

# *The Silver Lining*

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 33

JANUARY 1983

NUMBER 1

*Joyously Welcoming A New Year*  
**1983**  
*Trusting God With Tomorrow And Eternity*

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:8,9

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

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: 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

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Luke 12:40

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Rom. 13:11

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Bob Cockburn

Christian greetings to each of you from everyone here at the Children's Home. We are all looking forward to the new year and wondering what it will bring. Last year saw a few new children coming here and a few leaving and we expect it to be so again this year; that is the nature of the system which we serve. We miss those who leave and ask that you remember them in your prayers, and at the same time we look forward to working with those children who are with us now and in the future. Last year also saw a drastic change in the staff here; of the staff that was here at this time last year, only two out of nine remain — Sis. Jane Weiss and Bro. Bob. However, the Lord has blessed us with two new couples and two new single sisters. It is our prayer that the Lord will provide for a more stable staff in the coming years as our children who are here for extended periods of time need people to become attached to — not just buildings.

January should bring with it the arrival of our two new single sisters, Sis. Cindy Baurer (Princeville) and Sis. Bridget Mahon (Kansas City). We are all looking forward to having them become helpful additions to our staff. We are praying that it will also bring a couple to help as alternate houseparents. If you have felt the Lord's direction in this matter, please consider it. It is a "labor of love and work of faith" unto the Lord. Can there be any greater calling than to serve the Lord?

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"A whole new year is mine today . . .  
May I be wiser, Lord, I pray!"

I'd strengthen friendships, old and true,  
And learn to cherish new ones, too:  
To keep on learning and to grow  
A little better as I go.

To cast aside each grudge and grief,  
And hold fast to a firm belief  
That life is joyous, gracious, good,  
When lived in terms of brotherhood!

This year's a gift from God to me  
To spend, or use, or set me free . . .

A whole new year is mine today . . .  
May I be wiser, Lord, I pray!  
—Lolita Pinney

None of us, as we look down the long avenue of tomorrow, knows what the future holds. But need we know? Scripture says it is enough for us to cope with what today presents. Here at the Home we have some shining examples of those who fill each day with carrying out their prescribed duties and activities in such a cheerful manner that they not only help themselves to feel better, but they spread cheer and inspiration to those around them. When we ponder the words: "Who are they before God standing, Countless throngs in Heavenly light, Each a golden crown is wearing, Shining like the stars so bright . . ." (Hymns of Zion #268), could it be that among them are those, who for many years knew life in its abundance of health and activity at one time? Then suddenly, due to an accident, or perhaps gradually, due to a progressive illness, life was changed to one of complete dependence upon others? These persons do not feel the need to look ahead with apprehension. Thankfully, they busy themselves with Today.

Christmas was again a very special time for the residents. Many were privileged to spend some time with their families, and many were remembered here at the Home in various ways. We thank everyone who, as you kindled the fire of hospitality in your homes, you also kindled the fire of charity in your hearts to help us at the Home. Now as we settle back into a regular routine again, let us remember what J. R. Lowell wrote years ago:

"Not what we give, but what we share,  
For the gift without the giver is bare:  
Who gives himself with his alms feeds  
three,  
Himself, his hungering neighbor and  
Thee."

May each of you be blessed with a great faith which enables you to give thanks in all things in the coming year.

"A whole new year is mine today  
May I be wiser, Lord, I pray . . ."

Give Your Address Change  
to Your Reporter

## ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:37,38.

On December 3, Jay Fehr and Patty Greenbank gave their testimonies before the members and on Dec. 4 they were baptized into the family of Christ. Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger came to help Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach in this special event. That evening, after a Church potluck meal, our two Elders read the conference memorandum letter. We wish Bro. Jay and Sis. Patty all the joys of a happy Christian life.

On Nov. 15, Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach flew to Morton, IL for the testimony and baptism of their granddaughter, Stephanie Baum, which took place on Nov. 20 and

## THE SILVER LINING

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USPS 496780

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### IN MEMORY — EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER

21. The special time was more meaningful to Stephanie, as her grandfather performed her baptism.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Noah Herman, (Tucson) and Bro. Jim Leman, (Roanoke, IL).

We are happy to report Sis. Clara Zollinger is home and doing well.

Herb Mohrman (Sis. Shirley) was a surgical patient.

At our annual business meeting on Dec. 1, Allan Freed was elected Trustee Chairman; Bro. Doug Germann will be our new usher; Bro. John Dotterer and Bro. Al Yackley will serve as superintendent and assistant Sunday School superintendent.

Christmas caroling will be Dec. 17 and our Sunday School Christmas program will be the night of Dec. 19.

Some of our winter visitors have arrived and we are looking forward to others coming and enjoying our warm winter climate.

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON

##### Lisa and Sandy Bauer

Our dear Millie Stickling has been transferred by her employer and has moved to the Phoenix area. We are saddened by her leaving, but so grateful that the Lord has placed her in an area where she will be able to fellowship with our brethren in the Phoenix congregation. We trust that the Phoenix congregation and Millie will both find it a mutual blessing to fellowship one with the other.

On Sunday, Dec. 12 our small congregation was blessed with visitors from the Phoenix congregation as the young members traveled to Tucson to spend the weekend with us. Bro. Richard Schupbach and his wife Sis. Barbara also traveled to Tucson to spend Sunday with us. Our Phoenix visitors all stayed for our monthly Fellowship Supper. We wish to thank Bro. Richard and Sis. Barb for their efforts to be with us and trust the Lord will bless them.

Our Bro. Maynard Beery has been hospitalized recently. In the short time Bro. Maynard has been in our midst, we have come to appreciate him so, and we all pray for his speedy recovery and ask the Lord to bless him and his wife, Billie, as he remains in the hospital for surgery.

In November we had our yearly business meeting and would like to report on the results of our elections. We elected a new Sunday School Asst.

Superintendent, Bro. Nate Lehman to assist Bro. Tim Kaupp with the Bible Class. Bro. Jay Knapp was elected to serve as Chairman of the Trustee Body, Sis. Caroline Kaufman was elected to be the teacher for the new 3-4 year old Sunday School class, and Sis. Yvonne Lehman has been elected to replace Sis. Lisa Bauer as her term ends this December as teacher of the grade school Sunday School class.

"We stand on the threshold of a brand new year. We cannot see one step ahead. We know nothing of what lies before us. It is to us a new, a strange, and unknown path. Will we see another year? Will Jesus come this year? Will death strike our home? Will war break out again? From the signs round about us we may ominously expect many unwelcome surprises, for we have not passed this way before. We enter upon a path unknown. We would be filled with fear were it not for the promises of God. What a glorious privilege to be assured that God knows every step of the way and has made provision for us. How wonderful, as we stand at the beginning of this period of time to know that we have a Captain and a Guide who knows the way and has planned it all ahead for us. And so we rest upon His promises."

M. R. DeHaan, M.D.

"Our Daily Bread"

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

##### Mary Beth Klotzle

Another year is coming to a close. It's a good time to reflect back on the past year and remember the various lessons, experiences, battles, victories, blessings, and joys we had. It's also a good time to look forward to the New Year and being able to continue to live our lives for God. We can renew our zeal and strive harder to be more faithful, loving, giving, kind and thoughtful. There are many, many resolutions we can make. The Word of God is full of instruction which we can use as resolutions. One part especially comes to mind; "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:16-18. May the Lord guide each one every day in the New Year!

Doris Kaisner underwent surgery this past month. We're thankful God saw her through it and that she's now able to recover at home.

We were richly blessed with two

visiting ministers on a Wednesday evening. Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville), and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago), ministered to us. May God bless all those who share His spoken Word.

We welcome Sis. Kathy Klotzle home from Japan with joy and thanks! Sis. Kathy spent 29 months there teaching, with a five week visit home last summer. Although we tend to get impatient at times, we can see the Lord working as our congregation continues to grow one by one. It is encouraging and uplifting to all.

#### COLORADO, DENVER

##### Marlene Leman

We have been blessed with two visiting ministers this month. First Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen from Elgin, IL came and read the memorandum from the Brotherhood Conference. What a blessing to feel that our prayers for God's guidance to the brethren were answered. Also that evening Elizabeth Jivan was brought into our fellowship as our dear sister-in-faith. Sis. Elizabeth is the mother of Sis. Vera Jivan.

Bro. Noah Gerber was with us for a weekend. How encouraging when brothers come to serve us here and give so much of themselves. We could truly feel God's presence in our midst. We pray God will bless both of these dear brothers for their service to us. We also thank them for bringing their dear wives with them.

Sis. Elizabeth Jivan went to Nevada to spend Thanksgiving with her son. While there, she became quite ill and had to stay there until she regained enough strength to travel. She is home again, and while still very weak, she is improving. We pray God will take care of her. Her address is 5819 S. Lowell Blvd., Littleton, CO 80123.

Sis. Katherine Ries has not been able to come up for services due to health problems and cooler weather. We realize ever so much more as time goes on that "We need the prayers of those we love." Her address is: 2450 Lark Dr. Apt. 8, Colorado Springs, CO. 80909.

Our services are held at the Victory Grange Hall, 2009 Tower Rd., Aurora, CO. We start at 10:30 and 12:30 with lunch served in between. Also we have Bible Class on Wed. evenings at 7:30. If you are in the area, call to find out where they will be held as we take turns having it in our homes. Our phone number is 303-696-1301.

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE****Dorothy Viens**

As we reflect upon the close of one year and the beginning of another, can we not all agree that the Lord has been good to us in the past? We know not what the future holds in store for each of us, but can only be thankful that God holds the keys to our lives. If our trust is in Him and we walk worthy of the grace that He promises, we have the promise that He will never leave nor forsake His own.

Our dear Sis. Judy Luginbuhl (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Evelyn) left on Dec. 1 to spend two years teaching kindergarten in Japan. We pray that the Lord will be with Sis. Judy in her work there and abundantly bless her services of love.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Cindy Jackson (Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda, Bay City) to Bro. Lowell Schlatter of the Junction congregation. Sis. Cindy has been working in our area and assembling with us for several months. We will miss her as she moves to Junction, but we pray that God will be with them and richly bless their lives together.

At this time, Sis. Anna Gottier and Sis. Emma Luginbuhl are hospital patients. May God be near to each one in their time of need.

On Dec. 3, a daughter, Anna Marie, was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy Viens, their first child. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold. Even though there is great rejoicing at the birth of a child, there is also the realization of the great responsibility to raise children in this sinful world. May God grant the needed grace.

On Sunday, Dec. 19, we set aside the afternoon to hear the Sunday School children recite their verses and sing Christmas carols. It is a joy to see so many young and tender children express their love for the Christ Child. Our prayer is that this spark of love will remain within their hearts, to someday be kindled into a fire of love to serve their God and Saviour.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA****Doris and Diane Roche**

Our dear retired minister Bro. Phil Wingeier was called home by the hand of God, Wed. evening, Dec. 1. We were all anxiously waiting for the result of the operation, when just before leaving services on Wed. evening, we received word of his passing. His heart valve was

replaced and the doctors made three bypasses, but yet it was the Lord's will to take him home. We are grieved and will feel a great loss among our church here, as well as his neighbors and many friends. The school children who saw him working at the church came with their little sad faces and the many questions. We all know Phil did a wonderful job at the church. He finished trimming the trees yet in his last month as though he knew all had to be ready. The faithfulness in his Christian work, his ever kindly service to the converts, the young, the sick and also helping the needy wherever he could will be remembered. He held many, many singings in his home where there was always room for everyone. His favorite song was "In the Garden," where Jesus is waiting and I go with my burden and care. We know he left his burden with the Lord in the early years of his life and constantly prayed to the Almighty God for strength to carry on. May God put His arms of love and mercy around his dear family. Memorial services were held Dec. 7, by Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Bro. Doug Sabo. Pallbearers were Bros. Roland Keller, Fred Knapp, John Heiniger, Lloyd Pflederer, Orval Rocke and Harold Robison, one of his neighbors. He was laid to rest beside his wife, Sis. Fern in Palms Memorial Cemetery. Fond memories will ever remain with us and we thank God for the love and instructions given us thru Bro. Phil all these past years.

Sis. Marie Martin remains hospitalized and has had her leg amputated below the knee. She has made very good progress. Now she has been moved to Beneva Nursing Pavilion, 741 S. Benera, Sarasota, FL 33577

Patty Eisemann, Bro. Jeff Streitmatter and Sis. Margaret Pflederer were hospital patients this month.

Our dear Bro. Chris Leman has entered the hospital again today and is in need of many prayers. May he feel the love and concern from his many friends and brothers. May God have mercy on those who have been so ill in this past month.

Entering the season of Christ's birth should give us all new courage. May we all be humble and of a child-like nature that peace may abound.

We enjoyed the children's Christmas program Sun., Dec. 12. The songs and verses praising our Lord's birth were so beautifully presented. We are

thankful to the teachers for their guidance, patience, and love. There were refreshments following the program.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), and Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT). May God reward their efforts to proclaim the Word to us. Many visitors have arrived for the winter months. We enjoy the fellowship and thank God for their love.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA****Brenda Stoller**

There will continue to be services the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the Ramada Inn, Marietta, GA. We enjoy the presence and fellowship of the visitors. "Beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!" Rom. 10:15 Services start at 10:30 and 12:00. If further information is needed, call Bro. Don Sellers at (404) 923-0721 or Nancy Foltz at (404) 451-9191.

Our hearts rejoice as do the angels in heaven, over one soul that repenteth. Nancy Foltz has the desire to come into the family of God. May He richly bless and encourage her as she lives her life for Him.

Linn and I have been transferred to California. We will miss those whom we have grown to know and love. Our prayer is that the church will continue to grow in number, strength, and service for the Lord. We also pray that there would be support from the brethren and friends traveling through Atlanta. We want to thank those who have put forth much effort in coming to visit us and telling us of God's love in the past months. May you too feel God's love and encouragement in that your labors were not in vain.

Our new address is: 3616 Meadowbrook Road, Antioch, CA 94509. Phone (415) 778-1804.

**ILLINOIS  
BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL****Shirley Denick  
Charlene Knobloch**

The engagement of Sis. Peg Woerner to Bro. Steve Zimmerman was announced Nov. 28. They are both from our Bloomington congregation. Their parents are George and Dolores Woerner of Tremont and Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy Zimmerman of Normal.

The Lord has blessed Kevin and

Toni Huetter with a healthy first child. Andrew Kevin was born Nov. 29. Grandparents are Tom and Aldine Lynch and Bro. Art and Sis. Velda Huetter of Forrest.

We are especially grateful for our visiting ministers who have lent themselves in the Lord's service. Visiting this month have been Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington), Bro. Leroy Hartman (Peoria), and Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest).

### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Shirley Kieser

"Both young men, and maidens; old men and children: Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven." Ps. 148:12,13

Our Sunday School children, young and older, in recitations and song surely did praise the Lord and told of the glory of His birth at our recent Christmas program. It was both inspiring and humbling to listen to and we thank each one for their part.

Tammy Wagenbach spent some time in the hospital. We're glad she is home again with her husband, Ron, and their two little ones.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin), Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) and their wives. We appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

So very recently a glass panful of dessert slipped out of the freezer — and shattered on the floor. A friend and I painstakingly picked up piece after piece — and the floor still seemed littered from end to end. If someone had just experienced one crushing tragedy after another, that person might feel his/her life resembled such scattered pieces, never-to-be-joined into anything useful again. Humanly we often feel at such a loss — spiritually we know that God alone, through Christ Jesus His Son, can mend any number of breaks and cement our lives together again, working through us His coherent purpose. I wish for all of you and for myself in this brand-new year to be a mended dish, continually seeking the special glue of the Lord, His salvation, love and grace. And may I request humble forgiveness from all,

especially among family and my own congregation, where I might have, by unfortunate thought, word, or deed, scratched the surface or started a crack in the dish of someone's life. I am so fallible and oft-times clumsy with the feelings of others.

Bro. Carl Wyss, (Washington, IL) mentioned something the late Elder Bro. Carl Rassi used to speak of in reference to temptation: the idea of building a double fence at a weak spot so cattle or other farm animals wouldn't get out. Perhaps we can carry that thought into the new year that Christ might help us guard doubly (triple) in all areas of life which tempt us. Bros. Harold Emch (Girard, OH) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) also ministered unto us. Sun., Dec. 5 the Princeville choir, as well as ministering Bros. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) brought us an outstanding day of blessing through "teaching and . . . psalms and hymns and spiritual songs . . ." Colossians 3:16 We were truly uplifted by that bounteous day. We are ever grateful for our visitors and their submission to His Spirit for our eternal benefit.

Once again the children's Christmas program was a time of JOY, and that was its theme: The Joy of the Promise, The Joy of Jesus' Birth, The Joy of Carols, The Joy in Heaven, The Joy of Guidance, concluding with The JOY in Our Hearts, as we think first of Jesus, next of Others, and lastly of "Yourself". Christmas caroling, too, is a special part of Christ in the Christmas season, singing familiar hymns, giving of ourselves (though we always receive so much back). Truly, even in our over-commercialized world, for ourselves and for our children, we can find activities that remind us of the meaning of Christmas, of the true sense of giving that we want to reflect. But as the Wise Men kept their eyes uplifted to the Star in order to search out the Savior, so must we look up and actively seek that which He would have us to do.

We extend our prayers to Louis Adam, who has been recently hospitalized. "Thro' the love of God, our Saviour, All will be well; . . . Strong the hand stretched out to shield us, All must be well." (#136, Hymns of Zion, verse 1).

There is much we do not understand in life, yet we believe in His all-knowing purpose for us. We live very close to the tollway. Saturday evening, Katrina

awakened me. I alerted Jim, and he talked with the man who had been pounding on the front door, whose car had broken down. Jim allowed him to use the phone and gave directions to his friends. The poor man was quite bewildered (as we all become many times) because of the circumstances he found himself in. Let us remember, though, as Paul said, that . . .

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." II Corinthians 4:8-10.

How many Christmas presents have you returned — or reserved to give to someone else later? That happens to all of us once in awhile. However, we were reminded in a sermon, do we not all search for gifts to give that reflect first of all, what people need, then what they want as well as considering whether they will use the gift. Sometime we say people are "hard to buy for." Maybe we mean they find accepting gifts difficult or try not to let others see their needs. We all have free will and can even change our minds. Christ has for each of us a gift — salvation — freely given. Each of us needs it desperately. 'Tis an eternal life or eternal death situation. And it is a gift picked for us as an individual, not a part of a mass mailing. Do we want it? Well, it isn't going to take up any physical storage — but it takes all of our heart space. Some people aren't ready to give it that much room. Will we use it? Maybe we question whether it fits into our lifestyle. Perhaps some set this gift on the shelf, all the while hoping maybe someday they'll find a time to use it. Meanwhile they may take their children to Sunday School, to expose them to the gift, thinking someone else could use it. Ah, we can be foolish. We need to listen to the needs of our own hearts!

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Melba Funk — Joan Waldbeser

If there is righteousness in the heart,  
there will be beauty in the character,  
If there is beauty in the character,  
there will be harmony in the home.  
If there is harmony in the home,  
there will be order in the nation,  
If there is order in the nation,

there will be peace in the world.  
"Apples of Gold"

How we would like to see peace in the world, but we know there will be wars and rumors of wars till the Lord comes again. May we not despair when these things come but may we look up for our redemption draweth nigh.

We look forward to our Christmas program on the eve of Dec. 22, when our children will tell us the story that never grows old. How we love to be reminded of God's great gift, His only begotten son, whom He sent to live and die for us. We can show our thankfulness to Him by having a humble and submissive heart that He can mold and shape according to His will.

Bro. Ken Weerts was hospitalized a few days for tests.

Silver Lining dues are due in February.

#### No Time

I knelt to pray, but not for long,  
I had too much to do  
Must hurry off and get to work,  
For bills would soon be due.

And so I said a hurried prayer,  
Jumped up from off my knees.  
My Christian duty now was done,  
My soul could rest at ease.

All through the day I had not time  
To speak a word of Christ to friends,  
They'd laugh at me I feared.

No time, no time, too much to do,  
That was my constant cry,  
No time to give to those in need,  
At last 'twas time to die.

And when before the Lord I came,  
I stood with down cast eyes.  
Within His hands He held a book,  
It was the "Book of Life".

God looked into His Book and said,  
Your name I cannot find,  
I once was going to write it down,  
But never found the time.

Unknown

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Carol Craig — Shirley Ifft

As the new year approaches let us pause to consider our lives. Are we filling our days, busily hurrying to meet schedules and deadlines, scarcely taking time to read the scripture and pray? God doesn't want just part of our

heart. He wants all of it! How beautifully He molds, shapes and tempers our lives if we submit completely to Him.

A new little life has begun with the birth of Hally Mae Schieber born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary on Dec. 10. Laura, Jarrod, and Elizabeth welcome her home along with grandparents, Bro. and Sis. Lee Overmeyer, (Francesville, IN), and Sis. Alma Schieber (Bloomington).

The evening of Dec. 15 was a real blessing as all gathered to hear the Sunday School children tell the Christmas story.

Bro. William Dietrich, Sr. and Bro. Virgil Funk have been hospitalized. We are thankful Bro. William is home and trust God will grant returning health to Bro. Virgil. Bro. Glen Ott sustained a shoulder injury in a fall. We are thankful he was spared more serious injury.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Katie Hasty have a new address.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hasty  
3405 Durango Lane  
Arlington, Texas 76014

Bro. Heinz and Sis. Trudi Maurer wish to thank all who remembered them with cards, gifts, prayers and visits during Bro. Heinz's hospitalization.

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Ruth Ann Getz

May the termination of the old year and the arrival of the new once more symbolize the passing away of former lives of sin and enable us to view and pursue with vigor a dedicated life in Christ as the Apostle Paul so beautifully expressed in II Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, He is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

Jacob Thomas, born December 4, is the first child born to Don and Debbie Weiss. Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Weiss and Bill and Betty Reed are the grandparents. Jacob is welcomed by his parents and grandparents alike.

The engagement of Bro. Larry Steffen (son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Kathryn) and Sis. Sue Prather (daughter of Bro. Jack and Sis. Millie of Eureka) was announced to our congregation December 5. May they continue to seek the Lord in all that they do as they betroth themselves to one another.

Dear loved ones have experienced the frailty of the flesh and have suffered illness. Satan so often seizes such opportunity to assault the souls of men. Let us be ready to lift up the arms of those with special battles. Those hospitalized for illness and surgery were: Sis. Rose Goll (now transferred to Americana Healthcare Center), Sis. Martha Zierke, Sis. Lydia Jenny, Bro. Adrian Kellenberger, and Gottfried Schock.

#### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

After a time of prayer and believing it was God's will, Bro. Steve Martin was chosen to be our new minister. We hope that Bro. Steve as well as his wife, Sis. Vickie, can feel the support of the congregation. Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman of Forrest was here to help in this important work. We appreciated his speaking the Word, too.

How we all rejoice when a new child is added to the family of God. We welcome Sis. Mary Ann Link who was baptized on Nov. 28. Sis. Mary Ann lives in Eureka with her husband and children and has been coming to church with us for some time. Bros. Merle and Hartzell Kaisner of Fairbury and Washington also were here that day; we thank them for serving us.

We also thank Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) who also visited us one Sunday.

On Sunday, Dec. 5 we heard of the engagement of Sis. Susan Prather to Bro. Larry Steffen of Elgin, IL. We wish them much happiness in their new way of life, believing God will bless those who follow his leading. Their parents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Milly Prather and Bro. Earl and Sis. Kay Steffen also of Elgin.

Little Christina Marie joined the family of Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein on Nov. 28. She has one sister and two little brothers, Cynthia, Samuel and Edward. Her grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman of Goodfield.

Also Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Leman have a new little son, Cory Lee, who was born Dec. 2. His brothers are Steve and Jeremy; his grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Reinman of Eureka.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle are the parents of Timothy Lee, born Dec. 14.

He has Danny, Nathan, Becky and Douglas also at home with him. His grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Anna Bradle of Roanoke and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber.

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

#### Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

Two homes were blessed with sweet little babies. On Nov. 16, Kari Lee was born to Scott and Melinda Hillman of Flanagan. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Marguerite Lorch, (Fairbury), and Glenn and Marjorie Hillman, (Flanagan). Bro. Sam and Sis. Valla Broquard are parents of Rachel Kay born Nov. 18. Jared, Joseph, and Elizabeth welcome their new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione Broquard and Mr. and Mrs. Ira Grandon, (Fairbury).

Our Sunday School students presented their annual Christmas program on Sun., Dec. 12. It is always an inspiring evening as they remind us of the birth of our dear Saviour.

As we begin a new year, I'm sure, at times, all of us wonder just what might lie ahead. May we ask our dear Lord for enough grace and faith for each day and as the song states,

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

Hymns of Zion, #150

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

#### Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22,23

Though the passage of time changes many things, our Lord's faithfulness unto us remains steadfast yesterday, today and forever. It gives us great comfort and courage in these times in which we are living to know there is One on whom we can always call in our times of need. May we always strive to remain faithful unto our Lord.

We offer our humble thanks to the visiting brethren who imparted many blessings unto us. With us this past month were brothers Hartzell Kaisner (Washington), Kenneth Wertz (Cissna Park), Gary Anliker (Elgin), and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN).

Our hospitial patients were Bro. Joe

Kaisner (Sis. Ida) and Carrie Moser. May they feel God's love and concern in their time of need.

We offer best wishes and God's blessings on two couples who have recently been married. Teresa Waibel (Eldon and Marge) and David Pratt were united on Nov. 28 and are residing in rural Emington. Duane Ifft (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma) was united in marriage to Mary Joyce Alford on Dec. 4. They are making their home in Fairbury.

It was a real blessing to gather together with our dear Sunday School children and listen as they told of the blessed Babe of Bethlehem who was born and died as a ransom that we may all have that hope of life eternal.

A thought: Faith and obedience are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God trusts God; and he that trusts God obeys God. He that is without faith is without works; and he that is without works is without faith.

(Spurgeon)

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

#### Pam Wiegand

During this past Christmas season we were reminded once again of our shut-ins. We would like them to know they are in our prayers. They are Bro. Josh Nohl, Sis. Lorene Kloter, Sis. Naomi Nohl, Sis. Lydia Holliger, Sis. Esther Woertz, Albert Knapp, and Mrs. Carl (Minnie) Knapp.

#### The Secret

I met God in the morning  
When my day was at its best,  
And His presence came like sunrise,  
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered,  
All day long He stayed with me,  
And we sailed in perfect calmness  
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered,  
Other ships were sore distressed,  
But the winds that seemed to drive  
them  
Brought to us a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,  
With a keen remorse of mind,  
When I too had loosed the moorings,  
With the presence left behind.

So I think I know the secret,  
Learned from many a troubled way:  
You must seek Him in the morning

If you want Him through the day!

Ralph Spaulding Cushman

With a new year ahead of us, may we all make a resolution to "Meet God" every morning.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Helen Streit and her children, John and Judy, in the death of their father and husband, Bro. John Reuben Streit. Funeral services were held on Thursday, Dec. 16.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger, (Gridley), Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman, (Forrest), and Bro. Ron Heiniger, (Bloomington).

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

#### Carol Klopfenstein

The special excitement and warm feelings we have about the holidays are partly because we know what to expect. We celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas and the beginning of the new year in much the same way every year. Families have their own predictable routines or customs which often include worshipping together at church, a time for exchanging gifts, singing carols and eating special foods. When we know what to expect, and we have pleasant memories of past holidays, the glow of anticipation mellows our hearts. It gives us a feeling of security and stability — much as an infant feels in his mother's arms and much as we felt when the love of God unfolded us and we felt His peace in our hearts.

So it is the tradition of the holiday season that makes us feel so good and draws people together. Knowing that we're all celebrating the same events in similar ways, we feel a bond of unity and we are often moved to share with the less fortunate. Everyone seems to want everyone else to be happy at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Then knowing that others share our joy, it multiplies until our "cup runneth over."

Every year we sing the same carols, eat the same kinds of food, bring out the same decorations and have similar gift exchanges. These holiday traditions have been handed down from generation to generation and they make us feel good to know they never change much.

And so we can begin to understand the divine wisdom that the Apostle Paul was given when he said, "There-

fore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." (2 Thess. 2:15) Without national patriotic traditions such as saluting the flag or standing to the familiar strains of our national anthem; without family traditions of holiday gatherings or sharing meal time each day; and without traditions in the church, the human family finds itself unstable, weak and unsettled. In contrast, the Apostle Peter advised us to be "stablished, strengthened and settled." (I Peter 5:10) Established traditions give us a link with history and a sense that we belong to something larger than ourselves. We don't feel as an island; we aren't standing alone. The future remains uncertain, but when we keep our links with the past and with those who have gone before us, it gives us courage to follow in the footsteps of the righteous. Rather than strike out alone in uncharted waters, we prefer to learn from our forefathers' experience and follow the course they proved to be tried and true, so we may take our ship of faith safely into that haven of rest.

The glad tidings of Jesus' humble birth were brought to us by our Sunday School children who sang and recited. What a beautiful message of hope and peace we have passed on to them, and they can someday pass it on to their children and children's children, until the time when our Lord returns to gather His own.

Dec. 3, we were fortunate to hear the memorandum to the churches of the annual Brotherhood Conference. Bro. Bob Grimm of Goodfield was here to assist Bro. Edwin Ringger in reading and expounding upon its contents of godly order and wise counsel.

Bro. Ezra and Sis. Martha Stoller have completed 50 years of happy wedded life. Their children hosted a reception for them in the Gridley Fellowship Hall. Bro. Ezra and Sis. Martha wish to thank everyone who remembered them with cards and gifts on this special occasion.

We were glad for the visits of ministering Bro. Tom Leman of Denver and Bro. Harold Gramm of Morris.

Minday Gramm, daughter of Annie Gramm, is engaged to be married to Larry McDowell of Bloomington. Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma Kuntz's son, Rollyn, is engaged to be married to Brenda Wells, also of Gridley.

## ILLINOIS, MORTON

### Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for our four new lambs in our most precious faith. Our new sisters in Christ are Stefanie Baum (Bro. Robert and Sis. Chris), Marcy Feucht (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth), Joan Isbell (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn) and Karen Staker (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary). May our Heavenly Father richly bless, lead, guide and direct these loved ones as they walk the narrow pathway of life towards Heaven.

Bro. William C. Roecker was called Home. His funeral was held on Dec. 4. May our Heavenly Father richly bless his wife, Sis. Kathryn, his family and friends.

We were very thankful to have the following visiting ministers with us this past month. They were retired Elder Bro. Ezra Feller (Cissna Park, IL), Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL), ministering Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), Todd Feller, (LaCrosse, IN), and Simon Wagenbach (Tremont, IL). May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

Our Sunday School children and young people told us about Christ's birth when they presented their Christmas Program to us on Dec. 12. It was a blessing to all who heard the story through song and pieces recited by them. May our Heavenly Father richly bless all who helped and all who were in the program.

Our annual church Christmas caroling was held on Sunday evening, Dec. 19. We had a blessed evening caroling to our loved ones who are shut-in or ill in their homes. We enjoyed having a lunch served to us at the church afterwards.

We rejoice with Gustav Laidig. We heard his testimony of faith and witnessed his baptism on Wednesday evening, Dec. 15. May our Heavenly Father lead, guide and direct him as he walks the narrow pathway of life towards Heaven.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Diana Kaiser welcome into their hearts and home, Andrew Robert, who was born on Dec. 14. Susie and Ben are thrilled with

their new brother. The grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Belsley, (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Orman and Sis. Kathryn Kaiser, (Morton, IL).

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent some time in the hospital: Sis. Anna Rassi, Sis. Mary Roecker, Sis. Barbara Kaiser and Bro. Robert Byrd. May our Heavenly Father continue to be with them and all those who are ill or shut-in in their homes. May each one of us continue to pray for them.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Tammy Garber (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn) and Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene), Goodfield, IL as the Lord has drawn them together to walk life's pathway. May God bless them as they shall "Twain become one."

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Margo Marx — Susi Herman

God has granted us the arrival of a blessed New Year. May we all strive to walk closer and serve our Lord more sincerely throughout 1983.

A precious baby girl came to join our Christian family. Tara Jane was born to Bro. Paul (Sparky) and Sis. Rhonda Meister. The happy grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister and Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli. Tara has two older sisters (Kari and Molly) welcoming her home.

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized this past month. Among these are Elder Bro. Roy Sauder who has now been restored to a full measure of good health through the hands of our Heavenly Father. Also Sis. Minnie Maibach, Sis. Sophie Hoerr, Sis. Velma Kellenberger, Barbara Herman, Leland Swadley, Helen Thomas, and LaVerne Perdelwitz have been in the hospital. We pray the Lord will strengthen and heal all of these dear ones.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Col. 3:16

It was truly uplifting to hear the Peoria Choir sing Christmas carols at our monthly hymn sing which was held on the first Sunday in December.

Sis. Mary Lou Bowald and Sis. Lydia Herman wish to thank everyone for the prayers, flowers, cards, and gifts during their long hospital stays.



"Blest be the tie that binds,  
Our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above."

Hymns of Zion, #156

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

#### Arlene and Arlys Martin

The results of a Christ-centered life are inner peace and contentment. Visiting ministers who encouraged us to turn over the controls of our lives to Jesus Christ and permit Him to live His life through us have been Bros. Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN), Joe Braker (Morton), Dan Koch (Tremont), Nate Stoller (Bradford), Kenneth Dietz (Bradford), and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

On Nov. 28 Sis. Lavonne Stoller and Bro. Marvin Herrmann were married. Their parents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Betty Herrmann and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller, all of our congregation.

Curt Wagenbach and Mary Beth Berchtold were married at our Fellowship Hall on Dec. 4. Their parents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Betty Wagenbach and Bro. Lavern and Sis. Joan Berchtold, all of our congregation.

On Dec. 12 Sis. Debbie Baer and Bro. Leon Klopfenstein of Latty, OH, were married. Their parents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Katherine Klopfenstein of Latty, OH and Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Ann Baer of Princeville.

Gwen Dora Ehnle was born on Dec. 3 to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane Ehnle. Beth, Mary, and Ted welcome her to their family. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Buehla Ehnle of Princeville and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber of Eureka.

On Nov. 21 Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) and Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) assisted Bro. Dave Kieser in conveying the results of the church conference.

God has answered our prayers again. We feel it is His will that Bro. Jim Plattner serve as our minister. This was revealed to us on Nov. 28.

We will miss Sis. Cindy Baurer in Princeville. She plans to work at the Apostolic Christian Children's Home in Leo, IN, beginning the first of the year.

Janna and Joel Gehrig, children of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Donna Gehrig, were hospital patients for five days each. They have recovered from their

viruses.

Bro. John Dapper was a hospital patient with heart problems. He is recuperating at the Eureka Home where he lives.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht wish to convey the following:

"We truly appreciated the many kind deeds and all the love shown to us at the passing of our dear Danny. May God bless you all." — Earl and Margaret Feucht, Mark, Rachel, Sara, and Abigail; Joshua and Marie Broquard; Danile and Natalie Feucht, Betty Jane and Shirley.

### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

#### Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold

God has enriched the home of Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Sauder. Their first child, Thomas Justin, was born Nov. 17 and will be welcomed by grandparents Fred and Sis. Norma Rieker of Peoria and Sis. Dorothy Sauder of our congregation.

Services were held at our church for our friend and neighbor, Harvie Meier, 77, who passed away Nov. 23.

Surely God was pleased to see a full house at the church on the prairie as we gathered for Thanksgiving services. We are always glad to see friends and neighbors, relatives and guests assemble with us as we together thank our God, from whom all blessings flow. To those of us who have been brought up in our precious faith, it seems that Thanksgiving Day without going to church would be as empty as Thanksgiving dinner without turkey.

A sweet little girl, Marjorie Marie, who has the privilege of being named after her grandmothers, was born to Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa Leman on Dec. 1. Her joyful grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Marge Knapp of Congerville and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman of our congregation.

What a blessed evening we enjoyed as many from our congregation filled the assembly at our Home for the Handicapped recently to sing, worship, and fellowship with our brethren and friends who reside there. As usual, we feel richer when we leave than when we arrived. May the spirit of God always reside in that home, as it does now, and may God's rich blessings be felt by those who are at home there.

We rejoiced together as the engagement of Bro. Roger Wiegand (Sis. Lena) and Sis. Kathy Leman (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rachel) was made known to

us. May they seek God's guidance as they plan their future together in the Lord.

What a joyful evening our young people shared with us at our annual Christmas program. Their joy was contagious, and their efforts were pleasing to our ears and surely to the heart of God. The children were then gently reminded to obey their parents and to believe what their parents tell them, for it is true, and it will come to pass. Likewise, we parents, as children of God, do believe what our heavenly Father tells us. For it will come to pass.

We have listened to most of the tapes this fall from the brotherhood conference. They are food for the soul to us, and we appreciate hearing them. As we are about to close another year and begin a new one, let us consider what it would be like if God would share with us His blessings in the same measure that He sees obedience in us. We were recently reminded that God doesn't want sacrifice, He wants obedience. Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:13.

Hospitalized but thankfully at home again were Dennis Wagner (Ralph and Sis. Jeanette), Sis. Anna Bradle, and Bill Rassi.

A special thanks we want to extend to Bros. Ed Ringger (Gridley), Fred Knapp (Congerville), and Ken Knapp (Taylor) for visiting us and continuing the work of the Lord.

### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

#### Renee Baurer

We were thankful for the large turnout we had at the ISU annual Christmas Program which was held Dec. 9. The ISU group sang and an inspirational message about Christ's birth was given by Bro. Bill Hodel, from Roanoke.

"Christ's humble birth should help us see

What life in Him can bring;  
It's not acclaim that we should seek  
But service for our King"

— Branon

Other ministering Brothers who have spoken to us this month were Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville).

Give Your Address Change  
to Your Reporter

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**  
**Dorothy Wagenbach**  
**Caroline Bolliger**

As another new year dawns, may we strive to be more obedient to the Word.

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to the ministers that visited us this month. Visiting us were Bros. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury), John Steiner and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). May God reward you for your efforts.

On Dec. 12 our Sunday School children presented us the "Christmas Story" in word and song. We thank them for their willingness and also the teachers for their love and patience.

Bro. Wm. Beutel was hospitalized for surgery and is recovering nicely. He will have to stay in the hospital for a few weeks so we pray God will grant him the grace and patience to accept his lot.

Sis. Emma Aberle was hospitalized for eye surgery in Iowa City. She is now home again and recuperating.

Sis. Louise Wagenbach was also in the hospital for a week but is home again and feeling better. We are thankful that God has again restored health to our loved ones.

A tragic car accident on slick pavement took the life of 3 yr. old Matthew Meister, son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister. Surviving are his parents, sisters Rebecca and Sara and a brother, Michael. We believe he is now a precious flower in the Master's bouquet. May God comfort the sorrowing hearts of the family.

Sis. Dorothy and her three other children were also hospitalized but all were released except Rebecca. She has broken bones so will have to remain in the hospital for some time. We wish her the nearness of God and that the time can pass by quickly for her.

Sis. Caroline Bolliger is our new reporter replacing Sis. Phyllis Lang. We want to thank Sis. Phyllis for her time and diligence.

January is collection month for Tremont subscribers. Subscription rate is now \$6.

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**ILLINOIS, URBANA**  
**Cheryl Joos**

Christ? He died.

But only in the minds of some men. His kingdom hasn't changed. He is still found in the same place today — in the hearts of men who are wise. Through Christ there is power over Satan. In Christ, everything is possible. He is the:

King of Kings, Prince of Peace, Lord of Lords, Immanuel, Chosen of God, Ancient of Days, Saviour, Root of Jesse, Seed of David, Alpha and Omega, Messiah, Great High Priest, Rose of Sharon, Light of the World, Son of God, Lily of the Valley, Lion of Judah, Redeemer, Counselor, Teacher, Physician, Prophet, Mediator, Bridegroom, Master, Shepherd, Deliverer, Wonderful, Living Bread, Morning Star, Faithful and True, Chief Cornerstone, Holy One, Lamb of God, Righteous Judge, True Vine, Captain of Salvation, I Am, Lord God Almighty.

Yes, He is the King of Kings, which our Sunday School children related to us as they retold the blessed story of the birth of Jesus.

In the true spirit of giving, the college students had a babysitting day where they made cookies and had activities for the children of our congregation so the parents could spend time with preparations for the Christmas season. Their kindness was greatly appreciated by all.

Dec. 19 was the church Christmas caroling. We sang at several of the nursing homes and then ended the day with a chili supper at church. It was a very rewarding day for all of us.

We thank Bro. Jim Funk (Tucson), Bro. Church Sauder (Tremont), Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka), and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley) for their labor of love.

The Silver Lining collection is due in January.

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
**Lily Schick**

Our Heavenly Father blessed our congregation with His willing servants who visited us and delivered His inspired word unto us. They were ministering Bros. Edwin Bahler from Remington, IN and Byron Stoller, Gridley, IL on one Sunday. The next weekend Elder Bros. Dan Koch from Tremont, IL and Edwin Ringger, Gridley, IL came lovingly into our midst.

Dec. 12, 1982, our Sunday School program was presented following afternoon services. The children conveyed the true meaning of the Christmas story in poem and song. Their innocence and enthusiasm, as well as their message, were an inspiration to us hearers. They are an example of how the Lord told us our hearts should be — as little children. So that in eternity we can be with the Christ child born

that Christmas Day and now reigns in Heaven above.

Elmer Knapp, father of Sis. Ida Lou Koehl, has returned home from the hospital. We pray that God will restore his health and strength again.

When a loved one is taken from this life, truly it leaves an empty void in one's heart. Yet how comforting to know she was a child of God and lived according to His word. Sis. Betty Schmigall of Gridley, IL, the mother of our Bro. Bill Schmidgall, was called out of her suffering to be with our Heavenly Father. Truly our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family in their loss. But,

"How joyful is the hope that lingers,  
 When loves ones cross death's sea,  
 That we, when earth's toils are ended,  
 With them shall ever be!"

"We'll Never Say Good-bye"  
 Hymns of Zion #122

Another year is before the rest of us that remain upon earth. How swiftly time passes by! Do we really live each day of our life in servitude to our Lord? Remembering that we will have to be accountable for all the hours we have spent, and each one gone is past forever. As we look beyond the past and present to the future, we poor mortals sometimes wonder "what does this year hold?" It is so easy to be caught up in worry and running ahead of the Lord, though we know it isn't pleasing to Him. He has promised to provide if we but cast our cares upon Him. How much simpler it is to live each day to its fullest and face tomorrow when we place the key to our hearts and lives in His hand, and leave it there.

I cannot read His future plans,  
 But this I know:  
 I have the smiling of His face,  
 And all the refuge of His grace,  
 While here below.

Enough, this covers all my wants,  
 And so I rest;  
 For what I cannot, He can see,  
 And in His care I safe shall be  
 Forever blest.

"He Holds the Key"  
 Gospel Hymns #399

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 Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address  
 to Your Reporter.

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Tammy Gerber**  
**Gayla Baumgartner**

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

His love has no limit, His grace has  
 no measure,  
 His power no boundary known unto  
 men;  
 For out of His infinite riches in Jesus  
 He giveth and giveth, and giveth again.  
 Annie Johnson Flint

As each of us reflect back on the year that is now past, we embrace many experiences that have helped us grow in grace and in the love of our dear Lord. Many changes have come into our lives, times of great joy, peaceful days along with disappointment and some tears. But the greatest joy of all is that now, today, we can thankfully say, "God is still with me."

As ever, the Lord has blessed us with many good teachings through His word this past month. Among our many visitors have been ministering brothers Merle Laukhuf (Latty), John Isch and Art Ringger (Indianapolis).

In the spirit of Christian love, Bro. Sidney Schwartz took Sis. Sheryl Lesh as his wife on Nov. 21. May they always stay near to God and look to Him for grace and guidance.

The gift of a newborn baby was received with joy in several of our families this Christmas season. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Deb Fry were blessed with the arrival of little Clayton Glen. He was born on Nov. 23.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Aeschliman welcome Joseph Samuel into their family. "Big brother" Benjamin is happy to have a playmate.

Shaunda Sue was born to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Nancy Bedwell on Dec. 7. Corey and Tracey are glad to have a sister.

Our dear ones who have been in the hospital are: Bro. Jim Geisel, Bro. John Moser, Jonathan Leman (Wally and Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Bertha Moser and Sis. Amelia Baine. May God grant them strength and good health, according to His will.

**I Said a Prayer For You Today**

I said a prayer for you today  
 And know God must have heard —  
 I felt the answer in my heart  
 Although he spoke no word!  
 I didn't ask for wealth or fame  
 (I knew you wouldn't mind) —  
 I asked Him to send treasures  
 Of a far more lasting kind!  
 I asked that He'd be near you  
 At the start of each new day  
 To grant you health and blessings  
 And friends to share your way!  
 I asked for happiness for you  
 In all things great and small —  
 But it was for His loving care  
 I prayed the most of all!

Author Unknown

"Lord I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth." Psalm 26:8

By the mercy and goodness of God, our congregation has been blessed with an increase in our brotherhood and in the number of friends who attend our services. Due to this increase, we felt the need of another place to worship. With much prayerful consideration and preparation we have constructed a new church at the north edge of Bluffton. The name chosen for our new church is Bluffton North. The first service was held on Thanksgiving Day. Open house at the Bluffton North Church will be Jan. 9 and 16. the dedication of the church will be on Jan. 23.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**  
**Arlene Metzger**

With a bountiful harvest season past, we have so much for which to be thankful. We were thankful to have Elder Bros. David Bertsch and Alfred Bahler come and share in the reading of the Memorandum. The following Friday evening we gathered together for our Thanksgiving Program. So much can happen in a week — so much to be thankful to God.

On Thanksgiving morning we gathered together and were privileged to hear Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris) speak the Word.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Lee Overmyer and family over the passing of his father, Earl Overmyer. Also to Sis. Pearl Getz (Bro. Alvin), over the passing of her sister Opal Swing.

On Dec. 4 we had our Annual Benefit Sale at Parkview Haven. it was a great success, but greater was the love and

fellowship that was experienced that day.

From our neighboring churches, Bros. Earl Kilgus (Remington) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott) came and expounded the Word of God in its truth and sincerity. We thank them for their labor of love.

We had the privilege to hear the testimonies of four precious souls on Saturday, Dec. 11. On Sunday we welcomed into the fold: Bros. Harvey gutwein (Sis. Ellen), Dean Topp (Louise Topp), Jim and Sis. Sharon Denton. We want to thank Edler Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) for coming to assist Bro. Wendell and also for sharing God's Word. It truly was a blessed weekend and we thank Bro. Steve. The words of Bro. Steve keep ringing in my ears. He said "we should not only pray in the morning and evening, but should have a constant prayer on our heart all day long."

As the year comes to a close and we pass through this Christmas season, we look forward to our Christmas program, when the children so joyfully tell of the birth of Christ. Then in the evening we plan to gather together for caroling. We don't know what the weather will bring but we know our hearts will be filled with warmth and love, as we sing of Christ's birth. May we thank God for the real meaning of Christmas, for the sending of His Son who came to live and die for us that we may have the hope of eternal life with Him! "Tis not the babe, but Christ, the man, Who walked in Galilee; 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, That sets the spirit Free!"

Hymns of Zion #36

The family of Jerry Wuethrich would like to express sincere thanks for the many cards of consolation and encouragement. The love shown to us during this difficult time meant so much. God Bless You. All.

Otto & Danna Wuethrich  
 Diane, Scott, & Tim  
 Duane & Suzanne Schieler

**Things Don't Just Happen**

Things don't just happen to us who  
 love God,

They're planned by His own dear  
 hand.

Then moulded and shaped, and timed  
 by His clock

Things don't just happen, they're  
 planned.

We don't just guess on the issues of  
life,  
We Christians just rest in our Lord.  
We are directed by His Sovereign will,  
In the light of His Holy Word.

We who love Jesus are walking by faith,  
Not seeing one step that's ahead.  
Not doubting one moment what our  
lot might be.  
But looking to Jesus, instead.

We praise our dear Saviour for loving  
us so,  
For planning each care of our life.  
Then giving us faith to trust Him for all,  
The blessings, as well as the strife.

Things don't just happen to us who  
love God,  
To us that have taken our stand,  
No matter the lot, the course, or the  
price,  
Things don't just happen, they're  
planned.

— Esther L. Fields

#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Lynn Klopfenstein - Judy Dubach**  
Jesus Christ was born in the mean-  
est of circumstances, but the air above  
was filled with the hallelujahs of the  
heavenly hosts. His lodging was a cattle  
pen, but a star drew distinguished  
visitants from afar to do Him homage.  
His birth was contrary to the laws of  
life. His death was contrary to the laws  
of death. No miracle is so inexplicable  
as His life and teachings. He had no  
cornfields or fisheries, but He could  
spread a table for 5,000 and have  
bread and fish to spare. He walked on  
no beautiful carpet, but on the waters  
and they supported Him.

His crucifixion was the crime of  
crimes, but, on God's side, no lower  
price than His infinite agony could  
have made possible our redemption.  
When He died, few men mourned, but  
a bleak crepe was hung over the sun.  
Though men trembled not for their  
sins, the earth beneath shook under the  
load. All nature honored Him, sinners  
alone rejected Him.

Sin never touched Him. Corruption  
could not get hold of His body. The soil  
that had been reddened with His blood  
could not claim His dust.

Three years He preached His gos-  
pel. He wrote no book, built no church,  
had no money back of Him. After 1,000  
years, He is the one central character of

human history, the perpetual theme of  
all preaching, the pivot around which  
the events of the age revolve, the only  
Regenerator of the human race.

Was it merely the son of Joseph and  
Mary who crossed the world's horizon  
nearly 2,000 years ago? Was it merely  
human blood that was spilled on Cal-  
vary's hill for the redemption of sinners  
and which has worked such wonders in  
men and nations through the cen-  
turies? What thinking man can keep  
from exclaiming MY LORD AND MY  
GOD!

This blessed story was again pro-  
claimed by the Sunday School children  
during our Christmas program. An  
additional pleasure was bestowed by  
our newly formed church choir under  
the direction of Bro. John Yergler.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Christy Bollier  
are the proud parents of Timothy  
Dean, born December 22. Grand-  
parents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma  
Bollier and Utah and Helen Rowe, all  
of the Leo area.

Sis. Pat Steffen and Bro. Wade  
Stoller (Leo) were united in marriage  
on December 12 at Milford, IN, the  
home church of her parents, Bro. Walt  
and Sis. Dorothy.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Alfred  
Bahler (Wolcott), LeRoy Huber  
(Eureka), and Wendell Gudeman  
(Francesville) for their efforts during  
the testimonies and baptisms of our  
three converts, Dennis Winslow,  
Marylyn Pattee and Steve Huber.

May God bless each and every one  
with a most joyous and fulfilled New  
Year!!!

#### INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Lu Ann Feller  
Connie Knobloch**

"Wherever loving hearts are found,  
it's Christmastime the whole year  
round." By now the tree and trimmings  
have all been put away, along with gifts  
and cards from family and friends. Did  
our Christmas "spirit" get "put away"  
too? Our ministers brought out so  
beautifully that as Christians, we  
should have the spirit of loving, giving  
and sharing at all times. These are  
simply attributes of the fruit of the  
Spirit. Let's check our lives and make  
sure that Spirit is with us all through  
the year.

We enjoyed the ministry of Bros.  
Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL)  
and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and  
thank them for their efforts.

Our congregation heartily welcomes  
Bro. Jerry Overmyer, his wife, Tianne,  
and son Joshua. They have decided to  
make LaCrosse their church home, and  
we are certainly enjoying them.

We wish God's blessings on the  
forthcoming marriage of Sis. Wendy  
Miller (Valparaiso) and Bro. Dean  
Feller. Wendy is the daughter of Bro.  
Terry and Sis Beverly Miller, and  
Dean's parents are Bro. Todd and Sis.  
Karen Feller.

INDIANA, LEO  
**Thelma Schlatter  
Marjorie Frautschi**

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

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

Another year of service,  
Of witness for thy love.  
Another year of training  
For holier work above."

Author Unknown

The Sunday School program was  
held Dec. 19. The message of God's gift  
was a blessing to all.

May the Lord reward the visiting  
ministers, Bros. Edwin Ringger,  
(Gridley, IL) and Roy Wieland, (Bay  
City, MI) for bringing His Word.

Many attended the wedding of Bro.  
Wade Stoller, son of Bro. Gene and Sis.  
Minerva, and Sis. Pat Steffen, daughter  
of Bro. Walter and Sis. Dorothy, at  
Milford. May His blessings go with  
them as they establish their Christian  
home.

"Look backward —  
See Christ dying for you.

Look upward —  
See Christ pleading for you.

Look inward —  
See Christ living in you.

Look forward —  
See Christ coming for you."

Bro. Ernie Stoller recently spent  
some time in the hospital for tests. We

rejoice with him that the results were all positive.

### INDIANA, MILFORD

**Marcy Haab - Gwen Steffen**

We have been blessed by the visit of Elder Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) for on Nov. 20 he assisted our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Elmer Hartter in reading the memorandum. In a world of constant change, we as Christians can feel a peace and contentment in our hearts, knowing that we have a faith based on an unchangeable Savior.

Bro. Marvin Lemman (Bradford) visited our congregation on Dec. 5. We humbly thank him for sharing God's Word with us.

The engagement of Angie Troup (daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne and granddaughter of Everett and Sis. Leona Price) and Harold Higginbothan (son of Audrey Higginbothan of Nappanee) was announced. We wish them God's richest blessings as they will soon begin their lives together.

Dec. 12 was a special day for Sis. Pat Steffen (daughter of Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Wade Stoller (son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Minerva of Leo) as they were united in marriage. Sharing this day with them were Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo), Bros. Art Ringger (Indianapolis), Ray Sinn (Latty) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo).

A precious little boy was entrusted to the care of Bro. Tom and Sis. Tammy Speicher. Travis Alan was born Dec. 16. He is the grandson of Bro. Lewis and Sis. Mim Speicher and George and Pat Sheets of Milford.

Believing that God will not try us beyond our strength, should be comforting to those who have been hospitalized and to those who have been confined to their homes. Bros. Henry Beer, Oscar Graff and Ray Haab have recently spent some time in the hospital; Sisters Ruth Beer, Marcy Haab and Martha Ruch have spent many weeks at home. Let's not forget our brothers and sisters when trials come, for it is during these difficult times they need our love and support the most.

As the New Year unfolds, let us resolve to keep the Lord first in our

lives, others next and ourselves last; and as the Lord shares blessings with us, let us share with others.

Giving

"Go, give to the needy, sweet  
sweet charity's breed  
For giving is living," the angel said.  
"Must I keep giving, again and  
again?"

My peevish, petulant answer ran.  
"Oh, no!" said the angel piercing me  
through.

"Just give till the Master stops  
giving to you."

Anonymous

### INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

**Debbie Anliker**

On December 2, brethren from the Remington congregation assembled with us, and on December 16, many brethren from Francesville came to be with us for our Christmas program. It was a blessed evening, as we heard in song and verse about Christ's birth, and also about His life, His death on the cross and what He is now able to do and most willing to do for us. We are thankful for all who were with us, especially those who participated in the program.

I said to the man who stood  
at the gate of the year,  
"Give me a light that I may  
tread safely into the unknown."  
And he replied,  
"Go out into the darkness and put  
your hand into the hand of God;  
That shall be to you better than  
light and safer than a known  
way."

M. Louis Haskins

As a new year is upon us, let us have a prayer that we will strive to live a life that is more pleasing and acceptable to God. Let us take courage and strength for the new year and each new day from God's Word.

"Our Lord has been everywhere that we are called to go. His feet have trodden down smooth a path, through every experience that comes to us. He knows each road, and knows it well — the steep path of temptation, down through the

rocky ravines and slippery gullies; the dizzy road along the heights of victory; the odd beaten road of common place daily routine."

Dr. S. D. Gordon

### INDIANA, REMINGTON Beth Virkler - Annette Bahler

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory and blessing."

Rev. 5:12

May we, as His chosen servants, claim that power of Christ in our lives this coming year.

This month has left us with little news. The following articles are submitted from readers who wish to share them with you.

#### The Incomparable Christ

More than nineteen hundred years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This Man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived: that was during His exile in childhood.

He possessed neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous, and had neither training nor formal education.

In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep.

He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service.

He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him.

He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined.

He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.

He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His or-

ders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.

He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

Once each week the wheels of commerce cease the turning and multitudes wind their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.

The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him.

He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

—Reprinted from the Scrap Book of Ideas by permission of the Christian Hymnary publishers.

#### Condemnation

Until you've walked a second mile  
In someone else's shoes,  
Or stood an hour in the heat  
Of hurts you didn't choose;

Until your heart has felt the sting  
Of criticizing tongue,  
You cannot taste the salty tears  
A wounded soul has wrung.

Unless you walked a moon or more  
Along a thorny road,  
You cannot feel another's need  
To know his trying load.

#### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Nancy and Karen Lehman

"O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by.

Phillips Brooks

We were blessed to have the Peoria Choir with us for a day of singing and praising the Lord. We

truly enjoyed the blessed day of fellowship and we thank them for spending the day with us.

The Sunday School Christmas program was enjoyed by all as the young children told us the story of baby Jesus with song and Scripture. But as the hymnist writes, "Be not content this Babe to know, Nor stay at Bethlehem, But go with Christ to Calvary's brow, beyond Jerusalem. This there men learn to know the Christ, For there He bore man's sin. Then open wide the door of heart. And let the Savior in.

Hymns of Zion No. 36

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Edwin Ringer (Gridley), Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford). Again we thank them for their love and thoughtfulness. We encourage others to come with them as it means so much to our small congregation.

Bro. Ernest Germann was again admitted to the hospital but has been released and is doing very well at home.

#### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Claudia Thomas - Mary Huber

Greetings and a blessed New Year to everyone from Valparaiso. We were privileged to have visiting ministers with us this past month. Bro. Wendell Gudeman from Francesville was with us for our Thanksgiving services. Also Bro. Vernon Schwab from Wolcott gathered around the Word with us. We are very thankful for them making an effort to come and share with us.

We also are very thankful for another soul that is repenting. Her name is Sherry Marrow, and we pray she will continue the path of righteousness for His Name sake.

All of our Sunday School classes gave us a wonderful gift of love by sharing with us Scripture, songs and poems for our Christmas program. When we see the word of God comes out of the lips of our young people, we can't help but to think how we are so blessed to pass on such a wonderful heritage of Jesus on to the next generation.

We also want to say a special prayer and blessing upon the marriage of Jeff and Janet Miller (Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev). They

were united in marriage on Dec. 17. May they truly live and love for God and one another.

There seems to be a lot of blessing the Lord has bestowed upon all of us. May we remember to give God the Glory for last year, this year, and the future years He holds the world without end. Happy New Year to everyone.

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

Kim Salek - Edith Massner

We were especially grateful for the visit of Bro. Jim Byrd and Bro. Bruce Leman. Bro. Bruce mentioned that when our tribulation is over, we will be a 'bitter' person or a 'better' person. After hearing of Bro. Jim's experiences sustaining a severe burn, we could well understand how one could be a 'better' person. Even the author of Zion's Harp No. 177 has well expressed it, "His trials sent, are well meant; His blows, a Father's chastisement, are tokens of affection."

Our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz was with us Wednesday evening. We appreciate his coming and always pray that God will graciously remember him and his family with all that is necessary to continue in grace, patience and wisdom.

Jeff and Lori White have become the parents of their first child, Carmen Nichole. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Emma Jean Lanz of Oakville and Mr. and Mrs. Loren White of Carmen, IL.

Hospitalized for surgery this month were Larry Heineger, Ken Massner and Marty Buehler. They all seem to be recovering satisfactorily.

#### IOWA, ELGIN

Eleanor Butikofer

Greetings to you in the name of our dear Saviour.

We have had our first snowfall of the season. It's appearance brings to our mind the reality that our winter season is upon us. With winter comes the thought of the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour. And the Lord said unto them fear not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be unto all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour which 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.

This is what the shepherds heard as they were watching their flocks by night. Thus according to the Bible is how we know all about how a bright star shone that certain night and heralded in the wonderful news of Christ's birth at Bethlehem.

The songs, "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night" are two of the songs we always sing when we go caroling to the homes of the aged and the infirmed every Christmas season. Last evening was the evening which was chosen to once again bring out the old and lovely theme of these songs. Our church was the meeting place for the carolers. There were about 60 or 70 people (children and adults) involved. A lunch was served in the dining area of the church after the singing had taken place. Christmas is such a joyous time and we have so many things to glorify and praise God for that it behooves us to thank Him every day.

Sister Lena Schupbach will be 104 years old next March if it is the Lord's will that she will still be with us. It gives one a kindly feeling when you see her face beaming as she listens to the carolers singing praises to the Lord.

It was recently announced that Bro. Fred Everhardt from Mount Pleasant, Iowa and Sis. Kathy Pulfer of Elgin, Iowa who works in Cedar Rapids are planning to be married on the 13th of Feb. Fred's parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt who live in Sperry, IA., and Kathy's parents are Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer. We wish them well in every respect.

Through several meetings, tapes of the general conference discourses have been heard. These are always helpful.

Janet Gehring, daughter of Sis. Edna Gehring, has left for Fairfield, IA, after having spent the summer with her mother. We will miss her presence. The nature of her work is not known to her at this time. There seemingly are quite a few opportunities open for her.

Elder Bro. Paul and Bro. Tim Butikofer of Elgin in company with Bro. Kenny Grimm from Wapello, IA, just returned from a trip to Haiti. We are now looking forward to hearing all about the people in that part of the world. As we learn we will report to you about many of their experiences.

There is the time of harvest — the harvest which provides food and clothes for us without which life could not be sustained. God ordered the seasons and the good things in life far outweigh the negative ones. There is a destiny that makes us brothers. None goes his way alone. Now for our feathered friends of whom a great number are now enjoying their trips to and from the feeding stations. Among the most rare ones we hear calling in the woods is the pileated woodpecker. The thistle feeder made especially for the finches visited by the gold finch. It's interesting how the color of their feathers changes when the cold weather arrives from a light yellow and black to an olive colored creature. God's ways are so very marvelous. May we ever praise Him.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matt. 21:22

The results of our Annual Election held Dec. 2 were as follows: Bro. John Shupbach - Trustee; Bro. Lonnie Butikofer - Song Leader; Sisters Elizabeth Moore, Sandy Butikofer and Kathy Butikofer - Sunday School.

#### IOWA, IOWA CITY Joyce Eland

As we start a new year, let us each spend time in reflection regarding our spiritual being and how we can more fully yield ourselves unto Christ to be molded in His image. The efforts we spend in this manner will surely be more blessed than any time spent on New Year's resolutions that we try to carry out on our own.

The engagement of Sis. Kathy Pulfer to Bro. Fred Eberhardt from Oakville was announced. We extend our congratulations to both and wish them God's blessings.

What a joy it is to gather together in the Lord — Bro. Marvin Lehman of Bradford spoke of this during his

recent visit. We have felt that joy and received many blessings as we gathered in the past month. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Harvey Heiniger (Burlinton), Dale Frank (Oakville) and Dale Moore (Elgin). We also appreciated the visits of other brothers, sisters and friends. It adds much to our fellowship when even a few visit.

#### IOWA, LESTER

##### Alice Metzger

Another year is dawning and although we cannot see into the future, we can look back to the year just past. Our church experienced six baptisms and have four converts at this time. Fourteen babies were born, including eight girls and six boys. One little girl died at birth, the only death in our congregation this year.

The Sunday School presented their Christmas program to the church. A very large audience heard again the beautiful story of Jesus' birth in verse and song. We appreciate the children and those who work with them.

We rejoice with our new convert, Scott Myrlie. Our prayers are with him as he seeks to follow in the footsteps of the Lord.

Visiting ministers for this month were Bro. Virgil Metzger and Bro. Roger Aberle. They were with us for Thanksgiving service.

On Dec. 3 Morris Edward was born to Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger. He has a sister and three brothers. The grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Ella Metzger and Bro. and Sis. Ezra Rumbold. Brook Lee was born to Bro. Leland and Sis. Patsy Esslinger on Dec. 9. She has three sisters to welcome her home. Her grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger and Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene Esslinger. Bro. Tim and Lois DeHaan welcome little Rachael Ann into their family. She has a sister and brother and was born Dec. 18. Her grandparents are John and Sis. Ione DeHaan and Mr. and Mrs. Almond.

Andy Leuthold and Fred Metzger were surgical patients but both are again able to assemble with us for which we are thankful.

We miss Bro. Steve and Sis. Rose Knoblock who have moved to Sabetha. Jim Cunningham has gone

to California to spend the winter months with his son and family. We miss his faithful attendance and look forward to seeing him in the spring.

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

Our Sunday School Christmas program, held Dec. 19, was a vivid reminder of our Lord and Savior's birth. The children were so eager to bring to us their messages and songs about the baby Jesus. We should never forget to express our gratitude to our Heavenly Father for the gift of His Son.

Several families in our congregation have joyfully received new additions to their households. On Dec. 1, Bill and Cindy (Massner) Marshall's second child was born. Aaron Jon has one brother, Jason, and grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis (Massner) Knobloch, and Mr. and Mrs. William Marshall, Sr., Wapello, IA.

Double joy was brought to the family of Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty Stoller with the birth of twin girls on Dec. 3. Cheryl Ann and Carolyn Kay have one sister, Chris, and two brothers, David and Mark. Bro. Earl and Sis. Ione Stoller, and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kelly, Mediapolis, IA, are the grandparents.

Carmen Nichole was born Dec. 7 to Jeff and Lora White. The happy grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Jean Lanz, and Mr. and Mrs. Loren White, Carman, IL.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont), Bill Gerst (Alto) and Duane Metzger (West Bend). May God's blessings be on them and their home congregations.

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

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

Another year of service, Of witness for Thy love,  
Another year of training For holier work above.

Hymns of Zion No. 150, verses 1,3,4

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

"To everything there is a season . . ." Eccl. 3:1. The harvest season is past, and the holy season is upon us. We are truly thankful for God's rich blessings in every season.

We were richly blessed with visitors in the past month. Bro. Hartzell Kaisner from Washington was one of them, and his message gave us much food for thought.

The day Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubel have long awaited came when they could give their testimony and be taken into the fold. We wish them the Lord's nearness as long as they live. Elder Bros. Ed Lanz and Bob Grimm were here for this happy occasion.

Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend) were here on December 5. They both spoke on being a good light to the great cloud of witnesses around us as we run the race toward that heavenly goal. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1.

That same day the family of Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich hosted a reception for them for their 60th wedding anniversary. It was a blessed weekend.

Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester), Ed Lanz (Oakville), and Roy Grimm (Taylor) were in our midst to read the memorandum. As sincerely and lovingly as these brothers brought us these conclusions, who would not want to do their best to uphold them.

That same day the lot fell upon Bro. Doug Schock to assist Bro. Russell Wuthrich here in the ministry. We pray that the Lord will grant Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara a double portion of His grace.

Should I restrain the Spirit's course for fear of man so feeble?  
Thought Satan's hosts are raging here, should I not be more faithful?  
Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I

conceal the Word of God Most High?

Shall I to please the blinded throng withhold Thy word so truthful?  
Or thus to soothe the ears of men of their reproach be mindful,  
To gain earth's gilded joys, or flee the cross endured, my Lord by Thee?

What then is he whose scorn I dread whose wrath or hate dismaying?  
It is but mortal man I know, His frown I am not fearing.  
He is an heir of death, a slave to sin, a bubble on the wave.

O, may I seek the souls who stray and save them from destruction,  
And through Thy holy love still lead them to Thy congregation.  
May prayers and pleadings penetrate to warn them of their lost estate.

The mortal man may quite disown and speak in bold derision  
Against my labors and my name; yet blest is my condition.  
The love of God dispels the fear and makes my faith in Him more dear.  
Zion's Harp No. 113

May Bro. Doug find strength and comfort in these words.

Donald and Sue Ann Schaer are the happy parents of Brian Dale. Bro. Bernard and Sis. Leah Schaer and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Holycross are Brian's grandparents.

It is always heartwarming to see the children recite their poems and readings and sing their songs honoring the "Babe of Bethlehem". Their faces seem to light up as they sing "O How I Love Jesus". May this always remain with them.

**ALONG AN ICY SIDEWALK**  
Along an icy sidewalk some cripple on his way  
Walked slowly on his crutches on eve of Christmas Day.

The gay crowd hurries by him with little thought at all  
That they could be so crippled if they should slip and fall.

Ah, friends, let's all be careful whom we are passing by



And always be more prayerful for  
struggling ones who try.

Be kind and just consider while we  
are young and gay,  
Tis ours to think of others and help  
them on life's way.

'Tis ours to aid and cheer them with  
love and all good will;  
Then we'll be truly happy and get  
the Christmas thrill.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich wish to thank their friends and relatives who came from near and far to be with them on the day they observed their 60th wedding anniversary. They enjoyed your love and friendship very much, also the cards and gifts they received from all who sent their good wishes to them. They enjoyed having their children and grandchildren host this event for them.

#### IOWA, WEST BEND

##### Elma Mogler - Judy Fehr

Our Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester), Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville), and Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar) were in our midst recently and so kindly read and explained the Memorandum to us all. May we long remember the words that were spoken and try to follow them as closely as we are able, especially as we start the new year. Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Steve Rinckenberger (Cissna Park) and Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont). We thank each one for filling us with manna from above. May God's Divine Guidance ever be with all our ministers everywhere.

Four new babies have entered the world and are special joys to each of their homes. Andrew James was born Nov. 15 and is welcomed by Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa Bruellman. His grandparents are Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman and Mr. and Mrs. Russel Frazee. On Nov. 22, Kent Elmer arrived into the family of Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr. His grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr and Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger. Two of the little bundles arrived the same day, Dec. 3, making it special for their grandparents, Art and Madeline Banwart.

Mike and Marilyn Banwart became the parents of Molly Marie, and Ron and Carolyn Banwart became the parents of Jody Elizabeth. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Block and Mrs. Annie Chiles, respectively. We pray for the blessing of God's Guidance upon the life of each one.

Hospital patients have been Molly Skoglund (Mark and Sis. Lori), John Kellenberger (Warren and Moira), Bro. Philip Fisher, Ray Banwart (Paul, Jr. and Emy), Tami Schmidt (Jim and Sherry), and Elmer Anliker. May God continue with each one.

The first Tuesday in December we were asked to be directed for spiritual guidance in replacing brothers and sisters who had duties in the church. We thank all those who have been faithfully filling those duties. Sis. Polly Zaugg replaces Sis. Judy Fehr as Silver Lining reporter, Sis. Beth Mogler replaces Sis. Phyllis Banwart as third grade Sunday School teacher and Sis. Glennagene Fehr replaces Sis. Lela Banwart in fifth grade. Bro. Pat Zaugg replaces Bro. Ken Banwart in Jr. Bible Class. Bro. Dennis Fehr replaces Bro. Ken Dalhauser as usher. May God add an extra measure of grace to each one as they labor in the church.

"The world was a better place to live in when people tried to get to Heaven instead of the moon."

Unknown

#### JAPAN, SHIODA

##### Vicki Ramseyer

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore.

Ps. 121:8

It is with very mixed feelings that we here at Shioda bid farewell to our dear Sis. Kathy Klotzle. But it is with joy that we welcome Sis. Judy Luginbuhl. While it is always with a certain amount of sadness we say farewell; we, as Christians, can always look forward to the land where we will never say goodbye. So it is with this assurance in our hearts that we can trust this "sayonara" too, is not forever.

We are thankful to welcome Sis. Judy to our congregation. Feeling

certain that she has been led of God, we call on Him to not only bless her as abundantly as he has each of us here, but also to bless all of her dear family and friends. We know that there will be times when they will long to be together, but we too have found that the more of ourselves we can willingly give, the more we can feel God's presence and the richness of His blessings.

Our dear Sis. Marie Uchida fell several weeks ago and broke her hip. We were told that she will have to be in the hospital for three months. We will surely miss her warm smile in church. We are so thankful that we have a true, living, and caring God that we can entrust our loved ones to. Our prayer is that she will not have to suffer too much and that her recovery will be complete.

Once again we have been blessed with visits from our dear brethren from Tokyo. Bro. Saburo and Sis. Shizuko Utsuki were with us for a few days in the middle of November. Also, Sis. Haruyo Onoda and her three sons spent a weekend with us the end of November. What a blessed tie that binds us all in Christian love.

#### JAPAN, TOKYO

##### Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue

We had Sis. Kathy Klotzle's farewell on Nov. 14, the second Sunday. She spent a little over two years here in Japan for our Shioda American Kindergarten of the country church. She showed us such wonderful Christian examples and we could learn many good things from her. We know how difficult it was to live with different customs here in a different country, Japan. We really appreciated her for her love, patience and sacrifices through her "Christian Walk". Also, we really thank Altadena Church and Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle and their family through Christ Jesus our Lord for lovingly sharing Sis. Kathy with us.

Christmas is going to come to our doorsides now. We are preparing for our children's program on Dec. 19.

Dear readers, brothers, sisters and friends, we send you special greetings from Japan. You all may have a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year's.

Also, we really thank you all for your love and prayers for us this past year. Please pray for us as we pray for you continuously.

Love in Christ,  
Brethren in Japan

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**KANSAS, BERN**  
Linda Esslinger

Sabetha congregation joined us for Thanksgiving services on Thanksgiving Day. Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha) had the services.

Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott) gave us food for our spiritual body on Nov. 28.

Carol Rokey, daughter of Sis. Lila and Bro. Joseph Rokey, Jr., passed her State Board examination for a Licensed Practical Nurse. She is currently employed at a hospital in a nearby town.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Meyer are the parents of a baby girl, Sasha Lea, born Dec. 2, 1982. She is welcomed home by one brother, Bjorn, and one sister, Monique. Grandparents are Ruth and Fremond Meyer.

Brent Alan joined the family of Sis. Kathy and Bro. Richard Strahm on Dec. 8, 1982. He has two older brothers, Scott and Evan. Grandparents are Bro. Ephraim Strahm and Sis. Mildred and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR).

Hospitalized was Sis. Eva Hohulin.

Carol Rokey and Greg Renyer have announced their engagement. Carol is the daughter of Sis. Lila and Bro. Joseph Rokey, Jr.

It is good to have money and the things money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things money can't buy.

George Hanson Towns

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**KANSAS, FT. SCOTT**  
Jamie Marti

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

On Dec. 19 our Sunday School children brought the story of Christ's birth to us in song.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Harvey Smith and family in the death of his father on Dec. 11.

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

As we begin another new year — once again we ask ourselves — "How can we stand against the fearful pressures of this world?" God is still here. Christ gave us the promise — "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20. The Bible teaches us that in order to gain this promise we must truly dedicate our every day to His service. I John 2:15-17 teaches — "Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

We wish to thank everyone for the love, thoughtfulness, good wishes and cards we received on our 60th wedding anniversary. We will treasure them in the coming days. May God bless you all. Sincerely, Sam and Esther Kraft.

Bros. Sam and Sis. Esther truly rejoice as they were privileged to have each and every one of their 68 children and grandchildren with them to celebrate this special occasion.

Hospitalized this past month have been Sis. Leona Kraft and Sis. Matilda Beyer.

Many thanks to our visiting minister, Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont).

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**KANSAS, KIOWA**  
Janice Bahr - Gay Farney

"The earth is the Lord's  
And the fulness thereof —"  
It speaks of His greatness  
It sings of His love,  
And each day at dawning  
I lift my heart high  
And raise up my eyes  
To the infinite sky . . .  
I watch the night vanish  
As a new day is born,  
And I hear the birds sing  
On the wings of the morn,  
I see the dew glisten  
In crystal-like splendor  
While God, with a touch  
Is that gentle and tender,  
Wraps up the night  
And softly tucks it away

And hangs out the sun  
To herald a new day,  
A day yet unblemished  
By what's gone before,  
A chance to begin  
And start over once more,  
And all I need do  
Is to silently pray —  
God, help me and guide me  
And go with me today.

Helen Steiner Rice

The above poem seemed to fit this brand new year we are beginning. A New Beginning, a chance to start over. What will it bring? Only our precious Savior knows. It doesn't really matter, though, because if we walk one day at a time, asking God's guidance, He will direct, guide and love us through every trial and tribulation we have to face. With this thought to sustain us, it truly can be a Happy New Year!!!

Sis. Elizabeth Diel has had a long hospital stay this month, and it is our fervent prayer that she will be out and able to be in our midst soon. Sis. Milicent Frieden was also a hospital patient, but for a much happier reason. When she comes home to Bro. Larry, Linndy and Cammi, she will be bringing a baby boy by the name of Vandy Vohn. May God richly bless the newest addition to their home. Sis. Dorothy Brown and Sis. Myrtle Rathgeler are little Vandy's great-grandmothers.

We had many blessed events this past month, but I think I'll list some of them as there would be no way to tell of them all. Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, Phoenix, was in our midst one Lord's Day and Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont, another. We are so thankful for their precious teachings from God's Word, and for Elder Bro. Sam's helping bring us the Memorandum when he came.

Our children held a Christmas party for the people in the Manor, caroled, held a Christmas program and sent a big, box of fruit to a home in Hardtner for the residents there. While watching them in all of these things, I had to marvel at their joy of giving, helping, loving and wished that all humanity could be as these little ones. It makes the verse in St. Mark 10:15 have a lot more meaning, "Verily, I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he

shall not enter into it."

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**KANSAS, LAMONT**

**Mary Isch**

We stand once more on the threshold of a New Year. How will we use the days of this year and the time God has placed in our hands?

What will you do with this year that's so new?

As we start a New Year untouched and unmarred,

Unblemished and flawless, unscratched and unscarred,

May we try to do better and accomplish much more

And be kinder and wiser than in the year gone before —

Let us wipe our slates clean and start over again,

For God gives this privilege to all sincere men

Who humbly admit they have failed many ways

But are willing to try and improve these "new days"

By asking God's help in all that they do

And counting on Him to refresh and renew

Their courage and faith when things go wrong

And the way seems dark and the road rough and long —

What will you do with this year that's so new?

The choice is yours—God leaves that to you!

Choose ye this day whom ye will serve — — —  
Joshua 24:15

Helen Steiner Rice

Turn your face, take timely warning

To Him who alone can save!

Now His loving face is shining;  
Soon comes judgement and the

grave.

Still He offers you salvation

But the time of grace is short.

Will you heed the invitation?

Come and harden not your heart.

We feel this must have been the conviction of our dear friend Maria Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy), when she turned to our Saviour in repentance. We wish her much grace in surrendering all in the service of the Lord.

We are happy to report Sis. Eva Emch is able to assemble with us again after being hospitalized as the result of a fall. Sis. Matilda Emch is a resident at the Madison Manor and is unable to attend church due to failing health. May God be near her and keep her as in the hollow of His hand.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter**

Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) was here to assist Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern) and Bro. Sam Huber in bringing the conference letter to the Bern and Sabetha congregations. May we always heed the timely warnings that have been brought unto us and strive to always be faithful. Others who have spent some time here and were willing to bring God's Word unto us were Bros. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS), Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA) and Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR).

Our Sunday School children presented the Christmas program on Dec. 19. What a joy it is to watch the radiance and joy on the faces of the little children as they tell the story of Christ's birth in song and verse.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Bertha Metzger (Bro. Phil) and Wayne Grimm (Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene) as they have spent some time in the hospital. Also Terry Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) has just returned home from having heart surgery in Kansas City.

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**KANSAS, WICHITA**

**Priscilla Frank**

As 1982 comes to a close, we say farewell to some very fond friends. George and Elsie Lambert plan to leave us and move to the Sabetha - Bern area. We will miss their presence greatly. They have been a part of the Wichita congregation all of my life, and I'm not sure church will be complete without them. They have given many serviceable years to help fulfill needs here. We thank them both for all the years spent in loving, caring, serving, teaching, preaching, but most of all the praying.

One of my fondest memories of this couple is an evening when they took several of the new converts out for dinner just to visit with us and then we

returned to their home to continue our visit. George was sharing God's Word with us and as he replaced the Bible on the table a piece of paper fell to the floor. (I hope he doesn't mind me sharing this.) On this piece of paper titled Prayer List, were all the names of the Sunday School children, both past and present to that time. Those who had been converted or passed away — their names were crossed through.

George casually bent to pick up the piece of paper and replaced it in the Bible; commenting as he did so, "Just my daily Prayer List." I know he meant it just as that. It was an every day event to him and nothing out of the ordinary. But, I'll never forget the impression that made to me. To think that the deacon of our congregation prayed for us daily, not just as a church, but as individuals, really impressed me. It is still one of my fondest memories of my conversion. Truly at that moment I realized how precious and dear are the prayers of those we love. In the year I repented there were 12 converts and I know George's prayers were involved.

Please do not stop praying for us as we will be praying for you. May you continue to spread the sunshine and joy that you have for many years. We'll miss you. We'll miss your warm loving greetings you shared with us every Sunday, and I know I can say that as a whole — for you made it an effort to greet everyone. May God bless you in your new home.

Many brothers, sisters and friends did so much for Sis. Ungela Strahm before she departed this life on November 8, 1982 after a long struggle with cancer. All but seven weeks of the last seven months were in the hospital. Her mother, Mrs. Lena Strahm, and her brother and his wife, Matt and Dorothy Strahm, wish to express their gratitude. Since words are not adequate, we pray that God will give the glory in His way and in His time.

Ungela was born December 14, 1921 near Bern, KS and died at the Wesley Medical Center, Wichita, KS. She lived in Sabetha, KS, from 1930 to 1940 in Garden City, KS and in Wichita since 1940. On October 7, 1982 she completed 40 years with the Coleman Company.

The Wichita congregation would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you all keep Christ in your Christmas and may your new year count even more for

Christ than your last. As we make up our "New Year's Resolutions," I would like to leave you with this poem to think about.

### Resolutions

Where, Lord, has the time gone —  
The time I meant to spend with you?  
Demands — some big but most quite  
small —  
Crowded you out and left me lean of  
soul.

I would bask in Your Word, I said,  
And kneel at Your feet.  
Each day in communion sweet  
That I might yield my will to Thine.

I would grow in wisdom and grace;  
I would seek out and lift and love  
The lonely, the needy, the old, the  
young —  
And plant a smile upon each tear-  
streaked face.

Noble resolutions made on bended  
knees  
With sincere desire my life to  
remold —  
Yet broken, neglected, unfulfilled at  
year's end.  
Again upon my knees, I see the  
insidious plot unfold.

Forgive me, Lord, I cry in remorse;  
I hereby renew my vows and add one  
more:  
To seek Thee first ere the cares of the  
day  
Rob me again of the joy communion  
with Thee provides.

Vena Wright

### MICHIGAN, ALTO

#### Jane Grawburg

The seasons are passing by us so swiftly now; and, we are left with a feeling of warmth in our hearts as we experience the blessings of Christmas. Our Sunday School children have enlightened us with the story of the Christ Child, in our annual Christmas program. The verses the children recited and the songs they sang were just so beautiful; and, I am sure, heart-warming to all of us.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Delila Schrenk have left again for their winter home in Zapata, TX. We wish them God's blessings during this special season, and throughout the winter months ahead.

Penny Desotel, daughter of Sis. Louise and Harold Desotel, was hospitalized this month. May our Lord watch over you now, Penny, and help you with a speedy recovery.

We offer very special love and heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bro. Phil Wingeier, who passed away while visiting here during the Thanksgiving Holiday. We certainly will miss the love and kindness that Bro. Phil shared with us each time he came to visit.

Bro. Andy Verkler, of Bay City, shared some of his time with us. We sincerely thank him for his very special labors of love.

A New Year is upon us; and with it, we wish everyone a most joyful and prosperous future, and the very richest of God's blessings.

### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

#### Linda Ramseyer

Our congregation was privileged to have ministering brothers visit us during the past month. Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit) came to share God's Word with us. We thank them for their efforts in traveling to our area.

We were sorry to hear that Sis. Winifred (Bro. Frederick) Ruegsegger was hospitalized again, but are thankful that she has been able to return home. Our prayers have been with her during her time of illness.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity . . ." I Corinthians 13:13. It is through faith that the engagement of Sis. Cindy Jackson and Bro. Lowell Schlatter has been announced. Parents of the couple are Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson and Sis. Esther Schlatter (Junction, OH).

The Lord has blessed the home of Bro. Craig and Sis. Jenny Wieland with their first child. Amanda Joy is also welcomed by her grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Lou Ann Wieland and Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel (Peoria, IL).

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always . . ." II Thessalonians 3:16. We are happy to hear that Lee (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margaret) Ruegsegger (Denver, CO) and Lorraine Faustin have found peace through our Lord and

are now looking forward to the time of their baptism.

### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

#### Rhonda Zeltwanger - Jan Schock

Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse) was here to add to our blessings on Thanksgiving Day. Other visitors have been Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha), LeRoy Messner (Winthrop) and Vernon Lehman (Eureka). Only God can add the increase, but we appreciate their loving efforts.

Amy Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) is well again and grateful for the surgery which corrected a birth defect. Bros. Dan Schmidgall and Dave Wulf were also surgical patients and both are doing well again.

Christ said, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it bears much fruit." John 12:24. Tim and Gwen Gramm wish to die to their old life and begin anew in Christ Jesus. We hope they feel our love and prayers.

#### Thank You

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the prayers, cards, gifts and kind deeds at the time of Virgil's accident and stay in the hospital. It will always be remembered. May God bless you all.

Virgil and Mildred Sauder  
and family

#### 1983 — The New Year

As a new year dawns, we stand  
before an open door.  
Looking through its arch, we see all  
things new.  
Behind us the door is closing . . .  
closing forever . . . sealed to  
everything save our memories.  
Before us lies the new . . . new fields  
of service for our God and fellow  
men . . .  
A challenge to better living we can  
manage to achieve.  
"No one," said Charles Lamb, "ever  
regarded the first of January  
with indifference.  
No year is likely to be any better  
than we try to make it . . . anyone  
of us can take a new year and  
make it worse or better."

E. Paul Hovey

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**

**Carol Ann Messner  
Mary Lou Schmidt**

January is the month Winthrop sets aside for Silver Lining dues. May we always cherish and remember the spiritual messages we gain from reading the Silver Lining.

Bro. Art Nohl and others were welcome guests on the Sunday before Christmas. We thank them for remembering us at this special season!

Star of Hope, Star of Peace,  
Beneath your rays, let hatred cease.  
Let us follow faithfully,  
Always steadfast may we be!

With your radiant, beckoning light;  
Show us how our darkest night,  
May be lighted by God's love;  
If we lift our hearts above.

Author Unknown

And when He putteth forth His  
own sheep; He goeth before them,  
and the sheep follow Him.

St. John 10:4

As we journey through life, we must learn to trust our guide. For we know we are weak and helpless, and cannot find the path ourselves. "Christ is in all the tomorrows that we will have to journey through." All we have to do is follow Jesus; as He never takes the wrong way and goes ahead of us one step at a time.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Janie Messner (Bro. John) who had surgery, Gerald Pederson (Sis. Candy) who lost three fingers in a saw accident, Bro. Walter Messner who was having difficulty breathing, and Bro. Darrel Schmidt who also had surgery. Many prayers were sent Heavenward for quick and healing recoveries; Lord willing.

We extend our congratulations to Joe Messner (Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois) and his new wife, Kim; who were married Dec. 11 in Lester, Iowa. We wish them God's blessings.

**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**

**Janice Lehman**

The Joy Of Giving  
Somehow, not only for Christmas,  
But for all the year through,  
The joy that you give others

Is the joy that comes back to you;  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to make you glad.

John Greenleaf Whittier

Our small group is growing! We welcome Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Kellenberger and their children who moved here from Washington, IL. It has been one year that we have assembled in our new building and we thank the Lord that He has provided so abundantly.

We also welcome Bro. Jerry Bahr, who has moved here from Ft. Scott, KS to continue his education in the medical field.

We thank Elder Bros. Gene Marti and Sam Anliker for sharing the conference letter with us.

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

We must live through the weary  
winter

If we would value spring  
And the woods must be cold and  
silent  
Before the robins sing.

The flowers must be buried in  
darkness,  
Before they can bud and bloom.  
And the sweetest warmest sun-  
shine,  
Comes after the storm and gloom.

So the heart, from the hardest trail,  
Gains the purest joy of all.  
And from the lips that have tasted  
sadness,  
The sweetest songs will fall.

For as peace comes after suffering,  
And love is reward of pain,  
So, after earth, comes Heaven,  
And out of our loss, the gain.

Author Unknown

"And out of our loss, the gain." How true these words apply to us here in Lamar, as we deeply feel the loss of our dear Bro. Dan Braker, who met his death when he fell from a silo in Nov. Our gain is that two dear souls have taken a step in faith, and desire to become God's precious children.

We rejoice with Jay and Sharon Braker as they have turned to God in repentance, and our prayers are

with them as they seek to work out their souls salvation. Surely they are a testimony to the fact that "Peace comes after suffering, and love is reward of pain."

Jay is the son of Sis. Cecile Braker and the late Bro. Fred Braker. Sharon is the daughter of Robert and Leta Borghardt.

In the hospital for a short stay following an accident, was Walter Cordill. He has returned home now for which we thankful.

**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**

**Becky Gudeman**

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Numbers 6:24-26.

As we dwell on the Lord's birth this Christmas Season, it brings to mind so many blessings which He, the Lord Jesus Christ, has given to us. In particular, we are thankful that Morris Braker has made his decision to live for Jesus. Morris and his wife, Janet, with their three little children, Ben, Abigail and Jessica, live at Route 1, 70 Shady Oak, Godfrey, IL 62035, and attend services here in St. Louis.

We thank Bro. Vernon Leman from Eureka for his service to us on Dec. 12. It was truly a blessing to visit with him and those who came with him.

Because of the holidays, we only had the one service this month, but in January we'll continue with the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. They are held at the Ben Franklin Motel; 4645 N. Lindbergh Blvd. For more information, contact Dan and Becky Gudeman at 314-275-2227.

**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**

**Loida Hodel**

When Winter Comes  
Now let the winds of winter howl;  
The snow heap high in drifts  
The earth is white; the skies are  
gray  
But sweet spring will come back  
someday  
Bringing her priceless gifts.

We may be snow bound for days or

weeks,  
 Shut off from all our friends,  
 Jack Frost may paint our windows  
 white  
 But the stars will still be big and  
 bright —  
 And winter always ends!

Blizzards may roar, and streams be  
 choked  
 With ice, but never mind  
 Beguile the dreary days away,  
 When winter comes with work and  
 play —  
 Spring can't be far behind!

Mrs. R. L. Peifer

It is a blessing of our time to have homes for the "elderly" as the infirmity of age takes its toll. Thanks be to God and may He richly bless all who have a part in maintaining these homes. Many acts of kindness may go by unknown but the reward will follow in a better world. Bro. Adolf Gerst, 92, of our congregation, has taken up residency at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Nursing Home and at present his wife, Emma, is visiting her granddaughter and family in Georgia. We miss this couple and wish them health and contentment in their twilight years.

Since it has been my lot to find —  
 At every parting of the road — The  
 helping hand of comrade kind — To  
 help men with my heavy load —  
 And since I have no gold to give —  
 And love alone must make amends  
 — My humble prayer is, while I live  
 — "God make me worthy of my  
 friends."

Congratulations to grandparents Bro. James and Sis. Lois Sutter on the arrival of a baby boy, Brian Wesley, born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris (Miles) Sutter on November 26. Also to Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm on the arrival of Lisa Marie, born to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry (Grimm) Stoller (Gridley, IL) on November 19.

Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb (Joos) Heimer have a new little boy, Jacob William, born December 15. Jesse will enjoy a new little brother and Bro. Al and Sis. Edie Joos and Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi (Heimer) Moser (Wapello, IA) will enjoy new grandson. May God grant wisdom and understanding to all who are privileged to be entrusted with little ones.

Our Fellowship Center was the setting on November 20 for the wedding of Tina Beard and Daniel Sutter conducted by Elder Bro. Roy Grimm. Parents of this couple are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marjorie Sutter and Mr. and Mrs. Alan Beard (Baylis, IL). May God bless this union and "May the deep and lovely meaning of the sacred vows you say — Remain a treasured memory and a light upon your way".

Helen Steiner Rice

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell's plans to leave for their winter home in Florida were delayed due to the illness of Sis Ruth's mother Sis. Marie Butikofer and a few days later Bro. William was admitted to the hospital. Both are experiencing heart problems. At this writing, Dec. 14, Sis. Marie is in Columbia, MO, hospital and Bro. William has just been dismissed from a Quincy hospital. Sis. Kathy Haab (Bro. Paul) is undergoing diagnostic procedure at Mayo Clinic. We wish God's healing power for all of these dear ones and may we remember —

"When good friends walk beside  
 us . . .

On the trails that we must keep . . .  
 Our burdens seem less heavy . . .  
 And the hills are not so steep . . .  
 The weary miles pass swiftly . . .  
 Taken in a joyous stride . . .  
 And all the world seems brighter . . .  
 When friends walk by our side."

Author Unknown

"I bring you good tidings of great  
 joy — For unto you is born a  
 Saviour" Luke 2:10-11

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas program on December 19. May we experience a spiritual warmth and closeness with one another, as we join in this worship service. May God bless our teachers and children and all who come to celebrate this most important part of the "Holiday" Season.

"Times change — but Christmas today is the same as always. It is not to be found in shape, nor in gifts, but in the heart and in giving of ourselves, which is the best "gift" of all."

Silver Lining subscriptions of

\$6.00 are due in February, 1983 for the Taylor, MO subscribers.

#### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Ed Aeschleman

Sister Anna Tschudin took a bad fall on the sidewalk and was painfully bruised. Fortunately no bones were broken and she is beginning to recover. We are thankful to God it was not more serious and hope Sis. Anna will soon be able to come to church again.

#### NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:14,15

We are thankful that the Lord has provided in His Word that we shall be supplied with those who should minister unto us, and we are thankful that those, who are called, are willing to accept the calling and serve us. It has been made known to us that Bro. Duane Farney has been called into the ministry. It is our duty and obligation to support Bro. Duane in this important work for without the love and support of the children of God, this ministry cannot be carried out. Our support and prayers will be with Bro. Duane and Sis Karen and their family, as he begins his service to us and the Lord.

We are thankful and happy to see the results of our ministry when we witness that there are loved ones willing to turn their hearts and lives over to the Lord in this latter time. Rudy Virkler gave his testimony on Saturday evening; baptismal services were carried out on Sunday, Dec. 12. We are happy to welcome him as a new brother in faith. His mother is Sis. Charlotte and his father was Bro. Clifton.

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Howard Virkler. We are glad to hear he has again returned

home. Sis. Katie Farney remains a patient in Watertown following further surgery. Our prayers go out to all those who are hospitalized or must be confined to their homes or other facilities.

#### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

**Rachel Snyder**

Several of our loved ones have had to spend time in the hospital. Sis. Minnie Taube, Sis. Pearl Colgrove, Sis. Barbra Bachman and Emma Virkler. Emma is still in the hospital.

Sis. Barbra Bachman has just celebrated her 105th birthday. The Lord has blessed her with pretty good health. She gets to church most every Sunday.

Benjie Herzig seems pretty pleased to be able to spend Christmas with his folks. Bro. Ted and Gertie are his parents. He lives in a home in Virginia near his sister.

Funeral services were held Dec. 16 for Sis. Viola Karcher. Her husband, Bro. John preceded her in death. She is survived by one son, Glen (Jamesville), a daughter, Beverly, (Watertown), three grandchildren and one step-son, Vernon, (Pittsford). Services were conducted by Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner.

#### OHIO, AKRON

**Joyce Gasser**

Beginning a New Year may cause us to reflect on the past year and be encouraged to enter the new year with more trust in God. II Cor. 4:17 states: "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory". Buffetings and storms seem to be part of a divine plan. In Daniel, the king had the 3 lads thrown in the furnace. To the king, it was destructive, but to God it was constructive. To the king, it was death, but to God it was life. To the king, it was punishment, but to God it was reward. To the king, it was annihilation of God, but to God it was the call of Babylon to accept Him. The lads came out to a place of mighty prominence higher than they had known. The way to the top was through the fire. If God leads us through a valley, it's to take us to a mountain. If He causes us to shed a tear, He wants to touch it with His

Hand Divine and change it to a pearl.

The past year we rejoiced with having 2 baptisms, 2 marriages and 3 babies were born.

We appreciated Bro. Merrill Laukhuff's message when he and his wife, Sis. Martha, spent a weekend here with Martha's sister, Sis. Esther Graf. Bro. Ellsworth has been transferred from Cleveland to the Magnolia Rest Home at Wadsworth and is improving.

Andy and Caresse Zollinger are the happy parents of a baby boy, Emmitt Carl. They have one other boy, Mason. Grandparents are Martha and Carl Zollinger, and great-grandmother is Sis. Marie Ritzman.

Harold Fritz had open-heart surgery. May he and his wife, Sis. Esther, feel the Lord's presence and healing power upon him.

#### OHIO, COLUMBUS

**Andy Hunyady**

"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

As we enter the new year, we do well to forget old failures, griefs and sins, for true repentance brings forgiveness; then, even as God does, we "shall remember them no more". What will the new year hold in store for us? Only God knows! Joy and sorrow, sunshine and storm? Rainbows are made of both.

Let us follow the teaching of the great apostle by placing emphasis upon the present and the future by pressing toward the mark for the prize of our high and heavenly calling!

We feel so undeserving of the joy and blessing enjoyed by listening to the precious words and teachings brought forth by our beloved visiting brethren. Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) and Bro. William Brake (Sardis), ministered to us. The fellowship with the many visitors of like precious faith and the dear friends uplifted us and strengthened our spirits. Our heartfelt thanks to each of you!

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address  
to Your Reporter.

#### OHIO, JUNCTION

**Les Manz**

Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto) and Loren Stoller (Latty) were present with us on Dec. 4 and 5 to share with us the conclusions of the Brotherhood Conference. As they brought to us recommendations on various topics, they central theme, "Be Faithful", seemed so appropriate.

In the hospital this month were Sis. Louise (Bro. Emmanuel) Manz and Sis. Bea Hans.

Sun., Dec. 19, Noah Sauder closed his eyes in death. Born May 29, 1904 to Amos and Mary (Matthes) Sauder, he most recently lived in the Paulding area where his daughter, Eleanor and Richard Gerber cared for his needs. Surviving are three granddaughters, Norah and Marilyn Gerber and Eileen Lewis, three great-grandchildren, and two brothers, Bro. Lewis (Bluffton) and Bro. Ora (Mansfield). Seven brothers and one sister preceded him in death.

Recently, a visitor at church commented that she would enjoy so much being a young mother in church. "The young mothers seem so happy" she observed. I think this should serve to encourage our young sisters throughout the land who no doubt occasionally become discouraged with their labors and responsibilities. However, even though you carry a cross, apparently the joy of being a soldier of the cross is radiating from your faces. It shouldn't surprise us if your lives are radiating joy, for isn't this one of the fruits of the Spirit?

#### OHIO, LATTY

**Cheryl Wenninger  
Patty Riggensch**

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. 11:28

Wendel Stoller (Glenna) has decided to lay his burdens at Jesus' feet and has begun his walk of repentance. We surely rejoice that God has given him grace to make a beginning and trust that He will continue to guide Wendel in this important step in life.

As God has promised, He has given that rest and peace to our con-

vert Sally Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Esther) and she is awaiting the time that she can share her testimony with the brethren and be baptized.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers join us this month. The brothers serving us were Art and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse), Dan Stoller (Remington), and Ben Manz (Junction). They reminded us of the importance of keeping the faith, one of our privileges.

On Dec. 12, many from our congregation traveled to Princeville to witness the marriage vows of our Bro. Leon Klopfenstein (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Katherine) to Sis. Debbie Baer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary) of Princeville. We were happy to share in Leon and Debbie's joy and we pray that it may be multiplied throughout their years together.

Several from our congregation were hospitalized in December. We continue our prayers for God's healing grace upon them. Those suffering illness were Sis. Frieda Kipfer and Sis. Dolly Laukhuf (Bro. Merrill).

As a new year is beginning, we pray that many more souls may find God's grace to commit their lives unto Him. May we all dedicate this year, 1983, and the years to follow to the Lord. Johann Rist wrote the following poem in 1642 to show his dedication:

#### This Year

And may this year to me be holy;  
Thy grace so fill my ev'ry thought  
That all my life be pure and lowly  
And truthful, as a Christian's  
ought.  
So make me while yet dwelling here  
Holy and blest from year to year.

Jesus, be with me and direct me;  
Jesus, my plans and hopes  
inspire;  
Jesus, from tempting thoughts pro-  
tect me;  
Jesus, be all my heart's desire;  
Jesus, be in my thoughts all day  
Nor suffer me to fall away.

And grant, Lord, when the year is  
over,  
That it for me in peace may close,  
In all things care for me and cover  
My head in time of fear and woes.

So may I when my years are gone  
Appear with joy before Thy throne.

#### OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

HAVE FAITH IN GOD . . .  
(Mark 11:22)

As we start a New Year, we wonder what it will hold for each of us. We must have faith to believe Jesus never sends a man ahead alone. He blazes a clear way through every thicket and woods and then softly calls, "Follow me, Let's go on together, you and I". Let's not let our faith waiver or tempt God and say, "it can't be done". I am reminded of a little five-year-old who had been listening intently to a minister who had been preaching about the Lord walking on the water. The next morning the young lad came running in from outside, feet all wet and saying, "Mom, it can't be done!" With our blessed Lord walking by our side, He will guide our lives to a glorious and blessed end. He so lovingly beckons to us one and all and says:

Come share the road with Me, My own,  
Through good and evil weather;  
Two better speed than one alone,  
So let us go together.

Come, share the road with Me, My  
own,  
You know I'll never fail you,  
And doubts and fears of the unknown  
Shall never more assail you.

Come, share the road with Me, My  
own,  
I'll share your joys and sorrows.  
And hand in hand we'll seek the throne  
And God's great glad tomorrows.

Come share the road with Me, My own,  
And where the black clouds gather,  
I'll share thy load with thee, My son,  
And we'll press on together . . .

And as we go we'll share also  
With all who travel on it  
For all who share the road with Me  
Must share with all upon it.

So make we—all one company,  
Love's golden cord our tether,  
And, come what may, we'll climb the  
way  
Together—aye, together.

John Oxenham

Our beloved friend, Marvin Beer, has answered the call and has faith to believe Jesus can lead him on this glorious heavenly path. Marvin has given His heart to the Saviour. What a beautiful way to start the New Year, trusting, believing and loving the Master. Marvin has certainly chosen the right course in His life and we rejoice with him and his parents, Bro. Rex and Sis. Marilyn Beer.

Through faith in their Lord and in each other, two souls have agreed to become one. We are pleased to report the engagement of the coming marriage of Sis. Joyce Ramsier and Bro. Milan Germaine (Detroit). Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Ramsier are Joyce's parents and Mike and Lucille Germaine are Milan's parents. We wish them much happiness and God's guidance and grace as they undertake this important step in life.

First-time parents are David and Joy Sauder. Their new son, Benjamin David, was born on November 28, 1982. The paternal grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue Sauder.

We are saddened with the passing of Noah Sauder, who died December 19. Our sympathy is extended to his daughter, Eleanor Gerber and to his brothers, Bro. Ora Sauder, and Bro. Lewis Sauder.

On December 19, the annual Christmas program was held and it is a joy to listen to the children who love to tell of Jesus's love for all mankind. If we all could have the love for our Lord like the dear children do. How our Lord must love the children as they bring their offerings of love to Him.

#### OHIO, RITTMAN

##### Florence Hartzler - Janette Blough

"Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." Psalm 25:5. Without the prayers of the congregation and even the preachers themselves, a blessing cannot be received. Therefore our prayers were with Bros. Kenneth and Delbert Indermuhle as they brought us the Word of Life. We pray the Lord will bless them and their small Sardis congregation, that they may continue this work they are called upon to do for the Lord. "Our soul waiteth for the Lord: His is our help and our shield. For our hearts shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His



holy name. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee." Psalm 33:20,21,22.

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me . . . We are so happy to report we have two new converts, and we rejoice with Luann and Mike Musser as they have given their hearts to the Lord. Luann's folks are Bill and Sis. Donna Young. . . for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, for My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30.

Love one another, for God is love . . . This love was put in the hearts of Sis. Darlene Steiner and Bro. Bryan Acker. We pray the Lord will bless them as they make their plans for the future. The parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Steiner, and Boyd and Barb Acker. Love also was shown to two dear ones, as they have recently become engaged. Robin Steiner and Michael Miller are planning a summer wedding. The parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner, and Gerald and Marguerite Miller.

Love also came down to earth in the form of little babies. Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Rufener are first-time parents with the birth of a son, Benjamin David. The grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Riggensbach, and Bro. Orin and Sis. Anna Rufeer. A little girl, Heidi Lynn, was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer. Lori, Jason and Clint are glad for a new sister. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma Ifft, Forrest. Also first-time parents are Ken and Carol Rupp with the arrival of a girl, Megan Ann. The grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer, and Kenneth and Lillian Rupp. May the Lord bless these families with their precious little souls.

The wedding of Jim Calame and Donna Nye was performed by Bro. Joe Ramsier at the Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, November 21. We pray the Lord will bless these dear ones, as they make their home together. The parents are John and Sis. Margaret Calame and the Robert Nye's (Wooster).

We are sorry to report Sis. Minnie

Hartzler fell and fractured her arm and hip. She is now recuperating at the Rittman Care Center, and has hopes of going home again in a few weeks. "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." Psalm 91:11,12. Isn't it marvelous, the Lord still can see us no matter where we go, and what may come over us. He does not forsake us or leave us ever. May he continue to heal where it is His will.

We have so much enjoyed having Sis. Cheri and Susie Zollinger with us for the past year and more, but now they are planning to go back to Phoenix to be with their family. We will long remember the lovely and blessed times we had together. May the Lord continue to be with them. "The Lord keep watch between us, the ever present Friend; No love like His so mighty, to keep and to defend. Though absent from each other, we are not far from Him; let not our courage falter, let not our faith grow dim. Though time and space may sever the Master's servants here, 'Tis only for a season, the meeting time draws near. The Lord Himself is watching, in tenderness and love; let praises meet and mingle around the throne above. The Lord keep watch between us, keep watch in tend' rest love, until our praises mingle around the throne above." Gospel Hymns No. 523.

Another year is past, and a new year is upon us. Let us treat this year, 1983, with kindness, love and patience in trying to do better than in the past. To have more faith in God, to do His will, and not always our own, to help where help is needed, to improve where improvement is necessary. In Ecclesiastes 3, we read: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven . . . He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end . . . That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past."

## OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehkla  
Mary Ann Weigele

### Take Time

Take time to think.  
It is the source of power.

Take time to play.  
It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read.  
It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray.  
It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to love and be loved.  
It is a God-given privilege.

Take time to be friendly.  
It is the road to happiness.

Take time to laugh.  
It is the music of the soul.

Take time to give.  
It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work.  
It is the price of success.

Take time to dream.  
It raises the soul to the stars.

Take time for God.  
It is life's only lasting reward.

Author Unknown

Sis. Katherine Stevens has had recent eye surgery with good results.

Sis. Julie Grant has been moved to the Sunset House infirmary as she is in need of nursing care.

We are glad to say that Bro. Ben Schlatter (Sis. Lydia), having been in the hospital, is now at home and doing well.

Sis. Emma Schick and Sis. Lois Newman (Warren) are in the hospital and have had surgery.

May God help each one in their every need.

REMINDER: Silver Lining dues of \$6.00 are due from our congregation this month.

## OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Thanksgiving is always a special time for God's children, but our

Thanksgiving week this year was especially blessed as we had many visitors here to share our fellowship. We truly enjoyed meeting and greeting dear ones from Altadena and San Diego, CA; Junction, OH; Cissna Park. Gridley and Washington, IL; Lester, IA; and Bern, Gridley, Kansas City, and Lamont, KS. Such times bring to mind the words of the beautiful hymn No. 91 in the Hymns of Zion:

"There are friendships that we cherish in our daily walk of life  
 Friends with whom we meet and labor in our earthly toil and strife,  
 Friends among the aged and youthful,  
 Friends that live from us apart  
 Friends of higher rank and station,  
 Find a place within my heart.  
 But I prize the friendship highest, Of the one whose heart is true,  
 Friends who live by truth and goodness and who live in Him anew,  
 Friends whose hearts are up in Heaven though their feet traverse this sod.  
 Find a place of highest merit in our fellowship with God."

It has been our privilege on two recent Wednesday nights, to hear the tapes of the 1982 Brotherhood Conference. There are so many good teachings for us, that you often hear it said, "Oh, I wish I could retain it all." The remainder of the tapes will be heard in January.

December 18 was the evening chosen this year for Christmas caroling. Three vans were filled with happy carolers and made six stops, bringing the love and cheer of the Christmas story to several homes and one Nursing Home. Later we were all treated to refreshments at the home of Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger.

The last Sunday night before Christmas the Sunday School their Christmas program. Nearly forty youngsters participated in the recitations, readings and songs that brought forth the beauty and meaning of that first Christmas.

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**PENNSYLVANIA,  
 PHILADELPHIA  
 Ed Aeschleman**

Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler, his wife, Sis. Virginia, and others from

Rockville were our visitors in Philadelphia on the first Sunday of December. Bro. Corbin lent himself to preach the true Word and to read and comment on the minutes of the Brotherhood Conference. Dinner was served at the church before our parting farewells.

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**WEST VIRGINIA,  
 NEW MARTINSVILLE  
 Minnie Weltz**

Miss Della L. Witschey, 86, passed away in the New Martinsville Health Care Center on November 27, 1182 following a long illness. She was preceded in death by her parents, five sisters and six brothers. She was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church and was born and reared in Limestone Ridge. Surviving are several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the Ratcliffe Funeral Home on November 30 with Kenneth Indermuhle and William Brake officiating. Interment was made in the old church cemetery on Limestone Ridge with Delbert Indermuhle officiating at the service. A group of singers from the Apostolic Church at Sardis, Ohio were in charge of the song service.

Ray Witschey of Pittsburgh, PA had a pacemaker installed on December 14 and is doing very nicely.

The carolers from the Apostolic Christian Church in Sardis, OH, visited two nursing homes and the local hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Akron, OH are spending several weeks in Bradenton, FL.

Our brother, Frank Barth, is in Zephyrhills, FL for a few weeks vacation.

Elza Ritz underwent minor surgery on December 10 to remove a piece of steel that has been in his abdomen since early July. He is doing very well at this time.

So far we are having good winter weather. There is no snow but it is cold at times.

## **Silver Threads**

"When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
 Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
 It is well, it is well with my

soul.

"And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
 The clouds be roll'd back as a scroll,  
 The trump shall resound,  
 and the Lord shall descend,  
 "Even so"—it is well with my soul.

**Sermon . . .**

(Continued from Page 28)

cross is the power of God. By that, the redeemed one day will walk in perfect communion and fellowship with the Creator of us all for an endless eternity. It's hard for us to grasp that, isn't it?

What life without time will be like is hard for us to grasp. How will it be to live in the fellowship and presence of Almighty God? That means living — surrounded by utter righteousness, utter peace of soul, without grief, without remorse, without wonder or worry. That is the blessing that God holds out to all who by faith are redeemed.

Paul says that God "will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." I Cor. 1:19. It's interesting that he talks about the prudent. We think of prudence as a worthy virtue. A prudent person would be careful about how he lived, what he did, and where he went. He would watch his relationships with other people, and guard the words that he spoke. That's being prudent.

But prudence, based on the world's wisdom and one's own understanding, will be brought by God to nothing. Regardless of whether a person is proud or prudent in his own conceits, the same destruction is going to come upon that one whose base is the world and its system. That reminds me of a Scripture passage that tells us, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 16:25.

There are many, many good people in the world. Praise God. I'm sure that the world is as good a place as it is because of those who endeavor to live uprightly. But upright living, according to this Word, is not the key to entrance into God's Heaven. That is troublesome, I'm sure.

There may even be some here today who would say, "That seems

so unfair. Such people have endeavored to follow the ten commandments all of their lives. They have been kind and loving to their wives and to their children. They have been faithful. They have carried on and they have worked hard. They have not been convicted of any wrong doing. They are good, upstanding, right-living citizens. Do you mean to tell me that God will not count that as righteousness for those who have so lived?

But "what saith the Scripture?" Rom. 4:3. What is it that God reckons as righteousness? What is it that will cover the sin and the transgression that all of us commit, no matter how rightly we might try to live? It is the faith that we have in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, and the walk in that faith.

Oh, let us be careful, dear ones, that we be not deceived by the wisdom of the world which would say that if we live righteously, God will impute that to us as an entrance into Heaven. That is getting "the cart before the horse". God does not say, "Live righteously and I will reward you."

He says, so to speak, "Let Me reward you first for your faith with My grace, with the status of being a child of God. Then I will produce in you the works that will be righteous and acceptable in My sight."

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8,9.

Oh, I'm thankful that salvation is not of works. Can you imagine what would happen if works were the means by which we attained God's salvation? Being human, wouldn't we compare ourselves with one another? Wouldn't we be prone to set up hierarchys of salvation to the absurdity that someone would say, "I have done more than that person; therefore, I am more redeemed than he is, or she is"?

Praise God for His wisdom in that He did not determine salvation that way! We, as human beings, would have played havoc with such a plan. We would have completely frustrated it by our comparisons and by our pride.

But God said, so to speak, "No; salvation is by grace through faith

for the humble, the contrite, the sincere, and the penitent." "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity" (Psalm 24:4) is the redeemed in the courts of the Lord.

Paul also said, "Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works." Eph. 2:9,10.

Though I can't quote it exactly, the Scripture goes on to imply that those good works shall be seen and shall be known in the world. By them, men everywhere shall be able to glorify God in Heaven. They shall "see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." Matt. 5:16.

There are not works which are done in an effort to become righteous before God, but works which God has brought about by the power of His Spirit within our hearts. His Spirit is placed there as His seal and His promise to all those who in humility and through repentance yield their lives in obedience to Him.

Thus we have the "cart and the horse" in proper relationship to each other.

Open up your heart and let the Saviour in, so that He can begin to work a transformation. That's what is necessary, dear ones. The Scriptures clearly teach it.

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." I Cor. 1:21. I didn't realize this teaching was right here in this first chapter of Corinthians that opened to us. We talked about that earlier.

Wouldn't it have been easier for God to move mysteriously and miraculously in the hearts of people? By His Almighty power and by His greatness and His omniscience, He would cause all to live righteously and peacefully together.

One day God will do that. But right now, because of the marvelous capability that God has created in us through our minds and the opportunity to make our own choices, because of the love which He has for us and which He wants us to return to Him, it has pleased Him not to work in that kind of miraculous way.

He desired rather, to have each of us, after hearing the Word, respond willingly to It, forsaking all else and cleaving to Him and to Him alone out of a willing and obedient spirit. That is what He wants and that is what is required if we are to have eternal fellowship with Him.

He doesn't want to force us to be obedient, loving and to do all the right things. That would not satisfy God. It would not satisfy anyone to be loved through force.

The kind of love that moves our hearts and makes us feel comfortable and secure is the love that wells up out of a willing spirit, not out of a sense of duty or a sense of responsibility.

That is the way that God deals with us. That is why preaching is necessary. That is why God is not miraculously redeeming the world in some mystical way.

God wants us to use the capabilities that He has given to us to respond in child-like faith to His invitation that says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden." Matt. 11:28. Heavy laden with the cares of life, with the frustrations, with restlessness, with boredom, with difficulties, with things we don't understand; heavy laden with many, many things that confuse us.

"Come unto Me . . . and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:29-30.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with Me." Rev. 3:20.

The record is, dear ones, that God has given us eternal life. He holds it out. The life is in His Son, Christ Jesus our Lord. Through the power of His resurrection, through His shed blood upon the cross, through His sacrifice, God has given us redemption.

"This life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5:11,12.

That is the message of the Scripture. That is "the foolishness of preaching" to them that perish. To the redeemed, it is the power of God.

FEB/82 02602 LK  
CHARLES WALDER  
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## SERMON BY BRO. LENARD MEYER OF CHICAGO, IL

Text: I Corinthians 1

In the first fifty or so years after the Lord Jesus had ascended into heaven, the early Christians suffered terrible torture. Stories are told that many of the early believers endured torture and death with smiles on their faces and praise upon their lips, considering it an honor to be counted worthy to suffer in the way for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ.

History tells us that there were rulers in those days, and others who looked on, who were amazed. They found it difficult to understand how people could rejoice while being persecuted, subjecting themselves to suffering and torture with joy. Many Christians looked steadfastly toward Heaven and said, "Lord, I am coming home."

Such experiences confounded the wise of the world in those days. They couldn't understand. They were upset that there were people who, though all manner of evil was brought upon them, could still steadfastly hope and trust in the Lord. Today's Scripture tells us that God has chosen what the world might consider base, what the world might consider simple, to confound the wise.

Those persecuted people walked in sincere and humble love and faith. They had simple traits: trust, thankfulness, humility. These are the qualities that governed the lives of the early Christians. These are the things that confounded, confused and troubled these who trusted in worldly might and power.

Here were people who were victorious people. Those who were less than victorious looked on with wonder and amazement.

Today people are still impressed by the simple things, impressed by the faithful. Often statements are

made by those who have no apparent faith about how much respect and admiration they have for someone who accepts the trials and the difficulties of life with ease and calm.

In spite of the difficulties that seem to mount up in life, faithful Christians go on without asking too many questions, without seeking revenge upon those who have hurt them, without trying to find some way to escape the difficulties and troubles of life.

There is respect and admiration, there is wonder, there is even some confusion, I think, in the minds of those who look on, because they cannot understand how people who are living so simply can be so happy. "God hath chosen the foolish (simple) things of the world to confound the wise." I Cor. 1:27.

I think it is amazing how the Spirit revealed these truths to the Apostle Paul and how he was able to utter them. At the time this was written, Paul was relatively young in the faith. I believe that not very many years had passed from the time of his conversion until he was imprisoned and wrote these letters. It was a relatively few years.

It can only be by the power of the Spirit that Paul was given insight into human nature and the profound truths that are revealed in these epistles. When we stop and think about that, it causes us, I think, to "sit up and take notice". Here is a person who was taught solely by the Spirit of God and communed, as he has said, with no other man.

Paul didn't even consult with the leaders of the church which was beginning to develop in Jerusalem. He went off by himself and in solitude was taught "by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Gal.

1:12.

Words that Paul wrote are just as timely for us today as they were for the first Christians whom he addressed. That is something that makes this Word, this Scripture, so unique among the philosophies and the writings of man. They are applicable to our lives and to our generation just as they were applicable to those who lived almost two thousand years ago.

Our experiences relate to those truths in the same way that the experiences of the early church related to them. We can be encouraged, we can be comforted, we can gain wisdom and understanding of life and eternity just as they were able to do.

If we submit ourselves to these teachings, if our attitude is right, if our approach to the Word of God is humble and sincere, confessing our weakness and ignorances, there is no limit to the knowledge and understanding that God will give to us.

Paul tells us here that the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who perish. That ought to be of concern to people everywhere. Those dear ones for whom the preaching of the Word of God is offensive ought to note that they are probably among those who will perish. That is what this means. The Word of God is going to seem foolish and boring, and lack meaning and understanding to those who are destined for an eternity separated from God.

Paul says to those who are saved, to those who have come out from the world and its system of pleasure-seeking and self-service, to those who have been rescued from that kind captivity, from that kind of prison, that the preaching of the

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