

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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WORKING OUT YOUR SOUL'S SALVATION

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle — Shioda, Japan Church

This article is being written for the purpose of assisting souls to build their house of faith solidly and firmly upon the true foundation, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Scriptures teach us, "... Work out your soul's salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12

We know that faith in Christ is extremely important in getting ready to meet God. We should believe on Him with all our heart. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

We should confess Christ by letting it be known that we are repenting and surrendering our life to Christ to become a child of God. "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God..." Luke 12:8

We should repent and be converted. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." Acts 3:19. We repent or turn back to God with our whole heart at which time God then converts us or makes us a new creature. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature..." II Corinthians 5:17.

While it is wonderful to believe on Christ, "... the devils also believe and tremble." James 2:19. We are taught

that the kind of faith that saves, results in obedience to God's Word. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me..." John 14:21.

Obedience requires self-denial. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23. The Japanese translation reads, "Let him throw himself away."

We find in Acts 19:18, "And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds." When we come to Christ, it is spiritually beneficial to confess where we have failed to someone who has been appointed to do such counselling, in privacy and in confidence. This does not mean that we keep right on living in sin or doing wrong and then just keep on confessing it. We read in Romans 6:1 and 2, "... Shall we continue in sin...? God forbid..."

It is good to make restitution where we have wronged anyone. Zacchaeus said "... if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." Luke 19:8.

Even though Christ had died for our sins and we believe on Him, God does

not forgive us for our sins unless we forgive others. "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matt. 6:15. Let us be sure to forgive others all through life. This includes not holding any grudge or bitterness, and asking others for forgiveness where it is in order, especially within our own family. To forgive does not mean that we approve of unscriptural conduct.

After we have been baptized and the Holy Spirit is dwelling in our hearts, we are to abide in Christ the rest of our lives. "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." John 15:5. To abide in Christ we should pray often, visit with God during the day as well as at regular times, and read the Bible every day.

We are not saved by works but we are to show forth good works. "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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..." Ephesians 2:8-10. Helping the unfortunate, sharing God's Word with others, assisting small churches, and helping to start congregations in new areas are examples of good work.

CORN SHIPMENTS TO HONDURAS

(Report of a trip made to Honduras, Oct. 17-22, 1982)

At the annual Apostolic Christian Church conference held August 18-20 at Princeville, Illinois, the World Relief Committee also met on August 19. At this meeting it was unanimously agreed by the committee that a trip should be planned to follow-up on corn shipments to Honduras, and I was chosen to make this trip. A total of 120 tons of corn was sent at three intervals,

March 28, May 1 and July 26, 1982. 40 tons of corn were sent to Ezequiel Martinez, Signatepeque, Camayagua; 80 tons of the corn were sent to Dr. Stephan Youngberg near San Pedro Sula. The 120 tons of corn are approximately 4,285 bushels. This corn was cleaned and put into 80# bags at Secor, IL, and identified as being contributed by the Apostolic Christian

Churches of America as a gift of charity. On this trip to Honduras, Dorothy and Jack Krantz of Morton and Virginia and Homer Blunier of Forrest accompanied my wife and I.

The country of Honduras is a small republic located in the heart of Central America. It has 112,088 sq. kilometers or is approximately the size of the state of Tennessee. The population is

3,557,000 wherein 60% of the people are illiterate and 50% of the population is 15 years of age or under. It has a high percent of illegitimacy. The annual income per capita is \$514.00. The name of the currency is Lempira, and the exchange with the U.S. dollar is two for one.

The name Honduras, means "depth", to go beyond one's depth. It has six valleys and 75% of the land area is very mountainous, being covered mostly with pine trees. The primary exports are bananas, coffee, coconuts, tobacco and mahogany timber. The two principal cities are San Pedro Sula and the capital city of Tegucigalpa, being 152 miles apart. The climate is generally hot, with the lows in the sixties at night. Ninety-one percent of the people are predominately a mixture of Spanish and Indian, six percent are Indian, two percent black and one percent are white. Two large U.S. Corporations hold approximately 5% of the agricultural land which produces 20% of the national income.

Honduras is the second poorest country in the world, next to Haiti, which is the poorest. An effort is being made to combat illiteracy; by law, education is free to all children, but is not compulsory. They have freedom of the press, daily newspapers, radio and TV, and are making progress to communicate with the people.

We left the Peoria airport on Sunday morning, October 17, at 7:15 a.m. and arrived at San Pedro Sula at 4:15 p.m. The total flying time was approximately 4½ hours, making stops in St. Louis, New Orleans, and Belise, British Honduras.

The first morning, Monday, Oct. 18, we were met at our hotel by Mrs. Verlene Youngberg, at approx. 8:30 a.m. She came into San Pedro Sula primarily to do her weekly shopping and make a telephone call to her daughter in Texas. She also intended to make reservations for us at the Gran Hotel Sula, as they did not expect us to arrive until Monday evening. The reason we arrived a day early was that flights from New Orleans to San Pedro Sula were all cancelled on Monday, due to the economy. We had already made plans on Sunday evening to rent a car for Monday, and we met a young man in the hotel lobby, not being employed, who volunteered to go with us. He spoke English and Spanish, also knew the way to Youngberg's compound.

The Youngbergs live approx. 60 miles south of San Pedro in a remote jungle region near Lake Tojoa — in a place called Pena Blanca, meaning "White Rock." Dr. Youngberg received the 1974 Guideposts Good Samaritan Award for his dedication and unselfish concern for himself. He is 62 years old and studied at the Linda University in California to be a medical doctor and his wife is a nurse. It was after a very serious illness that he and his wife prayed that God would lead them to a place where the need was greatest. After considerable prayer, they were led to Honduras in 1960 with their two sons and two daughters.

The last 15 miles from San Pedro to Youngberg's compound is over a rough gravel road having many sharp curves and hills. The entire first day was spent with the Youngbergs to observe their many activities and dreams. Dr. Youngberg's activities are as follows:

1. A medical doctor providing free services to thousands of Hondurans, who have found their way into the compound.
2. A lay minister.
3. A food processing operation designed to produce high-protein food to help reduce malnutrition.
4. Caring for approx. 80 children, many of which are left at the compound because of malnutrition.
5. Delivers babies — 4 to 6 per month. Recently a mother had twins, both were breach. He has also delivered caesarian.
6. Provides schooling and training for the children.
7. Extracts teeth, but does have a dentist help when dental care is necessary.

On Dr. Youngberg's compound we toured the food processing plant, the hospital, the children's playground, the doctor's clinic, maintenance shop, the children's quarters, the school and chapel where worship services are held weekly. The entire first morning was spent shopping with Verlene Youngberg. Her van was loaded with flour and vegetable sacks which she purchased in the open markets, a sight and smell never to be forgotten. There was hardly enough room for her six passengers.

After touring Youngberg's compound in the late afternoon, a dinner was served us in their home. After dinner, approx. twenty children were in the Youngberg's home and received

clothing from the Wing Center, health kits, skirts and blouses, school supplies, as each of us provided an extra luggage case packed for their needs. We then left the compound about 5:30 p.m., after which we enjoyed a late lunch and fellowship with the Youngbergs in our hotel.

The second morning, Tuesday, Oct. 19, after breakfast we left our hotel at 6:00 a.m. and walked eight blocks to the bus station where we departed at 6:30 a.m. for Tegucigalpa, the capital city, 152 miles to the south from San Pedro Sula. This was a four hour trip, including a refreshment stop along the way. The cost of this trip was \$8.00 round trip per person, over many hills and treacherous curves, where we could enjoy the beauty of the countryside. Honduras is a little country like Switzerland except it does not have the snow-capped mountains.

At Tegucigalpa, we met with Martha Peasley, associated with Cam-International Missionary Alliance. They had received corn from our churches in 1978. She gave me a copy of a letter sent in Oct. 1982, to the World Relief at Wheaton, IL for a plea for grain in their area. I would recommend that in

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

any future shipments of grain that this organization be considered. The capital city was interesting with its shops and narrow winding streets. We ate lunch at the Holiday Inn where we enjoyed a buffet lunch. We left Tegucigalpa at 3:30 p.m. and arrived back at our hotel at 8:00 p.m.

The third morning, Wednesday, Oct. 20, the Youngbergs joined us at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast. Afterwards we went to the park in their van where about 30 children from the orphanage were waiting for us. These children were brought into the city in a large covered truck, and sang songs in Spanish. Bro. Jack Krantz took a recording of their singing which was beautiful. Leaving the park we toured an old people's home where 10 sacks of corn were left. From there, we visited a prison having 270 prisoners — 262 men and 8 women. The warden informed us that it cost approx. 48¢ per day to feed a prisoner. Here also, Dr. Youngberg distributed the book of psalms to the prisoners in the Spanish language. These prisoners were serving sentences because of various crimes, such as murder, robbery, rape, etc.

An inspiring testimony by one of the prisoners will always be remembered. He voluntarily and eagerly told of his conversion while in prison, saying, "The other prisoners think I am crazy because I know and love Jesus. I don't know how long I will be here — maybe until the Lord comes — but it doesn't matter. My body is locked up, but my soul is free!"

From the prison we visited a government health center. Here also was a "Day Care Center" for small children who are under-nourished. These children are placed because of a medical doctor's recommendation. A mother having a child in the center must contribute one day a week helping to care for them. Five sacks of corn were also left at this center.

From the health center the Youngbergs toured us through much of the poverty areas of San Pedro Sula. The sights were unbelievable, where people lived in huts and in a low-ground area. During heavy rains, these huts would be sitting in water.

On Wednesday afternoon, I had made an appointment for 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Ezequiel Martinez. I had called him Monday evening by phone. I invited him to have lunch with us and to meet in the lobby of our hotel. After we

described each other on the phone, it was decided best that each of us carry a Bible in our hands, so we could identify each other. This worked out perfectly, and he drove 102 miles into the city to meet us. I was impressed by his work. He had received 40 tons of the corn which all was delivered to the state of Choluteca (in the southern part of Honduras.) Choluteca was declared a "Disaster Zone" by flood waters in the spring of the year. The flood left behind millions of dollars of loss, and the loss of human lives. One hundred eighteen families were left with nothing, affecting 28 towns and villages. Cattle herds and crops were gone with no possibility for planting a crop during the growing season of 1982.

On Thursday, Oct. 21, Rev. Martinez picked up an additional 300 sacks of corn from Dr. Youngberg to be further distributed to those in need in the area of the flooded villages. I received a letter from him dated Oct. 25, concerning the situation of these people, and a special thanks in their behalf for the corn they received.

On Thursday, considerable time was spent locating the American "Care" Inc. office in San Pedro Sula. The office had recently relocated which caused considerable time finding it. This is where I met with Mr. Maneleo Bardales. He would also be interested and ready to help distribute, knowing the need is great.

Thursday, the last day, was also the ladies day, where numerous gift shops were visited and purchases of Honduras souvenirs were made. A tour was taken of the world's second largest banana plantation and also the packing plant of United Fruit Co. The tour included a drive up Morazan Boulevard into residential areas and up Serpentine mountain road for a panoramic view of San Pedro.

We departed from our hotel after breakfast on Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. for the airport, leaving San Pedro at 9:25 a.m. for our flight home. We arrived home safely late Friday evening. Thanks be to God for the opportunity and many blessings given to us to see, witness, and meet people who care for the needs of others. We also are grateful for many prayers that were made in our behalf. Living in the United States, we enjoy an abundant harvest nearly every year. I believe it is good to continually share with them. I believe that the Lord does not expect

us to feed Honduras entirely, but He does expect us to do our little part. If we do, He will always bless us.

It is also my wish that future grain shipments will be made and that others also will have the opportunity to visit Honduras. Your support and future contributions will make this possible.

A letter dated Sept. 15, 1982 from Stephan and Verlene Youngberg was received by Bro. Vernon Leman expressing a special thanks for the grain received, and the distribution areas receiving this corn.

Humblly submitted,
Your least brother on the World
Relief Committee
Francis Rother

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

To all our brothers and sisters in faith:

Greetings in our dear Savior's Name, and pray the Lord's grace and blessings be with you.

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

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

The Apostolic Christian Children's Home has been operating at near capacity level for some time, thanks to the support of our many brethren and friends, and to our brothers and sisters who have willingly come to fill the staffing needs of the homes. The Home has provided Christian homes, families, and love for many children in the past, and is doing so now.

Changes in Children's Home personnel are taking place, as our brothers and sisters have fulfilled their commitments. Two new assistants, Sis. Cindy Bauer of Princeville, IL, and Sis. Bridget Mahon of Kansas City, MO have been hired to help in the homes.

There now is urgent need for a Children's Home administrator, houseparents for one home, and alternate houseparents. The qualification requirements for the administrator are:

- (1) Must be a brother, sound in faith, upholding church order and doctrine, married to a sister of like standing.
- (2) Must have the support of his home church elder.

- (3) Must demonstrate administrative ability and understand fiscal policies.
- (4) Must be able to command respect of children, as well as adults.
- (5) Desirable age between 25 and 60 years. Consideration will be given to all applicants.
- (6) Must be able to meet requirements of governing authorities, which include the requirement of a Bachelors Degree in the Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Medicine, Social Work, or related studies.
- (7) A resume is required to be sent with your request for an interview.

There is an urgent need for houseparents and alternate houseparents. The qualifications are the same, except the formal education above high school is not required. The age requirement begins at 21 (There is no maximum age limit.) All of these positions are full-time. We have a staff development program and an "on the job" training to help you carry out your duties.

Additional information concerning duties, salary, insurance and other compensation, can be obtained by writing or calling:

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219-657-5168

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Box 151
Leo, Ind. 46765
219-627-5138

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Route 2
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219-627-2923

All requests and resumes will be promptly and prayerfully answered.

"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." (Psalms 27:10). There is an ever increasing great number of children who have been forsaken, and only a small number of Christian homes available to provide for them. The Lord needs willing workers to provide for these young souls.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Life with its complexities often creates about us a tangled web, sug-

gesting that from time to time we need to project our mental selves onto a "mountain top" for a fresh viewpoint of where we have come from, where we are and in what direction we need to go. Many of you have read the framed poem which hangs in our central hallway and says so aptly what our attitude is toward our residents. For those who possibly have never read it and for those who need a reminder, it is as follows:

"A meeting was held quite far from earth
'It's time again for another birth,'
Said the Angels to the Lord above,
'This special child will need much love.'

His progress may seem very slow,
Accomplishments he may not show
And he'll require extra care
From the folks he meets way down there.

He may not run or laugh or play;
His thoughts may seem quite far away.
In many ways he won't adapt,
And he'll be known as handicapped.

So let's be careful where he's sent;
We want his life to be content.
Please, Lord, find the home who
Will do a special job for You.

They will not realize right away
The leading role they're asked to play
But with this child sent from above
Comes stronger faith and richer love.

And soon they'll know the privilege given
In caring for this gift from Heaven.
Their precious charge, so meek and mild
Is Heaven's very special child.

Author Unknown

Having re-established our perspective, we think of what Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." Our team of about one hundred staff members portrays this well. The genuine love and concern displayed by them, from high school age to retirement age, makes it possible to give a level of care that is often beyond the call of duty. The disciplined, loving care, that which is for the good of the resident, has time

and again brought its lovely fruit.

Though our team here may be considered "front line", there is a most cherished and valuable "behind-the-scenes" fortification. The many who support us with prayer, with helping hands and with financial support are a great bulwark of encouragement and help.

Jon Gilbert felt this way when he wrote:

"It's only what we give away
That makes life sweet from day to day
The word of kindness and a smile
Are things that make the day worthwhile!
For giving holds its own reward—
The joy and blessing of the Lord,
For giving is an act of love
Inspired by God in Heaven above."

Scheduled routines seem to be the order of the day for the residents here at the Home. Perhaps in this quiet season of the year, you can take time to pray with us that there be a constant re-evaluation toward the goal of improvement.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

Dec. 19, our Sunday School presented their Christmas program. The only thing different from the years ago are the beautiful faces of the children and the selfless teachers who instruct them.

The Phoenix congregation welcomed the New Year with evening services, a singing, and refreshments. On Jan. 2, visiting ministers were Bro. Marshall Heinold and Elder Bro. LeRoy Huber.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Doug Germann on the loss of his grandfather, and Bro. Paul Rumbold on the loss of a brother. Both flew back to Illinois for separate funerals.

It was nice to see Sis. Clara Zollinger able to return to church the last of Dec. Our surgical patients were Sis. Cathy Emch (wife of Bro. Jerry), and Sis. Julie Hoerr. Bro. Glenn Martin entered the hospital in Yuma.

It was our joy to host the Elder Winter conference on Jan. 12 and 13. On Jan. 11 and 13 we had the opportunity to attend evening services, and enjoy hearing the Word preached by several of the visiting Elders. Some of the Elder Bros. remained here for Sunday services, while other traveled

to Tucson and California. Many of us attended a potluck supper Sunday evening and attended services afterward.

The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather during the conference so all could enjoy their visit to Phoenix.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Sandy Bauer — Lisa Knapp

The voice that breathed o'er Eden,
 That earliest wedding day,
 The primal marriage blessing,
 It has not passed away:
 Still in the pure espousal
 Of Christian man and maid
 The Holy Three are with us,
 The threefold grace is said.

Hymns of Zion #196

Jan. 2 was a special day, as Sis. Lisa Bauer (Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria) and Bro. Jay Knapp (Bro. Loren and Sis. Evelyn) were united in holy matrimony. May God, as a third partner, bless this union of hearts.

Bro. Maynard Beery is in the hospital and we pray that God's healing power will be with him.

We are enjoying the many friends and brethren visiting our sunny climate. Among our ministering brothers this past month were Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington), Elder Bro. Eugene Bertschi (Roanoke), Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville), Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria), Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty), Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City), Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, N.Y.), Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend), Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner (Croghan, N.Y.), and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley). Our hearts and spirits were lifted as these visiting ministers proclaimed God's Holy Word.

Our annual chili supper was held on Jan. 9. Everyone who attended enjoyed the wonderful Christian fellowship.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Mary Beth Klotzle

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
 Lord I will forever and always be Thine,
 For Thou has created and purchased

me too,
 Baptized with Thy Spirit Thou makest me new."

Zion's Harp #209

This is one of the most beautiful songs we can sing together, as we rejoice with the soul who has been baptized in the Lord's name! We joyfully welcome Clarence Graf Jr. as a brother in Christ! We pray the Lord will continue to guide him to that eternal Heavenly goal.

We have been abundantly blessed with many visiting elders, each of whom we deeply appreciate. Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Bro. Rudy Graf (Akron), Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman), Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville), Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens), and Bro. Gene Bertschi (Roanoke) all shared God's Word with us. How well "a cup overflowing" describes our hearts as we were fed much encouragement, advice and comfort. God's blessings to all those who are so willing to serve us.

As I write this, our Bro. John Klotzle, Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor), Bro. Wendell Gudeman, and Bro. Joe Ramsier are en route to India. We trust the Lord will direct their ways as they visit with the believers there and take care of the many matters which are before the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India. How thankful we are to know God is with them as they journey so far away, and that He will keep them in His care. This labor of love can surely use everyone's prayers.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD
Ben Ammann

We are thankful for the visitors we had in Jan. On Jan. 2, Bill Frank and wife were with us.

On Sunday, the ninth, Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) was with us and we thank him for providing us God's Word and direction.

In the afternoon we went to Altadena to the testimony and baptism of Clarence Graf, Jr. We are all happy to have Bro. Clarence in our fold.

Elder Bros. Carl Kinsinger, Leroy Huber and Rudy Graf heard his testimony.

Sunday, the sixteenth, we were pleased to have Bro. Rudy Graf provide us God's Word. Akron, OH is the home town for many of us in Maywood and it was nice to have Bro. Rudy and wife with us.

We are pleased to hear that our Sis.

Eva Fuhrer is now in the Rittman church home. We miss you, Sis. Eva.

COLORADO, DENVER
Marlene Leman

Though the Christmas Eve blizzard is history, we all have memories of little inconveniences or kindly neighbors that will live on. The blizzard raged for 24 hours leaving about 30 inches (in Aurora) in drifts of varying sizes. Then came the calm and sunshine presenting to us pure, serene beauty. It all reminded us of life — first the turmoil and unrest then the conversion to peace and love.

Our dear friend Lee Ruegsegger has confessed having peace with God and man. He is looking forward to baptism which is planned to take place in Bay City where he was raised and his parents and family still live.

We again are witnessing the conversion of a dear soul as Kristin Leman, our daughter, is turning her life over to God. We pray that she and seeking souls everywhere will have the humility of heart that will allow the grace of God to abound in their lives.

The National Western Stock Show brought quite a number of brothers to town and to worship with us. Some even had their wives along! We appreciated each and every one of them.

Believing that God has directed and opened the way for us to have our own place of assembly, we are in the process of purchasing a church building. God willing, we will be able to be in some time in March. Anyone planning to visit, please call to check where we will be. Our phone number is 303-696-1301.

Services start at 10:30 and 12:30 on Sundays and Bible Class is held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. Call for the location of Bible Class.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Dorothy Viens

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

Before our Father's throne
 We pour our ardent prayers
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one
 Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes
 Our mutual burdens bear

And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part
It gives us inward pain
But we shall still be joined in heart
And hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion, No. 156

Bro. Brian and Sis. Jayne Webb and their children, Aaron and Seth, are leaving our congregation and moving to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Though we are saddened at the thought of parting, we know that prayer spans the many miles and we can be comforted with thoughts of our loved ones as we remember each other in prayer.

Sis. Anna Ruch was hospitalized for surgery after she fell and broke her hip. Little Beth Ann Virkler, daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy, is also hospitalized at this time. May our God, the Great Physician, heal and restore as it is His good will.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Sally Gress

We thank all the visitors who were with us over the holidays, and especially the ministering brothers who gave of themselves. They were Bros. Nathan Stoller (Bradford), Joe Stoller (Princeville), and Ed Ault (Cissna Park). One of these brothers made a particularly impressive remark. He said, "Remember, anti-Christ isn't only 'against Christ', but also 'instead of Christ.'"

We are happy to welcome back to Ft. Lauderdale two families who were former residents. They are Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Huber, and their daughter Sis. Lori from Bloomington, and Bro. John and Sis. Caroline Hejja and their children, Christina and Michael, from Remington.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Doris and Diane Rocke

We thank all those who had part in the Christmas caroling for the aged and sick. The love was felt among the young and old in visiting the needy and unfortunate.

Visitors have been coming and going over these holiday weeks. It is such a joy to meet all the brothers and sisters we have known. Among those were Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN) who ministered the word of life to us. May God reward these brothers for the kindness given.

Bro. Chris Leman has been confined to his home these past weeks and is in a very weak condition. May our prayers help him thru these enduring times and strengthen his faith to believe that God's will is done thru those he loves.

Sis. Mary Kleshenshi was called home for her father's illness. May God ever be near her and her loved one. Sis. Marie Martin will be at Beneva Pavilion home for some months. She has remarkably improved but is enduring extensive therapy.

Bro. Raymond Stockburger had hip surgery but has recovered nicely. He was confined for quite a while and we have all missed his presence at church.

Sis. Ida Graff has entered the hospital for a short time. May God ever be near them all with His love and mercy.

Our dear Bro. Elmer Jacob laid his armor down so quietly and met his maker, Thurs. morning, Jan. 13. Sis. Lou was about to awaken him after discovering he had arisen earlier to unlock the door and open the blinds, then returned to bed and slept away. Visitation was held at Toale Bros. Chapel Friday evening where a short memorial service was held by Bros. Doug Sabo and Glenn Price. His body was then flown to Cissna Park, IL for funeral services on Monday. We were all humbled by the love of God and His goodness to Bro. Elmer. Our many prayers for his concern were transferred to sympathy for Sis. Lou at this time. May He above strengthen her.

Our sympathy to Sis. Anna Rumbold and Sis. Percidia Wiegand in the loss of their husbands also. May they all be lifted by the mercy of God to bear the lonesome hours until that time when all shall be joined.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON—NORMAL Charlene Knobloch Shirley Denick

We were richly blessed this month with several visiting ministers. They were Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Jim Byrd (Roanoke), David Wiegand (Urbana), and Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont). We thank each one of them for bringing us God's Holy Word.

"Speak, Lord, in the stillness,
While I wait on Thee!
Hushed my heart to listen
In expectancy.

"Speak, O blessed Master,
In this quiet hour;
Let me see Thy face, Lord,
Feel Thy touch of power.

"For the words Thou speakest,
"They are life," indeed;
Living bread from Heaven,
Now my spirit feed!

"Speak, Thy servant heareth!
Be not silent, Lord;
Waits my soul in Thee
For the quickening word!"
Streams in the Desert

We rejoice with Tom Keely, who now is our new brother in faith. On Jan. 9 and 10 we heard his testimony and witnessed his baptism. We pray that God will grant him much grace as he begins his new journey.

Jan. 12 we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Bill Denick was elected as trustee, replacing Bro. Stan Vogel, who is retiring. Bro. Jim Kaufmann was chosen as usher.

We are thankful that two more dear souls in our congregation have turned to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with Ben and Mary Dailey, as they seek the Lord.

In 1982 our congregation had eleven baptisms, 13 new babies and one wedding.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Shirley Kieser

We were blest by the visit of ministering Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Washington), Frederick Knapp (Congerville), and Ken Knapp (Taylor), and their families. Bro. Ken and Sis. Phyllis Knapp spent the weekend with their daughter and son-in-law and family, Stuart and Kim Buckman, Andy and Brandon, who have just moved into our vicinity. We surely welcome them to our church.

We were thankful for our Elder Bro. Dave Kieser's visit and for his love and concern at our annual meeting. Those elected are: Trustees, Bro. John Endress and Bro. Marvin Knobloch; treasurer, Bro. Ray Klumpp; and usher, Bro. Richard Frank.

God's blessings are entreated as Bro. Mark Kieser and Sis. Cathy Ehnle have been led to blend their lives together. Their parents are Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha Kieser and Bea Despain.

Our prayers and best wishes also go

to Donn Ehnle and Tracy Duckworth as they announce their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle and Larry and Jean Duckworth.

A tiny baby girl, Nicole Ann, has come to bring joy to her parents, Bro. Don and Sis. Jenny Knobloch and grandparents, Bro. Louis and Sis. Vilas Belsley, (Morton) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knobloch, and great-grandparents Sis. Katherine Birkey (Morton), and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Emma Staub (Peoria).

The family of Sis. Julie Ehnle of the Peoria Home, wishes to thank all for the kind remembrances shown their mother this past year.

O, Saviour, help, and lead the way
To heaven's gates, this child, I pray.
When sorrows no more burden me,
I'll praise Thee in eternity!

Zion's Harp #164

This hymn was sung during morning services, the Sunday Bro. Louie Rumbold passed from life into eternity. It surely tells his story and hopefully ours, someday.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Ann and her family. His friendly smile and love will surely be missed by all. Sis. Ann and family wish to thank their relatives, friends, neighbors, doctors, and nurses for cards, food, flowers, memorials, phone calls and help that was given them and their loved one during his illness and at the time of his death. May God bless each one for their deeds of kindness.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

You know how they always say to "ask a busy person if you want to get something done." Well, I'm a firm believer in the possibility of becoming too busy. But I think that adage relates to a two-sentence contrast I have on our dresser: "Love will find a way. Indifference will find an excuse." If we truly love, we will make time: to be with the brethren — to visit the sick or lonely — to serve as we may be called on in the church. When Christ called us to be His own and we answered, we didn't say we would give Him any time that was left over after other pursuits. Neither should we think we have "grown" so much that our first priority in life and death and eternity can be given the indifferent excuse of "no

time".

Our ministering brothers are constantly faced with a congregation, some hungry and thirsty spiritually, some eager to criticize, some ready for a nap and some waiting for the plum to be set before them so they can accept or reject it. Thankfully, our ministering brethren, like Moses, recognize that the reaction is not to themselves but to God and His Son and their Words, given by the Spirit. But I'm sure that they, too, need our encouragement — and we can gain much by open hearts and rapt attention. The Lord's well never runs dry, whoever His speaker or listener. We rejoice that Bro. Virg Metzger (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) were willing to end the old year and begin the new with us and be spent in the challenge of preaching His Word.

We probably take too much for granted from those who hold various offices in the church. May we take this opportunity to thank Bro. Paul Leman for his service as an usher in the past three years. Surely his ready smile and firm handclasp have been a blessing to the office and will continue to witness among us. We appreciate the willingness of Bro. Miklos Bozzay to take on the usher's duties for the next few years, wishing him our support and gratitude ahead of time.

Also, over the Christmas holidays, Beth Metzger, daughter of Bro. Boyd and Sis. Lois Metzger, became engaged to Mark Blackwell, originally of Darien, CT, a senior in economics at Northwestern University. They look forward to being married within the year. "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgement . . . being filled with the fruits of righteousness . . ." Philippians 1:9, 11. We wish them all JOY.

Our prayers are still with Bro. Jim Grivet and Sis. Marie Kulyan in their recent hospitalizations and pain. Each is at home again. We find that sometimes we do not know what to pray; thus, "what Thou wilt" is such a relief to us, knowing that He is always keeping us in the flow of His will if we pray so.

Abide with us, Immanuel!
Thou prince most strong in Israel!
Our Strength and Fortress be, we
pray;
And lead us safely all the way.
Abide with us!"

Zion's Harp No. 199, verse 6
"Thanks and Prayer"

" . . . so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:20, 21. Our sympathy goes to Sis. Aranka and Bro. Miklos Bozzay and their family at the death of her father, Bro. Joseph Czebe, a minister in Hungary. Not only is the death of one dearly beloved difficult but being so far away from other family, it would seem that the grief would bear down even harder. We know that our Hungarian families especially have that extra burden. May the Lord, as He has promised, give the extra measure of peace to deal with that distance from loved ones.

The other Monday, as I monitored my reactions to the morning, I discovered a phrase, which I am afraid describes my thoughts all too well: the groan reflex. No matter what happens, groan. We can all recognize it in others so readily. My students groan if there is a test, if there's homework, if the work is too easy or too hard, about their teachers and about other students. My daughter's complaints sound about the same. If we have a job, we don't make enough, or we have to work too hard for what we do make. If we don't have a job, there's no end to groaning. And we tend to feed each other to continued groans. It's depressing, counterproductive, and we feel worse about everything. (They say the husband who sobbed on the shoulder of the guys at work, goes home to complain to his wife, who gives him an earful and shouts even louder at the kids, who, in turn, argue and tell on each other, who eventually catch the dog adding his own mournful howl to the downward spiral.) I think we need a "thankful reflex, "Lord, I thank Thee that Thou art mine, that I am Thine." Perhaps we need to be reminded of His attributes: "The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin . . ." Exodus 34:6, 7. After all, what are we really lacking? And if there is something that should be changed, maybe with His approval, we should spend our energy working towards that change rather than groaning. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be

with you all . . ." II Corinthians 13:14.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Melba Funk — Joan Waldbeser

We rejoice with Robert and Diane (Stock) Goodrum on the arrival of their first baby boy, named Aaron Robert. He was born on Dec. 30, 1982. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Kathy Stock. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Goodrum. Maternal great-grandmother is Sis. Florence Martin of Marengo.

Also a little bundle was born to Morris and Patty (Stock) Young of McKinney, TX. Lucas Daniel was born Jan. 15, 1983 and awaiting his arrival were two brothers, Nicholas and Adam. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Arlene Stock. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Young.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Frederick Knapp, Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Urbana). We greatly appreciate the efforts of these brothers in expounding the word.

Sis. Arlene Stock had a misfortune in her home and broke her ankle, which laid her up for a few weeks.

Bro. Henry Hodel was admitted to the Carle Hospital and from there taken to the Gifford Nursing Home.

We have had much sorrow at the beginning of the year.

Bro. Elmer Hari passed away Jan. 2, 1983 at the age of 79. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Anna, two sons; Eldon of Hoopeston and Dennis of Rankin; four daughters, Alberta Germann (Valparaiso, IN), Arcelia Watson (Rankin), Mrs. Greg (Thelma) Webster (Fleming, OH), Mrs. Todd (Karen) Feller (Kouts, IN); a brother Samuel of Fairbury, 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Elmer Jacob, 80, of Sarasota, FL, a former resident of Cissna Park passed away Jan. 13, 1983. He is survived by his wife Sis. Louella; one son, Wayne, of Cissna Park and 6 grandchildren. Also surviving are two brothers, Ray and Art of Cissna Park; three sisters Mrs. Ella Luecke (Woodworth), Sis. Eunice Feller (Valparaiso, IN) and Mrs. Martha Reutter (Horse-shoe Bend, AR). He was preceded in death by his first wife, Sis. Caroline Frintz, three brothers and a sister.

Also we sympathize with the Obergfel family on the loss of their brother Elmer.

The Elmer Hari family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone for their kindness shown to them at the death of their loved one, Bro. Elmer Hari. They were overwhelmed by the many cards, flowers, memorials, and love shown to them for which they are grateful. May our loving Lord richly bless each and every one.

As a reminder to the Cissna Park Congregation, Feb. is the month for dues to be paid. We thank you for being prompt.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Carol Craig — Kay Roth

Have Faith In God

Men have trusted winds to be
A god that rules upon the sea.
Directing clouds at his command
To rain upon the barren land.

Some people trust in jobs they hold,
As if its lasting strength is gold;
While others, in good health or
friends—
Believing this, too, will not end.

Yet all of these have failed at times,
Like broken cisterns — empty mines . .
Important to bring forth again
The things that we have trusted in.

But there is One who will not fail—
His grace flows from a living well.
Have faith in God — He knows our
need.
When we are weak His strength
prevails.

Samuel Butcher

We have had the privilege of listening to the Brotherhood conference tapes and have been reminded of God's faithfulness towards His children. Often the responsibilities that are ours are taken lightly as we strive to walk the narrow pathway of life. Let us keep our eyes set upon our heavenly goal.

We had much joy mixed with sadness in this past year. During the year of 1982 we witnessed two marriages and we laid one dear sister to rest. We welcomed four new babies into our growing congregation. We also have one new brother-in-faith and one new sister which we were glad to welcome into the fold. We have two converts which we also welcome. Surely we were blest in the year of 1982!

We wish to thank Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor) for bringing us God's Holy Word. It is such an inspiration to gather together to break the Bread of Life.

Bro. Roy Schrock was hospitalized shortly this month after having a chain saw accident. We welcome him back to our congregation although he has the inconvenience of crutches.

We would like to remind the Congerville congregation that March is Silver Lining collection month. The suggested donation is \$6.00. Please contact either reporter for renewals, changes or deletions. Thank you.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

He drew a circle that shut me out —
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in.

Edwin Markham

Love, of course, is the whole matter of the scripture and can be a drawing power of great strength. Love is spoken of from the beginning to the end in the Holy Word and there are repeated instructions and instances; yet so often, in so many subtle ways we fail to exercise it.

The Apostle Paul summed it up to the Galatians when he quoted the Lord (Galatians 5:14) "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Oh that souls everywhere would be rekindled in pure, Godly love, and could lay aside the many hindrances that ensnare them and impede the development of true love.

The love of God was manifest in the past few weeks in three homes especially when He blessed them with new little children.

Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller have welcomed Shayna Marie, born December 27, to their family. Ryan, Daren, Angela, Austin and Tristan complete their family. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park) and Edna Mueller (Fairbury) are the grandparents.

John Lee was born December 29 to our Laotion family, Kham xao and Thongma Chanthana. Keo, Phet and Ket display great pleasure with their new brother.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia Kellenberger have been blessed with Krysten

Renee, born January 7. Krysten has a sister, Andrea at home. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Dorothy Ginzel, and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger are the grandparents.

While love can display itself in the ability to rejoice with those who rejoice, it can also manifest itself when we can weep with those who weep, and our hearts go out to Sisters Barbara and Louise Schock in the recent death of their brother, Gottfried. Let us not forget them in their need. Louise is presently hospitalized and so it seems that their need perhaps is doubled.

Little Eric Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) also has required hospitalization for a time. We are happy to report that he is home again and is recuperating.

Sis. Rose Viellieber fell while shopping several weeks ago and has been layed up in her home.

January 19 our annual business meeting was held. At that time Bro. Richard Schock was chosen to take the responsibility of treasurer. (That office was previously filled by Bro. Dave Jepson, and we wish to express our thanks to him for his willing labor.) Also Bro. Dean Steffen was chosen to take the responsibility of trustee (That office was previously filled by Bro. Chuck Kellenberger and to him we also express our thanks.)

On January 15, a number of brethren gathered and labored together to bag 42,500 pounds of corn. The corn has been transported to Carlstadt, NJ. There it will be carried by boat to Sudan, Africa. We trust that those souls, even though unknown to us, will have, in some small way, their needs met. May the Lord bless accordingly.

Sis. Leah Kinsinger was recently transferred to Mary Margaret Manor, an intermediate care facility. It is our sincere prayer that the Lord will go with her there and put it in the hearts of those who care for her to provide her with the good care she is so deserving of.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

A summary of 1982 shows that we had four baptisms, four weddings, sixteen births and three deaths.

Sis. Clara Neukomm is a new resident in the Home. She moved here from Fairbury where she had lived for many years.

Bro. Carl Wyss of Washington visited us on a Sunday afternoon. We

thank him for coming over to serve us.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Mary Beth Kupferschmid have a new baby girl, Lisa LaNae who was born Jan. 1. She joins Brad, Rod, Shelly, Eric, Angie and Darrin in their home. Her grandmothers are Sisters Nettie Kupferschmid and Clara (Ebach) Bach of Forrest.

We have had a most unusual winter so far, just a few flurries of snow, quite moderate temperature with a lot of sunshine. This is greatly appreciated by all.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

As we are upon the threshold of a new year, we realize that God has provided us with more than our needs. If we would be led through joy or sorrow in the coming year, we trust that God will sustain us — one day at a time. As God's children, it should be our concern that the coming year be one of spiritual growth.

We appreciated the visit of Bro. Paul Gasser, Akron, on Christmas day and also Bro. Edwin Bahler, Remington, on New Year's day.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Helen Zimmerman in the death of her son, Robert Vaughan, 34. Among the survivors are his wife, Linda, and a son, Darin, Bloomington, a brother, Dennis, Forrest, and grandmother, Sis. Clara Maurer, Fairbury.

Services were held Jan. 13 for Ben Huette, 93. He had been a resident of Fairview Haven Nursing Home and is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Mark and Sis. Julie Runyon have experienced sadness at the loss of their stillborn son, Jacob Daniel, Jan. 14. He is survived by a brother, Trent. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen Walter and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Runyon and great-grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Perceda Moser, and Sis. Ruth Walter. Our sympathy and prayers are surely extended to them and all who have parted with their loved ones.

We are happy to report that little Kyle Steidinger, infant son of Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn, is home from the hospital and much improved. After being seriously ill, we are thankful that many prayers were answered as God has again restored health.

Whatever our lot may be, we gladly commit all to our Heavenly Father, who

knows what is best.

In the past year our congregation has had 15 births, five deaths, five weddings, and four baptisms.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

We thank our ministering brothers Merrill Laukhuf, (Latty, OH), Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Jim Plattner (Princeville), and Marvin Leman (Bradford), for visiting us and sharing the wonderful Word of Life with us.

Our hospital patients were Bro. Henry Kilgus, Pauline Henry, Bro. Sam Zimmerman, Bro. Edward Wenger, and Nathan Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri).

Bro. Paul Kelson, Bro. Marvin Bachtold, and Sis. Roberta Broquard have been chosen to serve in Sunday School. May God be with them as they teach our children, bringing them the truth and the way of salvation.

In the year of 1982 we had two baptisms, three deaths, and seven births.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Bev Joos

TO LOVE is TO GIVE
TO GIVE is TO SHARE

We were happy to hear of the engagement of our Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene) to Sis. Tammy Garber (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn) of Morton, IL. May their shared love deepen as it is given, and may God ever be their guide.

Our hearts are thankful for the love given and shared by these visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton), Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor) and Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha).

"For unto you is born this day..." St. Luke 2:11. These precious words are even more meaningful to Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber whose baby son, Brock Austin, was born on Christmas Day. Delighted with this special Christmas gift were Stacie, Chad, Ali and Blake. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm and Mrs. Ray (Berdina) Gerber of Eureka.

The first Wednesday evening service of each month (January through June) will be set aside for an adult Bible class. Everyone is most welcome to attend. The pamphlet entitled

"Statement of Faith" will be discussed in detail.

The family of Bro. John Reuben Streit wishes to sincerely thank everyone for the special visits at home and at the hospital during his illness. Also deeply appreciated were the many prayers and many thoughtful deeds of kindness shown them during their bereavement.

On January 11, our congregation was deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our dear Bro. Henry Wiegand. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Persida; his two sons, Bro. Gary of Danvers, and Bro. Gale of Carlock; his two daughters Sis. Carol (Bro. Dennis) Martin of Eureka and Connie Zacha of Mahomet; his brother, Bro. Simon of Deer Creek; and three sisters, Sis. Marian, Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Ira) Rokey, and Sis. Ruth (Bro. John) Rokey all of Goodfield. May God bless them and enfold them in His arms of comfort.

"Those we hold most dear never truly leave us . . . they live on in the kindness they showed, the comfort they shared and the love they brought into our lives."

Isabel Norton

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

Our congregation feels a sense of loss with the departure from this life of four dear ones who have gone on to their eternal rest. Those who remain still feel the sadness and the ache of separation, but they can smile through their tears as they think of the joy of heaven and how precious in the Lord's sight are the deaths of His saints.

Sis. Betty Schmidtgal passed away Dec. 19 at the age of 57, after a lingering illness. Although we miss her, we have to be thankful for her that God could see fit to take her home "where palms of peace abounding are gently cooling her, hot from strife. O'ercome now are all pains of pilgrim life . . ." (Zion's Harp 170). Surviving are her husband, Bro. Harold; her sons, Bro. William of Morton (Washington Church), Ronald and James, both of Lexington; her daughters, Mary Hudson of Trivoli, Linda Krug of Gridley, and Barbara Harris of El Paso; her brothers, William Frank of Aurora and Benjamin and Robert Frank both of Morton; Gertrude Richart of Pasa-

dena, CA and Lillian McMillan of Castro Valley, CA and 14 grandchildren.

The family of Sis. Betty Schmidtgal wishes to thank everyone for their deeds of kindness and prayers during the illness and passing of their loved one. May God bless you all.

Sis. Matilda Stortz, 92, died Dec. 24. We always appreciated her kind greeting and friendliness and are glad the Lord gave her 92 years to live among us. Surviving are a son, Chester (Gridley); a daughter, Velma Schwenk (Morton); three sisters, Sis. Ollie Gramm and Sis. Esther Yergler (Bluffton, IN); six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The family of Sis. Matilda Stortz wishes to thank everyone for their expressions of love and sympathy over the death of their loved one. May God bless you all.

Chester A. Hany, 68, passed away Dec. 30. We rejoice that in the final days of his life, God granted him the grace to repent and make preparation for his soul's eternal welfare. While we still have life and breath we are thankful that God will accept us even in the sunset hours if we will humble ourselves and seek Him with all our heart.

Surviving are his wife, Viola; his daughters, Sis. Lila Schlipf, Joyce Hendren and Doris Maurer, all of Gridley; his sons, John, Bloomington, and Gary, at home; four brothers, Clarence, Elkhart, IN, Arthur, Chillicothe, Loren, Gridley, and Elmer, Lexington; and 10 grandchildren.

Bro. Silas Kiefer, 77, was laid to rest Jan. 5 after his death Jan. 3. The suddenness of his passing reminds us all to see that we, too, remain faithful unto death, and for the crown of life be striving. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Adella; his sons, Bro. Richard of Gridley, and Bro. Robert of Wapella, Iowa (Oakville); two brothers, Bro. Albert of Peoria and Bro. Eli of Gridley; and a sister, Sis. Matilda Alt of Gridley; and eight grandchildren.

Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge Meiss announced the engagement of their daughter, Peggy to Jeffrey Stoller, son of Arthur Stoller and Ruth Wiggins.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Joann Roecker

A dear granddaughter, after saying farewell to her grandfather, sat and wrote these lines to be dedicated to him. We thank Sis. Barbara Schwind

for sharing with us.

Grandpa

Grandpa, dear Grandpa was 80 years old.

Oh, we prayed for him to enter the Good Shepherd's fold
Time was passing so quickly each day and each year.
Will Grandpa choose the Saviour while the day of grace is here?

Our family anticipated December with great joy
To celebrate the first Christmas with our little boy.
But in mid-December we learned the news,
Grandpa had a stroke and was at times so confused.

"Dear Lord", how we prayed, "Please save Grandpa's soul
Heal him physically but most of all make him spiritually whole."
Brethren joined us in prayer for our Grandpa so dear,
For the Lord to touch his heart during times his mind was clear.

Our faithful elder brother came to talk and to pray
Grandma, ministers, and family urged him to choose the narrow way.
On the 29th of December, Grandpa answered the gospel call
To his Lord and Saviour, Grandpa surrendered his all.

On New Year's Eve unexpectedly the Lord called Grandpa home.
From Grandma's arms to Jesus' arms, on earth he'll no more roam.
But Lord, forever we'll praise Thee for thy grace and saving power.
Thou loved Grandpa enough to save him, even in the eleventh hour.

Dear brothers and sisters keep praying for those whom you love so much
By the grace of God someday, they'll too, respond to the Master's touch.
For the Lord has shown my family just how much He loves and cares
Our loved-one lives in glory, the answer to our prayers.

The family of Bro. George Strunk wished to thank all those who in kind words and deeds helped to ease the sorrow in the loss of their loved-one.

We take this time to extend our

sympathy to this family and pray the Father will comfort them. Bro. George's funeral was Jan. 3.

Bro. Robert Byrd was called Home after a lengthy illness. His funeral was Jan. 8. Our love and prayers are with his wife Sis. Marilyn and his children and family. May our Heavenly Father draw close to them at this time.

Our heart-felt sympathy is also with the Rumbold family upon the passing of their brother, Bro. Louie Rumbold, Bradford, IL. May the Lord comfort and bless his family and friends.

Eva Grieder was called Home. Her funeral was Jan. 8. May God comfort and sustain her family at this time.

We wish to extend our heart-felt sympathy to the Frank family at the passing of their sister, Sis. Betty Schmidgall of Gridley, IL and to the Streit family at the loss of their brother, Bro. Reuben Streit of Goodfield, IL. May the Lord comfort and bless both families at this time.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer welcome into their hearts and home their second child, Caleb Joseph. Caleb was born Dec. 29. Luke is excited about his baby brother. Happy grandparents are Joe and Linda Powley and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alice Schafer.

With a joyful heart we are happy to bring forth the announcement of the forth-coming marriage of three dear couples. Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Tammy Garber (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn) have our love and prayers as they prepare to become as one in the Lord.

We want to wish Bro. Tim Pflederer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Eleanor) and Sis. Georgia Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha) God's richest blessings as the Lord has directed them to make this walk together.

Our love and prayers are also with Bro. Tom Schafer (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alice) and Sis. Carla Knobloch (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marvel) as they prepare to enter into holy matrimony.

Sis. Brenda Kaufman (Clifford and Lola) and Bro. Alan Kaiser (Bro. Harry and Sis. Laverne) were married on Jan. 2. We wish them God's richest blessings as they will walk life's pathway together.

The Stortz family has our sympathy and prayers at the passing of Sis. Matilda Stortz of Gridley, IL.

Being ever watchful and mindful of those who are confined to beds either

at home, in the hospitals or nursing homes, we continue to be prayerful, holding these dear ones up daily in our prayers.

Bro. Rudy and Sis. Lavina Kilgus have asked us to thank all who have remembered them with prayers, visits, cards and gifts of love. Your thoughtfulness will not be forgotten. May our Heavenly Father bless all who were so kind.

We extend our love and thankfulness to Bro. Greg Rassi of Chicago, IL for coming and ministering God's holy Word unto us. May God richly bless him for his labors of love. We are always so grateful for our visiting ministers.

The general information for the year of 1982 is as follows:

One wedding, eleven baptisms, seven births, and fourteen funerals.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Margo Marx — Susi Herman

So far the Lord has blessed us with very mild winter weather for which we are very grateful.

We give our thanks to Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville) for joining us on Christmas Day. We also thank other visiting Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Fred Knapp (Congerville), and Hartzell Kaisner (Washington). It was such a blessed privilege to hear the inspiring messages these brothers brought us from the Scriptures.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzler were blessed with their fourth child. Little Benjamin David was welcomed home by older brothers: Jeff, John and Matt. The happy grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Lorraine Herman (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Dorothy Ginzler (Eureka).

This special "Thank you" note comes from Barbara Herman: "My sincere thanks to everyone for their kindness, many cards, and memorials in the loss of my sister, Mrs. Harold Schmidgall. Also I wish to thank all those who sent gifts of prayer, flowers, cards, food, and visits in my recent surgery and hospital stay." Our sympathy goes to Bro. Harold and Barbara in the loss of their loved one.

Many prayers have been with our dear Bro. Ken Sauder, Sis. Mary Lou Bowald and Sis. Eunice Unsicker who have been hospitalized this month.

Our annual Christmas program was held on Dec. 19. We thank all the

children and teachers for this special treat. May God bless them for all their efforts. Their efforts mean more to us parents and grandparents each year.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

The very highest honor that can ever come to any individual is to be a member of God's family. Visiting ministers who told us about becoming a part of this family have been Bros. Charles Hemmer of Peoria and Roy Ehle of Bradford.

Our newest sister in faith is Sis. Denise Martin, daughter of Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther Martin. She gave testimony on Sunday morning, Dec. 19, and was baptised that afternoon.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was Sunday evening, Dec. 19. We received many blessings when our Sunday School students told us about the birth of Jesus.

Daniel Gary Herr was born on Jan. 2 to Sis. Cindy and Bro. Gary Herr. Angela and Lisa welcome him to their family. Grandparents are Elmer and Marjorie Herr of the Gridley, KS area and Otto and Eleanor Baer of our congregation.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Cindy Herr and their young family plan to move to Gridley, IL the end of January. We wish them God's blessings in their new home. We will miss them in Princeville.

Elsie Mueller was a hospital patient and is recovering at home after foot surgery.

Our sympathy is given to the family of Bro. Louie Rumbold of Bradford who passed away on Jan. 2. We especially remember his children from our congregation — Bro. Bob and Sis. Marge Rumbold and Raymond and Joan Rumbold.

At our annual business meeting on Jan. 5, the following were given duties:

Bro. Bob Wieland was chosen as a new Sunday School teacher to replace Bro. Jim Plattner. Bro. Dave Ehle was chosen as a trustee to replace Bro. Ed Knobloch, Jr., Bro. Bob Rumbold was added to our usher list, and Sis. Shirley Leuthold will replace Sis. Caroline Joss on the food committee.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy

mother:

For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."

Proverbs 1:8,9

That is what Bro. Randy and Sis. Lucy Koehler will seek to teach their twin boys as they grow up. Ricky Dale and Ryan David were born Dec. 19 — a gift from God at Christmas time. Bev and Richard Koehler and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margaret Hodel are the grandparents.

Russell and Joan Leman were also blessed with a son. Matthew John was born Jan. 13 and his grandparents are Don and Sis. Pearl Leman and the John Kaeb.

We rejoice to have two new lambs in the flock at Roanoke. They are Sis. Janel Leman (Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel) and Sis. Donna Pfister (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila). May their lives reflect the love of God and the truth of His Word.

Our Sis. Rose Barth went to her eternal home on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. She is the mother of Bro. Morris Barth and Sis. Marge Plattner of our congregation. We will miss her sweet smile and gentle way.

We extend our thanks to Bro. Art Bauer and Bro. Edwin Ringger for sharing the Word of God with us and for helping our Elder Bro. Don carry out his duties.

We are grateful for the recovery of our Sis. Michaleen Braker who was critically ill — God's mercy is boundless! Sis. Pam Isaia was also in the hospital, but is home again, gaining strength daily. Others hospitalized from our congregation were Sis. Marie Aeschleman and Fred Fischer. We extend our prayers to them.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Dorothy Wagenbach
Carolyn Bolliger**

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville), who ministered to us Christmas day. We thank them for their labor of love and hope they will visit again soon.

Bro. Alvin Beutel had surgery on his ankle. Although he is on crutches, he is up and about. Sis. Carol Koch (Bro. Dan) was hospitalized a few days with bronchial pneumonia. She is at home recuperating at the present time.

Bro. Will Beutel had to return to the

hospital again after being home a few days. He had to have corrective surgery on his hip that was previously operated on. We hope God can give him the grace and patience to bear his lot.

Duane and Cynthia Miller are the happy parents of Thomas Edward born on Dec. 17. Helping take care of him are Sarah, Joe and Catherine. Grandparents are Ed and Doris Miller and Mr. and Mrs. James Bernier.

Bob and Judy Mooney welcomed David James into their family on Jan. 8. Helping take care of their new little brother are Robbie and Joey. Grandparents are Sis. Lila Moser and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Mooney Sr. of Henry, IL.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynnette Menold are the happy parents of Daniel Joseph born on Jan. 11. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Vera Aberle and Bro. Joe and Sis. Tillie Menold of Sabetha, KS.

ILLINOIS, URBANA

Cheryl Joos

"The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works."

Psalm 104:31

Our congregation has been very blessed already this year, and we rejoice with the Lord in His works. "Lo children are an heritage of the Lord..." Psalm 127:3. God has blessed Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce Fischer with another bundle of joy. Caleb Benjamin was born on Dec. 27 and was welcomed home by his brother Seth. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Dorothy Fischer and Bro. Richard and Sis. Lyla Schock, Elgin.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." St. Matt. 6:33. On Dec. 26 the engagement of Sis. Georgia Wiegand, daughter of Bro. Albert and Sis. Martha, (Oakville), and Bro. Tim Pflederer, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Eleanor (Morton), was announced.

We are also very thankful that Caleb Fischer, son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce, is home after being hospitalized with pneumonia.

Along with rejoicing comes sorrow, too. We wish to extend our love and sympathy to Connie Zacka for the loss of her father, Bro. Henry Wiegand (Goodfield).

Elder Bro. Bob Grimm came and

shared God's Word with us this month and we appreciate his labor of love.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Lily Schick

We have such a precious heritage in our Apostolic Christian church; something to really cherish! Here in Washington we are listening to the tapes of the General Conference on Wednesday evenings. It's a blessing to hear our dear elder brothers express their love and concern for the flock, and their desire to help us stay on the straight and narrow way. Each of us must do our part as well to uphold the faith of our fathers and to live according to His Holy Word.

When we walk thus down life's pathway, the Lord showers His blessings upon us. One of them is the fellowship of the saints. We can go to any of our churches across the land, and even the oceans, and find a like-minded faith in God! Then to converse spiritually with His children gives us an increased feeling of His presence in our lives! We can share and express our concerns, faults, joys, griefs, or experiences which have helped us grow in the Lord. So often it encourages, guides, or admonishes one or the other. If it draws us closer to Him, we have been edified! Truly we need each other as we journey toward Zion, "Heart With Heart In Love United." Zion's Harp #33. The Fellowship of the Saints.

Our congregation was blessed again with two visiting ministers, Bros. Chuck Sauder from Tremont and Walt Anliker, Eureka, who lent themselves to the Lord's service. May our Heavenly Father be their rich Rewarder!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Linda Kipfer - Jan Ringger

One Church is Two
Two Churches are One

Our church has prospered
Throughout the years,
Joys have been many
Along with some tears.

The peace we enjoy
In our brotherhood,
Is given from God,
And it is so good.

Our love and concern
Each for the other,
Reaches to each friend,

Sister and brother.

We give God all praise
For this precious love,
It's not of ourselves,
It comes from Above.

The Gospel is preached,
The good seed is sown,
And it has been blest
For our church has grown.

It has come to this;
We need to divide
And start a new church.
The Lord is our guide.

We love each other
We are glad to say,
And it's hard to part
And go separate ways.

But our Jesus left
To go His blest way,
Leaving His loved ones
On this earth that day.

So He understands
And He knows each heart,
And He will help us
As we now must part.

Unity and love
Prevailed in the past.
We now become two;
May this oneness last.

Yes, we're divided
But our path is the same,
Our worship is still
In His holy name.

Our church becomes two,
Two churches are one.
We all love our God
Who gave us His Son.

Sis. Eunice Fiechter

The above poem so adequately expresses our feelings, as on Thanksgiving Day, our congregation assembled in two separate facilities. We trust God will bless each church with continued growth and unity as we serve Him.

Relatives and friends of Bro. Bill and Sis. Elizabeth Pfister shared in celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on November 27. They are the parents of Bro. Tom, Bro. Ted, Sis. Julia (Gerber) and Sis. Mary Jo (Gerber) and grandparents of 18 grandchildren and 6 great-

grandchildren.

Those hospitalized this month were Bro. Harold Geisel, Bro. Herman Steffen, Matthew Bertsch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy), Bro. Tom Pfister and Sis. Frieda Kipfer.

We were blessed with the presence of ministering Bro. Chuck Hemmer and his wife, Sis. Miriam of Peoria on January 16. He shared with us the uplifting and encouraging teachings of the book of Philippians.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Jacki Huber

My Daily Prayer

If I can do some good today,
If I can serve along life's way
If I can something helpful say,
Lord, show me how.

If I can right a human wrong,
If I can help to make one strong,
If I can cheer with smile or song,
Lord, show me how.

If I can aid one in distress,
If I can make a burden less,
If I can spread more happiness,
Lord, show me how.

Grenville Kleiser

With so many downcast souls in the world, the fields are surely "ripe and ready for harvest" by those of us who have the peace, contentment and love of God.

We miss our dear brother, Sam Kilgus, as he was recently hospitalized. We're happy to report that he is back at his home. (Parkview Haven Retirement Home)

We've also missed Sis. Elsie Yaggie as she has been confined to her home due to a fall. "May God be near and bless you" is our prayer for each of our dear ones who are experiencing setbacks.

We had some happy news this month. The engagement of Bro. Todd Erb (Don and Millie) to Sis. Marylyn Pattee was announced. A February 13 wedding is being planned.

The annual New Year's Eve service and program was held here again this year. Ministering to us were Bros. Lester Huber of Lexington, KY and Bro. Akito Inoue of Japan. Bro. Akito was also

with us on a Sunday. We thank each Bro. who takes the time to visit us and meditate on God's Word.

We miss our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman as he is in India at this time, along with other brethren. We pray that they will enjoy a fruitful stay and return to their homes safely!

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Klopfenstein - Judy Dubach

The Lord's answers to prayer are infinitely perfect and they show that often when we are asking for a stone that "looked like bread", He was giving us bread that to our short-sightedness "looked like stone".

We, here at Indianapolis, have had a blessed beginning to 1983 as the Lord has led two couples together to start their Christian homes here. Sis. Marylyn Pattee has announced her engagement to Bro. Todd Erb. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Erb of Francesville. Sis. Lynn Klopfenstein has announced her engagement to Bro. Dennis Winslow. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Bill and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein of Leo, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Winslow of Indianapolis. We wish both couples God's richest blessings in their lives together.

Bro. Troy Reimschisel of Bluffton is here for a few months as a student. We're always grateful for all the students who come here to learn. Although their time with us is often too short, their presence is always a joy. Again, beloved Bros. from different churches have lent themselves to us. This month, Bros. Jack Bollier (Leo), Ed Alt (Cissna Park) and Elder Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) all visited us. We thank them sincerely.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

LuAnn Feller - Connie Knobloch

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Gen. 2:18. Bro. Bob Feller and Sis. Marcia Furrer of Wolcott have announced their betrothal. Bro. Bob is the son of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller, and Sis. Marcia is the daughter of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Janet Furrer. They are planning a May 15 wedding.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Alfred Bahler and Gene

Lehman (Wolcott), Art Ringger (Indianapolis), Jesse Beer (Milford) and Bill Schlatter (Junction). We are so thankful for these brothers, and for their words of truth.

Two new brothers were added to the congregation. We heard the testimonies of Todd and Mike Betts on January 8 and rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Vic and Sis. Sheryl Heinold.

We extend our very sincere sympathy to the family of deceased Bro. Elmer Hari of Cissna Park, IL. He is the father of our Sis. Karen Feller (Bro. Todd).

I ran across a set of "rules" written by Dale Carnegie. It interested me because of the close way it ties in to Phil. 4:8: "Whatsoever things are true whatsoever things are honest . . . if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

How To Cultivate A Mental Attitude That Will Bring You Peace And Happiness

1. Let's fill our minds with thoughts of peace, courage, health and hope, for "our life is what our thoughts make it."
2. Let's never try to get even with our enemies, because if we do we will hurt ourselves far more than we hurt them.
3. A. Instead of worrying about ingratitude, let's expect it. Let's remember that Jesus healed ten lepers in one day — and only one thanked Him. Why should we expect more gratitude than Jesus got?
B. Let's remember that the only way to find happiness is not to expect gratitude — but to give for the joy of giving.
C. Let's remember that gratitude is a "cultivated" trait; so if we want our children to be grateful, we must train them to be grateful.
4. Count your blessings — not your troubles!
5. Let's forget our own unhappiness or discontent — by trying to create a little happiness for others. "When you are good to others, you are best to yourself."

Give Your Address Change
to Your Reporter

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter Marjorie Frautschi

A motto which hung in our home many years called "Rules For Today" said:

Do nothing that you would not like to be doing WHEN JESUS COMES.

Go to no place where you would not like to be found WHEN JESUS COMES.

Say nothing that you would not like to be saying WHEN JESUS COMES.

A paragraph by J. Wilbur Chapman is in a similar train of thought. "The rule that governs my life is this: Anything that dims my vision of Christ, or takes away my taste for Bible Study, or cramps my prayer life, or makes Christian work difficult, is wrong for me, and I must, as a Christian, turn away from it. This simple rule may help you find a safe road for your feet along life's road."

The establishment of new Christian homes is joyous news. Sis. Jane Weiss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Weiss, (Bay City MI,) and Bro. Steve Steiglitz, son of Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emmajean Stieglitz, were married on Jan. 23 with Bros. Roy Weiland and David Bertsch officiating.

Sis. Lynn Klopfenstein, daughter of Bro. Wm. and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein, and Bro. Dennis Winslow, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Winslow, (Indianapolis), were married Jan. 30. Bros. Edwin Ringger, (Gridley, IL) and John Isch, (Indianapolis), conducted the marriage ceremony.

Little Carrie Lyn, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Janet Hartman, was ill necessitating a short hospital stay.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. David Bertsch and family in the death of his mother, Sis. Bina Bertsch (Roanoke, IL). "For as peace comes after suffering, and love is reward for pain, So after earth comes heaven, and out of our loss the gain!" (from a poem by Maurie G. Clay)

Appreciation is expressed to visiting ministers, Bros. Willis Ehnle, missionary to Japan, Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Philip Stettner (Bluffton), Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Roy Weiland (Bay City) and John Isch (Indianapolis).

Thoughts to ponder:

"Some say you should only live your Christianity and not talk about it. If the apostles had done that, where would

we be today?

If your Christianity is worth having, it is worth sharing. When have you last shared it?

If my cup is full and running over, people ought to get splashed when they run into me."

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marcy Haab - Gwen Steffen

Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) ministered to our congregation Dec. 26. We are thankful for the Word of God as he shared it with us.

The light of God surrounds me.
The love of God enfolds me.
The power of God protects me.
The presence of God watches
over me.

Wherever I am, God is.

Lisa Kaiser (Bro. Dick and Sis. Clara) and Sis. Shelby (Bro. Nelson) Beer were hospital patients.

Lynn and Teresa Hively are the pleased parents of Jessica May. She is also welcomed home by two sisters, Rachael and Jennifer. Bro. Levi and Sis. Kathryn Beer are grandparents.

Marriage: . . . trust is the start of it, joy is part of it, and love is the heart of it. Bro. Phillip and Sis. Millie Beer announce the engagement of two of their children. Peg will be wed in April to Dr. Dustavo Romero. Ronda Black will be the bride of John Beer. John and Ronda are planning a fall wedding.

"It is finished, it is finished."

My salvation full and free.

Jesus paid the debt of sinners

When He died on Calvary.

Ellis Carnett

Tony and Esther Hoover have the inner peace and joy that only a redeemed sinner can feel. They await baptism.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. Bro. Phil Price will serve as trustee. Bros. Nelson Beer, Bob Cockburn and Dan Beer will be Sunday School teachers. Bro. Rich Stoller and Bro. Fred Beer are responsible for brotherhood aid.

Love . . . it matters not that you are called to serve the rich or the poor — it is the love you put into the doing.

Mother Theresa

The Lord, while He was among us, told us how He would know His true followers. In Matthew 25:34-46 we learn that those who have the Father's blessings will feed the hungry, give the thirsty drink, take the stranger into their homes, clothe the naked, help the ill, and visit those in prison. Jesus assures us that anything we do for one of His brothers, however humble, we do for Him.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta writes: There is plenty for all of us to do . . . I do think that if people were to see, really see when they look, many things could happen. Very often we don't take notice of the people suffering near us . . . and yet, consider the family I recently gave rice to after I heard they hadn't eaten for a long time. After I gave her the rice, the mother quietly divided the rice into two portions, and left the house. When she returned, I asked her where she had gone. "To my neighbors," she answered, "with half the rice. Like me, they also are starving."

What an example of Christ-like love!

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Annette Bahler - Beth Virkler

GOD MADE US STEWARDS OF OUR TIME

God has given each of us time as a very useful item in life. In fact, it is a part of life itself here on earth. We will give account to God as to what we did, and allowed ourselves to become, in the time He gave us, whether short or long. Never do we know in life how much more time we have.

We can use time to do mischief or to do noble deeds. We can idle our time away or make it very useful in great endeavor. We can sell our time to an employer. We can donate our time to the Lord in some great cause of His. We can use our time in seeking pleasure of various kinds. We can use it in seeking more holiness of heart.

The greatest use of time is in seeking the fulness of God in our hearts; in talking with our great Creator God, ruler of the universe; and in influencing history, people, nations and the eternal destiny of

souls.

There is coming a time when time will be no more. Time spent "outside of Christ" is wasted. Time spent diligently "in Christ" as Lord and Saviour is filled with awesome potential. Let us spend all our time in a way that will enable us to enjoy the fruit of it with Christ forever.

Watson Goodman

Our annual church meeting was held this month in which several Sunday School positions were filled. Sis. Benita Bahler will be teaching the younger children and Bro. Stan Virkler will be teaching the Bible class. This lays a serious challenge upon our teacher's hearts on the value of time. The weekly hour that they spend with our precious children will affect the destiny of their souls. They truly need the continual prayers of the congregation.

Bro. Virgil Metzger (Champaign) was with us on December 26 and ministered the Word of God.

Bro. Sam Kilgus (residing at Parkview Haven) suffered a major stroke and was transferred to the nursing section. We miss him at our monthly services where he took an active part and always had a few words of encouragement for us all. Art Nussbaum is currently in the hospital recovering from a heart attack.

"To run a few steps will not get a man heated, but walking for an hour may; so though a sudden occasional thought of heaven will not raise our affections to any spiritual heat, yet meditation can continue our thoughts and lengthen our walk, till our hearts grow warmer.

Baxter

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Nancy and Karen Lehman

"The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.

All the ways of a man are clean in His own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.

Commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established." Proverbs 16:1-3

With willing hearts we received the memorandum read to us by

Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Jesse Beer (Milford). We thank them for their efforts of kindness.

A very enjoyable evening was spent with Bro. Ernest and Sis. Marie Germann as they celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary. They are an inspiration to all of us.

Ila June, a precious baby girl, was born December 23 to Bro. Marty and Sis. LaVilla Langhoffer.

Ministers this month were Bros. Dale Strassheim (Milford), Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Carl Westfall (Francesville). Their willingness to give of themselves to us is appreciated.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Claudia Thomas - Mary Huber

We, at Valparaiso, were very blessed to have visiting brothers with us this past month. We had Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville).

It is also our privilege to announce that Conrad and Donna Paarlberg and Wayne and Judy Paarlberg expressed their heartfelt desire to become a complete part of our fellowship. We look forward to the days ahead when they join the flock.

We also have the blessing of announcing the engagement of Bro. Dean Feller, son of Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller (LaCrosse) to Sis. Wendy Miller, daughter of Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev Miller (Valparaiso). We will be praying for them as their special day approaches.

Often we see a beautiful bride preparing for her day and putting much thought and love into her special marriage. Then the day comes for her to walk down the aisle to meet her groom who waits patiently for his loved one. We can't help but stop and think of all the preparation that went for this day and for this one special person and occasion. All their preparation could never prepare them for the joy of this great day until it comes to pass. May we also be as that beautiful bride preparing thoughtfully and keeping our eyes on the groom as we walk down the narrow aisle to our home in heaven. We, too, will not

know such joy, until it comes to pass.

**INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

Debbie Anliker

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

Our first service of the semester was January 13. We were thankful that Bro. John Isch and others from Indianapolis traveled to be with us to share God's Word. We were told how we must set our priorities straight; that we must put God first and foremost in our lives, and then other things will fall into place.

God never called a lazy man
 To do a task for Him —
 He's looking for the men who work
 With energy and vim.
 For men like that are sure to win
 A cause they undertake.
 He doesn't want the lazy kind,
 He wants men wide awake.
 So if you're called to do a task,
 To help Him right some wrong,
 You just be glad that you are called
 To help His cause along.

Edward H. Kessler

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Elaine Bahler - Lorene Furrer

Another Christmas season has come and gone, and we remember children's happy faces telling of Jesus' birth, voices singing carols in the evening mist, and much love and joy in our hearts! The season was special in another way for Bro. Ed and Sis. Viola Kyburz as they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary together.

What a happy way to start a new year! Sis. Marcia Furrer (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Janet) and Bro. Bob Feller (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann, LaCrosse) announced their engagement to be married. They are planning a May 15 wedding.

Chris Bahler and Teresa Lank are looking forward to saying their wedding vows on March 26. Chris's parents are Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler and Teresa's are Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Lank (Templeton, IN). We wish both couples much joy and many blessings in their future together.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner - Kim Salek

This has been a busy month as the Christmas season generally is. With all of the travelling that goes along with family get-togethers, we have had some visiting ministers. Bro. Dale Strassheim spent Christmas morning with us. Bro. John Steiner was with us on a Wednesday evening, also. On Jan. 2, Bros. Walter Hermann, Dwayne Kilgus and Bill Gerst were with us. And on Jan. 9, Bros. Glen Dill and Marvin Lehman were here. As always, we thank these brothers and their families for being used for us and pray that God will richly bless them for their continued efforts.

On Dec. 19, our Sunday School presented their annual Christmas program. It is always such a joy and blessing to hear the beautiful story of our dear Saviour's birth told by the children through their sincere love and innocence. That evening we all met to go Christmas caroling for the shut-ins and later had a chili supper.

On Jan. 2, we held our annual meeting. Bro. Dale Massner was elected to replace Bro. Bill Obermann whose term as trustee had expired. We also elected three brothers to serve as ushers. They are Bros. Ken Buehler, LaVerne Salek, and Richard Taeger. There were four brothers and four sisters nominated as Sunday School teachers to be voted on in June. We pray that God will grant these brothers the grace and strength to carry out their duties according to His will. A ministering brother recently spoke of the duties and responsibilities of all of us as members of the church. He said that even the brother or sister whose only duty is to sit in the back pew will have responsibilities to answer to. It is all of our responsibilities to live a good and holy life, to be a good example to those who are unknowingly looking to us for that example. He went on to say the minister's words wouldn't mean anything if others didn't have us to look to for an example. So whether we have a "job" or special duty as such in the church, it is not as important as our first duty to God in that we be the light and example He wants us to be.

For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

I Corinthians 12:14-18

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

After many years of writing the news for the Silver Lining for our small flock here at Elgin, Iowa, Sis. Eleanor Butikofer has requested a rest from this duty. God bless you Sis. Eleanor for your faithfulness through the years. We will certainly miss your writings.

Hospital patients during the past month have been Sis. Alta Thoman and Bro. Ed Pulfer. Bro. Ed remains a medical patient at the time of this writing, but we are happy that Sis. Alta could return to her home.

Sis. LaVerne Butikofer and Jan Frieden have begun their two year terms of teaching Sunday School. May they find this a rewarding experience with many blessings unfolding to them during these two years.

Our three smallest classes are sponsoring five-year-old Atali Kumari Bhil from India. The children seem to have a real interest in the project. We are never too young to learn the blessing of giving.

My Prayer

Lord, ere I start upon this day
 Teach me to stop awhile and pray
 That I may have that sweet content
 Which comes from happy hours well spent.

Give me a patience, kind and true;
 Thy will to start each day anew
 With trusting heart and courage
 high
 Knowing full well that thou art nigh.

Help me to trust alone in Thee —
 And when the trials come, to see
 Thy loving hand close by my side
 And hear Thee say, "I will provide".

Sunshine Magazine

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Eileen Funk

In December we enjoyed having Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Lester Harter (Bern, KS) and their wives visit us. They shared with us God's Word and expounded on the Memorandum. It was truly a blessed day and we appreciate the love and care of our elder brethren. We were reminded that Jesus paid our price by His blood. This satisfies the law — it pays our debt!

IOWA, IOWA CITY Joyce Eland

Another month has passed — the time flies so quickly. Let each of us reflect on how we used those moments which passed so quickly and can never be reclaimed. Have I remembered my spiritual man and the nourishment it needs? Has the Lord been glorified by the way in which I have lived this month? Have I gotten caught up in the cares and concerns of this earthly life? Or am I still proudly and stubbornly resisting the Savior's great gift of salvation? Let us always keep in mind that each moment and each day of our life is a gift but we have no promise of a tomorrow here on earth. We do, however, have the promise of a glorious forever with our Lord if we repent of our sins and then surrender our hearts and lives to Him.

Most of us here in Iowa City spent part of the holiday season visiting with relatives, so we had several Sundays with rather sparse attendance. It is refreshing to again have most of our group together and to enjoy the fellowship with those who have become so dear to us. Since our gatherings were often very small last month we especially appreciated those who visited our congregation. Among the visitors were those who ministered to us: Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and Francis Rother (Morton).

We also experienced a very blessed weekend when members of the young groups of Eureka, West Bend and Elgin visited us. We are thankful the Lord has given us the freedom to travel, worship and fellowship together. Since our group is small, not all of us feel as free to travel and it is a real blessing to us

when you put forth the time and effort to assemble with us.

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

Our area is wrapped in a deep blanket of snow, but our temperature has not dipped as low as last year. So far we are enjoying a pretty winter.

We are thankful to report that Stan Wulf, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona, is repenting. It brings joy to us here as well as among the angels in Heaven.

Brock Andrew was born on Dec. 30 to Bro. Deitrich and Sis. Lexia Knobloch, bringing our total of babies born in 1982 to 15. His grandparents are Bro. Willie and Sis. Helen Knobloch and Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet Wysong.

Visiting ministers and their families this past month were Bro. Vernon Wettstein, Bro. Roger Aberle and Bro. Jon Schmidgall. We appreciate the inspired messages they brought to us.

Those hospitalized for surgery were Bro. Elmer Metzger, Trent Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) and Brian Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vickie). Little Hana Larson (Ted and Diane) was hospitalized for bronchitis.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha Kellenberger have moved to make their home in the Lamar, MO area. We miss them and pray for God's blessing on their move. We are happy to welcome Doug and Suzette Messner from Minneapolis who have moved to our area.

Work on our new church is progressing rapidly. All sheet rocking is completed and staining of woodwork has begun. The sanctuary ceiling is installed. Tentative plans are to have it completed by early summer.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Jerilyn Wagenbach

Our annual business meeting was held on Jan. 2. New positions were filled on our Sisters' Kitchen Committee, Cemetery Committee, and Board of Trustees; they were Sis. Lucille Rauhaus, Bro. Charles Gerst and Bro. Eric Massner, respectively. Out-going committee members are Sis. Edith Schrock, Bro. Kenneth Grimm and Bro. Myron Schulz. We

appreciate the time and effort put forth by these brethren.

God's guiding hand has brought several couples together, and their engagements have been made known to us. Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby) is engaged to Sis. Kathy Pulfer of Iowa City (Paul and Sis. Evelyn, Elgin, IA). Sis. Georgia Wiegand is betrothed to Bro. Tim Pflederer (Morton). Their parents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Martha Wiegand (Oakville) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Eleanor Pflederer (Morton). Bro. Curtis Eberhardt (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby) and Sis. Jean Wuthrich of Pulaski (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley) are also engaged. May the Lord bless these new couples.

Every time we enter God's house, we expect to be fed from His "Word of Life". And, of course, we are blessed each time — we almost take it for granted that God's servants will be there to carry out this work. May we strive to appreciate their faithfulness. Visiting ministers to our congregation have been Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor), Dan Stoller (Rockville), Bill Gerst (Alto), Joe Gerst (Iowa City) and Bob Pflederer (Morton).

IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Wiegand - DeAnn Wuthrich

It is the beginning of another new year, and may we all strive to improve in this new year where we may have failed last year, that we may grow spiritually from year to year.

We want to especially thank Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN) and Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) for ministering God's Word unto us in this past month. May each one be blessed for their service in the vineyard of the Lord.

Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich have been blessed with a precious bundle from heaven. Brent Alan was born on Dec. 24 and has added much joy to their home. Grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Karoline Wuthrich, and Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruelman (West Bend, IA).

The engagement of Sis. Jean Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley Wuthrich) and Bro. Kurt Eberhardt (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt of Oakville, IA) was announced. May

God be with them as they make plans for their future lives together.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg - Elma Mogler

The first Sunday in January found Bro. Kent Banwart and Sis. Beth Schmidt embarking on the second most important step in life as they became one in the Lord. Elder Bro. Gene Marti, who joined them in Holy matrimony, impressed us with the scripture that reads: "But godliness with contentment is great gain." I Tim. 6:6. Bro. Kent is the son of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis. Sis. Beth is the daughter of Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn.

We appreciated Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) ministering to us this past month along with Elder Bro. Gene Marti.

Hospitalized were Bro. Philip Fisher, Rueben Anliker, Paul Banwart, Jr., and Jenny, daughter of Joel and Teresa Kellenberger. May God's healing power restore them back to good health.

The home of John and Cindy Bruellman has been richly blessed with a new baby daughter. She has been named Jonna Marie. Her grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Bruellman and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Harms. We wish them God's blessings in raising their new daughter along with their son, Michael.

Northwest Iowa was hit by a winter ice storm, leaving many of us without electricity for a period of time. Experiences like this help us realize our dependence on God's Almighty Power.

In 1982 we find we have had 19 births, 9 weddings, 2 deaths and 4 baptisms.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue

We were blessed by our children's Christmas program on Dec. 19 in the afternoon. The children seemed to enjoy telling the good news of Christ's Holy Birth nearly 2,000 years ago, and we hope that these experiences will make the children to repent before God some day. After that we enjoyed a carry-in meal together.

First-time visitors to our assembly were Sisters Judy Luginbuhl

and Marilyn Schambach. Judy is our new kindergarten teacher at Shioda and we welcome her in Christian love as we look forward to her visits every third weekend along with Sis. Vicki Ramseyer. Marilyn is from Bay City and came to visit Vicki for 3 weeks. They, along with our Sis. Eiko Nozawa, left Sunday evening on a few days vacation. May their fellowship be blessed.

This past year we have missed our Sis. Hiroko Utsuki who lives in New York City with her sister, Tomoko, for a while. We sincerely thank the Union City, Rockville and midwest brethren who have assisted them in any way this past year. May God bless you richly in the New Year and time to come.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger

Prayer For Every Day

God, give me eyes that I might see
 The work that can be done by me;
 God, give me ears that I may hear
 The cries of those who need me
 near.

God, give me lips that I might speak
 Comfort and peace to all who seek;
 God, give me a mind, that I might
 know
 How to help those who need me so.

God, give me hands that I might do
 Some large or simple task for You;
 God, give me a prayer, that I might
 pray
 Thy help and guidance every day.

And this one thing, all else above;
 God, give me a heart, that I may
 love.

Author Unknown

We appreciate having these visiting ministers: Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott) and Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha).

Michael Strahm, son of Sis. Mamie and Bro. Alpha, Jr., was hospitalized for surgery.

Bro. Neil Hartter replaces Bro. Eldon Plattner as trustee. The other trustees are Bro. Allen Rokey and Bro. Leroy Meyer.

 Give Your Address Change
 to Your Reporter

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

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

Hymns of Zion No. 150

With us on New Year's Eve and Jan. 2 was Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). Also with us on Jan. 2 was Bro. Carl Hartman (Sabetha, KS). We thank these brothers for bringing God's Word to us.

We'd like to welcome Sis. Shelle Massner, who has moved here from Sabetha. She is attending the Junior College here.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr — Doris Bahr

Recently I read about a culture of a certain sect of Asian people. The people make their livelihood by manually farming rice terraces on the sides of mountains. Because they are always standing at an angle while working, their toes eventually become oversized and widespread. This way the feet can conform to the terrain to give them balance as they grip the soil. These peculiar feet distinguish them as the rice farmers.

Paul called us "Peculiar People". We should have something as noticeable as the crooked toes that would distinguish us as Christians from the world — the mind of Christ should be the distinguishment. Until the people's toes were able to conform to the mountain, the work on the terrain was very hard and strenuous. Since we are born with a human nature, conforming to the image of Christ can be painful too. But until we do conform, we will not be equipped for the life we are called to live. Patience in an impatient world; kindness and gentleness in the midst of selfish, harsh people; joy and peace next to despair; a Christian with the mind of Christ is noticeable. The more we work and labor to conform to Christ's image, the more 'Peculiar' we will become.

We wish to sincerely thank Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) for spending a little time with us to share God's precious Word. A new zeal flourished again, stimulating within us a rekindled desire to continue striving onward towards that heavenly kingdom.

Hospitalized patients have been Sis.

Matilda Beyer and Kip Edelman, son of Bro. Albert and Sis. Jeanie Edelman.

Samuel Somerhalder, son of Bro. Joseph and Sis. Edna Somerhalder, was united in marriage on January 15 to Sandra Schwindt, daughter of Jean Schwindt of Hartford. Sam and Sandra reside in Gridley.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

So Many Reasons To Love the Lord

Thank You, God, for little things
that come unexpectedly
To brighten up a dreary day
that dawned so dismally —
Thank You, God, for sending
a happy thought my way
To blot out my depression
on a disappointing day —
Thank You, God, for brushing
the "dark clouds" from my mind
and leaving only "sunshine"
and joy of heart behind . . .
Oh, God, the list is endless
of things to thank You for
But I take them all for granted
and unconsciously ignore
That EVERYTHING I THINK or DO,
each movement that I make,
Each measured rhythmic heartbeat,
each breath of life I take
Is something You have given me
for which there is no way
for me in all my smallness
to in any way repay.

Our hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Nelda Ott and Bro. George Deil. We pray that God will give them good health and strength with each passing day.

The dues for Kiowa Silver Lining are due in February.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill Luthi

"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given to you; Seek and ye shall find; Knock and it shall be opened to you.

For everyone that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened." St. Luke 11:9-10

We rejoice as the Saviour has found another lost sheep. Maria Schrader (Bro. Steve and Sis.

Dorothy) has turned her back to Satan, picked up her cross, and is now following the straight and narrow path. May our prayers continue to be answered as there are still many lost sheep. Are YOU one of them?

We were reminded of Christ's birth in the lowly manger December 22 as we had our annual Christmas program. How heartwarming it is to hear the innocent children of the Sunday School classes recite their pieces and sing hymns of praise in remembrance of our Saviour's birth. Many were delighted to hear Silent Night sung in German.

As January marks the beginning of another year, may we each take time to refresh our minds of the past year. How our Lord has truly blessed us and been with us in trialsome times. I, myself, know the list would be endless for the many blessings I have received in the past year. May each of us make a daily "resolution" to serve our Lord each day of the new year.

Once again our prayers go to those who have just returned to college or other schools of higher learning. May the Lord ever be with Bro. Steve Schrader, Bro. James Wernli, Wayne Anliker and Jim Schrader, as they have returned to Kansas State University in Manhattan.

The School of the Cross
O teach me, Lord, instead of
grieving
And wishing all my burdens moved,
To bear them patiently, perceiving
How Thou has suffered, borne and
loved.
Teach me the art of keeping silent
That calm contented I remain;
Cross bearer, Thee, I would re-
semble
O change to love my bitterest pain.

Zion's Harp No. 66

May the Lord's healing hands be with those in the hospital, Martha Hughes (medical) and Emma Enz (tests).

Thursday, January 6 was our Annual Business meeting. Those elected were Bro. John Wernli for Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Max Burnham as substitute, Sis. Jill Luthi for Silver Lining Correspondent, and Sis. Kathy Burnham was

elected for food committee. Bro. Glen Anliker was re-elected for Real Estate Property Aide and Bro. Jay Luthi was re-elected as usher.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Wayne Fehr of West Bend. May the Lord forever bless him for his labors of love. We were also blessed to be able to assemble with the Gridley congregation as Elder Bro. Willis Ehnlé was with us for the first time. Truly, we are rewarded as we are expounded many words of wisdom.

At this time, may the Lord ever abide with our Elders as they once again discuss our various problems that we are each surrounded by. May He watch over them as they travel to (and from) Phoenix for the Winter Conference.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

This month has seen the near completion of the new apartments adjoining the Apostolic Christian Home. Most of the apartments are now occupied. However, there is still work to be finished in the Ancillary area.

We are happy to welcome Sis. Elsie and Bro. George Lambert to our community. They are now living in one of the new apartments.

Our congratulations go to Evelyn Wittmer and Howard Robinson on their marriage, January 4, 1983.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago) and Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit). We thank them for bringing us His Word and invite them and their families to return again.

Sis. Vila Meyer was hospitalized in Topeka for surgery. Also, Sis. Fanny Bahr was in the hospital.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Jana Meyer

"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." Proverbs 3:5-6

New students with us this semester are Sis. Cheryl Miller, Ft. Scott and Chris Strahm, Bern. The parents of Sis. Cheryl and Chris are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl (Ft. Scott) and Clayton and Miriam

(Bern). We wish the students God's blessings on a new journey in their lives.

December 1, Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) ministered words of the Truth unto us, and on December 8, we held our annual Christmas caroling get-together. Many from our home congregations joined us in singing carols to the aged and infirmed. May God bless all those who remember us and assemble with our small group here in Manhattan.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Priscilla Frank

In Wichita, once again, we have been reminded of the full spectrum of life. One new life given and one life taken. We rejoice with Bro. Jonathan, Sis. Phyllis and Matthew as they welcome the arrival of their new daughter and sister. Candice Rochelle Long was born Dec. 24. As we see the new child and the wonderful miracle she represents, we are once again reminded of David's words in Psalm 139:13, 14:

- 13) For thou didst form my inward parts. Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb.
14) I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

May we all give thanks for our own little miracles; for truly they are fearfully and wonderfully made.

We also express our sympathy to Bro. Virgil Barth and his family for the loss of their brother, Clarence Barth, who died Jan. 11 due to a brain tumor. Little did Clarence know life would end so shortly. He had only known for a few weeks before his death. It brings home the fact that we all have an appointment with death. Even though the hours and dates may remain unknown. May we all be prepared that we may meet the appointment with the surety of graduating to higher circles above.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

Isn't the love of God we experience every day, just simply rewarding? It's with us all the time. We all felt it's richness while Christmas caroling with our Sunday School children at Christmas time.

Laura Schrenk, daughter of Bro.

Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk (Athens), and Jack Pardo felt God's love as they were joined together as husband and wife. Lauri and Jack, you have our prayers for the richest of God's blessings as you begin your lives together.

Bro. Ferdinand Grawburg (Sis. Jane) and his father, Fred Grawburg, were both hospitalized this month. We pray, once again, that our Lord will bless; and that He will give much grace and strength to these two souls, and their family.

Visiting us this month were Bro. LaVoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). We thank these brothers for their special labors of love.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Linda Ramseyer

The Sunday School children presented their Christmas program to the congregation on the evening of Dec. 19. It is a joy to see them sing of our Saviour's birth and we pray that the Lord will continue to stay in each one of their hearts.

Our congregation has been blessed during this past month to have ministering brothers visit us. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto), Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit) and Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) have been with us. Bro. Aaron helped our dear elders read the Memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference. We are encouraged by the words spoken and thank Bro. Aaron for being a part of this good work.

We are pleased to hear of another soul who has found peace with the Lord. Scott Kent is now looking forward to the day of his baptism.

A few of our dear ones have been hospitalized in the past month. Sis. Loretta (Winsor) Mosher, Sis. Winifred (Bro. Frederick) Ruegsegger and Scott Kent have been in the hospital. Our prayers are with them during their stay and as they return home.

The annual meeting of our congregation was held at the beginning of the new year and new duties were given to some of our brethren. Bro. Gerald Wieland was appointed as trustee and on the cooking committee is Sis. Margaret Schlatter. Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Jay Schlatter, Bro. Neil Ram-

seyer and Sis. Kathy Waibel. Our prayers are with these dear ones as they take their new positions.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Dawn Bahr

Another New Year dawns, and many people once again make resolutions, intending to better themselves. But as Christians, this should not be only a yearly occurrence, but DAILY we should look into the mirror of God's Word, and strive for a closer walk with Him.

God has richly blessed Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa with a son, Jeffrey Scott, born November 28. Rebecca, Laura and Daniel are pleased to have a new little brother. Jeffrey's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kujawa and Harvey and Sis. Kay Novak.

On December 5, the engagement of Bro. Milan Germaine (Mike and Lucile Germaine) was announced to Sis. Joyce Ramsier (Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen) of the Mansfield, Ohio congregation. We are grateful for God's loving direction in their lives, and are confident that they will feel His love and presence as they make the necessary preparations for a March wedding.

Also on December 5, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Arthur Bahler here to help our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach in sharing the conference letter with us. We are thankful that our elder brothers are able to meet together for the conference in peace and unity. We must always remember that it is our responsibility to pray for them, that they may find strength to continue in God's service.

We welcome Sis. Sheryl Maibach back home after living in Sarasota, FL for several years. We are also happy to welcome Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein into our congregation from Francesville, IN. Bro. Nick has accepted a job in the Detroit area after graduating from Purdue University. May they feel God's love and continuing guidance as they begin their new phase of their lives.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Walter and Sis. Hilda Bauer in the death of Sis. Hilda's brother, George Strunk (Morton, IL). They can be comforted by the knowledge that George was able to recognize his

need of a Saviour and turn to God in repentance during his final days on earth.

Our congregation shared a special day of blessing on January 16, as Sis. Harriet Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) shared her testimony and was baptized into the family of God. May she find comfort, guidance and blessing as she begins her walk hand in hand with her Saviour. We also rejoice that Helen Varga (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joanne) has found grace to repent. We wish her continued strength to work out her salvation through Jesus.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Joseph Waibel (Bay City, MI); Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MS); and Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). We thank them for coming and sharing God's wonderful teachings with us.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Deb Tilbury

On Dec. 12 we went caroling to a nursing home and the Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul. Our children gave puppets and stuffed animals, made by the ladies of our church, to each child who listened to us sing.

Dec. 19 was the Children's Christmas program. It is so beautiful to listen to them sing, and bring us the story of Jesus' birth. After the program we went caroling and then returned to church for a potluck dinner. We said farewell to Doug and Sue Messner and little Nichole. They are moving to Sue's home church of Lester, Iowa, where Doug has a new job awaiting him. We will miss having them assemble with us and hope that they come back to visit us often.

We would like to thank Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris) for assembling with us and bringing God's Word to us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Rhonda Zeltwanger - Jan Schock

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers once again this month. Bros. Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA), John Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) all shared the Word with us.

We all rejoice with Bro. Gary and

Sis. Leslie Schmidgall as they begin a new phase of their lives. They are new parents and welcome little Jacob Thomas into their home and hearts. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall.

Bro. Lenny and Sis. Bev Minke also have a new little son, Jonathan Lloyd. Jessica, Chris and Allison are happy for a new little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Gladys Messner.

Bro. Karl Koehl was our only hospital patient this month and he is home and doing well.

"We want to thank all of our friends, family and loved ones for all of their kind deeds during Don's hospitalization and since he has returned home. A special thank you to the Minneapolis congregation for their many visits and thoughtful deeds. God bless you all." Bro. Don and Sis. Della Luthi and family.

Thank You, God, For Little Things

Thank you, God, for little things
that often come our way —
The things we take for granted
but don't mention when we
pray —

The unexpected courtesy,
the thoughtful, kindly deed —
A hand reached out to help us
in the time of sudden need —
Oh, make us more aware, dear God,
of little daily graces
That come to us with "sweet sur-
prise"

from never-dreamed-of places.

Helen Steiner Rice

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner

Mary Lou Schmidt

What lies behind us,
And what lies before us;
Are tiny matters — compared to —
What lies within us!

Bear ye one another's burdens, so fulfill the law of Christ. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men; especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:2, 10. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. I

John 3:11, 16. These are some of the words expounded to us by visiting minister, Bro. Donald Miller of Minneapolis; accompanied by his wife, Sis. Bernadine. May God richly bless all who so willingly devote their time to the ministry.

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others; cannot keep it from themselves.

James Barrie

Sis. Nancy Messner has left our congregation for the present, to attend a school of higher learning. She will be making her home in Minneapolis. May the Lord be at her side at all times.

Our annual Brother meeting was held in January. Bro. Dick Schmidt retired as trustee with Bro. Leo Messner replacing him. Bro. Mark Schmidt was replaced on the Building Aid Committee by Bro. Stan Messner. We pray God will give our new brothers the needed grace, strength and knowledge to carry out their new duties.

Hospital patients this past month have been Bro. George Messner, Bro. Walter Messner and Jodi Messner, daughter of Sis. Carol Ann Messner.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Hohulin - Sandra Marti

We have many reasons to rejoice for the blessings God has shared with us this past month. Janelle Braker has seen the need to seek God's help in her life. Our prayers are with her and with all those who have turned to God in repentance. May we never cease praying for our many loved ones who yet stand outside of the Fold.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha Kellenberger have moved here from Lester, IA. We gladly welcome them to our congregation and pray that they can feel God's nearness in their new home. We're also happy to have Bro. Randy Triplett assembling with us. He is living in Tulsa, OK.

Bro. Art Banwart was absent from our assembly for several Sundays with back problems. How thankful we are that he is able to assemble with us again.

As we see the world around us changing so much, God's unchanging Word should grow more precious. On Jan. 9, Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman, Forrest, IL, spoke to us from this unchanging Book. May we support and pray for those who are called upon to bring forth His Holy Word.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to those who have lost loved ones. On Dec. 23, Levi Rentsch was called from this life. His sister is Sis. Lydia Rentsch. Sis. Evelyn Marti's (Bro. Leonard Marti) stepfather, George Adams, was killed in a car accident on Jan. 6.

On Jan. 10, we assembled for our annual business meeting. Bro. Leonard Braker was elected to serve as trustee. Those chosen to serve as Sunday School teachers are Bros. Gene Banwart and Leonard Braker and Sis. Carol Braker. We wish them God's guidance as they fulfill their duties.

As of Feb. 9, we will be having evening services the second and fourth Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:30.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Janice Lehman

Sis. Bridget Mahon has recently moved to Leo, Indiana, to become an assistant houseparent at the Children's Home. We will miss Sis. Bridget since our group is small and every loss is greatly felt.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Becky Gudeman

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever."

Psalm 118:39

We thank Bro. Walter Herrmann from the Princeville congregation and Bro. Kenneth Dietz from the Bradford congregation for sharing the Word of God with us. May the Lord bless them for their endeavors.

We welcome anyone living in the area or traveling through to worship with us. Services are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at the Ben Franklin Motel. Please contact Dan and Becky Gudeman at 314-275-2227 for further information.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Ed Aeschleman

Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler visited Union City along with his wife, Sis. Virginia and others from Rockville. The power of the Word was felt both in the sermons and in the reading of the Memorandum. It was a blessed day of teaching and good fellowship.

Bro. David Pancarician was ap-

pointed Sunday School teacher in addition to his present duty as song leader. May God bless and reward his efforts to serve the church.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN
Alice Virkler

Mark and Leah Hitchcock have welcomed their first child. Little Shannon Marie was born on January 7, and will also be loved by her grandparents, Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice Farney, and Clint and Doris Hitchcock of Lowville. May Shannon bring an added blessing to this new family. They are living in Syracuse.

Sis. Cora Farney is a hospital patient at this writing. We are happy to report that Sis. Katie Farney has been able to return home after several weeks of hospitalization for a broken hip. At the present time she is being cared for in the home of her nephew and his wife, John and Laurie Farney. She would like to thank everyone who remembered her with gifts, visits and the many cards and letters during her hospital stay, and she especially appreciated the correspondence of her many friends from distant places.

Funeral services for Max Schwartz from Manlius were held at the Donald Virkler Funeral Home on January 17 by Bro. John Widrick.

We are thankful that God is still calling loved ones from the world to follow His footsteps as John and Esther Rauhe have turned their hearts and lives over to His direction. May God be with them as they take this all important step in life.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG
Rachel Snyder

Funeral services for Emma Virkler, 87, formerly of Carthage and widow of Andrew Virkler, were held January 8 at the Naumburg Church. Elder Bro. Robert Beyer officiated, assisted by Bro. Leland Hirschey. Burial was in the Croghan Church cemetery. She is survived by a step-daughter, Mrs. Urban (Julia) Karcher (Castorland); a step-son, Everett (Carthage); many step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren; two sisters; Sisters Ella and Augusta Einbeck (Castorland). Two step-sons preceded her in death.

Our thoughts were with Sis. Ann Schulz, daughter of Norman and

Mary, and Bro. Brent Gerber, son of Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber (Bluffton) who were joined as one on Jan. 2. May God bless the days ahead of them.

Our sympathy goes out to Alice Lehman and her family and her aged mother, Sis. Barbra Bachman, in the passing of Alice's husband, Norman. We also wish to extend our sympathy to Bruce and Gale Hirschey and family in the death of Gale's father, Glynn Lamoy of Plattsburg.

Those who were in the hospital and are now home are Sis. Rosella Schulz and Bro. James Beyer. Sis. Eva Poling is in Carthage Area Hospital for surgery and is coming along fairly well.

I was talking with Elder Bro. Robert Beyer this morning and he told what an enjoyable and blessed time they had at the Elders meeting. We thank the Lord for bringing them safely back to us again.

NORTH DAKOTA
GRASSY BUTTE
Denise Oesch

My husband and I have recently moved with our little daughter to a new and strange state, leaving behind the dear fellowship of the Alto, Michigan Church. We are so far away from those of our faith, that I sometimes find each day a struggle. I know that if it wasn't for the Lord guiding and leading me, I would often feel lost.

The people here view me as new and different. I feel I'm always being watched and tested. I know the Lord tests each one of us in different ways, and know if I take his hand I will pass them all with flying colors.

I hope those that see me remember a thought I once saw on a plaque. The plaque describes my thoughts the best:

"Remember, just because I'm a Christian doesn't mean I'm perfect and I can't make mistakes; it just means I know I'm not and asked to be forgiven."

I hope I have enlightened you with these words of thought as much as I have enjoyed writing them. I also would like to welcome any brothers and sisters who come in our area to feel free to stop. We live eight miles west of Grassy Butte, ND on Route 50. Grassy Butte is 35

miles from Belfield on Interstate 70, almost into Montana. Call 1-701-863-5991 for further directions.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

We are all rejoicing with the Pamer family as Bro. and Sis. Eugene Pamer's son, Brian, has turned to the Lord in repentance.

We give thanks to Bro. Paul and Sis. Margaret Gangel for their many years of devoted service as custodians, and their wish is now to retire. Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico have agreed to take these responsibilities.

We also are thankful to those whose terms have expired in various capacities: Sis. Lynell Palitto for both Sunday School teacher and Kitchen Committee; Bro. Art Graf as Trustee, and Bro. Glenn Greenbank as Usher.

The ones entering the roles to fill those duties are: Sis. Barbara Ritzman for Sunday School teacher and also on the Kitchen Committee; Bro. Ron Palitto as Trustee, and Bro. Eric Graf as Usher.

We thank Bro. Gary Maibach for his inspiring message this past month.

Sis. Bonnie Bako had surgery and we pray for her speedy recovery.

Harold and Sis. Esther Fritz wish to thank all who remembered Harold so kindly during the time of his heart surgery and recuperation.

OHIO, GIRARD

Karen Laparo

As we began the new year, Bro. Harold Emch reminded us that our lives are like the Israelites passing through the Red Sea. God opened up the way as they went along and closed the waters up after they had passed through. God has opened up a new year and closed up 1982. As we walk this sea of life, God will lead us through and part the waters for us just as he promised. But he never promised to remove the rocks! It is up to each one of us to watch out for them so that we will not be scratched!

On Nov. 21, Bro. Gary Maibach from Rittman shared his exhortations of God's Word with us. We thank you, Bro. Gary, for your labor of love.

We also had many other visitors

and we thank all of you for coming. Bro. Gerald and Sis. Eunice Fiechter, from Bluffton, IN, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle traveled many miles to be with us. We enjoyed our Christian fellowship so much.

We are happy to announce the birth of little Christy Elaine. She is the new daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Karen Laparo. Michael is happy for his new sister. May God continue to bless our congregation and add to this little flock as He sees fit.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

Little Cheryl Sue Manz was the first baby of the year in the Junction Church. Welcoming this precious little bundle were her parents, Bro. Don and Sis. Connie, three brothers, Chris, Sammy and Scott, and grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey Ehnle (Bradford) and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz. Perhaps we will never have a better opportunity to use our time and other talents in God's service than in teaching and showing our children which God has placed in our care about God's ways.

Sis. Bea Hans has started back to a full recovery and wants to thank all of you who remembered her with cards, prayers and gifts while she was hospitalized.

January 1 was our annual election day. The following offices were filled on that day — Trustee, Bro. Alvin Manz; Usher, Bro. Russell Manz; Treasurer, Bro. Dave Manz; Cemetery Clerk, Bro. Ken Manz; Kitchen Committee, Sis. Evelyn Manz; World Relief, Sis. Madeline Manz; Sunday School Teachers, Sis. Marge Schlatter and Sis. Becky Reinhart; and Bro. Les Manz. No doubt, many thanks go out to those who have completed jobs, and many prayers to those starting new ones.

OHIO, LATTY

Patty Riggenschach Cheryl Wenninger

On December 22, we held our Christmas program. We were privileged to hear the story of Christ's birth. It made us realize just how important it is to teach our children the truth, as we could see how quickly time does pass and they are soon to the age of accountability.

The following weekend Bro. John

Isch (Indianapolis) ministered to us. We are always thankful for the willingness of our ministering brethren to stand and proclaim God's Word. May Bro. John be blessed for his efforts, as only our Heavenly Father can bless him.

Some of our loved ones have been hospitalized this past month. They are Ashley Wenninger (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Alice); Sis. Martha Stoller (Bro. John); John Schlatter (Sis. Lillian); Sis. Barb Stoller (Bro. Bill) and Bro. Joe Schlatter (Sis. Elsie). We do not always understand the ways of God, but we know that His ways are perfect, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28. May our loved ones take comfort in this thought, and may God heal according to His will.

Alex Daniel has come to brighten the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam Stoller. Welcoming him are Angie, Aaron, Andy and grandparents, Bro. Lou and Sis. Mildred Stoller, and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Utterback.

On January 1, we held our annual business meeting. Elected to fill offices were: Sunday School teachers, Bro. David Wenninger, Bro. Dick Whitman, and Sis. Cheryl Wenninger; World Relief, Sewing, Sis. Laura Dunham; and Trustee, Bro. Ralph Stoller. We pray for God's guidance in these areas of service.

Encouraged

My dear sister, (or brother) do you realize

That before me you have set
An example true and loyal
One without complaint or fret?

Yes, when you didn't know I saw
you,

You were brave and stood for right;
You behaved yourself with wisdom;
Yes, you chose by faith, not sight.

And I read between the lines how
That temptation you did face
But I saw you overcome it
And avail yourself of grace.

You don't know just what a
challenge

That has been in times of trial
When temptations flew upon me
And my will met self-denial.

Then encouraged by your vict'ry
I pressed on to face my foe;
So your faithful, pure example
Helped me in the way to go.

And I know that God has seen it—
What a help you've been to me;
So press on—the crown is coming.
Let us serve Him faithfully.

We are so thankful to our Heavenly Father for those who have kept the faith and stood for the right whatever that cost. May we truly be encouraged in this dark day and time to keep pressing on as there are those who are watching, and may we continue to let our light shine and fight the good fight of faith, so we may someday hear — "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, Enter into the joy of the Lord".

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Lucille Groh

A FRIEND LOVETH
AT ALL TIMES
(Prov. 17:17)

Love much. There is no waste in freely giving;
More blessed is it, even, then to receive.
He who loves much, alone finds life worth living;
Love on, through doubt and darkness and believe
There is no thing which Love may not achieve.

Ella W. Wilcox

Many of us think of remembering those we love on Valentine's Day.

WHAT IS A FRIEND?

A group of friends were gathered together for a time of social fellowship. The conversation drifted to the subject of friendship and an athlete said: "In my opinion, a friend is a balancing pole that enables us to walk the tight rope of life without falling." Said a physician, "I believe a friend may be likened to a soft bandage and a soothing ointment for the cuts and bruises of life." To a botanist it seemed that "A friend is a vine that clings to us and hides the discrepancies and rough places of life;" to which a florist added: "Yes, and the greater the ruin, the closer a friend

clings." "A friend is a golden link in the chain of life," said a jeweler. A woman in mourning responded, "A friend is one who comes in when the world goes out." "The best friend of all," said a white-haired man of eighty, "is Jesus, who said, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'"

Loving sympathy is extended to Sis. Catherine Armstrong in the recent "going home" of Bro. Harold Armstrong who left us for his eternal home on January 2, 1983. He had been in failing health for an extended period of time and yet how wonderful, the Lord touched his heart and on May 23, 1982, he found his precious peace and was baptized in the hospital. How we rejoice with them that he could now meet his Master in love and peace.

Besides Sis. Catherine, he is survived by two sons, Wayne and Dale, one daughter, Judy Adams, one stepson, Harvey Weigler and one stepdaughter, Evalene Ward. May God comfort these dear ones.

Our hearts and prayers go out to loved ones who are sick and shut in: Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Helen Seferro, Bro. Martin Kleshinski and John Them. Sis. Martha Fuhrer has been moved to Winchester Terrace Nursing Home, 70 Winchester Rd., Mansfield, Ohio 44907 and is still in very poor health. Sis. Jan Kraft had the misfortune of an accident and fractured a bone in her foot.

Speaking of friends, Jerry Roberts had an interesting trip to Haiti where he, along with a group of men, helped to build some buildings for the poor. He said seeing is believing and his heart and love goes out to the poor in Haiti. "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 26: 40.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Janette Blough - Florence Hartzler

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3:9. How thankful we are (and what a marvelous way to begin the new year) that we have five dear souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are LuAnn Davis, David Dotterer (son of Bro. John and Sis.

Betty), Jeff Trent (son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn), Donna Calame (wife of Jim), and Joan Stoller (daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen). May each of these dear ones experience true repentance and find the peace that passes understanding.

Our prayers are with our Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and those with him, who will be absent from us while attending to spiritual work in India. Our thoughts are surely with him.

Those from our congregation who have been hospitalized are Sis. Donna Young, Martha Kohler, Dave Bauman, Richard Bauman. Sis. Neva Gasser has been assembling with us again after suffering a slight stroke. May our Lord return these loved ones to good health once again.

Linda and Calvin Beery are the parents of a dear, new little girl named Natalie Elaine. Two little brothers, Andrew and Calvin, Jr., welcome her home. Her grandparents are Sis. Rhea and Ted Beery.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Jolene Hofacre are first-time parents of Stephanie Jo. Bro. Glen and Sis. Liz Gasser are her grandparents.

Adrian Stanley is the new little son of Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen Beery. Adrian has two brothers, Tony and Corbin, and one sister, Rebecca. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery and Richard and Gladys Bauman.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic have a new little son named Emil Pete. His sisters are Stephanie, Denise, Audrey, Elaine and Rachel and his brothers are Milan, Tom, Danny, Matthew, and Aaron. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Minnie Riggenbach and Bro. Mitch and Sis. Vi Baltic.

Rebecca Ann is the little daughter of first-time parents, Doug and Diane Raifsnider. She is also the first grandchild of Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Steiner and the first great-grandchild of Bro. Harvey and Sis. Helen Gasser and Willard and Sis. Marion Steiner. May our Lord bless all of our little ones and their families.

Yearly elections were held in January and the following brethren were elected to serve: Fellowship Hall Trustee, Bro. Mark Steiner; Usher, Bro. Everett Beery; Nursing

Home Board, Bros. Emmanuel Babin, John Zollinger and Dale Hartzler; Church Trustee, Bro. Merle Hartzler; Kitchen Help, Sis. Carol Beery; Nursing Home Auxiliary, Sis. Ruth E. Beery; Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Andy Stoller.

OHIO, SARDIS

Joyce Indermuhle

The story is told of a small boy trying hard to lift a heavy object. His father, coming into the room and noting the son's struggle, asked him, "Are you using all your strength?" "Yes, of course I am," the boy exclaimed impatiently. "You are not," the father answered. "You haven't asked me to help you."

If the burden is too heavy to bear, it is time to ask our Heavenly Father for help. Our own supply of power is so often insufficient for the disappointments and difficulties we have to face. Let us form the habit of asking for God's help. God will allow no suffering, no trial above what we are able to bear.

Streams in the Desert II

Let us not fail to tap our strongest power to the maximum; prayer. We have the supreme power over all, if we only do God's will, ask for His help, and accept His answers.

We were glad to have Bob and Karen Indermuhle, and Eric, Trent and Carol home for Christmas. It was a time of joyous fellowship and uplifting for us all. It is rewarding to know they feel our prayers.

Our Christmas program was a blessing to all. We have 7 children in the smallest class, 5 in the next, 4 in the next and 5 in the biggest class. It is really an answer to prayer to see our Sunday School growing.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Josephine Rehklau
 Mary Ann Weigele**

We have lost, but heaven has gained two dear souls in all eternity.

Since Emma Schick, 88, passed from this life Dec. 20, and her sister, Sis. Frieda Schick, 81, on Jan. 11. Surviving are their sisters, Sis. Minnie Schick and Mrs. Ruth Benham, and brothers, Carl and Henry Schick.

The Holy Land

There is a beauteous wonderland

Where joy and peace remain
 In which all strife and hate are
 banned,
 For love alone doth reign.

No cares are found within its fold,
 No burdens for the heart.
 The dark of night hath there no hold,
 And pain hath there no part.

The only sounds that reach the ear
 Are anthems of God's praise.
 Oppression, envy and all fear
 Can find therein no place.

How happy when relieved we'll be
 From toils and cares of mind,
 And in the Holy land so free
 Eternal rest we'll find!
 Songs of Praise and Worship

This was one of Sis. Emma's favorite hymns.

We are looking forward to having Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Aaron Steffen with us for the reading of the Conference Memorandum.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Barbara Moser

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread:

And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when He had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.
 I Cor. 11:23, 24, 25

On Sunday, Nov. 21, our dear Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger and Bro. Clarence Dietrich were in Portland to serve us Holy Communion.

We have been spared a harsh winter here in the Northwest, and it won't be long now till the beautiful flowers and trees begin their new growth.

A few of us were able to spend a few days on the Oregon Coast, at Restless Surf. Oh, to behold the beauty that God has so lovingly created for us to enjoy while here on earth. The warm sunshine, blue sky, gentle breeze, the mighty rolling sea, the great whales that migrate

back and forth; these were the beauties that we were blessed with. We also enjoyed the time spent together in reading God's Holy Word, praying and meditating one with another. God is so good to us each and every day so let's be ever so thankful for everything, large or small, with which we have been blessed.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We were pleased and thankful to have ministering Bro. Eugene Fetter and his wife and daughter (Toledo, OH) visiting here this past month. We want to thank Bro. Eugene for giving of himself to bring the precious Word of God to us on several occasions.

Many from our small flock were traveling over the holidays visiting loved ones out of state and were truly missed here at home. We are thankful that they could travel and that they were all brought safely home again. There are so many wonderful blessings that we have, already in this life, and fellowship with like-minded loved ones is certainly high on the list of blessings.

Nineteen eighty-two is past, only history now, and again we were reminded on the first Sunday of this new year that we recorded only one death in the past year. It was our dear Sis. Margret Wanner, who was such a faithful example to us all and was even able to assemble with us up to the last few days before her death. There were no births here in 1982. Three members were added to our congregation, one of these is living in our area to attend college, and our Sunday School now numbers 32.

In January, elections were held to replace outgoing Sunday School teachers, Bro. Jim Dietrich and Sis. Carol Dietrich. Bro. Bob Kuenzi and Sis. Carolyn Bollinger were chosen to fill these positions. Outgoing Usher, Bro. Rich Kuenzi was replaced by Bro. Ron Jones and Trustee Bro. Gus Dietrich, who had completed his term was replaced by Bro. Rich Kuenzi. The congregation sincerely thanks the retiring officers and teachers for their unselfish service and gives its supporting prayers to the new people beginning their terms. May God

bless them all now and much more in eternity.

We enjoyed the fellowship and joy of singing together recently at the home of Sisters Pam Kyburz, Barb and Jane Metzger, and Marianne Kuenzi. Sis. Linda Hari (Harold) also helped host the singing. Quite a few were missed due to the flu and colds going around this winter, but we hope all will soon be well again and able to assemble and fellowship with us.

Little Rachel Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane Winkler) was a hospital patient this month. She is now healing nicely from her surgery and is once again her usual smiling self. Surely, having her Aunt Sis. Beth Beery (Rittman, OH) visiting during Rachel's recovery was a help to her.

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE DEAF: We have in our congregation two deaf persons who are very interested in corresponding with any other deaf persons in any of our churches. If interested, please contact: Lewis and Gloria Kuenzi, 2295 88th Avenue, N.E. Salem, OR 97305 (TTY-503-364-4381).

**PENNSYLVANIA,
 PHILADELPHIA**

Ed Aeschleman

Our dear friend, Scott Gerber (Bluffton) spent several months in our area and we were all saddened when we learned he would move back to Indiana. All of us, including the children, will miss Scott and our prayers for good fortune and spiritual satisfaction go with him.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Margery Koehl

This has been a busy winter in Zapata with our many visitors. Especially over the holidays, many families visited their parents, who winter here. Our young folks really enjoyed having company since they don't often have company their age.

Our visiting ministers and their wives were Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bro. Harry and Sis. Florence Sutter (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia Bahler (Rockville, CT). Services were held in McAllen, TX for the winter residents there on Jan. 16. The plan

is to have services there monthly during the winter season.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 28)

or want to hear about the Word of God. However, when they don't want to hear, we still have a chance to help them see the way by our daily lives. We still have the responsibility to be a light and to preach a sermon, not in words but in our walk of life. This is a challenge to each and every one of us. We see that there is a time to talk, and there is a time not to talk. But there is always a place for action in our works and in our deeds.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Matt. 7:7, 8.

If only we would remember these words every day of our lives, remember them when we are having problems with bitterness, with petty things, and when Satan is telling us that our faith is weak. Then we could say, "Satan, you are lying to me." He was a liar from the beginning. When he spoke to Adam and Eve, he mixed the truth and a lie together so that they wouldn't recognize it.

The Word says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." In other places in Scripture, we are told in what condition we should be so that we can expect help.

It is our duty to ask of God because man himself has a lot of responsibilities. God's help is available, but man is master of his own destiny. We can't blame God if we don't make it to heaven. It is our choice. We read in Ezekiel that God said, "Cast away from you all your transgressions, . . . and spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ezek. 18:31.

The soul must surrender his heart to God so that it can be cleansed. Then God can give us a new spirit.

Man is master of his own destiny. He must make the decision. There is no way to escape it. We have to make the decision, but God gives us help if we come to Him in repentance. The publican fell on his knees and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Luke 18:13.

God can take a humble heart and change it. Only God can perform this miracle, but man had to make the

decision and say, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Sometimes we hear young people say, "I haven't received a call." If they have heard God's Word, they have received a call, dearly beloved ones. Jesus died because ". . . God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Those words will stand. They cannot be changed; they cannot ever be altered. Man is master of his own destiny. Man must ask God for help and guidance, and when he does, he will receive it.

If man becomes reckless and careless, he himself is standing in the way. Let us remember, whether we have been converted or if we are still standing outside the fold, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." I believe that in a previous chapter it says that when you pray and ask God for forgiveness, you should have nothing in your heart against your brother.

So the heart must be in a certain condition in order to receive the Lord's help. We cannot be bitter and hold something against someone else, and then expect God to forgive us. Jesus is our wonderful example whom we look up to. Jesus continued in His sermon, "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall you Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?" Matt. 7:9-11.

These verses certainly seem reasonable, right and good, don't they? God thought so much of us that He sent His only Son into this world. He knew the agony, pain and the suffering that Jesus would have. We can picture Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and hanging on the cross. Jesus did that for us. God, who did all that will surely help us now. It shames us when we think of our little faith and when we try to do too many things for ourselves.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?" This makes sense to us, doesn't it? We have to be reasonable and say, "Yes, God." The poor man

who wanted his son healed said, "I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Mark 9:24. How often we have to utter this prayer to our merciful God: "Yes, I believe; help my unbelief."

The Lord also said, "... What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. Paul's strong faith in the Lord was a greater source of strength than he could get anyplace else. "Oh, God," we have to say, "forgive us for being so weak in faith."

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Matt. 7:12. It is the "Golden Rule". How well it is to remember the "Golden Rule" and to judge ourselves by it.

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13, 14.

These two verses that Jesus spoke, I think, are especially valuable to us in the latter days in which we are living. There are so many temptations to broaden the way. Yet it is clear that there are two ways; one is broad and one is narrow. Shouldn't we all put forth an effort to keep the narrow way?

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruit. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit . . . every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down . . ." Matt. 7:15-19.

God expects fruit from us. We know that before conversion, our good deeds make no difference. It was the prophet Isaiah who said, "... our righteousnesses are as filthy rags . . ." Isa. 64:6.

Even if we had the will power to live good, clean, moral lives, give our bodies to be burned, and give all that we had to the poor, if we had not built our houses on the solid rock, making Jesus Christ our anchor, and had not been born again, burying the old Adamic nature in baptism and arising to a new life, our works would have been in vain. After we have come through the "door", have been con-

verted and are new creatures in Jesus Christ the Lord, we have the responsibility to bring forth fruit (good works), 30, 60 and 100 fold.

Yet, we know that salvation depends on Jesus' righteousness. Our good works are not enough because God is too holy. He says, "... He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; . . . Be ye holy; for I am holy." I Peter 1:15, 16. We have a challenge to walk carefully and prayerfully.

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:20, 21.

These verses bear out again that works are important. There are two faiths, a living faith and a dead faith. James makes this very clear in his writing in the Holy Scriptures for he says, "And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body: what doth it profit?" James 2:16. Our works are the evidence of our faith. We can testify of our faith by our works.

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:22, 23.

This could probably be interpreted in different ways, but one could be that deceived souls feel that they can attain salvation by living a good life, that it isn't necessary to relieve themselves of sin and confess their sins, as we interpret the Scripture to mean, not only to Jesus but also to man. When a soul confesses, the healing process can begin.

We thank God that when young souls come in repentance, the path is still the same in our faith. May we strive earnestly and sincerely to keep it that way so that our church will continue to be built upon a solid rock, a rock that will stand when the winds come and when the billows dash against it. That Rock is Jesus Christ.

Let us be thankful that we have a merciful God as we heard again from Ezekiel, the prophet. His words are for us today. Ezekiel reminds us that the

end is the important thing. Once in a while we hear of the doctrine of once saved, always saved. Over and over again, the Scripture tells us that this is not right. We read that together here. Even though it was in the Old Testament, we know that the prophet, Ezekiel, was speaking for God and that the words are true today.

Even though a person has lived a sinful life, when he turns to God, he finds that his sins can be forgiven. "... Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow . . ." Isa. 1:18.

However, we also know that we must be careful and prayerful, because we read in Ezekiel that if a man leads a good life but then, in the end, falls into trespasses and sin and does not repent, his former righteousness is forgotten in the sight of God. We must stand firm until the end.

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin." Ezekiel 18:30.

Again God asked man to do something. God said that man should repent and turn from his transgression so that He, the Almighty God, could step in and transform his heart. God can take a heart given to Him by a lost sinner, cleanse it and give it back as new. Then with the Holy Spirit as a guide, that heart is able to stay clean so that it is a fit place for the Holy Spirit to live.

"For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God; wherefore turn yourselves and live ye." Ezekiel 18:32. Today we have a joyful message to give. God says, "I will give you help." God says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." But there are certain conditions that go along with this promise, conditions that we cannot forget about.

If there are souls here today that have not yet repented and stand guilty before God, you have no promise for tomorrow. If you stand guilty before God today, God is calling. He may not strike you down as He did the Apostle Paul, but He is giving invitations through the reading of His precious Word. Come today.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." This is a promise from God's precious Word, a promise given to every one of us.

FEB/82 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY ELDER BRO. EDWIN RINGGER OF GRIDLEY, IL

Text: Ezekiel 18:20-32 and Matthew 7:1-29

Today, as always, the Word has authority. Men differ; they accuse, saying this and that about people, but the Word of God, regardless of what is said, stays the same. It will not change. It has been the same for many, many years, and it is our guide.

We should be hungry and thirsty for God's Word because we need it. It is our spiritual food. It is the answer to problems which are confusing men today. If people would go to the Word of God in simple faith and believe it, oh, how much better this world would be!

We who have been redeemed experience wonderful blessings from the Holy Word. Yet, we find ourselves in the same position from time to time, do we not, brothers and sisters, as those of Bible days? As the people of Israel were led out of Egypt, out of bondage so wonderfully, they saw the waters part so that they could walk through on dry land. They saw their enemy come and they feared, even as they saw the waters part. They didn't trust in the Living God as they should have, but then they saw the water close in and destroy their enemies. They saw the cloud in the daytime and the pillar of fire at night, but still they murmured and complained.

Isn't God, through these examples, telling us, who have been redeemed and know about His peace and about His grace, that we should trust in Him and not in ourselves?

He gives us His wonderful Word to read and to meditate on. We prayerfully ask His grace that we might interpret it correctly.

Matthew begins this chapter with the wonderful Sermon on the Mount that never gets old and that we should desire to read over again. Jesus tells us not to judge: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with

what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matt. 7:1, 2.

Oh, if this could only be written into our hearts so that we would never forget it! Why do we judge when so often, or most of the time, we do not have the facts? We have only one side of the story. How often have we made up our minds about a certain thing and later found out, when it was too late, that we hadn't heard the other side of the story, or that we didn't have all the facts?

Then again, how can a person who was brought up in a home with God-fearing parents, where love reigned and ruled, ever understand a person who was brought up in a home where there was no love or God-fearing parents, but only strife and trouble? How can a person who was brought up with plenty of money understand the person's trials and temptations who lived in poverty? Do you see? We haven't enough facts to be able to judge our brothers. We know that many problems in this world come from homes where there was not enough discipline. The home is an important part of our lives.

There are many ways in which we find ourselves guilty in judging. As we just read, "Judge not . . . for with . . . what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

We are not good enough, are we, to judge our fellow men? But let us bring out the important fact that this does not mean that we do not need discipline, because we do need discipline. We need discipline in the church, in our homes, and in our government. But let's think about these words carefully. What is our opinion of our brother, or of somebody else? Do we have the facts? Is our opinion right? Or should we spend more time praying for those we criticize? When we look back over

our past lives, have we formed opinions when we should not have? When we should have prayed instead?

"Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?" Matt. 7:4. Be very careful, the Lord tells us, when we go to help someone, that we ourselves are right. But this does not mean that we should not admonish, because the Word tells us that we should admonish one another. It throws out a challenge to us as to how we must do this.

"Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." Matt. 7:5. He gives us this responsibility: if we see a brother walking carelessly, we should immediately examine ourselves. This does two things, doesn't it? It requires self-examination, which is always good, and a duty follows to admonish our brother.

There was a man (Cain) who said, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Gen. 4:9. But he was a murderer, beloved. We are our brother's keeper. We do have a responsibility to help one another and to warn one another. But the responsibility first is to cast the beam out of our own eye so that we can see clearly to help our brother.

"Give not that which is holy unto dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." Matt. 7:6. So then, there is a time and a place to stop. We are to be selective.

When Jesus sent out His disciples two and two, He told them to approach a city and, if the city rejected them, to ". . . shake off the dust of your feet." Matt. 10:14.

Some people just don't understand
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