



Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.
Philippians 3:13

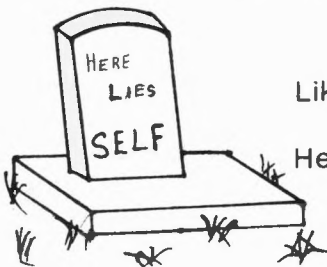
But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
II Peter 3:10

Are We Prepared For 1985?

Have we "cleaned up our act"?

Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded. James 4:8

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
I John 1:9



Are we dead? Have we lost our lives?

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:11

He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.
Matthew 10:39

Is the salt still salty?

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Matthew 5:13



Are we dressed and ready for battle?

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God... II Corinthians 10:4
For we wrestle not against flesh and blood... Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God... loins girt about with truth... breastplate of righteousness... feet shod with the preparation of the gospel... shield of faith... helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:12-17



Have we been doing our homework?

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

These were more noble... in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Acts 17:11

Are we watching in anticipation for Christ's return?

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh. Matthew 25:13

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord... shall give... unto all them that love his appearing. II Timothy 4:8



SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

January 20 has been designated as "Sanctity of Human Life" Day, commemorating the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in 1973. Christians everywhere are asked to pray about, pray for, and remember in thought or word the sanctity of human life. We are instructed in Ephesians 5:10 to be "proving what is acceptable unto the Lord". When studied in the light of scripture, the issue of the sanctity of life (including abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, etc. . .) we see that it clearly becomes an issue of good vs. evil, God-fearing vs. man-exulting, selfishness vs. selflessness and life vs. death.

For thou hast possessed my reins; thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. Psalm 139. Many people, young, old, men, women and children consider the above issues as simple solutions! They treat the killing of the unborn or deformed babies as a way to get out of a bad situation easily and forever without any repercussions. We know from experience that this line

of thinking is unrealistic, naive and extremely destructive to both the woman and her child. There are those who will try and "muddy the waters", but when the scripture is allowed to cut through the issue as a "two-edged sword", it can very quickly clear our vision.

May we as Christians remember Sanctity of Life Day, January 20, in both prayer and sincere thought. In the coming year, 1985, may we do our part to have an impact for God and what is right. Let us seek out what God's Word says about the issues, and then let us not refrain in either word, thought or deed.

Therefore to him that knoweth of do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.
James 4:17

If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; if thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart considereth it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth he not know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?
Proverbs 24:11, 12

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed by our Churches
First Year - August 1983 thru July 1984 - 13,890

Bibles Distributed - Second Year

| | MONTH | TO DATE |
|------------------|-------|---------|
| August 1984 - | 909 | 909 |
| September 1984 - | 749 | 1658 |
| October 1984 - | 686 | 2344 |
| November 1984 - | 1246 | 3590 |
| December 1984 - | 944 | 4534 |

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORK PROJECTS

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men."

This portion of Scripture (Galatians 6:10) was recently selected by the Apostolic Christian Work Projects committee as the motto or emblem for its program. Formerly known as "The Lord's Work Opportunity Program For Apostolic Christians" this endeavor to develop work projects for those inclined to seek opportunity to work for the Lord has been in the planning stages for about one year. The commit-

tee is composed of members from the Apostolic Christian Missionary and World Relief Committees.

The committee has adopted as its Statement of Purpose the following:

— To provide opportunities to serve the Lord on a voluntary basis by any members and friends of the Truth who regularly attend and support the doctrine of the Apostolic Christian Church who are so moved to contribute their time, effort and skills.

— To develop such work projects that will serve to aid those in need

wherever they may be located within the United States or beyond.

— To screen projects developed by other organizations utilizing the guidelines contained in the World Relief Committee brochure and sanction them if appropriate.

— To develop and/or approve such projects and to provide spiritual guidance and counsel to the participants and to take such measures as may be required to encourage and ensure that the faith and doctrine of the Apostolic Christian Church not be compromised.

This program and these principles are to be under direct supervision of the Apostolic Christian Church Elder Body and its representation through its Missionary and World Relief Committees.

The program is aimed primarily at the provision of relief from human suffering. It also implies the opportunity to share fellowship among Apostolic Christian volunteers and one's Christian conversion testimony among others as may be inspired.

The projects will hopefully provide

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.

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

opportunities of local, domestic and foreign nature. Where the latter is involved, it will be the intention to include an Apostolic Christian minister among the volunteers to hold worship services during the absence from their home congregations.

The primary financial support for these projects will require some funding from the World Relief and Mission Funds. Volunteers will be encouraged to share in some of the expenses, especially travel. Local congregations' support through either of the above mentioned funds will be appreciated.

Any members or friends who are interested in voluntary participation in this program should fill out a Volunteer Information Form. A supply of these have been provided for each congregation through the local elder.

There are a number of projects already under way as a part of this program. These include the Honduras school construction project, Haiti work teams and India medical assistance. In the planning stages are assistance programs for smaller churches and a food packaging center.

The purpose of this article is to be informative and to encourage prospective volunteers. Submitting a completed Volunteer Information form does not obligate a volunteer to participate nor does it imply a commitment. It is primarily a source of information upon which the magnitude of project development can be based.

There is also a need to identify potential work projects. In the near future, a format for submitting projects for consideration will be introduced. As they are developed, it is intended to keep the volunteers and churches notified.

The current need is for several volunteers to participate in the February 15, Haiti school roof construction project. Interested parties should submit a Volunteer Information Form and notify Bro. Harold Witzig at 309-266-6263.

We pray that God will bless this program as we seek only to do His will and follow the exhortations contained in His Holy Word.

Submitted by: Bro. John Klotzle
Secretary - Treasurer

Supporting Contributions

The sources of support are as follows:

1. Allocations made by the World Relief Committee three times a year at their meetings.

2. Special purpose collections made by local churches for food packages to Romania. These are forwarded to the Committee Treasurer, Bro. Vernon Leman.

3. Investment income from funds collected for possible reconstruction of Romanian church buildings.

These funds are forwarded to Bro. Leon Graf who is responsible for their disbursement. Reports are prepared by him three times a year for review and approval by the committee at their meetings.

Total receipts for the year ended August 4, 1984 amounted to \$136,348 and for the four months ended November 30, 1984, to \$43,316. This included over \$69,000 and \$30,000 respectively for those two periods, for Romanian food boxes and other aid to Romania. There is now a cash balance large enough to continue sending food boxes through the winter to about 170 families on a monthly basis.

Expenditures

Cash is disbursed monthly for food packages to Romania. Bro. Andy Hunyady of Columbus handles the package orders through Zurich, Switzerland and New York City. He received Romanian post office confirmation cards as evidence of receiving the food packages. These packages are assembled and distributed inside Romania. During the last 16 months over 1,600 food boxes have been sent to Romania using this method. The Apostolic Christian Work Projects Committee is now studying a program for possibly doing our own packaging and distributing.

Cash aid is sent bi-monthly to other Eastern European countries. Checks are prepared in three different ways, depending upon that country's needs, as determined by the church elders there. Checks are sent either directly to the needy person, or the authorized brothers in charge of alms distribution, or to a specific bank account recognized by the government as a church charity account. Total funds disbursed in this manner amounted to approximately \$28,000 for the year ended August 4, 1984 and \$9,600 for the four months ended November 30, 1984.

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 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

WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE EASTERN EUROPE REPORT

December 20, 1984

Background

A brief history of European Relief is recorded in "World Relief Activities and Report 1976 - 1981", the most recent brochure published by the World Relief Committee. The follow-

ing report is intended to provide an update covering primarily the 1984 aid sent to Eastern Europe. Accordingly, the main phases of current activities is presented for your information and prayerful consideration.

This form of aid helped over 110 very needy families.

Correspondence

Several brothers have given translation assistance in handling correspondence with Eastern Europe. Bro. Andy Hunyady takes care of correspondence translation for Romania and Yugoslavia, using primarily the Hungarian language. Bro. Sandor Bako of Akron prepares the translation letters to Hungarian representatives and translates their replies. Recently Bro. Philip Webber, who is a German professor at Central College, Pella, Iowa, offered to translate German correspondence to East Germany and two elders from other countries who write in the German language. Bro. Rudy Graf of Akron had helped with German translation for many years. As one can see, this special area of the work must be done accurately and these brothers have made a valuable contribution to this aid program!

This support for Eastern Europe aid has grown very rapidly in the past year, especially due to the special church collections for food boxes to Romania. The World Relief Committee wishes to thank again each church and contributor for special efforts in this urgent need. Your help and prayers, with God's blessing, have added greatly to the physical and spiritual needs of the believers in Eastern Europe. May God reward each of you for the measure of your compassion in remembering those of the household of faith in Eastern Europe.

Bro. Leon Graf
Committee Member

MEMORIES OF JAPAN AND INDIA

Due to lack of space in this issue, the continuation of the article "Memories of Japan and India", by Elder Bro. David Bertsch, will be continued in the February issue.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring — Judy Luginbuhl

The Christmas season has come and gone so rapidly, we can hardly believe it is an historical fact already. The staff and the children have enjoyed the break from the routine of school work, and the daily activities of the home. We have spent many pleasant hours vaca-

tioning with those we love, and enjoying each other's company. We are a very privileged people to have the ways and means to visit those we love and cherish. In America, we enjoy many freedoms; let us be thankful for them.

As we reminisce over the year 1984, many changes have taken place in our lives. Change is inevitable and is constantly taking place; as long as we can adjust to these changes, and we can with His help, we get along quite well. We all proceed through this life at the same pace — one day at a time. We are to rejoice in each day the Lord gives us, and our Savior tells us how to do it. "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Matthew 6:34.

We trust that in the year of our Lord, 1985, we will draw nearer to Him, in whom lieth our refuge for each day, and our hope for eternity.

Each of our children have watched many changes take place over the past year, most of which occurred completely beyond their control. Other types of changes that take place within a person, such as personality changes, require intense effort and a great deal of time. Some of our children recently wrote down their New Year's resolution — to wake up in a better mood, lose weight, change their attitude, be a better sport, improve school working habits, just to name a few. All of these to some degree involve correcting pretty well-established learned behaviors. So difficult are these to change that we often find ourselves with the same goals or resolutions each year and almost sometimes even want to "give up" trying to improve ourselves.

In our work here at our home, we are very aware of the importance of changes in our own lives, as well as the lives of our children. We believe it can and does happen, however, usually not without several ingredients: prayer, God's Word, time, desire, commitment and willingness to share openly with those we trust can help us. It is a continuous process; every day we must religiously reevaluate and reconfirm our commitment. As a staff we strive to give our children direction and encouragement in improving those positive qualities they desire to have.

Not only here at our home but also as Christians it is so important to remember the value of encouraging and build-

ing up one another. When we feel support behind us, it seems to give us the breath of fresh air and the extra strength to take those positive steps forward, to bring about some improvement in our lives and draw us closer to our Lord.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed."
James 5:16

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Because January is just one small "step" beyond Christmas, we are still entertaining happy memories. The pretty lights around the area, the many groups of carolers who came here to the Home, the beautiful music floating through the halls and the annual Residents' Christmas party, which included a program, the breaking of a candy-filled pinata and a gift for each resident combined to make this season special and exciting for our "family". To you who have helped in any way to make it nice, we again express our thanks.

In Philippians 3:13, we are reminded "... forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before ..."

On the last day of the year, one perhaps has a tendency to look back with regret on the many mistakes, disillusionments and disappointments that occurred during the past year. It is good to look back if one does it constructively, with the idea of seeing where one has made mistakes so that they will not be repeated. However, it is also helpful to reflect back on the good days, those which brought unusual peace and satisfaction from deeds well done, from shared joys or stimulating companionship. Our eyes are put in the front of our heads, not in the back. We are made to look forward and to go forward. The immediate task before us has a right to the full measure of our attention. Instead of being miserable over past grievances, one should reflect on the pleasant things briefly, then press forward to the achievement of the goals of the present and future; always remembering that whether we know it or not, we have much influence about us. Charlotte E. Neuls wrote her thoughts thus: "The slightest breeze that ever blew/Some slender gass has wavered;/The smallest life I ever knew/Some other life has flavored./We cannot live our lives alone/For other

lives we touch/Are either strengthened by our own,/Or weakened just as much."

Here and there bits of wisdom may be gleaned from various sources. These may prove a source of inspiration and direction for the coming year.

"A wise man will desire no more than he may get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully and leave contentedly."
Author Unknown

"Speak well of everyone if you speak of them at all — none of us is so very good."
Elbert Hubbard

"Let things you have and need not, serve those who need and have not."
Author Unknown

"Sense shines with a double luster when it is set in humility. An able and yet humble man is a jewel worth a kingdom."
William Penn

How far do I have to carry my burden to God in prayer? Just across the threshold of my heart, for He is waiting there.

It is when we forget ourselves that we do things that are remembered.

If we take care of our thoughts, our actions will take care of themselves.

When we are in the right, we need not lose our temper; and when we are in the wrong, we cannot afford to lose it.

Patience is the ability to let your light shine after your fuse is blown.

Unbelief is not a product of the intellect, but of the will.

Service station for faith: "Get your 'thanks' full."

None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.

The only fair way to talk about somebody is to speak as though you knew he were listening in.

Author Unknown

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Schrenk

We had our church Christmas supper and afterwards we went caroling. We went to the nursing home and also to the homes of some of our older members. This is the first time I ever went caroling in shirt sleeves, as it was 70 degrees.

Our fellowship hall is coming along well. Brick and drywall are almost all on. Thanks again to our northern brethren, who have given so willingly of their labors of love, time and contributions.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Vernon Leman, Elmer Schrenk and Earl Kilgus. We

thank each one for their messages and gifts of love. These gifts sent to us by God, make us realize what a blessed people we are and how good God is to us. He has filled our year with blessings untold and we know he will continue to bless us in the year to come, if we stay close to Him. So remember our small congregation in your prayers and stop to visit us when traveling this way.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Eve Hoerr

At communion service on November 18, we heard the story of the Passover from Matthew 26:26-27 which tells us "Take, eat; this is my body." "Drink ye all of it." Bro. Noah Herman came from Tucson to assist Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach in serving us the holy sacrament.

Thanksgiving Day services were a happy time as families gathered together to give thanks unto the Lord.

On December 2, Bro. Leon Baumgartner and Sis. Nancy Knobloch exchanged wedding vows before Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, who instructed them to "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love." Ephesians 5:1, 2. Their parents are Sis. Iola Knobloch and Bro. Glen and Sis. Alice Baumgartner. The parents hosted a pre-nuptial dinner on Saturday evening. May they continue their close walk with Him.

We enjoyed an "armchair" trip to India via Elder Bro. Schupbach's talk and slides. We praise the Lord for the work being done and shall remain ever grateful for the safe return of our Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach and Roy Grimm and Bro. John Klotzle during the time of turmoil after the assassination.

On November 13, baby Philip Ross Germann first opened his eyes to see his parents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca. His brother, Kyle, his grandma, Alberta Germann and Bro. Bob and Sis. Eugene Knapp (maternal grandparents, Eureka) and Sis. Anna Hari, great-grandmother also welcomed him into the family circle.

On December 16 we truly enjoyed the Sunday School Christmas program. As the 79 youngsters raised their voices in singing "Angels We Have Heard On High", we felt assured of a continuing strong church in Phoenix. We thank Bro. John Dotterer and Bro. Al Yackley and all the teachers for all their efforts in this Christmas endeavor.

We extend deepest sympathy to Sis. Ora Schrenk and family on the death of her brother in Kansas and to Bro. John Kaufman and family and Betty Hari on the death of Betty's mother who is the children's grandmother. Sis. Hari resided in the Eureka Nursing Home. The family members returned to KS and IL for their respective families.

We pray for better health for Sis. Gladys Fisher who has not been able to worship with us this past month. We are thankful to see Sis. Minnie Farney, Sis. Martha DeMille, Sis. Sherry Roth and Floren Klopfenstein back to worship.

As 1984 is drawing to a close, the Phoenix congregation extends a happy new year in the Lord.

Now unto God and our Father, be glory forever and ever. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

A REMINDER: Phoenix Silver Lining dues are due in March. Cost is \$7.00.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Sandy Bauer — Lisa Knapp

On November 17, our dear friend Orville Schmidt passed from this life. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his dear wife, Bee, and to the rest of the family. May God comfort the hearts of each and fill the void which will be left in the lives of Orville's family.

With Christmas and the New Year fast approaching, I thought of the following passage from Our Daily Bread . . . and how appropriate it is during this season. Let me share it with you:

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

has planned it all ahead for us. And so we rest upon His promises . . . We have not passed this way before, but HE KNOWS THE WAY. Only follow! Let Him guide, and it will indeed be a HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

M. R. DeHaan, M.D.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Mary Beth Klotzle

" . . . I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12

God continues to work in the hearts and lives of the people He created, lending them out of darkness and into the light of His salvation. Cherise Strahm has surrendered to the Lord's loving call and has begun her walk with Him. We rejoice with Cherise and pray for His continuing grace and guidance in her new life.

We received encouragement and good instruction through the words God gave to our two visiting ministers, Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT). We ask a special prayer for God's blessings to those brothers who willingly serve as ministers of His Word.

As we begin a new year, may we each one serve our Lord with joyful zeal, and grow through His love and grace! Let's daily encourage our brothers and sisters, be willing to share the plan of His salvation with lost souls, and pray for His blessings upon all mankind.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammon

We were grateful to have Bro. Clarence Dietrich minister to our small group on Sunday morning, December 9. Thank you, Bro. Clarence.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peter and Marian Petrovic

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Matthew 24:14

Through the help of our Lord and the unity of our dear ministering brothers, services will now be held in San Diego every second and last Sunday of the month (January 13, 27 & February 10, 24). Brothers from Altadena, Phoenix and Tucson have agreed to take turns and minister the gospel of salva-

tion to the friends and brethren here in San Diego. We thank these brothers for their support and willingness that through them God's work may be done.

We encourage and welcome anyone visiting in the San Diego area to assemble with us. At the present time, services will be held at Bro. Victor Jevremov's home. For further information, please contact Bros. Victor Jevremov (619) 755-3341 or Peter Petrovic (619) 489-5165.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

Greetings! We are so happy to once again witness the Lord's handiwork in a soul's life as Kathy Leman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene) begins her life in the Lord. We pray that God will be with her and grant her the grace so necessary in this important step.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern) came to spend a Sunday with us. May God bless him for his labors in our behalf.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. For to one is given by the spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same spirit; to another faith by the same spirit . . ." I Corinthians 12:4, 8 and 9, God has blessed us with faithful brethren to fill the offices in our church. Treasurer, Bro. Eric Huber; Sunday school teachers, Bro. Doug Hohulin, Bro. Mike Martin, Sis. Sharyl Hohulin and Sis. Pam Edelman. Trustees, Bro. Lee Ruegsegger, Bro. Keith Kaufman and Bro. Tom Ebert. We wish them much Godly wisdom to fulfill these important duties.

We extend our condolences to Bro. Keith and Sis. Carol Kaufman in the death of his grandmother, Sis. Dorothy Hari of the Eureka Home.

There are many people who have not the blessings: we have; food shelter, good health, jobs, loved ones and the hope of eternal life. Let us ever be mindful of those less fortunate. "Blessed is he that considers the poor: The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble." Psalm 41:1.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

. . . This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:12-13

As we reflect on this past year's blessings, we surely have much to be thankful for. In our reflection of the holy season, it is difficult to imagine or comprehend Jesus dying on the cross so that we all might live. It is truly a gift from our Lord as we witness His love, mercy and unselfishness. We live so freely and all that He seeks in return is our service for Him. Let us seek our salvation so that we might gain that eternal reward.

A New Year is about to begin and may this year be one blessed with love, joy and peace for all our brothers, sisters and friends here in our congregation and all across the land. May we always pray to have more tolerance and love for each other.

During the month we gathered to hear the memorandum to the churches from the Annual Brotherhood Conference. May we apply what we have heard to our hearts and daily walk with Him.

Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105. We rejoice to see another soul turn to God in humbleness and prayer. Our dear Sandy O'Connor has chosen to seek her soul's salvation.

Heartfelt love is extended to the many expressions of sympathy, cards, and gifts of love during the passing of Bro. Urban Luginbuhl. May God bless you all.

The Charlotte Luginbuhl Family

As a New Year begins, another fades away. We were saddened over the death of Roland Andrews (husband of Sis. Marion Welti Andrews). He leaves two sons, Kurt (Tolland) and Keith (Lake Worth, FL); a daughter, Sis. Jane Ballasy (Ellington); a brother, Russell (Vernon); and a sister, Evelyn Ruske (Vernon). May God comfort and provide strength to all the family.

Pamela Mangold was married Saturday, August 25 to Gary Trinke (Union, CT). Pam's parents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha. Gary's are Mr. and Mrs. Louis Trinke. May God bind their hearts with love.

January is collection month for our congregation. Please see your correspondent during this month for subscription payment (\$7.00). Any change in address, additions or deletions to subscriptions should also be directed to your correspondent and not mailed directly.

May God bless us all richly in the

coming year and may we never forget the importance of our soul's salvation.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Billie Klopfenstein

The World Relief Committee and Work Projects Committee met in Ft. Lauderdale December 7 & 8. It was a blessed time for each one of us as we fellowshiped with them, saw slides of India and heard first-hand some of their experiences while in India. We were so pleased that they chose our church as a meeting place. It was a moving experience to have the group in our midst. Elder brothers attending were Perry Zimmerman, David Bertsch, Wendell Gudeman, Nathan Steffen and Roy Grimm. Ministering brothers attending were Vernon Leman, Loren Strahm, John Klotzle, Jim Hoerr, Francis Rother, Al Schneider, Floyd Wieland and Ed Aeschliman. Bro. Roy Grimm spoke to us on Sunday evening in an informal gathering. We are so thankful his health had improved enough for him to make the long journey to be with us.

Our congregation was blessed to have Bro. Dave Wiegand with us one recent Sunday. We appreciate the time and effort each ministering brother puts forth.

The Sunday school children presented the Christmas story in song, verse and scripture reading. Each child did an excellent job and we want to thank them and their teachers, Bro. Brian Webb, Bro. Rich Sutter and Sis. Judy Sauder. After hymn singing by the congregation, cookies and punch were served and enjoyed by all.

Quite a large group, including children, met at the fellowship hall one evening and then went caroling at a hospital, nursing home and at some of our older members' homes. Lunch was waiting for them on their return. A very special evening was enjoyed by young and old alike.

Our remodeling of the church is nearly completed. Some of the cleaning up is finished and we expect to be having services in the church again soon.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Marie Keller — Elsie Troxel

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" I Kings 8:27

Bro. Art Gudeman opened our first morning service, December 9, with the above text and these remarks: "Isn't this beautiful? Words fail me. For years we have longed for our own place of worship. Our prayers are answered. May the Lord bless every hand that helped to build this beautiful building." He gave this advice to the congregation, "May I urge you to be present for the first song and receive the first blessing. When we come to worship, God will be here to meet us and bless us."

Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman said in parting words of prayer, "Lord give us a clear vision of thy love for us, and our calling unto thee." We also thank Bro. Dave Wiegand and Bro. Ken Schneider for worshipping with us.

North Ft. Myers church is located two miles north of the Shell Factory to an Apostolic Christian Church sign on the east side of the road, across from Del Turo Mobile Home Park. Visitors are welcome.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Doris and Diane Rocke

Newcomers to our congregation these last months are Bro. John Eisenmann (Peoria, IL), Sis. Beth Alt (Cissna Park, IL) and the family of Van and Linda Maletich, Teri, Wendy and Bryan. May they be lead by the hand of God that His will may be done.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL), Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL). We ask God to bless you for giving of yourself in our service.

Fredona Sheffer has been in a wheelchair since surgery on her other knee. They returned in September after a three-month visit with their family and soon after entered the hospital. We have missed her sweet smile and wish her a speedy recovery so that she may soon assemble with us at church.

Bro. John Heiniger was hospitalized for minor surgery and has recovered nicely.

Sis. Helen Laparo's mother, Pauline Geary, arrived here in late summer and has been quite ill. Her sister, Pauline Hronat, who has found peace with God has left Sarasota for the comforts of the Apostolic Christian Home, 10680 Steiner Road, Rittman, OH 44270. They are both confined and would

welcome mail. May God bless all these shut-ins and give courage for each day and also to those who must help bear the pain. We must all remember the Christians' duty of visiting the less fortunate, especially at the Christmas season. May our love for others be as God's love, being so great that he gave His Son as a baby in a manger, to grow to manhood and die on a cross for us.

We will again hear the Christ Child program, which praises God for giving His Son to the world as an example and sacrifice for all mankind. May these teachers be rewarded for their efforts, as the messages are instilled in the youth. We thank God above for the great love and also to our dear brothers and sisters with their love and patience.

A word of thanks. My hospital stay was quite an experience but what a wonderful feeling to know many dear ones are praying for you. What a blessed people we are. We can never appreciate it enough. My sincere thanks to all that sent get well cards. May the Lord bless all of you that remembered me so kindly.

In His love,
 Sis. Elizabeth Knapp

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Charmin Sellers — Nancy Foltz

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. Psalm 33:5

Our visiting ministers for the month of December were Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We thank them for giving of their time to come share the Word with us.

Since we are coming to the end of another year, we would like to express our appreciation to all visiting brothers and sisters that gave of their time to worship with our congregation. God has truly blessed us during the past year and we are very grateful.

We invite anyone who may be in the Atlanta area to come and be with our congregation. For information, contact Don Sellers at 404-923-0721 or Nancy Foltz at 404-451-9191.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Shirley Denick — Jan Gudeman

On November 25, Sis. Gale Hari and Bro. Richard Kiefer were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Ever-

ett and Sis. Bev Hari and Bro. Richard and Sis. Louise Kiefer (Gridley). We wish them God's richest blessing as they begin their lives together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Ann Kachelmuss, who has spent some time in the hospital. We miss her smiling face in our congregation and wish her a speedy recovery.

We were blessed again this month with several visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley).

"I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray, till heaven I've found,
Lord, lead me on to higher ground!"

J.R.M.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Shirley Kieser

The little children told the story of Jesus well, and the ending recitation stated — May the blessings of the Christmas-tide, The Christmas love and cheer, Within your hearts, dear friends, abide, Throughout the coming year.

As the Bible class ended with the song; Star of the midnight fail not, Till all the world shall cease Striving in vain for conquest, Seeking in vain for peace, Bring every nation humbly, Even to that manger stall, That they may truly worship, Jesus the Lord of all. Gospel Hymns #860.

That is our wish for the New Year, that love and cheer could abide; that striving for conquest would cease; that nations and people could seek true peace by humble worship of Jesus, Lord of all. It's a worthwhile desire to work and pray for this year.

Our thanks goes out to visiting ministers, Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago), Don Manz (Junction), Joe Stoller and Jim Plattner (Princeville). May God bless them and their families for sharing with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ed Guingrich in the passing of his brother, Omer.

We're so glad Marjie Sturm is out of the hospital and recuperating in the home of her parents, Bro. Edwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold. Our prayer is that, while it may seem a slow and painful recovery, Marjie will be comforted in the loving care of her family

and know there are many prayers being offered on her behalf.

Sis. Marilyn Tanner is Bradford's new correspondent. Bro. Richard, Wayne, Craig, Jenny and John are her family.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Momentum, which officially means "Mass times velocity", is the tendency of an object to continue in a particular direction for a time, even after the force which moved it is no longer being applied. Let us be careful in our Christian lives to always be in touch with our force, the love of Christ and His will for us. Then our faith (mass) will continue to grow (velocity), increasing our momentum, carrying us past snares and entrapments with which Satan would hinder us if we were slower-growing (velocity) or had less faith (mass). Too, if we neglect our Lord and His will, others may not notice a difference in our lives immediately — because of momentum — but soon our lives spiritually would come to a standstill. Then we could be pushed in the opposite direction. Let us beware.

Our lives were spiritually enriched by the visits of Bro. Virgil Metzger (Champaign, IL), Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), their families and others. Truly we have respite from the "world" when we sit in heavenly places each Sunday and Wednesday evening. May we pray ever more sincerely that the Spirit speak instead of ourselves, removing "self" from our thoughts and actions, the way our ministers do. May the Lord provide for each one.

The Sunday school Christmas program each year grows more precious. This year we watched (among others), a tall young man of high school age begin and end the program with meaningful quotes. It seems only yesterday he spoke of the "sheep with the curly hoin (curly horn)" in his preschool best. Time has flown, but our theme was an enduring one: "The Christian's Christmas", focusing on God's gift to us, the decorating, the cards, the caroling, family get-togethers, our gifts to Christ, and our worship. If by our fruit we are known, then at Christmas particularly the rest of the world should know the focus of our Christmas celebration. Caroling, also an annual Sunday school event, includes both old and

young. How heartwarming it is when the young realize how appreciative the aged and infirm are of their visit and their carols. Then these same teens feel warm and good because they have been of service to others.

In this season of warmth and friendliness, we are blessed to have more people to welcome to our Chicago church. Bro. Lloyd Hartman and his wife, Toni, have moved to Bourbonnais, IL from the Champaign-Urbana area. Sheila Kay Beutel and Steven Daniel Leman are new babies, reminding us of Jesus, born as a baby so long ago. Sheila was born November 21 to Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel. They and her siblings, Stephanie and Greg, welcome her home. Her grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Bro. Dave and Sis. Eunice Beutel (Tremont, IL) are glad to visit. Steven was born December 10 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jackie Leman. They, his brother, Marcus, and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Nola Gramm (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Paul and Sis. Milli Leman (Chicago) are delighted to have another person to love. We are all for each one, for each is a gift from God.

Truly we are rejoicing with Paula Kaspar, who has found her salvation by faith in Christ and desires to become part of His fold. May the Lord shine His light upon her path, and may we be a support to her and to each other.

Along with those we rejoice with, there are those who are suffering pain. Sis. Peg Klaus is recuperating from knee surgery. Sis. Ida Laubscher has been feeling ill and has moved to the shelter care section of the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home. Our hearts reach out to both sisters, but especially to Sis. Ida, who is older, who has the adjustment of moving plus her illness with which to deal. Physical suffering can cause feelings of loneliness or depression, and emotional suffering can be just as devastating. Let us pray for these our loved ones and others we know are suffering painfully, physically and emotionally. The Lord can heal.

"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but look what they can do when they stick together." V. M. Kelly. Each snowflake is an individual, unlike any other, lacking in size and influence. Yet each one obeys God's laws, and by being bonded together, they have tremendous power and strength. May we look around us and learn from the examples the Lord has

wrought and especially remember the two greatest commandments: "... thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Mark 12:30-31

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Myrna Weerts — Wilma Walder

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest
 Which the Spirit does bestow.
 Though I had a voice like angels,
 Lacking love, I truly know
 That I'd be a tinkling cymbal
 Or a wretched sounding brass;
 For although the sound were present,
 Lifeless thought this world I'd pass.

Zion's Harp #37

Our congregation shared in the joy as the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Max Kaeb and Sis. Beth Bauer was made. Their parents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and the late Earl and Sis. Grace Bauer. We wish them God's blessing in their approaching marriage.

We all were saddened by the sudden passing of Arthur W. Martin (son of Sis. Kathryn, who resides at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Rest Home). Surviving, besides his mother, are three sisters, Sis. Lois Belsley (Ben, Detroit, MI), Sis. Beulah Funk (Leo, Morton), Sis. Arlene Stock (Lester, Cissna Park); four brothers, Bro. Richard (Sarasota, FL), Ed and Bro. William (both of Morton) and Bro. Vernon (East Lynn). He was preceded in death by his father.

Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4. Enjoying his new walk of life is Bro. Mike Walder (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma). Sharing in this blessed day was Elder Bro. Bob Walder and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville).

The Bluffton choir visited us December 1 and 2 and sang for our congregation after a church potluck at the fellowship hall on Saturday evening and after church services Sunday afternoon. Ministering Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) were with us for the blessed weekend. Other ministering brothers for the month were Earl Gerber (Forrest), Ron Heiniger

(Bloomington), Fred Knapp (Congerville) and Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN). We are thankful for all our visiting ministers and wish them Godspeed in all their endeavors in the work of the Lord.

Our prayers ascend for those sick and in the hospital. They are Sis. Elsie Bauer and Bro. Lester Rocke (both surgical), Bro. Jake Funk, Sis. Mattie Bauer and Sis. Mabel Vogel. Sis. Mabel has been moved to the Iroquois Memorial Rest Home until she is well enough to come home. Sis. Helen Knapp has moved to the Peoria Apostolic Christian Nursing Home for the winter. We wish them God's care and protection during this time.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Kay Roth — Tammy Knapp

With the New Year upon us we pray that each of us may rededicate our lives to God and that His love, joy and peace may rule in our lives throughout the coming year.

We are so happy to hear the announcement of Sis. Kathy Miller (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Ben Zimmerman (Bro. Orville and Sis. Lulu). We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan their lives together.

Kent and Sis. Beth Steffen have welcomed a little ray of sunshine into their home. Craig Edward was welcomed by David and Kayla. The grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary Steffen and John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach (Oakville, IA).

We would like to thank Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) for bringing us God's Holy Word. How we appreciate our faithful brothers who so untiringly bring forth the true Word of God.

Wesley Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Dave Zimmerman were our hospital patients this month. We are glad that Wesley is home and that Dave will feel our prayers for his recovery.

Our sympathy goes out to the Clayton Ott family and Mahlon and Katherine Zimmerman in the loss of their brother, Aaron Ott (Gridley, KS).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Ruth Ann Getz

Each New Year we are reminded of the passing away of the old year, often symbolized as a decrepit old man; and of the birth of the new year in the form of a newborn baby. I have always enjoyed this analogy, because just as with visible nature it is another reminder of

resurrection. To us who have hope of an eternal resurrection through the power of Jesus Christ, these natural and physical types of the spiritual resurrection draw our focus back to the eternal values which need to control our every thought, decision and action.

In these last days, we are often confronted with an atheistic view of life, one that doesn't allow for the possibility of a spiritual realm or of hope beyond the grave. And yet, everywhere in the physical realm, and especially at a time like the birth of a new year, nature itself teaches us of the pattern of life out of death that God has ordained. We who believe have the advantage of being able to really appreciate and understand resurrection in the physical world because Christ who is the first fruits of our resurrection teaches us that there will be, and puts within our hearts a hope of eternal resurrection through Him.

This hope gives great impetus to the Christian life. In I John 3:2-3 we read that "it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." In this new year, let us who have been regenerated purify ourselves as we look forward to the imminent return of Christ, whom we shall be like.

We are happy to receive Sis. Lois (Metzger) Steffen to the Elgin community. She and Bro. Gary were united in holy matrimony November 25. May God's abiding peace and grace dwell with them in their new life together.

Bro. Brent Klopfenstein has graduated from the University of Illinois this winter semester, and has taken a position with Sundstrand in Rockford. We trust that the Lord has guided Brent and Sis. Juli's path to the Rockford area, and we look forward to having them in our fellowship once again.

December 22 marks the wedding day of Amy Klopfenstein (Bro. Richard and Sis. Judy) and Patrick Walker. We wish God's richest blessings for this young couple in their new life together. They will be making their home in Bloomingdale, IL, where both of them are employed.

We are sorry that Harvey Schurter has had need for hospitalization. We ask that God may lay His healing hand on him, and restore him to good health.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA**Kathy L. Rocke**

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

Hymns of Zion #150

As we go forth into a new year, we all have so much to give thanks for. To know Jesus as our Saviour is the most valuable and precious experience one can have. May God grant us grace to be good soldiers of the cross!

We have had many loved ones who have spent time in the hospital. Our prayers are with Bros. Ben Schumacher and Sam Schmidgall, Sis. Laura Getz and Loretta Wettstein. Bro. Clarence Wenger is still in the hospital at this writing. May God heal and bless as He sees best.

"Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole; I want Thee forever to live in my soul; Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Hymns of Zion #210. We gathered together on Saturday evening, December 1, to hear the testimonies of Ted and Donna Blunier and Myron and Elaine Blunier. The following day we welcomed them as our brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord. How we rejoice with them! Their parents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Verda Blunier, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller (Princeville) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Tremont). Also with us were Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Bros. Nathan Stoller (Bradford) and John Steiner (Oakville). We thank them for their labors.

December 9 we enjoyed the precious Word of life as brought forth by Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL). We welcome them back and pray God will bless them in their service to Him.

Kim Kupferschmid and Tim Getz exchanged wedding vows at the Roanoke fellowship hall. Their parents are Lonny and Kandy Kupferschmid and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Getz (Roanoke). May God be with them as they establish their home.

On December 16 we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Cheryl Saathoff and Bro. Mark Zimmerman. Bro. George and Sis. Thelma Saathoff and Bro. Leland and Sis. Laurene Zimmerman are their parents. May God's blessings rest upon them as they begin

their walk as one in the Lord. We appreciated the teachings of Bros. Jim Leman and Jim Byrd (Roanoke) also on this day.

When a Christian dies,
Precious is the prize;
Lasting joys for days of sorrow,
Rest from conflict on the morrow
Follows when she dies.

Hymns of Zion #248

Sis. Dorothy Hari, 92, passed away on December 15 at the "Home". May God's comforting spirit be with her beloved husband, Bro. Gottlieb. Also surviving are two daughters, Geradine Hangartner and Betty Jane Kaufman. "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." John 14:18. Services were held on December 18.

Wednesday, December 19, we hope to have our Christmas program. We are always blessed when the Sunday school children express their love for Jesus.

NOTE: Silver Lining collection (\$7.00) will be in January for Eureka. I would appreciate your promptness.

We do not know WHAT the future holds, but we go forth confidently knowing WHO holds the future.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr**

We had a blessed weekend on November 24 and 25 when Leann Kaisner (Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge) and Donna (Hoffman) Maurer gave their testimonies and were baptized. May God's grace and Holy Spirit ever be with them. Visiting us that weekend were Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

We are thankful when God continues to stir hearts in our congregation. He has recently touched Ned Bahler (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne).

Our thanks is extended to Elder Bro. Leroy Huber and Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) who recently spent a Sunday with us.

Our Sunday school presented their Christmas program on Sunday evening, December 16. It is always an inspiration to see each student, four-year-olds to seniors, try their best.

So soon after the Christmas holidays we find ourselves on the brink of a new year and I felt this poem was so fitting:

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

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

To thank the Lord and every day
Remember Him, and kneel to pray
In gratitude for strength and health
And blessings which are all my wealth!

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

Lolita Pinney

ILLINOIS, FORREST**Kathy Leman — Sharon Adams**

The Gospel was brought to us in truth and we thank Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Bro. Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) for so willingly lending themselves in God's work.

We give our prayerful support to our Bro. Gary Brown as he begins his new duties in the ministry of God's Word. It is such an important responsibility and we pray that God will bless him and his family.

We had one hospital patient this month. Vicki Pruitt was hospitalized but is home again. Also, Sis. Leona Ricketts has returned home since our last writing and is assembling with us again. May God ever be close to those in sickness or those with ailments.

Bro. Greg Stoller and Bro. Ray Steidinger have been elected to teach in Sunday school. This is also an important duty as these children are our future church. May they see in the teachers the example and light to show them the way of the Lord.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee Wenger would like to express their deepest and most sincere heartfelt thanks for the love, prayers and kindness shown to them during their time of sorrow in the loss of their beloved little Nathan. They have felt truly comforted and overwhelmed. May God bless each one for their deeds of kindness.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**Bev Joos**

God has so graciously granted us yet another brand new, unblemished year. Every opportunity is there. All pages

are white and fair. How will we fill them? Why were we allowed to see 1985? Daily we must walk and strive to be worthy of this privilege — LIFE . . .

ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

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

Hymns of Zion #150

We were very thankful to have within our midst two visiting ministers, Bro. Ervin Knecht (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO). We realize that many extra efforts are put forth so that we may reap the benefits.

Our hearts were saddened by the death of Mrs. Elmer (Elsie) Johnson of Cherry Valley. She was the mother of our dear Sis. Carola Hohulin. We extend sincere sympathy and pray that God will grant them strength and comfort.

On December 1, a precious baby boy brought exceedingly great joy to Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand. Russell Dean was welcomed home by three sweet sisters, Roxanne, Susanne and Bethany. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm and Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Persida Wiegand and little Kurt Freidinger. It is our hope they will have a complete and swift recovery. We also offer a special prayer for our dear Bro. Sam Heiniger who has suffered a stroke. We miss his presence in our congregation.

Sis. Margaret Newlin expresses her appreciation for the many cards, letters and visits she received while in the hospital and at home. Each kindness is very much treasured.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"More holiness give me . . . more purity
give me,
More strength to overcome; More freedom
from earth-stains,
More longings for home; More fit for
the kingdom,
More used would I be; More, blessed
and holy,
More Savior like Thee."

Hymns of Zion # 101

What a fitting conclusion to five

evenings of inspiration these words were! The tapes of the brotherhood conference as well as the reading of the memorandum provided those who were in attendance with profound evenings of truth, bringing a wonderful message that probably could not be matched anywhere else. By the power of the Holy Spirit, men of God were moved to expound upon the true meaning of a simple word — holiness. "Be ye holy, for I am holy." I Peter 1:16. This commandment of God was the stirring theme for the deliberations. We were exhorted to practice holiness by living sanctified lives in which we deny ourselves and take up our cross each day in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. We realize that casual living cannot mesh with holiness when the brother gave us the definition of "casual": "without specific purpose, aimless; unconcerned, careless, negligent." "Can we be unconcerned or negligent about our walk of faith and still be holy?" the brother asked. What a contrast there is between the holy, sanctified life of the believer and the casual living that surrounds us.

We were blessed by the exhortations given by Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) who assisted our Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger in reading the annual letter to the churches.

Our Sunday School children proclaimed the joy of the Savior's birth in verse and song on December 16.

Bro. Richard Kiefer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Louise) and Sis. Gale Hari (Bro. Everett and Sis. Beverly, Bloomington) became husband and wife in the Lord on November 25.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Esther Yergler and Sis. Ollie Witzig who have been hospital patients.

We will miss Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy Schlipf and their three children who are moving to Milford. We wish them the grace of God and His wonderful blessings in their new home.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Audrey Martin

"Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may

not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen."

Another year has begun bringing new opportunities to serve the Lord. May this be our prayer as we set new resolutions for the year. God will give us the power to fulfill these requests if we but ask and continue to strive towards the goal. Let us make an extra effort this year as we continue in our various walks of life.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers we have had come to Bible study in the past months. Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) spoke on church leadership and gave us insight into the many duties and concerns of our elders. It makes us all appreciate the efforts that are put out on our behalf and makes each of us want to do our part in supporting the precious faith that we have. Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) came to be with us for the annual Christmas program. We heard of many reasons why Jesus came which gave us many things to ponder during the Christmas season. Bible study is continuing to be held in Schroeder 244 each Thursday night at 7:30. All are welcomed to attend.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

We witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Krista Witzig (Sis. Aldeine and the late Bro. Joe) and Bro. David Poussard (Gene and Mary) on December 2. May our heavenly Father be the head of their home. We wish them God's blessings as they will now walk life's pathway together.

Our Christmas program was December 9. Our children and young people brought us the Christmas story in hymn and in verse.

Christmas caroling was on December 16. We had a blessed evening caroling to those who are shut-in.

We wish to thank Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May God bless you for your labors of love. It is good to have you "home", Bro. Greg.

May we continue to remember those who are shut-in and/or ill in prayer.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

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

It was a real blessing to gather together with our dear Sunday school children and listen as they told of the birth of our blessed Lord and Savior in word and song. We thank all the teachers, parents and grandparents for making this program such a blessing.

We offer our humble thanks to the visiting brethren who imparted many blessings unto us. With us this past month were: Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ), Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville).

Our hospital patients were Sis. Emma Woerner and Pauline Whitmore. May they feel God's love and concern in their time of need.

The engagement of Sis. Sally Belsley (Morton) and Bro. Todd Hoerr was announced. Parents of the couple are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr and Bro. Louis and Sis. Vilas Belsley (Morton). They are planning a February 3 wedding.

We had the privilege to hear the testimonies of three precious souls on Saturday, December 8. Sunday we welcomed Sis. Michele Coburn, Bro. Scott Hoerr and Bro. David Dunbar into the fold. It truly was a blessed weekend. We wish them much grace, faith and courage to carry out their new life in Jesus' name for their souls' salvation.

"My thanks and appreciation for the love, visits and prayers while at the hospital and for the love, warmth and care given while recuperating at our Apostolic Christian Home."

Sis. Rachel Hoerr

"I wish to thank all who have sent me cards, gifts, flowers and for your love while I was recently hospitalized and since I'm home."

Sis. Mary Tanner

"I would like to express my thanks for the visits, flowers, candy and many cards. (I received 524 cards - many with handwritten prayers, since my first hospitalization last June). Your kindness and thoughtfulness was much appreciated."

Sis. Barbara Herman

God has granted us the arrival of a blessed new year. Let us all strive to walk closer and serve Him more sincerely this year.

LET US HAVE A GARDEN THIS YEAR

First, let's have five rows of peas —

Preparedness
Promptness
Perseverance
Politeness
Prayer

Next, let's have three rows of squash —

Squash gossip
Squash criticism
Squash indifference

Then, let's have five rows of lettuce —

Let us be faithful
Let us be unselfish
Let us be loyal

Let us love one another

Let us be truthful

No garden is complete without turnips

Turn up for church regularly
Turn up with a smile every day
Turn up with a new idea
Turn up with real determination

Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**Arlene and Arlys Martin**

A thankful heart is a prayerful heart. Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) was our visiting minister.

On November 23, Travis Robert Wieland was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Wieland. Tamara, Tonya and Tiffany welcome a brother into their family.

First-time parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina Christ. Nathan Ryan was born December 5. His grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ of our congregation and Hazel Logsdon of Pekin.

On December 10, Ashley Renee was born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb Ehnle. David welcomes his sister home.

Our Sunday school students presented their Christmas program Sunday evening, December 16. It is a pleasure to hear the children speak and sing of Jesus Christ.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Betty Herrmann (Bro. Eugene) and Bro. Roger Herrmann. Also on the sick list is Sis. Ollie Ricketts.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**Carol Knapp — Carol Rumbold**

Two faces who have assembled with us for years will not be seen again. Ella Beer Blunier, 84, passed away November 19 after a brief illness. She is survived by a son, Nelson (Washing-

ton) and several brothers and sisters.

On December 15, God called home our Sis. Mattie (Herbst) Leman to join her husband and baby who have gone on long before her. Bereft of her family, she joyously served her God for over 50 years. Our sympathy is shared with those who loved these two dear ones.

What a blessed evening our congregation enjoyed as we heard the testimonies of two souls who are dear to us. Jane (Diggle) Williams (her husband is Gary and parents are John and Sis. Sarah) and Jan (Moser) Bates (her husband is Jim and parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Erma) told us of what God has done in their lives. They feel richer for the added presence of their heavenly Father in their lives and we, too, feel enriched for having had the opportunity to hear them share their experiences with us. May these, our two new sisters-in-faith, ever treasure this pearl they have been given.

Spending some time in the hospital were Bro. Harry Leman and Sis. Mar-dell Bowald. May the Great Physician attend them.

We are always thankful for ministering brothers who are willing to give of themselves for our benefit. Bros. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bob Pflederer (Morton) have recently visited our congregation.

We always enjoy the Christmas program that our students present for us. Perhaps they do not realize how beautiful are Christmas carols sung by a child. The angels rejoice at such sounds, too, don't they?

One day during the Christmas season, my daughter came home from school and asked me, "Mom, what's your favorite Christmas song?" I said, "Silent Night . . . Why?" "Well," she said, "Our music teacher said to ask our parents their favorite Christmas song, and we will know the true meaning of Christmas." How encouraging to see evidence that those who are teaching our children cherish the true meaning of Christmas, as we do. Oh, that the whole world felt that way!

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

Our congregation was again blessed this month with visiting ministers. They were Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ), Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington). May

the Lord bless them and their families. We appreciate their visits.

We have had several hospital patients this month. Bro. Ed Koch spent time in the hospital, but is now home feeling some better. Bro. Ernie Schaefer has also been hospitalized and will need to remain several more weeks, but we are happy to hear he is making a good recovery. Sis. Sophia Steiner (Bro. Dan, Sr.) had an unfortunate fall and is confined to her home for a time.

December 15 was the wedding day of Todd Prather (Larned, KS) and Stacey Muselman (Tremont). Todd is the son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carolyn Prather (Pekin, IL) and Stacey is the daughter of Richard and Sue Musselman (Tremont). We wish this young couple God's richest blessings as they start their life together.

A new little son, Rodney Joel, was born December 17 to Bro. Peter and Sis. Debbie Aberle. Grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle (Tremont) and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller (Princeville). Little Rodney has two brothers, Randy and Ryan.

We are happy to report the engagement of Curtis Bolliger (son of Sis. Alma and the late Bro. Jay Bolliger) and Kerrie Prather (daughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carolyn Prather). Plans are being made for a June wedding. May God bless them as they make plans for their life together.

On Sunday evening, December 16, we enjoyed our annual Sunday school Christmas program. We thank the children and their teachers for all their efforts in making a blessed evening for all of us.

May the Lord bless you one and all as we begin our new year of 1985.

A reminder: January is Silver Lining collection month for Tremont.

ILLINOIS, URBANA Cheryl Mangers

This was another month of traditions for us here in Urbana. On December 1 our college students offered parents a day to shop by babysitting with the children at the church. They do this act of love as a token of appreciation. We "home folks", however, feel we receive much more than we give to them. May God richly bless each one of our students and the special bond of fellowship we enjoy and appreciate.

"A Gathering at the Manger" was presented to our congregation Decem-

ber 16 by our Sunday school classes. Following the program, we went Christmas caroling at several nursing homes and returned to the church for our annual chili supper. May these be the kind of memories that linger in our children's minds when they think of Christmas.

We bid farewell to Bro. Brent and Sis. Juli Klopfenstein who will be moving to Rockford, IL after graduation from the University of Illinois this month. We'll miss you.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Bro. Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) for feeding our flock this past month.

Remember: January is collection month for the Urbana congregation's Silver Lining dues.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Lily Pfaffmann — Sally Plattner

When we think of December, we think of Christmas; the celebration of our Saviour's birth. Our Sunday school children presented a program of Christmas poems, readings and songs. They really gave of themselves and did a marvelous job. We thank our teachers for the effort they put forth; certainly it was reflected in the children and their enthusiasm. Times like these emphasize the true meaning of Christmas.

God's servants are such a blessing to our churches. This past month we had several visit us and lend themselves. They were Elder Bros. Don Koch (Tremont), Joe Braker (Morton) and our own Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and ministering Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont) and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley). May they ever feel our prayerful support as they speak forth the inspired Word of God.

God's creation of mankind is so awesome, and to think that He formed us in His own likeness! Another of His handiworks was born into this world December 17 to Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy Wyss. Their first-born is a precious little girl named Jennifer Rose. Her proud grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Washington) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Schlipf (Gridley).

Statistics here in Washington for 1984 are two deaths, four births, seven baptisms and four marriages. Each experience is an emotional one and an important phase.

Leaving another year behind, we step forth into 1985. Time seems to slip from our grasp as one year glides into another. We need to evaluate ourselves and see how wisely we are using each day. We know that when we stand before the judgement seat those things of every day living will be meaningless. It's so easy to get caught up in those tasks, but we must take time for the enduring things.

We often hear people speak of New Year's resolutions; making a list of things to do better. It seems a New Year is like making a fresh start. That's all well and good; but then we shouldn't wait until the year ends again to re-evaluate the list. Yes, it should be done on a daily basis. When the resolutions are made, let's compare ourselves to the Scripture to find where we don't measure up, ways we can better serve the Lord and how we can walk more closely in His footsteps. May He bless each of us to this end.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Etta Steffen

Sue Neuenschwander

We apologize for omitting the testimonies and baptisms witnessed in September. Each testimony was a real blessing as they all had a special experience with tragedy. One individual spent time in prison, one was struck by a semi truck and another had a close brush with death in an automobile accident and others were touched by the deaths of loved ones. How lucky we are to have each soul with us today. They are Bro. Robert Parker (son-in-law of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda Steffen), Bro. Lemuel Vega, Bro. Jack Girod (son-in-law of Bro. Everett and Sis. Alice Geisel), Sis. Susan Kaehr (Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Renee Gerber (Bro. Lee and Sis. Jennie). We wish them all much grace as they live their lives for the Lord.

On December 2, we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Courtney Pfister (Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose) to Sis. Jodi Gerber (Bro. Arlen and Sis. Susan). May they enjoy much happiness as they are now joined together as one.

The prayers of our congregation were answered this month and plainly revealed by God that Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam) is to serve in the ministry. Our prayers are with them and their three sons. May God grant him courage to proclaim the Word as the Holy Spirit directs him.

Our prayers are with those loved ones in the hospital and many other shut-ins. Hospital patients this month were Sis. Lu Moser (Bro. Ervin), Sis. Esther Geisel (Bro. Olen), Sis. Clara Gerber (Bro. Wilmer), Mildred Krill (George), Sis. Emma Steffen, Bro. Paul Dotterer, Sis. Doris Reinhard (Bro. Ezra) and Sis. Lydia Kaehr.

A March 3 wedding is being planned by Bro. Scott Gerber (Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline) to Sis. Melinda Cowens. Also, planning a wedding for February 17 are Bro. Keith Stoller (Bro. Ramon and Sis. Flossie) and Sis. Tammy Fiechter (Bro. John and Sis. Shirley). We wish both couples our prayers and congratulations as they plan for this big step.

God has blessed a few homes with precious little bundles of joy. Parents are Phillip and Becky Ringger with a son named Adam Michael. Sis. Marge Ringger is happy to welcome her first grandchild. Bro. Nick and Sis. Janette Ringger welcome their first-born, a daughter, Elizabeth Ann. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Rosetta. Also, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Nancy Bedwell welcome Ryan Michael. Grandparents are Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter. A special bundle is welcomed by first-time parents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie Aschliman. He has been named Bryan Keith and grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Ida Aschliman and Bro. Ramon and Sis. Flossie Stoller. We welcome all these new little ones to our congregation.

We will surely miss Bro. David and Sis. Joleen Sinn as they have moved to Fort Scott, KS. Our prayers are with them. We will look forward to their visits.

Bro. Doug Gerber and Bro. Kent Fiechter put their trust in God as they risked their lives to do for others in Romania. We are so glad God was watching over them and brought them back to us. Their experience helps us to appreciate the freedom we have. May we always pray for those who aren't as fortunate.

We have many brothers who have given of their time and traveled to Haiti to lend a helping hand. They are Bro. Roger Lane, Bro. Bob Troxel, Bro. Claren Gehring, Bro. Tom Baumgartner, Bro. Denny Drayer, Bro. Dave Smith, Bro. Keith Kaehr, Bro. Harry T. Gerber and Bro. Lee Gerber. May God bless them for their many good deeds and efforts.

On December 15 and 16 we enjoyed a blessed weekend with the testimonies and baptisms of five dear souls. They are Bro. Tom Steffen (Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty), Bro. Jeff Dotterer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyllis), Sis. Vicki Baumgartner (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jean), Sis. Beth Meyer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet) and Bro. Brian Tonner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Diane). We also heard a testimony given by Bro. Frank Szabo from Budapest. We welcome Bro. Frank to our congregation and community. We wish them all God's grace.

On December 9, Sylvia Baumgartner, age 76, was taken from this life to a better life. We will always remember her sweet smile and friendly nature. A number of nieces and nephews survive.

On December 16, we enjoyed our youth singing of Christ's birth. We all received a blessing as we listened and saw smiles upon their faces. We really do appreciate their time and efforts. Our prayer is that they will stay close to God.

We have voted for new teachers and many other helpers. We have a special prayer for all those brothers and sisters who are undertaking these special duties. May you all receive a blessing for your devotion.

"Wherever loving hearts are found, it's Christmastime the whole year 'round. By now the tree and trimmings have all been put away, along with gifts and cards from family and friends. Did our Christmas "spirit" get "put away" too? Let's check our lives and make sure that the Spirit is with us all through the year.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Virginia Rauch — Cindy Geisel

We are so happy to have added to the fold of Christ six dear souls who were baptized November 18. They were Amy Ringger (Bro. Al and Sis. Colleen), Susan Troxel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Jo), Julie Frauhiger (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane), Rachel Gerber (Bro. Vernon), Toby Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta) and Scott DeHoff (husband of Sis. Rita Gerber DeHoff). We wish them God's grace in the days ahead.

God's wish is for us to "train up a child in the way he should go . . ." Proverbs 22:6.

First-time happy parents are Lewis and Joan Brown. Little Alex Jonathan came to live with them November 21.

His grandparents are Bro. Truman and Sis. Marge Baumgartner. A new little son, Eric Matthew, was born December 9 to Mark and Sis. Diane Mason. Big sister, Kara, and brother, Aaron welcome him home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Lenard and Sis. Wava Bertsch.

Weddings are such joyous occasions. Through faith in God, Bro. Jeff Isch (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn, Bluffton) and Sis. Karen Neuenschwander (Bro. Walter and Sis. Joyce) were united in marriage December 9. May God grant unto them many days of happiness.

Bro. Nile Bucher has been chosen to help serve in the ministry of our church. Let us continue to remember him and his dear wife, Sis. Phyllis and their family in prayer as they lend of their services to us in love. May they ever feel God's presence near them.

We were privileged to have some visiting ministers with us this past month. They were Bro. John Isch (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). We welcome them, their wives and families, back any time.

Those hospitalized were Bro. Jay Rauch and Alan Steffen (son of Bro. Max and Sis. Eunice). We pray that God will grant them good health again.

On December 9 we enjoyed our youth participation in the Sunday school program. Our hearts were warmed to hear our children singing of the birth of our Savior and Redeemer.

As the new year is upon us, may we ". . . forget those things which are behind, and reach forth unto those things which are before." Philippians 3:13. If each day is lived right, our whole year will be right; but if each day is wrong, our whole year will be all wrong. Each day is a white page just waiting to be written; so write it beautifully and your year will be a beautiful one.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

THE TIME IS BRIEF

Because the longest life is brief
I must be swift in keeping
The little trusts with kindness
Before the time of sleeping!

I must be swift in reaching out
To those whose hearts are yearning;
O, swift indeed to love them much
Before the long road's turning!

Before a sudden summons comes
I surely must be saying
The words that I have failed to say
The prayers I should be saying.
Grace Noll Crowell

The new year is a reminder to us that our time here is brief. May we spend each day as we would if we knew Jesus were coming at its close — He just may!

We were exhorted to walk a more holy life on a recent Wednesday evening when Elder Bro. Steve Rinckenberger (Cissna Park, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman in reading the memorandum. The love and concern they have for us as a church was evident.

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Acts 20:28-31

On Saturday, December 3, benefit day was held for the Parkview Haven Retirement Home. It is inspiring to see how much can be accomplished when many people do what they can to help, even if it is just a little.

We're looking forward to hearing the Sunday school children recite verses and songs in the Christmas program this coming Sunday afternoon. We also plan to go carolling as a church in the evening, the Lord providing.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Priscilla Anliker (last month) and Bros. Wayne Putt and Jeff Gutwein this month. We're happy they're all back with us.

We're glad Bro. Emil Pelsy is back in the Nursing Wing of Parkview Haven after undergoing surgery. We trust he feels the nearness of God through the prayers of others. Bro. Emil always seems to have Godly advice to share when we visit him, and we appreciate the wisdom that comes from our dear older brothers and sisters.

Seven of our loved ones returned safely from Haiti after serving there as a work team, helping to build an elementary school and benches. Those

who went were Bros. Harvey B. Gutwein, Curt Leman, Dennis Leman, Marty Neihouser, Ron Vogt, our new convert, Randy Wuethrich (Bro. Rich and Sis. Nola) and Reggie Wuethrich. They shared what a heartwarming experience it was to see those with so little materially, joyous and thankful to the Lord for His love to them.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Judy Dubach — Lynn Winslow

Faith — Hebrews 11:1 says it is substance of things hoped for, evidence of things not seen. What will your faith do for you in 1985! Or what will you do in faith to lead others to Christ this new year?

Faith is a concept more easily demonstrated than defined. You exercise faith when you fly in a plane or visit a doctor. Chances are good that you cannot fly the plane or diagnose your illness. Yet you rest confidently in the skill of someone else who can. And that's faith!

Faith in Jesus Christ is what sets Christianity apart from all other man-made religions. Religion is based on what you have done for God. Christianity is based on what God in His Son, has done for you. Religion is man's attempt to work his way to heaven. Christianity is God's good news that heaven is a free gift. Religion involves trying, Christianity involves relying.

As a good old Puritan observed, we never come to Jesus Christ, the sinner's last shift till we feel we cannot do without Him.

Have you come to the point yet where you realize you can no longer do without the Savior? He's waiting patiently for you to come, receive and trust, in short, put your faith in Him. And if you already have put your faith in him, now trust Him to give you the ability to lead someone else in your vast circle of unsaved people around you, to Christ. For this is truly our biggest commission in 1985 as given in Matthew 28:19-20. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Amen.

(Excerpts from Timeless Insight)

We thank Bro. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL) for sharing the Word with us. We thank the Sunday School children

for a blessed and meaningful Christmas program. Their efforts and those of their teachers will not be forgotten. Bob Horn (Sis. Diana (Graf) Horn) plans to share his testimony and witness how the Lord has worked in his heart as he looks forward to sharing in our fellowship.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Connie Knobloch

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

The memorandum was read to us on December 8. We were privileged and thankful to have Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) spend the weekend with our congregation to assist our Elder Bro. Ed Frank. We are always happy to have visiting ministers share God's Word with us. We also want to thank Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) for their labors of love and spending Thanksgiving with us. May God bless all three brothers and their families.

We rejoice with Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold on the birth of their son, Caleb Eugene, born December 3. Caleb's six sisters are very happy to have a brother. Grandparents are Bro. Aaron and Sis. Grace Heinold.

On Sunday evening, December 16, our Sunday school children told us about the birth of our precious Savior. It is such a joy to work with them and to see their enthusiasm and happiness as they tell and learn the story of Jesus.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

NEW YEAR, 1985

"You are ushering in another year
Untouched and freshly new;
So here I come to ask You, God,
If You'll renew me, too?"

Forgive the many errors, that
I made last year, and let me try
Again, dear God,
To walk closer in Thy way.

But Father, I am well aware
I can't make it on my own,
So take my hand and hold it tight
For I can't walk alone."

A baby boy is a joy. One came to bless the home of Bro. Loren and Sis. Rita Klopfenstein. His name is Austin Loren. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Washington, IL) and Bro. William and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein.

Peter Samuel is the new boy in the home of Bro. Paul and Sis. Leann Fischer and little daughter, Laura Beth. His grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Christa Moser and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Patricia Fischer (Roanoke, IL).

Communion services, a time of remembrance of His supreme sacrifice for us, were held December 15. We thank Elder Bro. Loren Stoller who shared in the communion service with Elder Bro. David Bertsch.

Our dear Sis. Adele Conrad, 92, went to be with the Lord. We are in the land of the dying going to the land of the living. Services on December 3 were conducted by Bros. David Bertsch and John Bollier. Several nieces and nephews surviving include Sis. Elsie (Ralph) Troxel (Bluffton) and Bros. Carl Frautschi (Bloomington, IL) and Albert Frautschi (Leo).

"A new convert was asked what he would do when he got to heaven. His reply was, '... I'll search until I find the man, woman or young person who prayed for me and my country or gave money to make it possible for the Gospel to reach me — and when I find him, I'll drop at his feet, look up at his face and thank him. If he had not prayed and given of his means, I'd be lost forever.'"

INDIANA, MILFORD

Gwen Steffen — Shelby Beer

We certainly rejoice in the recent marriage of Blane Hurd (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) and Kathryn Hendershot (Mr. and Mrs. William Hendershot, Goshen). We pray for them that their love for each other can grow and multiply as they walk down life's pathway together. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Our Sis. Clara Kaiser and her mother, Sis. Hulda Graff, have spent time in the hospital. Sis. Hulda has recently moved to the nursing home in Warsaw. May these dear ones and their families feel His presence and strength as they bear these physical afflictions.

The beautiful Christmas story warmed our hearts as all the Sunday school children sang songs and recited

verses telling us the true meaning of Christmas.

As we stop to ponder over the past year, all of our blessings, joys and sorrows come to mind. We who have put our faith and trust in Jesus can truly say that He has never forsaken us, no matter what our lot. May we continue in 1985 as the song writer so vividly expressed:

Simply trusting every day,
Trusting thro' a stormy way;
Even when my faith is small,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Brightly doth His Spirit shine
Into this poor heart of mine;
While He leads I cannot fall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Singing if my way is clear;
Praying, if the path is drear;
If in danger, for Him call;
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Trusting Him while life shall last,
Trusting Him till earth is past;
Till within the jasper wall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Chorus:

Trusting as the moments fly,
Trusting as the days go by;
Trusting Him whate'er befall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Gospel Hymns #581

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler

And the Lord shall guide thee continually . . . Isaiah 58:11

A well-known businessman would drop into our office every few days. His visits were ever times of spiritual refreshing. His face was always wreathed in smiles. He had an elastic tread. He radiated victory. A few minutes in his presence and one felt the lifting tides of God, for victory acts as a contagion.

Recently the same man shuffled into our office, sank down in a chair, buried his face between his hands, and burst into tears. What had happened to this child of God? He had fainted in the day of adversity. He experienced a great calamity which swept away his home, his business, his money. Then he began to worry, and in consequences, he lost his health and is now a physical wreck. Here was Satan's opportunity, and he

was not slow to avail himself of it. He came with the insidious question, "How are you going to face the world?" He led this once triumphant Christian to the very edge of the precipice, and told him to cast himself down. Everything was dark, pitch dark.

The Father cares when He sees His children in the teeth of a blinding storm, but He knows that faith grows in the tempest. He will hold our hands, bidding us not to try to see the next step we are to take. He who knows the paths of a hundred million stars, knows the way through the whirlwind and the storm, and has promised, "I will never, never let go of your hand!"

There is unquestionably a grave danger of many becoming spiritually paralyzed by depression. The forces of darkness are so imminent, the magnitude of the crisis is so great that many are being tempted to cry out with the disciples, "Lord, carest Thou not that we perish?" Yet He who may appear to be "asleep upon a pillow" is riding upon the storm in all His divine majesty. The great need is for more faith in the omnipotent God.

Cowman

With cheerful hearts we received blessings shared from visiting minister Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Urbana). They were here for the testimony and baptism of Bro. Calvin Schnieder (Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta). We are very thankful for a young Christian soldier, picking up his armour for his journey to walk with the Lord.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Pauline Laidig

We are happy to start the New Year with the prospect of having an addition to our church family. Bro. Mark Meyer (Bluffton) has accepted employment at the St. Joseph's Medical Center in South Bend and will be moving his wife, Kristie, and children, Jonathon and Cecily, here in the near future. We extend to them a warm welcome.

Again, our hearts were stirred by the ministry of Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). We were made aware of our need to seek the welfare of our brethren and to be a good example, by our Christian walk, to all mankind. May we have the grace to do so in the days that lie ahead. It was also a pleasure to have the broth-

er's wives and families in our midst.

Our dear Sis. Marge Mangold has been hospitalized for tests which we hope and pray will be beneficial. May the good Lord meet her every need.

As our hearts are filled with the joys and blessings we've experienced during this Christmas season through the reading and hearing, in song and verse, of our dear Savior's birth, may it's afterglow follow on through the coming year.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Jill Hitz — Patty Bucher

My prison penpal sent me a little pamphlet on prayer the other week. I would like to share a part of it with you. LISTEN . . .

You do not have to be clever to please me; all you have to do is want to love me. Just speak to me as you would to anyone of whom you are very fond.

Are there any people you want to pray for? Say their names to me, and ask me as much as you like. I am generous, but trust me to do what I know is best . . .

Tell me about your pride, your touchiness, self-centeredness, meanness and laziness. I still love you in spite of these. Do not be ashamed; there are many saints in heaven who had the same faults as you; they prayed to me and, little by little, their faults were corrected.

Do not hesitate to ask me for blessings for the body and mind; for health, memory, success. I can give everything . . .

Tell me about your failures, and I will show you the cause of them. What are your worries? Who has caused you pain? Tell me about it. Forgive them, and I will bless you.

Are you afraid of anything? Have you any tormenting, unreasonable fears? Trust yourself to me. I am here. I will not leave you.

Have you no joys to tell me about? Why do you not share your happiness with me? Tell me what has happened since yesterday to cheer and comfort you. Whatever it was, however big, however small, I prepared it. Show me your gratitude and thank me.

Are temptations bearing heavily upon you? Yielding to temptations always disturbs the peace of your soul. Ask me, and I will help you overcome them.

Well, go along now. Get on with your work or play. Try to be humbler, more

submissive, kinder; and come back soon and bring me a more devoted heart. Tomorrow I shall have more blessings for you.

This past month we have been blessed to have with us Bros. Merle Bucher (LaCrosse), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We appreciate their willingness to share God's Word with us.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Cheryl Bucher welcomed Brittany Elizabeth into their home December 13. Reid is thrilled to have a new baby sister at home. Grandparents are Sis. Tille Nussbaum (Bloomington) and Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona Bucher (LaCrosse).

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Jody Getz

For our last church service of the year, we had our annual Christmas program. The many poems and songs about Jesus' birth were so very inspirational. One poem entitled, "The Stranger" told of Jesus visiting the earth during the Christmas season and how confused He was when He saw the commercialized decorations and costumes. This was a profound reminder of the "true meaning of Christmas".

If you have knowledge, let others light their candles by it.

Thomas Fuller

The end of this semester holds special meaning to Sis. Becky Baumgartner who will be graduating from Purdue in Veterinary Technology.

Soon it will be 1985. Many people will reorganize their lives and begin anew. This is good, but we must strive to do it with Christian sincerity.

How may we know what is right?

1. Pay reverent heed to the wisdom of the ages, more especially as it has been authenticated and glorified by the great masters of right living.
2. Live in the open. Do only what you are willing should be done "in the sight of all men".
3. Live in humanity. Do only what you are willing that all men should do as a universal rule of conduct.
4. Eliminate yourself, and act only from disinterested motives.

John Haynes Holmes

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

"Jesus knows thy sorrow, Knows

thine every care;" Hymns of Zion #74. Our sympathy goes to Leroy and Fran Farney and family on the loss of their daughter and sister, Lisa Burns. May God be your comforter.

Bro. Dwight Waibel recently has had knee surgery, but he is recovering well.

The New Year is here again, and we know not what it will bring. We would hope for joy and blessings, but if sorrow or disappointment comes at times, may it bring us ever closer to our Father above.

IOWA, AMES - DES MOINES

Janice Webber

In our last service of 1984, we were served by Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) and assisted by ministering Bros. Bill Funk (Garden Grove) and Clifford Grimm (West Bend). We sincerely appreciate the loyalty of all our dear brethren and friends who have supported us as we moved to our new location, and hope to see all of them back (plus a few new faces) in 1985. Remember: our January service is on the third Sunday, January 20. Sometimes January is a bit of a let-down after Christmas. Let's combat the winter blues and rejoice together in the Lord on January 20!

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Dixie Messner — Edith Massner

We are happy to report Sis. Gail Massner was able to come home. She is still limited to what she can do, but it is good to see her in church again.

Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) was home again for Thanksgiving.

The Lord has called John Buster (Sis. Ingrid) unto repentance and granted him peace. He is now looking forward to baptism.

A large group of young and old were able to join together to go Christmas caroling last evening. What a joy it is to sing for those that are shut-in and not able to get out and about.

February is collection month for Burlington Silver Lining dues.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Shall we meet in that blest harbor,
When our stormy voyage is o'er?
Shall we meet and cast the anchor
By the fair celestial shore?

Sympathy is extended to Ida, Edwin and Harry Frieden in the death of their

brother, Sam, who recently passed away after a lingering illness.

Sisters Sue Schneider (Bro. Charles), Karla Moore and Leona Schmitt were recently elected Sunday school teachers for our three smallest classes. We wish you much grace and many blessings as you teach these young and tender hearts of the love of God and Christ our Lord.

A blessed evening of caroling was shared this past evening, and we look forward to the Sunday School Christmas program this coming Wednesday night.

Jessica Moore (Gene and Sis. Julie) was a recent hospital patient (surgical).

NEW YEAR

1. Face the New Year with the Old Book.
2. Face the new needs with the old promises.
3. Face the new problems with the Old Gospel.
4. Face the new life with the old remedies.

Leaves of Gold

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Eileen Funk

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

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

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

O God, forbid that we become
As keeper of the inn,
And have our lives so crowded

That we have no room for Him.
But now, may we, Thy children dear,
Unworthy though we are,
Become as shepherds long ago,
And follow now His star!

A blessed evening was enjoyed by all who went Christmas caroling and then for a chili supper at Bro. Gene and Rachel Smiths.

We surely enjoyed the Christmas program from our Sunday school children. It's sure a blessed season!

IOWA, IOWA CITY Denise Duckworth

As we have visited and caroled to many less fortunate in the Christmas season, I am again reminded of how blessed I have been. We should try to thank God more each day, and pray that we can truly appreciate our many rich blessings.

We thank Bros. Harvey Heiniger (Burlington) and Nate Stoller (Bradford) for visiting our congregation and allowing God's Spirit to minister to us through them.

This past month we were privileged to listen to the tapes of the general conference and were encouraged to strive for holiness, to be spiritually minded and abandon ourselves to selflessness. "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." Galatians 2:20. As the new year of 1985 is upon us, let's all keep the goal of holiness, totally Christ-like, in our hearts and minds.

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

The beautiful season of love and good will is a reminder that Jesus came to earth as a babe and showed us the way to live here on earth and to seek salvation for our eternal life.

We rejoice that Jim Knobloch has turned to the Lord in repentance. For him, life has taken on a new meaning and we pray for God's grace in his behalf. His parents are Gilbert and Sis. Vickie Knobloch.

On December 2, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet Metzger became the parents of Sam Eli. He is welcomed home by his sister, Katie, and brother, Christopher. His grandparents are Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma Mogler (West Bend) and Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice Metzger.

God has seen fit to take from our midst a little sunbeam that has touched many of our lives. Melissa

Berg, the two-year-old daughter of Jayne Berg and Roger Berg, was a special child and captured the hearts of many. Her grandparents were Alvin and Marilyn Metzger. We believe she is safe in the arms of Jesus.

We have had several from the congregation who have suffered illnesses. Those hospitalized were Heather Mae Knobloch (Lou and Carla), Tyson James (Bro. Ray and Kathy), Sis. Irene Knobloch, Sis. Mardi Leuthold and Bro. Henry Kellenberger.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach

As we enjoyed the Thanksgiving holidays, we certainly do have many things to be exceedingly thankful for. Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) lent themselves in God's service in our congregation over Thanksgiving.

Believing it is God's will, the betrothal of Sis. Barb Gerst (Sis. Hilda and the late Bro. Carl) and Bro. Colin Wagenbach (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy) was made known to the congregation. May God lead them as they plan their life together as man and wife in Him.

As it says in the Holy Word of God, we must become as little children in order that we may receive our reward. Little children are so innocent as we have recently witnessed at our annual Sunday School Christmas program. As they say their little pieces and sing about the Baby Jesus, surely the heart of our Almighty God is touched. Let us strive to be more child-like!

Recently at our Sister's Christmas meeting, I observed this plaque on the wall of our sisters' home. It is entitled "We People" and reads as follows:

There is so much good in the worst of us,
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it hardly behooves any of us,
To speak any ill of the rest of us.

When I read this it pricked my heart. We should certainly look for the good points in others rather than concentrating on their faults. Note: Bro. Vernon and Sis. Wilma Stoller wish to thank everyone for their cards, visits, prayers and acts of kindness during Bro. Vernon's illness.

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

IOWA, PULASKI
Mary Jane Knapp
DeAnn Wuthrich

It's hard to believe we're already entering the year 1985. The years fly by so fast, and it is so nice to know the Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. Our goal should be to only draw nearer to Him with each passing year.

We'd like to thank our visiting minister for ministering God's wonderful Word unto us. We sure appreciate each one that comes to visit us. With us this past month was Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). We want to especially thank him for his labors of love.

Our congratulations go out to Bob and Janice Johnson who were blessed with a baby girl, Christine Rose, born December 12. She has one brother, Russell, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma Tuebal (Pulaski, IA).

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Elma Mogler

On November 25, Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice) and Bro. Gary Steffen (Bro. John and Sis. Wava, Elgin, IL) were united in the bond of holy matrimony. May God bless this union of hearts. They will make their home in Elgin, IL.

Among the many visitors who were here for this wedding were: Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen, Bro. William Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO). We appreciate it that they came to be with us, and we thank them for feeding us God's precious Word.

The home of Jeff and Beth Fehr has been blessed November 22 with a new baby boy, Anthony James. He has a brother, Christopher. Grandparents are Roger and Joyce Anderson and Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole Fehr. May the joys and blessings in this home be many.

After having major surgery some time ago, Sis. Lucille (Bro. Dwaine) Schmidt is recovering. May we appreciate more and more God's blessings and gift of health.

Terry Fehr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole) and Linda Baxter (Waukon, IA), both students at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, have made known their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for this important step.

Since the New Year is approaching, we want to include this poem as we wish everyone a blessed New Year.

TOMORROW'S OPPORTUNITY

If we might have a second chance
 To live the days one more,
 And rectify mistakes we've made to
 even up the score.

If we might have a second chance
 To use the knowlede gained,
 Perhaps we might become at last
 As fine as God ordained.

But thought we can't retrace our steps,
 However stands the score
 Tomorrow brings another chance
 For us to try once more.

Unknown

JAPAN, SHIODA

Margie Heintz

"O come let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand." Psalm 95:6-7. Grasping these comforting words, we can enter gently and confidently into a new year, praising God for His marvelous and unsearchable love.

The Thanksgiving season began with a special church service on the eve of November 23 (Japan's Thanksgiving Day) and ended with a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner at Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois's home on Sunday of that weekend. We were all reminded of the bountiful blessings which we enjoy today, when we considered the great hardships and sufferings which the Pilgrim Fathers endured in journeying to America.

At Shioda-American Kindergarten during our Thanksgiving program, the children were introduced to the concept of being thankful to God for our many blessings. Through songs and a short skit, the children praised God and depicted the first Thanksgiving Day in America.

Sis. Ucida has not assembled with us for many months because of ill health. We continue to pray for her comfort, returning health and God's nearness.

All of us want to thank our brothers and sisters in America for your love and support. We feel a deep need for your continued prayers on behalf of all the brothes and sisters here in Japan.

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

James 5:16

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

Christmas is coming soon again! As this season comes we always think about the wonderful gift we have through God's mercy and love of Jesus and think how many people were really blessed and encouraged in their hopeless life in the world. However, most people in this world couldn't understand God's will. It was a very pitiful situation. We really appreciate that God is especially so wonderful to us. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16.

We are going to have our Sunday School children's Christmas programs as in past years and we really have confidence to have God's blessings upon us.

Thank you very much again for you American brethren and readers of this Silver Lining pray for us and the churches here in Japan. You are also remembered in our prayers as you pray for us;

May the Lord bless you and keep you for all eternity. Have a real blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year in 1985 in Christ Jesus our Lord.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger

We welcomed Bro. Todd Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda) into our precious brotherhood December 2 after hearing his testimony on December 1. Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha) were the visiting elders for the special occasion.

We joined the Sabetha congregation to have the conference letter read on December 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Renyer are the proud parents of a baby girl, Cabriel Jean. She was born November 20, and has one brother, Clinton, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey.

Hospitalized were Sis. Stella Moser for surgery and Barry Stoller (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Gloria) for an appendectomy. Both are getting along fine.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm had the misfortune of a gas explosion in their house. The force was so strong, it lifted the roof and there was a lot of smoke damage. They hope to temporarily live in the basement until the repair work is complete.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held December 16.

Bro. Joe David Rokey was elected as trustee. He replaced Bro. Allen Rokey.

We appreciated having visiting minister, Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) one Sunday.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Judy Bahr

"What child is this that lay to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?"

What is it about a baby that makes even the roughest face break into a smile? Could it be their innocence or their freshness to life - so totally dependent upon the person responsible for them? When we think of the Christ-Child, we can't help but smile and love Him. Don't let that love diminish as He grows up in your heart to manhood and gives us the most perfect gift, eternal life in heaven.

Two dark-haired baby boys were born in November. Mark Andrew was born November 13 to Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn. Cody Robert was born November 24 to Bob and Jeanette Tice. Jeanette is the daughter of Steve and Sis. Gayle Robb.

The Sunday school children presented their Christmas program on December 16. The following Friday night they went Christmas caroling and ended up at the church to eat spaghetti.

Sis. Rose Crane was a hospital patient. She slipped on the ice, fell and broke her arm. Todd (Steve and Sis. Gayle Robb) fell in gym class and broke his leg. Little Tyler (Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart) jumped off the porch and broke his arm. We wish them all a speedy recovery and a lot of patience!

We are thrilled to welcome Bro. David and Sis. Joleen Sinn to Fort Scott. They were living in Bluffton, IN. Bro. David is originally from Fort Scott. They have a smiling little boy, Joel David, 14 months old.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr — Gay Farney

To think a new way,
On this new day
In this new world so free.
Will take a new start,
And a new heart,
And a new mind for me.

Horizons now expand,
I can understand
There it is as plain as can be.
Try a new mind,
Leave the old behind.
Try a new mind and see.

"Tell It Like It Is," Song Book

As a new year begins for us, how beautiful it would be if we could find that new heart and mind in Christ. An acceptance by faith, a decision and the New Year could truly be the "First day of the rest of our lives". Sounds so good to me! How about you??

We enjoyed a truly blessed month including: The trip to Newton to work with brothers and sisters of like mind and faith for World Relief with the M.C.C.: the caroling, and Christmas program at church and the Manor; the welcoming in of a brand New Year; the peace, love and goodwill that seems to permeate this season of the year. Yes, it truly was a blessed month for us and we thank God for making it all possible.

Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott) was in our midst one weekend this month to share with Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson in reading us the conference letter. We are so grateful to our shepherds for their watchful care, and just pray that the church may stand strong and true until Christ's return.

Our sick folk this month included Sis. Katheryn Miller and Sis. Alice Tanner who underwent surgery. We pray that it won't be long before Sis. Alice is with us again, and are so thankful to report that Sis. Katheryn is able to worship with us.

Fifty beautiful years of marriage . . . That is what our dear friends, Simon and Alice Allenbach celebrated this month. In a world of easy divorce, it is truly a blessing to see one last so many years. May God see fit to grant them many more years together and more importantly, a home with Him in heaven at the end of their sojourn here on earth.

We are so thankful to hear Bro. Phil and Sis. Sandra Hamilton are in our midst again. They are living at 717 W. Oxford, Enid, OK 73701, with their little boy, Craig. It is our prayer that God will richly bless them in their new home.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill K. Luthi

Thou art with us, where two or three

In holy union gather,
And pray in faith, from doubting free,
Unto the heavenly Father.
For Thou Thyself art present, Lord,
Where brethren meet in one accord,
And blessed hours are given,
A foretaste of that heritage,
Beyond our earthly pilgrimage,
Awaiting us in heaven.

Zion's Harp #204, verse 5

As of Thanksgiving eve, both Lamont and Gridley congregations have begun mid-week services, alternating on every Wednesday. Our first service was held at Gridley and it was such a joy to see the church overflowing! If only it were that way every time we assembled!

Visiting ministers in recent late October - early November have been Bros. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Raymond Roth (Kiowa). We are so glad they chose the direction and freedom to come and be with us. How privileged we are!

Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker recently observed their 25th anniversary. A reception was given for them by their families. (I have a footnote to add that Bro. Glen's father, Elder Bro. Sam and Sis. Clara also have had ten years of being together and serving the Lord.) We wish them all more blessed years to come.

Julia Anliker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean) recently underwent a major appendectomy. With our prayers and the work of God's healing hands, the surgery was performed in time and she is now up and about again.

There have been some new arrivals in the recent weeks. Bro. Floyd and Sis. Mary Isch are grandparents of a boy, Cody Lee, born October 10. Glen and Debbie Isch (Gridley) are the proud parents.

Born November 22 was a 7 lb. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. boy to Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi. Aaron Vernon was welcomed home on Thanksgiving Day by Andrea. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Joann Luthi of here and Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard (Fairbury, IL).

We just have to wonder where the year of 1984 has gone? The day set aside that all nations remember our Saviour's birth is already before us. To many of us, Christmas has come to be known as a time of receiving and being with our loved ones from near and far. Not enough time is spent remembering the birth of Jesus in that lowly manger.

Too often we take our freedom and peace for granted. Recently, we had one of our most precious freedoms of all, the chance to vote for officers in government; ranging from the highest national office to the lower ranks of state, county and local offices.

"Humanism" was a topic that some of us were able to hear Elder Bro. Steve Rinckenberger (Cissna Park IL) speak on at Manhattan. We were given a two-page outline with references, as Bro. Steve was limited to time. It was a true, clear outlook of the deception of humanism. May God continue to bless Bro. Steve's gift for timely teachings.

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

Thomas Paine

We will feel the absence of Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri Knobloch (Jacob and Ester) as Bro. Tom has been offered a job in Zapata, TX. They intend to go down the first of January and be gone for a month. We wish them a safe journey.

May we end the year of 1984 as another year that we have overcome Satan. Our trials become our joys as we overcome them. We wish each and every soul, young or old, a new chapter in life in 1985.

KANSAS, MANHATTAN

Lori Aberle — Patti Knobloch

NEW BEGINNINGS

It does not take a new year
To make a brand-new start,
It only takes the deep desire
To try with all our heart
To live a little better
And to always be forgiving . . .
To add a little sunshine
To the world in which we're living —
So never give up in despair
And think that you are through,
For there's always a tomorrow
And a chance to start anew.

Helen Steiner Rice

On November 14 we were privileged to hear a timely Bible study on "Humanism" given by Bro. Steve Rinckenberger (Cissna Park, IL). Other visitors included ministering Bro. Kenneth Eisenmann and retired Elder Bro. Ezra Feller (Cissna Park, IL). We were fortunate to have Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS) here on November 28 to minister the true Word unto us.

During the month of December we were invited into the home of Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm for singing and fellowship. We were also grateful for many visitors from Bern, Sabetha, Gridley and Lamont, KS, who came to be with us for our annual Christmas caroling. Following the caroling, everyone was invited to the apartment of Sis. Lori Aberle, Sis. Patti Knobloch and Christy Meyer for a chili supper and fellowship.

May God bless all those who remember us and assemble with our small group here in Manhattan. We wish you all a blessed New Year.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Charleen Hartter

"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness." Psalms 65:11. Looking over the year just passed, can't we say that our God has crowned it with His goodness; and that we have tasted the fullness and fatness of His mercy and love. It is with His promises that we can enter this new year with hope and joy.

On November 27, Keith Michael Grimm became a part of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm's family. Christy, Kurt and Gwen are happy with the addition. Keith's grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia Mogler (Lester, IA) and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm.

Sis. Leota Grimm suffered a fall in her home. We trust God's grace will be sufficient as she is in the process of healing.

On December 8, we were privileged to have the memorandum letter read to our congregation. Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Lester Hartter (Bern, KS) were here to help in this important work. Bro. Leo remained with us for Sunday.

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15. Bro. Doug Grimm was called into the service of our Lord as a minister in our congregation. We pray the Lord will strengthen his heart and speak mightily through him that many might hear the gospel and be saved.

The Sunday School children brought to us the message of Christ's birth on December 16. It was a joy to hear their songs and recitations.

Hospitalized this month was Sis.

Lena Wenger (Bro. Will). May the Lord comfort and heal, according to His will, all those who suffer illness.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

Ministering Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ) visited us on December 2 and shared God's Word with us.

We welcome Bro. Steve Fischer to our fellowship. Bro. Steve has moved here from the Fort Scott congregation.

In this new year, may we all be more dedicated to serving the Lord and seeking opportunities to be used by Him for His purposes. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." Matthew 9:38.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Liz Blough

How many times have we, at this time of year, made those new year resolutions and truly meant them only to forget or neglect them in a few short months? I know it is easy and we all at times fail. This year ask for God's help and I'm sure the task will become much easier.

MAKE THE MOMENTS COUNT

Make the moments count,
You've only one life to live!
Our days and years so swiftly mount —
Today's the day to give!

Why waste precious time
On empty and foolish things?
For there are heights sublime to climb —
Attainment sweet vict'ry brings.

Give your days to God!
He'll omniscient counsel give
And guide you by His holy Word —
Today's the day to live!

Give your all today,
Let Christ be Lord of all things!
With rich reward our God will pay;
Great joy and peace He'll bring!
Kathryn T. Bowsher

This past month our dear Sis. Lydia Wingeier has been hospitalized and is now residing at the Lowell Community Care Center; 350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331. I'm sure Lydia would appreciate any cards or letters that you could send her. Our prayers are with Sis. Lydia and her sister, Sis. Mary.

Bro. Dave Wingeier has also been hospitalized this month for heart sur-

gery. Sis. Bertha reports Dave is doing quite well and will soon be home to recover enough to enable them to return to their Florida home. We hope the warm sunshine of the south will be just what Dave needs for a complete recovery. God bless all those who are ill or hospitalized including those that we know not of.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Linda Ramseyer

Our congregation has been blessed this past month to have visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Ed Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI). We thank them for traveling to our area and ministering the Lord's Word to us.

Elder Bros. Ed Ringger and Aaron Steffen and our Elder Bro. Andy Virkler read and exhorted upon the memorandum of the brotherhood conference. We are thankful to hear of their concerns for us as we walk this pathway. Bro. Ed also spoke to our congregation on marriage enrichment while he was here. We appreciate these brothers for allowing the Lord to use them for His teachings.

Winsor (Sis. Loretta) Mosher was hospitalized for surgery this past month. We are thankful that he is home and feeling better.

This past month has been a joyous time as we celebrated the birth of Christ. Our Sunday School students proclaimed this joy through songs, poems and verses in their Christmas program. We also rejoiced as we went Christmas caroling to various places this past month.

As the new year approaches, may each of you continue to feel the presence of the Lord in your lives.

THE YEAR AHEAD

A flower unblown; a book unread;
A tree with fruit unharvested.
A path untrod; a house whose rooms
Lack yet the heart's divine perfumes.
A landscape whose wide border lies
In silent shade 'neath silent skies;
A wondrous fountain yet unsealed;
A casket with its gifts concealed -
This is the year that for you waits
Beyond tomorrow's mystic gates.

Horatio Nelson Powers

February is Silver Lining collection month for the Bay City congregation.

Please give your \$7.00 subscription payment to your reporter.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Dawn Bahr

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 100

Thanksgiving Day was an extra special day of thanksgiving for Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein. On that day they were blessed with the safe arrival of their precious little daughter, Whitney Elizabeth. "Big brother", Chet appears to enjoy his new sister. Whitney's grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Yvonne Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab (Wolcott, IN).

Our congregation enjoyed the ministry of Bro. Vernon Schwab when he came to meet his new granddaughter. Also visiting us this month was Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler. We thank these brothers and their wives for coming to share with us.

Sis. Jackie Barton was hospitalized and has now returned home. It is our prayer that Jackie, as well as each of us, can look heavenward in time of trouble, and feel the helping hand of our Lord.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Hildegard Koehl
Rhonda Zeltwanger**

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:18. We thank Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) for bringing us this power of God and also for helping Elder Bro. Art Nohl to share the memorandum with us. It was an edifying weekend.

Bro. Gilbert Schmidgall and Denise Nohl (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Sandy) were surgical patients this month. We pray for God's special blessings and healing powers for these loved ones in our congregation.

Sis. Rosina Moser had her 99th

birthday this month. Although she is no longer able to assemble with us, she continues in her strong faith and love for God.

Mickinsy Wevely is the new daughter of Bro. Steven and Sis. Sara Wevely. She has one sister, Brittany and her grandparents are Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma Dogotch. May God bless this family.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation by saying thank you to all who came to visit, send cards, flowers, gifts and remembered me in prayer while in the hospital. Since returning home, I would like to thank those who brought food. I would like to say a special thank you to those who cared for my children while I was in the hospital and recovering at home. Your love, kindness and prayers were felt and deeply appreciated. May God bless you.

Mrs. David Schmidgall

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the wonderful people that sent me cards, plants, money and other gifts when I was a patient at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston, TX and also when I returned to my apartment in Giddings, TX.

Also, I reached the big 50 on November 11 and again I received so many cards and gifts. It has been overwhelming. All these good wishes mean so much more, especially when I'm so far away from these I know and love. Without your faith in God, family and friends, this would have been quite a trial, but with all these I am recovering as well as can be expected.

A special thank you to Lee and Mary Plattner who drove all the way from Zapata to Houston to visit me while I was a patient in the hospital. I appreciated this very much. Also, a special thank you to my wonderful husband and daughters. They have been very supportive and understanding through all this. I was thankful they could be with me while I was in the hospital and when I returned to my apartment.

Again, a big thank you for all your love and kindness. I appreciated everything very much and I hope some day I can return this love and good wishes to each and every one of you. God bless you all.

Betty Zeltwanger

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Wanda Messner
Mary Lou Schmidt**

We are so thankful for our dearly beloved brothers who proclaim God's Word each Sunday that we might be spiritually fed. We especially want to thank the visiting ministers that have assembled with our small congregation in this past month, Bro. Alpha Moser (Morris), Bro. Russel Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Bros. Art Baurer and James Plattner (Princeville, IL). May God richly bless all for their willingness to give of themselves!

It was with much Christian joy and love; that we eagerly awaited the bus load of our dear brothers, sisters and friends from Princeville and Bradford, on the weekend of December 1. "Old" friendships were again renewed; as well as "new" friendships begun! We will always remember the love and fellowship which they brought to us. It was with misty eyes that we bid them farewell on Sunday afternoon. May God bless each of you who made the effort to travel the distance to visit us!

To be a child, is to know the fun of living . . .
To have a child, is to know the beauty of life!

Alan Doan

We rejoice with Russel and Teresa Messner who are first-time parents. They had a precious little girl, Dana Rae, on December 1. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Messner (Gaylord, MN).

It warms our hearts to hear the blessed story of Christ's birth, in song and verse, by our Sunday school children! We pray that each one will come to know this small babe as their personal Saviour! Tho' it was chilly outside, we felt an inner glow, as we sang Christmas carols to the elderly and shut-ins.

Our hospital patients this past month were Cory Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou), Pat Mattes (Sis. Barbara) and Archie Lienemann (Sis. Pearl). All are now home and doing quite well — but with a lot of pain. We pray God will add His wonderful healing touch to all!

A Special Thought: The Lord may return in 1985; if He does, are you ready to meet Him?

January is the month Winthrop sets aside for Silver Lining dues.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Sandra Luthi — Becky Marti

Our congregation was blessed with many visitors this past month. How precious it is to be able to meet those of like mind and faith from a distance whom we have not met before, and yet feel the same love and fellowship. We especially thank those brothers who were willing to minister God's holy Word to us. They were Elder Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL); and ministering Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), Dennis Warner and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA). May God continue to grant each of our ministers the grace to rely on His Holy Spirit to inspire them as they are called to bring forth His Word.

Although we have begun another year, let us each one remember that we are not promised tomorrow — that we should live each day as though it were our last. "Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be, on earth, or else in heaven, another year for Thee" ('Another Year Is Dawning', Hymns of Zion, # 150).

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Becky Gudeman

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Acts 20:32

We thank Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forest, IL) for his time and effort to minister to us this month. We appreciate all who traveled with him. It is always a blessing to meet and greet our brothers and sisters.

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

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

December —

"December is cold winds with sharp and brittle breath. My window pane paints a fairyland of trees covered with silver-white frost. Behind them stretches a blue-velvet sky. The clothesline looks like stretched taffy. God pulls the shade of twilight, and

darkness fills my world for another day. It's time to rest."

M. Peterson

"Thank you" to Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann Knapp for sharing their Thanksgiving Day guests with us and a special thanks to Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville) for his willingness to be used in God's service. "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1.

Sis. Jerilyn Yackley (Bro. Joe) is recovering from foot surgery resulting from a fall in April. We're glad to have Elder Bro. Roy back in his place on the pulpit after a period of absence due to the illness he encountered while in the trip to India. May God continue to grant improved health and strength so the duties required by both of these, Jerilyn and Roy, can be carried on.

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

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

Hymns of Zion # 156

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell have taken up their usual winter residency in Florida. We trust the warmer weather will attribute a more comfortable existence for William who suffers from Parkinson's Disease and very patiently accepts his "cross". If you don't know what to be thankful for, be thankful for all the troubles you haven't had."

Our Sunday school children entertained us with the usual beautiful and inspiring Christmas story in song and verse. We cannot be thankful enough for this special blessing and would just like to share it with everyone. "Thank you" to all the teachers, all the children and our ministers who added the final message to a special afternoon.

February is Taylor's Silver Lining collection month.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Lee Bahler and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). We are thankful for all of the brothers who came during the year to help and support our

small congregation and we pray God will bless them as richly as He has blessed us with their visits.

We praise God for His love and compassion in touching the heart of our dear friend, Bill Graf, as he seeks his salvation. Bill is formerly from Akron but has worked in the Union City/New York area for a number of years. May God add His grace and blessing.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Sis. Antoinette Schulz was called from this life December 12, at the age of 94. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her sisters, Sis. Martha Schulz and Mrs. Ruth Steiner, and her brother, Bro. Seth Schulz. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Services were held on December 15 by Bros. Norbert Steiner, John Widrick and Robert Beyer. May the family be comforted by the words sung at the funeral that she is "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," where she is free from all earthly pain and suffering.

Our congratulations are extended to John and Matie Farney who were united in marriage December 7. May they look to God for strength and guidance as they begin their new home together. Their parents are Bro. Niles and Sis. Polly Farney, and Sherwood and Joan Zehr.

Also best wishes are in order for Chris Virkler and Susan VanNest as they have announced their engagement and are making their wedding plans for May, 1985.

Lori Herzig (Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor) was missing from Sunday school after having her tonsils removed. We hope she can be with us for our Christmas program next Sunday.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

Sis. Rozella Schulz and Bro. Raymond Stockberger have been in the hospital for a few days but are able to be out again.

It is nice that Bro. Arthur Herzig is able to assemble with us again.

Last Sunday, after the afternoon services, the Croghan congregation assembled with us to hear the reading of the conference letter. How true it is that we are so apt to fall short of obeying the warnings set before us. May the brothers, through the Lord's

guidance, continue to warn us of the dangers.

This past Sunday afternoon, after services, a group from Naumburg went to sing Christmas carols to some of the folks that were unable to get out.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

"A bundle of myrrh is my well beloved unto me." Song of Solomon 1:13. A bundle of myrrh is our well beloved Jesus unto us who is on our heart day and night. Myrrh can come in sticks, but Jesus is a whole bundle — a stick for every need.

Myrrh has a preserving quality. Nicodemus brought myrrh and aloes to wrap the body of Jesus to preserve it and prevent decay. If we turn over our lives to the Lord Jesus, He will prevent us from decaying mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Myrrh has a pain-relieving quality. Jesus was offered myrrh to relieve His pain on the cross, but He received it not because He was our substitute to take all our pains and sorrows in our stead.

Myrrh has a disinfectant quality. The ancients had a custom of wearing myrrh around their necks to keep fever and colds away. We are to wear Jesus in our hearts to keep away worldly things. Myrrh has a healing quality. Jesus can heal us from physical, emotional and spiritual wounds.

Myrrh has a beautification quality. Esther used myrrh before she was presented to King Ahasuerus. If we have Jesus in our hearts, He can beautify our lives.

Todd Graf (Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf) received an associate degree in Data Processing from Akron University.

We were blessed with visiting ministers: Bros. Merril Laukhuf, Fred Domka, Pete Baltic, Gary Maibach, Harold Emch and Ben Hartzler.

Those hospitalized were: Sis. Olga Trostle, Sis. Kathryn Novotny, Ann Francis and Harold Fritz.

This past year we had two baptisms, three births, one marriage and four funerals.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Desma Klopfenstein

As a New Year begins, we look forward, once again, to the continuing fellowship of beloved visiting brethren. Our heartfelt love and thanks to Bro. Merril Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Bro.

Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) for bringing God's precious Word to us in its truth and sincerity. These brothers, along with their dear wives and visitors, shared much love and Christian fellowship with our congregation. We always appreciate and welcome visitors!

In this New Year, let's remember, if we totally commit ourselves to the Lord, we should ever be "resolved" to doing His will. Thus, if and when we fail as we often do, God doesn't give up on us; so we mustn't give up either . . . just keep trying.

"Dear God, the little plans I tried to carry through have failed.

I will not sorrow.

I will pause a little while and try again, tomorrow."

John Fico

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

Elder Bro. Jesse Beer assisted our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller in bringing us the conference conclusions this month. As we were encouraged to strive for holiness in all we do, each of us could be reminded of ways we want to better serve the Lord.

Steve Manz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) has found peace with God and man and is looking forward to giving his testimony as well as experiencing baptism. As a young man still in high school, he could have chosen the pleasures of this life for a time, but no doubt God can richly bless him for electing to serve Him in his youth.

January is Silver Lining collection month in Junction.

OHIO, LATTY

Laurie Stoller — Patty Gerber

We rejoice with Bro. Jason Williamson (Robert and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Wendy Locher (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Chris, Altadena, CA) of Princeville, IL as they have made known their plans for marriage. We pray for God's guidance as they learn to know each other better.

Two families from Latty were thrilled with the arrival of new babies. Michael Robert joins Mindy to complete the family of Robert and Sis. Joan Graf. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Alma Graf (Akron). Maternal grandmother is Sis. Marie Bauman (Rittman). Also enjoying a little baby is Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller. Esther Ellen was welcomed by Neil, Trent, Ross, Blane, Rustin and

Joy. Also happy for the little bundle were grandparents Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene Stoller.

Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo) ministered with us on Thanksgiving Day. We were thankful for his service.

Several from our congregation were hospitalized this month. We are glad to see most of them back in church with us again. Those hospitalized were: Tricia Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen), Bro. Roy Stoller (Sis. Beulah), Bro. Dick Schlatter (Sis. Viola), Sis. Maria Heffner, Sis. Josephine Wenninger (Bro. Don) and Ashley Wenninger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice). We continue to pray for complete healing of these loved ones, according to God's will.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Minerva Stoller (Leo) in the death of her brother, Omer Guingrich. He was known by many in our congregation and has been laid to rest here at Latty.

Did you make any "resolutions" for 1985. How well are you doing with them? Let's, rather, daily resolve to serve our Lord better and draw closer to Him. Goals are much more easily accomplished when taken one day or step at a time.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) shared Thanksgiving and God's Word with us. May thanksgiving be a major part of every day as we have so much to give thanks for.

We were all encouraged to hear the testimonies of Robin Washington (Bro. Bernie and Sis. Bev) and Chuck Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue) on November 24 and to rejoice with them in their new adoption as children of God through their faith in Christ Jesus. Elder Bros. Joe Ramsier (Rittman), Gene Pamer (Akron) and Aaron Steffen shared the day with us. May Bro. Chuck and Sis. Robin go forth rejoicing in their service to Christ our risen Saviour. "I will serve Him, because I love Him" . . . does our service reflect a steady glow or does our light often flicker and burn low?

Kevin Washington and Tina Guegold were married on November 3. Parents are Bro. Bernie and Sis. Bev and Mr. and Mrs. George Guegold. Tammy Oesch and David Graner were married November 24. Parents are Sis. Kate Oesch and Mr. and Mrs. Emery Graner.

A new address to take note of is: Mark and Lynette (Gabor) Rau, 432 Butler Drive, Midway Park, NC 28544. A visiting minister stressed that when a loved one's name comes to mind, the Lord has brought that person to our attention and we should act upon it, go visit them, call them or send them a card if they live a distance from us. They need an outward demonstration of our love at that particular time. Do we heed the movement of the Spirit? Yes, pray for the soul first, but also let them know you are loving and supporting them.

A birthday celebration was held for Sis. Matilda Schawecker on December 11. Many gathered to encourage her and wish her God's continued blessings of health, peace and joy in His service.

Our beloved Bro. Leonard Dolce left December 13 for a "work-visit" in Haiti. We wish him God's traveling mercies and trust God's richest blessings on Leonard as he lends himself in service. "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine."

On December 16, the annual Christmas program was held. As the children with joy and gladness tell the story of Christ, the Babe, are we willing to leave that beautiful miracle with the children or do we take it with us into our daily tasks and labors and share God's love and joy of this blessed season? "Be not content this babe to know, Nor stay at Bethlehem, But go with Christ to Calvary's brow," (The Babe of Bethlehem, Hymns of Zion).

As 1984 comes to a close, each one has experienced God's love and blessings. ". . . All things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28. As we step forth into 1985, let us do so with a bold faith. . . "Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand; But I know who holds tomorrow, And I know who holds my hand." (I Know Who Holds Tomorrow, Melodies of Praise).

OHIO, RITTMAN

Judy Stoller — Verla Stoller

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

Hymns of Zion #150

As we begin another year, let us each one review our lives this past year, and

see where our mistakes were, and where we can improve. Let us strive to draw closer to God, and become more like Him.

Those who have been hospitalized this past month for surgery or sickness are Sis. Ella Miller (Glen), Sis. Wilma Steiner (Bro. John), Bro. Andy Winkler (Sis. Mary Jane) and Sis. Irene Gasser. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, and we are glad when they can assemble with us again.

We also have had two funerals this past month. Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Burdella Bauman as she has left the struggles of this life, and gone to be with the Lord. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Eva Von-Nostran at the death of her brother, John Hodovan. ". . . weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Psalms 30:5.

"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16. Don and Sis. Carol Powell rejoice with the birth of their first child, a little son, Stephen Michael. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen Emch.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

As we are starting another New Year, we can look back and say that the Lord surely has been good to us. May this be another year filled with His rich blessings.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake on the birth of a son, November 22. Douglas Charles is welcomed home by Clifford, Lisa, Laura, Shelia, Julia, Matt and Sara. Grandparents are John and Sis. Almeda Brake (Sardis, OH) and Sis. Ruth Hilty (Rittman, OH).

Our dear friend John Riggerbach (Sis. Hazel), is recovering after having major surgery in November. John has turned to the Lord in repentance. May God give him the grace to find real peace with his Maker. May we all give of our love and ask God to bless and guide him.

Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) brought us the Word and instructed us from the brotherhood conference memorandum.

We rejoiced as we heard the Christmas story old by our Sunday school children. They sang songs and recited verses to honor our Lord's birth.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehklau
Frances Laidig

We were pleased to have as our visiting ministers on Thanksgiving Day, Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty) and Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN). We thank them for the message of salvation.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Anna Weigele were blessed by having their 50th wedding anniversary. They were honored with an open house given by their children. We enjoyed their many visiting relatives and friends. Among them were Elder Bro. Joseph Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Bro. William Gerst (Alto, MI).

This is the time of the year that we consider the beautiful Christmas season with all the special messages of the birth of Jesus. This was a blessed gift to all people everywhere.

We have had our annual Sunday school Christmas program. It was so good to hear the children give praise to the Christ-child's birth by verse and song. We appreciate their cooperation with the teachers and are thankful for their guidance and patience.

Another New Year is here. Whatever part of it that God will grant to us, may we all pray that we will serve Him faithfully!

OREGON, PORTLAND
Barbara Moser

THE KEEPER OF THE INN

Long years ago in Bethlehem
 The keeper of the inn
 For Joseph, Mary and the Babe,
 Would make no room within.
 He bolted fast the wooden door
 And made them go away
 Into a bedless stable, where
 They slept upon the hay.
 Now you are keeper of the inn,
 And Jesus stands outside;
 The latchstring hangs inside the door.
 Will you let Him inside?

Once Jesus came in human flesh
 To die for all our sin.
 Now He in spirit comes to man,
 And asks to enter in.
 Now you are keeper of the inn,
 The inn which is your heart.
 The choice is yours to ask Him in,
 Or bid Him to depart.
 O Jesus, come in human flesh
 To save us from our sin,

I gladly open wide the door;
 Come now and enter in.

E.L.G.

It is the most sincere prayer of every child of God that many, many loved ones will heed their heavenly call this New Year. Will this be the year that the door of grace will be closed? No one knows, but why wait and take the chance of not ever seeing your loved ones again? Many are called, but few are chosen. Are you among the many who are called, but will not heed; therefore be forever lost?

Here in the Portland area we are having our winter rains. The Lord blesses our area with beautiful green color all winter long. With mild winters, we look forward to those of you who will come and visit our area.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

At this writing the snow is gently falling, the ground is almost white, certainly putting one in a holiday mood. We enjoyed our visitors during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season from Phoenix, AZ; Remington and Wolcott, IN; and Junction, OH. We have truly enjoyed the special activities of the season, such as singings, World Relief projects, group cookie and candy making, and the Christmas caroling for shut-ins, the lonely and nursing homes. The joy of giving (whether it be canned goods for the needy, a plate of cookies for a friend or a gift for a loved one) is abundant this time of year. It is important to remember, as was mentioned recently by one of our ministering brothers, that the greatest gift of all, eternal life, is available to everyone. Yet, many will turn it down.

Jack Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee) and Janet Rush (LeRoy and Rose Rush, Gervais) have announced their engagement. They plan a July 1985 wedding after Janet graduates from Oregon State University as a medial technologist. Jack is employed as a pressman at Your Town Press in Salem.

December 19, was a special day for Bro. Lewis Kuenzi (Sis. Gloria) because that was the day that the Oregon State School for the Deaf held a reception honoring him and three other retiring employees. Bro. Lewis was given a Letter of Recognition and a special "School House" plaque from the Deaf

School and the Dept. of Higher Education for his more than forty years of "service to the needs of deaf children". More than a dozen and a half of Lewis's immediate family members were present to share this special day and to enjoy their noon meal with him.

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA

Ann Gasser

Recently our Sunday school presented the account of Jesus' birth through Scripture reading and song. They began by reading prophecy that told of some of the circumstances in which the Messiah would come. Readings proceeded through the time when the kings from the East brought gifts to honor Him who would become the Saviour. Twelve children participated in this Christmas program. Later we enjoyed a meal and fellowship together.

As 1984 comes to its close, it is a time both for reflecting on our blessings and looking to the future with confidence in God's faithfulness to us. His Word gives us this assurance, and in our walk with Him, His faithfulness has been shown repeatedly.

TEXAS, DONNA - McALLEN
Joyce Nohl

We welcome the winter Texans that have arrived for this season. We also wish to extend an invitation to each of you that come to Texas to visit our small valley group at Donna, TX.

Our scheduled services for the balance of the season are as follows: Feb. 3, Feb. 17 and March 3. Services are held at Silver and Seventh Street in Donna at 10:30. Anyone visiting this area should feel free to call Lloyd Nohl at 682-0219 for further information.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 28)

Cain tried to alter this, and it did not work. God did not accept his sacrifice.

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." Hebrews 11:4. The sacrifice which Abel offered still speaks to us today. It should cause us to think. God says He wants a sacrifice with blood. That sacrifice has been given for you and for me

through the shed blood for the Lord Jesus Christ. If we do not avail ourselves of that sacrifice, beloved, then we are unacceptable as was Cain. We must have faith and believe.

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death . . ." Hebrews 11:5. Enoch was a man who walked with God. Can you and I say that we walk with God? Can we truthfully say that God is at our side? Do we commune with God on a person-to-person basis?

As you are going through your daily work, and as I am going through my daily work, do we talk with God? We should! That is one of the beauties, one of the blessings, that God has given to his children. We don't necessarily have to be in formal prayer in order to talk with God. God is always at our side if we will just welcome Him.

Enoch walked with God. "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Hebrews 11:5. You and I do not know if we will see death or not. Some people will be privileged to not see death, but most do.

If you and I do experience death, how would it be to know that our time is very short? If God spoke to you or to me today, at this very moment, and said that we had only six more hours to live, what would you do? What would I do?

There are those whose lives are snuffed out quickly. We don't believe that they fully experience death. Death comes quickly and they don't realize what is taking place. Some have the opportunity to actually go through the valley and shadow of death. What would be our feelings? What would be our understanding? Where would our faith be?

If God spoke to us at this moment, would we become hysterical? Or would we calmly thank God that there is a better place? If so, we could say, "Oh, God, we're looking forward to the beauties of heaven!" That is faith. That is the type of faith Enoch had. That is the type of faith that Abel had.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him." Hebrews 11:6. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Some of us are very weak in faith, and I, for one, am in this condition. We're weak in faith, but we have some faith. "But without faith (no faith whatso-

ever) it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is . . ." We have to believe that God is. We have to believe that God will take care of us. We have to be able to trust.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6.

These patriarchs of old diligently sought after God. They listened to God. They believed what God said.

It mentions that Noah ". . . being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Hebrews 11:7.

Would you and I have enough faith to go out here in the church parking lot, for instance, and build an ocean-going vessel? It would be far too large to float even in the Illinois River. Would we have the faith?

That is about how it was for Noah with no water in sight and no way to move such a vessel. However, having been told by God to build such a vessel, an ocean-going vessel, Noah did it. Now that required faith. Would you and I have that much faith? I fear whether I would. In fact, I know I wouldn't. But God, through His love and through His mercy, helps us.

Then we go on to Abraham. "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." Hebrews 11:8. Abraham was called the father of faith. This father of faith, the Word tells us, went, having been told by God that he should leave his country, leave his kinsmen, and go to a place that God would show him.

Abraham did not know where God was going to lead him. All Abraham knew was that he was to leave the country where he lived, and God would reveal to him where he should go.

Sometimes it seems that our lives are like that when we embark on a new spiritual life. God speaks to our hearts, doesn't He? He says, "I want you to leave the sinful condition that you are in. I want you to travel to a different place, and I will show you the way. So we leave our sinful condition, the sinful life.

You and I were not sure at that point

just exactly where God was going to lead us. I think, young people, that this should be a lesson for you. As you embark in adulthood after having given your heart to God, you aren't sure exactly where God is going to lead, are you? You're not sure. You need faith, don't you?

Those of us who are older may say, "Our lives are somewhat set. We have established a pattern in our lives." Are we sure where God is going to lead us? Are we sure of tomorrow/ Are we sure that one week from now, one month from now, a year from now, we will be able to do this or that? No, we cannot be sure.

We are somewhat like Abraham, aren't we? Do we have the faith that Abraham had? That is the question. Are we willing to embark on a new life?

Friends, we are speaking to you. Do you have a strong enough faith to believe that, if you embark on a new life, God will provide for you? If you do not have that faith, pray that you will. God is so loving and so merciful!

I believe that all here who have the peace of God in their hearts will surely say that, when they were in complete and total submission, God led the way. It was when we resisted Him and interfered with God's way that problems overtook us.

"By faith he (Abraham) sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:9, 10. That's the key. That's the key. We are to look for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God!

That's why you and I are here today, isn't it? We are looking for a city and that city is called the New Jerusalem. That city will have streets paved with pure gold. That city will be so beautiful that we mortal beings cannot describe the beauty. That city will have solid foundations, built to last through eternity. It's builder and general contractor is God. He is the One who created the world and all that is therein. That includes you and me. The builder and maker is God.

Beloved, you and I need faith. Let's pray for an abundance of grace, because we need grace to believe and to know that God has a city awaiting in heaven.

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER

EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. CHARLES HEMMER OF PEORIA, IL

Text: Hebrews 11

According to this chapter from Paul's epistle to the Hebrews, those of us who have the peace of God in our hearts cannot plan on a path of roses. We cannot expect God to make an easy or a beautiful way for us. The patriarchs of whom we read were tested and tried. They were tried to the point where they cried unto their God.

Beloved, you and I are tested and we are tried. But have we been tried to the point where we were "... tortured, not accepting deliverance"? Have we suffered "... cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment"? Hebrews 11:35, 36. Have we been tempted and tried in this way?

Maybe God knows that we are just a little bit weak in faith. When I say this, I am speaking of myself first. We are weak in faith . . . I am weak in faith. I need strength. When things go wrong, we pray, don't we? We turn to God, and we pray more fervently. This is good, but do we believe? Do we really believe, and do we trust?

This chapter opens by saying, "Now faith (and this is what we need - faith) is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1.

You and I want comfort. We want peace and joy in our lives. We want this not only for ourselves, but also for our dear loved ones, don't we? This is the human nature. Our bodies desire comfort, peace and joy. But where do we find real peace, real joy and real happiness? Where does it come from? It comes from God. You know this and I know this. It comes from believing and from faith in God. When we believe and have faith, then we have peace, joy and comfort!

"For by it the elders obtained a good report." Hebrews 11:2. Through faith the elders and the patriarchs of old obtained a good report. What kind of

report will you and I have as we stand in judgment with God and say, "Lord, here is my record. Here is a report of my life."?

God knows us. He sees into the innermost parts of our hearts. If we transfer from one school to another, from one job to another or even from one community to another, a series of records follows us. A report.

A report will also follow us to eternity. We want that record to be clean. We don't want any blemishes on it, do we? We want that record to be clear and clean, so that God will recognize us. Then we'll have a home in heaven.

Do we have enough faith to believe this? Do we believe that if we remain faithful and true, we will have this good report? "For by it the elders obtained a good report." The patriarchs of old obtained a good report, and you and I are striving for a good report.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Hebrews 11:3.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God."

- God is infinite.
- God is almighty.
- God is our all.
- God is the One who has created us.
- God is the One who has created everything we see.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God." Can we firmly, fully believe that all things that we have, we see, we do, are in direct relation to God? As believers in Jesus Christ, all of us will say, "Oh, yes!" But I am asking each one to examine his heart. Do we really believe from the depth of our heart? Do we really have the faith to believe?

When we have adversities, when things go wrong, what do we do? Do we

take matters into our own hands? Or do we have enough faith to believe that if we can just trust, God will work things out for our betterment? Sometimes you and I are so close to the situation, our problems, our cares, our troubles, that we really can't see clearly.

Do we have the faith to believe that there is a God in heaven who is looking down over us? Maybe this trial, this concern, this problem will draw us closer to God.

You see, that is part of faith. We have to trust. If we are God-fearing and have lived a completely surrendered life, we should believe that all things have been permitted by God as part of His overall plan. Do we believe this?

Let us go on. "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." Hebrews 11:4. Self enters into this. When we are selfish, putting self first, we are in trouble. That is exactly what happened to Cain. Cain offered a sacrifice, and he was a God-fearing man or he would not have offered a sacrifice.

Cain offered a sacrifice, but Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice. Why did Abel offer a more excellent sacrifice? Because that sacrifice was according to the Word of God. He believed what God had said.

Remember the two sacrifices that these two men offered. One offered a sacrifice that contained blood; the other offered a sacrifice of plants, where there was no blood involved.

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." Self came in. Cain probably thought, "Well, I'll offer a sacrifice. It really doesn't make God any difference what kind of sacrifice, just so it is a sacrifice." But God doesn't work that way. God is perfect. God is so perfect in His ways that we must do as He commands us, or we have no chance for heaven.

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