many said that this was a very enjoyable evening.

It was indeed heart-stirring to have the Washington Church Choir with us at our monthly Hymn Sing on Nov. 7.

As we approach this Christmas Season, may we continually think of the true meaning of Christmas.

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Arlene and Arlys Martin**

Even though we can't die for the sins of the whole world, we can tell the world about the One who did. Visiting ministers have been Bros. Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and LeRoy Hartman (Peoria).

Todd Joseph Stoller was born on Oct. 20 to Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia Stoller. He has two brothers, Alex and Douglas; and his grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller and Bro. Burton and Sis. Martha Streitmatter of our congregation.

Denise Joos, daughter of Bro.

Rolland and Sis. Linda Joos broke her wrist in a fall at school on Oct. 27.

Andy Martin, son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Martin was a hospital patient Nov. 6, 7 and 8. He has recovered from his virus.

Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter (wife of Bro. Don) is on the sick list with back trouble.

Wayne Streitmatter, son of Bro. Floran and Sis. Twylla Streitmatter, burned his face on Nov. 6. He is recovering.

Hilda Streitmatter remains on the sick list. She is at home at this time.

We were deeply saddened when we heard about the death of Daniel J. Feucht, 17 years old. Please remember his family in your prayers. Dan was killed in a semitrailer accident on Nov. 13. His parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht. His brother Mark, and his sisters are Rachel, Sara and Abigail. Grandparents are Bro. Daniel and Sis. Natalie Feucht (Princeville) and Bro. Joshua and Sis. Marie Broquard (Fairbury).

#### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

##### Joyce Hodel - Carol Rumbold

We are so thankful our church is always growing, and pray that in the years to come these little children will be born again. Little Jacob Andrew Fischer was born at the end of July and somehow we forgot to print his birth in the Silver Lining — so sorry Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette, and little brother Luke. His grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge Fischer and Bill and Sis. Anna Marie Reutter of Cissna Park. Bro. Gary and Sis. Cindy Blunier are blessed with another little girl, Jennifer Lynn. He older sister, Janel, is just waiting for her to grow up a bit! Bro. Walter and Sis. Marion Blunier and Don and Mary Walker (Washington, IA) are the proud grandparents.

Bro. Bill Martin, formerly of Roanoke, passed away at the Restmor Home in Morton. He was a brother to our Sis. Kate Hodel. Bro. Bill surrendered to His Lord and repented at a very old age; now he is at rest.

We appreciate the visits of Bro. Marvin Leman (Princeville) and Bro. Clarence Kalamus (Forrest). Those who preach the Truth are

always welcome.

In the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, baking, decorating, entertaining, etc. remember the "Silent Night" when our Lord Jesus was born, and say a quiet prayer that some soul will come to know Him before another Christmas comes and goes.

#### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

##### Dorothy Wagenbach Carolyn Bolliger

May the peace and love of Jesus Christ

Go with you on your way.  
And bless your home and loved ones  
In spirit Christmas Day.

May the joy of God's bright promise—

The advent of His Son—  
Live evermore within each heart  
And comfort everyone.

May the faith of old-time prophets  
Be with you where you are,  
And may the truth of God's own  
Word

Remain your Christmas Star.

Helen Shick

Sis. Ella Schweigert wishes to thank everyone for their love and kindness, prayers, cards, food and flowers given while recuperating from eye surgery. May the Lord richly bless each one.

Bro. Ernest Schaefer also wishes to thank everyone who remembered him with prayers, cards and gifts during his recent hospital stay and convalescence at home. He especially wishes to thank the young group for their visits and singing.

Sis. Carrie Bolliger recently submitted to eye surgery and is now recuperating at home.

A precious baby son, Joshua Thomas, was born to Tom and Jane Bolliger on November 16. Happy grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris Baer and Bro. Harlan and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger.

Reminder: Silver Lining subscription dues of \$6 are due for the Tremont congregation in January. Thank you.

#### Address Changed?

INCLUDE OLD AND NEW ZIPS

#### ILLINOIS, URBANA

##### Cheryl Joos

May the peace and love of Jesus Christ

Go with you on your way,  
And bless your home and loved ones  
In spirit Christmas Day.

May the joy of God's bright promise—

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Live evermore within each heart  
And comfort everyone.

May the faith of old-time prophets  
Be with you where you are,  
And may the truth of God's own  
Word

Remain your Christmas Star.

Helen Shick

We were most richly blessed this month with visiting ministers. We want to thank Bro. Edwin Bahler, Remington; Bro. Art Baurer, Princeville; Elder Bro. Bob Grimm, Goodfield; Bro. Ken Eisenmann, Cissna Park and Bro. Dale Eisenmann, Chicago for bringing us the truth through God's Word.

The Silver Lining dues will be collected in January for our congregation.

#### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

##### Lily Schick

With prayerful hearts, the brothers and sisters that attend Illinois Central College planned and held their first college weekend on November 13 and 14. What a spiritually uplifting two days were experienced by those who were there! Our assembly room was filled on Sunday due to many gatherings with us for worship services. It certainly was a blessing! Ministering Bro. Dave Wiegand from Champaign was with us on that day. We sincerely appreciate his lending himself in the Lord's service.

On the same Sunday, Washington had an engagement announcement. Submitting their lives unto the Lord, Sis. Rita Wyss (from here) and Bro. Loren Klopfenstein of Leo, IN, believe He has lead their lives together. Their parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydianne Wyss of Washington, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein of Leo. Truly we wish them our Heavenly

Father's richest blessings as they plan their marriage.

We were sorry to have to say farewell to Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Kellenberger and their precious children as they moved to Kansas City. They are assembling with our body of believers there. We pray they will feel God's presence in their new home. The Lord has brought another couple to worship with us. We welcome Bro. Mark and Sis. Mary Huber and their two little girls, Amanda Jo and Megan Lynn, who was just born August 13.

On Christmas Eve, the wise men and shepherds traveled to Bethlehem. They believed God and His Word that one day a Savior and King would come down to Earth. When they found Him lying in a manger they knelt in reverence before the Christ Child. As Christmas comes again, we are reminded of His humble birth. We know He is no longer in the manger, but in Heaven! May we feel our hearts reverently kneeling before Him in submission, thanks and love, not only on His birthday, but every day.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Gayla Baumgartner  
Tammy Gerber

#### A Christian's Christmas

Brightly shone the eastern star  
For the wise men on their way,  
Leading them to Bethlehem,  
Where the infant Savior lay.  
Still this radiant Star does shine;  
Jesus is Himself this light,  
Leading us with love divine,  
Guiding us in darkest night.

As the wise men brought rich gifts,  
Laying them at Jesus' feet,  
Humbly did they worship Him,  
Sought in Him salvation sweet.  
But rich gifts he does not ask;  
Rather that our hearts we give;  
Serving, loving, heeding Him,  
Evermore in Him to live.

There the shepherds heard with joy  
Angels sing the blest refrain:

"Peace on earth, good will to men,  
Glory to His holy name."  
Jesus is the Shepherd true,  
Leads His flock in righteous ways,  
Fills our hearts with peace and love,  
Tunes our hearts to sing His praise.

Bro. Henry Beer

We are looking forward to a joyful Christmas season and a new year in which we can live for our Lord. May each one feel His presence and guidance each day.

Nathan David is the first born of Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri Mueller. He was born on Oct. 15.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy Longenberger were blessed with their first child, Jesse Ann. Her grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Mary Ann Kaehr and Bro. Harry and Sis. Devona Longenberger.

Blake Austin is the second son of Dave and Kris Troxel. Big brother Clint welcomes him home along with grandparents, Bro. Ralph and Sis. Elsie Troxel.

On November 10, Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucy Isch were blessed with a precious little bundle, Amy Jo.

On Oct. 31, seven new souls were added to the fold: Sis. Marie Sprunger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila), Sis. Jean Steffen (Bro. Terry and Sis. Gloria), Bro. Brad Gerber (Bro. Leon and Sis. Mary Kay), Sis. Gail and Sis. Jill Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny), Sis. Cammy Steffen (Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena), and Sis. Jaci Ringger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine).

On the following weekend, Nov. 6 and 7, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of eight more souls: Sis. Janean Isch (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn), Sis. Jill Isch (Bro. Al and Sis. Carole), Sis. Cheryl Honegger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy), Sis. June Gerber (Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary Jo), Sis. Kelli Moser (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat), Sis. Gala Gerber (Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise), Sis. Kim Ivins (Edson and Evelyn), and Bro. Dan Pfister (Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose).

May God bless each one of them and keep them close to Him.

The engagement of Sis. Deb Macklin and Bro. Brian Fiechter was announced on Oct. 24. They are planning a Jan. 30 wedding. Their parents are Carl and Betty Macklin and Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter.

Sis. Shelly Kaufman and Bro. Mark Fiechter were engaged on Nov. 14 and are planning a Feb. 13 wedding. Jerry and Pat Kaufman are Sis. Shelly's parents and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Fiechter are Bro. Mark's parents.

Nov. 14 was the wedding day of Sis. Lisa Clark (Bro. Richard and Sis. Beulah) and Bro. Bruce Aschliman

(Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella).

May the Lord richly bless these couples as they begin their lives together.

We were blessed by the teachings we heard from visiting ministers, Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), and Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago). We are thankful for those brothers who give so willingly of themselves to bring forth God's holy word.

May the Lord comfort those who have spent time in the hospital: Sis. Ann Meyer, Sis. Bertha Moser, Sis. Wava Bertsch, Brent Tonner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Diane), Sis. Marie Gilliom, Bro. John and Sis. Mary Moser, Bro. Clarence Steffen, and Sis. Lydia Steffen.

Our congregation was saddened by the sudden death of Bro. Eugene Heyerly who met with a fatal farm accident on Oct. 23. Bro. Gene is survived by his wife, Sis. Mabel, and his daughter, Sis. Sue Yergler.

His passing perhaps tends to symbolize the importance of our being constantly ready to meet our Lord when the death angel summons. Our lives here on earth are clouded with uncertainty. It is beyond our scope of mortality to comprehend the future. Yet, we know who holds the future, and we are wise to live close to our Lord each day and even await His glorious appearing. We have no continuing city here, but we seek one to come.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy and love to Bro. Dale Gerber and his children, Tami, Todd, and Tonya, in the passing of their dear wife and mother, Sis. Londa. After a lengthy illness she went to her rest on Oct. 25.

"Not now, but in the coming years,  
It may be in the better land,  
We'll read the meaning of our tears,  
And there, sometime, we'll understand.

We'll know why clouds instead of sun  
Were over many a cherished plan;  
Why song has ceased when scarce begun;

'Tis there, sometime, we'll understand.  
Then trust in God thro' all the days;  
Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand;  
Tho' dark thy way, still sing His praise,  
Sometime, sometime, we'll understand."

Hymns of Zion #165

May the Lord comfort Bro. Herman Drayer and his family in the death of

his mother, Sis. Eva Drayer. After many years of serving her Lord, she went to receive her crown of righteousness and to be forever with Him.

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**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**  
**Jacki Huber**

**Evensong**

The embers of the day are red  
 Beyond the murky hill.  
 The kitchen smokes; the bed  
 in the darkling house is spread:  
 The great sky darkens overhead,  
 And the great woods are shrill.  
 So far have I been led,  
 Lord, by Thy will:  
 So far I have followed, Lord, and  
 wondered still.  
 The breeze from the embalmed land  
 Blows sudden towards the shore,  
 And clasps my cottage door.  
 I hear the signal, Lord — I understand.  
 The night at Thy command  
 Comes. I will eat and sleep and will not  
 question more.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Trusting that God's ways are perfect gives us peace in our hearts. We were saddened by the death of Jerry Wuethrich, 29, son of Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna Wuethrich, and extend our love and sympathy to all of Jerry's family. He is survived by his parents, two sisters, Diane of Wabash and Sis. Suzanne Schieler (Bro. Duane) of Wolcott, and two brothers, Scott and Tim, both at home, his paternal grandmother, Sis. Lauretta Wuethrich (the mate Bro. Herman), maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rockwell, and one nephew.

Two of our families have given birth to little boys and we rejoice with them. On Nov. 13 Trenton David was born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene Metzger. Trenton has one sister, Alivia, and one brother, Austin. Grandparents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Leman and Mrs. Harvey Gutwein.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman welcome Alex Matthew into their home. Alex was born Nov. 16 and has one sister, Tanessa, and two brothers, Philip and Bart. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tanner and Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Leman.

We miss our dear sisters Wanda Huber, Verene Von Tobel and Candy Wuethrich, as they have made Phoenix, AZ their new home. We pray that God's richest blessings will be

theirs in Phoenix. Their new address is:  
 Apt. 214  
 3851 N. 28th St.  
 Phoenix, AZ 85016

Three of our loved ones were hospitalized this past month, but we are so happy to report that they are all home now and are recovering. Those hospitalized were: Betsy Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), Sis. Viola Von Tobel (Bro. Virgil), and Bro. Mike Gutwein. We're thankful for the strength God has given them.

**THANK YOU**

Our sincere thanks to everyone for their kindness shown to us at the death of Herman Wuethrich. We all appreciated the many cards, memorials, and love shown to us in so many ways. May God bless each and every one of you.

Lauretta Wuethrich  
 Edison & Chrisann Gutwein family  
 Norm & Karen Kuhn family  
 Charles & Betty Lyons family  
 Otto & Donna Wuethrich family  
 Edwin & Mary B. Gutwein family

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**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS**

**Judy Dubach**  
**Lynn Klopfenstein**

To be right, we must think right. What we think about when we are free to think about what we will, that is what we are or will soon become. Our voluntary thoughts not only reveal what we are, they predict what we will become. Thinking stirs feeling and feeling triggers actions.

Any one who wishes to check on his true spiritual condition may do so by noting what his voluntary thoughts have been over the last hours or days. What have you thought about when free to think of what you pleased? Toward what has your inner heart turned when it was free to turn where it would? Such a test is easy to run and if we are honest with ourselves we can discover not only what we are, but what we are going to become. We'll soon be the sum of our voluntary thoughts.

The best way to control our thoughts is to offer the mind to God in complete surrender. The Holy Spirit will accept it and take control of it immediately. Then it will be easy to think on spiritual things, especially if we train our thoughts by long periods of daily prayer. Long practice in the art of mental prayer (talking to God inwardly as we work or travel) will help form the

habit of Holy thought.

A. W. Tozer

We are reminded often to establish a quiet time and develop a healthy thought process, thereby growing in God's knowledge and wisdom. Elder brothers Ben Maibach (Detroit) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) expounded on the deliberations of the conference. We sincerely thank them and their families for their love and efforts.

Sarah Lyn, a bundle of joy and happiness was given to first-time parents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier on Nov. 17.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE**  
**Lu Ann Feller — Connie Knobloch**

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3:5,6. How comforting are these familiar portions of scripture. It is so wonderful to know that we can be truly secure in Jesus because He really cares what happens to us. Four precious souls were added into the fold and have begun this new life of trusting in the Lord. Our new brother and sisters in faith are Lee and Jeannie Nuest (Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma), Marsha Bucher (Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois) and Judy Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary). Todd and Mike Betts were announced to the congregation as having received peace with God. Their parents are Bro. Vic and Sis. Sheryl Heinold. We surely encourage these new babes and ask God's blessings and direction in their lives.

A dear brother went Home this month. Although we truly miss him in our congregation, it gives us joy to know that he has fought a good fight here on earth and is resting in Jesus now. Bro. Elmer Heiniger's remaining family include his dear wife, Lydia, two sisters, Sis. Martha Peters and Sis. Bertha Clauss, and one brother, Bro. John Heiniger. We certainly extend our sincere sympathy to the family.

We welcome our newest addition to our congregation. Chriss Allen joins his sister Molly as the youngest member of Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank's family. Chris' grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank and Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger of West Bend, IA.

We were very fortunate to host the World Relief meeting and enjoyed

wonderful fellowship with brethren from far and near. We especially want to thank our many visiting ministers who came for the meeting and baptisms. They included: Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Ben Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Eugene Fetter (Toledo, OH), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville), Simon Wagenbach (Tremont, IL), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), and Dan Stoller (Remington). We thank our Lord for these willing servants and ask God's blessings upon them.

Now as we anticipate the holiday season, let's encourage one another to act in the spirit of love that Jesus exemplified so beautifully in His walk on earth. May we not be so concerned with the fancy baking and much gift-giving. Let's be loving and kind, showing the fruit of the Spirit. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." What a wonderful gift! The most precious of all.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Thelma Schlatter**  
**Marjorie Frautschi**

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

May we rightly remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the Angels, the gladness of the Shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men!

"Whoso bears his brother's burden,  
 Whoso shares another's woe,  
 Brings his frankincense to Jesus  
 with wise men of long ago."

Apples of Gold

May His blessings continue with these young couples whose engagements were recently announced: Bro. Loren Klopfenstein, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Nancy, and Sis. Rita Wyss, daughter of Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann, Washington, IL.

Bro. Steve Stieglitz, son of Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean, and Sis. Jane Weiss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Weiss, Bay City, MI.

The visit and ministry of Bro. Roy Wieland, Bay City, MI was appreci-

ated.

A Christmas program by children and young adults is planned for Dec. 19 to honor our Savior's birth.

Sis. Bea Hans is missed from our congregation since she moved to Paulding, OH.

Sis. Adelle Conrad has been confined to her home for several weeks. Lowell Lantz was recently hospitalized again. Those who are ill need our prayers and words of encouragement.

"Christ was born in the first century;  
 yet He belongs to all centuries.  
 He was born a Jew;  
 yet he belongs to all races.  
 He was born in Bethlehem;  
 yet He belongs to the world."

Many gifts are given; but Jesus came to give the most precious of all, the gift of salvation. If it's yours, you are praising Him for it. If you have not received this priceless gift, why delay? Tomorrow may be too late. May your joy be full this Christmas because of Him!

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**  
**Marcy Haab — Gwen Steffen**

Now, oh joy! My sins are pardoned!  
 Now I can and do believe!  
 All I have, and am, and shall be,  
 To my precious Lord I give;  
 He roused my deadly slumbers,  
 He dispersed my soul's dark night,  
 Whispered peace, and drew me to Him,  
 Made Himself my chief delight.

A. Midlane

Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Elmer Hartter as two dear souls shared their testimonies. Bro. Dave Doll (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Becki) and Sis. Ginger Price (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kate) are now in the family of God. It is marvelous to hear how the burden of sin is lifted and replaced with peace and Christlike love; made possible only by Christ's death at Calvary. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves; it is a gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8,9. Theresa Hively (Bro. Levi and Sis. Kathryn Beer) has realized the need for repentance and desires to live her life for Christ.

Bro. Theo Brooks is recovering following surgery. May he feel God's love and nearness; and may the Lord

be able to use every situation for His glory.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Beer are the happy parents of a son, Seth Richard. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Nola Wuethrich, (Francesville) and paternal grandparents are Bro. Carlton and Sis. Mary Ann Beer (Milford). Two year old Shane welcomes Seth to their home.

Long, long ago in a land far away,  
 There came the dawn of the first  
 Christmas day,  
 And each year we see that promise  
 reborn  
 That God gave the world on that first  
 Christmas morn.  
 For the silent stars in the timeless skies  
 And the wonderment in a small child's  
 eyes.  
 the Christmas songs the carolers sing,  
 The tidings of joy that the Christmas  
 bells ring  
 Remind us again of that still, Silent

Night  
 When the heavens shone with a  
 wondrous Light,  
 And the angels sang of Peace on Earth  
 And told men of the Christ Child's  
 birth.  
 For Christmas is more than a beautiful  
 story  
 It's the promise of life and Eternal  
 Glory!

Helen Steiner Rice

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**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**  
**Nancy & Karen Lehman**

Oh Lord, with humble hearts we pray Thy blessing this Thanksgiving Day, And ask that at each table where grateful folk say words of grace, That Thou will come to share the yield thy bounty gave to farm and field. We pray Thy love will bless, oh Lord, each hearth, each home, each festive board; and that Thy peace will come to stay when candles glow . . . . Thanksgiving Day.

B. R. King

We have so much to be thankful for, not only on Thanksgiving Day but every day.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford), Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford), and Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH).

It is a good thing to give thanks unto

the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name. Psalm 92:1

### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Claudia Thomas — Mary Huber**

Greetings from Valparaiso. We were so warmed in our hearts by the word that Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse) brought to us. It is a real joy to have the brothers come and share in the labor of the Lord.

Christmas has come upon us so soon, as it always seems to. We seem to become so wrapped up in wrapping things up that we may lose the joy of Christmas. Let's not forget that the joy of Jesus, our eternal gift from God, is what we celebrate this time of year. Our heartfelt prayer is that all who have Christ as their Saviour will give of themselves to the poor and the lost so that through us the world can seem a little brighter this Christmas, because of what God gave to us. May everyone have a spirit filled Christmas.

### INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

**Debbie Anliker**

This past month we were thankful to have brethren from Cissna Park and Francesville with us to share God's word. We should appreciate the freedoms we have in being able to gather and worship as we wish.

We were told of the many responsibilities of being a child of God. We are always to let our light shine no matter where we are. If we are at home, work, or school there are always people around who will learn from our example. Sometimes Christians are the only Bibles people ever read, so we must be a true example of God's Word.

We are working on our Christmas program, which will be held on Dec. 16, at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in West Lafayette.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

1 Corinthians 10:13

### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Annette Bahler — Beth Virkler**

It was a lonely cemetery, overgrown with briars and weeds. The fence posts around it sagged at all angles, as if they were too weary with age to stand erect.

The tangled wires made no effort to hold out intruders. Most of the headstones were leaning and some had toppled over. I pulled the tangled mass of weeds from one of the stones and read, "Thomas Fisher, 1854-1884." Who was this Thomas Fisher? I wondered. What kind of man was he? Where did he come from? Where did he go?

Thomas Fisher — the name didn't tell much. He may have been of English or Dutch descent. His family may have settled in America for religious freedom. Had Thomas Fisher brought his family west in a covered wagon? Is that how he happened to be here? Had he been plodding along beside his oxen, while visions of a new land and homestead danced before his eyes? Then perhaps without warning an arrow from an Indian bow sang through the air and Thomas Fisher's vision vanished forever. Is that how he happened to die so young? Or did he make camp near a mosquito-infested swampland, then lose the battle with malaria as so many pioneers had? Was he a gay, laughing, handsome man, with ready wit and a keen sense of humor? Or was he quiet and studious? Was he content to sit outside his sod shanty at night and play his fiddle? Or did he look up at the stars and ponder the greatness of God? Did he have a family to mourn his passing? Did a crushed young wife hold an infant son to take a last look at his father's face — a face he wouldn't remember? Or perhaps he was a cruel man, a drunkard who beat his family. Did they stand, dry-eyed, not mourning, as he was lowered into his grave?

But then, he may not have been married at all. He was only thirty when he died. Perhaps he had come west to make a fortune in furs or gold to take back to his beloved. Where was his mother as he was drawing his last breath? Had he taken his own way as did the prodigal son of old? Was she praying for her "black sheep" as he roamed over the broad face of America? Had he gotten into a fight in a saloon and met a violent death that way? Was he a poor man? Or was he rich? Was he a poet? an author? a bartender? a farmer? a prospector? a minister? Had he heard terrible tales of savage Indians in this territory? Had he come to lead them to Christ only to be martyred at their hands?

Likely we will never know the answers to these questions. It really

doesn't matter. It makes little difference now what nationality he was, where he was born, whether he was rich or poor, learned or ignorant, gay or shy. Neither does it matter that his remains lie here in a forsaken weed-covered cemetery instead of within a costly mausoleum. His body has long since gone back to the dust from which it came.

There is only one thing about Thomas Fisher that is important today. That is: **WHERE HAS HE BEEN ALL THESE YEARS SINCE HE WAS LOWERED INTO THIS GRAVE?** Has he been enjoying the bliss of the redeemed? Or has he been in a hopeless, Godless eternity that has hardly begun? What did Thomas Fisher do with the Lord Jesus back there somewhere before 1884? Did he receive Him, love Him and serve Him during his life, or did he spurn Him, laugh in His face and turn away?

Whatever that choice was, it holds good today. It will continue to hold good throughout eternity. Thomas Fisher made his decision. He will never have another opportunity.

As you are reading just now, you have a big advantage over Thomas Fisher. You are still living. You have an opportunity to choose today. What will you do with Jesus?

(Author unknown)

In the multitude of counselors, there is safety. (Prov. 11:14) Do we appreciate enough the time, effort, prayers and warnings that our elders put forth to guide their flocks? Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN) was with us to share the duties of the conference letter with our local elder, Bro. Alfred Bahler.

Bro. John and Sis. Caroline Hejja along with Christy and Michael have left our congregation to return to Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Over the past two years, they worshipped with us and did their part of sharing and caring within the brotherhood.

Why should ye all be weeping  
And break my very heart?  
We're in the Saviour's keeping  
And shall not therefore part.  
No time nor place can sever  
The bonds which us have bound;  
In Christ abide forever,  
Who once in Him were found.

#155 Zion's Harp



### INDIANA, WOLCOTT Laurel and Kris Widmer

A bit of Heaven has been sent to the home of Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Basham. Their new daughter's name is Brooke Ashley, born on Nov. 7. Her brother, Ryan, and sister, Jessica, grandparents, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab, and Mr. and Mrs. John Basham, also welcome her home.

We enjoyed having visiting ministers Bros. Ed Alt and Ken Werts (Cissna Park, IL) this month. Elder Bro. Harold Messner spent a weekend in the Wolcott and Remington area for the conference report. We are thankful that he and his wife were willing to travel so far to share their time and the Word with us.

May God richly bless each and every one for their prayers, calls, visits, and gifts of love while I was in the hospital at Indianapolis (especially the members of the Indianapolis church) and since returning home. God bless you all.

Marilyn Schieler

### IOWA, BURLINGTON Edith Massner — Kim Salek

It is now the time of year we begin thinking of Christmas and the birth of our Savior. It is such a busy time; family and friend get-togethers, gift exchanges, shopping, baking and sewing time for some of us. Let us all remember to slow down our pace a little so that we truly may enjoy the beauty and quietness of this very meaningful time, that we may take the necessary time to ponder and reflect upon the birth of our Savior and the gift that our Father has given to us, His only Son, and just what that gift means to us. It is so important that we, as children of God, keep the reverence and solemnity of the season because we see the world bringing in the materialism and gait. It most certainly is a time of great joy and happiness, and yet, that joy and happiness can be multiplied when we celebrate the season with the reverence it deserves. The love and peace of God that we have in our hearts is what brings this joy, because we realize the real and deep meaning of the birth of the Christ-Child.

Our Bible Class hosted a Sunday School get-together a few weeks ago. Students from Fairbury, Gridley, Taylor and Oakville were here for a very

enjoyable day. We thank all the parents, teachers, and students for all their efforts and help in making it go so well.

### IOWA, ELGIN

#### Eleanor Butikofer

I am thankful Father for blessings received

During summer's sun and autumn's falling leaves.

During winter's chill and the showers of spring.

I thank you dear God for so many things.

For the beautiful earth and beautiful sky

Which over and above me lies.

For the universe stretching out so far.

For the orderly movement of each star.

For the beautiful mountains and the deep blue seas.

For the song of birds and the hum of bees.

For the fragrance of flowers in the air.

For the feel of the wind blowing in my hair.

For health and happiness that come my way.

For the love of family and friends each day.

For the peace that comes from speaking with You.

For the assurance of Thy Scriptures true.

For the peace of Thy Son the Savior of men

Dying on a cross to save me from sin.

I am so richly blessed that my heart

sings. . .  
I thank you, dear God, for so many things.

We are happy that Marcy Banwart, daughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis (West Bend), recently gave testimony of having found peace with her God and was baptized.

Sharon, daughter of LaVerne and the late Lavila Schneider, and Wade Jensen, son of Einor and Elna Jenson (Lynd, MN) were recently married at the Little Brown Church at Nashua, IA. A reception was held in their honor at the Schneiders. It is our deep and fervent prayer that God may bless their marriage with His love, and that grace be ever present in their home. We extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes for everything wise and blissful.

With warm greetings from Elgin, Iowa. It begins to feel like winter,

accordingly the songsters of the air are winging in for food and shelter. The geese from north of us have been forming wedges and flying southward, too, for extra food and protection.

### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

#### Eilene Funk

As Thanksgiving time came, our hearts turned to God with thanks and gratitude for another harvest. As told to us in His Word, "As long as the world stands, seed time and harvest shall not cease". What a precious promise that is.

In looking forward now to the Christmas Season may our thanks be to God, for sending His Son Jesus, not only as a baby, but much more — as a Savior, our Redeemer.

### IOWA, IOWA CITY

#### Joyce Eland

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:1

"How shall I, Lord, receive Thee  
And how Thy grace extol?  
My Spirit's crown and glory,  
O bridegroom of my soul!  
Give me the understanding  
How full of light and grace  
My soul may e'er esteem Thee,  
In rev'rence sing Thy praise!"  
("There Were Shepherds"—  
#300 Hymns of Zion)

It surely seems easy to become so busy at Christmas time that we forget the real purpose of Christmas. Wouldn't this be a good year to share with the less fortunate — and to concentrate more on sharing the love and spirit of Christmas and worry less about expensive gifts?

Once again we are thankful for brothers who came to assist Bro. Joe Gerst in ministering unto us. This month Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville), Uriel Gehring (Burlington), and Ron Shambach (Elgin, IL) have shared with us.

Correction: Students attending school in the area include Gerri Massner (daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis Knobloch, Oakville) and Jackie Wiegand (daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Martha Wiegand, Oakville).

### IOWA, LESTER ALICE METZGER

As the miracle of Christmas

approaches, we are thankful for what we know is the real meaning of the season. There has never been another miracle to compare with the birth of Jesus to the virgin Mary. Among the many blessings we enjoy in this season is the good will of our fellow men.

Our members have had the opportunity of listening to the conference tapes during our mid-week services. We are thankful for the privilege of hearing our elders interpret and explain God's holy will.

Elder Bro. Art Bahler, Bro. Noah Miller, and Bro. Don Miller were among the many visitors here the weekend of Oct. 24. The occasion was the testimonies and baptisms of two dear souls. Brad Moser, son of Bro. Frank and Sis. Verna, and Kent Mogler, son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie, are now our brothers-in-faith as they told how they sought and found God's mercy. Bro. Kent is employed and attends church in Minneapolis but we are thankful he could be here where he grew up for this most important occasion.

On Nov. 7 we were thankful to have Bro. Don Wagenbach share the Word with us. Along with other relatives, he was here to help his aunt and uncle, Bro. Ted and Sis. Emma Gerber, celebrate their golden anniversary. They appreciate the many good wishes extended to them.

Our dear older Sis. Rose Moser had the misfortune to fall and break a hip. She has been released from the hospital and is doing quite well at the nursing home where she resides. Jared Metzger, son of Bro. Art and Sis. Chris, was hospitalized for a tonsillectomy.

We have experienced very adverse weather for the harvest season. A heavy snow fell on Oct. 19 which stopped all harvesting for a week. After that had melted and dried a little, we had rain and then more snow. Even now, the week before Thanksgiving as I write this, there are many acres of corn and beans still in the field. We hope for cold weather to freeze the ground with no snow.

May each of you enjoy a blessed Christmas.

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

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast

learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." II Timothy 3:14,15.

The importance of the above message was stressed to us one recent Sunday, by Bro. Glenn Dill of Tremont. Bro. Raymond Banwart of Ft. Scott has also been a willing laborer in our midst. We look forward to many more visitors during the approaching holiday season. May God bless each one!

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; . . ." St. Luke 1:68,69.

**The Son of God**  
Hymns of Zion #249

Know ye the Son, the sacred Son of God?

The Hero great is born in Bethlehem!  
He came to us from His exalted throne,  
As prince of peace, as God's eternal Son!

Know ye this Son? Yea, He is known,  
The dauntless Hero, God's own Son!

Know ye the Son, who came of royal birth?

A star fortells His coming to this earth!  
The seeking men it leads to Bethlehem,

In manger low they find and worship Him!

Know ye this Son? Yea, He is known,  
The Most Exalted, God's own Son!

Know ye the Lord, the gracious friend of Man,

Who clothed Himself in pilgrim's garment plain?

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

An angel's message did the world arouse!

The Son has come! From heaven's dome

Resounds the angel's joyous song!

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**IOWA, PULASKI**

**Mary Wiegand — DeAnn Wuthrich**

The leaves from the trees are almost gone. As the winter comes upon us and a new season begins, I am reminded of this poem.

The seasons swiftly come and go  
And with them comes the thought  
Of all the various changes

That time in flight has brought . . .  
But one thing never changes,  
It remains the same forever,  
God truly loves "His Children"  
And He will forsake them never.

Helen Steiner Rice

How wonderful it is to know that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He truly loves us all, and always will. May we all do our part to be a loving and faithful servant of His.

Our special thanks go out to Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN), Bro. William Gudeman (Elgin, IL), and Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) for ministering the Word unto us in this past month. We are always thankful for the visiting ministers that take time out to come and visit our congregation.

Our congratulations are expressed to Don and Susie Schaer on the birth of their baby boy, Brian. Grandparents are Bro. Bernard and Sis. Leah Schaer (Pulaski, IA). May they find much joy and happiness in the future with their little bundle of joy.

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

" . . . And, Dear Lord, we pray that Satan could leave them alone for awhile, that they might grow in faith . . ." Such was the plea put forth in the closing prayer on Sunday evening of the beautiful weekend of provings and baptisms of four dear souls, Sis. Twyla Schmidt (Sis. Betty), Sis. Karol and Sis. Marcy Banwart (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis), and Bro. Leslie Fehr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole). We received many blessings throughout the weekend, and were renewed in spirit to strive more earnestly to walk with our loving Saviour and thus do His bidding.

Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester), Dave Kieser (Princeville), and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), as well as ministering Bros. Nathan Stoller and Roy Ehnle (Bradford) and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop) were here with many other visitors. We're grateful for all who came for this important undertaking.

" . . . Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33) So it is for two dear ones who now have experienced the blessing of God's direction that they be joined as one. The engagement of Bro. Kent Banwart (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis) and Sis. Beth Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and

Sis. Evelyn) was announced recently and, the Lord willing, they plan to be married on Jan. 2. May He continue to add His blessings upon their lives.

We are thankful and happy to tell you that Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger have a new daughter to bring sunshine into their home. Little Amber Joy was born on Oct. 19. Her grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Hazel Geyer (Peoria) and Sis. Marie Kellenberger (Sabetha). Dave and Diane Gerber have also had the same experience as Annette Diane came to their home Nov. 3. Her grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Montag (West Bend).

Those who have had hospital stays this month are Bernadine Jurgens and Louisa Anliker (Reuben) who are now home and doing nicely. Bro. Fahey Gress and Bro. Kenny Dahlhauser both had severe hand injuries in separate farm accidents. May God's healing hand of love be over each one.

May each and every one be blessed with a deep appreciation of Christmas and all the peace and joy its true meaning holds.

#### JAPAN, SHIODA

Kathy Klotzle

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8 Our Lord does not change. His love and life are not seasonal. As we remember the birth of our Saviour, we can rejoice that if He has also been born within our hearts, His birth is a part of our everyday lives, not just an occasion to be celebrated one day each year.

Fall is not usually associated with our Lord's death, yet His death for us should also be remembered every day as we strive to remain crucified with Christ and to die daily. Recently we were abundantly blessed and renewed as we shared Holy Communion together. We thank Elder Bro. Akito Inoue for coming from Tokyo to serve us along with Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle. As we greeted one another after the service, we asked for each other's support, and encouraged one another to persevere in our pilgrim walk in the coming year. I felt as if I were wishing my brethren these blessings for longer than a year, though, because most likely I won't be here next year when communion is shared.

Lord willing, my time to leave Japan

is not far away. The painful farewells have begun, and I feel an emptiness within as I must leave the dear people and places who have become a part of my heart and life. I will always give thanks to God for the years He has blessed me with in Japan. And, I thank each brother, sister, and friend who has helped make this a valuable, learning, life-changing experience that I can't imagine having lived without. We also appreciate the thoughts, prayers, and generosity of our brethren at home, ask God to bless you for them, and plead that your prayers will continue for our congregations in Japan. As I leave our brethren here, it is my prayer that the Lord will watch between us while we are absent one from another. "May now the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, the peace and love of God, the fellowship of His Holy Spirit abide with us all, yea, with us all! Amen." Zion's Harp #213

#### JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

We had our Communion Service Sunday afternoon on Oct. 24 and most all members could be with us. It was a very blessed time together with some of the members from Shioda Church. Bro. Willis R. Ehnle came from the country church and helped Bro. Akito Inoue. This is a real wonderful privilege for us true believers who have the remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross through drinking the cup and breaking the bread. We really thank God for His wonderful love and grace. We felt more courage to serve the Lord and closer with the brothers and sisters in faith.

As believers we are thankful we have no problems with other peoples, countries, races, etc., in comparison to those who do not know the true God. They strive for peace but cannot find it. Jesus told us in the Bible, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you, and ordain you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." St. John 14:18 and 15:16.

Along with the Shioda Church we recently had a used clothing collection for the Vietnamese Refugee Camp in Saitama-Ken. When we delivered the items those in charge seemed very grateful for the large collection and

also for the generous gift of money given by the World Relief of our American Churches.

#### KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger

Visiting minister, Bro. Wayne Miler (Ft. Scott) was appreciated.

Sis. Esther Moser was hospitalized for tests.

Bro. Alpha Strahm, Sr. is a resident of the A. C. Home.

#### The Road Ahead

I placed another calendar  
Today upon the wall,  
And pondered on the coming year,  
And just what may befall  
In all the days and weeks and months  
Before the year has fled —  
I wondered why I cannot see  
The road that lies ahead.

The days, like jig-saw puzzles, pass —  
Some happy, full of fun,  
Some full of sorrow and of pain;  
We take them as they come.  
We strive to put each in its place  
As through the year we tread.  
Sometimes, a hopeless puzzle seems  
The year that lies ahead.

I look at the new calendar  
And wish that I might see  
What beyond tomorrow lies —  
What's waiting there for me.  
But God, in His far wiser way,  
Makes time a book unread,  
And we must walk in hope and faith  
The road that lies ahead.

Olive W. Ridenour

#### KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

Jamie Marti

As we approach the Christmas season, let us always remember Christ's humble birth and more importantly what he did for us at His death.

"But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you" Luke 12:31. On Nov. 7, Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) reminded us to strive for the kingdom of God instead of worldly pleasures. We thank him for bringing God's word to us.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Dan Braker as he was suddenly called home on Nov. 4.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues of \$6 are due in Jan. for the Ft. Scott congregation.

**KANSAS, GRIDLEY****Julie Bahr — Doris Bahr**

Hospital patients have been Sis. Janice Isch, Bro. Loren Strahm, Sam Kraft, Ephriam Young, and Rudolph Bahr.

Esther Knapp is residing at the Autumn Manor at Yates Center after a stay at the hospital.

Our heartfelt sympathy to our dear Sis. Lena Strahm, 91, in the loss of her daughter and our friend, Sis. Ungela. Sis. Lena lives in her home in Yates Center and drives to church most every Sunday, around 25 miles.

Oct. 31, Sis. Julie Strahm (Bro. Loren and Sis. Lisateen) and Bro. Brian Bahr (Bro. Roy and Sis. Doris) joined hands and heart in Holy Matrimony. Their wedding vows were solemnized by Elder Bro. Sam Anliker. They have experienced the second most important step, the first being united in faith with God, and now to one another as husband and wife. May He be their unseen Guest with His blessings of love in their household. A lovely buffet reception was held at the Gridley Community Building. We enjoyed many visitors and friends, our church being filled to overflowing, and thank one and all for their love and fellowship.

Our thanks to visiting ministers Sam Anliker, Ronald Nelson, Wayne Miller, Al Langhofer, and Glen Funk.

A bell is no bell till you ring it,  
A song is no song till you sing it,  
And love in your heart wasn't put there  
to stay,  
Love isn't love till you give it away.

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Jana Meyer — Ramona Strahm**

"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

Additional members to our group this semester are Wayne Anliker, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene (Lamont);

Michael Strahm, son of Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie (Bern); and Sis. Denise Kilgus, bride of Bro. Kevin. We are grateful God has directed another couple into our area.

We appreciate each one who has made the effort to assemble with us for our Wednesday evening services. Ministering brethren in our midst have been: Elder Bro. Lester Hartter and Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern); Elder Bro. Sam Huber and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha); Bro. Loren Strahm, Bro. Lloyd Kraft, and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley); Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita); Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL); and, Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont).

**KANSAS, KIOWA****Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr**

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or  
pain;

Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly  
Friend . . .

Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

This hymn is so comforting when we really listen, with our hearts, to the words. It makes us aware that God is taking care of us — whatever our grief, pain, joy, or love we are feeling.

We were all saddened by the death of Bro. Danny Braker (Lamar, MO). We wish to extend our prayers and sympathy to his relatives and especially to our dear sister, Janice.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Ungala Strahm. May the Lord strengthen and comfort you in this time of grief.

This past week we assembled together for three evenings to listen to the tapes of the conference. We thank our blessed Lord for the opportunity we have to gather together and listen to the Word of God and how it should guide us in our daily lives.

We experienced a special joy in laboring together for a common goal as we worked to clean our church at our fall house cleaning.

As the Christmas season approaches, let us not forget what Christmas really means — it seems that the world has taken Christ out of Christmas. That is what I think of whenever I see Christmas written with an X in place of the word Christ. It is up to each

of us to remember and to relate to those around us that Christ is God's most precious gift to us. Our gifts to each other need not be expensive items, rather the gifts should be in the form of prayers, love, friendship, and kindness for each other. Let us love one another.

**KANSAS, LAMONT  
Mary Isch****"The Blessed Assurance of  
Christmas**

In the wondrous Christmas Story  
a troubled world can find  
Blessed reassurance  
and enduring peace of mind —  
For though we grow discouraged  
in the world we're living in,  
There is a comfort just in knowing  
that God triumphed over sin  
By sending us His only Son  
to live among us here  
So He might know and understand  
man's loneliness and fear —  
And for our soul's salvation  
Christ was born and lived and died,  
For life became immortal  
when God's Son was crucified,  
And the Christ Child's Resurrection  
was God's way of telling men  
That in Christ we are Eternal  
and in Him we live again —  
And to know that life is endless  
puts new purpose in our days  
And fills our hearts with joyous songs  
of hope and love and praise —  
For to know that through the Christ  
Child

our spirits were redeemed  
And that God has stored up treasures  
beyond all that man has dreamed  
Is a promise that is priceless  
and it's ours if we but say  
That "in so far as in us lies"  
we will follow in His ways —  
For God our Heavenly Father  
and Christ, His only Son  
Will forgive us our transgressions  
and the misdeeds we have done  
If we but yield our hearts to God  
and ask but one reward —  
"The joy of walking daily  
in the Footsteps of our Lord."

Helen Steiner Rice

Bro. Glen Funk (Garden Grove) was a visiting minister this month. We thank him and his family for their visit and wish them grace and strength to labor on.

We enjoyed seeing the slides shown on a recent Monday evening by Bro. Sandor Bako, Akron, OH, that were taken in Hungary, Romania, and the countries that are Communist ruled. It was very interesting to hear about how they do not have the freedom we so much take for granted. They endure much in body and soul for the faith and belief in the almighty God.

Sis. Eva Emch had a three week stay in the hospital as a result of a fall. She has been moved to the Madison Manor for convalescing. May He who is the healer of both body and soul be ever near her. Sis. Matilda Emch was also a hospital patient for a few days. We must look up and know that God has not promised us a path of roses. God knows that you can stand trial; He would not give it to you if you could not. It is His trust in you that explains the trials of life, however bitter they may be. God knows our strength, and He measures it to the last inch; and a trial was never given to any man that was greater than that man's strength, through God, to bear it.

#### KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner — Judy Hartter

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.

As Christmas time is drawing near, let us again remember the miracle of our Savior's birth and rejoice in it. The beginning of hope for mankind, let us not stop there. "Our saving hope is all in vain, if here our love should cease . . . 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the Spirit free."

On Nov. 4, Clark and Janet Strahm became the parents of Lucas Clark. Lucas is welcomed home by a brother, Kevin, and his grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Mildred Strahm and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jackson (Fairview). Also on Nov. 7, Gwen Marie brought much joy into the home of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm. Kristie and Kurt welcome home their little sister as do her grandparents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimmer and Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia Mogler (Lester, IA).

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of DeVere Meyer (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence) and his wife Michelle. We welcome them as brother and sister

into our most precious faith. Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar) and Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern) were with us to help our Elder Bro. Sam Huber. Also sharing with us during midweek services were Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron) and Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury). We thank them for their love and willingness to bring forth God's precious word.

We miss Sis. Shelle Massner in our midst as she has moved to Ft. Scott, KS. We also want to welcome Bro. Steve and Sis. Rose Ann Knoblock along with their two little daughters into our congregation from Lester, IA. May the Lord bless them wherever they establish their homes.

Our congregation has gathered together with the brothers and sisters from the Bern congregation to listen to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. May we heed these timely warnings and strive to be obedient as we walk along the pathway of life.

Nov. 6 was the wedding day for Marc Wenger (LaVon and Erma) and Julie Steinlage (Sabetha). We wish them much happiness.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who have spent time in the hospital. They were Sis. Suzie Brunner, Sis. Lydia Wenger (Bro. Levi), Rick Aberle (Bro. Rog and Sis. LaVonne), and Terry Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon).

#### KANSAS, WICHITA

Priscilla Frank

As Christmas once again draws near, we again ponder the wonder of it all. The wonder of God's love to be willing to share His precious Son, that we might be able to learn and know God Himself. What a privilege has truly been granted unto us, His people. How often we wish we could explain it all to our loved ones outside the fold. It's just impossible to put it into words. Even as David wrote in Psalms 106:1,2. "Praise the Lord; O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? who can shew forth all His praise?"

How adequately these verses express our inadequacy to praise our God, and yet there are times when our souls feel as if they would burst with the desire and need to praise our most High King. There are many examples we could share about how He has shown forth His love, His mercy, His grace, and His forgiveness. Yet, I think

we all feel that the greatest example would be the mercy He has shown unto us, when He forgives our sins and accepts us into His royal family. He is prepared to spend the time needed to train and teach us in His school of life, so that we might some day be fit and ready to reign with Him. There are many trials, many tests, and many avenues which He may use to accomplish this goal. Some are hard to understand, and hard to bear; and yet, I believe that through these most difficult tests, His love shines forth in fullness and lights the sky above the clouds in our lives so we can feel His warm love filtering through to us.

I think Sis. Angela Strahm could attest to this fact even as she suffered through the daily battle of cancer. Days when there seemed to be no relief, no end in sight, only a guiding hand to hold through the night. Yet sometimes the simplest thing is the hardest to do. Just to place our hand in Jesus' hand and let Him lead us through is often very hard for us. We all have days like this; Sis. Angela had them too. But, now her battle is over, the victory is won and she is now waiting to reign with the chosen One. Her departure was not made without tears, for we all miss her here.

Our prayers go up for her family, but, especially her mother and close friend Irma Atherton. She has been a close friend and companion to these two women for many years. We'll miss seeing the beautiful mother and daughter relationship they both shared. We thank you for this witness. May God bless you in your lonely hours and may His love fill the void and vacancy you feel.

Sis. Angela Strahm departed this life Monday, Nov. 8, 1982 at Wesley Medical Center after a long struggle with cancer.

The family wishes to express their gratitude and appreciation to the many faithful relatives, church members and friends for all their prayerful support and the giving of their time and understanding during Angela's long illness.

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

" . . . And there will be showers of blessing . . ."

We join with Bro. Ron and Sis. Penny Erismann in welcoming their

second bundle of joy, Joshua Ronald, to the Alto congregation. Baby Joshua's sister, Summer, is very pleased to have him home with her.

We wish Gordon Blough, son of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Eloise Blough, and Trisha (Jackson) Blough, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Jackson, much peace and happiness as they begin their lives together as husband and wife.

Those hospitalized this month were Bro. Ferdinand Grawburg, husband of Sis. Jane Grawburg, and Sis. Vivian Feldman, wife of Bro. Lyman Feldman. We pray that our Lord will watch over these dear ones as they recover from their illnesses.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier have left for their winter home in Sarasota, FL. May God shed His blessings on Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha, and keep them in His tender, loving care.

Visiting us this month were Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit), and Bro. Andrew Verkler (Bay City). We most sincerely want to thank Bro. Ben and Bro. Andy for their very beautiful labors of love.

Once again we are experiencing a change of seasons. It's winter — a very special time of year when we celebrate the humble birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May the blessedness of this holy season be with all of you, now and forever.

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Linda Ramseyer

The Lord has allowed the remodeling of our church building to progress and we are once again able to assemble there for services on Sunday and Wednesday evening. We pray that the Lord will bless us in our remodeled edifice.

We were privileged to have ministering brothers visit us this past month. Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI), Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), and Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN) brought us God's word and we thank them for traveling to our congregation.

Sis. Louise Lambert has been hospitalized this past month and we pray the Lord will continue to be with her. We were glad to hear that Sis. Winifred (Bro. Frederick) Ruegsegger was able to return home after a stay in the hospital. Our prayers are with these dear sisters during this time.

Once again the Christmas season is upon us and we want to celebrate by remembering our Lord and Saviour's birth. We pray that the Lord will bless

each one of you during this joyous time.

Christmas brings a gift of peace  
no words can quite impart,  
Christmas brings a gift of love  
that blesses every heart,  
Christmas brings a gift of hope  
to lighten all the way,  
May all these perfect gifts  
be yours this Christmas day.

Author Unknown

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT Helen and Bonnie Popp

As we would approach the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, may each one of us find a special prayer altar to remember those special blessings which have been bestowed upon us. This can help us add the true meaning to these times of remembrance.

#### The Best Memory System

Forget each kindness that you do  
As soon as you have done it;  
Forget the praise that falls to you  
The moment you have won it;  
Forget the slander that you hear  
Before you can repeat it;  
Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer

Whenever you may meet it.

Remember every kindness done  
To you, whate'er its measure;  
Remember praise by others won  
And pass it on with pleasure  
Remember every promise made  
And keep it to the letter;  
Remember those who lend you aid  
And be a grateful debtor.

Remember all the happiness  
That comes your way in living;  
Forget each worry and distress,  
Be hopeful and forgiving;  
Remember good, remember truth,  
Remember heaven's above you,  
And you will find through age and youth

True joy, and hearts to love you.

Author Unknown

We are so glad that Bonnie (Wieland) Stewart is home from the hospital and doing so well. We breathe a special prayer for her continued recovery.

#### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Deb Tilbury

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Floyd Schmidgall and

Alpha Moser (Morris, MN), Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Harold Messner (Winthrop). We appreciate the time and effort that they put forth on our behalf, especially when both our ministering brothers are away.

After church services on Nov. 21, we visited Sis. Sophia Gudeman in the nursing home and sang for her.

#### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Rhonda Zeltwanger — Jan Schock

As we are approaching the Christmas season, we seem to become so busy. May we each take time to go to the Bible and read the story of Jesus' birth. There are so many secular ideas promoted during this season, but we should try to remember the true meaning in our preparations and celebrations at home.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger are thankful for two new granddaughters this month. Bro. Robert and Sis. Gwen Feuchtenberger and Michele and Lynette welcome little Barbara Jo to their home. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger named their girl Ruth Ann. Her anxious helpers waiting at home are Duane, Kathy, Janet, Doug, Carter and Michael.

Ted and Wanda Gramm are blessed with a son Brady Charles Gramm. Big sister Lindsay will enjoy playing with him and so will his grandparents Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Charles, all of Hancock.

Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO), Alfred Bayler (Wolcott, IN) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) counseled and ministered with us the weekend of Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Elder Bro. Paul Fehr also announced his retirement from the ministry. How can we thank him for the hours he has given us? We enjoyed a potluck supper on Sunday in honor of Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna and the visiting elders.

Bro. Wayne Schmidgall was a surgical patient and Virgil Sauder and Terry Koehl were patients after a car accident. They are all home and doing well. The recuperative powers of the body are truly miracles of God.

#### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner

Mary Lou Schmidt

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not

perish, but have everlasting life." St. John 3:16. May we always remember what Christ has done for us. Not only at Christmas, but each and every day of our lives. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven. St. Matthew 5:16.

Christmas is for loving,  
And spreading peace on earth.  
Christmas is remembering,  
Our Blessed Saviour's Birth.

Carice Williams

Another year has quickly slipped by. What we did, how we lived, and how we used our lives, rested in our own hands. As we look back upon the year of 1982, we can see the many blessings God has bestowed upon us all. On the other hand, we can also see the many heartaches and sorrows some had to bear. Yes, we can say, "God is with us; we need not fear." But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before; I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:13,14.

Thought for 1983: "When you don't know the way, trust the Guide!"

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messner and family in the loss of Sis. Georgia's father. May the Lord comfort them in their sorrow.

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Becky Hohulin — Sandra Marti**

Our prayers go out to the family of Bro. Dan Braker who met with death on Nov. 3, when he fell from a silo. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Janice, four children, Robin, Phil, Kristen and Greg, and his parents, Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta. Bro. Dan was serving as a Sunday School teacher and will be missed by all of us, but we're thankful that his battle is won. Strengthening and comforting words mean so much at a time like this. As we heard at the funeral service, this isn't really a tragedy. It would've been a tragedy if he wouldn't have been prepared to meet his Lord. Elder Bros. Gene Marti and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) conducted the funeral services. God has surely reminded each of us to examine our own lives and ask ourselves, "Am I ready to meet the Lord?"

We also extend our sympathy to the

family of Keith Simons who departed from this life on Nov. 7.

We are thankful that Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) could be with us on Nov. 7, to bring forth God's Holy Word. On Nov. 14, Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS) spent the day in Lamar and ministered to us. May each of us support our ministering brethren in prayer.

Nov. 14 was the wedding date of Bro. Jerry Braker and Sis. Carol Stoller, (Eureka, IL). Their parents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta and Elder Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber. Many of us received a blessing from being in Eureka for this occasion. We warmly welcome Sis. Carol to our congregation. May God's presence always be felt in their home.

Christmas is a busy season. We need to pause and remember our dear Savior's birth and what it means to each of us.

#### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Becky Gudeman**

We have so much to be thankful for and during this Holiday Season it is so easy to become too busy to say thanks. It's a joyous time of the year and a beautiful season; a chance to reflect on our many blessings, especially the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:19,20.

We want to thank Bro. Greg Rassi from the Chicago congregation and Bro. Kenneth Weerts from the Cissna Park congregation for ministering to us this past month. We pray the Lord will bless them for their endeavors. We appreciate the fellowship of all those who traveled to be with us here in St. Louis.

Services are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at the Ben Franklin Motel; 4645 N. Lindbergh Blvd. For more information, contact Dan and Becky Gudeman at 314-275-2227.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address  
to Your Reporter

#### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Loida Hodel**

#### Thanksgiving

I'm thankful for all good with which I've been blessed throughout life,  
For hardships, and for heartaches, too,  
For failures, trials and strife.  
I'm thankful for each little prayer  
Someone has said for me;  
For loving thoughts, for friendliness,  
For all good will I see.

My thanks for hands, for which I could  
serve someone on life's way;  
For all small deeds of kindness  
I'm allowed to do each day.  
I'm thankful for all happiness,  
Each long hour of sorrow;  
God thus in His great mercy gives  
More wisdom for tomorrow.

"Oh come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our maker." Psalm 95:6 May God bless Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bros. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS), Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), and Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), and families for their visits and for sharing God's Word with us.

Dean and Gay (Riney) Redd welcome a new "little bird" on their family tree. "Seth Richard", born on Nov. 12, has a brother, Josh; his grand parents are Gene and Irene (Hoerr) Riney. Children are indeed a heritage of the Lord and we are thankful for each new little one we can add to our growing Sunday School and church.

Several of our congregation have met with accident and illness this month. Ted Hoerr (Bro. Robert and Sis. Em) underwent emergency treatment due to a farm accident; Doug Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruth) escaped serious injury in a pick-up truck accident and was hospitalized several days. We are thankful God saw it good to spare these young men and hope it will remind all of us how quickly this precious gift of life can be snuffed out.

Sis. Kathy Haab (Bro. Paul) was a hospital patient for tests, etc. several days. "It takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow."

We were happy to share, along with relatives and friends, the 25th wedding anniversary of our ministering Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp on Nov.

7. Kenny and Phyllis are parents of Vicki, Kim (Buckman), Kevin, and the late Adair. They also have two grandsons, Andy and Brandon Buckman.

"There is no deeper happiness Than that which comes from sharing, No greater joy than that which comes From loving, giving and caring."

May their happiness continue and may God bless them with many more years together.

Sis. Charlene Sutter and family wish to thank the beloved flock at Taylor, cherished friends and neighbors, for the love, prayers, and kindness they experienced each day during and since the loss of their loved one, Bro. Dick. May we continue to pray for each other and in some small way help to make the burdens lighter.

Memories of our dear ones —  
Are the kind that never die,  
But just grow even dearer  
As the hours and days go by.

#### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Ed Aeschleman

Ministering Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) came with his family and others to worship with us on Sunday, Nov. 16. How thankful we are for ministers who are willing to lend themselves so that the flocks might be fed and prosper spiritually.

#### NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

The little sheep all lay asleep,  
While Shepherds watched that night.  
Then suddenly from the heaven above  
There shone a brilliant light.

An angel voice announced, "Rejoice!  
Hear ye this glorious word —  
To you is born in Bethlehem  
A Saviour, Christ the Lord!

"In swaddling clothes, in sweet repose,  
He lies in cattle stall" —  
Then louder rang the sweet refrain,  
"Good will, and peace to all!"

The sheperds came and found the same  
As angels had foretold  
And Wise Men worshiped with their gifts,  
Myrrh, frankincense, and gold.

And so may we be led to Thee,  
Each Christmas time, dear Lord,  
And offer there our Christmas prayer  
For peace throughout the world!  
by Dorothy Fritsch Bortz

As Christmas time is the present season of the year, may these verses remind us of the true meaning of the birth of our Lord and Savior. May the prayer of each of our hearts be to God for peace among the nations and men of the world.

On Oct. 24, we assembled with the Naumburg congregation when Bro. Carroll Gerber and his family from Bluffton was in our midst. We thank him for his visit and messages to us.

Ralph Schneider was called from this life at the age of 53 years on Oct. 29. Services were held by Bro. Norbert Steiner and Bro. John Widrick on Oct. 31. Our sympathy is extended to his mother, Sis. Hazel Schneider, his wife, Barbara, his children, Thomas, Douglas, Richard, Dennis, Daniel, Amy and Carol, and his brothers, Brayton and Donald. His untimely death reminded us of the words that we are "here to day, gone tomorrow." Ralph worked his regular shift in the evening, returned home from work and retired for the night. He was taken out of this life "in the twinkling of an eye" soon after retiring from the toils of the day. May each of us be prepared for death if it should overtake us in such a short time.

Sis. Katie Farney remains a patient at the House of the Good Samaritan in Watertown where she is recovering from surgery following a fall in the basement of her home. She suffered a broken hip in the fall and is slowly regaining her strength. May she look to God for comfort and patience.

#### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

It was a blessed weekend when Bro. Carroll Gerber visited us on Oct. 31. We thank him for expounding the message to us. On Saturday evening there was a bridal shower for Sis. Ann Schulz who is engaged to Bro. Carroll Gerber's son, Brent. Their wedding is set for Jan. 2.

Bro. Arthur Herzig had surgery and is now at home doing quite well.

Sis. Corine Virkler is back with us again since her accident. We are always glad to see those who have been missing.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Edna Beyer

and a few others spent this past weekend with the Fortenbacher family at Kitchener, Ontario. Bro. Robert told of the blessed time they had.

#### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

"My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of thy word." Ps. 119-171,172. When we receive enlightenment of the Word, it is so important to us that we are moved to praise the Lord and speak of the wonderful Word. We can speak the Word without being ashamed, as Psalm 119:46 says: "I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed." We can also speak of the Word boldly without fear as Phil. 1:14 says: "Many of the brethren in the Lord . . . are much more bold to speak the Word without fear."

We were blessed by an inspiring sermon by Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) as he spent a Sunday evening at church with us.

Harold Fritz is home after being hospitalized.

#### OHIO, COLUMBUS Andy Hunyady

We were blessed as we enjoyed the fellowship with many dear brothers and sisters and friends who came to worship with us. Bros. Homer Reineck, Toledo and Henry Dotterer, Rittman, served us by bringing God's Word to us. Several brothers came and served as song leaders. We thank God for concerned and loving brethren who are so willing to travel long distances and serve the Lord in various capacities. Visitors came from Toledo, Mansfield, Rittman, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; and Princeville, Illinois.

My sister Margit is still enjoying her visit with us as we visited some of the area churches. She is very grateful to all for the love shown to her. She received extension to stay a little longer, but must return to her family in Romania and will depart on the 26th of December. Please remember her and all the many dear brethren behind the Iron Curtain in your prayers.

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:



for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in Heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matt. 5:10-12

1983 Schedule for Ministers  
To Serve Columbus, Ohio

Jan. 9	Bluffton, IN
Jan. 23	Junction, OH
Feb. 13	Rittman, OH
Feb. 27	Mansfield, OH
Mar. 13	Detroit, MI
Mar. 27	Latty, OH
Apr. 10	Sardis, OH
Apr. 24	Akron, OH
May 8	Toledo, OH
May 22	Leo, IN
June 12	Bluffton, IN
June 26	Junction, OH
July 10	Rittman, OH
July 24	Latty, OH
Aug. 14	Detroit, MI
Aug. 28	Mansfield, OH
Sept. 11	Sardis, OH
Sept. 25	Akron, OH
Oct. 9	Toledo, OH
Oct. 23	Leo, IN
Nov. 13	Mansfield, OH
Nov. 20	Junction, OH
Dec. 11	Rittman, OH
Dec. 25	-O P E N-

Ministers and Song Leaders  
To Serve Columbus, Ohio

Akron, OH	Apr. 24 / Sept. 25
Bluffton, IN	Jan. 9 / June 12
Detroit, MI	Mar. 13 / Aug. 14
Junction, OH	Jan. 23 / June 26 / Nov. 20
Latty, OH	Mar. 27 / July 24
Leo, IN	May 22 / Oct. 23
Mansfield, OH	Feb. 27 / Aug. 28 / Nov. 13
Rittman, OH	Feb. 13 / July 10 / Dec. 11
Sardis, OH	Apr. 10 / Sept. 11
Toledo, OH	May 8 / Oct. 9

OHIO, JUNCTION  
Les Manz

We were privileged this month to hear God's Word explained to us by Bros. Bill Hodel and Jim Byrd

(Roanoke) and Paul Gasser (Akron).

We welcome two newcomers to the Junction Church. Sis. Bea Hans will be staying in our area and worshipping with us. Sis. Bea is moving from Ft. Wayne where she was a sister in the Leo Church. Also welcomed is Timothy Robert Manz, newborn of son Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra. Greg and Wendy join with grandparents Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Louise Manz and Bro. and Sis. Bob Ramsier (Rittman) in welcoming little Timothy home. As we look around and see so much wickedness, what a privilege young Timothy has to be born into a home where both Mom and Dad are serving God and by His grace have been saved. As with all or little ones, our sincere prayer for young Timothy is that he will be receptive to the teachings he will undoubtedly receive and that he, too, will some day be God's servant.

Sis. Bea Hans was a hospital patient this month.

Joy and thanks are in the hearts for our friend Phil Schlatter (Sis. Esther) who has answered God's call and is now in the process of repentance. Phil is on his last six month period of service in the Air Force. Without a doubt he looks forward to being home again with his family, but we know that God's grace is sufficient to supply our needs, regardless of our circumstances. Surely, we wish God's richest blessings on Phil as he proceeds on this step which must be taken if one wants to enter God's kingdom some day. Phil's address is: Phil Schlatter, Box 3639, Beale AFB, CA 95903.

OHIO, LATTY  
Cheryl Wenninger  
Patty Riggenschach

The Latty brethren were privileged to assemble together the weekend of October 30 to hear the reading of the brotherhood conference conclusions. Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) ministered with us and encouraged us to renew and strengthen our faith. He also reminded us that with Christ we have no fears for fear is just False Evidences Appearing Real. What a refreshing thought in this time when many are fearful and troubled in heard and soul. We appreciate the support of visiting ministers. Also

with us this month was Bro. Don Manz (Junction).

We rejoice with those that rejoice but also mourn with those that mourn. Our congregation experienced sorrow in the death of Tillie Laukhuf. Tillie was a joy to many and we will miss her light and example. Tillie will especially be missed by her family Sis. Rosa Laukhuf, Sam and Eli (Lola) Laukhuf.

God is continuing to work in many families in our congregation. As He shapes and molds our lives through our experiences, we can grow closer to Him, whether through joy or suffering. Those hospitalized this month were Ross Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Bro. Henry Breitweiser (Sis. Katie), Bro. Russell Stoller (Sis. Melvane), Angie Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam), and Michael Grant (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte). May His grace and strength continue to help them as they recuperate.

Bro. John and Sis. Marcia Laukhuf can appreciate the joy experienced by Mary and Joseph in the birth of Christ as they have been blessed with the birth of Melissa Kay. Chris and Tara are pretty happy about the new addition to their family, too.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior this month, let us remember that our faith should be deeper than just emotions influenced by the season. We must live Christmas every day.

LET US LIVE CHRISTMAS  
EVERY DAY

Christmas is more than a day at the end of the year,  
more than a season of joy and cheer,  
Christmas is really God's pattern for living,  
to be followed all year by unselfish giving . . .  
For the holiday season awakens good cheer  
and draws us closer to those we hold dear,  
And we open our hearts and find it is Good  
to live among men As We Always Should . . .  
But as soon as the tinsel is stripped from the tree,

the spirit of Christmas fades  
silently  
Into the background of daily routine  
and is lost  
in the whirl of life's busy scene,  
And all unawares we miss and  
forego  
the greatest blessing that man-  
kind can know . . .  
For if we lived Christmas each day,  
as we should,  
and made it our aim to always do  
good,  
We'd find the lost key to meaningful  
living  
that comes not from Getting,  
but from unselfish Giving.

By Helen Steiner Rice

December is the month for Latty subscribers to submit their Silver Lining dues. Please see your reporters.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

An artist once drew a picture of a dreary, wintery twilight. The trees were heavy laden with snow, and a dark house, lonely and desolate, stood bleakly in the midst of the storm. It was a sad picture. Then with the stroke of a yellow crayon, the artist put a light in the window. Then entire scene was transformed into a vision of comfort and cheer.

The birth of Jesus brought a beautiful light into this dark world. So was our life when we were without hope; we were poor and miserable and desolate, but when the love of Jesus came into our lives what a difference it made and what a beautiful life of joy and peace and hope. Truly those of us who know the Lord can worship and praise Him this Christmas season.

The whole world was lost  
In darkness of sin  
The light of the world is Jesus.  
Like sunshine at noonday  
His glory shone in  
The light of the world is Jesus.  
Come to the Light  
It's shining for thee  
Sweetly the light has dawned  
upon me  
Once I was blind, but now I can  
see  
The light of the world is Jesus.  
P. O. Bliss

On Oct. 23 and 24 our elder brothers, Bro. Rudy Graf and Bro. Joe Ramsier, visited our church and shared the reading of the memorandum from the recent conference. We appreciate the love and concern that our elder body has for our church and welfare.

On Oct. 23 our congregation felt there was a need for an additional brother to be chosen for the ministry and after prayerful consideration, Bro. Fred Domka was chosen by the majority of the votes. Bro. Fred is the son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Domka and the grandson of Bro. Henry Sabo, who ministered in our church so faithfully for so many years. We pray that the Lord will fill Fred with His love and Spirit and that He will grant Bro. Fred courage and strength. Our prayers are with Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie as they take on this new responsibility.

Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo) also served us on Oct. 24 and we thank him and his family for sharing with us that weekend.

On Nov. 6 and 7, we welcomed the Detroit choir and enjoyed a blessed weekend of fellowship and inspiration.

Bro. Vern and Sis. Christine Dotterer are new grandparents. Eric and Georgeann Dotterer are first-time parents and welcome their new son, Eric Darrell, born Nov. 7.

Although we had many joys this past month, there were loved ones who have experienced sorrow and misfortune. We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Frank Graszl in the passing of his father.

Bro. Larry Enderle is very fortunate to still have the use of his hand after he encountered a farm accident. Sis. Matilda Schauwecker and Bro. Hank Armstrong both are now confined to the Mansfield Memorial Home, 50 Blymyer Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio. Sister Martha Fuhrer, at this writing, is in the hospital undergoing tests. We certainly pray for all these loved ones that the Lord will comfort and be near them.

In closing, we wish one and all a Blessed Christmas.

Give Your Address Change  
To Your Reporter.

### OHIO, RITTMAN

Janette Blough - Florence Hartzler

We are sorry that we had some from our congregation who had to be hospitalized this past month but we are so thankful that they are home again and we pray our Lord will grant them good health once again. Those hospitalized were Sis. Mary Stoller, Dan Steiner (Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty) and Pam Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie).

Our Lord has led two dear souls together and we are so happy for our Sis. Darlene Steiner and Bro. Brian Acker as their engagement has been announced. May our Lord guide these two dear ones as they plan their lives together. Sis. Darlene is the daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Steiner and Bro. Brian is the son of Boyd and Barb Acker.

We were richly blessed to hear the message of the Lord proclaimed to us by visiting ministers Bro. Russell Wuithrich (Pulaski), Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke) and Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield). May the Lord bless them.

What a wonderful day we had as we witnessed the baptism of two dear ones. Sis. Debbie Steiner, wife of Don Steiner, and Bro. Norman Beery, husband of Sis. Audrey, were added to the fold. Oh, that many more would heed the calling of that still small voice, which offers the only peace in our troubled world.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie Beery are first-time parents with the birth of their little daughter, Molly Ann. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery and Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn of Latty.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Nancy Bauman have a new little girl, Stacy Catherine. Stacy has two little sisters to help care for her, Kelly and Julie. Grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Pauline Hartzler and Richard and Gladys Bauman.

Sometime ago I received a postcard from a dear sister and it had a verse on it written by Helen Steiner Rice titled "Heart Gifts" which I thought I'd share with you.

It's not the things that can be  
bought  
that are life's richest treasure,  
It's just the little "heart gifts"  
that money cannot measure . . .

A cheerful smile, a friendly word,  
a sympathetic nod  
Are priceless little treasures  
from the storehouse of our God . . .  
They are the things that can't be  
bought  
with silver or with gold,  
For thoughtfulness and kindness  
and love are never sold. . .  
They are the priceless things in  
life  
for which no one can pay,  
And the giver finds rich re-  
compense  
in giving them away.

-----  
**OHIO, TOLEDO**

Josephine Rehklau  
Mary Ann Weigele

**CHRISTMAS TREASURES**

There was no room in Bethlehem's  
inn,  
The night that Jesus was born,  
No royal crib for the baby king,  
That very first Christmas morn.

A manger held his wee baby head,  
In swaddling clothes he lay,  
No bejeweled crown, stars shone  
instead,  
To guide the wise men's way.

No royal decrees sent to proclaim,  
Or trumpet His royal birth,  
Heavenly angels announced His  
name,  
When Jesus was born on earth.

Joyce Peters

Bro. Joseph Fetter (Sis. Lydia) is  
at home recovering from recent  
surgery. Sis. Emma Schick is in the  
hospital as a medical patient. May  
strength from the Lord be given  
them in their every need.

The activities which the Sunday  
School children enjoy in the Christ-  
mas season are going caroling to the  
homes of the older people of the  
church and their Christmas  
program.

We wish everyone a blessed  
Christmas.

-----  
**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
Barbara Moser

Though I speak with the tongues of  
men and of angels, and have not  
charity, I am become as sounding

brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though  
I have the gift of prophecy, and under-  
stand all mysteries, and all knowledge;  
and though I have all faith, so that I  
could remove mountains, and have not  
charity, I am nothing. And though I  
bestow all my goods to feed the poor,  
and though I give my body to be  
burned, and have not charity, it profit-  
eth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind;  
charity envieth not; charity vaunteth  
not itself, is not puffed up, doth not  
behave itself unseemly, seeketh not  
her own, is not easily provoked, think-  
eth no evil; rejoiceth noth in iniquity,  
but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all  
things, believeth all things, hopeth all  
things, endureth all things.

Charity never faileth; but whether  
there be prophecies, they shall fail;  
whether there be tongues, they shall  
cease; whether there be knowledge, it  
shall vanish away. For we know in part,  
and we prophesy in part. But when that  
which is perfect is come, then that  
which is in part shall be done away.  
When I was a child, I spake as a child, I  
understood as a child, I thought as a  
child: but when I became a man, I put  
away childish things. For now we see  
through a glass darkly; but then face to  
face: now I know in part; but then shall I  
know even as also I am known. And now  
abideth faith, hope, charity, these  
three; but the greatest of these is  
charity."

I Corinthians 13

We call this the Love Chapter!

Peter says, "Above all things have  
fervent love among yourselves." And  
John goes further, "God is love." And  
you remember the profound remark  
which Paul makes elsewhere, "Love is  
the fulfilling of the law." Did you ever  
think what he meant by that? In those  
days men were working their passage  
to heaven by keeping the Ten Com-  
mandments, and the hundred ten other  
commandments which they had manu-  
factured out of them.

Take any of the commandments.  
"Thou shalt have no other gods  
before Me." If a man loves God, you  
will not be required to tell him that.  
Love is the fulfilling of the law.  
"Take not His name in vain." Would  
he ever dream of taking His name in  
vain, if he loved Him? "Remember  
the Sabbath Day to keep it holy."  
Would he not be all the more willing  
to have one day in seven to dedicate  
more exclusively to the object of his

affection? Love would fulfill all these  
laws regarding God.

Love is the fulfilling of the law. It  
is the rule for fulfilling all rules, the  
new commandment for keeping all  
the old commandments, Christ's one  
secret for the Christian life.

From the book, "The  
Greatest Thing in the World"

-----  
**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
RosaLee Kuenzi

Fall recipe for happiness on a  
Saturday afternoon: Take several  
apple trees with an abundance of  
fruit, plenty of clean empty gallon  
jugs, a portable apple cider press,  
many willing helpers of all ages and  
lovely Fall day. Mix together with  
love and enthusiasm and muscle. Do  
not rush this process, but enjoy the  
fellowship. If possible add a bonfire  
and a wiener roast. Top it off with a  
hayride and voices eager to sing.  
This recipe was "tested" here re-  
cently and the more than sixteen  
families that attended seemed to  
agree to its success.

A blessed weekend was enjoyed  
by those that took the time and ef-  
fort to make the 240 mile drive to  
Medford, OR recently. Our  
Ministering Bro. Ed Knecht was  
among the dozen or more brethren  
that gathered in the home of Lowell  
and Sis. Jodi Ditch for a sing on  
Saturday night and again on Sunday  
for Lord's Day services. They were  
also pleased to have Phil Schlatter  
with them there. He had made the  
trip up from his Air Force base near  
Yuma, CA, where he is currently  
stationed.

We were pleased to welcome our  
dear Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger  
(Altadena, CA) who was here in  
Oregon for a few days this month.  
We enjoyed the opportunity for  
fellowship when we gathered at the  
home of Bro. Rich and Sis. RosaLee  
Kuenzi's for a sing Saturday evening  
and again on Sunday when there  
was a Church supper. We especially  
want to thank him for his loving  
counsel and for ministering the  
Word unto us during Sunday night  
services. Visiting also were  
ministering Bros. Robert Miller and  
Garth Steffen, (Portland).

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

**PENNSYLVANIA,  
PHILADELPHIA  
Ed Aeschleman**

The beautiful autumn colors have fallen from our trees leaving a bare promise of winter. How quickly the seasons change into years. Each bringing us closer to our eternal reward. May God grant us the wisdom to use our time to lay up stores in heaven.

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**TEXAS, ZAPATA  
Margery Koehl**

Sunday, Nov. 7, 1982 we were blessed to have two of our winter resident ministers return to us again. Our Elder Bro. Edwin Hohulin and Sis. Elsie and Bro. Gene Bertschi and Sis. Dorothy. We enjoyed their messages. Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna Fehr have also returned for the winter. We regret that Bro. Paul has retired from the ministry as we always enjoyed his sincere messages, but wish him well in his well deserved retirement. Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's (formerly of Morris, MN) work location has been changed to Cottula, so we are privileged to have him and Sis. Betty as permanent residents at present. We hope they can remain in our area as we enjoy having them in our congregation.

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***Silver Threads***

**A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION**

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

The glory of Israel had vanished  
away,  
And prophets lamented and grieved  
in their day  
For the hardness of heart and the  
darkness of mind,  
Corrupt was the priesthood and  
morally blind.

The offering of bullocks and lambs  
was in vain,  
The reconciled feeding they could

not attain.  
The knowledge of God but to few  
was revealed,  
And few were the hearts that with  
goodness were sealed.

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

When the days were fulfilled as the  
prophets of old  
In psalm and in vision so long had  
foretold,  
Transformed to be born of a virgin  
so mild,  
The Christ, the Messiah, appeared  
as a child.

When Jesus was born the world was  
at peace,  
The warriors and tyrants their  
striving had ceased.  
"Good will" sang the angels, "and  
peace to all men!"  
No war nor commotion disturbed  
the refrain.

O joy to the world! Fallen men to  
redeem  
The Saviour was born, what a won-  
derful theme!!  
This message of love reverberates  
clear  
From Jesus Immanuel, year after  
year.

A temporal kingdom, to rise and to  
wane,  
Was not the Christ's mission on  
earth to attain.  
Then what was His purpose in  
coming to earth?  
To establish a kingdom in hearts by  
rebirth.

Many centuries have gone since that  
blessed day:  
What sin and what grief o'er the  
world have held sway.  
The armies of earth in defiance do  
tread;  
What destruction is wrought! What  
blood has been shed!

What envy, what hatred, what in-  
solence shown!  
The world into darkness still deeper

has grown.  
Dissension and greed bring division  
and grief,  
The world drifts still deeper in the  
dark unbelief.

In spite of the wisdom the world has  
attained,  
The truths of Christ's kingdom have  
hidden remained.  
O, who is sufficient, and who can  
impart  
A lasting solution — true peace for  
the heart?

Then let us revert in our thoughts to  
the Lord;  
Let us trust in Him simply and heed  
His good word.  
For Christ, the Lord liveth — the  
truest of friends,  
The prayer of the faithful He always  
attends.

The nations still reverence the holy  
Christ child,  
And they speak and they sing of His  
mercy so mild.  
Do they love the dear Christ who to  
manhood has grown,  
When to the lost sinner His will is  
made known?

There are many false doctrines  
which bar from the light  
The soul that is striving for the  
truths and for right.  
Not of man, nor of flesh, can we par-  
don attain;  
This treasure by Christ's revelation  
we gain.

A personal friendship by prayer  
must be won,  
And pardon by faith from God  
through His Son.  
Though nations reject His true  
peace and good will,  
The hearts of the faithful these  
blessings will fill.

Though old be the world, the years  
passed away,  
The joy and the peace of that first  
Christmas day  
Still lingers and fills the Christ-like,  
the pure;  
The joy of the birthday of Christ will  
endure.

The birthday of Jesus has joy for the  
soul,  
And men with the angels His praises

extol!  
For God in His Son still dwells  
among men;  
All glory to God for this Christmas  
again.

My Garden of Verse  
Henry Beer

-----  
NO ROOM

"No room for Him," the keeper said  
That night so long ago,  
"My inn is crowded, don't you see,  
The rooms now overflow."  
"It's just a Child," he must have  
thought,  
"A family, poor and plain;  
My inn is filled with paying guests,  
How could I dare explain?"

And thus, he turned aside from One  
Who chose a humble birth  
To enter into human form  
And save all men on earth.  
But lo, the shepherds in the hills  
Were called, the Babe to greet;  
They followed then the brilliant  
star,  
And worshipped at His feet!

"No room for Him," cry men today,  
As through he world they plod;  
"My life is crowded, don't you see?  
I have no room for God.  
How could I dare explain to all  
My friends who question me,  
That Jesus came to save my soul,  
From sin, to set me free?"

O God, forbid that we become  
As keeper of the inn,  
And have our lives so crowded  
That we have no room for Him.  
But now, may we, Thy children  
dear,

Unworthy though we are,  
Become as shepherds long ago,  
And follow now His star!

Kathryn Slasor

-----  
There's a beautiful legend that's  
never been told—  
It may be known to the Wise Men  
of old—  
How three little children came early  
at dawn,  
With hearts that were sad to where  
Jesus was born.

One could not see, one was too lame  
to play;

While the other, a mute not a word  
could he say.  
Yet led by His Star, they came there  
to peep  
At the little Lord Jesus with eyes  
closed in sleep.

But how could the Christ Child, so  
lovely and fair,  
Not waken and smile when He heard  
their glad prayer,  
Of hope at His coming, of faith in His  
birth,  
Of praise at His bringing God's  
peace to the earth?

And, then, as the light softly came  
through the door,  
The lad that was lame stood upright  
once more,

The boy that was mute started  
sweetly to sing—  
While the child that was blind  
looked with joy on the King!  
Author Unknown

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MIRROR OF THE SOUL

Humility makes a man peaceable  
among his brethren, fruitful of doing  
good, cheerful in suffering and con-  
stant in holy living. Humility makes  
us qualified for the highest service  
that we owe to Christ and at the  
same time is not neglectful of the  
lowliest service to the saint in the  
most modest of circumstances.  
Humility can be content with the  
poorest of fare and yet will have a  
special liking for the choicest tidbit,  
as with God, with Christ and be en-  
tertained majestically. Humility  
makes one willing and ready to bless  
him who curses him and to pray for  
him who persecutes him. A humble  
heart is an abode of God, a disciple  
of Christ, a companion of angels, a  
storage utensil for grace, and is  
prepared for glory. Humility is the  
attentive nurse or guardian of our  
grace and gifts and the mighty spur  
to consecrated exercise of duty.

S. H. Froelich

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A SIMPLE TRUST

Faith is a very simple thing,  
Though little understood;  
It frees the soul from death's dread  
sting  
By resting in the blood.

Faith is not what we feel or see,

It is a simple trust  
In what the God of love has said  
Of Jesus as "the Just".

What Jesus is and that alone,  
Is faith's delightful plea;  
It never deals with sinful self,  
Nor righteous self in me.

It tells me I am counted "dead"  
By God in His own Word;  
It tells me I am "born again"  
In Christ my risen Lord.

If He is free, then I am free  
From all unrighteousness;  
If He is just, then I am just,  
He is my righteousness.

— Author Unknown

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"Whom Are We Serving?"  
By Ben Krahn

"Twas bright on Lord's Day morning,  
With but a gentle breeze,  
And busy were the worshipers  
As they prepared to leave.  
Their hustle and their bustle  
Soon brought them to the car;  
They never liked it to be late  
Although it wasn't far.  
The opening went smoothly  
As Deacon held the floor,  
And after that a song was sung  
With open heart and door.  
The minister took the pulpit,  
Looked o'er his brethren there;  
He greeted them in tender tone,  
With low his voice and fair.  
The wise prepared to listen,  
The foolish one to snooze;  
"The sleep I lost last night," said he,  
"I can't afford to lose."  
He then slept through the sermon,  
With not a thought nor care —  
Oh, yes he'd come to church that day  
To join in worship prayer.  
The preacher went unheeded  
As Satan held him tight;  
He'd catch up on that sleep he lost  
Why, just the other night.

Dear brother and dear sister,  
The question comes to us,  
Why was that man in church that day?  
Why was he acting thus?  
It shows whom we are serving,  
The way we act in church;  
And if we serve the one true God,  
We'll never sleep in church!

**Jesus, The Son of God**

On the hills of Bethlehem  
 In a far off distant land,  
 There were men who watched their  
 sheep  
 Both day and night;  
 In the stillness of the night,  
 In the sky there shone a light  
 In the fields of old Judea  
 Long ago.

They were men of faith in God  
 Waiting for His promised Word  
 That was told by saints and  
 prophets  
 Long before;  
 As the light grew brighter still  
 In the night out on that hill,  
 They were seized with fear and  
 trembling  
 Long ago.

From the brightness of that light  
 There appeared an angel bright  
 With a message for those shepherds,  
 Do not fear;  
 For unto them was born that day  
 In a village far away,  
 He who was to be their Saviour  
 Long ago.

The angel told them where they  
 might  
 Find the Babe that very night;  
 In a manger they would find Him,  
 Mother near.  
 He was found, this Christ the Lord,  
 By the angel's very word  
 In the town of David's birth place  
 Long ago.

As the angel stilled their fear,  
 Suddenly the sky was filled  
 With a multitude of angels  
 Come from heaven;  
 They were singing praise to God  
 For the wonders of His Word  
 That took place that very evening  
 Long ago.

How we wish that we might hear  
 Angels singing loud and clear,  
 Peace on earth, good will to people  
 Far and near;  
 But the angels then went home  
 To the heavens whence they  
 came,  
 And left the shepherds all alone  
 Long ago.

But the men that very night

Went to see if there they might  
 Find the baby that was born  
 In Bethlehem;  
 In a lowly cattle shed.  
 Lying in a manger bed  
 Was that dear and precious Baby  
 Long ago.

There were men who came one  
 night,  
 Guided by a brilliant light,  
 To that Child's humble cradle  
 From afar;  
 They bowed low their graying  
 heads,  
 As they worshipped round that  
 Bed  
 Giving gold and precious treasures  
 Long ago.

But that Child became a Man,  
 All according to God's plan,  
 In a backward little town  
 Of Galilee;  
 He was gifted from His youth  
 In the ways of love and truth,  
 Working for His friends and  
 neighbors  
 Long ago.

Finally the time had come,  
 When He left His mother's home  
 For the work His heavenly Father  
 Bade Him do;  
 He would speak to friend and foe  
 Telling them what they should do,  
 Healing blind and sick and crippled  
 Long ago.

But not every one believed,  
 Even though they saw the deeds,  
 And heard teachings  
 They had never heard before;  
 They demanded He be killed,  
 And His deeds and voice be stilled  
 On that shameful cross of Calvary  
 Long ago.

As a gentle lamb He stood,  
 Giving up His life and blood  
 To pay the awful price of sin  
 For you and me;  
 He was laid into a grave,  
 That a kind man freely gave,  
 In a garden close to Calv-ry,  
 Long ago.

On that glorious Easter morn  
 At the rising of the sun,  
 When His friends had come to see  
 Him  
 In the tomb —

He came forth alive and well,  
 Hope and comfort to fore-tell  
 To His faithful friends and  
 children  
 Through all times.

When His work at last was done,  
 As His friends were looking on  
 He was taken up to heaven  
 Before their eyes;  
 A cloud, no doubt an angel band  
 Welcomed back their King of  
 kings  
 And He's up in heaven now  
 At God's right hand.

He is coming back again  
 To take His friends and loved  
 ones home  
 To a place the Lord has gone  
 To prepare;  
 No one knows the time or hour  
 When the Lord will come with  
 power,  
 But we want to all be ready;  
 It might be soon.

Bro. Ben Hartzler

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

Sermon . . .  
 Continued From Page 32

And a certain man was there,  
 which had an infirmity thirty and  
 eight years. When Jesus saw him  
 lie, and knew that he had been now a  
 long time in that case, he saith unto  
 him, Wilt thou be made whole?  
 John 5:5, 6. "Wilt thou be made  
 whole?" consider, dear ones, the  
 words of this very short sentence  
 that the Lord spoke to this man. It  
 was so powerful! "Wilt thou be made  
 whole?"

"The impotent man answered  
 him, Sir, I have no man, when the  
 water is troubled, to put me into the  
 pool . . ." I have no help. ". . . but  
 while I am coming, another steppeth  
 down before me." John 5:7. Can we  
 imagine how great a disappointment  
 this might have been?

But the Lord said, "Rise, take up  
 thy bed and walk." John 5:8. This  
 Lord Jesus of whom we read here,  
 dear ones, is still active in the lives  
 of people today. Throughout the en-  
 tire world this very same message is

being echoed over and over again: "Wilt thou be made whole?"

We are free to direct our own lives. As long as we are innocent and little children, we are not responsible for our lives here upon earth. We have the promise that as little children, God is satisfied with us. But when we understand and are accountable, then we are responsible for the lives that we live. The only difference, dear ones, between the time that the Lord was speaking at the pool in Jerusalem and now is that whoever desires it can be made whole. Wilt thou be made whole? Not only the first one who steps forward can be made whole, but every soul who is exposed to His Word. "Wilt thou be made whole?"

You know, we are running a race. In the sports world there is only one or so who will win a race. But in the spiritual race every single one of us here this morning can get the first prize, which is eternal life. Nothing in the world can compare with what God has promised to you and me.

The impotent was told to pick up his bed and walk. After being helpless for eight years, the man was healed. The people who saw it observed a tremendous miracle.

Immediately, some of the people found fault because the man carried his bed on the sabbath day. They tried to enforce the religious laws, and yet they overlooked the Life that was given to be a perfect sacrifice. They overlooked the prophecies. The prophets of old had said that the Lord would come. We believe the instruction to pick up the bed on the sabbath day was the Word of God. It seems to me, dear ones, that as we come to the time when we seek the Lord, we are seeking a cure for our disease. There was no one to put the helpless man into the pool. When we feel separation from God, when we feel the guilt of sin, there is no one in this world to put us into the "pool". Who is going to take our sin away from us? Only this same Lord who helped the man of whom we read.

Let us remember, dear ones, that our Lord died upon the cross. We read in our first reading that there needed to be blood shed for the covering of sin. We read that Adam and Eve took skins to cover their naked bodies. From the very begin-

ning, blood was shed for the covering of sin.

Down through the ages many animals and birds were sacrificed for the covering of sin, never for the forgiveness of sin; not to free man from sin, but to cover sin.

We believe that the Lord Jesus was sent to be a perfect sacrifice. When His blood was shed upon the cross, there was power in that blood beyond all blood that was shed previously. We believe that the Lord Jesus was a perfect sacrifice, and that His blood was shed for the forgiveness of sin. This sacrifice was necessary. It was the plan of God. This is the truth, dear ones. It is the plan of God that you and I might go free.

Everybody born into the world is responsible for his sins. We must go to the cross, to the shed blood of our Lord Jesus. There is no other way. Nobody in the world is going to take us and put us into the "pool". Each one must turn to the Lord.

Dear ones, that blood that was shed many years ago is still crying, "Mercy, mercy!" We have a beautiful hymn in which we sing, "There is power in the blood! Wonder-working power!"

Let us remember that God's power is unlimited and His power is shown in your life and in mine by His love and by our love for Him. Love is the greatest power upon earth!

We must contend with the devil. We have an enemy of our soul who is the prince of this world. He has many things to offer. This is a beautiful morning and there are many places we could have gone. But God has given you and me the desire to come here to worship Him, to be reminded of our highest and heavenly calling and of the great love that He has for you and me.

Many times, dear ones, we consider the enemy of our souls. We believe that he is still very, very powerful. We sense it and it is important that we recognize it. But we know that the power of God is greater.

We were privileged to come here to the Bluffton Church. It warms our hearts to see so many beloved brethren, those whom we know and those whom we have never met before. We are bound together in love, Christian love.

Perhaps some people would consider this fellowship as foolish, as a waste of time. You and I know how precious it is. It is our way of life. As we associate with one another, we are lifted up in the spirit. We are comforted. We are encouraged upon life's pathway.

We often think of our dear older brothers and sisters. One brother in our congregation told me not long ago that he wonders why he is still here in this life. He is able to come to church, but he feels as though he is in the way. This is not the case.

Our older brothers and sisters are an inspiration to us. If nothing else, just meeting them on Sunday and giving them the kiss of charity is appreciated. We know that they are the fathers of faith. There is no way that we can measure their importance and our love for them.

This is also true of our middle-aged brothers and sisters. We appreciate each other. I think that many times we lose sight of how much we really need each other to be encouraged and to be lifted up.

In our younger brothers and sisters we can know our future church. We feel that, by the grace of God, they will carry on when we lay our armour down. We feel that there will still be faith upon earth when our Lord returns, when He comes to claim His own.

If there are any here this morning who have not yet found their salvation, we believe that this Word that we read this morning is for you, "Wilt thou be made whole?" There is still time. It is still the day of grace.

It often occurs to me, dear ones, that it must be a tremendous disappointment to our God in heaven when someone comes to church, hears the Word, and then just walks away. Just walks away!

Do you know how important it is that we are here this morning? Do you know how important time is for us, dear ones, especially for our friends? Time is a precious gift.

Our Lord, through His Word, has spoken, "Wilt thou be made whole?" This is for you. This is for me. This is for all of us.

God has spoken. God has revealed His will. It is up to you. It is up to me. May God through the power of His Spirit bring the required fruit from each of us.

FEB/82 02602 LK  
CHARLES WALDER  
EAST LYNN IL 60932

## SERMON BY BRO. WILLIS WIEGAND OF GOODFIELD, IL

Text: Genesis 3 and John 5:1-30

The Word that we have read this morning, like all Scripture, is the Word of God and the Word of truth. It is the truth that can make us free, as we are told in the eighth chapter of the Gospel of John.

We first read from Genesis of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. When God created man, it His intention and His will that man should live in that beautiful garden with no cross to carry.

After God had created earth and heaven and all the things in this world, He said that it was good, and we believe it to be true. He also created man to be over all. It seems to me that in all the creation that God made before man, there was nothing to respond, nothing to return His love. Therefore, He created man. Man was put here upon earth, we believe, to live forever. This would have been a tremendous place to live, and there probably would have been no end to the life of mankind here upon earth if they had been faithful and obedient.

However, sin came into the world, and there is no escape from it. There is no way that we can be born into the world and not be guilty of sin. For God had said that if Adam and Eve would eat "... of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" they would "surely die". Genesis 2:17.

Right away, Satan tried to turn this thing around. He said to the woman, "Ye shall not surely die." Genesis 3:4. He was trying to create doubt in the hearts of Adam and Eve, especially Eve, that God's Word was true.

Here again we find, as we find all through the Bible, that God's Word is true. Many prophecies of old have been fulfilled, some are now being fulfilled, and some will take place in

the future, but all will come to pass.

There is no way that we can correctly hope that we are not guilty of sin. This world would lead to our own destruction. Even if we could live a life here upon earth that would be free of sin, we are still guilty of the sin of Adam and Eve. But you and I, especially those of us who have reached the age of accountability, are aware of a power for evil that seems active in our lives from the very beginning.

As we become guilty of sin, we are separated from God. When we reach the age of accountability and recognize this separation, we need to make it right. We find that God was so loving and kind toward the human race that He sent His only begotten Son to suffer for our sin. We read this morning about our Lord's life upon earth. We read of His deep concern and of His love for mankind. We should never lose sight of the fact that the love of God is the greatest power in this world.

Perhaps some people would give an entire fortune to become popular, to have a great position, or to have authority. It seems that tremendous effort is put forth by many people to gain these things. You and I, as children of God, have most the precious heritage and standing that can possibly be obtained in this life.

We need to remember that this life is not the end. We believe that everyone who has a sound mind will be held responsible for the life he has lived.

Yet, we need to remember that we, of ourselves, are simply nothing. We need to go to the cross. We need to go to the cross to see our Lord and Saviour, the Son of the Living God, hanging between heaven and earth and suffering that bitter death

for you and me. We believe that He bore the sins of the entire world, including yours and mine. Let us never, never forget that when our Saviour, there upon the cross, felt His separation from God, He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matt. 27:46 and Mark 15:34. Remember, dear ones, the cry did not come because of the nails that were driven in his hands or the nails that were driven through His feet. The sins of the world lying upon His heart made Him cry out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

The prophet Isaiah referred to the Lord's suffering when he said that God "... shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied." Isa. 53:11. This was required dear ones. Our Lord Jesus had to feel death for you and me. It was prophesied and it came to pass.

God said to Eve and to Adam, "... of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, ... Ye shall not eat of it ... lest ye die." Gen. 3:3. And it came to pass. Take any passage and you will find God's Word is true and faithful.

Dear ones, we read this morning about a man by a pool of healing. "Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue, Bethesda, having five porches." John 5:2. I'm not familiar with the Holy Land; I don't know if this place can be found anymore or not. Irregardless, we know that at the time when the Lord was here upon earth, there was such a place. Every so often an angel would come and trouble the water, and the first person who stepped in would be healed. Of just leprosy? No, no. Of whatever disease he had.

Continued On Page 30