



And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:2

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:4

VOLUME 34

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NUMBER 12

JESUS' COMING

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

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

Luke 2:13-14

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

*It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:*

"Peace on the earth, good-will to men, From heav'ns all-gracious King:"

The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

*Still thro' the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world:*

Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing:

And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,*

Look now! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing;

O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

*For lo, the days are hast'ning on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years Comes 'round the age of gold:*

When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,

And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

JESUS' RETURN

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Thessalonians 4:16-17

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

Giving and Sharing God's Word — the Bible

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

"The Lord gave the word, great was the company of those who published it."
Psalm 68:11

THE GOSPEL OF TRUTH

All honor to our Saviour's name!
His everlasting Gospel's fame
Throughout the earth resoundeth.
On angel's wings it swiftly flies,
With voice and accent sweetly cries,
"Redemption now aboundeth".
Amen! Amen! Invitations
To all nations God has given.
Through Him earth be turned to
heaven.

Zion's Harp #3

The Apostolic Christian Bible distribution has been in operation for the past 16 months and with the Lord's blessing, continues to grow. Many of our congregations have brothers distributing and giving God's Word to all who ask or have a need for the Bible. Many Bibles and Testaments have been given through ads in the newspapers, residents of rest homes, retirement homes, rescue missions, prisoners in prison, motels, doctor and optometrists' offices, as well as Bible records made available to the blind. Bibles are also sent with the work teams on various projects in the Caribbean nations.

The brothers have had many blessed experiences in visiting in the homes and often discover the needs of many who are in poverty, giving us an opportunity to help to meet both spiritual and physical needs.

With the expanded work in providing Bibles, an addition is being constructed on the present building at Leo

through the help of the Missionary and World Relief Committees. Our members and friends have responded with many generous contributions to this need for Bibles.

With the help and prayerful support of many willing hearts and hands and generous financial support, Bibles have been distributed as follows:

Sept. '83 to Aug. '84.....	13,890
Aug. '84	909
Sept. '84.....	749
Oct. '84.....	686
Nov. '84.....	1,246

Availability of Bibles and Testaments:

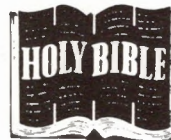
The storing of inventory and shipping of Bibles to our congregations is being taken care of by the Leo congregation. A listing of Bibles available can be sent upon request and orders for Bibles can be sent to:

David Bertsch
Route 2 - Box 157A
Grabill, IN 46741

We thank all for the prayerful support and generous financial contributions to the Bible Fund that make possible this work of giving and sharing the Bible with all that ask for the Word of God.

Contributions to the Bible Fund can be sent to:

Ben Maibach
14726 Fox Road
Detroit, MI 48239



Humbly submitted,
David Bertsch
For the Missionary Committee

this secretarial work can be obtained by writing or calling:

Bro. Uriel Gehring
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
Phone: 219/627-5138

Bro. Ron Kipfer
1215 E. Spring Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone: 219/824-5722

Elder Bro. David Bertsch
Route 2 - Box 157A
Grabill, IN 46741
Phone: 219/627-2923

NOTICE

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME ANNUAL BENEFIT DAY

REMINDER: The 9th Annual Children's Home Sale will be held August 24, 1985. Please plan on attending.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Lynn Stieglitz
Albert Frautschi
David Bertsch

The editorial staff wishes to acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers from the Leo Apostolic Christian Church who willingly give of their time to handle the many address changes, help mail the monthly issues and spend hours in editing. May God reward you.

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Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller,
David Bertsch.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
c/o David Bertsch
Route 2, Box 157A
Grabill, IN 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$7.00 per year. Send zip no. with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORK PROJECT

NEED FOR FULL TIME SECRETARY AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

There is a need for a full-time secretary for the Apostolic Christian Children's Home.

Duties will be to serve as receptionist, secretarial, clerical and computer work, including preparing office order forms, monthly billing forms, updating the home computerized mailing list and prepare labels and reports as needed.

The qualification requirements for the secretary are:

1. Must be a sister, sound in faith, upholding church doctrine and order
 2. Must have the support of her home church elder
 3. Applicants should be 21 years or older. Consideration will be given to all applicants
 4. A resume is required to be sent with your request for an interview
- Salary: Commensurate with experience.
Additional information concerning

MEMORIES OF JAPAN AND INDIA

Elder Bro. David Bertsch

I had the blessed privilege in January/February, 1984, to be part of a group of five brothers and sisters sent by our Missionary and World Relief Committees to Japan and India. The trip was a life changing experience for me. These memories were so very vivid, as we, with prayer, followed the journey of Elder Bros. Roy Grimm and Richard Schupbach and Bro. John Klotzle, as they traveled to the same areas this October/November, 1984. One of the requests of the Indian congregations was to have some of our sisters-in-faith visit them, in order to see and to hear their testimony of faith and conduct. Sis. Lois Klotzle and Sis. Virginia Hoerr traveled with their husbands on this trip.

There was a lot of preparation for the trip, such as getting the passport for both Japan and India. For a time, mine seemed to be lost in the mail. Bro. John Klotzle had prepared a list of clothing, medicines, shots to be taken and many helps gained from previous trips. We had to pack for cold weather in Japan and hot weather in India. Elder Bros. Joe Ramsier and Ben Maibach had some good suggestions from their experiences in India. We each had gifts to take along for the children in Japan, as well as for the men, women and orphans in India. As we were to have an all-day conference with the pastors and ministers, we were each assigned two topics to share with them.

During this time of preparation there was much prayerful concern of leaving loved ones at home and of the deep need to place all faith and trust in our heavenly Father. We needed His guiding hand and protecting Spirit to keep us from all harm and injury.

Departure day was finally upon us and with tears and prayer we bid farewell, boarding the plane for Los Angeles. There was more preparation, a final shot to be taken. We were able to spend two blessed days with the brethren at Altadena and also visited the church site at Maywood. Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle also was there and departed for Japan a day ahead of us.

We loaded the many suitcases in the cars and started for the airport. Just as we pulled up to the airport curb, the radiator hose broke; but we were there on time.

As we watched the Northwest Orient

747 being prepared and loaded, we were truly amazed at the tremendous size and weight that becomes airborne. And then when airborne, we had the opportunity to view the wonder and glory of God's creation.

Our journey to Japan was up the west coast to Alaska, over the Aleutian Islands and then to Japan, a 11.5 hr. non-stop trip. Upon arrival late at night, we were surprised to find an unusual 12" of snow and Bro. Willis there to meet us. He had been unable to get home as all transportation was stopped. I stayed at Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and Sis. Mario's home and experienced a very blessed Christian welcome as we enjoyed seeing one another again. At the Tokyo church for services, I experienced many new things, such as the slippers at the doorstep and the first sermon with Bro. Akito as the interpreter. It was such a help and assurance to know that if I spoke too long or fast, Bro. Akito would be there to help. We enjoyed greeting our Japanese brothers and sisters-in-faith. We spoke a different language but enjoyed the same faith and Christian love. We went to the Shioda church for evening services, and again felt the blessing of Christian fellowship and singing hymns that had been translated into Japanese. The next day we visited the preschool and saw the 30 or more Japanese boys and girls, all dressed in green. The children were very polite, obedient and attentive to their recitation of the lessons in English. Sis. Judy Luginbuhl and Sis. Margie Heintz were the teachers and we could see their dedication to their work and love for the children. The children were so friendly and were happy for the gifts we shared with them. This is a most worthy work in the Japanese churches and has brought parents, especially mothers, to learn and know of Christ. Bros. Frank Sauder and Randy Mogler are in Japan now and are helping in the work there. May we give our prayerful support to this work.

We then visited in the typical Japanese homes of some of our brothers and sisters. We were received with loving kindness and hospitality. We saw many grape vineyards on the hillsides around Shioda and even in the yards, as every space is used. Bro. Willis took us into

the mountains to see Mt. Fuji, a truly beautiful picture to see. Too soon, departure time came and we took the electric train through the mountains to Tokyo. The train was packed as students and adults were going to school and work. We were impressed by a very progressive, industrious people, friendly and polite people. The cities are modern and clean. Some of the brothers and sisters came to bid farewell as we left for the Marita Airport for the journey to Hong Kong and then on to Bombay, India.

(To be continued in next issue)

ELGIN COOKBOOKS FOR NURSING HOME PROJECT

Early in 1983, our Elgin congregation published a cookbook. The proceeds from the sale of these cookbooks are benefitting our Apostolic Christian Resthaven Nursing Home in Elgin. After ordering 3,000 cookbooks, we still have 800 available. Since construction is now beginning on our new nursing home, we would like to sell most of these books before the year's end. If anyone would like to purchase one of these cookbooks, please contact Sis. Teresa Gudeman, 22 S. Alfred, Elgin, IL 60120, or you may phone her at (312) 697-5236. The price of our cookbook is \$11.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. If you have a multiple order, please contact her prior to ordering. May the Lord bless each of you for your charity.

NEWS FROM EASTERN EUROPE

Andy Hunyady

Greetings Beloved Brethren and Friends:

For the opening of the Eastern World Relief and Sewing Circle meeting at Rittman, OH on November 10, Elder Bro. Joseph Ramsier read from the Scripture and briefly meditated on it. He reminded us of our charitable duties towards the poor and needy in this world, and the blessedness of giving and sharing our God-given substance; as even a cup of water given to a thirsty soul in the name of Christ will be rewarded.

"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

In his letter to the Corinthians, Apostle Paul praised the young church of Macedonia for their liberal contributions for the poor saints in Jerusalem, and reminded them how these poor saints prayed and glorified God "for your professed subjection unto the Gospel of Christ for your liberal distribution unto them . . ." II Cor. 9:13.

Most of the letters received from Eastern European brethren express similar prayers of gratitude to God and to you, dear brethren, for your generosity.

Several brothers and sisters in the Illinois and Indiana churches inquired and wanted to help by sending warm clothing and blankets to Romania. Very unfortunately, this cannot be done at this time. There is a lack of cooperation on the part of local officials and transportation costs and high taxes would make it unprofitable. Several such packages were returned to the senders.

On October 20, two visitors from Budapest, Hungary, told us of their tour in Romania shortly before their departure to the United States. A group of brethren loaded 3 cars with food and clothing intended for the needy in Romania. At the border they were refused to enter and were ordered to turn back to Hungary and unload. Later they were permitted to enter carrying their personal belongings only.

An urgent request came from Hungary for several Romanian language Zion's Harp hymnals. These were sent by a brother, who currently is in Romania. These books are to be taken into the USSR for the brethren. We pray that the Lord will provide a means for these books to reach the hands of fellow believers.

Economic conditions in Yugoslavia are also having some adverse effects upon the poor and elderly. A Columbus family had several packages of good clothing sent to relatives and friends, but after many months these packages were returned as the Yugoslav officials did not permit them into the country.

Such actions by these governments make us wonder, just what is their motive to deny such aid to their citizens. We are just thankful, that so far, the food packages are being accepted and delivered regularly.

Here is a letter, received from a brother who lives in the northeastern part of Romania, not far from the Russian border:

"With much love I write to you my dear brother, to thank you and bring my thanks to the Lord for the good deeds you are doing for us. We are old and frail but try to strive to do the Lord's will. We would like for you to come and visit our country, and if you will, we would like to meet you in Arad or Timisoara. Although I am ill (crippled) with both feet and must use crutches since my childhood, the good Lord has helped me to walk the straight and narrow path according to His will.

"My wife and I thank you and everyone for your attention and care for us. We receive the food packages regularly and in good order. I have someone who has a small motorcycle for the handicapped and he takes me shopping and to the post office for the packages.

"We live among mountains covered with green forests of pine trees. We ask that if you write again, to write in Romanian as there is no one here who can read the English.

"We await your reply. With much love we greet all the brethren.

Your brother,
Constantin and Ana A."

Dearly beloved, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, The Prince of Peace, let us remember all those who are less fortunate and are in bonds for His sake!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring — Judy Luginbuhl

Time is . . . man marches on. Thanksgiving Day, as designated by national decree, is now history for another year. We are thankful, however, every day of the year for the manifold blessings of God we receive from His bountiful hands. A special "thank you" to our church people who hosted some of our children during the Thanksgiving holidays. It is always a meaningful experience for our children to visit various homes.

We are now anticipating the Christmas season when the Christian world celebrates the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem of Judea nearly two thousand years ago. The message of the angels to the shepherds, "Peace on earth, good will to men" is still available today to the hearts of men who are true believers in Christ Jesus, our risen and resurrected Lord. By virtue of the new birth from above, through Christ, we can become new creatures in Him, and the peace the angels sang about

can be ours. "What joy I feel, what peace is mine, as I my all to thee resign; redemption, Lord, thou didst achieve, my Jesus, I will never leave." At the Christmas season we think of pleasant things such as carolling, family get-togethers, exchanging of gifts, going home to visit loved ones, and just wishing each other a "Merry Christmas". May the pleasantest thought of all be God's great love for us, in the giving of His Son, that we through Him might receive the gift of God, eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera Baer and their two children, Mark and Sara, have returned to the Princeville, IL area, after having given of their time and talent at the home since April, 1983. We thank them for their contribution to the home and the children they served. May God reward them as only He can. Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick are now the houseparents in the East House, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheryl Blunier are the new alternate houseparents. They are from the Leo area and we welcome them to our staff. We are looking forward to having them in our midst as they share their talents with the children here.

Our children are all excitedly planning for the Christmas season. Our desire is to concentrate on how we can give to others. It's encouraging to see the excitement that goes into creating special projects for other special people.

The anticipation of giving and the reaction they will receive as they give are great motivations for completing our projects. The children appreciate the nice home, good food and clothing they have, and realize that not everyone has it so good. As a family, we are attempting to share the many blessings we have received. Our children are experiencing the real joy of Christmas as they focus their energy toward doing for others.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Many sweet words have been written and sung
About Christmas, the Father and His Holy Son.
The story is ageless. In our hearts it rings true.
'That Sweet Story of Old' forever seems new.

Though the story is old, yet the people
are new.

Each generation is asking, "Please,
what may I do

To alleviate suffering and bring Peace
to the soul

Of those who have never felt blessings
unfold?"

Father, help us to bolster the faith
that is weak,

Reach out to the heart whose outlook
is bleak.

Let us be the Star that is shining today
That some soul may be led to the Truth,
now we pray.

Our hearts are drawn to the Father
as we pray, and this magnetism radi-
ates to those around us. Closest at
hand are our residents; and we are
reminded of our volunteers, who in
effect, have kept the beautiful Christ-
mas spirit throughout the whole year.
They have read and believed Luke
6:33, which gives approval to those
who do good to the ones from whom
they do not expect a return. In behalf
of the residents, all of us at the Home for
the Handicapped thank each one most
sincerely. As a benediction upon your
year's efforts, we intercede to the Fa-
ther for a profoundly beautiful blessing.

To the parents and guardians we
also extend our Christmas greetings.
Though our residents are very dear to
us and are our prime concern; they are
still your children, and we are second-
ary figures in their hearts. We appre-
ciate and respect this, and know this is
as it should be. For this reason we often
say and now emphasize again that we
are grateful for your support and en-
couragement. When you now enjoy
them as a part of your family circle at
Christmas time, we extend to you our
best wishes for a most beautiful holi-
day season.

New to our Home's family is Jason
Wayne Gingrich, son of Ron and Karen
Gingrich, Route 2, Tremont, IL. Two
brothers and one sister make up this
dear family. Jason enjoys ice cream,
yogurt and applesauce as favorite
foods. Listening to music and going for
walks are favorite pastimes. Jason will
attend school at Schramm School in
Pekin along with some of our other
student residents. Birthday time is
April 7. Welcome, Jason! We are happy
to have you here.

Here on a temporary basis for a few
weeks is Daniel Dorris, son of William

Dorris (Peoria, IL). His mother, Janet,
is deceased. His grandparents, Rudy
and Lavina Kilgus, formerly lived in
Morton.

The holiday activities are many and
varied, and the residents do enjoy the
festivities.

It would be interesting to try to
imagine Christmas without material
gifts. What would happen to the holy
season if we omitted them? Would it
become a commemoration of the great-
est Gift the world has ever known? Let
us be generous with our gifts of love
and understanding. They are of inval-
uable worth to the giver as well as to the
recipient.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Schrenk

School is going very well this year.
We had open house and everyone
seems very pleased with our program
and progress.

The fellowship hall is coming along
really well. The roof is on and we will
be working on the inside, as well as finish-
ing the outside. We have had a lot of
company and help with the building.
We thank everyone for their labors of
love. May God be your Rewarder.

As our brethren are traveling south
for the winter, we'd like to invite you all
to stop and worship with us.

We thank the Gridley Men's Choir
for coming to share their love and
songs with us.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Eve Hoerr

"Every good gift and every perfect
gift is from above." James 1:17. An-
drew David is the beautiful gift God
bestowed to Bro. Herbie and Sis.
Laurie Knochel on October 25. The
grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis.
Joanne Knochel and Bro. Lyle and Sis.
Marilyn Zeltwanger (Valparaiso, IN).

Bro. Joe and Sis. Lavina Dotterer
flew back to Illinois to get acquainted
with their new granddaughter, Lindsay
Leigh. Her parents are Bro. Mark and
Sis. Carolyn Hoerr.

On November 2, we truly felt the
blessings of our dear Lord, when Elder
Bros. Richard Schupbach, Roy Grimm
and John Klotzle returned safely home
after the assassination of Premier
Gandhi in India.

Our visiting ministers, whom we ap-
preciated so much were Bro. Len
Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Jim Funk
(Tucson, AZ).

Hospital patients have been Sis.
LouAnn Klopfenstein, Sis. Cindy
Langhofer and Sis. Linda Zollinger.
We pray for God's healing blessings
upon them.

We pray Sis. Minnie Farney, Sis.
Martha De Mille and Floren Klopfen-
stein will soon be having brighter days,
and be able to feel the Lord's renewed
blessing of health and strength.

If thou wilt go with me, then I will go.
Judges 4:8. Thus Bro. Jay Fehr left on
November 12 to make his church home
in Rockville, CT. His parents are Bro.
Gene and Sis. Marge.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Tim
and Sis. Verene Sutton on the death of
his grandfather, Charles Chapman.

Our congregation extends season's
greetings to each of you and may your
New Year be full of love for the Lord.

Now unto him that is able to keep
you from falling, and to present you
faultless before the presence of his
glory with exceeding joy, To the one
wise God our Saviour, be glory and
majesty, dominion and power, both
now and forever, Amen.

Jude 24, 25

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

Wednesday, November 14, was the
evening selected for our annual busi-
ness meeting. The following brothers
and sisters were elected. Bro. Don
Bauer was elected to serve a 3-year
term as trustee, Bro. Brad Bauer was
elected for a 3-year term as Sunday
school superintendent, Bro. Curt
Kaufman was selected to serve as as-
sistant Sunday school superintendent.
for a 1-year term, replacing Bro. Brad
who had one year left in his term as
assistant superintendent before being
elected superintendent. Sis. Lisa
Knapp was elected to teach the grade
school level children and Sis. Sandy
Bauer was elected to teach the pre-
school children, both terms will be for 2
years. Bros. Nate Lehman and Rudy
Bertschi and Sisters Yvonne Lehman
and Caroline Kaufman all vacated of-
fices and we thank them for all their
efforts in years past.

Bro. Jay Bertsch is again living in
Tucson after spending time in Peoria,
IL. We are thankful the Lord has con-
tinued to bless and be with Bro. Jay
and has granted him a safe journey
back to Tucson. May the Lord continue
to dwell with him.

Dr. and Mrs. Nick Pazzi are pleased

to announce the engagement of their daughter, Maria, to Steve Bauer, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer of our congregation. They are planning a January 4 wedding. We wish them many blessings of love from the Lord as they begin their walk together down life's pathway.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Mary Beth Klotzle

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

Luke 2:14

Let this Christmas season be a time of praising God on High for sending His Son to the earth, bringing true peace and good will to men! It's such a special time of year - full of giving, sharing and rejoicing. Yet there are some people who are lonely, hurting inside or discouraged. Let's keep the spirit of Christmas in our hearts all year and reach out to all mankind with love, kindness and understanding, praying for those who are lonely, and letting the joy the Lord gives us shine brightly.

Many are already aware of the tragic death of India's Prime Minister which occurred while Bros. John Klotzle, Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) were in the country. It was such a comfort to know there were so many prayers being offered from coast to coast and in Japan. Each one is sincerely appreciated. The Lord heard and answered the prayers, safely leading the brothers home two weeks earlier than they planned. May He continue to bless and guide the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions and keep the dear believers in India safely in His care.

The Lord leads and guides those who put their trust and faith in Him. The engagement of Sis. Wendy Locher (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Christine) and Bro. Jason Williamson (Bob and Sis. Janet, Latty, OH) was announced. Although Sis. Wendy has been living in Illinois for a couple of years, she still has a special place in the hearts of her California congregations, and we pray for God to bless the preparation for their marriage.

What a miracle it is to see a newborn baby! Our hearts are so quickly filled with love for them, and they bring a refreshing reminder of the wonder of God's creation of life. Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl have been blessed with a beautiful daughter, Paul Jo. Rebecca, Theresa and Kurt John

excitedly welcomed her home. May God bless this dear family with His love and tender care.

We welcome Bro. Chris Gramm to Altadena, CA from Gridley, IL. It is our prayer he'll be blessed here and led daily in God's will.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Hebrews 13:17

Seeing that they must give account for our souls, we were visited by two of our elder brothers, Bro. Nathan Steffen and Bro. Sam Anliker, who exhorted us to greater faithfulness through the reading of the memorandum of the brotherhood conference. We thank them from the depths of our hearts for their love and concern for us and pray that God will reward them richly.

Along with these exhortations a need was filled in the ministry by our dear Bro. Mike Leman. Believing this choice was made by God, we pray an extra measure of grace upon him and his dear wife, Sis. Deb.

"Should I restrain the Spirit's course
 For fear of man so feeble?
 Though Satan's hosts are raging here,
 Should I not be more faithful"
 Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
 Conceal the Word of God Most High?

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

The mortal man may quite disown
 And speak in bold derision
 Against my labors and my name;
 Yet blest is my condition.
 The love of God dispels the fear
 And makes my faith in Him more
 dear."

Zion's Harp # 113, vs. 1, 2, 8

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

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Michelle Virkler

Here below I'm still a stranger
 Living still among the world
 Up above in God's own shelter
 Is my truest Fatherland"

Author Unknown

This small portion was taken from a poem which was read during the funeral services for our dear Bro. Urban Luginbuhl. After a long, courageous battle, Bro. Urb was called Home to be with our heavenly Father. Bro. Urb was 59 years of age and had suffered with "Lou Gehrig's disease". Bro. Urban had touched so many hearts with his strong faith, courage, warmth and affectionate smile. He shall truly be missed by all of us who loved him for he was a "special" person. He leaves his wife, Charlotte, who gave him much strength during his affliction; three sons, Glenn (Tolland), Ross, Bro. Daryl (Ellington); four daughters, Sis. Sharon Kloter (Tolland), Sis. Crystal Hansen (Berlin, NH), Sis. Rebecca Ellert and Sis. Dawn (Tolland); five brothers, four sisters and 18 grandchildren.

We shall also miss another dear and precious soul who has passed on to his heavenly home. Bro. Edward Ludwig, 91, leaves his wife, Hazel; three sons, Norman (St. Petersburg, FL), Edward and Donald (Ellington); four daughters, Hazel Johndrow, Sis. Charlotte Trench (Ellington), Grace Paetelo (St. Petersburg, FL) and Esther Schofield (Harlington, TX); a sister, Emily Schneider (Ellington); 28 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

Those who have been hospitalized or in the hands of a physician during the month of November are Sis. Marge Schneider, Sis. Bonnie Reutter, Bro. John Luginbuhl, Bro. Werner Kupferschmid, Clayton Andrews and Steven Moser. We trust the Lord will be in their midst.

"... But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not, and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." St. Luke 22:32. We have been so blessed to have two dear souls, Diane Andrews and Kenneth Hunt (Bro. Harry and Sis. Joyce), turn unto God.

We rejoice when another bundle of love is added to our congregation. Sherry and Everett Skinner welcomed home Christopher Edward. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Alma Luginbuhl and Bill and Pat Skinner.

"I bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons." Psalms 16:7. Bro. Bob Schneider (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge) has been announced to Sis. Kim Niemann (Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Niemann).

As the Christmas season approaches may we be forever thankful for our blessings in this past year.

"Dear God, as the year's end nears
and nights are cold
We think about things that warm us
Like the quilts that lay upon our beds
Each one made of many pieces -
Different colors, sizes, shapes
All stitched together
To form a thing of service and beauty.

"Oh Lord, let us not forget
That we, too, come in
Varied colors, shapes, sizes and walks
of life
And by your grand design
We, too, gain strength
From this variety
Thank you, Lord, for all our differences.
Reader's Digest
Author Unknown

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, may we look back on our cherished memories with our families and loved ones. May we always realize the importance of this beautiful and holy season.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Billie Klopfenstein

The remodeling project at the church is progressing nicely and should be completed in time for the winter season.

We've begun having Bible study every other Monday evening in the fellowship hall. The ministering brothers rotate in teaching.

Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker are spending a few days with us here in Ft. Lauderdale. We are always blessed by their visits.

Several more of our winter residents have arrived. It is always a pleasure to meet and greet each of them once again.

"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17.

The Christmas season is drawing near once again. Since the first time I heard "The Babe of Bethlehem" it has

been my favorite Christmas carol. It tells the complete story . . . "Alas, how many only know the Saviour as a child. 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, That sets the spirit free. Then open wide the door of heart, And let the Saviour in."

As we go forth into a new year, let us all strive to grow in the spirit and not remain as spiritual babes. Let's be prepared to enjoy the "meat" by faithfulness in our Bible reading and prayer habits. Do we want to be "average" Christians who, according to a poll taken, spend 3 or 4 minutes a day in prayer? Or do we want to give our utmost and become "spiritually gifted" children of God?

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Marie Keller — Elsie Troxel

"THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM"

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

Our saving hope is all in vain,
If here our love should cease,
For in the Man of Galilee,
We find the gift of peace.
'Tis not the Babe, but Christ, the Man
Who walked in Galilee;
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,
That sets the spirit free.

Be not content this Babe to know,
Nor stay at Bethlehem,
But go with Christ to Calvary's brow,
Beyond Jerusalem.
'Tis there men learn to know the Christ,
For there He bore man's sin.
Then open wide the door of heart
And let the Saviour in.

Hymns of Zion #36

As the Christmas season is drawing near, we think of the birth of our Lord and Savior and the wonderful gift of life that can be ours if we seek and accept it. Also we are privileged to have a new church in which we can worship God and open the way for souls to find salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. What more joyous time to open the church than on the birth month of our Savior. Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14.

We welcome anyone who is visiting in the area to come and worship with us. Our church phone number is (813) 656-3800.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Doris and Diane Rocke

The engagement of Sis. Stephanie Zimmerman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Merna, Naples) and Bro. Greg Hunziker (Bro. Willis and Sis. Gloria, Peoria, IL) was announced. They plan a March wedding and will be at home in Peoria. May the Lord's blessings be upon this marriage.

Sis. Elizabeth Knapp has recovered from surgery and is attending services again. Bro. Fred was also hospitalized a short while. May the Lord provide in His love.

We were refreshed in spirit listening to the tapes of the conference this month. May we all benefit through the efforts of our leaders.

Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) was our visiting minister, and we thank him for his kindness.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Shirley Denick — Jan Gudeman

We were richly blessed with a lot of precious fellowship and delicious food at our annual Fall Sunday School picnic recently. The harvest time always reminds us of the bountiful blessings we have enjoyed. Let us be truly thankful.

Another blessed day of fellowship with many we do not often see was enjoyed when several families from the Latty, OH congregation accepted our invitation to join us for our monthly hymn sing and then worship with us here the next day. May the Lord bless and reward them for their efforts. "There's a tie of noble kinship in a soul who loves the Lord." With Him as the focal point in our hearts and minds, we do not have to worry about knowing or "entertaining" people we first meet. The conversation flows very smoothly knowing our goals, "our fears, our hopes, our aims are one" when we love the Lord.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS), Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens,

AL) and Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). We appreciate their labors of love in our behalf.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany and their two small children have moved to the Indianapolis area. We wish them the Lord's guidance there, though they will be missed here.

In that little stable so long ago

There were no dazzling lights.
There was nothing to distract one's thoughts
From the precious holy sight.

In this wonderful season as we commemorate the birth of our Lord, let us think on holy things and try to keep from becoming distracted by the world.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Shirley Kieser

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh.
Matthew 2:11

Thus were the first gifts to be given in honor of the birth of the Christ-child. The ultimate gift, though, was this Christ-child who became the risen Lord and Saviour of our souls. Because of Him we can truly live. As we go into another year we surely want to make it a year of service to our God who presented the best gift.

We were blest with the visits of ministering Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bros. Dave Kieser (Princeville, IL), Edwin Bahler and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). Many inspiring thoughts were brought forth and we thank them and their families for coming and sharing with us.

We were privileged to hear the memorandum at Princeville and appreciate the many efforts of our loved ones in their constant effort to preserve our faith.

We welcome Bro. Steve Schrader (Lamont, KS) as he has moved into the nearby area. We hope he feels at home here as he worships with our Bradford congregation.

December is Silver Lining collection month for Bradford. Dues are \$7.00.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Whether your family exchanges gifts with each one, or draws names, or doesn't give gifts at all; whatever the family traditions of your family or your spouse's family that you need to adjust to; those special family "doings" that the children add; however, we celebrate at church and at home; Christmas is a precious time. But we must ever remember the importance of all the festive activities: that the greatest gift of all came to the whole world for our salvation. Then we must review and be renewed: have we given the only gift of eternal value, the only one God will accept through His Son on Judgment Day, our cleansed and purified heart and life? "Let your whole life be an offering . . ." Zion's Harp #159.

Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) were the visitors we worked hardest this month. We are so grateful for their sincere service through the Spirit. They ministered visibly. We thank other visitors, family and friends for their coming and their more "invisible" but deeply felt ministry.

With the help of our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Elder Bro. Don Sauder, we celebrated the Lord's Supper Saturday evening, November 3. In our preceding examination of self and the sacred rite, we again found renewal of spirit and the stirring of many memories and prayers. This Communion leads us to enjoy other meanings of communion: "sharing, having in common," "the exchange of thoughts and feelings, fellowship," "quiet talk between persons who are dear to one another or are devoted to the same purpose; spiritual conversation." Love expressed in the kiss of greeting, the warm handshake, shining eyes, a special hand squeeze for the sister beside one: all these are "communion". Though we are unworthy, we are given His cloak of righteousness and love. We thank Thee, O Lord.

We welcome Bro. Tim Stoller (Leo, IN) who is attending college in our area. May we encourage him so that he "Study to shew . . . (himself) . . . approved, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." II Timothy 2:15.

Jenny Gerst had foot surgery. We hope that her healing will be swift, that she will claim the promise to ". . . run and not be weary; . . . walk, and not

faint." Isaiah 40:31.

In this New Year when self-concern again brings sin and troubled relationships in its wake, we Christians need to become more like bobbing corks. Though the waves of the wake overtake the corks, they return to the surface because of their buoyancy. Though they are pushed down, they rise again. Thus if storms of stress and waves of pressured people and pressured situations threaten to drown us, we need to rely on the joyous Spirit within to buoy us up, to keep us on top; aware, but not discouraged; cheerful, resisting the drowning pull of added worry weight. We can rise above our circumstances because we are overcomers, given power by the Spirit. We must rely closely on the Lord and not get waterlogged with self-concern.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Myrna Weerts — Wilma Walder

Who created a flower to bloom,
Who designed a prayer,
Who dreamed up the joy of love?
— Only the God we share.

November 4 was a day of joy and blessing as we witnessed the wedding vows of our Sis. Anne Walder and Bro. Rod Anliker. Parents of the couple are Sis. Lucille and the late Bro. Ervin Walder and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Anliker (Forrest). Sharing the day with us were visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest), Bro. Dale Funk (Oakville, IA), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin) and Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest). We also appreciated the Word brought to us by Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville). May God bless all their labors and grant them the strength and courage to continue on.

My cross is not too heavy
My road is not too rough
Because God walks beside me
And to know this is enough
And if He does not ease my load
He will give me strength to bear it
For God in love and mercy
Is always near to share it.

Helen Steiner Rice

Many of our loved ones have felt the need of God's strengthening hand and the power of prayer as they exper-

ience sickness, pain and many burdens of the heart and mind. Those we remember in love and prayer are Sis. Margaret Rudin, Bro. Lucien Kuntz, Bro. Harry Walder, Jerry Hari (all surgical) and Greg Martin. May they feel the nearness of God easing their load and sharing their cares and concerns.

Our love and sympathy also is extended to our Sis. Hulda Schmitt in the passing of her dear husband, Bro. Emil Schmitt on October 27. Also surviving are a son, Norman (Plymouth, MN) and a daughter, Mrs. Marvin Bauer (Cissna Park).

We are looking forward to having our Christmas program on Wednesday evening, December 19 and hearing the Christmas story of long, long ago. As the Christmas season again approaches, we are reminded of God's wonderful gift to mankind, His Son, Jesus Christ. What a precious and blessed time of year when we celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus . . . the beginning of God's great promise and plan of salvation. May our hearts be filled to overflowing for His wondrous plan for all mankind.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Kay Roth — Tammy Knapp

THE BETTER GIFT

Under the balsam boughs are placed,
 Our gifts at Christmastime,
 Wrapped with the joy of Christmas and
 Ablaze with candle shine.

But there's a gift that still defies
 The string and wrapping art . . .
 A gift that shuns embellishment
 But seeks a waiting heart.

This gift is faith. I'd give to you
 A rich and liberal sum
 To last throughout this Christmas till
 Another one has come.

I'd want to give a gift of faith
 That stands undaunted, unafraid . . .
 A faith unshakable of which
 The greatest minds are made.

Oh, I'll not place it neath the tree,
 But in my heart this year
 I'll give the greatest gift of all
 To all whom I hold dear.

Georgia B. Adams

We have been privileged to add two

dear brothers to the flock. We welcome Bro. Trent Schrock (Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Mike Zobrist (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Joyce) into the fellowship. May they ever seek God's divine guidance for their lives.

We want to thank the ministering brothers who have come to share with us from God's Holy Word. They were retired Elder Bro. Josh Broquard (Fairbury), Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bros. Walt Herrmann, Jim Plattner (Princeville) and Larry Weninger (Latty, OH).

"For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." I Corinthians 11:26. We can never be thankful enough for what the Lord has done for us. Surely we are the recipients of the love of God as He sent us His Son as a Babe, lived a perfect life and then died for us that we might go free. Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob in serving the Lord's Supper.

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." St. Luke 13:3. Our congregation has had two more precious souls turn their hearts from the world and unto God. We rejoice with Rob Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sheri) and Todd Schrock (Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary). We pray that they will be given the grace to stay true and faithful in their new walk of life. We were also happy to hear of the announcement of our Sis. Boni Ott (Clayton and Sis. Margaret) to Bro. Sam Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth, Eureka). They will also need our prayers as they begin their life together in the Lord.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. Rhonda and Hal Payne were blessed with a precious baby girl, Brandy Nichole. The happy grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judy Wettstein (Congerville) and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Payne (Eureka). May they all enjoy the joy of a small child's innocence.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Margaret Ott (Clayton) and Bro. Ben Knapp (Sis. Elsie). We are thankful they have both returned home and pray that God's healing hand might be upon them that they may once again assemble with us. They would both like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and visits during their hospitalization and recovery.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Ruth Ann Getz

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." St. Matthew 1:23. This prophecy was first spoken by Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14) and confirmed to Joseph by the angel of the Lord in a dream. This is the most marvelous of all marvels that "in the fullness of time, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." Galatians 4:4. Christmas is a reminder of God incarnate in the form of Jesus Christ whom God gave freely for the sole purpose of fulfilling His plan of salvation; therefore, let us celebrate with praise and adoration and glory to God, the Father, through His Son, Jesus Christ, the crucified. May the frenzied, unchristian spirits sometimes seen and felt in the month of December be quieted by the manifestation of the love of Christ beaming through our countenances.

On November 4, we came together with prepared hearts as a body of believers to partake of holy communion — the breaking of bread and drinking of the cup exercised as a remembrance of Christ's suffering and death in our stead for our sin debt. How appropriate as the Christmas season approaches, that we each judge our own deeds in the light of the Word that we can partake worthily and be reminded of the enormous gift of love performed on the cross. Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen with this holy rite.

Emily Hoppe is presently hospitalized and our prayers go out that she might again experience good health.

Our sympathy is extended to Bros. Art and Delbert Schmidt in the passing of their brother, Orville (Tucson, AZ). We know that parting in death can cause grief in our hearts, but may they be comforted to know that their brother could give expression of faith in his Saviour and that he could testify of peace in his heart.

We were blessed again this month with the visits of several ministering brethren: Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN) and Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont) who shared the Word with us so abundantly. How rich we are to be nurtured in the Word week in and week out; the blessings never ceasing. It is not so

with many of our Christian brethren in foreign lands. May our hearts be motivated to pray for them that their faith can remain steadfast in their Saviour.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Rocke

"Whosoever findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." Proverbs 18:22. On November 11, we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Lynn Eastman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma) and Bro. Greg Wiegand (Bro. Dietz and Sis. Loretta). May God bless this dear couple as they walk together in Him.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18. On October 21, we heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Cheryl Saathoff and Bro. Mark Zimmerman. Their parents are Bro. George and Sis. Thelma Saathoff and Bro. Leland and Sis. Loraine Zimmerman. A December wedding is being planned.

Also planning a December wedding are Kim Kupferschmid and Tim Getz. Lon and Kandy Kupferschmid and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Getz (Roanoke) are their parents.

November 3, Bro. Sam Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth) and Sis. Boni Ott (Clayton and Sis. Margaret, Congerville) made their engagement known. For all these couples, we pray that Christ will remain in the center of all their plans.

Those who have been in the hospital or met with accident this past month are Bro. Sam Schmidgall, Bro. Walter Zimmerman and Sis. Jean (Bro. Robert) Knapp. We are so thankful for God's healing balm!

Cynde, Sammy, Eddie and Christina Wettstein welcomed their new brother, Curtis Matthew on October 15. Thankful parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein were blessed with a daughter, Boni Sue, on October 31. Boni has a sister, Jacki, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Harold and Loretta Wettstein and Bro. Ken and Sis. Arlene Huette (Tremont, IL).

First-time parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall. Their precious daughter, Marla Kay, was born on

November 16. Marla's grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall. May God bless these family circles.

The family of Sis. Nathalia Frank wishes to thank all of you for your expression of sympathy, prayers, cards, visits, food and gifts of love. May God bless you for your kindness.

Correction: Bill and Sharon Grubb, grandparents of Stephanie Lynn Martin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri) reside in El Paso, IL, not El Paso, TX.

Saturday evening, November 17, we gathered together to hear the testimonies of Mike Knecht (Richard and Janet), Tami Martin (Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arlene) and Andy Wiegand (Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen). The following day we were thankful to witness their baptisms and welcome them into the fold of our Lord. May He grant them much grace to remain true and faithful until life's end. How we do rejoice with the angel's in heaven!

We appreciate the visits of ministering brothers who were willing to come and share the Word of life with us. May God bless Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL), Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL).

What can I give Him?

Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man

I would do my part —

Yet what can I give Him

Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti

As we approach the Christmas season, we get caught up in the hustle and bustle and tend to forget the real reason for Christmas. Let us strive to remember that God loved us so much that He sent His only Son. We look forward to hearing our Sunday school children bring forth the Christmas story. May each one welcome the Saviour into their hearts this Christmas season as we celebrate His birth.

Reminder: January will be collection month for Silver Lining dues in Eureka. The amount will be \$7.00.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

November 10 was the wedding day

of Charlotte Fehr and Phil Leman. Parents of this couple are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr and Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna Leman (Forrest). We wish them God's blessings as they establish a home together.

A new daughter, Kari Sue, was born November 8 into the home of Robert and Cherie Kaisner. Grandparents are Sis. Dorothy Hoffman and Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner.

Our visiting ministers the past month are Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke).

Sisters Lena and Leah E. Hohulin wish to express their sincere thanks to everyone for all the thoughtful expressions of kindness, cards, visits and prayers extended to them while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless every one.

As the season of Christmas is upon us, it is a special time of year to all who are believers. May we be thankful always for God's gift, His Son, who was born many years ago in that humble stable.

And in the Father's image pure,
He came earth's trials to endure.
He leads us with a gentle hand —
To that long cherished, happy land.

Hallelujah!

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Kathy Leman — Sharon Adams

We thank Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) for bringing us the true Word of life. May the Lord bless them for their labors.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman have been blessed with a little bundle of love from heaven. Tiffany Ann was welcomed home by her brothers, Todd and Tory. Grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman and Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard (Fairbury).

Bro. Rod Anliker (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Ann Walder (Sis. Lucille, Cissna Park) were united in marriage November 4. November 10 was the wedding day for Phil Leman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna) and Charlotte Fehr (Bro. Glen and Sis. Kathryn, Fairbury). We wish both couples God's rich blessings on their marriages.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Betty Nussbaum (Bro. Dean), Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith) and Jason Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis.

Carol). We are thankful when each can return home and gather with us again.

Our Sunday school superintendent, Bro. Ben Metz, and his family, have followed the Lord's guidance in taking the administrative job at the Francesville nursing home. May God continue to bless and guide them there, as we will miss them here. We support our new superintendent, Bro. Gary Brown in his duties.

On November 11 and 18, we enjoyed hearing the youth singing praises to God, as we were privileged to host the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship. Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke) were with us and brought inspiring messages to us all.

ONLY LENT

"I lent you for a little while
A child of mine," He said.
For you to love him while he lives
And mourn for when he's dead.
It may be six or seven years,
Or twenty-two or three,
But will you, 'til I call him back
Take care of him for me?

He'll bring his charms to gladden you,
And should his stay be brief,
You'll have his lovely memories
As solace for your grief.
I cannot promise he will stay,
Since all from earth return,
But there are lessons taught down
there
I want this child to learn.
I've looked the wide world over
In search for teachers true,
And from the throngs that crowd life's
lane,
I have selected you.

Now will you give him all your love,
Nor think the labor vain,
Nor bitter when I come to call,
To take him back again?

Now I fancied that I heard you say,
"Dear Lord, Thy will be done,
For all the joy Thy child will bring,
The risk of grief we'll run."

We'll shower him with tenderness,
We'll love him while we may,
And for the happiness we've known,
Forever grateful stay.
But shall Thy angel call him
Much sooner than we planned
We'll brave the tearful grief that comes,
And try to understand.

Author Unknown

Once again our congregation has been saddened as precious little Nathan Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee) met with tragedy and was taken from this life. Nathan's sisters remaining are Sarah, Rachel and Bethany. Bro. Earl Gerber held the funeral services November 16. Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) was also here with us. Our children are so precious unto us, it's hard sometimes to remember they are only lent to us for awhile. May God guide and direct us to raise these precious angels He has lent us, as He would want us to. We know not when their time to be called Home will be. May they be ready and not fall short of that heavenly home because we did not instruct them of the true and narrow way. May we each strive harder to reach that home above to join these dear ones, young and old who have gone on before us. May the Holy Spirit comfort this dear family in their loss.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Leland and Sis. Marge Kuntz in the loss of Bro. Leland's mother.

As we approach the holiday season again, the Sunday school children are busy preparing their verses and songs as they will tell the beautiful story of the birth of our Lord and Saviour. May we never forget the real meaning of Christmas and the story of His birth.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

Through the birth of a baby, God gave us His greatest gift — Salvation. There is nothing as awesome as the birth of a child. A baby brings such wondrous joy and contentment into our hearts and homes. Each tiny infant is a unique and complete new individual — so absolutely helpless and so perfectly innocent. Truly, it is a miracle. As we celebrate the birth of the most important baby ever born on this earth, we are again assured of God's supremacy. Only God could have sent this tender, delightful child knowing the cruel fate awaiting His Son. We know not our own future nor that of our children. God realized we mortals could not carry such a burden. Jesus' parents knew not of the future agony as they beheld their special miracle wrapped in swaddling clothes in a lowly Bethlehem manger. Some thirty short years later, this still unblemished lamb was to be ridiculed, persecuted and even crucified for our salvation. God made the Supreme Sacrifice. Does not

this manifest the greatness and complete compassion of our Father in heaven? Let us with humble and thankful hearts remember the birth of our Saviour.

This past month the following ministers brought us many glad tidings from the holy Scripture. We are extremely grateful to Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL).

Our heartfelt sympathy reaches out to Sis. Helen Streit in the death of her father, Henry Tuffentsamer (Morton). May God comfort her in this time of sorrow.

Hospital surgical patients this past month were Raymond Wagner, Sis. Margaret Newlin and Bro. Tony Monfre. Sis. Joyce Hohulin is recovering from a broken ankle. We do pray for their return to good health.

Sis. Hilda Leman wishes to thank all relatives and friends for the many prayers, cards and gifts she received while she was in the hospital and since returning home. God bless you all for your kindness.

The following note was submitted by Raymond Wagner. "I wish to express my thanks to each one for the cards, prayers, deeds of kindness and visits while I was in the hospital and since returning home."

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

Jesus said we are to be the salt of the earth. Recently a ministering brother described the characteristics of salt. Salt is a preservative. Likewise it is our responsibility in this deceptive world of strange doctrines to preserve the true faith so that the Word of God does not become of none effect. Salt is also used to soften water and to melt ice. May we endeavor to soften and melt the cold sinful hearts of men by the love of Christ in us. Salt adds flavor to food. Believers who display the fruit of the Spirit are also flavorful blessings to those around them.

Jesus also said that if the salt has lost its savour, it is good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot. "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ." II Corinthians 2:14. May this sweet savour of Christ continue to abound in

our lives that in truth we may always remain the salt of the earth.

Three loved ones have become part of our precious brotherhood in Christ Jesus. Bro. Richard Gramm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille), Sis. Cassie Ringger (Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie) and Sis. Amy Witzig (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary) were baptized and welcomed into the fold on November 11. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) and ministering Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville) here for the occasion. Also Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) was here the evening before when we heard the testimonies.

Bro. Albert Kiefer laid his spiritual armour down when he finished his earthly course and closed his eyes in death on October 27. He was 82 years old and was buried in the Gridley cemetery. We extend our sympathy to his loved ones who will especially miss him: his wife, Juanita (Peoria); his daughter, Shirley Sipos (Clearwater, FL); his brother, Bro. Eli and his sister, Sis. Matilda Alt (both of Gridley).

Tim and Sonia Vercler are the happy parents of Brian Andrew who was born October 16. He has two sisters, Laura and Diana. Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma Kuntz (Gridley) and John and Josephine Vercler (Chenoa) are Brian's grandparents.

Ann Bailey was united in marriage with Scott Rhoton on October 20. Ann is the daughter of Bro. Sam and Sis. Louise Witzig (Gridley). Scott's parents are Jerry Rhoton and Nancy Rhoton (Champaign).

Sis. Nancy Schlipf (Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn) and Bro. Joe Schweigert (Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida, Tremont) are glad to be husband and wife in the Lord. They were married October 28.

Our hospital patients have been Bro. Rudy Miller and Bro. Henry Miller.

We appreciated the visits of ministering Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) and Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont).

We have also enjoyed the special blessing of being ministered unto by numerous elder brothers. As we listen to their kind and loving exhortations on the tapes of the brotherhood conference, our hearts are stirred up with a greater desire for holiness and we feel more established, strengthened and settled in the faith.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Audrey Martin

It has been said that if a man doesn't stand for something, he will fall for anything. We have been learning what we stand for and what our church stands for during the last four Bible study sessions as each of the ministers that came went over the things in the Statement of Faith which our church has published. We appreciate the insights we gained and the renewing of our faith as we gathered together. Bro. David Keiser (Princeville) spoke on the first five points which include: The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God to man; there is one eternal God; Jesus Christ is the Son of God; all men are born sinners; and Jesus Christ gave His life, shed His precious blood, was buried and rose again the third day for our justification and remission of sins. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) came to tell us about points 16-20 which include church discipline, non-combatant military status, oath taking, marriage in our faith, the absence of eternal security, and our church is a closely knit body of believers seeking to grow in Christ. Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) spoke on points 11-15 including the topics of the New Testament church, the selection of elders and ministers, holy communion, the holy kiss and the wearing of veils and head coverings. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) came to speak on points 6-10 which include resurrection to one of two places, the fruits of repentance, conversion, baptism and the sealing of the Holy Spirit. We have enjoyed all that we have heard and pray that these instructions will help us be more firmly grounded in our faith as we go along day by day.

It is the Christmas season again as we get together with our families and friends to remember the coming of our Lord and Savior into the world. We plan to have our annual Christmas program on December 5 at 7:30 p.m. Bible study is held every Thursday evening in Schroeder 244 at 7:30 p.m. and all are invited to attend.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

We are rejoicing with Sis. Sallie Belsley (Bro. Louis and Sis. Vilas) and Bro. Todd Hoerr (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora, Peoria, IL) as the Lord has directed them to walk life's pathway

together. May God bless them as the head of their home.

We were privileged to have the Wichita-Kiowa-Ft. Scott, KS Choir with us on the weekend of October 27 and 28. We enjoyed a delicious church potluck on Saturday evening followed with a singing. We enjoyed our visitors who sang some special hymns for us. Thank you, loved ones for the added blessings you brought us.

Sis. Ida Rapp's navy blue coat was mistakenly taken on the day of Bro. Henry Grimm's funeral. Please check and see if you have her coat.

The family of Bro. Henry Grimm wishes to thank all who were so kind during the sudden passing of their loved one. Your prayers and thoughtfulness will always be remembered. May God bless all who were so kind.

We have had loved ones who have been in the hospital, shut-in and/or ill. May we continue to remember them in prayer as well as with visits, telephone calls, cards or notes.

We wish to thank Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), John Isch (Indianapolis, IN), Raymond Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS), Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott, KS), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Terry Farny (Wichita, KS), Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

Christmas will soon be here. Let each one of us remember the true meaning of Christmas. May each of us continue to count our many multiplied blessings our heavenly Father has given unto us. Have a blessed and holy holiday season.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Margo Marx — Susi Herman

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

With the blessed Christmas season upon us once more, may we lift our hearts in praise and gratitude to our Father in heaven for sending us the most precious gift this world has ever known - His own Son - Jesus Christ -

our Savior and our blessed Redeemer.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Velma Hoerr, Sis. Emma Schumacher, Sis. Barbara Herman, Pauline Whittemore Luellen Schaefer, Anna Traub and Bro. Walter Witzig.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Al Kiefer who passed away.

Our annual German Hymn Sing, held October 28 at the Apostolic Home, brought back many memories of bygone days. Our singing leaders this year were Bros. Dan Steiner (Tremont), Ben Steffan (Fairbury) and Max Hoerr, Jr. (Peoria). Our thanks to all who participated.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Elder Bro. LaVoyd Moore (Athens, AL). We thank them for sharing with us the Word of God.

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four precious souls. We joyfully welcome them: Sis. Lena Schwab, Sis. Diane Slotter, Sis. Karen Unsicker and Sis. Brenda Guingrich.

On November 18, Bro. Mike Fehr and Sis. Margaret Triplett were united as one in the Lord. May God be near to them as they walk the path of life together. Their parents are Wade and Marge Fehr and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Louise Triplett.

This past month four of our families have realized the miracle of God's creation with the birth of new little ones. Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn Hoerr, along with Nicholas and Brent, welcome Lindsay Leigh into their hearts and home. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr and Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina Dotterer.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Becky Hoerr were blessed with a baby daughter, Ashley Grace. Thomas III welcomes her home. The happy grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeanette Hoerr and Bro. Walter Feucht.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Debbie Hoerr are the happy parents of Abbey Rose. Ryan, Cassandra and Kary welcome their new sister. The proud grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Evy Hoerr and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel.

The fourth little one added to our congregation this month is little Blake Guingrich. Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich are Blake's parents, and his two older brothers are Bryce and Traever. Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Guingrich (Bradford) and Bro. John and Sis.

Dolly Schick (Washington) are the grandparents.

Sis. Stella Bessler wants to express her thanks for the many expressions of sympathy shown to her upon the death of her father, Bro. John R. Zimmerman.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

Before you can know the peace of God, you must first of all find peace with God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria), Marvin Leman (Bradford), Kenny Dietz (Bradford), Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago).

Kyra Joy was born on October 18 to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein. Carissa welcomes her little sister to her family.

On November 11, Bro. Joe Stoller announced the engagement of Sis. Wendy Locher to Bro. Jason Williamson (Latty, OH). Their parents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Christine (Dapper) Locher (Altadena, CA) and Robert and Sis. Joyce (Laukhuf) Williamson (Latty, OH).

On November 14, Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) assisted Bro. Joe Stoller in giving us the advice and directives that were given at the annual church conference.

Sis. Martha Jane Siebenthal gave us this note of thanks: "I wish to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to everyone who remembered me with get-well cards, birthday cards, phone calls, gifts, visits, prayers and other deeds of kindness during my stay at the hospital and since returning home from hip surgery — the result of a fall from a step stool. May God richly bless each of you for your love, kindness and concern."

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Joyce Hodel — Carol Rumbold

Bro. Roger and Sis. Debbie Bertschi rejoice at the birth of their second girl, Jennifer Danielle. Her big sister's name is Nicole, 2, and grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy Bertschi and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia Hohulin (Goodfield). Sarah Anne was the precious addition to the family of Rich and Janet Knepp. They have two boys, Marc, 6, and Adam, 3, who were happy about getting a sister. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp and Mr. and Mrs. Bud

Hinthrone (El Paso) are the grandparents. Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder are the parents of their fourth child and second boy, Jordan Lee. Ready to initiate their new brother into the family are Jesse, 7, Allison, 4, and Lindsey, 2. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Schroeder (Roanoke) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith Sauder.

The church was filled to capacity as we witnessed the baptisms of five young converts. They are now Sis. Karen Hangartner (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evelyn), Sis. Joyce and Sis. Janet Bradle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary), Sis. Colleen Fischer (Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara) and Bro. Mike Leman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra). May they carry their Christian banner boldly. We are thankful for the extra "support" they will give to the household of faith.

Services were held for Lester Aeschleman at Roanoke church. He had been residing in Peoria, but Roanoke had been home. He was a brother to Bro. Orrie Aeschleman, Bro. Larry Aeschleman and Sis. Marie Farney. Our sympathy is extended to each one who feels the loss.

We thank the ministers that served us this month. They were Bros. Wendell Gerber and Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont), Bro. Karl Westfall (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Everett Harri (Bloomington).

Don't forget to tell your children, your neighbors, your friends about Jesus at this most precious time of the year, Christmas. Tell someone!

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Carolyn Bolliger Dorothy Wagenbach

No room that night was there in the inn;
No place for a weary, worn stranger;
No place where a baby could be born,
No place but a Bethlehem manger.

Yet, the angels, from Heaven bent low,
Low over the cold, darkening earth,
Singing in clouds of heavenly light
The glad news of a wonderful birth.

Glory to God in the highest,
Joy to the world we bring,
Born in a Bethlehem manger
Is Christ, the Saviour King.

Elsie E. Thornburg

We extend a thank you to our visiting ministers this month, Bro. Leroy Hu-

ber (Eureka) and Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) for being with us and bringing to us the precious Word of life.

Our dear Sis. Priscilla Schmid was called Home to rest after a few month's illness. We extend sympathy to her brothers, John and Bill; and sisters, Lillian, Esther and Marie Schmid, Sis. Carrie Bolliger, Sis. Sophia Sauder, Sis. Helen Laidig (Tremont) and Sis. Emma Boehning (Francesville, IN).

We wish to welcome to our Tremont congregation our two new brides, Sis. Christine Aberle, recently married to Bro. Andy Aberle, and Sis. Nancy Schweigert, married to Bro. Joe Schweigert.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Marlene Kaiser (Bro. Melvin), Sis. Ruth Pflederer (Bro. Chris, Jr.) and Bro. Richard Steiner. We are thankful they are all on the road to recovery.

Two sweet new babies have been added this month. A new son, Trent Alan, was born October 25 to Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber. Little Trent is welcomed home by sisters, Heather and Amber, and brothers, Troy and Travis. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Dorothy Stuber (Tremont) and Esther and Bob Emich (Akron, OH).

A dear little girl, Sarah Jane, was born November 18 to Tom and Jane Bolliger. Baby Sarah has one big brother, Joshua. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris Baer and Bro. Harlan and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger.

The family of Priscilla Schmid wishes to express their sincere appreciation and thanks to all for prayers, gifts, cards, food, love, flowers, memorials and the many acts of kindness shown during the illness and passing of their loved one. May God richly bless one and all.

ILLINOIS, URBANA Cheryl Mangers

We rejoice with Dave and Karen Yergler on the arrival of Genae Nicole born October 21.

We also couldn't be happier that Bro. Rod and Sis. Anne (Walder) Anliker will begin their walk together as one in Christ here in Urbana. Many of us shared their joy on November 4 as we traveled to Cissna Park for their wedding.

May God bless Bro. Lloyd and Toni Hartman's retirement years as they

move from our congregation to Kankakee, IL.

We thank God for Sis. Betsey Schrenk's return home after minor surgery.

We also thank God for our Sunday school teachers who give so willingly of themselves so our children may learn more about love and Jesus. Saturday, November 17, the teachers helped the children spend the money they had saved in Sunday school to buy groceries, pack them in boxes and deliver them to four needy families. May they always remember the teaching, "It is more blessed to give than to receive", especially during this holiday season. May we as parents also live that teaching all year around.

A special thanks to our visiting ministers this past month for sharing God's Word with us. Thank you Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield), Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Sally Plattner

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1

This is the season for thanksgiving. We think of our families, homes, food and other blessings and we are grateful. But how often do we give thanks for the things we do not have, the things the Lord withholds because this is not the season they are to be provided.

One well-known Christian says God put her in His waiting room. The Apostle Paul says we are to be content no matter in what state we find ourselves. Are we giving thanks for being in God's waiting room until He determines it's time to move on?

To be confident of Christ's presence when problems remain unsolved, when hurts keep on hurting, when prayers seem to go unanswered, is to know spiritual maturity. To give thanks for the persecution as well as the promises is the meat of Christ-likeness.

This holiday season it's important to get back to the basics and rejoice in our salvation in the blood of Jesus. Let's let the world whirl in its commercialism and cling to the cross, our magnificent symbol of our great gift, eternal life.

We are rejoicing this season with our

new convert, Sue Ruppert. Let's all support her in prayer.

We are grateful to have had Bros. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso, IN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and our Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) with us this month.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Etta Steffen Sue Neuenschwander

Several families in our congregation have joyfully received new additions to their households.

First-time parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny Frauhiger. They have named their son, James Michael. Grandparents are Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Doris Frauhiger and Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlyn Baumgartner.

On October 4, Alexander Joel was born to Bro. Alan and Sis. Terri Bertsch.

Bringing special joy to the home of Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard and their three daughters is Chad Steven born October 18. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Leota Reinhard and Bro. Clair and Sis. Mary Jane Yergler.

Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy Aeschliman welcome into their home Tiffany June. Tiffany was born October 23. Grandparents are Bro. Millard and Sis. Alice Aeschliman and Bro. Les and Sis. Rosemary Gerber.

Bro. Claren and Sis. Joyce Gehring are grandparents to Sean Michael, born November 2. Sean's parents are Lynn and Linda Gehring.

On November 6, Dana Jo was born to Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Gerber. Happy grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Gladys Gerber and Bro. Russell and Sis. Dorothy Moser.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Compton welcome into their home Annette Joy, born November 6. Grandparents are Bob and Betty Steffen and Bro. Harold and Sis. Virgil Isch.

Loved ones hospitalized this month are Sis. Minnie Isch, Sis. Queenie Barger, Sis. Alice Geisel (Bro. Everett), Sylvia Baumgartner, Sis. Lydia Kaehr, Bro. Louie Steffen, Bro. Kelly Aeschliman, Bro. Bill Tonner and Bro. Tom Heyerly. May our heavenly Father continue to be with them and all those who are ill or shut-in in their homes. May each of us continue to pray for them.

"And now abideth faith, hope and charity . . ." I Corinthians 13:13. It is through faith that the engagement of

Sis. Donna Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Marie) and Bro. Lemuel Vega has been announced.

Sadness fills our hearts with the passing of Sis. Marie Moser. Two daughters, Sis. Gloria Steffen (Bro. Terry) and Sis. Shiela Sprunger (Bro. Kent), survive.

The Lord has blessed us with many good teachings through His Word this past month. Among our many visitors have been ministering Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

Our prayer for this Christmas is that we all would have a deeper love for God and a deeper appreciation and thankfulness for the precious gift He has given in His Son, Jesus.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Virginia Rauch — Cindy Geisel

As the blessed Christmas season nears, it would be good for us to remember the true meaning of the time. Instead of looking on the commercial side of Christmas and all the glitter and tinsel the world gives it, we should dwell on the Christ-centered attitudes of love and giving the season really represents. With this in mind, here is a list of priceless gifts to give for Christmas!

To your enemy — forgiveness
To your opponent — tolerance
To your friends — your heart
To your parents — conduct to make them glad you're their child
To children — a good example
To yourself — respect
To everyone else — love, love and more love

Little blessings from heaven have brought joy and happiness to three more families. Seth William arrived to Mike and Lisa Mann on October 16. He was welcomed home by brother, Tyson. Happy grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Barb Pfister. Rachel Marie was born October 16 to Troy and Lindy Moser. Her grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jan Moser. On November 5, Ashlee Ann was welcomed home by her parents Bro. Bob Jr. and Sis. Ann Meyer and brother, Brandon and sister, Aimee. Bro. Bob Sr. and Sis. Lela Meyer are her happy grandparents.

Three more precious souls have committed their lives to Christ in repentance. They are Chris Honegger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy), Beth

Flueckinger and Susan Maynard. We wish them God's grace in their new walk of life.

We rejoice with the engagement of Bro. Jeff Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta) to Sis. Robin Wuethrich (Bro. Richard and Sis. Nola, Francesville). We wish them God's blessings as they plan their happy event.

Hospitalized the past month were Bro. Kelley Aeschliman and Amy Ringger (Bro. Al and Sis. Colleen Ringger). We hope by now they are feeling much better.

We always enjoy having visiting ministers in our midst to give us God's inspired Word of Truth. We thank Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) and his wife for being with us and welcome them back.

The Washington, IL Choir was our guest here recently. They sang several inspiring songs for us and we enjoyed their fellowship and songs of praise. We are reminded of Psalm 66:2 where it says, "Sing forth the honour of His name; make His praise glorious." Surely it was a glorious weekend. On November 4 both churches participated in a family hymn sing at the fellowship hall. We were favored with beautiful singing by a quartet of young brothers and the choir. It was a blessed evening and just a small foretaste of what the music in heaven may be like.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

Joyfully, joyfully onward I move,
Bound for the land of bright spirits
above!

Angelic choristers sing as I come;
Meet me with gladness and welcome
me home.

Hymns of Zion, page 239

With tears we said goodbye to a precious little angel sent into the hearts and home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene Metzger. Mitzie Leigh was born May 27, 1984 and entered "the land of bright spirits above" on October 25, 1984. We extend our sympathy to Mitzie's parents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene; her big sister, Alivia; brothers, Austin and Trenton and grandparents, Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Lemman and Marilyn Gutwein.

Joy comes in realizing Mitzie's earthly suffering has ended and she's waiting for us to meet her in her beautiful new home!

On October 21, communion services were held at the Parkview Haven Retirement Home for residents and those who weren't able to attend communion services at the church the previous week.

Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman in this. It was very touching as these brothers related Christ's suffering and love for us.

The holiday season is almost upon us as I write this. Our congregation plans to begin by thanking God at the annual Thanksgiving program on November 21.

Our prayerful thoughts have been with Sis. Helen Eshlemen, Fred Howat and Bro. John Huber as they have been hospital patients.

We've also been thinking of our dear Bro. Ben Anliker who hasn't been feeling well. We appreciate so much the Godly example he is for us and pray God's blessings of strength and peace will sustain him.

We enjoyed visitors from Roanoke, IL on a recent Sunday as the Bible Class students were invited here for a weekend of fellowship.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5, 6. With joy we heard the engagement of Sis. Robin Wuethrich (Bro. Rich and Sis. Nola) to Bro. Jeff Steffen (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Roberta, Bluffton North, IN).

Three little babies are precious additions to families here. Levi Troy was born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich on October 27. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Y'vonne Gutwein and Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich.

Bro. John and Sis. Bev Huber welcomed Andrew Paul into their family on November 7. Jason, Nathan and Julie are Andrew's big brothers and sister. Grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Millie Huber and Paul and Loretta Krulik.

A baby girl, Britni Leigh, was born to Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Gudeman on November 12. Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab (Wolcott, IN) are the happy grandparents.

We rejoice as more souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. Our hope is that they can all build their houses of faith upon the firm founda-

tion.

We'd like to thank all the many loved ones of our many congregations for the prayers and many kind deeds of love shown to us since Mitzie's birth and since she went to be with Jesus. May God bless each of you.

Dave and Arlene Metzger
& children

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Winslow — Judy Dubach

Appearances often mask reality. A coat of paint can conceal many a jagged crack. And, as the saying goes, you can't judge a book by its cover. In the same way, outward behavior can mask inward motive. The way a person acts does not necessarily explain the why behind his actions.

Jesus had a way of penetrating to the heart of things, stripping off the paint to see the surface beneath, tearing off the mask to see the motive. He attacked sin and hypocrisy at its source—the heart. As a result, He came into growing conflict with the religious leaders of His day, the self-appointed guardians of the status quo. It is a natural tendency of the human heart to reduce its religious life to an outward and literal obedience, if only its thoughts may be left unhampered. In the life of true holiness, everything depends on the control of the thoughts. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is." And Jesus put evil thoughts first in the black category of the contents of the evil heart.

That the hands should be often washed, that vessels of household use should be kept cleansed, that there should be decorum and neatness in the outward life, all these customs are good. But it becomes thee to inquire whether thou art more eager for outward than inward cleanliness. "Create in me a clean heart" should be thy constant prayer. It is easier to maintain clean hands than a clean heart. And because the mind is a private domain, no one may notice whether your thought life is pure or polluted. No one, that is, except God. Listen to your heart; what do you hear? A clean, strong heartbeat of devotion? Or a confused rhythm of a heart far from God? Right now might be a good time for some cleansing prayer.

Timeless Insights

We thank Elder Bros. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) and David Bertsch (Leo)

for assisting our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) in reading of the memorandum. Our prayers will continue on behalf of Bro. Art Ringger and his family for his appointment to serve as a deacon. May each of us give our renewed support to our ministers. Recently two families have changed their residency. We are sorry to lose Bro. Wade and Sis. Pat Stoller to the Leo congregation, but are thankful Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Haney have moved here from the Bloomington, IL area.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Connie Knobloch

Many times joy and sorrow go hand in hand, both of which we experienced this month. We want to express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bro. Vernon Bucher, who passed away November 11. Surviving along with his wife, Sis. Emily, are his daughter, Sis. Rita Furrer (Wolcott, IN); four sons, Bro. Nile (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Garry (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Steve (Washington, IL), Bro. Clinton (South Bend, IN); and 15 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by the children's mother, Sis. Melva, his parents, one sister and three brothers. Although the family has lost both of their earthly parents, may they always feel the guiding hand of our heavenly Father.

A few days after Bro. Vernon was laid to rest, a dear soul was born out of water and spirit and we were able to embrace Dawn Ailes as our sister-in-the-Lord. We are thankful Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) could be here to help Bro. Ed with this important work. We were all reminded to keep our ship of faith on a straight course and keep our ears tuned to the Lord. When He calls, we want to hear His still small voice. This way, there will be no need for Him to shout to get our attention.

We also want to thank ministering Bros. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS) and Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) for visiting us and for their labors of love.

Bro. Glen Heinold and his family are thankful the injury to his foot was no worse when he was hurt in a farm accident. He is home from the hospital and is assembling with us in church and Sunday school.

The LaCrosse congregation would like to wish everyone a most blessed and holy holiday season.

INDIANA, LEO

Thelma Schlatter

It's a special time of year, and all because of the birth of Jesus.

"He did not use a silvery box
Or paper green and red;
God laid His Christmas gift to me
Within a manger bed."

— Prentiss

"No gift is more needed by a dying world than the life-giving Savior."

His Word is a gift which grows more precious to those who daily spend time in it. Its truths were also proclaimed this month by visiting Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North).

We welcome Bro. Wade Stoller and Sis. Pat Stoller and their baby boy to our Leo congregation and hope they will soon feel at home in our fellowship.

Christians are not exempt from the school of pain, nor are nurses, as is experienced by Sis. Kathy Price who has again been hospitalized. We pray she is now well on the way to complete recovery. Bro. Philip Schlatter, my dear husband, recently had surgery replacing a total knee. We are thankful He blesses doctors with skill and increasing knowledge.

Our Christmas program scheduled for December 16 sends out the glad tidings and invites those who have not accepted the Perfect Gift to come and receive the joy of His salvation!

May you have a blessed holiday season.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Shelby Beer — Gwen Steffen

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

God sent the little Christ Child
So man might understand
"That a little child shall lead them"
To the unknown "Promised Land".

For God in His great wisdom
Knew that men would rise to power
And forget His holy precepts
In their great triumphal hour.

He knew that they would question
And doubt the holy birth
And turn their time and talents
To pleasures of this earth.

For man can never fathom
The mysteries of the Lord

Or understand His promise
Of a heavenly reward.

For no one but a "little child"
With simple faith and love
Can lead man's straying footsteps
To higher realms above!

Author Unknown

As we commemorate the birth of our Lord Jesus this season, we are again reminded of the precious innocence of little children. Another little bundle of joy was added to our congregation. Rachael Marie was entrusted into the care of Troy and Linda Moser. Rejoicing grandparents are David and Becky Booker (Cincinnati, OH) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jan Moser (Bluffton, IN).

Joyfully we share in the happiness of a newly married couple. Mike Sumpter (Jim and Sis. Irene) and Loretta Miller (Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Miller, Syracuse, IN) were married November 3. We want to wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

Believing that God will not allow us to be tempted above that which we are able to bear should be comforting to those of our family who have recently been hospitalized as well as those who have been confined in their home or nursing home. Hospitalized this month were Bro. Ray Levy, Sis. Ida Graff, Sis. Kathy Price and Steve Frantz. Sis. Esther Getz had the misfortune of falling and fracturing her ankle. Four elderly and very dear sisters who have been "shut-in" for a great length of time have recently celebrated birthdays. We rejoice with Sisters Frieda Ruch, Matilda Rassi, Mary Good and Hulda Graff as they were able to spend another year in service for the Lord. We pray the Lord will continue to grant them patience and contentment in their lives. Many have been enriched by their loving example.

Humbly we thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) for teaching us more about Jesus' love and holiness. Bro. Dale assisted our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in reading the memorandum. In a world of constant turmoil and unrest, we as Christians can feel a blessed peace and contentment, knowing our faith is based on a perfect, holy Savior. We must strive each day to become more like our Master:

A portion of the hymn, "More Holiness Give Me", follows . . .

More purity give me, more strength to
o'er come;
More freedom from earth stains, More
longings for home;
More fit for the kingdom, More use
would I be,
More, blessed and holy, More, Savior
like Thee.

Hymns of Zion #101

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed" (Matt. 17:20). We usually think of faith in terms of something big, something visible. We are impressed by grandiose, elaborate plans for Christian work. But whether in the world of reality or the realm of the mind, these conceptualizations are already too big to be the proper faith cause. Jesus recommends the mustard seed as the proper example. A seed contains all it needs to produce the shoot, and given minimal conditions it will grow into a mighty tree. All instructions are contained within and it does not need additional outside information. In the same way, the Lord speaks about the five "self-reliant, wise virgins" who did not need to go outside to purchase additional oil. By contrast, man-made mechanisms need outside fuel sources. A seed can also lie dormant for as long as 4,000 years before meeting the right conditions to sprout. These are thoughts to ponder if we want our faith to be like a mustard seed. Do we have a faith concentrated, yet potent enough to take with us, for example, into a Communist prison cell, where the prisoners are deprived of their most elementary belongings and confined in tiny cells, subsisting on miserable food and putrid water, and kept in almost total darkness?

If our faith needs any exterior physical, emotional or conceptual prop, it is already too big to be the size of a mustard seed. By comparing faith to a mustard seed, Christ shows that faith is not some spiritual virtue to be hoarded. The mustard seed in itself has two useful purposes: It is either crushed to produce the strong mustard spice, or it sprouts and produces a big tree. On the outside, faith can produce mighty works, by sacrificing for the cause of good. In the inner chambers of our heart, when faith works slowly, sprouting the tree of life, it is better yet. By dying, the seed becomes a symbol of Christ, our Savior, who could

have used His life to rule the world. Yet, through His sacrifice and resurrection, He accomplished a greater purpose: although it happened two thousand years ago, among a small and oppressed people, He brought us salvation!

M. Wurmbrand

Words of counsel were given to us by Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) through the reading of the memorandum letter. "But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:13). The deceitfulness of sin was expressed in one way by admonishing us to set our priorities around Christ before Satan sets them for us in the ways of the ungodly world.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Pauline Laidig

This is an old, old story
Of Christ the Savior's birth,
The story of glad tidings —
Peace and good will on earth.

But ever new to us each day
So on this glad Christmas morn,
We lift our hearts in gratitude
That Christ the Lord was born.

And in our hearts make room
That He may ever dwell;
For while He is our guest,
We know that all is well.

Our hearts and lives we give to Him;
The gift is very small,
But ever in our hearts we'll
Own and crown Him Lord of all.

Unknown

We were blessed this month as the Spirit spoke to us through God's servants, Bros. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) and Gregg Rassi (Chicago, IL). The special effort Bro. Gregg and Sis. Carla and family made to spend a Sunday with us was appreciated very much. We also enjoyed having Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm (Gridley, KS) join us in our Bible study on a recent Wednesday evening. No matter how far apart we live, the Bible and the Holy Spirit give us a mutual understanding. This is a real blessing.

Bro. John Schuch, who had broken some bones in his wrist, which necessitated wearing a cast for awhile, is now

able to use his hand again, and appreciates doing things normally once more. Sis. Leona Lehman (Bro. Verne) had foot surgery recently and will need to wear a cast for six weeks. May the Lord add His healing touch. We miss all of those who can't assemble with us from time to time.

The Sunday school children presented a nice Thanksgiving program, which was later followed by a harvest potluck. This was enjoyable, and provided a nice time of fellowship.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Clint and Sis. Gayle Bucher and family in the passing away of his father, Bro. Vernon Bucher (LaCrosse, IN). It is a time of sorrow, and of joy also, in knowing that he has gone on to that glorious place where there is no more suffering or sadness.

As we stand on the brink of a new year, we are inclined to wonder what it has in store for us. May we seek a closer walk with the Lord and have a stronger faith in His promises so we may truly enjoy a Happy New Year.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Jill Hitz — Patty Bucher

We have been reviewing the fruit of the spirit for several months. We now are to the ninth spiritual fruit, self-control. My kids have a record which teaches about these fruit. When it sings about self-control it recites: "Once I had a knot in my shoe but it would not come loose. I tried and tried and pried and pried, but it would not come loose. I got so mad I kicked the door and stubbed my little toe. Oh!, If only I had used a little bit of self-control. Self-control, it's the very best way to go. It's listening to my heart, and doing what is smart. Self-control, it's the very best way to go - I think I'll just control myself." This song, though simple and basic, comes quite clearly to what marks a Christian. When things seem out of control, we feel victimized. On the other hand, when our lives seem under control, we feel exhilarated. To allow the Spirit to have His way in us, we must daily draw spiritual strength from Christ through His Word.

We recently enjoyed hearing the testimony and witnessing the baptism of our new sister, Kelli Thomas (Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia). It's such a privilege to greet a new sister-in-faith.

As Christmas season is here, we wish you all a blessed holiday. Let's focus on the birth of our Savior and what He has

done for us. May the new year bring each of us closer to our Lord and challenge us to be a more effective witness for Him.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Jody Getz

On November 1, Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) came to be with us at our bi-weekly church service. This past Thursday, November 15, Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) gave the sermon. What blessings and instruction we receive from God through these faithful ministers! We are beginning to use the "Statement of Faith" as a basis for bi-weekly meetings. This will not only help increase knowledge and commitment to our Lord, but also to our precious church.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

Another sweet baby boy has come to join John and Bradley in the home of Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris Widmer. Blake Benjamin was born October 29, and grandparents are Ed and Sis. Gladys Widmer and Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Leman (Francesville, IN).

On November 3, we listened to Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) join our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler in reading and explaining the conference report to us. Just as we need to read the Bible daily, we need these yearly exhortations to keep us close to the faith and values we have found in our church fellowship. Thank you to these brothers for their efforts of love, and also to Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) for sharing the Word of life with us on November 11.

Sis. Edna Kyburz (Bro. Leroy) recently had eye surgery. May God's healing strength be with her.

I speak for our Wolcott congregation in offering our sincere sympathy to Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer and family in the loss of Rita's father, Bro. Vernon Bucher (LaCrosse, IN). May your family feel God's comfort and nearness, especially in this holiday season when family gatherings mean so much. "When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!" (Hymns of Zion #248).

Once again we look forward to hearing our children present the Christmas story to us in songs and poems on December 21. May joy abound in all

hearts this Christmas season, unfading in the New Year ahead.

IOWA, AMES-DES MOINES

Philip and Janice Webber

We express our heartfelt gratitude to Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) for ministering to us in November and for bringing such a large contingent from his home church. We were also given a boost from visiting brethren and friends from Oakville, Burlington, Garden Grove and Pulaski. We feel humbled that they often drive several hours to support our effort here in central Iowa.

We extend our congratulations to Bro. Jerry Waggenbach and to Sis. Lucinda Sheitlin on their engagement and we wish them the Lord's blessings during the days ahead.

We extend a hearty invitation to all who may be able to join us in the coming months. Our next meeting dates are December 9, 1984 and January 20, 1985.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner — Dixie Messner

We appreciated the visit of Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and his willingness to be used of the Lord. We were inspired to yield our lives more fully into His humble service. Even if through a lesser degree of health we cannot be "up and doing, sometimes we serve Him in just being" as He wants us to be (perhaps more patient). We were also grateful for the Wednesday evening visit of Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville).

Our congregation was pleasantly surprised with the engagement announcement of Sis. Lucinda Scheitlin (Bro. Ken and Sis. Charity) to Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie, Oakville). We wish them God's continued blessings and guidance in all their plans.

Bro. Luverne and Sis. Kim Salek are the happy parents of Kile John, their first boy, after four girls, Carrie, Erika, Jaime and Lindy. Also rejoicing are the grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Rosie Obermann and Laverne and Doris Salek (Letts, IA). Every time a baby is born God is revealing to us one of His miracles.

Tim and Gina Heiniger are also recipients of this miracle, a baby boy, Adam Taylor. He is welcomed by big brother, Nicolas, and grandparents,

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Leola and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hardin.

Our hearts rejoice with the news of converts in this area. Doesn't it make us all feel a responsibility for being the best example we can for them? And surely our prayers for one another are also helpful; we have that faith.

We want to extend a warm welcome to John, Sis. Ingrid, Ward, Inga, Ivy, Carl, Will and Clay Buster who are assembling with us. We are also glad to have Sis. Donna Tuebel (Pulaski) with us while she attends college here. They are all a real asset to our small congregation.

John Taeger and Clarence Massner spent some time in the hospital. We're thankful that all the tests did not reveal anything serious.

Sis. Gail Massner is still in the hospital. We pray that God will kindly remember her and her dear family during this stressful time.

Let us have real joy at Christmas by remembering Jesus first, Others next and You (ourselves) last.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

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

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) here to assist our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer with the reading of the memorandum. May God help us to be humbly submissive to these timely admonitions and exhortations. Other visiting ministers have been Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington). May God bless each one for visiting us and sharing unto us the teachings of the Gospel. It's always an added blessing to have the ministers' wives and their families come, too.

We are happy to have two additions to our little flock here, at Elgin. Sis. Leona Schmidt (Gene and Sis. Ella Mae, Winthrop, MN) and Sue Lusher from the Waterloo area have recently found employment in this area. We hope they will be uplifted in spirit as they worship and fellowship with us.

If each saved one won one,

And each one won, won one,

What hosts would be won,

When every one won, had won one.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Denise Duckworth

Joy to the world, the Lord is come,
 Let earth receive her King.
 Let every heart prepare Him room
 And heaven and nature sing.

Tabernacle Hymns #254

In the busy Christmas season, let's all remember to "prepare Him room" in our hearts, so that we may be filled with the joy of the Lord!

Dale Fehr (Eldon and Verdell, West Bend) and Shelli Thomason (Ron and Sharon) recently announced their engagement. We pray that God will richly bless them as they join hand and heart.

Sis. Connie Gerst has been a hospital patient. "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." II Cor. 12:9.

Our visiting ministers this month have been: Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville), Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Doug Shock (Pulaski), Marshall Heindold (Washington, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Dale Frank (Oakville). We are thankful that so many are willing to come and support our small church. May the Lord richly reward them for their efforts.

IOWA, LESTER
Alice Metzger

Greetings from all of us in this blessed Christmas season. How can we ever be thankful enough that Jesus came on earth as a babe and gave His life for you and me? We cannot thank Him enough but we can please Him most by being obedient to our high and heavenly calling. As for gift giving, God looks not to the quantity of the gift but to the quality of the giver.

We were pleased to host the Sunday school Bible classes from Goodfield and Pulaski on the weekend of November 4. It was a blessing for the students, the teachers and all of us who could share in their presence.

Elder Bro. Art Nohl was with us on the weekend of November 28 to share with Elder Bro. Leo Moser in reading and expounding on the memorandum. We were also privileged to hear the testimony of Lanae Knobloch. How thankful she is for God's goodness. A large group witnessed her baptism and

welcomed her as a sister-in-faith. Other ministers with us were Bros. Virgil Metzger, Roger Aberle and Jim Plattner.

We appreciated the ministers who have brought the message of salvation. They included Bros. Simon Wagenbach, Kent Mogler, Earl Banwart and Noah Gerber.

We miss the friendly greeting and smile of Sis. Rita Knobloch as she has moved to Ft. Scott where she is employed. We are thankful for the dear ones in Ft. Scott who have welcomed her into their fellowship.

On October 19, Stacey Rae was born to Bob and Shirley DeSmet. She has one sister and her grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch and Mr. and Mrs. Cletus DeSmet. On November 13, Victor and Janet Myrlie welcomed their first child into their home. Curtis John is the grandchild of Roger and Patty Myrlie and the Paul Snyders. Lou and Carla Knobloch became the parents of Heather Mae on November 14. Her grandparents are Gilbert and Sis. Vickie Knobloch and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Thompson.

Bro. Ted Gerber and Lynette Knobloch were in the hospital for back problems. Lois DeHaan is getting around on crutches after breaking her leg. We wish them all God's healing power.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach

"A baby is a bit of heaven - Blown from the hand of God." We have two more new little babies in our congregation at Oakville. Daniel Jon is the newest addition to Bro. Kenny and Sis. Janet Lanz's family. David and Denise welcome their new little brother home. Daniel's grandparents are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Hartzel and Sis. Marian Schmidgall. Miranda Kay is welcomed into the home of Randy and Sis. Juanita Gerst. Big brother, Jesse, and big sister, Becky, are happy to have a new sister. Miranda's grandparents are Bro. Herbert and Cleo Gerst (Peoria, IL) and George and Ramana Fox (Peoria, IL).

We have recently had Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Art Ringger (Indianapolis, IN) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) in our congregation to feed us from God's holy Word.

Recently in reading a counted cross-stitch book, I came across this verse. It really stuck out in my mind as I sat

down to type up the Silver Lining news. It reads as follows:

The clock of life is wound but once
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
At late or early hour
Now is the only time you own
Live, love, toil with a will
Place no faith in "tomorrow" for
The clock may then be still.

Let us take no thought for tomorrow,
but let us live each day as it may be our
last, for it truly could be.

IOWA, PULASKI
DeAnn Wuthrich
Mary Jane Knapp

**FROM THE EASTERN
MOUNTAINS**

From the Eastern mountains, Pressing
on they come,
Wise men in their wisdom, To His
humble home;
Stirr'd by deep devotion, Hasting from
afar,
Ever journeying onward, Guided by a
star.
Light of Light that shineth, Ere the
worlds began,
Draw Thou near and lighten, every
heart of man.

A. H. Mann

As we hurry about with our earthly
preparations for the Christmas season,
do we get so caught up that we fail to
think of our Lord's birth, without which
we would have no reason to celebrate.
Unfortunately, many people will at-
tend church services on Christmas day
just to please someone else and not
because they are thankful that God
sent His only Son into the world to
eventually die for our sins; may none of
us fall into this category.

We are thankful that Sis. Billie
Cruikshank has been able to assemble
with us again after spending time in the
hospital as a surgical patient.

On November 4, Bro. Bill Hodel
(Roanoke, IL) was with us and humbly
brought forth many teachings from
God's holy Word. Many times we take
for granted the sacrifices the minister-
ing brothers in our precious faith must
make in order to travel far and near to
be used as instruments in God's ser-
vice. Even though we pray that the
Lord will bless them for their labors,

we also need to let them feel our
appreciation for their efforts.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Elma Mogler

The weekend of November 3 we
rejoiced with a young couple who
brought a heart-warming testimony be-
fore the church and were baptized after
making a covenant with God. We were
happy to meet Leo (Bro. Albert and
Sis. Betty) and Tami Banwart as our
new brother and sister-in-faith. We
wish them much grace to walk the
narrow path of life. Elder Bro. Art Nohl
(Morris, MN) was here to assist our
Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr in the testi-
mony and baptism. We appreciated
Bro. Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA) visiting
us the same weekend. Also visiting this
past month have been Bro. Gene Marti
(Lamar, KS) and Bro. Alphi Strahm
(Bern, KS). We thank them all and
invite them to come again.

We are happy and thankful Mike
Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn)
has found the need for repentance.
May the Lord grant him much grace as
he builds his faith on a firm foundation.

"Behold I am with thee, and will
keep thee in all places whither thou
goest." Genesis 28:15. With a tear in
our eye and a smile on our face we bid
farewell to two couples who have left us
to make their home elsewhere.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Evelyn Benninger,
due to health reasons, left us to make
their home in Sabetha, KS. We will
miss them so much but we can still
think back and remember the example
and encouragement that Joe has been
during his illness, by never murmuring
or complaining about the cross that has
been placed upon him.

We still appreciate the many hours
they spent years ago by lending them-
selves to be used on the building com-
mittee while our church was being
built. We are thankful Bro. Joe and Sis.
Evelyn were able to assemble with us
the last Sunday they spent here.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Bruellman
will be assembling with the Garden
Grove, KS congregation since they
have moved to Des Moines. Their
move will make it more convenient for
their employment. We will miss them.
This has been Bro. Gene's home all his
life. He and Sis. Evie raised their
family here and brought them to
church and Sunday school. We hope
they will return often.

In parting we sang from #114 from
the Zion's Harp.

"Ye loved ones, now the parting hour
is nearing,
The farewell greeting sounds in one
accord.
Our hearts are yet in close communion
beating.
In Jesus name we bid the farewell
greeting."

Marla Bruellman and Bill Berg, both
employed in Rochester, MN, have an-
nounced their engagement. Marla is
the daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis.
Evie. We wish them happiness and the
Lord's guidance.

We know it hurts to lose a parent and
our heartfelt sympathy is extended to
Verdell Fehr and her family. Verdell
recently lost her father very suddenly.

May the family of Darren Fehr (Bro.
Dennis and Sis. Judy) continue to feel
the prayers of the whole congregation
as they struggle to adjust to the many
days of traveling to and fro for the
medical attention that Darren must
receive. Darren has been able to be
home and attend Sunday school re-
cently after spending many weeks hos-
pitalized due to a leg amputation.

Sis. Lucille Schmidt (Bro. Dwaine)
and Sis. Florence Banwart are home
after spending time in the hospital. We
hope they have also felt our prayers.

Each year, as the Christmas season
approaches, we look forward to a re-
newing of the precious story of Jesus'
birth. We gather together at church
and in our homes with our families. Our
hearts glow with joy and special
warmth as we remember friends and
the many blessings and privileges of
life we have in a Christian nation. May
we always strive to keep the Christmas
spirit in our hearts and homes.

"Let Christmas be a bright and hap-
py day; but let its brightness come
from the radiance of the star of Bethle-
hem, and its happiness be found in
Christ."

H. G. Den

Just a reminder, in December, we
will be collecting dues (\$7.00) for the
Silver Lining. Please pay your local
reporters.

JAPAN, SHIODA
Sheila Moser

In October we were truly blessed
when three ministers from the States
stopped by on their way to India. On

October 20, Bros. Richard Schupbach, Roy Grimm and John Klotzle arrived in Tokyo to spend the weekend with us. Bros. John and Roy spent Sunday in Tokyo and Bro. Richard came to the country for the day. While he was here, Bro. Richard assisted Bro. Willis in serving holy communion.

On Monday evening, special services were held in the Shioda church with Bro. John speaking. Many of the local brethren were in attendance as well as a few visitors. After spending some time visiting the kindergarten Tuesday morning, the brothers left in the afternoon for India. We were all relieved and thankful to learn the brothers escaped harm and arrived safely home after the uprising in India. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with them and we hope Bro. Roy is recuperating after becoming ill in India.

The S.A.K. fall outing was held October 22. Thirty-one students, mothers and S.A.K. staff boarded two buses and headed to Hirose Dam. It was a beautiful day and we all enjoyed being outdoors in God's creation. The highlight of the day was an American wiener roast. The day was most enjoyable, which was evident by the sleepy children on the way home.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

We were blessed this past month through the ministry of Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and Bro. John Klotzle on their way to India.

The morning meditation by Bro. John was on Mark 14:12-36. The prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane was very earnest. He was distressed and troubled and even prayed that the hour might pass from Him, but added, "Not my will but thine be done." This showed deep trust in the Father. We were all encouraged to really trust our Heavenly Father and pray from the bottom of hearts that our prayers can be accepted of Him.

Bro. Roy assisted our local Elder Bro. Akito in our blessed communion service when we journeyed to Calvary and remembered the price paid for our sins. In like manner and appreciation we renewed our vows to serve and live peaceably among our brothers and sisters in Christ, until He returns for those who await his coming.

The following Sunday we enjoyed an evening dinner and fellowship and song at the home of our Bro. Saburo

and Sis. Shizuko Utsuki in honor of their 56th wedding anniversary hosted by their children.

A few days ago, we heard that the brothers who traveled to India had to return earlier than planned due to political unrest there. We especially pray that the time they were able to spend there and here will be blessed of God.

Incidentally, the brothers shared with us that their great-grandfathers as young men were all three on the same boat as they journeyed across the Atlantic from Europe. Now, several generations later, their great-grandsons have the privileges of carrying God's Word across another ocean to needy lands. How precious is the faith of our fathers.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger

Waymer Esslinger was hospitalized and is recuperating from a fall from a bin.

Lindsay Diane was born October 21 to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman. Welcoming her home are Michael, Jeanelle, Bethany, Brian and Kristen.

Todd Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda) has found peace to God and man and is looking forward to his testimony and baptism.

GIFTS

What shall we give the children?
Christmas is almost here.
Toys and games and playthings,
As we do every year?

Yes, for the magic of toyland
Is part of the Yuletide lore
To gladden the heart of childhood.
But I shall give something more.

I shall give them more patience,
A more sympathetic ear,
A little more time for laughter,
Or tenderly dry a tear.

I shall take time to teach them
The joy of doing some task.
I'll try to find time to answer
More of the questions they ask;

Time to read books together,
And take long walks in the sun;
Time for a bedtime story
After the day is done.

I shall give these to my children,
Weaving a closer tie,
Knitting our lives together
With gifts that money can't buy.

Isla P. Richardson

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

Judy Bahr

"We gather together to ask the Lord's blessings."

We, the American people, certainly do have plenty to be thankful for. And, as Christians, we need to thank and praise God for our salvation and the blessings received from above.

Sis. Rita Knobloch, (Lester, IA) has moved to Fort Scott. She is working at Mercy Hospital as a R.N. Sis. Rita is a much needed addition to our young group! May she feel the presence of the Lord in our church and community.

November 17 was the wedding of Beth Sinn (Lester and Shirley Sinn) to Kenny Snyder. They are living near Fort Scott. May God bless their lives and home.

Elder Bro. Ronnie Nelson (Kiowa, KS) was with us the weekend of November 17 and 18 to assist Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart in serving communion. We thank Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Shirley for sharing this most serious and joyful occasion with us.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr — Doris Bahr

What glory it brings to God the Father when a sinner finds his salvation and willingly takes up the cross of Christ to follow after Him. On November 10, Bro. Richard Kraft (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine) and Bro. Mark Kraft (Sam and Carol) were both added to the flock of Jesus Christ. We are truly thankful for each soul given the peace and joy in serving their Saviour.

The Christmas event sounds a danger signal to everyone who ignores God and lives as though the throne of heaven were empty. Our Lord's birth was a divine appointment, and all history prepared the way for it. "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son." Galatians 4:4. In Genesis chapter 3 we have the first promise of a coming Saviour, the Messiah. In verse 15, the first promise in the entire Bible of a coming Redeemer who would deliver man from eternal death—the penalty of sin. God told the prophets that Jesus would belong to the tribe of Judah from the line of David and would be born in Bethlehem of Judea.

God did not want anyone to miss His Son's great event of coming into this world. And yet, we read the tragic words in John 1:12. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God." Let us rejoice that we have the Scripture and opportunity before us today that we can know Him if we will take the opportunity laid before us. May the spiritual blessings of Christmas be upon each one of us.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

The weekend of October 27 was truly blessed. The Kansas Choir: Wichita, Ft. Scott and Kiowa traveled to Morton, IL, where we sang praises to God and enjoyed meeting brethren of like faith. We were welcomed with much love and kindness. We certainly enjoyed the Christian fellowship. It was a weekend we will always hold close to our hearts.

Our young Sunday school classes went to the Kiowa Manor and sang songs to the elderly folks on Halloween. They enjoyed sharing their voices in song and handing out refreshments.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Bea Diel, who was saddened by the loss of her brother. May God comfort her.

On November 10, we met at church to do our fall housecleaning. It is always fun to do our work when it is for the Lord and shared by those we love. It is also nice to see God's house sparkle when we are finished.

We have begun our Wednesday evening services once again. We appreciate our middle-of-the-week spiritual boost!

KANSAS, MANHATTAN

Lori Aberle — Patti Knobloch

"For He is mighty hath done great things; and Holy is His name."

Luke 1:49

With the Christmas season quickly approaching, our thoughts turn to the story of our dear Saviour's birth.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Lloyd Kraft and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley), Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Bro. Sam Anliker and Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont).

Singing this month was held at the

apartment of Sis. Lanette Meyer, Sis. Maria Schrader, and Chris Strahm.

Each of us here at Manhattan send Christmas greetings to all.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." St. John 3:16.

The Christmas season is fast approaching and we will again be hearing the beautiful carols of old. May we listen and learn the story of Christ's great love for all mankind.

Our thanks go to Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott), John Lehman (Bern), Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA) and Alpha Strahm (Bern) for bringing us His words of life. May God richly reward them.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Tillie Aberle, Sis. Louise Aberle and Sis. Susie Brunner on the death of their brother, George Aberle on October 27. Bro. Carl Hartman conducted funeral services October 30. Burial was in the Sabetha Cemetery.

Sis. Jan Mogler wishes to thank all — "It was a great blessing to receive so many personal visitors, prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers and plants while hospitalized and since my return home. God reward each of you for all your love."

Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen Edelman are the parents of a second son born November 18. He has been named Scott Richard.

Hospitalized this month have been Sis. Lydia Wenger (Bro. Sol), Sis. Lydia Wenger (Bro. Levi) and Sis. Lena Wenger (Bro. Will). May the Lord grant them His healing power.

We will be assembling with the Bern congregation Thursday morning for Thanksgiving services.

We wish all of you a happy holiday season.

GOD BLESS THY YEAR

God bless thy year! Thy coming in, thy going out, Thy rest, thy travelling about, the rough, the smooth, the bright, the drear, God bless thy year!

(Old English Blessing)

KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord... come before His presence with singing." Psalm 100:1-2. The weekend of October 27-28 our choir (including Ft. Scott, KS and Kiowa, KS) journeyed by buses to Morton, IL to sing for them. It was a blessed weekend of fellowship. What a joy it is to sing praises to the Lord!

November 18 was the last Sunday for Bro. Gary and Sis. Kari Maller and their children to be with us. Under God's direction, they have decided to move back to Bluffton, IN. We have thoroughly enjoyed the addition they made to our congregation the past 1½ years. We will miss them and their fellowship — but pray that the Lord will bless them always. We had a farewell dinner for them Sunday evening.

Christmas is here again and what a blessing it is to dwell on the wonderful story of Jesus' birth. Matthew 1:21 is a most special verse to us as Christians, "And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." This verse sums up the purpose of Christmas and what we celebrate. How thankful we are to the Lord who provided a way to Him through Jesus!

The Christmas story known so well to us has many lessons for us to learn. The wise men set good examples for us. They came seeking Christ with sincere hearts to worship Him. They came from afar and were committed to their purpose: to find Him. They didn't get discouraged and turn back, but continued on as we must continue always following the Lord in faith. It didn't matter to them that Jesus was born to a poor family or in a lowly place rather than a palace. That didn't change their attitude toward Him. They weren't ashamed of Him. The wise men's purpose in coming to Jesus was to give Him reverence and gifts — not to receive anything from Him.

Do we have the same attitudes as the wise men? First of all — do we follow Jesus faithfully and in dedication as the wise men followed the star? Are we not ashamed of Jesus so that we openly pronounce to others that we worship Him and that we are following Him as the wise men did before Herod the king (Matthew 2:2)? Do we rejoice with exceeding great joy in that we have found Jesus as the wise men did when the star stopped over where Jesus lay

and they had finally found Him (Matthew 2:9-10)? Do we serve Jesus and give of ourselves to Him in worship, praise and thanksgiving, not expecting to receive as the wise men so reverently gave out of a pure heart gifts to Him?

The only motive of the wise men was to worship Jesus and give Him gifts which is our purpose also. They didn't seek anything for themselves, but only wanted to give of themselves to Jesus. Let us begin to ask the Lord more of what we can do for Him rather than asking Him to do things for us. That is where the blessing and joy comes — in serving the Lord.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Lester Huber

We appreciate so much the support and consideration of the elder brothers addressing the small churches' needs and the impressive cover of the October issue of the Silver Lining. Our observation of other denominations starting here in a new area is that they will recruit their surrounding churches to attend for an extended time so as to attract others in the immediate area of the new church. This encouragement seems to help.

We here are unworthy to be considered and in the fear of God we would like to support and encourage the message in October by submitting information with regard to those who may consider our area. We have available a list of the top 25 employers of Lexington, a copy of Lexington's "questions and answers" for newcomers, information on registering and submitting of resumes, etc. May God's grace abound toward His will.

We sincerely have appreciated and thank all the ministering brethren who have come and shared God's Word with us throughout this past year, as well as the visitors who have come. We extend our best wishes for a blessed Christmas and New Year to all.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Liz Blough

We are pleased to welcome Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen to our congregation. They have two small girls, Shelice, age 2, and Gretchen, age 1. They will be worshipping with us as Rod's employment has brought him to the Alto area.

The hustle-bustle of the holidays is upon us. All the shopping and baking of goodies is familiar to us all; a time of

family and friends exchanging gifts and bounteous meals with almost always more than enough to fill our stomachs and spirits to overflowing. In other countries there are thousands who suffer starvation and are not able to experience such customs as we have in America. We whisper a prayer that God will have tender mercy on the souls of these poor people and we give thanks for everything we have that often is taken advantage of. God bless each and every one this holiday season.

Fred Grawburg has been in the hospital this past month, but is now home and feeling better.

On October 28, we were thankful to have two visiting ministers share God's Word with us. Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) spoke to us in the morning service of Job and his many trials. Then in the afternoon service Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) reflected on our God-given talents. We all have more talents than we think. Just sit down some day and start counting. It may be a pleasant surprise.

Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS) also visited us this past month on a Tuesday evening. We decided to hold our services that evening instead of Wednesday. He read from I Samuel 3. A favorite story of many of us when the Lord called Samuel to be a prophet of the Lord.

Also, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Sis. Lorene were with us for the weekend of November 3 and 4 to share with us the reading of the memorandum.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Linda Ramseyer

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine, For Thou hast created and purchased me too, Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new." Zion's Harp #207. Kathleen Miller has given her testimony and been baptized with the Holy Spirit. We are pleased to have her as our new sister-in-faith. Sis. Kathleen's parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret Ruegsegger.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body." St. Matthew 26:26. We were privileged to partake of this most blessed and holy communion this past month. We were once again reminded of all the Lord has done for us.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Doris Knochel, Sis. Minnie (Bro. Ed) Freidinger and Sis. Loretta (Winsor) Mosher. May the Lord's healing hand continue to be with them.

We are thankful the Lord sent a large number of visiting ministers to our congregation. Ministering the Lord's Word to us were Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL), Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS), Ernest Graf (Akron, OH), Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Terry Farney (Wichita, KS).

The Lord has taken a dear brother Home to his rest. Bro. Herb Ramseyer passed away and our prayers are with his family during their time of sorrow. Surviving him are his wife, Sis. Naomi; three sons, Bros. Jim and Joe (Bay City) and Harry (Hart, MI); five daughters, Sis. Ruth Ann Getz (Elgin, IL), Sis. Edith Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Sisters Carol Waibel, Susan Steffen and Vicki Ramseyer (Bay City); one sister, Sis. Dorothy Bachtold (Forrest, IL).

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24. Three couples have recently joined their hearts as one. Tammy Knochel and Paul Rechsteiner were married September 29. Tammy's mother is Sis. Doris Knochel. On October 19, Joan Erisman became the bride of Rich Long. Joan's parents are Bro. Erwin and Sis. Della Erismann. On November 18, Bro. Jay Schlatter and Sis. Carola Fortenbacher were united as one. Parents of the couple are Bro. Robert and Sis. Betty Schlatter and Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchenerville, Ontario). May the Lord bless these dear ones as they begin their lives together.

We held a farewell dinner and singing for Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen, Chalise and Gretchen. They have left our congregation and moved to the Alto, MI area.

"A special thanks to each of you for making us feel so at home here in the Bay City congregation for the past 2½ years. We will always remember the love and kindness you have shared with

us. We will miss you but are comforted to know you are only a prayer away. God bless each of you always! With love and gratitude, Beth, Rod and girls."

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; . . ." St. Luke 2:7. Our prayers go out to all of you during this most blessed Christmas season. May the Lord be with each one of you as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Dawn Bahr

The holiday season is once again upon us, and here in Detroit we are preparing for our annual Christmas program. How quickly the year has passed! We are again celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus, God's Son.

It seems appropriate to remember Christ's birth at the close of the year, and immediately follow with the beginning of a new year, full of new beginnings. For Jesus' birth in Bethlehem also signaled the coming of a new time, and a fresh start. With His birth (followed by His eventual death at Calvary), the Jewish law became a thing of the past, and we were given the wonderful, simple plan of redemption that is ours for the asking today.

We enjoyed the weekend visit of Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Elizabeth Wai-bel (Bay City, MI). It's such a blessing to feel the mutual love for our Lord and for one another in those from far and near.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Rosie (Bro. Guy) Wieland in the recent sudden death of her sister, Marion Bennett (Saginaw, MI). May she feel God's hand of comfort at this difficult time.

Hospital patients were little Joshua Schmidt (Bill and Trudy) and Sis. Martha Szilagyi (Bro. Joe). We are thankful for God's healing power, as both are home and doing well once again.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Hildegard Koehl

Rhonda Zeltwanger

As the ground lays blanketed with snow and the Christmas season is upon us - let us take a few moments to look back in time to the miraculous birth of our Lord and Saviour. Long ago in a faraway place called Bethlehem, baby Jesus was born into this world - only to

die the cruel death on Calvary's hill. May it always be that our hearts can be filled with a thankful spirit for all Christ has done for us. Our wish for all mankind would be a blessed and heart-warming Yuletide season.

God surely has showered down His love by sending Alexis Marie into the hearts and home of Rick and Julie Gramm. What a loving miracle children are to us. Excited grandparents are Mrs. Vera Jones and Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm.

Our congratulations go to Alvin Nohl, Jr. (Bro. Alvin, Sr. and Sis. Minnie) and Kathy Kramer whose engagement was made known to us. May the Lord graciously provide for them.

November 10 was the wedding date for Todd Moser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Norene) and Kim Messner (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Geri, Winthrop, MN). Thus united and in concord may they walk this path of life.

Special prayers are in store for those with afflictions to the body. Sis. Lois Schmidgall (Bro. Keith), Sis. Shirley Nohl (Bro. Noah), Sis. Clara Miller, Sis. June Schmidgall (Bro. Dave) and Bro. Orville Nohl have all experienced the need of renewed health and strength to the mind and body. Dan Jepma (Dawn), son-in-law of Bro. LeRoy and Judy Fehr was involved in a tractor accident. We all give thanks that Dan is well on the road to recovery.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Wanda Messner
Mary Lou Schmidt**

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Heavenly Father: Christmas began with the gift of Your Son;
Who in turn, gave the world, the gift of His life.

Let me remember, O God, that Christmas remains a matter of giving;
Not parties, not presents, not material wealth.

For Christmas is Christmas, When I give of myself!

Author Unknown

As this holy Christmas season approaches, we pause to think of the great, unselfish love God had for each of us; that He "sent His only begotten Son", who then gave us the gift of His life!

We were reminded of this great love this past weekend. On Saturday, No-

vember 10, we heard the beautiful song, "Love, of all gifts, is the greatest . . ." (Zion's Harp #37) during the wedding ceremony of Kim Messner and Todd Moser. Their parents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Geri Messner (Winthrop) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Noreen Moser (Morris).

WHERE THERE IS LOVE

Where there is love, the heart is light.
Where there is love, the day is bright.
Where there is love, there is a song;
To help when things go wrong.
Where there is love, there is a smile;
To make all things seem more worthwhile.

Where there is love, there's quiet peace.
A tranquil place, where turmoils cease -
Love changes darkness into light,
And makes the heart take "wingless flight" -

Oh, blest are they who walk in love,
They also walk with God above!

Helen Steiner Rice

This lovely poem seems to fit in with the inspirational messages we heard from ministering Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) Sunday, November 11. Bro. Rod and his dear family spent one weekend with our congregation here at Winthrop. Bro. Rod read from God's holy Word, I John 4, which so adequately speaks of God's love. Bro. Rod exhorted us to look only on the face of the One who loved us so much, that He died for us. If we would only continue to do this, we wouldn't be so enticed by the things Satan has to offer!

We were also privileged to have another visiting minister with us for a Wednesday evening service. Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL) and his dear wife assembled with us here at Winthrop. We thank these dear servants of God for being here and sharing God's precious Word with us! May God richly bless you!

Bro. Darrel and Sis. Darlene Schmidt wish to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone who remembered them with cards and gifts on their 25th wedding anniversary.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Marti — Sandra Luthi

At this time of year, our hearts and minds turn to the birth of our loving Saviour. As Christmas time and all of its hustle draws nigh, may we rejoice in the birth of our Lord. Our heartfelt

thanks go far beyond the Babe of Bethlehem. We dwell upon the life of Christ, the examples He left for us, and above all, the plan of salvation that was established for us when He died at Calvary.

We also rejoice that Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Raymond Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS) could be with us to assist Bro. Gene in relating to us the conference memorandum. This certainly encourages us to continue our battle against Satan, as we strive to walk a life pleasing to God.

Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) spent a Sunday with us recently. It is our prayer that our ministering brethren can always feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they speak God's Word.

Sis. Cecile Braker was hospitalized as a surgical patient this past month. We are thankful that she is home and doing well.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Becky Gudeman

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

II Peter 1:5-8

We thank Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) for being with us this month. We truly appreciate them and may God bless them for their efforts.

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

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

THE GIFT

"When I was a child were the skies as blue?
Were the clouds as puffy and white?
Were the sunsets of such a magnificent hue?

The birds' song such pure delight?
Did the years of living help me to see
The beauty of the flowers?
Is growing old the magic key
That gives value to the hours?"

B. Purkes

Most of us are aware of the trip to India our Elder Bro. Roy and his co-workers were involved in and the turn of events which brought them home at an earlier date than planned. Bro. Roy spent several days in the Methodist Center in Bombay, India and almost a week in a Quinicy hospital upon returning. He is now at home (November 15) and experiencing a very slow recovery from what doctors have diagnosed as typhoid fever. May God be with Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona as they encounter these trials and tests and may they "wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen their hearts." Psalms 27:14

GOD'S CHILDREN

Altho' God loves the whole wide world
And blesses every part —
I think He has a special place
For children in His heart.
I think He cherishes their smiles —
Their eagerness and mirth —
And their appreciation of
The wonders of His earth.
I think He listens closely to
Whatever words they say.
I think He follows them to school
And watches them at play.
And when they go to bed at night
He probably is there.
To see that they have happy dreams
Beneath their tousled hair.
All children in a special way
Belong to God above.
And I am sure He favors them
With an everlasting love.

J. Metcalf

The Marquart's, Bro. David, Sis. Lori and Bradley, welcome a new little boy to their family — "Joe Spencer". He was born October 17 and happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine Hoerr and Joe and Marian Marquart. Great-grandparents are Henry and Sis. Loida Hodel and Sis. Rose Hoerr. May God bless and direct this young family to "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Thank you to ministering Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah Butikofer (Elgin, IA)

for spending a weekend visiting here. Since this was home in the past for Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah it makes the occasion more special.

"I exhort, therefore, that prayers be made for all that are in authority."

I Timothy 2:1, 2

Election Day 1984 has come and gone. We have been privileged to cast our vote and now may we support those in office and unashamedly mix faith and prayer with our politics.

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

St. John 14:27

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

Sunday, October 28, was a day of blessing when Elder Bros. Corbin Bahler and Ben Maibach came along with many others from Rockville, CT and Detroit, MI to drink of the cup and eat of the bread of holy communion in remembrance of our crucified Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. All were uplifted by the solemnity of the occasion and by the inspired power of the Word and beautiful hymns. We are grateful to God for sending our dear elder brothers and their families and for all others who helped to make this a holy day worthy to remember.

Ministering Bro. Dan Stoller and others from Rockville, CT came to feed and support our small congregation on November 19 for which we give thanks to God.

Our dear friend, Inez Wartman, was taken from this life October 22. Our sympathy goes out to her husband, Henry, and the children and grandchildren. Before they moved to their present home in Waretown, NJ several years ago, Henry and Inez lived in a house next door to the Union City church and Henry served as custodian. May God's great compassion and comforting grace rest upon those loved ones who survive.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

The blessed story of the Christ,
The Babe of Bethlehem,
Is worthy of our song and praise,
And stirs the hearts of men.

The fullness of God's love divine,
Surrounds the Christ so mild
Alas, how many only know
The Savior as a child.

Our saving hope is all in vain,
If here our love should cease,
For in the man of Galilee.
We find the gift of peace.
'Tis not the babe, but Christ, the man
Who walked in Galilee;
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,
That sets the spirit free.

Henry Beer, Hymns of Zion #36

As we celebrate the Christmas season of the year, may we all remember that it is not the Babe in Bethlehem, but Christ, the Man, that sets us free from sin and gives us the promise of eternal life. This should be foremost in our minds and be our guiding light throughout the new year ahead.

Gilbert and Betty Widrick had the misfortune of losing their dairy barn in a fire this fall. At this writing they expect to be able to be milking their cows in a new barn shortly after Thanksgiving. This was made possible through the help of many friends and neighbors who worked closely together with each other and the carpenters to accomplish the rebuilding of the barn in such a short time.

Bro. Chet O'Brien was a surgical patient during the past month and at this writing he has returned to the hospital. Also, Sis. Antoinette Schulz is a hospital patient. May they each look to God for strength during their illness.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

Bro. Arthur Herzig has spent a few days in the hospital, but is able to be home again. Sis. Rachel Rohr has been transferred from Kalet Adult Home to the Lowville Hospital.

There were some from our New York congregations that visited the Ontario family on November 11.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

"I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying Alleluia: Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God." Revelation 19:1. We sing Christmas hymns using Hallelujah in praising the Lord. "Hall" means "Hail"; "El" means "God the Creator"; and "Jah" means "Jehovah

the Redeemer". Together, it means: "Hail to God the Creator, and Jehovah the Redeemer". Hallelujah!

We can say Hallelujah for two souls turning to the Lord in repentance: Monica Grawunder, daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder and Patty (Palitto) Scott.

A thanks to Bro. and Sis. Bob Ritzman for hosting their relatives, Bro. and Sis. Tom Speicher (Milford, IN) for we enjoyed Tom's ministry. Also, we were blessed to have visiting ministers Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Floyd Graves (New York) the weekend of the World Relief meeting.

OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

As I contemplate our nearing the end of the year and the special worship services we will all enjoy as we celebrate the birthday of our Lord Jesus, I am reminded of the end of the day when we fall on our knees and thank God for all our daily blessings. We surely all want to offer special praise for this greatest of gifts, but our daily thanks is in order for every good thing.

We have had the blessing of Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) visiting us and proclaiming God's Word for us. We truly appreciate the efforts of all who travel to worship with us. We thank God for you all.

Sis. Louisa Lance celebrated her 90th birthday this past Sunday. Four of our eleven members are now over 90 years of age.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Andy Hunyady

'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST
AND ON EARTH PEACE . . .!'

This was the resounding greeting of the angel and the heavenly hosts on the night when Jesus Christ was born.

Peace: a state of tranquility, quietness, calm; absence of strife, etc. . . . The Messiah who had been foretold as a Prince of Peace came to fulfill His people's longing for peace. He taught the blessedness of the makers of peace as the true "sons of God".

The peace which Jesus coveted for all mankind was that peace of mind and soul that came to one who was a sinner or lost his way, and had been reconciled with God. On the eve of His betrayal,

our Saviour left His ultimate peace with His faithful disciples; "My peace I leave with you; My peace I give unto you; Not as the world giveth, give I unto you . . ." John 14:27. Apostle Paul had this to say, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1. "Follow peace with all man, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14. Oh, may this world only heed these words of exhortations!

On Sunday, October 28, we were richly blessed as Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI) ministered the Word. We enjoyed the visit and the fellowship with Bro. Floyd and Sis. Perseda and visitors from several churches. On Saturday, October 20, we were happy to have visitors from Budapest, Hungary as Sis. Erika Szabo and her brother, Bro. Mozes, stopped for a brief visit while touring the United States and Canada.

We welcome into our midst Pat Ramsier (Rittman, OH) as she is working in one of the local hospitals, and John Grimm (Princeville, IL). John works as a programmer for one major company.

Now I wish to introduce Sis. Desma Klopfenstein as our new correspondent for the Silver Lining. I am thankful that she was willing to accept this assignment. She has our best wishes!

We wish to announce a new change in our schedule for worship services. Beginning on Sunday, January 6, 1985 and thereafter, services will be held on the first, third and fifth Sunday of the month, in the same place:

Griswold Christian Academy
(formerly Seventh-Day Adventist)
860 Griswold Street
Worthington, OH
10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

We also meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in homes. Everyone is welcome!

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

When the multitudes came to John the Baptist to be baptized, he asked them the question in St. Luke 3:7, "Who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" He then spelled out some conditions for baptism including in verse 8, "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance." So we see that even the very first time that baptism is

exercised in the New Testament that it is not an emotional outburst but that it requires inner (and often outward) preparation. Such, then, was the case in the lives of our new Bro. Roger (Lisa) Manz and Sis. Millie Manz. Both started to "bring fruits worthy of repentance" several months ago. Having now received forgiveness of their sins and peace with God and man, they were baptized according to the example set forth in the New Testament. Their parents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz.

Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller on this blessed day. Ministering brethren who brought us God's Word this month included: Bro. Ken Sauder, Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield) and Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL).

Janice Ross is our newest addition, born October 23 to Bro Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz. She is welcomed home by Marvin, Tony, Larry, Cindy and Willie. Grandparents are Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz.

OHIO, LATTY

Patty Gerber — Laurie Stoller

Best of all is it to preserve everything in a pure, still heart, and let there be for every pulse a thanksgiving, and for every breath a song.

Gesner

May we always stop to thank our God for all blessings and trials in our lives. We especially thank our heavenly Father for His healing hand upon our hospital patients this month, including Sis. Ollie Laukhuf, Kim Sinn (Tom) and Harlan Riegenbach (Sis. Delores).

Visiting our congregation were ministering Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN). Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) also visited us this month in sharing the conference conclusions. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25.

We congratulate and wish God's blessings on Bro. Kirk Stoller (Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva) and Sis. Eileen Roth (Bro. Harold and Sis. Edna, Roanoke, IL) as they were recently announced to be married. We pray they will always

look to our heavenly Father as they plan their life together.

WHEN I MUST LEAVE YOU

When I must leave you for little while,
Please do not grieve and shed wild
tears
And hug your sorrow to you through
the years,
But start out bravely with a gallant
smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all the things the same,
Feed not your loneliness on empty
days,
But fill each waking hour in useful
ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and in
cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold
you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!

Helen Steiner Rice

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Edie Laukhuf (Bro. Rod) in the passing of her father, Bro. Herb Ramsier (Bay City, MI). Bro. Tom Grant (Sis. Delores) recently felt the loss of his sister-in-law, Beverly Grant (Frank), as she passed from this time into eternity.

Let us all look to this Christmas season with thankful hearts and blessed peace. It seems at Christmas that the world is a more happy, peaceful and kind place than at any other time of the year. May we all spread good tidings of joy and never forget the real meaning of this holiday season.

Remember, Latty Silver Lining dues are due this month. See your correspondents.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

As Christmas time is again drawing near, we are reminded of the birth of our Lord and Saviour as foreseen by the holy prophet who said, "Unto us a child is born . . . and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." What a joy it created in the hearts of those who waited for His birth!

Selecting a name for the new baby has become quite a problem in our modern homes. In the Bible, the naming of the baby was often no problem at all, for the parents were told by God what to name it. The outstanding ex-

ample is "Jesus". But "Jesus" is only one of many names which He bears. All these names: Saviour, Lord, Redeemer, Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Lamb of God, etc. are gathered up by Isaiah when he says, "His name shall be called "Wonderful". This is the name above every other name.

A saint of God lay dying and in his last moments could speak nothing but Jesus. He repeated the words over and over, Wonderful Jesus. Before he died, a paper was discovered which required his signature. The old saint took the pen - wrote one word, and fell back on his pillow - dead. And on the paper he had written, not his own name, but the only name he could remember, "Wonderful". It was the only name that mattered.

Dear friend, whoever you are, what greater Christmas gift can you offer than to give your whole life to your Saviour and Creator in whose hands rests the destiny of your undying soul? When you lie down to rest tonight, let your last thought be, Shall I ever see the break of another day? If not, where will I be tomorrow?

I know of a Name, a beautiful Name,
That angels bro't down to earth;
They whispered it low,
One night long ago
To a maiden of lowly birth.

That beautiful Name,
That beautiful Name,
From sin has power to free us!
That beautiful Name,
That wonderful Name,
That matchless Name is Jesus!

Jean Perry

Our Lord is the only one who can grant peace to a troubled heart. Robin Washington has recently experienced this blessed peace and is rejoicing in her salvation. Bro. Barnie and Sis. Beverly Washington are Robin's parents.

Melissa and Dudley Sulzener recently chose a name for their new baby whom they called Jacob Lee. Jacob was born on October 16. The happy grandparents are Jerry and Helen Matuck. Great-grandma is Sis. Catherine Morrison.

October 28 was the fall outing for our Sunday school.

LaVersa (Joe) Sabo recently underwent eye surgery and is doing well.

In closing, may you all have a blessed

Christmas and I'd like to leave this final thought: God spells "Wonderful" with five letters, J-E-S-U-S!

OHIO, RITTMAN

Judy Stoller — Verla Stoller

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

May the star that shone in triumph
 O'er the manger where Christ lay,
 Be your guiding light to happiness
 This blessed Christmas Day.

May each gift exchanged with fondness,
 As a token of your love,
 Bring remembrance of the blessed gift
 God sent from heaven above.

So the gentle Christmas spirit may
 As Yuletide days depart,
 Leave a glow of everlasting joy
 To linger in your heart.

Nadine Brothers Lybarger

Unfortunately it seems as we approach this time of year we become so busy we do not have time to fully meditate as we should upon the true meaning of Christmas and the most wonderful gift ever given to us. May we not only at this time, but throughout the year remember: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Such was the Scripture quoted on the pens handed out at the Twentieth Annual Eastern World Relief Meeting held here November 10. As we are from time to time reminded of the poor living conditions in other nations as well as areas in our own nation, we realize what a blest and fortunate people we are. How great then is our responsibility to be good stewards of the goods given to us.

During the weekend we could experience the joy of meeting and greeting many brothers and sisters-in-faith. Some we knew and some we had the pleasure of meeting for the first time. May each one of you have received a blessing in being here.

Many visiting ministers gathered with us that weekend. Brothers who came to serve us this month were Pete Baltic (Mansfield), Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN), Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI), Ben Manz (Junction), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Floyd Grave (Croghan, NY). We extend a hearty thank you to each one and with them God's blessings.

"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is

greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:4.

We learn many lessons from children and especially as we see them doing things because we do them. It behooves us to walk more carefully and prayerfully. May these parents who had additions to their families this month experience many blessings as well as grace in guiding their children.

Bob and Sis. Deanna Arnold welcomed their third son, Joseph Brendan. His brothers, Rudy and David, will enjoy a new playmate. His grandparents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger.

Mike and Sis. Judy Musselman, along with their son, Terrill, welcomed Lance Jameson into their family. His grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Bachman.

Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler now have four boys and four girls as they were blest with the arrival of Lisa Jane. Sis. Betty, Dan, Mark, Tim, Sam, Cheryl and Judy are glad for a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Reuben and Sis. Velma Hartzler and Bro. George and Sis. Minnie Riggensbach.

Curtis John is the new son of Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold. Amy, Doug, Jill and Joy are proud of their brother. Bro. Carl and Sis. Erma Ingold as well as Bro. John, Jr. and Sis. Joan Hartzler are the grandparents.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle welcome their first daughter, Jeni Jane. Their son, Paul, is awaiting her arrival home. Grandparents are Bro. Irwin and Sis. Jane Klotzle and Bro. Carl and Sis. Tootie Sinn (Latty).

"Our love shall not diminish nor wax away; bind us till life we finish and in the grave we lay." Zion's Harp #137. May those who were united in matrimony this month find this as their love.

United in marriage on October 21 were Bro. Tom Gerber (Sis. Mary Ellen) and Sis. Laura Widmer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole).

October 27 was the wedding date of Ronald Marty (Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha) and Tammy Porter.

On November 4, Bro. Ken Stoller (Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda) and Sis. Lori Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol) exchanged their wedding vows.

Timothy Hanzie and Kim Miller (Glenn and Sis. Ella) chose November 10 as their wedding date.

Believing it is the Lord's will that they be joined together as husband and wife, Bro. Jim Widmer (Bro. Bob and

Sis. Joann) and Sis. Karen Maibach (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann) had their engagement announced.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalm 34:19.

Those who suffered afflictions of the flesh and were hospitalized were Rex Young (Carol), Sis. Ellen Weber (Bro. Ralph), Richard Bauman (Gladys) and Sis. Elizabeth Musser.

As we look to the New Year, may we say as did M. L. Haskins: And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown!" And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the hand of God. That shall be to thee better than any light - and safer than a known way."

OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehkla

Frances Laidig

Whenever we partake of holy communion, it reminds us of the suffering which our Lord Jesus endured for us when He was crucified on the cross at Calvary.

"... That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

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

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death until he come."

I Corinthians 12:23-26

We need to partake of holy communion as it gives us renewed strength to remain true to our Saviour until we have fulfilled our days on earth and can then be with Him in eternity. Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) were with us to make this special day possible. We thank them for their service of love.

We were privileged to listen to the conference tapes and the reading of the conference memorandum.

"Good Tidings Of Great Joy!" St. Luke 2:10. This is the message which the angel of the Lord brought to the shepherds so long ago. "For unto you is born this day in the City of David a

Savior, which is Christ the Lord." St. Luke 2:11

The good tidings of salvation were brought to all mankind.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Barbara Moser

"Stormy wind fulfilling His Word."

Psalm 148:8

Stormy winds come not without mercy and blessings, There is music in the blast if we listen aright. Is there no music in the heart of sorrow that the Lord of all has chosen for His own? Are you not nearer to the Master, have you now grown in faith, in patience, in prayerfulness, in thankful hope, since the time the storm winds first sighed across your life?

It is no small matter to grow nearer to God; it is worth all the tempest your soul has known. The heart of the Lord was yearning over you, and could not be satisfied till His winds had driven your soul entirely into the refuge and protection of His love.

Do not tremble because of the winds of the future; your Lord will be living and loving tomorrow, even as He lives and loves today; and no storm waits in your path but shall leave behind another record that your heavenly Father is stronger than the tempest, nearer than the grief.

We are traveling home to that beautiful shore where the chill winds never sweep, the hurricane makes no moan; yet, amid the rest of the painless Homeland, shall we not love the Lord a thousandfold more for every storm of earth in which He drew near to us, saying, "Fear not," and held us by the hand, and tenderly bore us through the hour that seem the darkest? We shall glorify Him then that He has been to us, again and again, a covert from the blast; but let us not wait to glorify Him till the blast is over. Even now let us give thanks that all the winds of life - the rough ones as well as those that blow from the south - are His appointing. Whose purpose is for our eternal gain.

Set your thoughts, not on the storms, but on the love that rules the storm; then the winds of trouble shall no longer seem as sad and restless voices, but an an Acolian harp attuned to peace, to hope, to everlasting victory.

In Rainbow Weather

"And I know not any troubles, for I

have the tempest's King, To chance my winter's fury to the gladness of His spring."

Blessed is the man who, when the tempest has spent its fury, recognizes his Father's voice in the undertone.

The last Sunday of October, the Portland brethren were able to travel to Silverton for the baptism of our new sister-in-faith, Lisa Metz (Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz). We also had holy communion after the services. A potluck was held later in the afternoon.

We thank Bro. Carl Kinsinger and his wife, Sis. Margaret for the love and time they spent here in the Oregon area. May God bless them.

It will soon be winter across the land and the snow will be lying deep on the ground in some areas of the country. We are very fortunate here in the Northwest to escape severe winter weather and would be happy to have visitors in our area. May the Lord open the way for someone to come and worship with us in Oregon.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

The weekend of November 27 and 28 was a blessed one for our little church because another precious lamb was added to the flock. Sis. Lisa Metz (Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) gave her testimony of faith on Saturday evening and was baptized on Sunday afternoon.

Our dear Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger and his wife, Sis. Margaret made the 1200 mile trip from Altadena, CA to be with us for this special occasion. We surely did enjoy their fellowship and pray that God will bless them for their efforts.

We also appreciate the Portland ministers and their wives who were here both Saturday evening and Sunday: Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller and Bro. Garth and Sis. Connie Steffen. Also here from some distance was Sis. Golda Ditch (Lowell, Medford, OR). We are thankful for each one who came and shared the time with us.

On Sunday afternoon we had the blessed opportunity to partake of holy communion, served to us by Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger and Deacon Bro. Clarence Dietrich. It is our sincere prayer that this service always achieves "the edification and strengthening of the church body" as mentioned in Marching To Zion on page 313.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Jones as Bro.

Ron has been battling an illness that has been difficult to diagnose, but is now beginning to improve. He has been unable to assemble with us for several weeks and has been missed.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
 PHILADELPHIA**

Ann Gasser

Early in November about half of our families traveled to Lancaster County to assist in preparing an old house that will be used as a "half-way house" for several of the clients from the "Lighthouse", a rehabilitation facility for emotionally disturbed adults. Clients will begin moving into the house in the next few weeks. Those who went returned with the report that there was plenty of work to be done, and thus it was a worthwhile excursion. Blessings from them were two-fold: the strengthening of the bond between brethren when they work side by side toward a common goal, and the satisfaction of serving their neighbors.

We thank all of our visitors who have been with us recently, including the following ministers and their families: Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) and Lee Bahler (Rockville, CT).

TEXAS, DONNA-McALLEN

Joyce Nohl

"O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

As we prepare for the holidays with enthusiasm and eagerness in our hearts, may we also remember to prepare ourselves to meet our Lord when He comes to receive His own as we know not when the hour will come.

Following is our 1985 schedule for services: January 6, January 20, February 3, February 17 and March 3. Services are held at Silver and Seventh Street in Donna, Texas at 10:30. We are looking forward to meeting all those who will be visiting us and invite everyone to visit the Donna-McAllen church when they come south. Our telephone number is (512) 682-0219.

 Give Your Address Change
 To Your Reporter

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

Each Sunday as we arrive at church, we see new faces of our winter family as they are now returning to spend their winters in the South. We are happy to have ministering Bros. Eugene Bert-schi (Roanoke, IL), Ed Hohulin (Good-field, IL) and Raymond Roth (Kiowa, KS) back with us for the season.

We are making plans to have our Thanksgiving dinner together at the church. We have so much to be thankful for and since no one here has immediate family, we enjoy joining together for the traditional dinner.

The Christmas season will soon be with us and we look forward to all the families that come to visit over the holidays. Anyone coming to South Texas is most welcome to assemble with us. There will again be services in the McAllen-Rio Grande Valley area this winter, beginning in January.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Some interest has been expressed to have additional services in Texas. In response to these requests for services, we are seeking the names and addresses of persons in several metropolitan areas, who might be interested in attending and supporting these services. The areas are Dallas, Austin, Houston, San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley.

We would appreciate any information that anyone can supply. Please send responses to:

Leland Plattner
Route 1 - Box 200
Zapata, TX 78076

SILVER THREADS

What's all this hectic rush and worry?
Where go these crowds who run and scurry?

Why all the lights - the Christmas trees?
The jolly "fat man", tell me, please!

Why, don't you know? This is the day
For parties and for fun and play;
Why this is Christmas!

So this is Christmas, do you say?
But where is Christ this Christmas Day?

Has He been lost among the throng?
His voice drowned out by empty song?

No, He's not here - you'll find Him where
Some humble soul now kneels in prayer,
Who knows the Christ of Christmas.

But see the many aimless thousands
Who gather on this Christmas Day,
Whose hearts have never yet been opened,
Or said to Him, "Come in to stay."

In countless homes the candles burning,
In countless hearts expectant yearning
For gifts and presents, food and fun,
And laughter till the day is done.

But not a tear or grief or sorrow
For Him so poor He had to borrow
A crib, a colt, a boat, a bed
Where He could lay His weary head.

I'm tired of all this empty celebration,
Of feasting, drinking, recreation;
I'll go instead to Calvary.

And there I'll kneel with those who know
The meaning of that manger low,
And find the CHRIST - this Christmas.

I leap by faith across the years
To that great day when He appears
The second time, to rule and reign,
To end all sorrow, death and pain.

In endless bliss we then shall dwell
With Him who saved our souls from hell,
And worship CHRIST - not Christmas!

M. R. De Haan, M.D.

THE GIFT

There was no indecision, what to buy
or from which stores.
This Gift was quickly chosen and sent
from heaven's doors.

It wasn't wrapped in shiny paper
or iced with a fancy bow,
But was wrapped in one clean cloth
which was wound from head to toe.

There was not scent of cedar or pine
but rather the smell of a stable.
Where oxen, donkeys and cattle slept,
and doves nested in its gable.

It wasn't placed under an evergreen
tree decked out with handmade trim,

But was lovingly laid in a straw-filled manger
in that stable so dirty and dim.

There were no flashing-colored lights,
but just one bright-shining star.
Yet that one star led the shepherds
and the three wise men from afar.

It wasn't a toy to be thrown aside
as the days and weeks went by,
But a Gift that would last through endless
time and one that would satisfy.
This Gift was meant for every man,
no matter his race or creed.

It was sent as a Gift of Love by One
who saw the great need
For God loved each of us so much
That He sent His own Son to save,
And whoever will believe in Him
need no longer fear the grave.

But each man, alone, must choose
to accept this Gift freely given.
He must reach out with an open heart
and set his eyes toward heaven.
For this living Gift, Christ Jesus,
stands waiting with arms open wide,
To receive us just as we are
and make us His Heavenly Bride.

Mary Peters, Gloucester Pt., VA

FRIENDS

Friendship never questions you,
It doesn't have to ask.
It shows in which you say and do,
No matter what the task.
You cannot see it with your eye,
Or hold it in your hand.
Together we must work and try,
To keep God's simple plan.
A man named Jesus shows the way,
He teaches us what to do.
"Love one another every day,
As much as I love you."

When trials and troubles challenge you,
And life seems so unfair,
Hand in hand we'll see them through,
Together we can bear.

Over the years as we grow,
It may be put to test.
It's truly up to us you know,
As friends we are the best.

Kristone

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all
is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in
heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God,
love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord,
at Thy birth.

Gospel Hymns #474, vs. 1, 3

There's a beautiful legend, that's never
been told,
It may have been known to the wise
men of old -
How three little children came early at
dawn,
With hearts that were sad, to where
Jesus was born.
One could not see, one was too lame to
play;
While the other, a mute, not a word
could he say.

Yet led by His star, they came there to
peep
At the little Lord Jesus, with eyes
closed in sleep.
But how could the Christ-child, so
lovely and fair,
Not waken and smile when He heard
their glad prayer.

Of hope at His coming, of faith in His
birth,
Of praise at His bringing God's peace
to the earth.
And then as the light softly came
through the door,
The lad that was lame stood upright
once more;
The boy who was mute started sweetly
to sing,
While the child that was blind looked
with joy on the King!

Charles W. H. Bancroft

man named John was sent to tell the people of the world that Jesus was coming. You and I can read about John the Baptist's life, and read the words that Jesus spoke about him. Didn't he carry out his assignment beautifully?

There was a time when John the Baptist was in prison, that he sent someone to Jesus to inquire of Him, "Art thou he that should come?" Luke 7:19. You see, John was human and he was discouraged, but he wanted that path to be just right when our Saviour came. He wanted to lower the high places, and raise up the low. Are we doing that today? I hope and I pray that we are.

It is true that Jesus is coming back. He told us so Himself. He said, "... I will come again." John 14:3. You know, and I know, that Jesus always told the truth. We should be like Him. We should always tell the truth.

We want to be like Jesus. Because, you see, He was our Perfect Example. We should think of the things that Jesus did. He did what His Father, the God of heaven, wanted Him to do in fullness and without exception.

Jesus knew when He left heaven what was ahead for Him - the cross. He knew that through His death you and I could someday be with Him in heaven. He was willing to do this but He wept. He wept because people did not realize who He was, and what He stood for.

Jesus did much. The Bible says: (He) made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and ... he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:7, 8.

Think of that. He humbled Himself. I don't believe we can stress enough how important it is that we pray that the Lord would make us humble. There are beautiful promises to those who are humble.

Dear ones, we read what happened when the flood came. We do not know exactly how long it took to build that ark, but we know that God's hand was in it. We know that the rain came, and we know that the door was closed. That's the serious part.

Some things enter my mind when I think about the Lord's return. God would have all men to be saved. That is written. Also, there is going to be a falling away before our Lord returns. Those are basic Scriptures.

But I'd like to give you a little

thought of mine. If it is wrong, forgive. The Lord wants all the souls possible prepared for that kingdom. If He sees a day down the road when there will be fewer souls prepared for that kingdom then there were the day before, then I believe our Lord in His love and mercy will close the door.

I earnestly pray for those who do not know of this wonderful love. I know you do, too. Let's pray a little more earnestly yet, and a little more often. Think of the grief when the flood came, "and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Then shall two be in the field; ... Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Matt. 24:39, 40, 41. Won't this be something? Remember the beautiful Word. Remember the thing that has sustained you on your path of life.

It says here: "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." Matt. 24:44. "Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." Matt. 24:46.

I do not want to linger long with thoughts this afternoon. Let us remember a few basic things: Jesus will return. The good Word says: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven ... and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thes. 4:16, 17.

Let's remember that this is true. Let's remember that we are unprofitable servants even if we do everything the Lord asks of us. Let's remember how patient and how kind He has been to us.

Let those of us who are on the path, remember how we rejoiced when the burden of sin was lifted. Let us also remember that there are many who still carry that burden of sin every day. It might be that they do not read the Bible. It might be that they do not go to church. But it might be that they watch your way of life. It might be that they notice your attitude toward your fellow men. They might notice that you have something greater than the things of this life.

Let us pray that we might work together, and that God will look down in mercy and in favor upon us. Someday may we be together in glory!

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

men. It makes us very careful about our sincerity in our prayer life. It makes us very careful about our regularity in reading God's Word.

Now listen; you might be in the same position. You might be working with someone, living with someone or be a neighbor to someone who would like to do the same thing. This responsibility of God's children is real.

We read some verses today concerning the Lord's return, but we are not told when that day will be.

Before Jesus came the first time, a

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY ELDER BRO. JESSE BEER OF MILFORD, IN

Text: Exodus 34:1-28 and Matthew 24:36-51

Dear ones, I believe that some of the things in these beautiful verses were mentioned this morning. We do not want to be repetitious. God knows the hearts of men, so let's try to accept this by faith in the God of heaven.

We must accept it by faith because we are all human. I know that it would be easy for you, as fellow Christians, to have something on your mind right now that could completely shut out what has been read or what will be said, because we are all human and subject to the same tempter.

Dear ones, you see a little skinny farmer who has come two hundred miles to stand before a group of people who love God. I'm not at ease in front of people. But, to put it into terms that we understand, many years ago I put my hand in the hand of God. You might say, "I'm one of His boys." I want to willingly do what the Lord would have me do. I know in my heart that you have that same desire.

This morning we heard that no matter when the Lord comes, the important thing is just to make sure that we are ready! As it says in the Psalms, "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 enquire in his temple." Psalms 27:4.

That, dear ones, is what we want. We want to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. We had the privilege to read in the Old Testament of the old covenant, the old law that God gave through Moses. It is a beautiful thing to read the whole story and to learn about God's chosen people, and how He cared for them.

God became discouraged with His people, but Moses pleaded for them. Those people, disobedient and stiff-necked and rebellious, were God's people and God loved them. When

they saw God's glory reflected on the face of Moses, they believed that God lives and talks with men.

I read just recently about a man of God who was trying to encourage a friend to follow in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was rejected year after year after year, but they must have maintained a friendly relationship as they still conversed with each other. When this man came to the time when he was going to die, he called his good friend who had been preaching God's Word to him. He said, "This is where my path ends. Would it be too late for me to follow Jesus now?" You know the answer and so do I. God is so full of love!

But remember, concerning obedience and disobedience, you know the commandments and I know the commandments. The commandments basically were given in the Old Testament. Then Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law . . . but to fulfill." Matt. 5:17.

We know that Moses interceded for God's people in the Old Testament, but now you and I have something far better. It's hard to put into words. I don't believe it can be put into words unless you've really felt it in your heart, unless you know what happens when a sinner asks the Lord for help.

O, I love some writings in this Word, and they are precious to me. I know that you feel the same. There is one verse in the Old Testament that I especially love. It says: "They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." Malachi 3:17.

Can you imagine the time when your life's span is ended, or the time when our Saviour returns, when that Voice will say, "He is mine!"?

This is especially real to me. When I

was serving my country, I had a sergeant who was best described as one who neither feared God nor regarded man. Yet, I was one of his boys. I was one of the boys for whom he had to answer as to our conduct and the things that we accomplished. In some way, they related to his accomplishments in the capacity he was asked to serve.

We had trouble. We weren't passing inspection and it brought ridicule to our sergeant. He stood before the commanding officer and said, "I'll tell you what the trouble is." He said, "You're sending someone who is not my boy to make ready for inspection. Give me one of my own boys and I'll pass inspection."

The officer said, "Sergeant, if that is what you want, take one of your own boys and get him out of here and get ready for inspection." The sergeant said, "Beer, fall out and get this place ready."

Now you see, there was a man who I don't believe had much respect for the Word of God, but he really looked out for his boys.

Can you comprehend the purity and perfectness of the heart of God? If some day you and I can hear a Voice saying, "He is mine," that will be the sign that you and I were ready.

We think about things that pertain to the Word and we do not want to bring in things that are wrong, but God's ways are far above the ways of men. Think of it, dear ones. We were all sinners. He knew it and we did too. Yet, He took us to be His own sons and His own daughters, and we are going to share that inheritance with the One who knew no sin!

It's been my privilege for the last few months to live and to work with a young man who wants to become a child of God. It sobered my mind. It makes us watch our attitude toward our fellow-

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