

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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NUMBER 1

### Why Not 1984?

*"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."*

II TIMOTHY 4:5-8

Are we ready for Christ's return? He's coming back! Not necessarily in 1984 . . . but, wait a minute! **Why not 1984?** Why shouldn't we be expecting it and planning for it? How many more wars and rumors of wars do we need to hear of? (Matt. 24:6) Are we waiting for more reports of famines, earthquakes and pestilences? What can stop our Lord from bursting through the clouds tomorrow? **Nothing!!!**

No, I'm not saying that Jesus will return some time in the next twelve months. He Himself said in Matt. 24:36, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." What I am saying is that we, especially those of us who have been redeemed, need to enter every year, every day, every hour and every minute watching, planning and expecting His return. The thought of leaving this earth to meet our Lord should not be a remote thought. We should be excited about the possibility of our reunion taking place tomorrow.

I'm not advocating packing our bags, pulling our children out of school, leaving our homes and gathering on some mountain top. I do hope that in the coming days we can encourage and remind each other of the lateness of the hour. Our lives must exhibit our desire to see our Saviour. Our friends and neighbors need to know that "This world is not our home", not just because we sing it, but because we're living it. Would we react quickly and seriously if we saw a grass fire creeping across a dry lawn to our neighbor's house? We'd better! Brother, there is a world out there that is going to face a judgement of fire! Sister, there are people close to you who think that they have everything but in reality have nothing! Do we care? Does it matter to us?

May we, in 1984, live with a greater realization that it is not we that live, but Christ living in us. Let us turn our back on the "urgent" that we might do the "important" for Him. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside **every weight**, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us **run** with patience **the race** that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith . . ." Heb. 12:1, 2.

Why not 1984? Let's live each day as if it were our last; let's look into cloudy skies as if the Lord will break through at any moment; and let's view every soul as facing one of two eternal destinations.

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

H. G. Spafford



## LOVE THROUGH PRAYER

Submitted from Mansfield, Ohio

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much . . ."

James 5:16

As we reflect upon our past life in 1983, has our prayer life been as fervent as it could have been? A true story is told of Cuff, a negro slave who lived in the South before the war. He was a joyful Christian and a faithful servant. His master, however, was in need of money, and one day a young planter, who was an infidel, came to buy Cuff. The price was agreed upon, and the Christian slave was sold to the infidel. But in parting with him the master said, "You will find Cuff a good worker and you can trust him; he will suit you in every respect but one." "And what is that?" asked the buyer. "He will pray, and you can't break him of it, but that is his only fault." "I'll soon whip that out of him," remarked the infidel. "I fear not," said the former master, "and would not advise you to try it; he would rather die than give it up." Cuff proved faithful to the new master, the same as he had to the old. The master soon got word that Cuff had been praying, and calling him said, "Cuff, you must not pray any more; we can't have any praying around here; never let me hear any more about this nonsense." Cuff replied, "O massa, I has to pray to Jesus, and when I pray I loves you and Missus all the more, and can work all the harder for you." But he was sternly forbidden to pray any more, under penalty of a severe flogging. That even-

ing, when the day's work was done, he talked to his God, like Daniel of old, as he had aforesometimes. Next morning he was summoned to appear before his master, who demanded of him why he had disobeyed him. "O Massa, I has to pray; I canna live without it," said Cuff. At this the master flew into a terrible rage and ordered Cuff to be tied to the whipping post, with his shirt off. He then applied the rawhide with all the force he possessed, until his young wife ran out in tears and begged him to stop. The man was so infuriated that he threatened to punish her next if she did not leave, then continued to apply the lash until his strength was exhausted. Then he ordered the bleeding back to be washed in salt water, his shirt replaced, and the poor slave to set about his work. Though in great pain, Cuff went away singing in a groaning voice: "My suffering time will soon be o'er, When I shall sigh and weep no more.

Cuff worked all that day, as the blood oozed from his back where the lash had made long, deep furrows. Meantime, God was working in his master. He saw his wickedness and cruelty to that poor soul, whose only fault had been his fidelity. Conviction seized upon him. In great distress of mind he went to bed, but could not sleep. Such was his agony at midnight that he awoke his wife and told her that he was dying. "Shall I call in the doctor?" she said. "No, no; I don't want a

doctor. Is there anyone on the plantation that can pray for me? I am afraid that I am going to hell." "I don't know of any one," said his wife, "except the slave you punished this morning." "Do you think he would pray for me?" he anxiously inquired. "Yes, I think he would," she replied. "Well, send for him quickly." On going after Cuff they found him on his knees in prayer, and when called he supposed it was to be punished again. On being taken to the master's room, he found him writhing in agony. The master, groaning, said, "O Cuff, can you pray for me?" "Yes, bress de Lord, Massa, I'se been prayin' for you all de night," and at this he dropped on his knees, and like Jacob of old, wrestled in prayer. Before the break of day Cuff witnessed the conversion of both master and mistress. Master and slave embraced. Race differences and past cruelty were swept away by the love of God, and tears of joy were mingled. Cuff was immediately set free, and worked no more on the plantation. The master took Cuff and went to preach the gospel. They traveled all over the South, witnessing to the power of Christ to save to the uttermost. Such is the power of the love of God in the soul where Christ dwells. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (I John 4:10)

Let's love one another and those about us more fervently in 1984.

## NEWS FROM ROMANIA

Submitted by Bro. Andrew Hunyady, Columbus

In October 1983 a brother visited eastern Europe and spent 3 days visiting fellow believers in Romania. Here are a few excerpts from his report: We traveled many miles, met and visited many loving brethren and often wept with them. The conditions cannot be described, one must see the misery, poverty and the suffering of the sick, old and materially very poor people. Some live in unheated rooms, have hardly any food, and often go for days without a decent meal. Bread and the daily essentials are rationed. The very old and sick are unable to stand in bread lines, thus cannot buy food.

Their clothes and blankets are badly worn and are faded. In many cases the younger, unconverted members of their families fail to provide and care for them. Of about 2,000 fellow believers nearly half are old and poor and about 200 are considered to be extremely poor. Many live in small villages and hamlets away from good roads. Access during rainy seasons and winter are very difficult and often impossible.

During their visit to churches in eastern Europe in Aug. 1982, brothers Leon Graf and Sandor Bako were approached by elder brothers in Ro-

mania, explaining the situations there and the possible need for a 4-wheel drive vehicle, that would make it possible to visit and help these isolated brethren. After careful study and investigation, funds for the purchase of such a vehicle have been approved and provided for by the World Relief Committee. The order is now in the process. The responsible brothers in Romania made it known to us that such a vehicle would be used strictly for relief work to help those needy brethren who live in the hard to reach areas.

The food package program is progressing very well. More and more



names are being received and added to our list for help. In order to provide packages to more families with the monthly allotted funds from World Relief, our orders now consist of slightly smaller packages (from 10 kg. to 8½ kg.) per family, thus spreading it out to more families.

Here are a few excerpts from the several 'thank you' notes received lately: "... with a grateful and joyful heart I want to thank each of you who contributed and to you who labor to forward it. We cease not in our prayers to thank God for His great works through the hearts of His people and opening the doors of His storehouse to provide for His less fortunate people. Elder brother Dumbava and Bro. Biro (minister) are well and they too greet you all." (Widow of a former minister)

"We received a package on the 20th of Nov. and several others previously. We thank you and the congregations for the generous gifts in the holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Victoria J.

"We received your letter and the parcel. We thank our holy God and you, who so graciously cares and provides our needs." F.M.

Three elderly sisters living in the same community received their parcels and each wrote a brief note, and shared the same envelope to mail it. A warm expression of love and gratitude to all the brethren in America for their love and gifts.

"For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will, ye may do them good, but me ye have not always."

Mark 14:7

## URGENT NEED FOR A MARRIED COUPLE AT CHILDREN'S HOME

To be able to continue the operation of the Children's Home, there is an urgent need for a married couple to serve as alternate houseparents at the Children's Home at Leo, Indiana.

This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for our brothers and sisters to put to use their God-given talents in working with young people and bringing out the best in them.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and, when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

The qualification requirements for the alternate houseparents are:

1. Must be a brother and/or sister sound in faith, upholding church doctrine and order.
2. Must have the support of his/her home church elder.
3. Must be able to command respect of children, as well as adults.
4. Desirable age between 21 and 60 years. Consideration will be given to all applicants.
5. A resume is required to be sent with your request for an interview.
6. This position is full-time.
7. Training or studies in child care, social work, nursing profession, counseling or teaching would be helpful. We have a staff development program and

"on the job" training to help you carry out your duties.

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

Bro. Uriel Gehring  
Box 423  
Grabill, IN 46741  
(219) 627-5468 or (219) 627-5138

Bro. Oliver Stieglitz  
Route 3, Box 321  
Grabill, IN 46741  
(219) 657-5168

Elder Bro. David Bertsch  
Route 2  
Grabill, IN 46741  
(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." (Psalm 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.

The Children's Home  
Board Members

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring — Jane Stieglitz

Winter has arrived in Indiana; this, in accordance with God's Word, "While the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Gen. 8:22. How changeless is our Creator's word. The frigid blasts of winter's cold winds remind us of the power of God, and the helplessness of man to manipulate the weather. His ways are higher than our ways, and beyond our finding out. How thankful we are for food, clothing and shelter in all seasons of the year. The beauty of winter is easily visible as we see the ground blanketed with a lovely white. "Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1:18. White is one of the symbols God uses to indicate purity, cleanliness and holiness. Yes, there is beauty all around in God's great creation. We, all humanity, are

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:  
HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER



His creations, and if by virtue of the "new birth from above" we have become new creatures in Christ Jesus, we are the Sons of God, and "happy is that people whose God is the Lord". Ps. 144:15. We are overwhelmed when we consider His goodness to us.

Our children all participated in the Sunday School Christmas program which was presented at the fellowship hall in Leo on a Sunday evening before Christmas. It is always uplifting to listen to our Sunday School children tell us the story of Christ's birth in song and verse (and a little child shall lead them). Preceding the program, our sisters served us a delicious potluck supper to satisfy the physical needs of this mortal shell. It is marvelous how our Heavenly Father supplies all our needs through His omnipotent love. May we prove our love to Him by obeying His Word.

My wife, Judy, daughter, Rachel, Gary H. and myself enjoyed a week of the holiday season with our brethren and friends in Phoenix, AZ, thanks to the invitation and generosity of the Phoenix Sunday School. While there we had the opportunity of visiting and dining in many homes, Christmas caroling and attending Wednesday evening and Sunday church service — a lovely time of fellowshiping. We also saw the red mountains jetting skyward in their various shapes and formations outlined against the blue of the sky, and an awesomeness gripped our hearts as we sensed the magnitude of our Creator's handiwork. The sand areas, the cactus, the palm and fruit trees all lent an exotic tint to the Arizona terrain.

We have a new assistant houseparent, Sis. LeAnn Wulf from the Morris, MN congregation. We are anticipating many pleasant hours with her as we labor and fellowship together here at the Home with and for our children.

Having just celebrated Christ's birth, let us now proceed to follow the teachings He left us as a man, the Son of God, "who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those that believe". I Tim. 4:10b. Praise be to His Name.

The children and staff all enjoyed a break from the routine at the Home over Christmas. Thank you Lamar, MO, Morton, Tremont and Princeville, IL congregations for hosting our children over the holidays. They are already looking forward to and planning for their next trip.

The Bluffton young group has really blessed and encouraged the children with a lot of extra special attention. In the month of December, they treated them to an afternoon of ice skating and also to a day of woodworking in the shop at our Home. Thank you, Bluffton young group for generously giving of your time and talents.

During Christmas vacation the kids also enjoyed sledding and tobogganing in the snow.

We have three birthday kids this month: Erik turned 10, Bertha 15 and Daleen 14. We want to thank those of you who so faithfully write to the children and send them birthday messages.

#### **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

Christmas, 1983, is history, but one day seems far too short to mark the birthday of our Saviour. Need the observance be ended with the end of the day? Can it not last as long as spirits lift at the mention of His name? Or as long as kindness rules and words spread warmth and smiles? Shall we not accept the challenge of observing the Saviour's birth, life, death and resurrection throughout the coming year with radiant gratitude translated into action?

When God ordained the order of things in the beginning, he spoke of "days". Man has since arranged for additional order of time, and we have weeks, months and years. Each time we begin a new year, we find it a good time to step away from ourselves, take a comprehensive look, summarize the pros and cons of our lives and make an effort to do better. Man has often been advised to walk the journey of life a step at a time. To load more than that on ourselves can create a crushing burden. An unknown author used Psalm 118:24 (This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.") as the basis for the following:

Look to the day with a challenge!  
Lift your eyes to the sun, not the shade!  
Keep your heart filled with song, as you travel along  
For this is the day God hath made!  
Look to the day with a purpose  
Of fulfilling the plans that you've had,  
With a joy in your heart that will never depart,  
For God's made this day to be glad!  
Look to the day with a prayer

And a quiet request for His aid,  
And be glad all day through,  
in whatever you do,  
For this is the day God hath made!

Our newest resident, David Taylor, brings the number in our "family" to 90. His foster parents, Voda and Dallas (deceased) Cochran, and a brother, Dean, plus four nieces make up his family. His foster mother, Voda, taught at PARC in Peoria for many years, but is now retired. It is a pleasure to have David with us. Birthday time for him is Sept. 13.

Many residents had the privilege of spending some part of the Christmas holidays with family or friends. A sense of belonging to family is very important to them.

Mail time has always been a very important time of the day for our residents. How we appreciate those of you who remember them with cards and letters!

The combination of beautiful snow and mild winter temperatures has already provided residents the privilege of enjoying the outdoors with sled rides and walks.

#### **ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Schrenk**

If we stop and think for a few minutes about the past year, we surely have been richly blessed as a people and as a church.

On Dec. 4, some of us were privileged to go to Gridley, IL to witness the wedding of Bro. Robert Schrenk (Athens) to Sis. Carol Gramm. It was a blessed day as we were taught about married life and how it should be according to God's plan. While we were gone, Bro. David Bertsch came to Athens and ministered to the congregation here. We also had visitors from Francesville and Bloomington this past month. In a beautiful Sunday School lesson, Bro. Wayne Huber reminded us of how a beautiful and magnificent ceiling chandelier is spoiled if only one or two lights go out. How important it is to hold up our brother with love and support. May not one light grow dim or fade out! May this be our goal for 1984!

We have again started to have Wednesday evening services. What a blessing this has been! We really don't realize how much we missed Wednesday evening services until we started to meet again. We have had a good number gathered and if any are coming



through Athens during the week, stop and worship with us!

We wish to thank our visitors for the many blessings we receive when they stop to spend a few hours with us.

### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

#### Ron and Ev Hoerr

And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days (I Kings 3:14). On Thanksgiving Day, Bro. Jake Beyer (Gridley, KS) received this promise when he joined the Master at the age of 101 years, 10 months. Our condolences are offered to Bro. Clarence and Sis. Geraldine Beyer. They spent some time here with his sister, Sis. Bertha, before returning home.

We enjoyed Thanksgiving Day services as we counted our many blessings.

Three couples were joined in holy matrimony in December. On Dec. 4, Bro. Herbert Knochel, Jr. and Sis. Laurie Zeltwanger exchanged vows before Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach.

On Dec. 11, Sis. Wanda Huber became the bride of R. Jacob Hoerr in Francesville, IN.

On Dec. 18, Bro. Tim Sutton and Sis. Verene Von Tobel were married in Francesville, IN.

Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman performed the ceremonies in Francesville. There will be a wedding reception in Phoenix, January 22 for the Suttons and Hoerrs.

We miss Dean Beery and three little daughters since they have returned to Rittman. We pray the Lord will keep them in the hollow of His hand.

Bro. Jim Funk came up from Tucson to be our visiting minister. We hope he and Sis. Lou Ann will return soon.

Bro. Jay Leman will serve as our new trustee; Bro. Jerry Emch, usher; Bro. Dave Klopfenstein, song leader; Bro. Herb Knochel, lunch fund; and Bro. Glen Baumgartner will take care of congregational room, assisted by Bro. Herbie Knochel.

On Dec. 18, we enjoyed our Sunday School Christmas program. We truly appreciate all the effort the teachers and sixty children put into the lovely program. Cookies and punch were served later.

Christmas caroling was Dec. 23, with refreshments at the church afterwards.

May you find joy and peace in Him every day in the coming New Year.

### ARIZONA, TUCSON

#### Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

We would like to extend a warm thank you to our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and his wife, Sis. Barbara, who traveled to Tucson to take Holy Communion with our congregation. We were all refreshed in the Spirit and greeted our brothers and sisters with a renewed bond of love. This is truly a blessed sacrament.

Our Sis. Tillie Aldrich was hospitalized recently. She is doing better now but still needs our prayers of love and words of encouragement.

Sis. Martha Blessman was also hospitalized for a short stay recently. Sis. Martha was able to congregate with us last Sunday and we thank the Lord for His wonderful healing power!

We recently were able to meet Bro. Steve Zimmerman who is engaged to marry Sis. Mary Anne Bertschi (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Irene). Sis. Mary Anne resided here at one time with her parents. A singing shower was held at the fellowship hall and everyone present wished Sis. Mary Anne and Bro. Steve much happiness as they start their new life together.

As the new year approaches so speedily, we look back on what has happened over the past year. The Lord has certainly blessed the Tucson church richly with health, food, shelter, clothing, safe travel and a sanctuary to come together and worship in. We have had no youngsters taken from us, no famine, no damage to our homes, nothing but a few minor tribulations to help us to grow and to make the victory all that much sweeter. We have truly been blessed and yet have done nothing to deserve such wonderful care from our Lord. We remember last year at this time making "resolutions" of sorts to become better soldiers. Did we really try hard enough? This year as we are making our resolutions, let's make a resolution to really try every minute of every day to do what the Lord has willed for us in our life.

### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

#### Mary Beth Klotzle

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." Psalm 127:1. Bro. Doug (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie, Washington) and Sis. Lillian (Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov) Wagenbach were married on November 27. Our prayers go with them as they settle into their home in Washing-

ton, IL. We trust it is the Lord who will help them "build" and establish a home where His love can dwell. Many were able to travel to California to share in the weekend and we had a special four days together. There were services and a meal served at church on Thanksgiving Day. We thank Bro. Don Wagenbach for willingly sharing God's Word. May God bless each of you who were here.

God continues to work in each life, bringing to pass that which is in His will. Trusting the Lord in His wisdom has guided them, the engagement of Sis. Maria Jevremov (Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna) and Bro. John Wernli (Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty, Lomont, KS) was announced. We pray God will prepare their hearts and minds as they grow in love for Him and for each other. God's blessings to you!

What a joy it was to hear the Sunday School tell again of the birth of Christ Jesus our Saviour during the Christmas program. We've also enjoyed caroling together and sharing the love, peace and joy of God's precious Gift with those less fortunate than us.

I failed to mention before of the Heritage Day we shared. There was quite a good turnout and we pray God's love was felt in each heart as they sat under the sound of His Word. Thanks to all who came and spent time with us; you're always welcome to come and worship with us!

Services were held in San Diego and it was a blessing to all who could attend. Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont) ministered the Word. Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson) was our other visiting minister. Once again, sincere thanks to those who lend themselves and preach God's Word.

Lord willing, Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle, Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr (Peoria) will be making a trip to India with a stopover in Japan. Your prayers for His guidance and safe-keeping are very much needed and appreciated. May He bless the furtherance of this work with the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India.

### COLORADO, DENVER

#### Marlene Leman

"Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psalm 51:7. As the snow falls and the wind blows it into drifts, the drab gray winter scene turns into a beautiful glistening sculpture. So in



the spiritual sense, the drab gray life of sin can be changed to a pure, sparkling white as we are washed in the blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We, here in Denver, had various experiences over Thanksgiving week-end when our area was hit by a 22-inch snow storm. Many of us spent unplanned time in Nebraska and Kansas waiting for the storm to subside. Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) came out to serve in the absence of Bro. Tom. They got here ahead of the storm, but due to the storm, no services were held that day. We appreciate Bro. Ron and Bro. Harold coming, but we regret that no one could be with them.

We welcome Joe Hohulin (Bro. Mel and Sis. Shirley, Roanoke) into our midst. Joe has found employment here in Denver and we look forward to getting to know him better.

Sis. Katherine Ries has been unable to assemble with us for several weeks due to an infection in her foot. We pray for God's healing hand to touch her.

Our sympathy is extended to Joe and Bro. Doug Hohulin in the death of their grandmother, Sis. Luella Leman (Roanoke).

Leroy Wulf has finished this portion of his training in Denver and we are sorry to have him leave us and return to his home church in Lester. We pray that as Leroy has started down this straight and narrow pathway he will always desire God's will in his life.

#### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Michelle Virkler

"Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Col. 3:2

As another chapter in our lives closes, we surely have much to be thankful for. God has blessed us abundantly. May we continue to live righteously and pleasing in His sight.

Strive aright when God in mercy  
His compassion turns to you  
That your soul so long o'er-burdened  
Freed from sin might live anew  
Strive to enter at the portal  
Walk the narrow path of life  
Here we wander in the valley  
Death abounds with toil and strife  
Strive with zeal and passion glowing  
In the strength of your first love  
Break the bonds of earth that keep you  
From your bright abode above  
Battle 'gainst the pow'r of Satan

Grow not weary in the fight  
Struggle forward to the kingdom  
Of your God in endless light!

Zion's Harp #47

. . . Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter the kingdom of Heaven. St. Matt. 18:3. God's love and mercy have once again been shown to us, as three more precious souls have been called to serve our Lord: Joanne Gerber (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Beverly), Scott Luginbuhl (Bro. Edward and Sis. Alma) and Ricky Gottier (Warren and Sis. Carol).

"Heal Thou me in my illness; Heal Thou me! When in time of sore affliction, Send Thy love and pure affection, To my poor and wounded heart; Heal Thou every painful smart." Zion's Harp #152

Bro. Paul Lanz who is 92 years old has been hospitalized after having undergone surgery for a broken hip. We all pray for his speedy recovery and ask the Lord to keep him in His tender and loving care. Bro. Paul and Sis. Bertha recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. Ryan Kupferschmid (Bro. Dan and Sis. Teri) has also been hospitalized and we trust the Lord will comfort everyone as our little ones are so very precious to us.

On Saturday evening, Nov. 26, we gathered to hear the memorandum to the churches of the Annual Brotherhood Conference. We were so thankful for our Elder Bros. Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH), and Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) who visited with us and assisted Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler in reading and expounding upon its contents. We surely felt God's presence in our midst as their work was accomplished. The Lord has shown direction for two new ministers to assist us, Bro. Everett Gerber and Bro. Kevin Ryan. We could truly feel it was the work of the Lord and may God's richest blessings and grace be with these dear brethren, their wives (Sis. Phyllis and Sis. Cheryl) and their families as they come forth to preach the word in its purity.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, our Sunday School program will take place. Jesus' humble birth will be brought forth by our dear little children as they recite verses and sing Christmas carols. We thank God for the spiritual enrichment of their lives this past year and may the labors of our Sunday School teachers be blessed. ". . . be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the

work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor. 15:58.

As we attend services on New Year's day we reflect upon our thankfulness for our salvation and to our Heavenly Father who shows his patience, his constant abiding love and his mercy.

"So march then boldly onward;  
Our Saviour's in the lead!  
He, as a faithful Shepherd,  
Sustains us in our need."

Zion's Harp #138

#### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Billie Klopfenstein

Bro. John and Sis. Caroline Heeja are the parents of a new little son, Gregory. Christina and Michael are helping take good care of their baby brother. Sis. Louise Akel is the maternal grandmother.

Our annual Sunday School Christmas program was held in the fellowship hall on Dec. 11. With the help of teachers, Sis. Judy Sauder, Bro. Rich Sutter and Bro. Brian Webb, the children gave a rendition in songs and recitations of our Saviour's birth. The Christmas story was read from Luke. The congregation then joined in singing carols and all enjoyed a delicious buffet meal served at the conclusion of the evening. We want to thank each child, teacher and everyone who helped with supper for a wonderful evening.

As we go forth into a new year, we all have so much to give thanks for. To know Jesus as our Saviour is the most valuable and precious experience one can have. I often wonder how people cope when they can't or don't ask for His help and comfort. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3.

#### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Doris and Diane Roche

We enjoyed a weekend of blessed fellowship and love when our dear Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL) ministered to us. On Saturday evening, we heard testimonies of Bonnie McWhorter, Marie Keller and Jeff Streitmatter III. We rejoice with these new sisters and brother-in-faith; their joy in this new-found salvation is so evident. We pray their Light may shine to guide others to the door of grace. They



sought the Lord and found Him, "Except ye be born again, ye cannot see the kingdom of God." St. John 3:3. They have begun a new walk of life with the Holy Spirit and with thankful hearts for His almighty love each step of the way. Baptismal services were held on Sunday followed by a dinner for all. For a wonderful ending of the blessed weekend, our elder brothers gave us the memorandum reading. We were not only refreshed in spirit, but reminded of our duties as Christians. We must be obedient brothers and sisters that our elders may rule wisely among our churches.

Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) so willingly fed us on Wednesday evening with memory of our dear Saviour's sacrifice and deep love for all mankind. May he and Sis. Louise soon return for another visit.

We are about to refresh our minds of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in 1983 by a program given by our Sunday School children and teachers.

The blessed Christmas story as we pray,

For the glory to behold of the King's birthday.

Following the star showed the wisemen the way,

To the inn at Bethlehem where in the manger He lay.

As this love and mercy of our Lord we must say,

Was God's gift from above for our debt to pay.

by Sis. Doris

### GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Nancy Foltz — Charmin Sellers

Lord, let my work be more than tasks for myself. Let it be an example that gives hope to others.

Van Varner

We thank Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron) who was our visiting minister on November 27 and Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont) who came to minister to us on December 11. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

We look forward to the New Year with our first service which will be January 8. Services will be held every 2nd and 4th Sunday at the Ramada Inn, Interstate 75, Marietta, Georgia. For information, call either Don Sellers at 404-923-0721 or Nancy Foltz at 404-451-9191.

### ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Charlene Knobloch Shirley Denick

As we are enjoying the blessings of the Christmas activities, we must always remember that Christ is the reason for the season.

We rejoice with our new converts and pray for grace in abundance as they make this important change in their lives. We encourage Anthony Blades and Randy and Ann Anderson as they start anew in God's service.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany have a baby daughter. Alexis Elizabeth has come to share their home. Big brother, Matthew, completes the family.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Ron and Sis. Ellen Farney in the death of Sis. Ellen's father, Bro. Dale Domonick (Morton).

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke) and our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont). We thank them for their messages as they continue in God's service.

Sis. Jan Gudeman will replace Sis. Charlene Knobloch as Silver Lining correspondent.

### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Shirley Kieser

We thank our visiting ministers for their love and efforts shown to us in their visits and messages. They were Bros. Ralph Garber and Bob Pflederer (Morton), Dave Kieser, Jim Plattner, Joe Stoller (Princeville); Don Manz (Junction); Dan Koch, Glen Dill and Al Aberle (Tremont).

We rejoice with Bro. Nate and Sis. Martha Stoller as their son, Nate, and his wife, Sherrill, are seeking the Lord in repentance.

Sis. Donna Ehnle was hospitalized for surgery and is home recuperating now. Our prayers are with her that she might recover her strength soon.

We're so thankful to the Lord for His watchfulness and mercy. Though He permitted Wes and Kurt Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Lavonne) and Daryl Knobloch (Bro. Marv and Sis. Diane) to meet with accident, He also kept them, as in His mighty arms and spared them serious injury.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest . . ." We've experienced souls repenting, their healing and protection and the beauty of love between two in the wedding of Sis. Lynne Elsasser and Bro. Keith Pflederer. May God richly

bless their lives as they walk together as man and wife. Their parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen Elsasser and Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Pflederer (Tremont).

God's love also comforts as in the death of Sis. Mary Leuthold. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha Kieser and their family. As the Lord took a dear mother and grandmother home, He brought a tiny new life into the home of Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Kieser. Bethany JoAnn came to live on earth the same day her great-grandmother was buried. Little Bethany is welcomed by her sister, Janice, as well as her grandparents, Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha and Bea Despain (Bradford).

The greatest love ever shone was the gift of God's only Son. This was portrayed by the Sunday School children as they spoke their pieces and praised Him in song at our Christmas program.

### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

"Healthy resolutions for 1984" was a heading on some information we received. I find that difficult. In making resolutions, I always want large parts of my life to be transformed into perfection. I want never to say the wrong thing to anyone, never think evil of anyone. I want to be always patient but never a doormat, helpful to my students in all ways but stretching their abilities and challenging them as well. The list could go on and on. (It's like what I want to do over vacation. Literally what I want to do may take me years. That is probably what Christ thinks of my spiritual life as well.) Better I think to abhor our sin as Christ does but love the sinners, ourselves. Then with our goals divided into "one item, one task-at-a-time" resolutions, we may see ourselves moving, however slowly, in our search for perfection. "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions." Psalms 51:1.

Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) were part of our December blessings. Our thanks go to the Lord for their visits. We were reminded of the properties of salt: its worth and seasoning abilities I was aware of. But our brother spoke of the thirst salt creates. Certainly we, as Christians, would like to provoke those



who have not known our Lord to thirst, for His living water is only found by the seeking, needy soul.

From the breathless lisping words of the youngest to the quick memorized stanzas of those a bit older and the clear enunciation of the older children and teens, the Christmas program is each year more and more meaningful. Bro. Dale Eisenmann in his response mentioned the message of each class (and they listened well!). There was the opportunity refused as the little ones, as Mary and Joseph knocked at the inn door. Other children spoke of "ornaments" we possess (our smiles, our minds and hearts), which, though we cannot hang them on a tree at Christmastime, we can use for Christ. Our pre-teens told the story of the widow's ultimate sacrifice in giving her two mites, her all. Even though she was not learned in the Scriptures, she knew trust and obedience in their purity. We must not expect our children to always understand all that they are told or are asked to perform (though we want to be as clear as we can in our telling). Nevertheless, for what they cannot grasp now, may they have that foundation of truth for the appropriate time.

Kevin Rocke, a dear convert (Eureka, IL), is now employed with International Harvester in Hinsdale. We welcome him enthusiastically, for we appreciate each young brother so very much, for each one's Spirit, patience and love shown to our children and ourselves.

Our beloved Sisters Marie Kulyan and Margaret Fisher have been hospitalized. We hope that in 1984 as well, they will be upheld in our Lord's almighty arms, regardless what may befall them. May they have our thoughts, prayers, cards and visits to lift their spirits.

Bro. Howard Rapp joins Bros. Miklos Bozzay and Glen Pfeifer in their responsibilities as ushers. In this sensitive position of welcoming and seating brothers, sisters and friends, may they continue to exhibit His grace and warmth. May we aid them in every way.

May we work in 1984 to be more liberal with others and more conservative with ourselves. A dear sister recently, in refusing a request of mine, said, "You won't be offended, will you?" She was so sincere. And I was appalled. I had no right to even consider offense! At most times we need to be less concerned about others' ac-

tions than our own. We do not know their motivations. 'Tis the devil's inroads into our prayer lives, our priorities and our motivations that we need to be so watchful of. On the other hand, we are to love our brethren, to be prayerful for them and with them, and if we are so moved by the Lord, feeling them to be in danger, to warn them. May all warnings, warranted or not, fall on tender hearts, that our love, one for another, may increase. Together may we more surely keep our eyes fixed on our heavenly goal, and may our feet climb closer towards God. "Thus saith the Lord, keep ye judgement, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed." Isaiah 56:1.

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**  
**Wilma Walder — Joan Waldbeser**

"The land whither ye go to possess it is a land of hills and valleys and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: a land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year."

Deut. 11:11, 12

As we find ourselves on the threshold of a new year, it is comforting to know the eyes of the Lord are always upon it as it reads in the verse above. We know not what we shall face in the year ahead but we know we can always trust in God no matter what may come our way.

Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Roy Grimm (Taylor), Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Bros. Robert Beebe (South Bend), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) ministered to us this past month. It is so encouraging to have visitors in our midst. We pray God will bless them for giving of themselves and expounding the Holy Word unto us.

Sis. Hulda Schmitt, Sis. Emma Wahl and Francis Knapp were in the hospital as surgical patients. Others hospitalized were Betty Hari, Bro. Emil Fisher and Sis. Twylla Beer.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jan Keeley welcomed a baby girl into their hearts and home on November 17. They have named her Anna Oleta. We rejoice with them as it seems a home is not complete until there are children in it. May God's blessings be with all of them.

To dedicate our new fellowship hall,

a potluck meal was enjoyed by many of our brethren and friends on December 18. After the meal we sang many hymns followed by a dedication service. We pray God will bless this building that it may be used to enhance our fellowship and be a glory to Him.

Our sympathy goes out to several families who have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Emma Wahl was saddened by the death of her brother, Elmer Rinkenberger (Morton).

Sis. Arvilla Yergler passed away in her home December 3, at the age of 73. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Ben; three sons, Donald, Bruce and Bro. Max; one daughter, Joy Rae (Roger) Hari; three sisters, Sis. Helen Knapp, Sis. Mary Hitz (Francesville) and Sis. Lillian Stahl (Princeville) and 13 grandchildren.

William Miller passed away December 7 at the age of 70. Surviving are his wife, Esther; two daughters, Mary Lou Jaeger and Cheryl Ann Miller; one son, Steven Douglas; two grandchildren and two brothers, Edward and John.

The family of Sis. Arvilla Yergler wishes to express their sincere thanks to all who remembered them with prayers, flowers, cards and kind expressions of love and sympathy during the loss of their loved one. May God bless each one.

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

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**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Carol Craig — Kay Roth**

Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.  
 Ecc. 12:13-14

As we begin this new year of 1984, let us keep this in mind and strive to do that which is right and good in God's sight.

We thank Bros. Ed Alt (Cissna Park), Dale Frank (Oakville) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City) for bringing to us the Word, which is the Bread of Life. May the Lord bless them now and forevermore.

A little bundle of joy was welcomed into the home of Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig. Their baby girl, Joan Marie, was also welcomed by her



grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand (Goodfield) and Jim and Elda Mae Craig.

We enjoyed the many blessings that the Christmas season brings. Among these blessings were the Sunday School Christmas program and all-church caroling. We thank those who had a special part in making these blessings possible.

We had several from our congregation that were in the hospital this past month. They were Bros. Bob Williamson and Virgil Funk, sisters Elizabeth Zobrist and Margaret Ott, and Amity Wales (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol). May the Lord be with them as they recuperate.

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

In Exodus 12 is recounted the story of the first passover. It is interesting that this event was accompanied by an ordering of months: God says to Moses and Aaron in Exodus 12:2, at the beginning of the passover instructions, "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you." Later, in Deuteronomy 16:1, the Israelites are instructed to "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the Lord thy God: for in the month of Abib the Lord thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night."

God ordained the month of deliverance as the first month of the year: the month of beginning and later recollection of past deliverance. Although, as we count time, the first month of our year is January, not Abib, it is nonetheless appropriate for us who have been delivered and redeemed from our servitude to Satan to recall the mercy shown us when we repented and were converted. And again as so many, those we know and those we don't, all over the face of the earth still serve that terrible taskmaster, we pray for their redemption. Let it not be an empty New Year's resolution, but rather a firm resolve in every heart to walk in the spirit, that we may effectively show our fellow humans their dire need of our great Saviour.

December 3 the conclusions to the Brotherhood Conference were brought to us by Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Bro. Nathan Steffen. There is inner joy when we can consider together God's will for His church in these latter days. We feel an

urgency to be fully in tune with the Holy Word and that we can "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14.

Sis. Emma Wewetzer has transferred to the Americana Nursing Home where she lingers as her health fails. We observe the frailty of the human frame; however, we trust that the spiritual body is mounting, preparing to take wing when the Lord should see fit to call her home. May her sisters, Sis. Esther and Sis. Katie Kachelmuss be strengthened as they attend to their sister's needs.

Esther Batt also is hospitalized again and is very ill. We are so thankful to the Lord that he has looked down and kindly called Esther to repentance and that she has answered that call. Indeed "the goodness of God leadeth us to repentance." Romans 2:4.

Sis. Mary Spohr and Sis. Ida Moser also have spent time in the hospital and have experienced considerable suffering. We are grateful that they are, in a measure, restored. May the Lord strengthen them both for body and soul.

Bro. John and Florence Feucht have celebrated their forty-fifth wedding anniversary and were blessed with many greetings of good wishes from friends and relatives from far and near. They have expressed appreciation and thankfulness for this.

On December 18 we were reminded of Christ's birth and His subsequent crucifixion through the mouths of our children as they presented the annual Christmas program.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Rocke

#### I WONDER

What does the future hold for me  
In the mystical long eternity?

Shall I hear the Master say, "Well done"

When the sands of time have finished  
the run?

Will I use my talents as I should  
By shunning evil and seeking good?  
Will some life be better because of me?  
Will I a worthy example be?

Have I eased the burden of someone's  
worry

In a world of never-ending hurry?

Have I taken time for the kindly deed  
Or a word of courage in time of need?

What will my portion be at end of strife  
When the Angel opens the Book of  
Life?

What does the future hold for me  
In the mystical long eternity?

Elizabeth Orth

And so we begin another year -  
1984. May it be a year of spiritual  
growth, more aware of what God would  
have us do and how He might use us, so  
that, unaware, we do not pass Him by.

November 20 we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Scott Leman (Bro. Roy and Sis. Wanda) and Sis. Phyllis Wiegand (Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty, Goodfield). We certainly wish them God's blessings as they plan for their life together.

We have been blessed with ministering brothers this month. Bros. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign) taught us out of God's Word on November 27. We thank them for visiting us and invite them back.

We have had several in the hospital. Sis. Clara Zimmerman (Bro. Lawrence), Sis. Aldine Leman (Bro. Sam) and Sis. Marie Klaus. We are thankful they have all returned to their homes.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Sam and Sis. Aldine Leman and Bro. Robyn and Sis. Jan Rocke as their daughter-in-law and sister-in-law, Carol Leman (Maurice), quickly passed from this life on December 1. May God comfort these dear ones.

Sis. Jean Knapp (Bro. Bob) has our prayers as her dear mother, Ruth Bechtel, who resided at the "Home", passed away Dec. 15.

Tom Kupferschmid and Sherri Kirby have announced their engagement. He is the son of Sis. Laura Kupferschmid and the late Bro. Wayne. We wish them God's nearness.

Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Clara Zimmerman want to thank everyone for the many prayers and cards while she was in the hospital. They ask God's blessings on each of you.

Our Sunday School students presented their Christmas program the evening of December 18. It is always impressive as they tell and sing about the birth of our precious Saviour. May each student be blessed for their efforts.

December 14, Jacob Samuel Rocke



was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Robyn and Sis. Jan Rocke. Benjamin is looking forward to his new brother, as are grandparents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Aldine Leman and Bro. Richard and Sis. Marge Rocke.

First-time parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Janet Hartter. Michael James was born December 15. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Gladys Schmidgall and Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Hartter. May God bless these precious little families.

NOTE: January is Eureka's month for the Silver Lining collection.

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

#### Carol Bazzel — Joann Zehr

Several homes were blessed with precious little babies. Mark and Elaine Davis are the parents of Tara Marie, born on Nov. 28. She has a brother, Greg. Grandparents are Wayne and Verla Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Slagel. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi are the parents of Derek Samuel, born Dec. 2. He has one brother, Daryl. Grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi (Tremont) and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hoffman. Also born on Dec. 2 was Troy Michael, son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky Kieser. At home to welcome him are Trent, Timmy, Karla, Carolyn and Heidi. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kieser (Bloomington) and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Bro. Duane) in the death of her father, Ralph Werner (Silverton, OR).

On the evening of Nov. 19, the Fairbury and Forrest brethren met to hear the reading of the recent Conference Memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) who spent the weekend with us and we appreciate the efforts of our home elders.

Married on Nov. 12 were Danny Walter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen) and Leanne Kafer (Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kafer). The engagement of Bro. Martin Steidinger (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma) and Sis. Tricia Gerber (Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther, Forrest) was announced on Nov. 20. May God's blessings be with both couples in their future lives together.

Our Sunday School presented their annual Christmas program on Dec. 18. It is always heartwarming to watch and listen as each student, from the 4-year-olds to the Bible class, do their best in

bringing forth the impressive story of the birth of our dear Jesus. May each one be blessed.

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

#### Jan Bachtold — Kathy Leman

We wish to thank Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville) for lending himself and imparting many blessings unto us as we gathered together for Thanksgiving Day services. Also with us recently for a day of blessings were Bros. Steve Rinkenberger and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park). May God bless the efforts that these dear brothers put forth on our behalf.

We also wish God's blessings upon the union of hearts of Sis. Marilyn Kupferschmid (Sis. Nettie) and Bro. Fred Ruegsegger (Bay City, MI). Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park) was with us for the day and shared in this joyous occasion.

Hospital patients have been Andy Metz, Ben Traub (Sis. Irene) and Sis. Sarah Koehl (Fairview Haven). Hospitalized at this time are Bro. Mel and Sis. Leona Steffen along with Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign) after being involved in an auto accident. May they feel God's nearness and our prayers for their recovery.

Our hearts rejoice with Ben Traub (Sis. Irene) as he has realized his lost condition and has turned his heart in full surrender to the Lord. May he feel God's grace daily in his new walk of life.

Sis. Carol Metz (Bro. Gene) has been chosen to be a Sunday School teacher. The teachers certainly need our prayers and support in planting the seeds of faith in the young and tender hearts of our children.

We have two new little bundles among us. Warren and Sis. Betty Ifft are the happy parents of Quinn Jason. Brothers and sisters at home are Kevin, Devra, Curtis, Kyra and Kendra. Sis. Nettie Kupferschmid is the grandmother.

Stephen Paul is the newest addition at the home of Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman. Big brother Benji looks forward to having a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Helen Huette (Phoenix, AZ).

As we once again are into a new year, we have so much to be thankful for as we review the many blessings that God bestows upon us daily. May we, in return, put Him first in every aspect of our lives and use the gifts and talents

He has given us to His praise and honor.

Little Christopher Charles has joined the family of Charles and DiAnn Leman. His sister Abbey welcomes him home. The happy grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna Leman and John and Sis. Bonnie Traub of Fairbury. May God bless this little family.

### WHATEVER YOUR GIFT

What is that you hold in your hand?  
Nothing, you say? Look again.  
Every hand holds some special gift —  
A hammer, a broom, a pen,  
A hoe, a scalpel, an artist's brush,  
A needle, a microscope,  
A violin's bow, a way with words  
In the giving of faith and hope.  
What is that you hold in your hand?  
Whatever your gift may be,  
It can open your door to abundant  
life —

You hold in your hand the key.

Helen Lowrie Marshall

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

#### Pam Wiegand

Our church was blessed again this month with the birth of three new babies. Sherry Lynn was born on Dec. 14. She is the daughter of Mark and Sandy Wiegand. At home to welcome her are Sonya, Sarah, and Chad. Jerry and Darla Watkins have a new baby boy, Jesse James, born on Dec. 7. He has one sister, Jamie. Steve and Mary Hohulin are the proud parents of a baby girl, Lindsey Marie, born on Nov. 18.

Ray Wagner was hospitalized and is now home. May he have a speedy recovery.

Our dear Sis. Esther Woertz (Hohulin) passed away on Dec. 7. Funeral services were held on Saturday the tenth. Our sympathy is extended to her family. Esther was a dear, loving sister, who was a wonderful light to us. Sweet memories of her will stay in our hearts for years to come.

Thanks to the recent visiting ministers: Bro. Don Manz (Junction), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke) and Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor).

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

#### Carol Klopfenstein

A new year in which to live a new life is now the blessed portion of our new



members in the body of Christ. Bro. Roland Kuntz (Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma), his wife, Sis. Brenda, Bro. J. D. Schlipf (Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn), Bro. Larry Gramm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille) and Sis. Pam Gramm (Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie) were baptized Dec. 11 and welcomed into the church. We were glad to have Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Elder Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) and ministering Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) with us for the occasion.

Nov. 26 was a special evening in which our elder brothers presented the memorandum to the church. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) were with us to assist our Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger in reading and expounding upon the scriptural exhortations of our beloved faith.

The wedding engagement was announced of Bro. Les Marti (Bro. Allen and Sis. Delores, Gridley) to Sis. Patti Walder (Bro. Les and Sis. Dorothy, Cissna Park).

Sis. Carol Gramm (Bro. John and Sis. Mary, Gridley) was united in marriage to Bro. Robert Schrenk (Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan, Athens, AL) on Dec. 4. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens) and ministering Bro. William Gerst (Alto, MI) were with us for this occasion.

Allison Olivia Romersberger is the new arrival, "fresh from God", blessing the home of Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail. She was born Dec. 9 and has one sister, Ashley. Allison's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Lucille Romersberger (Gridley) and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Hari (Cissna Park).

Congratulations go to Bro. Henry and Sis. Hermine Miller who celebrated 50 years of marriage with an open house in the fellowship hall on Dec. 18.

The afternoon of Dec. 18 was also our Sunday School Christmas program in which the children praised the "new-born King" in song and verse.

George Witzig has been in the hospital and we pray that God will grant him a speedy recovery. Sis. Anna Klopfenstein has also been a hospital patient.

#### ILLINOIS, MORTON

##### Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

Sis. Elizabeth Yentes was called Home. Her funeral was on November

22. May God comfort and bless her family and friends.

Elmer Rinckenberger was called Home to be "forever with the Lord". His funeral was November 30. May God comfort and bless his family and friends.

We welcome into our most precious brotherhood two dear souls who gave their testimonies of faith on December 3 and were baptized on December 4. Our new sister and brother-in-faith are Desma Davis and Alex Paton. May the Lord continue to richly bless, lead, guide and direct them as they walk the narrow pathway of life.

We want to welcome Matt, Wendy and little Aaron Kupferschmid and Bro. David, Sis. Debra and little Garin Huber from the Bloomington-Normal congregation. They are now making their homes in Morton and are worshipping with us.

Our annual Sunday School Christmas program was held on December 11. We received a blessing and we wish to thank our children and young people who told us about the birth of Christ in verse and song.

Bro. Dale Domnick was called Home very suddenly. His funeral was December 14. May God comfort his wife, Sis. Joyce; his mother, Sis. Ruth Domnick; his family and friends.

Our annual Sunday School Christmas caroling was held December 18. It was a blessing for so many to go and sing for those who are ill or shut-in. May God bless all who took time to participate.

Let us all remember in prayer our loved ones who are shut-in or ill. Time grows long for those who cannot go in and out.

We wish to thank Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Eunice Wuthrich upon the passing of her mother, Sis. Edna Wiegand (Oakville, IA). May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless her family and friends.

#### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

##### Margo Marx — Susi Herman

As we enter the new year of 1984, we stop to reflect upon the past year. Even though we can't see into the future, it is reassuring to know that all we have to

do is trust God. He promises us that all our needs will be taken care of. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. We pray that throughout the new year we will all praise His name and that from day to day we will show forth His wonderful salvation in our walk.

A new little daughter, Brook Ellen, is welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Hoerr. Darcy and Marla are very happy with a baby sister. Brook's happy grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie Menold (Princeville) and Dave and Sis. Harriet Hoerr. We wish them God's blessings with their new addition.

The Sunday School classes presented a beautiful Christmas program on December 18. We rejoiced in hearing the sweet little voices of our younger classes and the harmony of the Bible Class. May God richly bless each and everyone that took part, including the teachers for their love and patience.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who were hospitalized. They are: Sis. Elsie Hess, Sis. Evelyn Thomas, Bro. Bernard Ziegenhorn, Sis. Emma Woerner, Fred Scharrer, Dorothy Weess and Jane Eastman. It is at times such as these that we feel hearts fervently joined together in prayer.

We were blessed by the visits of ministering brothers Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We thank them for their inspirational messages.

Our sincere sympathy goes to the family of Sis. Lena Reiman. We pray that they can feel the comfort of our dear Lord in the loss of their loved one.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Edna Wiegand (Oakville, IA), in her passing. We rejoice that she is now safe in the arms of our precious Savior.

The evening of December 7, was a blessing for all of us as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Sis. Evelyn Thomas. May her light always shine to those around her.

We had a very blessed evening on December 4, when the Washington choir sang for our monthly hymn sing. It was inspiring to hear the praises to our Lord in song.

On Friday evening, December 9, our church group caroled at the nearby nursing homes and the homes of some of our brothers and sisters who are not



able to get out. As we went from home to home and sang Christmas carols to those we love, we, ourselves received a great spiritual blessing. Surely we would be more greatly blessed if we would take the time to visit these shut-ins often. "And the King shall answer and say unto them, 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 25:40.

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

Many people in the world today are tired of living but scared of dying. For the believer, there is no need to fear either life or death. Visiting ministers have been Bros. Paul and Bert Buttkofer (Elgin, IA), Charles Hemmer (Peoria), Joe Braker (Morton), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Orville Ringger (Bluffton, IN).

On November 26 we heard the testimonies and on November 27 we witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Darlene and Sis. Doreen Graham (Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Graham) and Sis. Teresa Knobloch (Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch).

On November 30, Bro. Dave Kieser, along with Bros. Roy Grimm and Orville Ringger, explained the results of the annual church conference which was held last August.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was the evening of December 18. We always are blessed when the Sunday School children express their love for Jesus Christ.

Our love and prayers are given to the family of Bro. Silas Leuthold. Sis. Mary, wife of Bro. Silas, passed away November 28, at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka.

Sis. Mary was born on November 17, 1896, and married Bro. Silas on December 14, 1916. Surviving besides Bro. Silas are two sons, Bro. Arthur (Lester, IA) and Bro. John (Princeville); five daughters, Mrs. Herman (Sis. Evelyn) Stickling (Lester, IA), Mrs. Maurice (Sis. Helen) Knapp (Roanoke), Mrs. Leonard (Sis. Marie) Menold (Princeville), Mrs. Loris (Sis. Martha) Kieser (Bradford) and Mrs. Richard (Laura) Durfey (Detroit, MI); 33 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Sympathy is given to the family of Bro. Herman and Sis. Lillian Stahl. Sis. Lillian's sister, Sis. Arvilla Yergler

(Cissna Park), passed away December 3.

We also give our sympathy to Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina Christ. Sis. Tina's father, Lennie Logsdon (Pekin), passed away November 5.

Those on the sick list are Sis. Lucy Woertz, Bro. Richard Seidel and Herb Schick.

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
**Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold**

The new year brings new life and new joy. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita Hodel have adopted a little baby girl and named her Wendy Renae. Kevin is thrilled with his new sister, and so are the grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Em Eisenman (Cissna Park) and Betty Hodel (Roanoke). Bro. Herb and Sis. Suzie Hodel rejoice at the birth of their first daughter, Heather Louise. Big brothers are Derek and Justin and grandparents are Bro. Ben and Ruth Ann Hodel and Bro. Don and Sis. Judy Feller (Morton).

We celebrated the holy union of Bro. Danny Schwind (Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary Schwind) to Sis. Donna Pfister (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila). We are thankful for just one more Christian family in our church; each one adds strength.

It was truly an inspiration to hear of God's redeeming power in the lives of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Judy Blunier. They now walk with our flock toward heaven as they have experienced a change in heart and mind. We praise His Name.

Our Sis. Luella Leman went to her eternal rest on December 4. She resided at the Home in Roanoke, but now has a home in heaven.

Bro. Melvin Rocke and Bro. Joe Rassi were patients in the hospital this month. It's good to have them home again. May God bless Bro. Joe Braker (Morton), Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor) and Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) for sharing God's Word with us.

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**  
**Dorothy Wagenbach**  
**Carolyn Bolliger**

We were blessed with visits from Bros. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), Steve Martin and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), Ralph Garber (Morton) and Noah Herman (Tucson). We thank them for lending themselves and may they soon return and visit us.

We are thankful that Sis. Edna Getz

is able to be at home again. Sis. Edna wishes to express her sincere thanks for the cards, gifts, prayers and many deeds of kindness shown her during her surgery, hospital stay and convalescing at the Morton Healthcare Center.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Sis. Leah Winzeler. Sis. Leah lived at Restmor Nursing Home prior to her death. Surviving are Mrs. Ryan (Betty) Hild and Vernon Winzeler, all of Tremont.

Our sympathy also goes out to Ken and Linda Sauder, as her father, Rev. Edward Harding (Donnellson, IA), recently passed away.

On December 11 our Sunday School presented their annual Christmas program. We thank the teachers and also the children for their efforts.

Jeff and Nancy Hangartner are the happy parents of Emmy Lou, born December 13. Grandparents are John and Pat Stark and Jerry and Sis. Melba Hangartner, all of Pekin.

Now that a new year is upon us, it gives all of us a chance to do a little better with the help and grace of God.

NOTE: January is collection month for Tremont.

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

**WHEN WINTER COMES**

When winter comes into our lives  
 with its uncertain sound,  
 To strip us of our warmth and joy,

Our petals on the ground,  
 We may be tempted to give up;  
 To fold beneath life's storm.  
 We may be tempted to forsake  
 The hope which keeps us warm.

But, we must learn to stand up tall;  
 To always face the sun,  
 And patiently await the day  
 When winter's work is done.

For winter winds will cease to howl,  
 The snow will melt away,  
 Then we shall see the beauty of  
 Another summer's day.

And we will have renewed our strength  
 When summer's wind first blows,  
 For God will whisper once again  
 The promise of a rose.

Glenda Fulton Savis

December 18 was the day for our Sunday School Christmas program. The children reminded us of the faithful Star and the Light of the world,



Jesus. As we thought of our Lord's shining light, our thoughts drifted to two precious souls who have been such faithful lights in our congregation. Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand were in a car accident and have been hospitalized. We felt their absence today. May God heal their bruised and broken bodies as only He can. We look forward to having them in our midst again.

Many thanks go to the dear brethren who have ministered to us. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington), Bros. Joe Braker and Bob Pflederer (Morton) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria).

### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

#### Lily Pfaffmann — Elaine Winkler

A new year has begun, and along with it many new beginnings in the lives of several of our congregation. How we rejoice with them!

On November 27, Bro. Doug Wagenbach and Sis. Lillian Jevremov were united in marriage in Altadena, CA. Their parents are Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov (Altadena) and Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach. A reception was held for them here in Washington on December 17 upon their return home. We certainly are glad to have Sis. Lillian here with us, and welcome her with open arms!

Also, we had the pleasure of witnessing the wedding vows of Bro. Rob Pfaffmann and Sis. Lily Schick, as they were joined as one in the Lord on December 11. Their parents, Henry and Elizabeth Schick (Morton) and Ernst and Sis. Ida Pfaffmann, rejoiced with them, as did we all! We thank Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) and our Elder Bro. Roy Sauder, for ministering to us all on that special day.

Another reason for great joy in our congregation is the new beginnings of three dear souls in the Lord. They are Tom and Carol Schick (Bro. John and Sis. Dolly Schick) and Anne Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie).

Tom Wuthrich, of our congregation, was involved in a car accident and was treated and released. We are so thankful that he is okay.

Finally, we would like to thank ministering Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), for his labor in the Lord for our behalf.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

#### Linda Kipfer — Jan Ringger

Today, dear brethren, we stand upon the verge of the unknown. There lies before us a new year and we are going forth to possess it. Who can tell what we shall find? What new experiences, what changes shall come and what new needs shall arise? But here is the cheering, comforting, gladdening message from our Heavenly Father, "A land which the Lord thy God careth for: The eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." Deuteronomy 11:12.

November 27 was a special day for Bro. Nick Ringger (Bro. Gary and Rosetta) and Sis. Jeanette Eisaman, as they were united in holy matrimony. May God's blessings rest upon them as they begin their walk as one in the Lord.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser, along with their children, LaNae, Jamie, Jeff and Lane, welcomed little Jacki Sue as a blessed addition to their family. Her grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Fiechter and Bro. Russ and Sis. Dorothy Moser.

Many prayers have gone up to the Master Healer on behalf of our many loved ones hospitalized recently: Sis. Emma Steffen, Sis. Hulda Steffen, Sis. Gloria (Bro. Phil) Kaehr, Sis. Cheryl (Bro. Mike) Gerber, Sis. Diana (Bro. Bill) Tonner, Bro. Millard Aschliman, Sis. Marie Moser, Tanya Frauhiger (Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann), Bro. David Reimschisel and Bro. Herman Gerber.

Sis. Eva Blume passed away at the age of 93. Our sympathy is extended to her family which includes her brother, Bro. Aden Strahm.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

#### Peg Fiechter

#### Kathy Longenberger

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction). We appreciate their taking time from their busy lives to visit and minister to us.

Bro. John Moser (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Howard Stettner (Sis. Goldie) were our only hospital patients this month. We wish for both a fast recovery.

On November 30, a bundle from heaven was sent. Jordon Michael was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise Steffen. Jordon's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Carolyn Yergler, and

Bro. Leroy and Sis. Elizabeth Steffen. "Big brother" Jayde is enjoying his new playmate.

Chris Pulver is our new convert at Bluffton North. Chris's parents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Dula.

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

#### Arlene Metzger

We wish to thank Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) for coming to assist Bro. Wendell in reading the Conference letter. We are thankful for our elder body's concern for our souls' and church's welfare. We also had an evening of blessings as our church was filled, when we gathered with thankfulness for our Thanksgiving program.

We have so many blessings and reasons to be thankful. On Thanksgiving weekend we heard the testimonies of five precious souls and welcomed them unto the fold. Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Bro. Alfred Bahler came to assist in this most important step in life. Our new sister is Gina Huber and our new brothers-in-faith are: Bro. Gene Huber (twin children of Gene and Sis. Barb), Bro. Curtis Leman (Bro. Sidney and Sis. Fern), Bro. Larry Pflederer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Norma) and Bro. Marty Neihouser (Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally). What a thrill to have young people turn their lives to the Lord and their backs on the world. "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." I John 4:4.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Denton wish to announce the engagements of their twin daughters. Gina is to become the bride of Jeff Tanner, and Tina is engaged to Greg Reinhold. We wish them the blessings of our Lord.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord." Jer. 30:17. We are glad Sis. Rosella Bucher is back in our midst following surgery. We pray God will restore Bro. Bob Pflederer's health as he is still in the hospital, following a heart attack. Our prayers are still with Bro. Pierre Neihouser as he is still confined to his home.

It was a cold rainy December 11 outside, but the sunshine of God's love was shining inside as we witnessed the most sacred vows of our dear Sis. Wanda Huber (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mildred) to Bro. Jacob Hoerr (Bro. Ron and Sis. Ev, Phoenix). Visiting ministers for the day were Bros. Rod Huber and Mike Thomas (Valparaiso), Bro. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) and



Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington). How we appreciate their labors of love.

The following Sunday was a beautiful cold and snowy day as we felt the warmth of God's love. Sis. Verene Von Tobel (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola) became the bride of Bro. Tim Sutton (Phoenix). Both couples will be residing in the Phoenix area. We wish them each the rich blessings of the Lord, as He becomes the Head of their homes.

With the New Year approaching, it offers us the challenge to do better. It sounds so easy that we solemnly make New Year's resolutions and look forward to a fresh start. Despite our good intention, it all too soon proves to be an exercise in futility.

There is actually a way to get a completely fresh start in life. This way completely covers over your old soiled past with a fresh new beginning. It is God Himself who offers this opportunity for a fresh start. He promises that, "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: Old things are passed away; all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. What a wonderful opportunity we have for a fresh start unconditionally backed by God's Word. We wish each and everyone the blessing of our Lord in 1984.

#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Judy Dubach — Lynn Winslow**

Advance into this new year on your knees. Faith does not concern itself with the entire journey, that first step is enough. Breathe a prayer for courage to fill your legs as well as your heart as you face the unexpected. What matters that you know not your destination? Put your hand into the hand of God. He gives the calmness and serenity of heart and soul. As He endures, you too, can endure the climb over sharp rocks and cracks. Climb with Him to the end of life's trail. The peak that is nearest the storm cloud is nearer to the stairs of light. He gives the courage for which you pray to rise above the valley. Heed the Master's voice and press bravely on to the fulfillment of your task. You have a whole year to scale.

We congratulate these parents and their newborn babies and wish them God's love and rich blessings as they begin their life. First-time parents, Randy and Linda Sipe, are proud of their son Zachary Eugene born December 13. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Steffen welcomed home Ashley Nicole, their third little girl, born November

28. Eric William entered this life on November 24 and is loved more every day by his parents, Steve and Donna Hall and his brother, Brian. Occasionally our children experience an illness and we are thankful Natalie Fiechter is home after a short stay in the hospital with pneumonia.

We sincerely thank our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) for ministering unto us.

#### INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Lu Ann Troxel — Connie Knobloch**

The weekend of November 27 was the testimony and baptism of four dear friends, Janelle Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan), Anjie Heinold (Bro. Vic and Sis. Sheryl) and Jeanette and Ralph Yergler. How we welcome them as brother and sisters-in-Christ! Here to rejoice with us, along with many other friends and relatives, were Bros. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL), Jesse Beer (Milford), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Art Ringger (Indianapolis).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Karl Westfall (Francesville), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott). We appreciate these brethren!

On December 18 we enjoyed the Sunday School's Christmas program as they told us how to keep Christmas in our homes and lives. What a comfort it is to hear the children tell of Jesus and know they are being trained in the way they should go.

Now, as February looms ahead, cold and wintry, let's remember there is warmth in God's Word. "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11.

Dear Lord,

I get a sunny kind of feeling  
When Your loveliness warms my heart —  
My troubles turn to bubbles  
And my fears and doubts depart.

Thank You for that feeling,  
That warm and special glow —  
I pray that I can pass it on  
To everyone I know.

Please use me as a ray, Dear Lord,  
To make each day much brighter,  
By word or deed to fill a need  
And make a burden lighter.

And let me use Your loveliness  
In everything I do,  
That in a humble way I'll be  
A mirror, Lord, of You!

Alice Joyce Davidson

#### INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

**Lynne Bucher**

This Christmas has brought many blessings to the Lafayette group. We've been able to fellowship together more often by having choir practices and a special Christmas dinner. It's a true blessing to have such a large group here. We know that the Lord is faithful and we need to be thankful.

We want to thank Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) for lending themselves once more at our Thursday services. We appreciate all the effort everyone makes to support us. It's so special to gather at church and worship our Lord together.

We were blessed with a special Christmas program hosted by Francesville. May God bless Bro. Karl Westfall for sharing God's message with us. We want to thank the three groups from Francesville who sang such beautiful Christmas hymns. We really appreciate everyone's efforts. It's a real blessing when everyone is willing to work together and give of themselves. This is true giving when our efforts praise our Lord.

#### INDIANA, LEO

**Thelma Schlatter**

Kindness is like snow, it beautifies everything it covers. Following the suggestion in this little rhyme would help make the new year happier:

"Lord, help me every day to see

A chance to do some kindly deed,  
And make me always ready too,

To be of help to those in need."

Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Bro. Roy Weiland (Bay City). We thank Him for blessings given through those who serve in the ministry.

Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and David Bertsch shared the conference letter with us. We are thankful for the blessings and reminders for a careful and prayerful Christian life.

We welcome Bro. Ken and Sis. Jackie Babin and their children who came from Morton to be houseparents at the Children's Home.



Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera Baer were blessed with a baby girl named Sarah Marie. Her brother, Mark, and grandparents, Otto and Eleanor Baer (Princeville) and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Bernice Freiden (Lamar, MO) welcome her, too.

Hospital patients, Sis. Katherine Norr, Dwight Souder and Jay Ice have been in our prayers to the Great Physician.

A little girl, when asked who her best friend was, answered, "My 'bestest' friend is Jesus". He wants to be your best friend, too!

We cannot know what lies ahead in '84; but we have God's promises. We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28.

#### INDIANA, MILFORD

##### Marcy Haab — Gwen Steffen

Bros. John Lehman and Jesse Haab have recently spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful they are now home and back in church.

Two little boys have come to bless the homes of Max and Deb Sumpter and Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce Kaiser. Dustin James Sumpter was born November 20. His happy grandparents are Jim and Sis. Irene Sumpter and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Karey (North Webster). Welcoming Darin Robert Kaiser on November 30 were grandparents, Bro. Phil and Sis. Thelma Schlatter (Leo) and Mrs. Robert Kaiser (Milford). May the Lord grant these two couples Godly wisdom in raising their boys for Him.

On December 3, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) assisted our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in the reading of the Conference letter. We humbly thank him for his labor of love.

We welcome home Sis. Marlene Steffen (Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy). She recently spent a three-month study/service term in Costa Rica with other students of Goshen College. It is good to have Gustavo and Peg Romero (daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer) and Bro. Wade and Sis. Pat Stoller home for the holiday season. May those who have spent any time outside the United States come home truly thankful for the blessings we share here.

As another year unfolds, let us rededicate our lives to the Lord that some day we may be fit for His Kingdom.

#### INDIANA, REMINGTON

##### Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler

"Gazing at the far horizons and wondering what the coming months will bring, pause but a moment to reflect over the old volume of three hundred and sixty-five days just ended. The pages have been marred by mistakes and torn by intentions, but a few more miles have been covered on the upward climb, pressing toward the mark.

Through many dangers, toils and snares

We have already come,  
Twas grace that brought us safe thus far,  
And grace will lead us Home.

It has not been our own achievement. Great has been our Father's faithfulness; new every morning have been His mercies. He faileth never."

(Selected)

On December 18, Bro. Tim Hartter (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter, Sabetha) and Sis. Charleen Bahler (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler) were united in marriage. They will be residing in Sabetha. May God bless their lives together. We will miss Sis. Charleen, but we're thankful to see the formation of another Christian home.

#### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

##### Karen Lehman

When the Christmas season passes,  
With its mistletoe and pine,  
Keep your candle in the window  
So its guiding light will shine  
Just as bright on each tomorrow  
As it did on Christmas Day,  
Keep within your heart the spirit,  
That is Christmas charity.

Christmas glitter soon grows tarnished,  
But one candle in the night  
Offers guidance to the wanderer  
Looking for a beacon light.  
It will shine in honest welcome  
For the stranger who will see  
Friendly welcome in a town that  
Otherwise might lonely be.

So just put away your presents,  
Take the trimmings from your tree,  
But don't lock away the spirit  
That is Christmas charity.  
Light a candle in your window,  
Never let it fade away . . .  
As it was on Christmas Day!

H. Williams

May you keep a candle burning in your heart all year through.

Our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program to the congregation. We appreciate the efforts put forth by the children and their teachers.

The memorandum was read on a Wednesday night by Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville). We are thankful to have guidelines to keep church order and preserve our faith.

We recently held our annual church elections. May God give grace to those who have new responsibilities.

Ministering to us this month were Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Merle Bucher (LaCrosse). We thank them for sharing the message with us.

#### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

##### Vera Nuest — Jill Hitz

Halleluja, Jesus was born! Jesus was content with a stable so that we might have a Mansion when we die.

December is probably the busiest and most exciting month of the year. Amid the shopping, wrapping of gifts, baking and getting the house in order, we find it difficult to get our priorities straight. Our Sunday School children brought the old, old, story of Christmas and Jesus to us and reminded us of the real meaning of Christmas.

As we were putting up the decorations this year, our little grandchildren, ages 4 and 2 were "helping" us. I had to wonder what fond memories they would remember as the years go by. Memories of growing up give a sense of belonging, of purpose and of family togetherness. As Christian parents, we have a rich heritage to give the children and grandchildren God has entrusted to our care. Our conscious effort to build memories of valuable, enjoyable Christ-centered family times will provide the hours needed to help our children see Christianity at work.

Two little girls have been born in our congregation. Tara Sue was born to John and Corina Holbrook. Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia Thomas are foster grandparents. Jim and Kathy Baske have chosen the name Stacy Ann for the little girl entrusted to their care. Her brother, Jordon, will be happy to have a playmate. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Paarlberg are the proud maternal grandparents. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.





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Events surrounding the first schism which occurred early in this century. An account of the lawsuit against church officials in central Illinois in 1908. Local church histories: Remington, Wolcott, Bay City, Tremonton (Utah), Milford, Oakville, New Boston (Illinois), Morris, Francesville, Sabetha, Bremen (Indiana), South Bend, Latty, and LaCrosse.
- Chapter VIII— CRISES AND ADJUSTMENTS 1915-1935**  
Harsh treatment of young brethren serving in the military during World War I. The official choosing of a denominational name. The trauma of changing the worship liturgy from German to the English language. The "second split" in 1932. Local church histories: Wichita, Goodfield, Taylor, Winthrop, Chicago, Phoenix, and Maywood.
- Chapter IX— A NEW FRONTIER 1935-1982**  
The trend toward establishing churches in metropolitan areas. Local church histories: Burlington, Fort Wayne (Indiana), Alabama, Tucson, Detroit, Sarasota, Forrest, Altadena, Fort Lauderdale, Valparaiso, Urbana, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Iowa City, Bradford, Regina, Lexington, Garden Grove, Bloomington, Zapata, Philadelphia, Kansas City, Washington, and North Fort Meyers. Also reference to new worship services in San Antonio, Denver, Belvedere (Illinois), McAllen (Texas), Emporia (Kansas), Atlanta, Tampa, Columbus, Des Moines, St. Louis and Kitchener (Ontario).
- Chapter X— SERVING THE LORD**  
A look at many aspects of the church, including its many service functions. Includes comments on the Elder Body, the Brotherhood Conference, worship and liturgy, hymns and singing, Sunday School, World Relief, Japan, Home for the Handicapped, Children's Home, Nursing and Retirement Homes, Men serving during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, Publishing, Youth Activities, and Missions.
- Epilogue**  
**THE CHURCH: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**  
A summary of the church in the past, a look at today's church, and comments concerning the future of the church.  
Statement of Faith of the Apostolic Christian Church of America  
The New Jerusalem, a poem by Samuel Froehlich  
"Down Memory Lane". A picture section of former church buildings.  
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What a joy it is to be able to carol to those who are unable to be out and about. Help us Lord to share our time and talents with others, not just at Christmas time, but all times.

#### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Elaine Bahler — Lorene Furrer**

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." Psalm 106:1. We thank Bro. Merle Bucher (La-Crosse) for sharing the Word with us at our Thanksgiving services. We are also grateful to Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) for the inspired words given on December 4. May the Lord richly bless these brothers for their efforts to travel and be used in His work.

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6. We were "led" by the Sunday School children through the story of Christ's birth at our Christmas program, December 18. How humbling to see and hear the enthusiasm of innocent children for our Lord and Saviour!

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Mike and Sis. Glenna Minniear in the sudden passing of Mike's father. May they feel the Lord's nearness and be comforted by His presence.

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Kim Salek — Edith Massner**

It was good to have Bro. Uriel Gehring visit us over Thanksgiving. We all have decisions to make every day. They probably have more than most of us and probably more difficult. Bro. Uriel mentioned that when he is faced with a decision, he tries to think what our Lord would do in such a situation. Perhaps such a thought can provide some guidance for all of us.

Sis. Augusta Johnson was hospitalized again, but had the courage to come out on a cold day to Sis. Edna Wiegand's funeral. May God comfort and bless Sis. Augusta as well as all the Wiegand family.

Since we are a small congregation, all who wish can go caroling together. The children seem to look forward to it every year. After caroling for the "shut-ins" this year, we are reminded of our blessings of good health and our duty to visit these dear ones more often. Our caroling also brings to mind #874 in

the newest edition of the Gospel Hymns: "Carol, sweetly carol, Till earth's remotest bound, Shall hear the mighty chorus, and echo back the sound.

Bro. Harvey Heiniger read Isaiah 48 which includes verse 17 with special comfort for these deceiving and confusing times: "I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldst go."

February is Silver Lining collection month.

#### IOWA, DES MOINES

**Janice Webber**

We have been blessed by the faithful ministry of brothers from West Bend, Oakville and Garden Grove as we meet for our monthly services. It warms our hearts to meet so many brethren and friends who take the time to assemble. In our new location, we've had a larger attendance than ever before, and those of us with families appreciate the efforts to keep a Sunday School program going for our children. Though we were cancelled out in December because of the ice storms, we eagerly look forward to meeting again on January 22, after the semester break. Our normal meeting is the second Sunday of the month, with song service at 1:00 and worship at 1:30 in the Rodeway Inn, 4995 Merle Hay Road, just south of Interstate 80. Visitors in the area should feel free to contact Bro. Phil Hamilton in Ames (515) 292-5297 or Bro. Roger Reker in Nevada (515) 628-4271. Support in prayer and in visits makes a vital difference for all of us, and lends support to our faith.

#### IOWA, ELGIN

**Gloria Frieden**

#### THE NEW LEAF

He came to my desk with quivering lip;  
The lesson was done.

"Have you a new leaf for me, dear teacher?

I have spoiled this one!"

I took his leaf, all soiled and blotted,  
And gave him a new one, all unspotted,  
Then into his tired heart I smiled:

"Do better now, my child."

I went to the throne with trembling heart;

The year was done.

"Have you a new year for me, dear Master?

I have spoiled this one!"

He took my year, all soiled and blotted,  
And gave me a new one, all unspotted,  
Then into my tired heart He smiled:  
"Do better now, my child."

As we are on the threshold of another new year, may we seek God's guidance for each day at a time and willingly accept His will for each day. He is the Master designer and knows what is best for us, each one.

#### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

**Eileen Funk**

I admire and respect the positiveness of our ministers as Bro. Bill Funk brought out in a message, "Even if our crops fail and we can't pay our debts, we know we have God. He is on our side! We have something to look forward to, a better life ahead. Whereas the ones who don't know God have nothing!" Bro. Glen Funk added, "In quietness is our strength, through quietness and the Word of God. He can speak to us His will and way and give us Peace! We have much to be thankful for!"

We enjoyed our monthly potluck and Christmas program December 18. Our Sunday School children shared with us the message of God sending Jesus as the Light to the World. It was a blessed evening for all.

A Child has come from heaven  
To bring the waiting earth  
New hope and joy and meaning  
By His incarnate birth.

A Child has come from heaven  
As love made manifest.  
That hearts which will receive Him  
May be forever blest.

A Child has come from heaven  
To teach each eager mind  
Man's vast potentiality  
To love and serve mankind.

A Child has come from heaven  
To lead where He has trod  
The path of truth and righteousness  
That keeps man close to God.

Gail Brook Burket

#### IOWA, IOWA CITY

**Connie Gerst**

Looking at the calendar, I realize  
1983 has come and gone and we are



beginning a new chapter in the books of our lives. May we all strive to let our lights shine brightly in the coming year. Surely, as the world grows darker in sin, we need to have bright lights to act as beacons for troubled souls seeking help on life's stormy seas.

We are thankful a baby boy, Jonathon David, has arrived safely to join Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy Eberhardt. We pray God will grant them much wisdom as they care for their first little one. Grandparents are Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Joe Jr. and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt (Oakville, IA).

Among our visitors have been ministering brothers, Kenny Dietz (Bradford) and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL). We thank them for their labors of love.

#### IOWA, LESTER

**Alice Metzger**

As we close the books on the year gone by, another new year is dawning. It is another chance to do better than last year, to serve God more fully and to trust Him to lead us on paths of obedience and righteousness.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer and their family in the death of Bro. Gary's mother, Leona Heyer. To the families of Bro. Herman and Sis. Evelyn Stickling and Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold we extend our sympathy in the death of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Mary Leuthold (Princeville).

The Lord has called another soul unto repentance. Kim Feuchtenberger, attending school in our area, has answered that call and has turned her back on the world. Kim's home is in Morris.

Hospitalized for medical treatment was Fred Metzger. Surgical patients were Bro. Curt Kellenberger, Bro. Willie Knobloch and Jordan Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Cris). Bro. Gus Knobloch is responding well to hip surgery and appreciates all who remembered him in prayer and with kindness during his hospitalization.

#### IOWA, OAKVILLE

**Debbie Wagenbach**

On November 21, Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy Eberhardt welcomed their first child, Jonathon David into their home. Jonathon's grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt and Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer (Elgin, IA).

Even as a birth brings much joy to our congregation, we were saddened by the passing of our dear Sis. Edna Wiegand on December 12. At 88 years of age, Edna had still attended church up until the very end. She always had a smile and kind word for everyone. We know that she will be deeply missed by her family: Sis. Eunice Wuthrich (Morton, IL), Sis. Hazel Geyer, Sis. Sharon Hodel (Peoria, IL), Sis. Elizabeth Grimm, Sis. Joan Lanz, Bro. Joe Wiegand, Jr., Bro. Albert Wiegand (Oakville), 36 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, one brother and two sisters. May God comfort their hearts and let them rejoice in the fact that her earthly battle is now over.

Bro. Bill Hodel and Bro. James Byrd (Roanoke, IL) were with us on December 11. We were spiritually lifted by the precious word and teachings that were brought forth by each of these brothers. We would like to thank them for lending themselves for the Lord's service in Oakville.

We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, visits, cards, gifts and flowers during Walter's hospitalization, surgery and since his return home. May God bless you all.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Dolly Stoller

#### IOWA, PULASKI

**Mary Wiegand — DeAnn Wuthrich**

With the Christmas season here, may each of us remember the true meaning of Christmas. Let us not only go to Bethlehem, but go with Him to Calvary's brow, for there He can "set our spirits free".

Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) was with us recently, and we truly thank him for coming. He reminded us of how important it is to humbly admit it when we are wrong.

Danny and Sis. Lynn Townsend's little Josh spent a few days in the hospital, but he is home and doing fine.

#### LIGHTS ALONG THE ROAD

There are lights along the road that lead to Christmas day so blest and bright,

And those who truly seek the way will find a blessed path of light.

We know that LOVE came down to earth at Christmas time of old, For Jesus was God's gift of love of whom the prophets told.

O FAITH forever shines more clear since Jesus' holy birth,

As God filled the promise made of a King for all the earth.

So HOPE will also light the way that leads men to the Christ,

For through His love He gives to all rich blessings — yet unpriced.

A JOY the world can never give is won through Christ the King; —

"Good tidings of great joy for all," we hear the angels sing.

The Saviour longs to give His PEACE to nations — one and all;

Oh, they must find the way to Him, before Him humbly fall.

There are lights along the road that lead all men to Him;

Their radiant gleam shall never pale, their glory shall not dim.

#### IOWA, WEST BEND

**Elma Mogler — Polly Zaugg**

We feel there isn't a better occasion or more wonderful reason to kneel down in prayer to thank our dear God than the year that now ends.

The Sunday Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) visited our congregation we appreciated being reminded again that we truly are a privileged people to be brought up from childhood in our faith. We thank them for serving us.

Jamie and Linda Schmidt are first-time parents of a little girl, Brandi Kay. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Judy Schmidt and John and Kay Hellesteth. Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Wirtz and Amy have a new little daughter and sister, Bethany Juanita. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman and Bro. Verner and Sis. Beverly Wirtz. We wish them divine guidance as they raise these precious children.

It seems we always do have the sick among us. At this time Sis. Esther Banwart (Bro. Walter) is recovering nicely from surgery. Leona McCue remains quite ill in the hospital with pneumonia. May God's healing power be with each one who is ill.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Robert Fehr and Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser were elected Sunday School teachers to replace Bro. Marvin Fehr and Sis. Mary Gerber. We appreciate what our teachers do for our Sunday School and each duty that is placed on a brother and sister. Bro. Silas Metzger replaces Bro. Larry Fehr as church trustee. Bro. Lawrence Schneider replaces Bro. Ray Anliker as fellowship trustee. Even the prayerful support of each one is a very important duty. "We give thanks to



God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;" I Thessalonians 1:2, 3.

### JAPAN, SHIODA

Margie Heintz

Let us go joyfully, thankfully and prayerfully into the new year, using the blessings and trials of the past year as lights and lessons for the future. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all." II Cor. 13:14.

On Nov. 23, Japan celebrated Labor/Thanksgiving Day. It is a national holiday when thanks is given for jobs and work. On the evening of that day, Thanksgiving services were held at the Shioda church. Bro. Willis read from Ps. 100 and Col. 3:12-17. He pointed out three ways that these verses encourage us to be thankful to God: thankful in attitude, thankful in song, thankful in prayer. He also brought out that the Japanese translation of the Bible says that our thankfulness needs to be tied together with the "obi of love". This is a very appropriate and meaningful analogy, because an obi is a beautiful sash which is tied around the kimono, as the final and essential piece holding the entire costume together.

At Shioda American Kindergarten (SAK) we have recently completed a Thanksgiving program with our 30 bright-eyed Japanese children. Through story and song we tried to teach the children about the origins of America's first Thanksgiving and to focus on our thankfulness to God for His blessings to us.

Now we are working with the children on a Christmas play, which dramatizes the Biblical story of Jesus's birth. Through simple words and songs the children tell that wonderful story, and we pray that the truth and promise of this story is being planted in tender and receptive hearts.

Preparation for the holidays this year also means preparing for Bro. Willis's departure for a visit to the States on the day after Christmas. It will be very hard for us to see him leave, but we are thankful that he will be able to enjoy a reunion with all of his children for the first time in several years.

He will also be attending the Elder conference.

We are thankful that Sis. Uchida has returned from the hospital to her home, where she continues to need her family's care. We pray that her strength will increase.

The small Shioda congregation continues to feel and need your prayerful support. Thank you all for your love.

### JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

This past Sunday, Matt. 2 was meditated upon in our afternoon Bible class. The brethren felt it would be beneficial to check the prophecies given with their original counterpart in the Old Testament. The following were given:

Matt. 2:6 - Micah 5:2, Matt. 2:15 - Hosea 11:1, Matt. 2:18 - Jeremiah 31:15, Matt. 2:23 - Isaiah 9:1.

We enjoyed a blessed evening of singing and fellowship at the home of Tadao and Sis. Haruyo Onoda of the Odawara area. Every other month we plan to gather at one of our homes on a Sunday evening. Even though the distance is sometimes great, we've found the blessings of the evening far out weigh the effort to get there. May God provide a blessing for their love and kindness.

We look forward to Christmas with our children's program and meal together. May God's name be praised and glorified in whom we have our blessed hope. As we approach Christmas and a new year, may God bless the hearts, homes, and loved ones of all Silver Lining readers.

### KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger

We gathered with Sabetha on Thanksgiving Day for Thanksgiving services.

We also thank Sabetha for letting us join them for services on Nov. 27. There was no electricity due to an ice storm.

We welcomed Bro. Carroll Plattner into the fold on Dec. 4 after we heard his testimony on Dec. 3. May he feel God's presence as he begins this new walk of life.

On Dec. 10, Sabetha joined us for the reading of the memorandum. We appreciated having Bro. Ed Frank (La-Crosse, IN) with us.

We have discontinued our Sunday evening singing. We will have Wednes-

day night services instead, alternating with Sabetha.

Hospitalized were Bro. John Grunder and Julia Plattner (broken hip).

Mr. and Mrs. Don Rokey became parents of a baby girl, Angela Christina Rae, born Nov. 28. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Florence Rokey.

### KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

Jamie Marti

"And the Angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12.

On Dec. 16 our young group went Christmas caroling to spread the word of Jesus' birth. On Dec. 21 our Sunday School will present their Christmas program.

Reminder: Fort Scott subscriptions due in January.

### KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr — Gay Farney

First of all, we would like to apologize for not getting our news in last month. We will try to combine both months in this writing. We have had so many blessed things happening, that it is hard to know where to start.

One day last month, we gathered at the church for fall house cleaning. Usually, everyone is pretty tired by the end of the day, but the fellowship and cooperation in working together in the Lord's house are reward enough for all the effort put forth.

Three evenings last month, we gathered at the church to hear the tapes of the Conference. To be privileged to sit and listen to the love and concern our elders have for us, their flock, is a joyous and truly humbling experience. Also, to listen to each individual elder expound on the different subjects is, in a small way, like being there with our brethren. Midweek services for the winter months have also resumed.

We would like to extend our loving congratulations to JoAnn Schrock, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathleen Schrock, and to Kent Kisling, son of Bro. Frank and Annabelle Kisling. JoAnn was united in marriage this past month to Michael Pile, son of Myrna and



Floyd Pile (Wellington). JoAnn and Michael are making their home in Wichita. Kent was united in marriage to Darcy Schupbach, daughter of Vance and June Lahey, (Moscow, KS). Kent, Darcy, Jenny, John and Matt (Darcy's children from her first marriage in which her husband died tragically in a farm accident) will be making their home on a farm near Kiowa. We recently held a family shower for them at the Church Fellowship Hall, and truly had a blessed evening getting to know the new family. It is our fervent prayer that God will richly bless JoAnn and Michael, and Kent, Darcy, and their family as they begin their new lives together.

God has sent a precious new addition to live in the home of Doug and Pam Ott. Her name is Summer Kay. She has a brother Jay Cody at home and her grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Irma Ott, and Elmer and Mary Pelton, (Goddard, KS).

Our love shall not diminish  
nor fade nor wax away;  
Bind us till life we finish  
And in the grave we lay.  
Though all this world be fleeting,  
True love will still abide,  
And when our journey's ending,  
Lord lead us to Thy side.

This lovely song, #137 from our Zion's Harp, could easily be spoken by Bro. Jeff and Sis. Frieda Frieden, who celebrated 60 years of marriage this past month. All but one of their eight children, all but four of their 22 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren were able to be here to share this very special occasion with them. They have always been such a joy and inspiration to their family. May the God in whom they have put their faith and trust for so many years, richly bless and keep them and grant them many more years of happiness together. We would like to thank ministering Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha) for lending himself to teach us from God's precious Word. He was also with us for the anniversary celebration.

We had the privilege of visiting the elderly at the Kiowa Manor on three different occasions these past months. One time was to hold services on our appointed Sunday, and the other two times the Sunday School children held parties for the residents. Once for a Halloween party when we sang and

served refreshments, and again for a Christmas party when we sang, recited parts from the Christmas program, presented gifts to each resident, and served refreshments. All three occasions seemed to be as much of a blessing to us as it was to the dear ones we visited.

We would like to extend our special love and prayers to our loved ones who have suffered from various illnesses these past two months. Several have had to be hospitalized. They include: Sis. Marie Schurter, for surgery; Sis. Elizabeth Diel; Sis. Laverne Roth, for surgery; and Sandi Wilson (Gary and Sis. Janet Wilson) for a very high temperature. Sis. Edna Reed is still unable to be in our midst due to undergoing surgery. We truly hope that our Lord will grant them all renewed health quite soon.

Christmas . . . What a lovely season it is for all of us. It is a season of giving because of the most precious Gift this undeserving world was ever given: God's gift of His only Begotten Son. In giving we find that we are the ones most richly blessed. In addition to the Christmas party at the Home which we spoke of earlier, we caroled, and relived the beautiful birth of Jesus when our children presented their Christmas program. Since Christ is Christmas, we don't have to just enjoy Christmas one season of the year. We can have Christ in our hearts all year long, and celebrate Christmas every day.

"Jesus Loves Me" and "Safe In The Arms Of Jesus" were the two hymns we sang for the graveside services of 13 year old Pamela Sue McMurphy who passed away in the arms of her Lord this month. Pamela's parents are Kenneth and Becky "Kircher" McMurphy (Fairview). We truly pray that God will be a comfort in their loss of this precious daughter. Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and ministering Bro. Ronald Allenbach officiated at the graveside services in Burlington.

### KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill K. Luthi

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour with the Lord." Proverbs 18:22

Our prayers of happiness and fulfillment are with Bro. John Wernli (Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty) as his engagement to Sis. Maria Jevremov (Bro. Victor

and Sis. Anna) of Altadena, CA became known to us Dec. 4. We wish God's blessings upon them both, as they seek to become united in Him. We welcome Sis. Maria to her new "home".

One fact (that word I do emphasize) each of us does NOT realize is the burdens that are laid upon our elders. If we have a problem, whether individually or family, they carry that burden also, and help us solve the problem(s) with spiritual solutions. Time and again, we are warned to "beware of", "don't step out of line", and yet reminded also "to love one another", "forgive", "love thy neighbor as thyself" and "be a light to those around you" for just a few examples. We are reminded again, as humans are the weakest source on earth. If this was not so, Satan would not be able to deceive us, tempt us or lead us astray as lost sheep.

I had to mention this as the Memorandum was read to us with Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester) assisting our Elder Bro. Sam. How I wish the human mind could store every word that was fed to us Dec. 10, and the many, many more words of comfort and spiritual guidance we receive. We cannot praise our Lord God enough! There were many words of teaching that really stand out that Bros. Leo and Sam mentioned. It says in St. John 10:30, "I and my Father are one". Can each of us say this to ourselves, or in a cloud of witnesses? Are we one? Are we abiding by God's Word? Let us always remember God knows each thing we do, say, or even think of. No man-made machine will ever be able to do any of those! We were reminded of loving one another also. There is a circle of love — "the more we love each other, the larger the circle grows." The circle can grow by a better example to those still in the dark and sinful world? One more teaching to remember . . . "watch and pray" — two words you cannot separate!

One reading that was exhorted unto us by Bro. Leo, on Sunday, was the final six verses of St. Mark 1. We were reminded of how we once were lepers, fell upon our knees for God's mercy, and were healed and cleansed by the touching of His finger to our souls. Do we still have spots or blemishes upon us of the past? Are we telling of our experience as the leper spread the word? And quickly? Those words definitely humbled us, and no doubt we each (or at least I) have a blemish or two to cleanse.



We deeply thank Bro. Leo for his time and effort to come visit us. We thank the Lord that he, along with his wife, Sis. Leona, was able to travel upon the highways to be with us. May the Lord richly bless them, encourage them, and uplift them both.

As the year comes to a close, I am reminded of Phil. 3:13, 14, "... But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. ..."

Wishing every soul a blessed New Year if the Lord shall tarry that long. If He tarries, we wish all a safe, healthy, and spiritual year also. We each have our own ups and downs. Pray for each other! At the end there will be a path of roses!!!

### KANSAS, SABBETHA

#### Clara Steiner — Judy Hartter

We have been having rather severe winter weather in November and December. One Sunday morning Bern was left without electricity due to an ice storm. Many of them assembled with us in town. This weekend we are having below zero weather.

On Thanksgiving morning Bern assembled with us for services conducted by Bro. John Lehman.

We assembled with Bern on a Saturday evening to hear the Conference letter. Bro. Edward Frank (LaCrosse) came to assist Bro. Lester Hartter and Bro. Sam Huber.

Bro. Tim Hartter and Sis. Charlene Bahler were united in marriage in Remington on Dec. 18. They will make their home in Sabetha.

Sis. Judy Hartter and Bro. Doug Kraft (Gridley) have had their engagement announced. They plan to be married Jan. 29 and will make their home in Gridley, KS.

Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter are the parents of both Bro. Tim and Sis. Judy. We wish both couple's God's richest blessings.

Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit) also proclaimed the Word in this day. May all the ministering brethren be richly blest for their labors.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Lena Wenger and Bro. Joe Steiner. May the Lord be with them and grant them reasonable health and strength.

We will assemble this Wednesday evening at 6:30 to give the Sunday school classes an opportunity to present their Christmas program. Church

services will follow at 7:30. Everyone is welcome to attend both.

### KANSAS, WICHITA

#### Laurie Gallatin

As 1984 approaches, it seems hard to believe that another year is gone. Life goes by so fast. It is so important to make our life one of devoted service to God. We are here for His purposes and pleasure, and to live our lives according to His will. Our service to the Lord should be first on our list of priorities. Service to Him should be something we do with joy, even though that is hard at times. As long as God is using us for His purposes we should rejoice. I pray that in the coming year we may all seek to work more diligently for the Lord, not for personal recognition, but in true service to Him. In Acts 17, Paul was preaching at Thessalonica, causing an uproar with his message, and many believed on Jesus Christ. In verse 6, the rulers of the city accused Paul of turning the world upside down! What an impact Paul had! Why aren't the Christians of today accused of this? Are we letting God use us to our full capacity as Paul did? What could be more important to us than to please our Lord? May our work be built upon Jesus, the Rock of our salvation. When our spiritual house is tried by fire, may it be found like unto gold, silver or precious stones which will abide and be rewarded by God on that great and terrible day.

Elder Bros. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) and Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS) visited our congregation December 18. We pray God's blessings on them, and are thankful for their service to our church in Wichita.

Two new ministers were chosen. Bros. Terry Farney and Howard Plattner will join Bro. Al Langhofer and Bro. Max Reimschisel on the pulpit. We pray these two brothers will be yielded to the Spirit's direction and guidance in their new positions. May they glorify God in their ministry. It certainly is exciting to see God work.

Sunday evening, Dec. 18, the Sunday School classes presented a program of Christmas music.

Sis. Carrie Gleichman (Lamont, KS) suffered a light stroke and is now recuperating in a nursing home here in Wichita (Lakewood Village Nursing Center, 1319 Seville, Wichita, KS 67209). We pray God will give her strength and provide for her in her

need, comforting and encouraging her.

On December 17, Inez Banwart passed away from this life. She is the daughter of Sis. Dora Young, and the sister of Sis. Judy Langhofer and Sis. Gussie Wullschlegler. We pray God will comfort the family at this time of loss.

### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Lester and Glendoris Huber

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:14

May these words be fulfilled in our ears at this serious time of unrest among the nations of earth. Greetings of Christian love to you all at this time of year. We count it a privilege to share our thoughts of praise to God for sending His only begotten Son to earth to save a lost world from sin. May grace be multiplied to touch many of our loved ones and friends to seek Him yet today, even as the Wisemen of old.

It is hard to comprehend how the years fly by. The days seem to be shortened, and we appreciate all the letters, visits, prayers and support that have come our way with the passing of another year. We appreciate each and every one of you and are saddened to think of those who have gone to be with the Lord. We will hear no more from them, but rejoice in that they have gone to their rewards.

We have especially appreciated the scheduled monthly visits of our beloved ministering brothers, young people and Sunday School, as well as vacationers passing through. We pray God will richly bless and reward all the efforts put forth in remembering us in the past year again.

We praise the Lord for His faithfulness toward us each day. We certainly are not worthy of the least of His blessings. He is adding new lives into our families to love and care for the cause of the Babe of Bethlehem. Hopefully their souls may bring glory, honor and praise to His Name.

In closing, as the man of this world is kept busy at seeking out many inventions, possibly to his own destruction, (Ecc. 7:29), may we find grace with God to be remembered in the days of trial that shall come over this earth. We extend our love in Him, wishing you all a blessed Christmas and New Year.



## MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

### Pam Wieland

In the coming year of 1984, let's remember that newness only comes through our Saviour who promised, "I make all things new." Rev. 21:5 Solomon was not privileged to live in a time when he could taste of the newness of life in Christ. Rather, he had to say "there is no new thing under the sun" Eccl. 1:9 Jesus' coming to earth provided a newness to mankind — man can now stand righteous before God through the imputed perfection of Jesus Christ.

Sisters Cindy Martin and Kelly Wieland (Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edith) have tasted of this newness in Jesus. We welcome each of them as sisters and wish them the blessings of a Christian life. Gary Wright (Sis. Shirley) also confesses to having found the new life of peace in Jesus and awaits baptism.

While it is true there is no new thing under the sun, there are situations that are new to individuals. This month we have those among us who have entered into a new relationship of husband and wife, those who have experienced a new responsibility of a baby boy, those who have acquired a new job, and as a congregation, we have welcomed a new visitor in our area.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Marilyn Ruegsegger were united in Holy Matrimony on Nov. 27. We wish to welcome Sis. Marilyn to our congregation. We hope she, along with Bro. Fred will always feel the love of the brotherhood. Sis. Marilyn's mother is Sis. Nettie Kupferschmidt from Forrest, IL.

Bob and Rhonda Knochel became the proud parents of their first son, Nathan Robert. Bro. Vic and Elinor Knochel and Ron and Catherine Wackerle are the grandparents.

Sis. Linda Ramseyer is returning to the Bay City area as she recently acquired a new job in Saginaw. We wish Sis. Linda well in her new job and want to express a real thankfulness for her return to our congregation.

The Bay City congregation has been enjoying Sis. Eiko Nozawas' presence. Sis. Eiko, from the Shioda, Japan church, will be spending some time with us. We extend a welcome to her and wish her a pleasant stay.

Bros. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) and John Klotzle (Altadena) were with us for the Dec. 3-4 weekend. We thank them for their labors of love. The weekend in-

cluded baptisms and a reading of the Memorandum.

## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

### Dawn Bahr

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple." Ps. 27:4 As a new year begins, let each one of us look deep into our hearts, to be certain that the one thing we desire most, is to dwell with the Lord in all things, making it our ultimate goal to spend eternity with Him.

Our Sunday School children presented their annual Christmas program Dec. 11. No matter how old we are or how many times we've heard the age-old story, it still thrills our hearts to hear the wonderful story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

We bade farewell to Sisters Linda Ramseyer and Marsha Wieland as they moved back to the Bay City area. Sis. Linda has finished her temporary job here in the Detroit area and has been employed near Bay City. Sis. Marsha has returned home following the completion of the semester at Wayne State University. We will miss them among the faces of our congregation, but pray that God will always bless them in all that they do.

## MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

### Deb Tilbury

We would like to thank Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) and Bro. Art Nohl (Morris) for being with us Nov. 19 and 20 to read the memorandum. Bro. Alhai Moser (Morris) brought us God's Word on Dec. 11. May God bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

On Nov. 17 Richard and JoAnn Hofdahl picked up their new daughter, Hannah Elizabeth. She was born Sept. 18. Adam is thrilled to have a baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie Schmidgall.

Sis. Esther Lienemann had surgery this past month and is recovering at home.

Dec. 11 we went caroling to the Children's Hospital. We took stuffed animals, lap robes, and pillows that we had made. The children always appreciate their own health more. Dec. 18 was the children's Christmas program. It is always such a joy to hear them tell the story of Jesus' birth. Then we went

caroling at a nursing home and came back to church for a pot luck supper.

## MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

### Carol Ann Messner Mary Lou Schmidt

On the weekend of Dec. 10 and 11, we had the testimonies and baptisms of two dear souls; Sis. Leona Schmidt (Gene and Sis. Ella Mae) and Sis. Joan Burlingame of Hutchinson. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) assisted Elder Bro. Harold Messner with these most precious and sacred duties! We can all say that we were truly spiritually filled, and that our cup ran over. I think we all went home with the thought that we could all do a little better and try a little harder. May God give us the needed grace and strength to overcome our many weaknesses!

Once again Christmas has come and we have had the opportunity to go Christmas caroling. Truly it fills our hearts when we can see how much it means to our dear older people. If only more people would realize the happiness and joy they can give others, it would be a much better world.

This month of December has been a very cold one. Many people have been stranded due to heavy snowfall, slippery roads, and sub-zero temperatures, causing cars and trucks to fail to start. We can still look Heavenward and realize God is the Divine Maker of our weather!

## MISSOURI, LAMAR

### Becky Hohulin — Sandra Luthi

We awoke this morning to see a layer of snow covering the ground. This pure whiteness serves as a reminder to us to examine our individual lives to check for blemishes that may be marring the whiteness that we should have.

On Nov. 26, God called one of His children Home. Bro. Lester Braker ministered God's Word for many years. His passing leaves a vacancy on our pulpit and in his family. He will be missed by all of us, but especially by his wife, Sis. Fern, and their three daughters, Allene Phipps, Lavon Foreste, and Susan Pottorf. We rejoice that Bro. Lester's race is run and our prayers go out to Sis. Fern. She is now living at Chastain's Nursing Home, 206 W. 1, Lamar, MO.

Our hospital patients this past month include Sis. Ruth Banwart, Sis. Evelyn Marti, Tim Braker and Terry



Braker. We're thankful that they have all returned home.

We also have a note of joy mixed with our sadness. Alan Mark was born on Nov. 30, to Mark and Schelli Abbiatti. Alan's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Becky Gudeman**

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37 We look to God for his guidance and direction for the growth of our St. Louis congregation. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6

We thank Bro. Joe Stoller and the many who traveled with him from the Princeville congregation to be with us Dec. 11, 1983. May God bless them.

We wish you all a blessed 1984. Services will be held the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the Ben Franklin Motel, 4645 No. Lindbergh Blvd. For further information, call Dan and Becky Gudeman at 314-275-2227.

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**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart**

**NEW YEARS PRAYER**

God grant me the grace,  
 As I start a new year —  
 To use all the hours of my days —  
 Not for my own selfish interests  
 And my own willful, often  
 wrong ways . . .  
 But teach me to take time  
 for praying and to find time  
 for listening to You,  
 So each day is spent well and wisely,  
 doing what You most want me to do.

Helen Steiner Rice

We are thankful to God for the many wonderful teachings we received through His servants who visited us this past month: Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), Frederick Knapp (Congerville), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski) and Arthur Baurer (Princeville). We appreciate these "special favors" and may God bless each one and their families.

Have you any room for Jesus,  
 He who bore your load of sin?  
 As he knocks and asks admission,  
 Sinner, will you let Him in?

Room for Jesus, King of Glory!  
 Hasten now His word obey;  
 Swing the heart's door widely open  
 Bid Him enter while you may.  
 Tabernacle Hymns #187

We are so thankful that another dear one has heeded God's call and has opened his heart's door while there is still time. Our new convert is Shon Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally). May God grant him the grace and encouragement in this, the most important step in life and we would hope and pray that others would realize that "today is time accepted, tomorrow you may call in vain."

A sweet little baby girl, Deana Marie, was born Nov. 30 to Greg and Maribeth (Heimer) Hastings. "Joel and Sara" complete this little family as well as grandparents, Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser (Wapello) and Ruth Hastings (Palmyra).

For some reason our November news did not reach the printer on time and we apologize for "Taylor" being omitted in this issue. We would like to add these few items at this time.

Bro. Joe Yackley (Sis. Clara and the late Bro. Perry) and Sis. Jerilyn Wag-enbach (John and Sis. Marilyn) Oakville, exchanged marriage vows on Sept. 25 in Oakville and are now at home near Taylor. We welcome Sis. Jerilyn and appreciate a new "family" in "The Little White Church on the Levee".

Our thanks go to Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker, (Morton) for spending a weekend with us.

"Be ye, therefore, ready also; for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." St. Luke 12:40.

February is Taylor's month for Silver Lining Dues.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Rhonda Zeltwanger — Jan Schock**

Many blessings were remembered on Thanksgiving Day. Among our visitors was Bro. Sam Huber. We appreciated his service for us. May our lives display our thankfulness.

Others who came to minister the Word were Bros. LeRoy Messner and Sam Anliker. Bro. Sam helped to read the conclusions of our Brotherhood Conference. We ask God's blessings upon all that was said.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Marion Moser have their first grandchild, Janeen.

The joyful parents are Harvey and Allison Moser of Buffalo, MN.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Edith Joos wish to express their thanks to all who remembered their 40th anniversary. May God bless your kindness.

The family of Sis. Rose Moser helped her celebrate her 98th birthday this month. Rose was born in West Bend, IA, and moved here at age 16. There wasn't a church here then, but at age 17, Rose repented. She and three others, including her mother, were baptized in December after breaking the ice in the water tank. Eight of Rose's nine children came to visit her at the Villa of St. Francis where she resides and enjoys visits by her 56 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. There's no doubt in visiting her that her greatest treasure is the Bible in her hand and her desire to see Heaven. God must have a purpose for a dear soul like Sis. Rose.

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**NEW YORK, CROGHAN**  
**Alice Virkler**

On Nov. 20 another bus trip was enjoyed by many who could travel to spend the day worshiping with the loved ones in Kitchener, Ontario. Moments like this are long remembered and cherished in our minds.

On Nov. 26, we gathered to share a meal together and to watch slides of Japan. We thank Sis. Vicki Ramseyer of Bay City for sharing her pictures and experiences with us.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 4, the memorandum of the August conference was read by our elders. Again we were truly reminded of their love and concern for our spiritual welfare.

Brad and Joyce Herzig welcomed their second son, Joshua Bradley, on Nov. 28. His little playmates will be his sister, Erin, and brother, Jacob. He is also loved by his grandparents, Brad and Sis. Regina Herzig, and Richard and Aileen Robbins of Denmark.

Our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18. We are happy to hear what each of them have learned in their classes and to hear their voices unite in song. This was an especially happy day for us when we learned that Bro. Floyd Graves could return home from several weeks of hospitalization following surgery on his hip. Our thoughts and prayers have been with him and we hope he can soon assemble with us and minister God's



precious word. In the evening our Sunday School children, parents and teachers enjoyed Christmas caroling in Croghan.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with many who have been missing from our assembly and we are thankful that Sis. Linda Graves and Sis. Kate O'Brien can be in church again after short stays at home.

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 14, we gathered at the Naumburg church for a meal and evening of fellowship and song.

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

We from Naumburg and some from Croghan went caroling Dec. 11 after Sunday services. We went to Carthage Nursing Home, East Road Adult Home and Lowville Extended Care. We also stopped in at the hospital in Lowville to sing a few songs for Sis. Barbra Bachman's 106th birthday.

A pot luck was held at Naumburg this past Wednesday.

We were privileged to listen to the reading of the brotherhood conference report.

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**NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY**  
**Ed Aeschleman**

As we approach the time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord, we want to extend our good wishes and love to all the brethren. Especially, we wish to thank the ministers and other brothers and sisters who came to visit and support us here in Union City during the past year. May God's rich blessings be with us all each day of our life.

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

In beginning the New Year, we have memories of the past year, and ask ourselves if we are prepared for new circumstances we may encounter in the new year. When Moses was on his way to Egypt, the "Lord met him and sought to kill him." Ex. 4:24 They had not prepared for the new circumstances. They needed to have their son circumcised before encountering the worldly circumstances Egypt offers. Symbolically we need to have our heart circumcised. Moses asked God what to use for God's name in his new task, and God said: "I Am That I Am." Ex. 3:14. So, for the Child of God with the circumcised heart, God is not limited

to one name, but is the 'I Am whatever is your need'. Even the desire of the righteous, God promises, "shall be granted". Prov. 10:24

This past year there were: three baptisms, two weddings; two new babies, and two funerals.

Sis. Eva Grawunder felt divine protection when another car ran a stop sign, hitting their car. She and her daughter escaped serious injury. The angel of the Lord encamps around us, and they were thankful.

Bro. Bob Ritzman has been chosen to be our representative for the children's home at Leo. Bro. Bob has an interest in helping the children and in helping us be knowledgeable in helping them.

Sis. Eva Wenhardt was hospitalized, but is home.

Bro. and Sis. Merrill Laukhuf visited us and we enjoyed Bro. Merrill's ministry.

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**OHIO, AKRON**

**KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER**

Bro. Ernest A. Graf has been one of our ministers since April 1947. He has been a faithful and loving inspiration to our church and to those who come under his ministry and labors.

Bro. Ernest was born in the city of Akron, Ohio, on Nov. 6, 1910, the seventh of 12 children born to Ernest Sr. and Mary VonGunten Graf. In 1911 their family moved to a 14 acre vegetable farm. This is where he grew up and was employed, living in this same farm house 52 years, until 1974 when he moved to a development known as Anna Belle Estates, just outside the Akron city limits.

At age 17 he was privileged to become converted in heart through the mercy of God and the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, being baptized by Elder Bro. Noah Hartzler on Nov. 13, 1927, and thus became a member of the Household of Faith.

On May 23, 1937, he was married to Sis. Louise Stoller, the youngest of the large family of John A. and Louise Mangold Stoller. They were blessed with children as follows: Sis. Mary Ann Maibach (Gary), Sis. Louise Riggbach (Glenn), Ernest J. Graf, Stephen A. Graf, Sis. Rose Luginbuhl (Marvin), Rebecca J. Del Propost (Stephen), Bro. David E. Graf, and Roger E. Graf. They have 16 dear grandchildren.

In retrospect, he feels that God and our Lord Jesus have been very generous to them and very patient with them. His wife, Louise, and he feel they have enjoyed the things in this life most precious to them. Outstanding among these have been: God's peace and blessing in the inner man, the fellowship with and in the church family, the love for each other within their marriage and family, and the provision of all their physical needs. They trust the best is yet to come in that Kingdom where the needs of these mortal bodies will be ended, and that the family circle will be unbroken with our God and Saviour eternally.

Bro. Ernest and Sis. Louise have demonstrated many times over the years a kindly, compassionate, and hospitable attitude. This has been evident to those of our local congregation as well as to visitors passing through our area. Many have been the times when they had guests in their home for delicious meals and Christian fellowship.

Bro. Ernest has had various church duties over the years in addition to the ministry. He taught Sunday School and was a song leader. For many years until the present time, he has filled the duties of goodwill fund treasurer, thus encountering and fulfilling many needs of less fortunate people. He and Louise have often been faithful visitors to the bedside of those who were sick. Louise also has volunteered many hours working in Akron City Hospital and also in our church nursing home. The demands of raising a large family have not prevented this dear couple from giving assistance to many outside their family circle. Our community has been blessed by them, and we wish for them the continuing blessings of our Lord.

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

The New Year has begun and 1983 is past. Let us give our lives totally to the Lord to use as He can and thus make this year a rewarding one.

"Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust. Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee." Ps. 143:8

**AS I GO ON MY WAY**

My life shall touch a dozen lives before this day is done,



Leave countless marks for good or ill  
ere sets the evening sun;  
So this the wish I always wish, the  
prayer I ever pray,  
Let my life help the other lives it  
touches by the way.

Strickland Gillian

Our dear friend Edward Deislinger was hospitalized this month. We all pray for God's healing touch upon Ed. We hope he will be home again and able to assemble with us real soon.

## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Les Manz

Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville) assisted our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller in reading and explaining the Conference conclusions to us. We all really do love the Lord, don't we? And how can we show our love for Him? In John 14:21 we read "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." So having been reminded of His commandments anew, we have another opportunity to show our love for him.

Following a short illness and a recent conversion, Sis. Esther Naveau was called home to be with her Redeemer. Having worshipped with us for the past few years, she came regularly until being hospitalized recently. However, she never sat in church with us after she began her repentance. When she had received peace, she had a strong desire to fulfill the work which was begun in her. Her wish was granted and she was baptized in the nursing home where she was staying. For many of us, Esther's short converted life strengthened our faith in God and put us in awe of His great power and love for His creation. Certainly, we rejoice with the angels and strongly believe her name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Klint David Manz was entrusted to Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy on Nov. 27. Anxious to help Mom and Dad care for young Klint are Jenny, Mark, Julie, Jill, Jodi, Matthew, and Kurt. Klint's grandparents are Sis. Juliet Schlatter and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz.

Remember: January is Silver Lining subscription renewal month in Junction.

OHIO, LATTY  
Patty Riggerbach  
Laurie Stoller

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect

peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3. Wesley Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet) has trusted in the Lord and found peace with God and man in his repentance. We pray Wesley can keep that trust as he awaits baptism, and thereafter.

Our condolences are with Betty Stoller in the death of her brother. We know God can give comfort in time of sorrow and hope Betty felt His nearness during this time of loss of a loved one.

Thanksgiving Day brought many visitors to our congregation. It was nice to have loved ones return home to their families over the holiday. Among those visiting was Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford).

Special Sunday evening services were held in December when Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville) was in the area. We appreciate his ministering to us.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Rom. 8:26 Believing that God has heard our intercessory prayers, we await His healing hand upon hospital patients Sis. Nettie Ringger (Bro. Nate) and Sis. Mary Klopfenstein (Bro. Marvin) and also Sis. Sally Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Esther), who suffered a minor injury in an accident.

As the new year, 1984, has begun, we look to the Maker of all new years for guidance and strength in our daily lives. May He ever be near us as the author expresses in this poem:

God of the years that lie behind us,  
Lord of the years that stretch before,  
Weaver of all the ties that bind us,  
Keeper and King of the open door.

All through the seasons of sowing and reaping,  
All through the harvest of song and tears,  
Hold us close in Your tender keeping,  
O Maker of all New Years!

Author unknown  
Daily Guideposts, 1980

## OHIO, MANSFIELD

### Lucille Groh

It was a very happy Sunday for all of us on Nov. 20 when our dear Bro. Robert Beer could assemble with us after being absent from our assembly

for four years. A few tears of joy were shed to see him sitting in church. We pray the Lord will grant Bro. Robert and Sis. Katherine that they can again assemble with us. They have been greatly missed.

Belatedly, we extend our congratulations and love to Bro. Bob and Sis. Miriam Bird on the arrival of a new grandson named Seth Eugene born Sept. 23, 1983. Erika and Jerry Bird are the new parents.

We are sorry to report that Scott Gabor, Bro. Byron Rice and Sis. Ruth Weiss were hospitalized this past month. Sis. Ruth Weiss recently fell and broke her hip. May God comfort and grant healing if it can be his will.

During our recent annual business meeting it was decided that our mid-week services will be changed from Thursday evening to Wednesday evening beginning the first of January. The time remains the same which is 7:30 p.m.

Different groups went Christmas caroling during the Christmas season, and the Sunday School presented its annual Christmas program reminding us again of Jesus' birth and the great love He has for mankind. If we could only try to love and serve Him a little better in this new year.

## OHIO, RITTMAN

### Florence Hartzler

### Janette Blough

Greetings, in this New Year 1984! Here we are, on the way into a New Year. May we all strive to do a little better, so that when this year is gone, we can say it has been good. May you all feel the presence of the Lord, and may His peace rest upon those who are upright and faithful to Him.

On Dec. 3 and 4, we gathered together to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of nine dear souls. We welcome Sis. Karen Maibach, Sis. Sandra Maibach, Sis. Laura Widmer, Sis. Peggy Tieche, and Bro. Tom Gerber, Bro. Glen Maibach, Bro. Kevin Rufener, Bro. Steve Stoller and Bro. Jim Widmer. We rejoice with these new lambs and their families, and pray they will never forget this day. May the peace you have found remain with you all the rest of your lives. We want to thank Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville), for helping Bro. Joe, Bro. Henry and Bro. Gene Pamer in this most important work. Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington) was also present. There were



forty-one souls baptized in 1983, and more are waiting to be added to the fold. We rejoice that Judy (Bachman) Musselman has given her heart to the Lord. One by one, they come. May they come three by threes and fours. His love is never ending. His call is unceasing. Won't you answer?

Love from the Lord has been shown to two hearts as Bro. Ed Stoller and Sis. Verla Blough are engaged to become husband and wife. May you feel the Lord's blessing as you make your plans for the future. Their parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lucille Blough and Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller.

A baby is the hand of God reaching out to man . . . A son was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Virginia Widmer. They named their first child Robert Daniel. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole Widmer. A son, Jeremy Daniel, was born to Bro. John and Sis. Jodi Calame. Welcoming a new brother are John and Joshua. Grandparents are John and Sis. Margaret Calame. Bro. Jim and Sis. Pat Rufener have a new son, Todd Lee. One brother, Jesse, makes up the rest of the family along with grandparents, Sis. Doris Gasser and Bro. Ike and Sis. Verna Rufener. A son was born to Bob and Sis. Deanna Arnold, and is named Robert David. Little brother Rudy is glad for a playmate. The grandparents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Beverly Hartzler have a son, Michael John. His sister Julie is glad for a new brother. His grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen Emch, and Bro. John, Jr. and Sis. Joan Hartzler. A daughter, Amy Lynn, was welcomed in the family of Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha Steele, and now Kevin and Brad have a new sister. Her grandmother is Sis. Ruth Hilty. Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Stoller have a new son with the arrival of Dean Joseph. Karen and Keith are the little one's brother and sister. The grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder, and Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller. The family of Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie Beery has been increased with another little girl, Katie Elizabeth. Molly is glad for a new sister. Her grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn (Latty) and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery. May the Lord bless these dear ones with these precious little souls.

We want to welcome our new residents at the home who have arrived this past month, and we want to men-

tion Bro. Elmer and Sis. Clara Zollinger have returned after a few years in Phoenix.

We are also glad that Sis. Mildred Hartzler and Sis. Jessie Winkler are able to be up and around again, and can worship with us. May He continue to heal where it can be His will.

We welcome Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane Winkler back to Rittman from Silverton, OR. They and their family have come to live in our area. We pray the Lord will bless you. As some have come back, one is leaving us. Sis. Beverly Babin is being transferred to Troy, MI and will be attending the Detroit church. May the Lord watch between us as you move to another community. We will miss you, Sis. Beverly, and we know you will be a welcome addition to the Detroit church. May the Lord be near you there, as He was here. Friends are those we hold most dear. Friends are those who smile with us. They may be out of sight, but never will they be out of mind. Our prayers go with you!

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Mary Ann Weigele**  
**Josephine Rehklau**

The start of a new year is a traditional time for making resolutions to better our behavior in the coming year. I, like many others, have made resolutions in the past to lose weight, be kind, be more patient, etc.; only to find a few weeks or months later that I've failed miserably in keeping them. Thinking about this, I realized that the problem is trying to do these things on my own and not relying on the Lord's help. We are instructed in the Bible to live "one day at a time". If we pray for grace each day, for that day, we can make much better progress with these things than by trying to tackle a whole year by ourselves.

Bro. Aaron Fetter has moved to our church home at Rittman, OH. His new address is: Apostolic Christian Home, 10680 Steiner Rd., Rittman, OH 44270.

A reminder: \$6.00 dues for the Silver Lining from Toledo are due in January.

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**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

November 22 was the organizational meeting of the Silverton World Relief Sewing Group. Sis. Esther Dettwyler was asked to head this project and has

offered her home for a meeting and working place. Sis. Dorothy Dietrich was elected as treasurer. The group will meet the second Tuesday of each month. Our group would welcome any suggestions and ideas for projects from other World Relief Groups.

We have enjoyed the blessed Holiday Season and want to thank our many visitors who came all the way to Oregon to share their time with us. Until you have made the trip West, it is difficult to appreciate the distance involved. We are roughly 1200 miles from our nearest "neighboring" churches in Altadena, CA, Phoenix, AZ or Denver, CO. Please excuse us if we often mention how much we appreciate our beloved brethren and friends that visit the Northwest. Our holiday company from Wolcott, IN, Elgin and Tremont, IL, Sabetha, KS, and Junction and Latty, OH warmed our hearts with their fellowship and love.

When you consider the good fellowship, the harmony of the singing, the laughter and joy, and of course the homemade donuts and hot chocolate waiting at the end . . . we just hope the carolees felt as blest as the Christmas carolers.

The Sunday night before Christmas, the Sunday School presented their Christmas program. It is always so precious, especially to us parents, to see the children say the words and sing the songs that bring forth the story of the blessed birth of Christ. We were reminded in the program to keep these loving thoughts of Jesus in our hearts every day, not only on Christmas day.

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**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**PHILADELPHIA**  
**Ed Aeschleman**

We sincerely thank Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner from Croghan for his services in bringing the Holy Word inspired of the Spirit and for his willingness to read and exhort upon the brotherhood conference memorandum. In addition to Bro. Norbert's wife, Doris, we also had visitors from Rittman and West Bend on that Sunday.

We are quickly approaching the birthday of our Lord and the end of another year. While we know what we can expect of the Lord, we have no way of knowing what the new year will bring. However, we are taught that if we place our trust and faith in the risen Lord, we will be able to deal with all



things whether they be joy or sorrow or tribulation or death. The best New Year's resolution we can make is to resolve to place our confidence in Him.

We want to make known our appreciation for the support our small congregation received from the many brethren who visited us during the past year or made other offerings of love. May God's richest blessings rest upon us all.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

Our winter season is well underway with many of our winter residents back for the season.

At this time, many are anxiously looking forward to having their families over the holidays. Our Sunday School attendance of six usually swells during the holiday season as many come to visit.

The ministering brothers here for the winter are our elder, Ed Hohulin, Bro. Elmer Shrenk (Alto, MI) and Bro. Gene Bertschi (Roanoke, IL). Retired elders Bro. John Bahler and Bro. Paul Fehr also spend their winter season here.

Anyone coming to south Texas is most welcome to come and worship with our little congregation in Zapata.

## Silver Threads

### JUST GIVE

If you want to be loved, you must love;  
To be trusted, just prove yourself true;  
Learn to give out good will,  
And your troubles keep still,  
When you meet other folks that are  
"blue";

You can cure any frown with a smile;  
Just try and you'll see what 'twill do:  
Give goodwill and good cheer,  
Every day of the year,  
And the same will come back to you.

If you want to be glad, you must give;  
Every glad thought drives sadness  
away;

See the birds in the rain,  
Do they ever complain?  
Shouldn't folks be as plucky as they?  
Everyone has his ups and down;  
Never mind what the neighbor may  
say;

Just keep giving good cheer  
Everyday of the year,  
And the same will come back your way.

Olavine Moe Roberts

### STEP BY STEP

He does not lead me year by year  
Nor even day by day.

But step by step my path unfolds;  
My Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's paths I do not know,  
I only know this minute's;  
But He will say "This is the way,  
By faith now walk ye in it."

And I am glad that it is so,  
Today's enough to bear;  
And when tomorrow comes, His grace  
Shall far exceed its care.

What need to worry then, or fret?  
The God who gave His Son  
Holds all my moments in His hand  
And give them, one by one.

Barbra C. Ryberg

If beautiful thoughts make beautiful  
people, let us share some to help in the  
coming year:

"Happiness is not the station we  
arrive at, but the manner in which we  
arrive. It is the ability to be tough with  
ourselves and tender with others."

— O. Arnold

"The greatest underdeveloped re-  
source is faith; the greatest unused  
power is prayer."

— Roger Rabson

"A commentary on the times is that  
the word "honesty" is now preceded by  
"old-fashioned".

— Larry Wolters

"It is one of the most beautiful com-  
pensations of life that no man can  
sincerely try to help another without  
helping himself."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

"There is nothing noble in being  
superior to some other man. True  
nobility is in being superior to your pre-  
vious self."

— Old Hindu Proverb

"It doesn't matter how much money  
you have; everyone has to buy wisdom  
on the installment plan."

— Grit

"Morale is when your hands and feet  
keep on working when your head says it  
can't be done."

— Adm. Ben Moreell

"Prayer is the key that unlocks all  
the storehouse of God's infinite grace  
and power. All that God is, and all that  
God has, is at the disposal of prayer.  
But we must use the key."

— B. A. Torrey

"Nothing is so strong as gentleness;  
nothing so gentle as real strength."

— Frances de Sales

### NO TIME FOR GOD

You've time to build houses, and in  
them to dwell,  
And time to do business—to buy and  
to sell,  
But none for repentance, or deep,  
earnest prayer,  
To seek your salvation you've no time  
to spare.

You've time for earth's pleasures, for  
frolic and fun,  
For her glittering treasures how  
quickly you run,  
But care not to seek the fair mansions  
above,  
The favor of God or the gift of His  
love.

You've time to take voyages over  
the sea,  
And time to take in the gay world's  
jubilee:  
But soon your bright hopes will be lost  
in the gloom  
Of the cold dark river of death and  
the tomb.

You've time to resort to woods,  
mountain, and glen,  
And time to gain knowledge from  
books and of men.  
Yet no time to search for the wisdom  
of God:  
But what of your soul when you're  
under the sod?

For time will not linger when helpless  
you lie;  
Staring death in the face you will take  
time to die!  
Then, what of the judgment! Pause,  
think, I implore!  
For time will be lost on eternity's  
shore.

Author Unknown

### WISDOM SHALL FOLLOW

"Wisdom is knowing what to do and  
knowing it will work." These were the  
words of my Teacher. "A decision is  
knowing what you must do, right or  
wrong." He continued, "Uncertainty is  
never wisdom. Neither is it faith for a  
decision; so WAIT."

I understood. With wisdom as a  
guide, blessedness will follow. After a



decision there is always a blessing or a lesson. Uncertainty always brings regrets. Wait for wisdom, when you can. If wisdom does not come, wait for an unwavering decision. Thank God for wisdom. Thank Him for lessons. Wisdom shall follow.

### IF JESUS HAD NOT COME

**"If I had not come . . ."**

That's the way Jesus began one of His sentences. The haunting suggestiveness of it is overpowering. The smug complacency with which I have come to take Christmas for granted is suddenly seized and shattered. Gone in a trice, a million cheery lights and merry laughs.

Suppose Christ had not come. Suppose there had been . . .

no manger birth  
no star in the east  
no angel rhapsody  
no awe-struck shepherds  
no Sermon on the Mount  
no Healer of hurts and hearts  
no reconciling Cross  
no empty tomb  
no empowering Spirit  
no community of the caring.

How can I be other than appalled at the mention of a conjecture so dark, smitten dumb in the presence of a fancy so grim?

How can I envisage a world without . . .  
the four Gospels  
the Epistles

the Atonement — the Calvary-place  
where my sin and God's holy love  
come together in a meeting in  
which the defiance of the one is  
melted clean away in the furnace-  
heat of the other

the promise and prophecy of a King-  
dom-of-God triumph in which "all  
human history shall be consum-  
mated in Christ"?

If Jesus had not come, our thinking  
about God would have gone along  
gropingly, forever faltering, forever  
fractured. For is it not Jesus who,  
practically as well as conceptually,  
invests God with love, the universe with  
meaning, and life with immeasurably  
glorious possibilities?

If Jesus had not come! What mind  
can compass the immensity of the gap,  
the vastness of the void, that would  
have been created in the human story?

History without its fairest Figure  
Literature without its sublimest  
passages

Music without its richest  
compositions  
Eloquence without its loftiest flights  
Philosophy without its most  
luminous insights  
Theology without its Christology  
Servanthood for others without its  
model and motive  
Sin without a Conqueror  
The world without a Redeemer  
Death without a Destroyer  
Heaven without assurance or allure.  
Ah! But I remember another word of  
His . . .

**"I AM COME!"**

My word, what a difference! He has  
come . . .

to Mary's encircling arms  
to the shepherd's wondering gaze  
to Jerusalem's pools and pathways  
to Galilee's hills and shores  
to the classy rich and the cashless  
poor  
to the arrogant, the ignorant, the  
the errant  
to the resolute, the dissolute, the  
prostitute.

There has never been a coming like  
it. (Yes, there will be another, but even  
it will not be like this one.)

More than an effort, it was an effect.  
More than attempt, it was an act.  
More than a desire, it was a deed.  
To reveal, to suffer, to die, to live  
again.

To enlighten our darkness, to  
liberate us from our chains, to save  
us from ourselves, to bring us to  
God and to mankind and to  
heaven.

That's why He came! That's why He  
is here!

And I think He wants me — yes, me —  
to do something more than celebrate it.  
Staggeringly, he wants to use me to  
demonstrate it.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

### THE NEW YEAR

The years that come, the years that go,  
As volumes written plain,  
Are stored upon the shelf of time  
Where memories remain.

Each year is like a little book  
With leaves and covers bound.  
Our deeds and acts are written there,  
The year's events are found.

The great Librarian keeps the books;  
Our records are all true.  
And from the pages written plain  
Our lives we may review.

To childhood days our thoughts return;  
There memories abound.  
The life once free from care and toil  
Within these books are found.

Within these books of youth we find  
That toil and cares increase;  
That doubting heart and wavering  
mind —  
Yea, less of joy and peace.

Our youth is filled with joy and mirth,  
And, lest we would forget,  
The books record our wayward life;  
There's much we do regret.

When manhood days come into view,  
Our strength will scarce suffice  
To give us courage, purpose true,  
In trials, toil and strife.

And then the year eventful came,  
Most precious to achieve,  
When on the great Librarian's name  
We truly could believe.

The record of the past events  
Was all removed by grace.  
He then a book with pages fair  
Within our hearts did place.

We trust that He may now record  
Some deeds of truth and light!  
May goodness in our life abound  
To make the pages bright.

He knows the weakness of our frame,  
Our failings all, — no less.  
And for His love and mercy's sake  
Our hearts' book He will bless.

When once the Records all are made,  
Though few our deeds may be;  
If to my own these deeds you've done,  
You've done it unto me.

Henry Beer

### HOW DO YOU THINK OF GOD?

At first I saw God as my observer, my  
judge, keeping track of the things I did  
wrong, so as to know whether I merited  
heaven or hell when I die. He was out  
there sort of like the President. I rec-  
ognized His picture when I saw it, but I  
didn't really know Him.

But later on when I recognized my  
higher power, it seemed as though life  
was rather like a bike ride, but it was a  
tandem bike, and I noticed that God  
was in the back helping me pedal.

I don't know just when it was that He  
suggested we change places, but life  
has not been the same since, life with



my Higher Power, that is. God makes life exciting!

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long-cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places and at breakneck speeds; it was all I could do to hang on!!! Even though it looked like madness, He said, "PEDAL!"

I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to trust.

I forgot my boing life and entered into the adventure. And when I'd say "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, God's and mine.

And we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks, fly to shorten scary passages.

And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, my Higher Power.

And when I'm sure I just can't do any more, He just smiles and says . . . "PEDAL!"

Author Unknown

### HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago,  
One day I saw a sign that read  
"Heaven's Grocery Store."

As I got a little closer the door came open wide,  
And when I came to myself I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels, they were standing everywhere.  
One handed me a basket and said,  
"My child shop with care."

Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store,  
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back next day for more.

First I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row,  
Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two or FAITH,  
I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE  
To help me run His race.

By then my basket was getting full,  
But I remembered I needed some GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION, for salvation that was free,  
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,  
For I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in,  
For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.

PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf,  
SONG and PRAISE were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angels,  
"Now how much do I owe?"  
He just smiled and said,  
"Just take them everywhere you go."

Again I smiled at him and said,  
"How much, now, do I really owe?"  
He smiled again and said, "My child,  
Jesus paid your bill a long time ago."

Author Unknown

### Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

apostles' experiences with converts caused them to write words of warning. We should profit from them.

In today's reading the Israelites were tempted and, if I recall it right, the result of this temptation was that they were constantly complaining against

the way God and His Spirit were trying to lead them.

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer." I Cor. 10:10.

Even in later years after they were in the Promised Land, there were some who said to the prophets, "What is the burden of the Lord?" Jer. 23:33. What a negative attitude! What a way to lose the blessings of God! The commandments are not a burden. The Lord Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt. 11:29, 30.

The grace of God is available to each and every one whose heart has been made new. However, if we murmur or if we rebel against the cross which the Lord lays upon us, we can come to harm and destruction. On the other hand, if we follow the example of our Lord and Saviour who said, "Father . . . not my will, but thine, be done," (Luke 22:42), our life will come to a good end, and we can also be a help to others.

"Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." I Cor. 10:11. That was written nearly two thousand years ago, but it's the same good example, the same final Word from God. The New Covenant that God made through Jesus Christ will never be changed as the Mosaic law was changed to the covenant of Christ. This is the last Word from God, and it is sufficient for our spiritual needs for time and eternity.

Here is a warning: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10:12, 13.

We can profit from our temptations for these crosses are sent into our lives so that we might draw nearer to the Lord, so that we might be more humble and dependent upon Him. Then His work can be better done in us. If we become self-sufficient and think that we accomplish good by our own strength, we are in danger of falling. That has happened, sad to say. We are well warned in this chapter against



that. We have many good examples to follow, examples of those who have been faithful and true. We often think of those who have gone before, those whom we knew many long years ago, who lived and walked in the ways of the Lord. They did not claim to be perfect, but they strove after perfection. They were examples to us and taught us the Word of Truth. They finished their course with a living hope, and that is the greatest and most important thing.

"Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." I Cor. 10:14. As we mentioned before, there are many idols in this world.

"I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say." I Cor. 10:15. Jesus asked them to use the wisdom that God would give them to determine the truth of what he was telling them.

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" I Cor. 10:16. We know how we are blessed when we have holy communion. It brings us nearer to the Lord, and nearer to each other. It fills our hearts with love and zeal, and give us renewed determination to serve and follow our Lord. Jesus said, "For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread." I Cor. 10:17. Jesus said, speaking symbolically, that unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood, we will have no part in His salvation. So we must use the spiritual food day by day which He purchased for us. Also we need the grace that He brought within our reach to sustain us in this life and bring us to eternal life.

What a blessing it is that, though we be many, we can be of one heart and of one mind if we obey and follow the teachings of the Word, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I have often marveled that the Lord and Saviour considered the guidance of the Holy Spirit even more important than His own presence among His disciples. He said, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you: but if I depart, I will send him unto you." John 16:7. So, if we heed that Spirit, we will be led and guided in all ways of righteousness.

The Israelites who made offerings and sacrifices to God before the covenant of Christ were partakers of the gifts and benefits thereof. But now,

because the Corinthian believers, for the most part, were converted idolaters, Paul warned them against taking part in the worship of idols.

"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God." I Cor. 10:20. When we do anything in obedience to the promptings of the evil one, we are working for him and not for God.

"I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils." I Cor. 10:20. We gave that up long ago, did we not, loved ones? But Satan comes. He comes every day, doesn't he? Jesus had the solution to this when Satan tempted Him. He said, "Get thee behind me, Satan." Luke 4:8. Then He used the Living Word that the Father had given. Satan quoted Scripture also, but he quoted it incorrectly. Jesus straightened that out for him . . . and for us. When we read the Word, we see that through His humility and His sincerity, God gave Jesus the words to counter the temptation of Satan. We also have this at our disposal if we are fervent in prayer and sincere in our desire to serve the Lord.

"Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?" I Cor. 10:22. We all know the answer to these questions. We could provoke Him to jealousy, but we are not stronger than He. We rely upon His strength to help us overcome evil things.

Paul brings up a subject that is very important for us as believers. "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." I Cor. 10:23. Many things in this world come to our attention and perhaps attract our eyes and our minds. The question comes up, "Is it right, or is it wrong?" Here we have a good answer for that. The test is, "Is it expedient?" A thing that is expedient will help us along our way and further the growth of our faith and our service to the Lord. If it does not, then no matter how lawful it may be to the people round about us, it is not for us.

Not everything edifies. People do many things and say, "That's not a sin." But there is a point beyond which there is no edification. To edify means to cast light upon something. If we do things that cast darkness on our way of life rather than light, then we are working against ourselves and against the Lord. We are well warned against such things.

I often think of what the Saviour said. If something which is caused by the lust of the eye or the lust of the flesh is going to get you into trouble, or is going to cause someone else to stumble, cut it off. Cut it off forthwith. Throw it away. It's not always easy to do, but we find in doing so that we are happy and blessed. Then we know that our conduct will not be such as to be harmful to others.

Paul said, "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth." I Cor. 10:24. He was not talking about financial things; He was talking about spiritual wealth, the same treasures which Jesus talked about when He said, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven (not here on earth), where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Matt. 6:20. Let us lay up treasures in heaven.

If we can help one another to do this, I am certain that we ourselves will benefit therefrom. Any good that we do for someone else will be blessed. Jesus said a drink of cold water given to someone in the name of the Lord will not fail to have its reward. Shall we not consider then that the smallest thing that we might do against the Lord, or which would not be a good light, can also have its evil results? We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit along our way, and it is available to us. Blessed are we when the Lord speaks to us as He does in various ways, through reading the Word, in speaking with one another, or through our conscience.

There is a saying, "Let your conscience be your guide," but the human conscience is not a very good guide. I think that if we say, "Let the Word of God and His Spirit be our guide," then we are on safe ground. I have never seen that anyone who denied himself something for fear that he might displease the Lord, suffered any loss through that. Many have suffered a loss because they took too great a chance. This is lawful. This is permissible.

In many cases it doesn't say in the Bible that we shouldn't do this or that. We are told that anything that works against the control of God and His Spirit in our hearts is evil and wrong, no matter what someone else says. If we heed the Word and the Holy Spirit, we can go safely through this life into eternal life.



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## SERMON BY BRO. ERNEST A. GRAF OF AKRON, OHIO

Text: I Corinthians 10:1-24

The system of sacrifices and Godly worship given to the household of Israel were symbolic of the things that would come in the New Testament, the New Covenant, the New Dispensation, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

The Apostle Paul wrote of the experience of the Israelites going from Egypt to the Promised Land. It is written here that the Jewish fathers were all "under the cloud, and all passed through the sea." I Cor. 10:1. This is a forerunner of the experience of those who turn to God through Jesus Christ and are liberated from the power and might of sin and Satan through a true conversion following a repentance.

Our hope of everlasting life is a much better promise than that which the Israelites had when promised good things in the land of Palestine which they were to come to physically. They passed through the water of the Red Sea, and we are baptized in water as a token of the liberation that God has worked in us, and to demonstrate the beginning of a new way of life in our Lord.

A cloud is mentioned here. We read in Exodus that the Israelites were brought through the sea, and then went upon their way in the wilderness. There was a visible cloud over them during the day, and a pillar of fire at night to enlighten the camp. They were told that when the pillar and cloud moved on, they should move. When it stopped, they should stop. I think that we can compare this with the Holy Spirit that God gives to His children when they are born again and are received into the household of faith. The Spirit leads and guides the child of God in the ways that he or she should go.

If we run before the Lord, we get into trouble; and if we do not follow close behind Him, then we also get into trouble. That was the sad experience of the people of Israel. They all had the

same teaching from God. It says here that they "did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." I Cor. 10:3, 4. Christ was not in the physical form in which He came upon earth later, but in Spirit. He was with these people because they were the chosen people of God. "But with many of them God was not well pleased." I Cor. 10:5. Elsewhere we read that they did not believe in God and His promises. Therefore, they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Unbelief is, I believe, a great hinderance today. Many people who know what is in the Word of God, and have often been taught therefrom, do not have faith in it, faith to come to God and let Him work in their hearts and lives, faith to be obedient to Him and follow Him through the wilderness to eternal life.

Paul said that the experiences of the Israelites are examples. We also have examples in the lives of those round about us, the good examples of those who serve the Lord and walk in His ways and the bad examples, from which we can be warned, of those who do not obey God and follow Him.

"... we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted." I Cor. 10:6. We read that the Israelites did not appreciate the fact that God was going to take them into a Promised Land. They began to yearn for the things that they had had back in Egypt, and even created an idol such as they had seen and known there.

God's wrath was raised against them. God said to Moses, who was their leader, that He would destroy them and make of Moses a new nation. Moses said something like this: "Oh, don't do that! People will say that You were not able to lead Your people into the Promised Land." So God continued with them but the bodies of very

many who were disobedient were left in the wilderness. These things are brought to our attention because there is danger for each and every one of us. It is true that through the grace of God we have been born again and placed upon the narrow way. We rejoice to walk therein, but we still have an evil enemy who works through the weakness of our flesh. The difference between the true believer of today and the people of Israel is that the grace of God through Jesus was not available to them. Only the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour brought into the reach of man the full salvation that God had prepared.

"Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them (they made a golden calf in the wilderness); ... The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." I Cor. 10:7. We can read in histories of the people who worshipped idols that they have feasts followed by carnal orgies which were highly displeasing to God.

Today, people might say, "We don't have any idols." But this world is full of idols! The Apostle Paul mentions that covetousness is idolatry. Idolatry is to love the things of this world so much that they are our prime objective. Any of us who try to gain wealth and hang our hearts thereon will lose our heavenly treasure. We are warned against all kinds of idolatry. Anything that keeps us from giving our whole heart to God is an idol. The first law of His commandment is, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3.

After our hearts have been changed through conversion, we love the Lord and we love to do His will. But, as mentioned, we have an enemy who tries to lead us astray. Let no one be deceived by the teaching that once we have been saved, we cannot be led astray. Our Lord and Saviour taught the opposite in parables, and the

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