

The Silver Lining

And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

Hebrews 6:11

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I Peter 3:18a

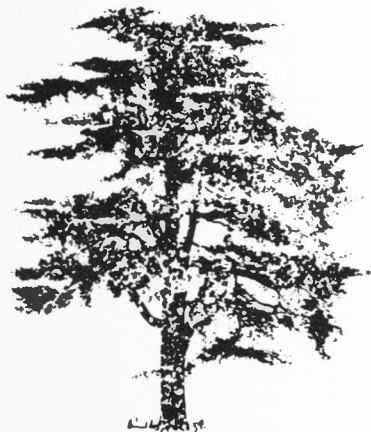
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Growth . . . or Hibernation?

At this time of year, we can observe much of the life around us in the state of hibernation. God has ordained this as part of His glorious creation, evident in nature around us. Ironically, we as Christians have a choice to make as to whether we are experiencing "spiritual growth" or "spiritual hibernation". There are some biblical truths that we need to know concerning growth.



1. We have a choice concerning our spiritual "growth" or "hibernation".

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

II Peter 13:17, 18

2. We are commanded to grow.

Therefore learning the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection . . .

Hebrews 6:1

3. Our spiritual growth centers around our involvement in God's Word.

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

I Peter 2:2

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

II Timothy 3:16, 17

4. The goal of our spiritual growth is perfection (Christlikeness).

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ . . . But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

Ephesians 4:13, 15

5. As believers we'll face a judgment one day concerning our choice to "spiritually grow or hibernate".

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If every man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss . . .

I Corinthians 3:13-15



As we look ahead to God's promise of spring, let us evaluate our own lives as to whether we are in a state of "spiritual growth or hibernation". Let us meditate upon God and His Word, and then let us obey Him without delay or reservation.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7

NEED FOR TEACHERS IN JAPAN

Dearly beloved brethren,

Most blessed and wonderful are greetings in the fellowship of the saints through Jesus Christ our Lord.

It has been quite some time since we have had to make a plea to the brethren for teachers to carry on the labors in Japan among our brethren.

Sis. Margie Heintz from Champaign/Urbana (as well as from Rockville, CT) will finish her two-year term in the nursery/kindergarten school "Under the Vines" at Shioda, Yamanashi, Japan. We are fortunate to have Sis. Sheila Moser (Lester, IA) who is serving so capably and sharing an apartment with Sis. Margie. We have tried to follow the Lord's teaching where He sent them forth two by two. This helps to provide companionship as well as support to the sisters who work together in this important calling.

It has also worked out very well that Bros. Frank Sauder (formerly from Roanoke, IL) and Randy Mogler (originally from West Bend, IA and more recently from Champaign, Urbana and Bloomington, IL respectively) are also serving in Japan. The brothers have a nice apartment not too far from the church in the country. They help to administer the school as well as provide conversation English classes. In addition, along with other activities, they have been holding special Bible classes in Tokyo. It is encouraging to note that they have definitely stimulated some interest. We're glad to see young men becoming involved in some of the classes.

There is a burden among all who are knowledgeable about the work, that after the children leave the nursery/kindergarten school they just seem to phase out, and we generally don't see them again. The plea has come from Japan that we recognize our responsibility in trying to keep them closer to

the faith. The suggestion was made to the Missionary Committee that we consider another sister to be available for special classes to attempt to reach the children and their parents to whom the brethren become so closely attached while they are in kindergarten. This will be quite a challenge. The Committee is agreed that if we can find another sister, who has the professional ability, we would be most happy to see what can be accomplished.

Consequently, we have a need for two qualified sisters. If any of you are interested, we urge you to very prayerfully consider this important matter. Candidates must be in good standing with their home congregation and shepherd, have certification compatible with the positions available, and be prepared to lend themselves, God willing, for a two-year commitment to the position in Japan.

We have found it wise for accepted candidates to prepare themselves while yet in the States with some Japanese instruction. Surprisingly, it is available in a lot of areas. It is not mandatory, but very helpful as it prepares one to be better able to communicate with the parents and neighbors. Japanese lessons are available by some of our own brethren. Most of those involved in the work in the School take on-going Japanese lessons.

To those interested, any of the Missionary Committee brethren would be happy to answer questions, or you can contact Bro. Willis Ehnle or myself. We stress, it is not a vacation, but rather a very responsible opportunity to lend yourself to a very important work in God's vineyard. Replacement for Sis. Margie Heintz should be by mid-summer '85.

Your needy servant,
Ben Maibach

REPORT ON EASTERN EUROPE

Bro. Andy Hunyady

"Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to

comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

II Corinthians 1:2-4

Dearly Beloved:

Greetings! First I would like to con-

vey to each of you the many greetings and thanks for your generous giving and sharing your material blessings from the brethren and friends in Eastern Europe. Cards and letters received during and since the Christmas and New Year holidays bring many good wishes to you and your families for the new year! Some had expressed the hope that brethren from America will be able to visit them in their homes this coming year, so they can know us better.

A widowed sister writes: "Beloved brethren, First I want to let you know that I am fairly well except for being a lonely widow. I wish you all grace and peace from our Lord. As the year end is approaching my heart dictates that I should write to you to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all, who had shown so much love and kindness to me and all the elderly in our community with your gifts during this past year. I cease not to pray and ask our Heavenly Father to pour out His rich blessings upon you for your sacrificial giving and sharing. Surely, He will

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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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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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

reward you for it! Again I ask that if you or any of the brethren are coming to visit in our country, it would bring much joy to our hearts if you would come into our community to visit us. You are most welcome! We look forward to your encouraging letters. The dear elderly brethren here join with me to wish you blessings and send greetings in the name of our Saviour to the beloved brethren and friends, both near and far, Your (widowed) sister-in-faith, ZS. R."

An old ministering brother writes: "Dearly beloved brother and brethren-in-the-Lord, who are in that distant land, I wish you all the grace and peace of our blessed Lord and the guiding of His good and Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank God each day for you, beloved, and the dear friends for your love and compassion. The Lord is doing great things for us through you, and blessed us with your many gifts, for which we feel so unworthy to receive. Though we are strangers, for we have never met, yet we feel this kinship that binds us together by the power of the Holy Spirit. You will never know just how much it helped us to receive the

"Manna from Heaven", when the need was the greatest. How miraculously God can provide for His redeemed! I am weak and it is difficult for me to write, but I wanted to thank you and to all of you who made this labour of love possible. I greet you all in the name of our blessed Saviour, T. J."

Official government reports in Yugoslavia indicate that in 1984 a 65% inflation has greatly affected the cost of living. The persons receiving aid through the World Relief have somewhat benefitted by the 54% increase of the value of our American dollar. A slight increase in our bi-monthly allotment last year also helped to offset the changes and so were slightly affected by them. We received a year-end report from the brethren and are impressed with the details and care used in disbursing these funds. Again, they express their thanks to God and to all who make this noble project a reality. Our correspondent writes: "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gifts! and our thanks to you for your steadfast labours in the name of Christ!" Christian greetings and best wishes for the New Year!"

They, too, are appreciative and thankful.

THE THERAPY OF PRAYER Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle Shioda, Japan

Prayer to the living God is an excellent therapy. It costs up to one hundred dollars an hour to talk to a psychiatrist so why not try talking to the living God for free? Psychiatrists are to be respected, not so much for the money they earn but for trying to help people who seem to be immune to help.

However, there is the matter of praying with faith, which must be considered. If you think that everything was created by itself, slowly or speedily, either way, prayer may not be effective as a therapy. You must have the feeling that you are really talking to somebody, not just to an imaginary nobody, created in man's imagination.

If you do believe in God and you're willing to talk to Him, talk on. Sometimes, look out of your window and pray. Pray silently and unobtrusively if in the presence of others and outloud when you are all alone with God. If God created you, this universe and probably many other universes, too, He should be able to hear and understand you without straining Himself. He is God!

Tell God all about yourself, your failures, your ambitions, your lack of self-worth, etc. Through Christ there is forgiveness and balm for the asking, but we must be humble enough to accept it and adhere to Christ.

Many people talk to themselves or to a pet when no other people are around. That is excellent therapy to reduce loneliness and to give a feeling of companionship. It is much better therapy to talk to the living God, believing, because there is the assurance that He really does know and understand. It would certainly be a panacea if you were ever placed in solitary confinement.

There is also the benefit of feeling responsible to God, if you talk to Him a lot. The Holy Spirit has more access to our hearts if we sincerely talk with God without ceasing. Sins will be confessed; repentance will be continual. We will benefit all around. There will be resistance to sinful temptations, including unwarranted anger and impatience.

The Apostle Paul writes, "Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17. This leads one to believe that prayer

WORLD RELIEF REPORT

Bro. Harry Isch

Kentucky Homes Dessie Scott

After facing various difficulties for several months, the administrator, Mrs. Winchip, prayerfully sought the Lord's guidance, asking to be shown in which area He would have them serve.

They feel that His direction leads them to continue helping children; during the last six months they have served 18 children, including 2 from staff families. They are also helping 2 "destitute" mothers with children, and have helped several needy families.

Dora Lee

The home is operated by two kindly older ladies, one a widow of the founder of Dora Lee.

At present they are caring for 6 handicapped children.

Bethany

Bethany Christian Mission Center (formerly Bethany Children's Home) is now a Christian boarding school.

Their purpose is to help needy children — those from broken homes,

those with emotional problems, some "behind" in school for one reason or another. At present there are 55 children in their school, 25 of them are day-care students from surrounding areas.

There are 20 active staff members who receive \$100 a month — "providing it comes in!"

All three of these homes are deeply appreciative and wish to thank the World Relief (all of you) for the help given.

India Medical Mission

"A Christian Hospital in India is a place of service to the sick where they receive the love of Christ from its workers who are devoted to the Lord. Many in India desire to go to a Christian hospital for their treatment, because of the dedicated services of doctors and nurses."

from India Fellowship News
World Relief funds are used to buy medical supplies for the Christian Fellowship Medical Center at Shamshabad, India.

includes an attitude of communing with God, of feeling a closeness and a oneness with Him. This state of mind is something the individual must develop with God's help; it is not something that is given to you outright like salvation. And the more you talk with God

through this attitude and state of mind, the more you will enjoy it, and the more you enjoy it, the more it will serve as a wonderful therapy for you. You may have sorrows and distress at times, but you will have a resiliency against which Satan cannot stand.

HELP FOR SMALL CONGREGATIONS

Employment Opportunities in the Philadelphia area Bro. Ed Aeschleman

With fewer people working on farms and high unemployment in some areas, many of our members and friends have been finding employment in the building trades. In the hope of attracting some who have an interest in this field to the Philadelphia congregation, we would like to describe the current status of the construction industry in our area. The real estate experts in our area are convinced that Philadelphia is now entering a construction boom. The following projects in downtown Philadelphia are scheduled to start soon: a 440 million dollar convention center, a 200 million dollar hotel, a 600 million dollar office complex, a 330 million dollar IBM building and a large number of smaller projects. New industries are also moving into the suburbs, and housing starts are up and projected to remain strong. A severe labor shortage in the skilled trades has already developed, especially in residential construction. Because of this, labor rates have climbed considerably. For example, workers who put up siding are now getting three times the wage that is paid in many other parts of the country for this job, while the cost of living in the Philadelphia area remains moderate. All of the above figures and projections are taken from a lengthy article of this subject that ran in the

December 31 "Philadelphia Inquirer" newspaper.

We would hope that anyone interested in these opportunities would contact any one of the Philadelphia members. Bro. Ron Laparo, employed in the building materials business is familiar with the local construction firms and has offered to help arrange job interviews. Bro. Ed Aeschleman would also be available to work with anyone who is interested.

In addition to the economic opportunity, this could open the way to render an important service to the Lord in helping to build our small Philadelphia congregation. Our church was built in 1980 in a beautiful rural area about 25 miles west of the city of Philadelphia and presently consists of six-member families and several other families.

OREGON, PORTLAND Bro. Robert Miller

We offer a special welcome to any brother, sister or family who feels in their heart that they would like to be more used of God, in His service, and to His glory. I Peter 4:11.

We are few, but are as a closely knit family in the Lord. The late ministering Bro. Rudolph Diriwachter, known as the Portland Brethren's "Loyal and Respected Leader" in the mid and late 30's, (Marching to Zion, bottom of page 253), often spoke of "peace and

harmony" in his inspiring messages. We are thankful for the peace and harmony we are blest with. Psalm 133:1.

A loyal believing friend who is retirement age, is offering his advertising business to any brother or friend who would feel led to move to Portland and support our church. He would give them sufficient training to take over the business. If interested, call 503-771-7834.

We believe there are various job opportunities available in the "City of Roses", which has a population of approximately 375,000. May each one of us yield to the Spirit of God through prayer, and thus be led according to the will of God. I John 2:17.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WOODHAVEN NURSING HOME DETROIT, MI

Need For An Administrator
Beloved Brethren,

The congregations of Alto, Bay City and Detroit, MI, along with Toledo, OH, are engaged in constructing a nursing home on newly acquired property adjacent to the Detroit church located in Livonia, MI.

We have our certificate of need for a shelter-care facility, and are in the process of making application for total nursing care. Our license is for 66 beds, but we may reduce that if necessary.

We hope to have the facility ready for occupancy early in 1986; and we are in need of a brother or sister to fill the role of administrator. We see merit in bringing this individual on board just as soon as possible so they will be able to participate in some of the decisions that will affect operation of this home.

Interested brethren should send their inquiries either to Bro. Philip Bahr, 17366 Westbrook, Livonia, MI 48152, or to Ben Maibach, 14726 Fox, Redford, MI 48239.

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
January 1985 -	850	5384

NOTICE

Please keep in mind when making plans for 1985 - the 9th Annual Children's Home Sale will be held on the fourth Saturday of August.

- August 24, 1985 -

Thank you very much!

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

and we felt a deep sense of anticipation in meeting the members of the Indian Mission at the airport.

The flight was late and they had waited a long time, but there was a real joy in meeting one another again and for some, the first meeting. A joyous greeting from the Christians, and as is custom in India, they placed garlands of flowers around our necks. Those in the welcome group were Mr. Patole, administrator; Pastor Dangre, Lazarus and Vimal Padale; Dr. Gaganin; Mr. Naik and Mr. Dhalwau of the mission board.

We loaded all the baggage in the bus and drove to the Methodist Center. I soon was to see the great need, hunger, no home, as we saw the number of people asleep on the sidewalk, the mother holding her baby, begging for food on the streets, of whole families living in a lean-to. I was overwhelmed with the great need. The Lord answered prayer — "Do all you can".

In the morning, we were awakened at 6:00 by a sound system call over the city, the Moslem call to prayer and worship. We visited the Indian Bible Society and presented a gift from the church Bible Fund to help in their Bible distribution program. Several years ago the Missionary Fund sent funds to help finish the translation of the Bible into Marathi, the dialect spoken by the mission. We were able to purchase Bibles and Testaments to be given during the visits to the villages.

We packed baggage, the Bibles and all boarded the bus for the trip to the Khardi Mission Compound. I found out what Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman was speaking about the traffic and driving practices in India. I was assigned the front seat and soon found out that on the one lane roads, the drivers continue toward one another until one gives way, usually the smaller vehicle. Things got pretty tense as you mix this driving with the ox carts, hundreds of pedestrians on foot, the cattle wondering about and the herds of sheep and goats.

North of Bombay we saw mile after mile of squatters, families living in wood, cardboard and tin shacks, no sanitary facilities, children in need of food and clothing, women cooking over a fire. Again I was overwhelmed by the great need and the tremendous task the Indian government faces in trying to help feed and shelter these many needy, for there is a population of

MEMORIES OF JAPAN AND INDIA

Elder Bro. David Bertsch

(Continued from December Issue)

There were many blessed memories of the times of Christian fellowship with the Japanese and American brothers and sisters and our Elder Bros. Willis and Akito, holding steadfast in faith in the faraway land. This so reminded us of the worldwide outpouring of our heavenly Father's love, grace and Holy Spirit to all who will receive and believe.

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

Surely the fields are white unto harvest in the cities and countryside of Japan.

As the Boeing 747 lifted from the Narita airport, we beheld in awe and wonder the beauty and glory of God's creation and the infinite wisdom of God, making all things possible. We were soon over the Japanese Islands and headed for Hong Kong, where there was to be a day layover. We saw how busy the new territories and Hong Kong were, a trade, manufacturing, shipping and financial center for the East. In the morning we took the subway under the Bay to visit Hong Kong Island. There were masses of people, shoulder to shoulder, trying to make their way to work. As we traveled

through the island and the new territory, we saw a vast contrast from the very prosperous to the apartments along the hillside that spoke of the poverty and crowded living conditions. We were amazed at the tremendous task undertaken to build the International Airport runway out into the bay by dredging and filling in.

Again we were so deeply impressed by the vast number of people we met, and how few had heard the message of love and salvation through Jesus Christ.

As we boarded the flight to Bombay, we traveled on Swiss Air, with very courteous help and service. We were now hearing all announcements in four or five languages, so the multi-national group of passengers could understand. As the plane flew over Viet Nam, the pilot spoke of the Mekong River Delta. I thought of the war and the many soldiers in that area years ago and of how many lost their lives there. It was a very sobering thought, as we now were flying freely over the land. We refueled at Bangkok, Thailand and when we stepped out of the plane, the temperature was over 100°. We then continued winging our way toward Bombay, where we would be half-way around the world.

Bro. John had been briefing us of the events and work that was ahead of us

approximately 740 million people.

On the way we stopped at Mr. Patole's apartment at Thana and we were served refreshments and the family sang beautiful hymns. We were treated so kindly and with a Christian welcome. As we traveled many miles, visited many villages, we were so appreciative of all the work and effort, Mr. Patole (administrator of the mission) did to provide for our every need.

(Continued next issue — Arrival at Khardi Mission Compound)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring — Judy Luginbuhl

Is it possible we are well on our way into 1985 already? How quickly the holiday season, with all the anticipation and excitement, becomes a memory. But aren't memories precious? One songwriter put it this way, "Precious memories, unseen angels, sent from somewhere to my soul; how they linger, ever near me, precious, sacred scenes unfold." The memories of the true Christmas are very precious and sacred, especially to that man or woman who has become a member of the family of God through Christ our Lord, whose earthly birth we celebrate at Christmas time.

We have about three inches of snow on the ground, and the temperature is quite cold. Old man winter, with his icy blasts of frigid wind and snow, has yet a few weeks to reveal himself. It is interesting to face the challenge of each new day, and how heartwarming to know that even the elements are in His hands. What a comfort to know that we, too, are in His hands; may we be pliable, like soft clay, that He might mold us and make us as He would have us to be.

Thursday, January 10, four of us from this area were in the Princeville, IL area to help at the annual "Hog Butchering" at Bro. Nick Knobloch's farm. A good number (this writer would estimate between 45-60) helped cut up the "porkers" that had been slaughtered the previous day. It was a day of good fellowship, so beneficial to our spiritual development. The meat was wrapped and distributed to some of our various church sponsored homes. We truly "took home the bacon". "Thank you" to the donors of the hogs, to those who helped butcher them, and to Bro. Nick for the use of his facility

for such a worthy cause. May the Lord bless you all as only He can.

Our children are now back in the routine of school following the holiday vacation. They are fortunate to have all the educational advantages afforded them in this great land of ours. Our Creator has indeed been good to us. Are we appreciative and thankful enough? We must all answer this question individually.

From our teenagers we often hear a cry for freedom. "I just want to be able to do what I want to do." "I don't like to be told what to do." "I don't have to listen to anyone." "I'm not a child." "I don't need your help, I can handle my own self."

With freedom comes responsibility. This comes hard not only to our sprouting young people, but mature adults too. In attempting to show this correlation to our young people, we break down the process in small basic steps. First, we must give the opportunity to show accountability to responsibilities. Responsibilities may be anything from completing daily house chores, managing time, developing study habits, to time alone with a friend, dating, babysitting or other types of jobs in the community. As accountability for behavior and performance is shown, there is a steady progression up the responsibility ladder taking with it an increase of freedom and independence. Naturally the reverse of this carries with it the consequences of decreased freedom, imposed limits and boundaries.

There seems to be a conflict with this teaching and what our society and schools are bringing across to our young people. "This is a free country. You're free to do your own thing." In part, this is true. However, our desire is to help our children use this opportunity positively and in accordance with Christian standards. Apostle Paul wrote about this in Galatians 5:13. "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." The liberty is granted for our own moral growth, not for our self destruction. Such a freedom is a result of having shown ourselves to our Lord accountable to His Word. Because of and through Christ, we need not be in bondage.

Our aim is to encourage our young people to desire to become more accountable for their behavior, to use

their freedom as an opportunity to make good choices, eventually for independent living. Upon leaving our home at eighteen or sooner, we hope they will be prepared through the direct base of God's Word, to find and maintain employment, seek out a spiritual support group and fellowship, and make right moral decisions.

On January 20, one of our boys, Kelly, who was in the West House, returned to his home. As he faces many important decisions ahead we hope he will remember to pray and apply the teachings and principles portrayed through the many Bible stories he's been exposed to here. Our prayers go with him.

We thank you for your continued support and prayers for our work here.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

There is something intangibly peaceful about the depth of winter, which is conducive to quiet meditation. In Psalm 51:10, David prayed, ". . . renew a right spirit within me . . ."

To treat our fellow man with the right spirit is our need, too. To help to impart a beautiful sense of contentment to our residents through a "right spirit" within ourselves is surely a worthy goal. Ralph Waldo Emerson once described a side effect of that. He said, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." We sometimes speak of conducting ourselves as if it were our last day on earth, but how would it be if we tried treating others as if it were their last day?

Though our staff of 100 or more have their usual components of human frailties, yet it is their goal to do the best that is possible for our residents. They want to work for what they believe in with all their strength, making each effort a labor of love. They want to give freely of themselves with heart and arms ever open to those who need comfort. Often when it is necessary to share their burdens with God, it is also their intention to plant a flower of thankfulness over each complaint.

When a family home is expecting the arrival of a new baby, there is careful preparation. So, too, it is with our Home here. When a new resident is due to arrive, there is also careful preparation. A team of key people, who have by phone and correspondence received

pertinent information, have meetings to plan what is best in every way for the resident who is due to arrive.

New to our Home is Jaleen Mogler from Lester, IA. The daughter of Phil and Lydia Mogler, she has four sisters, Janice, Joyce, Jeryl and June, all married. Eight nieces and six nephews complete this loving family. Jaleen enjoys many foods; among them are chicken, hamburgers and ice cream. Listening to tapes and looking at pictures are among her favorite pastimes. Birthday for Jaleen is April 18. We welcome Jaleen. Her sweet smile has already won many hearts.

We often make reference to our valuable volunteers, but it may be that many do not realize the significance of the contribution they make to our Home. Therefore, perhaps we can feature some of the various categories of those who give so selflessly, without thought of remuneration. A goodly number of our residents leave the facility and go to church in Morton. For transporting this group there is a roster of volunteer men who take their turns to come out to our Home early on Sunday morning, take care of the technicalities with the nurses, load the residents in a vehicle and proceed to drive to church. At church the residents must be carefully unloaded and given any other help needed. Some of the group will be transported home after the morning service, and some will stay for the afternoon service and will be taken home after that. If there is evening singing at church or other functions open to everyone, they are taken again by the same driver. On Wednesday evening, the procedure repeats itself. Drivers take their turns for a week at a time. Their wives are also available to give assistance to the lady residents. Thank you, drivers, we appreciate you.

It is also with appreciation that we think of the Morton church, whose members and friends have been most helpful and understanding in integrating our residents into their congregation.

Until next time, remember, look for the good points in others and overlook the faults. You'll be amazed at what nice people you know.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

When we gathered for services on Christmas morning, many families

were blessed with reunions of their families or friends.

Other visitors who came for New Year's Eve services arrived in light showers, which brought our year's total to a very excessive amount. We are grateful the Lord blessed us with plenty of water to start 1985.

New officers elected at our yearly business meeting were: Bro. Don Emch, treasurer; Bro. Clarence Beyer, Bldg. Care inside; Bro. Ted Knochel, Exterior Bldg. Care; Bro. Ed Zollinger, Sunday School Superintendent; Bro. Jim Meiss, Ass't. Sunday School Superintendent; Bro. John Dotterer, Ass't. Song Leader; and Bro. James Emch, Usher.

We thank the following ministering brothers for bringing us timely messages during the past month: Bros. Andrew Lehman (South Bend), Joe Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS).

Sis. Gladys Fisher is out of the hospital after having pneumonia. Sis. Gladys will be recuperating at her son, Don's home in California.

It is a joy to see Bro. Roy and Sis. Minnie Farney and Sis. Martha DeMille able to worship with us. Bro. John Kaufman's aunt, Peg Bach (Ed Bach, Fairbury), had unexpected surgery after coming to Phoenix for the winter. Peg is still in Intensive Care (since mid-Dec.) and your prayers are appreciated.

Trust in the Lord, and do good. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Psalm 37:3 & 4.

Reminder: Please pay your Silver Lining dues to Bro. John Kaufman or to Bro. Ron Hoerr. The dues are \$7.00.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

January 4 was the day chosen for the wedding ceremony of Maria Pazzi and Steve Bauer. Parents of the couple are Dr. and Mrs. Nick Pazzi and Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer. Steve and Maria will be living in Tucson and assembling with our congregation. We want to wish them every happiness the Lord can bring into a marriage where he is a part.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). We have also been enjoying the presence of Bro. Walter Rehklaue and members of his family who have been visiting us here in Tucson for a few

weeks. He and his wife will be with us for yet another few weeks and we certainly appreciate his efforts of love during his stay here. We heartily welcome Bro. Walter and his family to visit us again next winter. We wish to thank all three ministers for coming to Tucson and bringing us words of encouragement and exhortation.

Our friend, Loyal Enz, once again provided those who assembled at our Annual Chili Supper with all the chili they could eat. We would like to thank Loyal and his wife, Alice, for their work in bringing us this chance to get together and fellowship.

Though it's a relatively cold winter for Tucson, we are once again enjoying the benefits of living in the Southwest, with the temperatures last week in the 70's and beautiful sunshine from God.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Mary Beth Klotzle

Believing it is God's will for their lives, Sis. Anna Jevremov and Bro. Scott Hoerr (Taylor, MO) are engaged to be married. Their parents are Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov, and Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr (Taylor, MO). We pray God will continue to work within Sis. Anna and Bro. Scott and multiply the love He has already planted in their hearts.

Sis. Clara Lorenz, who spent many years in the Altadena congregation, has left this life for her home in eternity. Although she spent her last years in Tucson and Eureka, many of us here have precious memories of Sis. Clara and the friendliness she extended to all. We thank Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) for his efforts as he held the graveside service.

We also appreciate and wish God's blessings to our other visiting ministers, Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) who ministered in San Diego.

Church services are now being held in the San Diego area on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We miss the San Diegans on those Sundays, yet it's a joy to think of another location where the truth of the gospel is being preached! May the Lord bless and lead this endeavor according to His will.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD**Ben Ammann**

We thank Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha, KS) for providing us with God's Word Sunday, December 30.

Also, Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian Wagenbach (Washington, IL) were with us. Sunday, January 6, Bro. Glen Greenbank (Akron, OH) was with us. We are always thankful to have visitors.

In these days and times with nations at war with each other we can thank God our country has peace.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**Peter and Marian Petrovic**

Many special blessings were ours when Bro. Richard Schupbach and Sis. Barbara were with us January 13, and also many visitors from Altadena, Akron, Bradford. Princeville, Phoenix and Tucson. We appreciate and are thankful for each and every one of our dear visitors.

Putting their trust in the Lord and believing it to be His will, Sis. Anna Jevremov and Bro. Scott Hoerr announced their engagement January 6. Parents of the couple are Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov (San Diego) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma (Taylor, MO). We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they prepare for their wedding day.

We welcome Paul Getz and Jeff Kellenberger to San Diego. They will live in the North County area. Their parents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Ruth-Ann Getz and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger (Elgin, IL).

May we again encourage anyone traveling in the area to stop and worship with us on our scheduled days on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Bros. Victor Jevremov (619-755-5165) or Peter Petrovic (619-489-5165) may be contacted for further information.

COLORADO, DENVER**Mike Martin — Marlene Leman**

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." St. Matthew 3:1-2. The preaching of the Word remains the same today as it was then. The message is clear that unless we repent, are converted and baptized and confess Christ Jesus then we shall not see the kingdom of heaven. Praise God! People are still hearing and responding to that call as Craig Fair has

expressed his desire to get right with God and follow Jesus' ways.

We welcome Sis. Diane Hohulin to our congregation. She came to us from Peoria. We pray that she will feel God's love and nearness as she becomes a part of our church family even though she is separated by many miles from her physical family.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple." Psalm 27:1-4. Our dear Sis. Elizabeth Jivan spent several days in the hospital because of heart pain. Through all her sufferings she never complains but says, "The Lord has been so good to me."

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**Michelle Virkler**

Love . . . "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. The Bible is explicit how we should conduct our lives . . . "that a man lay down his life for his friends." God wants us to love our friends as well as our brothers and sisters-in-faith. Perhaps through our Christian walk and love, another might find Him.

And then, what blissful joy
Will bind such hearts together
When after parting's grief
They meet again in heaven
Who through this earthly vale
Did journey hand in hand
Joined in the bond of grace
By love's most sacred band.

Zion's Harp #79

This union of hearts and love came forth as we all witnessed the marriage of Bro. Bob Schneider and Sis. Kim Niemann December 30.

"So that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified." II Thessalonians 1:12. As the Sunday School children sang their Christmas carols our

thoughts turned to our blessed Christ-Child born in a stable and rejoicing could be heard all over the heavens.

Shut-ins: We presently have 15 shut-ins who are not able to assemble with us. May our prayers go forth for their guidance and protection.

Those who are traveling off to warmer climates, we wish them God's blessings and may they be kept safe until they return to their home congregation.

Bro. Rudy and Sis. Evelyn Luginbuhl will be spending two weeks in Honduras assisting in some World Relief work. May God protect them on their journey and return them safely home.

"Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105. More precious souls are working out their salvation: Bruce Luginbuhl (Lillian and the late David Luginbuhl) and Matthew Costa, who resides with his family in Ellington.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all." Psalm 34:19. We are all praying for Scott Wheeler and his family. May God restore him to fullness of health soon.

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Sunday, January 13. Chosen for the coming year: Auditor, Bro. Art Foote; Trustee, Bro. Richard Hany; Committee - Longview Village, Bro. Ben Moser; World Relief Committee, Sis. Aline Ballasy; Kitchen Committee, Sis. Carol Moser; Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Curth Zahner.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE**Billie Klopfenstein**

On Christmas morning we were able to have services in the church for the first time in several months. Everything looks so nice and fresh and we are enjoying the fruits of our labors. A big thank you to all friends and visitors who worked so hard along with our local congregation.

Bro. Dale Ringger (Bluffton, IN) has obtained employment in Miami and is living in Ft. Lauderdale. We are so happy to have him with us.

Congratulations to Bro. Ryan Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris) and Sis. Terri Martin (Bro. Kaywin and Sis. Karen, Detroit, MI). Their engagement and approaching marriage was announced recently. We look forward to having Terri as part of our church family.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Noah Clauss on the death of his brother, Phil

Clauss (Fort Wayne, IN). Also our sympathy to Bro. Vic Beer on the death of his mother, Sis. Alice Beer (Milford, IN).

It was a privilege to have ministering Bro. Ron Politto and his family (Akron, OH) with us recently. He gave us two very inspiring messages.

Sis. Gladys Schneider has been hospitalized but is home and doing fine. We are thankful she is feeling better.

Bro. George and Sis. Katherine Fulop have visitors from Hungary. Sandor and Teri Fulop, George's brother and his wife will be here for three months.

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22, 23.

Isn't it wonderful that no matter how much love God shows to us in a day or how many times we call upon God for help, the supply of God's love is never any less. The next day there is a new, abundant supply.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Marie Keller — Elsie Troxel

A PRAYER

May it be Thy will;
 Our God and God of our Fathers
 That this coming year be unto all thy people,
 A year of plenty, a year of blessing
 A year of assembly in Thy sanctuary.
 A year of happy life from Thee,
 A year of dew and rain and warmth.
 A year in which Thou wilt bless our bread and water.
 A year in which Thy mercies will be moved toward us.
 A year of peace and tranquility in which Thou wilt set
 A blessing upon the work of our hands.
 Ancient Hebrew Prayer

In his sermon, Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) stressed St. Luke chapter 9, verse 20, where Jesus asked, "But whom say ye that I am?" Is your answer Friend, Intercessor or My Lord and My God? Another welcome visitor, Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) defined the word "preach" to us as to bring "an urgent message". Are we always attentive to the urgent message? Bro. Glen Price (Sarasota) said, "As you walk through the world, be watchful, pray without doubt, for doubt is of the

devil." All of us at North Fort Myers church sincerely appreciate and thank our visitors.

Directions to the church, coming from the south: Two miles north of Shell Factory; traveling from north take exit #27 from I-75 to U.S. 41 south about 10 miles to Del-Tura Mobile Home Park, then turn left at Apostolic Christian Church sign. Telephone number at the church is 813-656-3800.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Doris and Diane Rocke

A humbling program of the birth of Christ was given thru verses and singing by the Sunday School. God bless you.

Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) was with us for Christmas Day services. We felt the humbling child-like message was portraying the birth of the Christ-Child. May we remember the Lord's birth every day of this New Year. Other ministers this month were Bros. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Gene Marti (Lamar, MO), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA). Our prayer is "you'll find a rich reward in the service of the Lord". Thank you all.

Bro. Doug Sabo has returned after a long month of illness. May the Almighty have mercy that he receive body strength and the power of God, as he ministers to us. We have so missed his faithful shepherding of our church. Our love and prayers go out to him and his family.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Pauline Hrovat, Bro. Bill Bucher and Sam Slagel. Sis. Tina Aberle had the misfortune of falling and breaking a bone in her wrist. She has a cast on her arm. We are grateful they are all recovering nicely and may the Lord be with each one. "The way of the cross leads home."

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Helen and Charles Laparo in the passing of her dear Sis. Pauline Hrovat at the Rittman Nursing Home in Ohio. It was such a comfort that Pauline could find peace with her Maker and how grateful she felt with God by her side in those last weeks. May God above give strength to all the family, especially their aged mother, Sis. Pauline Geary, as she felt the burden of her daughter's illness even while she herself endured an illness which has developed into

major surgery. We pray the Lord will be with her and Sis. Helen that they may be assured of our love and concern.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Nancy Kaufmann — Jan Gudeman

We welcome Chuck and Sis. Marsha Albritton and their two children, Jason and Amber, as a part of our congregation. Also, we welcome another family, Bro. Tom and Sis. Jan Keeley and their little daughter, Anna, back to the area. Dan and Sis. Laura Kieser have relocated in the Bluffton area. May the Lord richly bless these families as they settle in their new homes.

Sis. Ann Kachelmuss continues to suffer from a back problem. We pray the Lord will grant her restored health soon and will be thankful when she can assemble with us again.

Our Elder Bro. Dan Koch was our visiting minister. We are thankful to God for his willing service.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Marilyn Tanner

Take time to be holy, The world rushes on;
 Spend much time in secret, With Jesus alone,
 By looking to Jesus, Like Him thou shalt be;
 Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

Hymns of Zion #112

The world rushes on, another year is gone. How will we use the days and time of this New Year that God has given us so freely?

We appreciate having these visiting ministers with us this past month; Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Bro. Robert Pflederer (Morton), Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley), Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville). May God bless them and their families.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Harry and Howard Muller in the death of their dear brother, Chris Muller, who passed away January 6. May the Lord comfort and bless his family and friends.

There's a blessing in just knowing
 That we're in the Master's care
 That He's watching, guiding, loving,
 And is with us everywhere!

Jon Gilbert

We are so thankful that the Lord was with Jeanne Elsasser (Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreene) when she was involved in an accident and was spared serious injury.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

While boating in the Phoenix area over the holidays, I observed the frothing wake on a choppy lake and thought, "This is like life with its angry motion and bumps!" Yet often in the water, I could see a rainbow, looking as though it were just below the surface. Obviously, there would have been no rainbow without the sun. We are so well blessed. We have the Son, and there are rainbows — though sometimes we need to look below the surface.

Our visitors included Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). I especially remember an exhortation to the sacrifice of ourselves and our glorification of our Lord and Father. We appreciate the example of our ministers, home and away, in this respect, as they give of themselves and reflect all glory to God.

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Ephesians 6:16. Can we imagine ourselves, seemingly an island, surrounded by a thin layer of water on all sides? When hot, angry thoughts, steaming hurt feelings or flaming temptations threaten to make the connection with the flesh within us, let us see the arrows coming and hear the "sst" as they first are defused, losing their heat (and power), quenched in that water shield of faith that surrounds us. If we can consciously think, seeing and hearing our spiritual protection, may we not be better able to shrug off any leftover pinpricks? Then we may more often concentrate on showing our love, one to another.

Bro. Jeff Schumacher (Roanoke) has transferred to George Williams College in Downers Grove, IL. We welcome him to our family, praying that we may be helpful to each other, that we "might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God . . ." Colossians 1:10.

Bros. Dale Eisenmann and Lonnie Steffen have had minor surgery recently. Still there is always a risk, and we are grateful for their full recuperation,

the return of energy anew, as they journey on in their work for the Lord.

From $2 + 3 = 5$ to $2(3) = 6$ to $2^3 = 8$, we see increased results using the same two numerals. The notation and use of "2" and "3" differ in each case, however; in fact, with larger numbers, the difference in results would be even more pronounced. Generally, addition is taught first, then multiplication and then the use of exponents. So we are first fed on the milk of the Word as babes in Christ. But we are expected to progress to meat. The Lord's use of us (the numerals) may at first be limited, as is addition. We need to grow in understanding, so that the Lord may multiply our reflection of Him. And as we allow the diminishing of ourselves and His increase, He may make multiplicative and exponential use of us and our God-given talents in His work.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW . . .

Yesterday I was convicted by my sins. I looked on the saints of God in envy, believing if I only repented, I would never ever be unhappy or troubled again.

Today I repent daily, though I am converted. I know, being a sister of Christ by His grace, that I am too often unhappy and troubled, sometimes because of my lack of faith and error, or in sorrow or concern for some one soul or another. Yet His peace is at the center of my existence, and His gift, eternal life, my goal.

Tomorrow He will come again. May I be among the faithful who are gathered to His mansions, prepared for each one. Then, in the realms of glory, I will never again be unhappy or troubled.

Yesterdays are past. Christ can erase their unhappiness. Today is preparation time given. Please get ready for heaven with me. We can help each other. Tomorrow will be beyond our most joyous imaginings. See you there?

Yesterday my mother spoke of her friends and sisters (in faith and in the families) as "girls," and I said, "Oh, Mom, they're not girls, they're women!" Then I was a girl.

Today, I'm still a girl, from my perspective, and now I understand my mother's point of view. Growing taller, older, grayer, does not change the inside person looking out, though added experience can bring understanding.

Yet my daughter says, "Oh, Mom, you're not a girl; you're a woman!"

Tomorrow my daughter will understand, but the next generation coming up (my granddaughter?) will not. As has been said, adults, for all their faults in perception, were once children. Children have never been adults — yet.

May we endeavor to remember our earlier feelings and perceptions, so that our communications, generation to generation, be loving and empathetic. Times have changed — but people have not changed. "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations." Psalm 90:1.

Yesterday my parents knew everything. They knew how to take care of a son with a broken arm, what to do with the lure of TV (keep it out of the house), and the answers to 1001 questions in raising children.

Today I am a parent, and I wonder if I know anything. Thankfully we've had no broken bones to deal with, and we also have no television, but there are now at least 2002 questions in raising children, about which we can only pray and trust. And, of course, now I know my parents did the same.

Tomorrow, if we live, the child-raising questions will undoubtedly be further multiplied, but the Source for the answers, God's Word, and the Power and Spirit, will remain the same.

Let us trust His guidance in this world the same way we trust He can safely guide us to heaven. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Myrna Weerts — Wilma Walder

Day by day my Shepherd walks beside me,

Day by day I know His tender care
And I know whatever shall betide me,
Christ my Lord goes with me everywhere.

Kathryn T. Bowsher

As we stand once more on the threshold of a bright and unblemished new year, how will we use the days and the time God has placed in our hands? As day by day the year passes, will we waste the minutes and squander the hours that He blesses us with? Will we complain that life is too swift, that our days are too crowded, that our hours are too short and that there just isn't

time for all we must do? Will we find time for those in need, time to pray, and time to read? God grant us the grace as another year begins to use our time, which surely is a gift from God, not for our own selfish interests and our own willful ways but wisely and carefully and deserving of His blessing. What will we do with this year that's so new?

As we start a new year untouched and unmarred,
 Unblemished and flawless, unscratched and unscarred,
 May we try to do better and accomplish much more
 And be kinder and wiser than in the year gone before —
 Let us wipe our slates clean and start over again,
 For God gives this privilege to all sincere men
 Who will humbly admit they have failed many ways
 But are willing to try and improve these "new days"
 By asking God's help in all that they do
 And counting on Him to refresh and renew
 Their courage and faith when things go wrong
 And the way seems dark and the road rough and long —
 What Will You Do With This Year That's So New???

The choice is yours — God leaves that to You!

Helen Steiner Rice

Our annual business meeting was held January 9 filling the various offices. We are thankful for those who have willing hearts to serve in the needed areas and trust God will bless them for their labors.

Our hospital patients this month are Sis. Sophia Funk (surgical), Phyllis Enz and Bro. Walter Kaufmann. May God bless and provide for all our loved ones.

As a reminder to the Cissna Park congregation, February is the month for the Silver Lining dues to be paid.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Tammy Knapp — Joan Schrock

In the past year, Congerville has had two baptisms, five births, six marriages and three deaths.

Peg and Randy Selvey were blessed with a little girl, Sheryl Lynn. Two brothers, Matthew and Dustin, welcome her into their family. Happy

grandparents are Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marjorie Knapp, and George and Shirley Selvey (Eureka). Julie Leah is the new daughter of Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn Zobrist. Her brothers and sisters are Jeremy, Beth, Brian and Becky. Grandparents are Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marjorie Knapp and Bro. Howard and Sis. Phyllis Zobrist (Goodfield). May God bless these two little bundles of joy and their families.

We are thankful for God's servants from neighboring churches who ministered unto us this past month. These brothers were Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS). May they continue to feel God's strength and guidance as they bring forth His Word to congregations.

Bro. Emil Stahl was our only hospital patient this month. We thank God for keeping His protecting hand over him.

Just a reminder that March is the month for collection of Silver Lining dues for Congerville.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

We have only one short chapter in the Epistle of Jude, the brother of James, but that one chapter is so timely for the believer today. It behooves us to read prayerfully and with meditative hearts the warnings of this servant of Christ Jesus. He described those who have become deluded as "spots in the feast of charity", "clouds without water", "trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots", "raging waves", and "wandering stars to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever". The judgment is unmistakable in verse 11, "Woe unto them!", and verses 14-15, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." May we be forewarned and nurture our own faith by taking heed to the words: "building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keeping yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." (verses 20-21). And finally, the doxol-

ogy to our Almighty God (verses 24-25) "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

A new child has been born to Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach and we rejoice with them and pray with them that this dear child may grow both in stature and in grace. Gregory James was born December 24 and has the blessing of having Erica, Mark and Keith for his siblings. Bro. Albert and Sis. Dorothy Schambach and Henry and Marion Brown are the grandparents.

It seems that there are always those among us who suffer affliction and who have need of prayer and physical support. May we as servants of the living God gladly demonstrate this support in whatever manner that is needful. Nan Stettner is presently hospitalized; however, she will be discharged shortly and will be in need of ongoing care. Sis. Bea Metzger was hospitalized due to a burn accident, but is home again. Sis. Anna Lohbauer is presently hospitalized.

We will miss Chuck and Sis. Marsha Albritton in our fellowship here in Elgin. They have recently moved to the Bloomington area and we pray that the Lord will bless them there.

Our annual business meeting was held January 16, and at that meeting two brothers were chosen to serve in the physical function of church. Bro. Earl Moser was chosen to serve as trustee and is replacing Bro. Bill Schambach. Bro. Paul Weiss was chosen to serve on the Board of Directors for the proposed Apostolic Christian Resthaven. We appreciate these services they provide so that the church may be maintained. May God bless their labor to bring glory to His name.

January 19 a group will gather again to bag corn to be sent to Ethiopia and we trust that, too, serves as a demonstration to a starving people of the love of God in action. Only to God be the glory that this sharing can be accomplished.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
 to Your Reporter.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy L. Rocke

HIS PRESENCE

I may never live to see
 my life completely trouble free,
 or walk a straight and narrow road,
 and carry "not a heavy" load.

I'll never see around a bend,
 or riches at the rainbow's end,
 but I can walk with head held high,
 and notice soft clouds drifting by.

Feel the sunshine's warm embrace,
 the gentle breeze upon my face.
 I can heave a bird's sweet song
 beside each road I walk along.

These things I feel, and hear, and see –
 more clearly when God walks with me,
 for just "His presence" seems to bring
 about the best in everything.

Doris A. Orth

I'm sure many of our dear ones have
 felt "His presence" during the past
 month and are thankful for His love
 and care.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Sarah
 Blunier (Bro. Lee) in the passing of her
 sister, Sis. Anna Waibel (Remington,
 IN). Parting on this earth brings much
 pain and sorrow, but, oh, for the hope
 to meet our loved ones up yonder!

Those having spent some time in the
 hospital are Sis. Marie Klaus, Bro. Joel
 Banwart and Billy Wettstein (Bro. Art
 and Sis. Donna). As of this writing Bro.
 Clarence Wenger is still a hospital
 patient. Let us remember those who
 must suffer afflictions of this body. "I
 will never leave thee nor forsake thee."
 Hebrews 13:5.

"It is accomplished, I'm no longer
 mine." Zion's Harp #209. January 5
 we gathered to hear the testimony of
 Wayne Getz (Bro. Allan and Sis. Nath-
 alia). The following day we welcomed
 Wayne as our new brother-in-faith. We
 rejoice with the angels in heaven over
 one soul who has left this world of sin
 and Satan to follow the pathway of our
 Lord and Saviour. We also want to
 thank Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Cong-
 gerville, IL) for ministering the Word to
 us on Sunday, January 6.

Brian and Jill Leman welcomed their
 new brother, Adam Michael, January
 2. Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman
 are Adam's parents. Grandparents are

Sis. Frieda Knepp and Bro. Milton and
 Sis. Caroline Leman.

Earth changes, but thy soul and God
 stand sure.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazell — Joann Zehr

A new little son has been born into
 the home of Bro. Sam and Sis. Valla
 Broquard. Jordan Lee was born Jan-
 uary 6 and has a loving family who
 welcome him – Jarrod, Joseph, Eliza-
 beth and Rachel. Grandparents are
 Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard and
 the Ira Grandons (Fairbury). First-time
 parents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish
 Steidinger as they welcome their new
 son, Alex Lee, born January 14. Grand-
 parents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma
 Steidinger and Bro. Earl and Sis.
 Esther Gerber (Forrest). We wish both
 families God's blessings as they raise
 their families.

The engagement of our sister, Janet
 Fehr to Bro. John Schmidgall (Forrest)
 has been announced. May God's bless-
 ings be upon them as they plan this
 important step. Their parents are Bro.
 Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr and Bro.
 Dave and Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall
 (Forrest).

We have had two visiting ministers
 the past month. We are thankful to
 Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro.
 Earl Gerber (Forrest).

Our Bro. Rudy Kilgus was called
 from life into eternity December 18 at
 the age of 81. He leaves his wife, Sis.
 LaVina and seven children, Sis. Mar-
 guerite Lorch and Julia Rabe (Fair-
 bury), Thelma Hoerr (Champaign),
 Norma Zimmerman (Bloomington),
 Elmer (Morton), Ronald (Deer Creek)
 and Rudy (Congerville). Our sympathy
 is extended to his wife and family.

So quickly, a dear sister was taken
 from our midst. Sis. Ruth Walter, age
 83, was called to rest January 3. May
 God's comforting spirit be with her
 loved ones. Surviving are her children,
 Sis. Eleanor Honegger (Forrest), Ar-
 thur, Bro. Richard and Willard (Fair-
 bury). These families wish to express
 their sincere thanks and appreciation
 for all the deeds of kindness shown to
 them. May God bless each one.

The following is a poem written and
 submitted to us by one of her grand-
 children.

Oh Grandma, how we miss you so,
 But, God has said it's time to go,

There's not much now that can be done
 For it was God who spoke, "Thy will be
 done."

A special person it was plain to see,
 For you loved everyone dearly, includ-
 ing me.

The love you gave came from your
 heart and God,
 But will always be remembered as on
 we trod.

The road will be rough as we journey
 on,
 The days will be flying and then soon
 gone.

But, memories will keep you fresh in
 our minds
 For Grandma you were one of a kind.

Your life was fulfilling as many of us
 know,
 It's hard to say goodbye and let you go.
 But now that you are laid to rest,
 You can now journey on to meet the
 blest.

Katie Walter

Our congregation reports that for
 the year of 1984 we had 11 births, 9
 deaths, 9 baptisms and 3 weddings.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Kathy Leman — Sharon Adams

We were blest with many visitors
 this past month. What a blessed privi-
 lege it is to meet and greet those of like
 mind and faith. We especially thank
 the dear brothers who brought us the
 true and living Word. They were Bros.
 Jim Plattner (Princeville), Kevin Ryan
 (Rockville, CT), Gary Anliker (Elgin),
 Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Merle Kaisner
 (Fairbury), Ken Schneider (Reming-
 ton, IN) and Elder Bro. Art Bahler
 (Fairbury). May God bless them for
 their labors.

Our hospital patients were Sis.
 Leona Ricketts, Sis. Luella Sohn and
 Pauline Henry. Sisters Leona and
 Luella are home again and we are
 thankful for each one that is able to
 return home. We pray Pauline will soon
 be able to return home too.

Sis. Sherri (the late Bro. Mark)
 Schlatter has been blessed with a new
 daughter. Amy Jo is welcomed home
 by Erika and Rachel. Grandparents are
 Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma Jean Ifft
 and Sis. Juliet Schlatter (Junction,
 OH). Also Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly
 Steidinger have been blessed with
 their first child. Craig Allan is the

grandson of Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger.

We support Bro. Ken Steffen in his duties of Sunday School Superintendent, as he replaces Bro. Gary Brown who was called into the ministry.

The engagement and approaching marriage of Bro. John Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean) to Sis. Janet Fehr (Bro. Glen and Sis. Kathryn, Fairbury) was recently made known. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their life together.

"We are going down the valley one by one"; Gospel Hymns #798. Our sympathy goes to Sis. Eldora Walter in the loss of her beloved helpmate, Bro. Eli. Their children are Joyce Kupferschmid, Sis. Betty Huber, Beverly, Paul and Larry.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
As any friend could say;
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day,
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much whatever the part.

The family of Eli Walter

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Eleanor Honegger in the death of her mother, Sis. Ruth Walter (Fairbury). May God comfort each one in the loss of their loved ones.

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be thine", Zion's Harp #209. Even though the winds did blow and the temperature was very frigid, many were still able to gather and witness the testimony and baptism of Bro. Kent Zimmerman (Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn) and Sis. Vicki Pruitt (sister of Sis. Robin Kupferschmid) on January 19 and 20. We welcome these dear souls into the fold and wish them God's grace and strength each step of the way.

The statistics for Forrest in 1984 are 17 births, 10 deaths and 8 baptisms.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"Lord, I love Thy children dearly; All who follow Thee sincerely, They are precious to my heart! Thou know'st how my soul rejoices, Meeting those

whose hearts and voices Are with Thee in one accord!" Zion's Harp #189

The hymnwriter's words describe our thoughts when we assemble with the brethren both at home and in our churches nationwide. We often joyfully marvel at the bond of faith we feel, even with those we've never met before. After a short time in their midst, we recognize that we share the same understanding, are striving for that same eternal goal and cherish the same precious way of the cross. We rejoice to know that collectively our hearts and voices are with Him in one accord. When we in faith embrace our Savior, Jesus Christ, as our Head, we become His willing subjects. As we grow in our submission to His divine will, we likewise grow in our appreciation for the members of His body, His holy church. We then become subject one to another and we understand, as His Word tells us, that God leads us through His church. We need each other and we depend on each other in our service to Him. He has called us to be part of a unified body, and we all lovingly work together in one accord for the furtherance of the gospel message of salvation.

We are glad with the angels in heaven that Bro. Mark Butikofer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma) sought the Lord in repentance and faith, felt His forgiveness and peace and gave his testimony and was baptized the weekend of January 13. Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer and ministering Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) were with us for this special occasion.

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller have been blessed by the birth of their daughter, Holly Kay, born December 15. She has a sister, Candice. Holly's grandparents are Sis. Lucile Stoller (Gridley) and Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty Nussbaum (Forrest).

The marriage engagement has been announced of Sis. Charlene Funk (Roy and Sis. Bertha, Gridley) to Bro. David Wagenbach (John and Sis. Marilyn, Oakville, IA).

Bro. Roy Hodel is engaged to Sis. Helen Schlipf (both of Gridley).

Russell Kuntz (Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma) is engaged to Sherrie Vitzthum (Mr. and Mrs. Clair Vitzthum, Saunemin).

Sis. Adella Kiefer has been a hospital patient.

Sis. Esther Yergler wishes to express her appreciation to those who

remembered her with prayers, flowers, cards and gifts while she was in the hospital, while staying with her niece in Morton and since returning home.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Pam Wiegand

Our church was blessed with another little bundle from heaven. Kristen Joy, the new daughter of Bro. Noel and Sis. Molly Davis, was born December 29. To welcome her home are Ryan and Erin. Grandparents are E. L. and Marie Davis and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen.

There have been quite a few people from our congregation who have been traveling to help others in need. Bro. Hans, Bro. Chuck, Bro. Mike and Bill Hinrichsen; Bro. Harold Reeser and Bro. Howard Zobrist went to Athens, AL, to help build the new fellowship hall. Bro. Sam Hohulin (Cindy) and Bro. Stan Knapp flew to Honduras to help build a schoolhouse. Many thanks for all of their efforts.

Our prayers are with Sis. Margaret Newlin who has been hospitalized with a broken wrist.

We want to thank Bro. Donald Manz (Junction, OH) for his recent visit.

A note of thanks from Sis. Persida Wiegand: I wish to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, deeds of kindness and visits while in the hospital and since returning home.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney — JoAnn Roecker

Bro. Louis Weishaupt has gone to be "Forever With The Lord". His funeral was December 27. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless his wife, Anna, his family and friends.

Helen Strunk passed away and her funeral was December 28. May God comfort and bless her family and friends.

Sis. Esther Gingrich was called Home very suddenly and her funeral was held January 3. May the Lord comfort and bless her family and friends.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Sherry Schmidgall (Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen) and Bro. David Jones (Gene and Sis. Sherrill) as the Lord has drawn them together to become one in Christ Jesus. May God richly bless them.

We were reminded of our high and heavenly calling and the duties which are ours to uphold. The memorandum was lovingly read to us January 5. May

we all be prayerful, thankful and apply this to our own daily lives.

We wish to thank Bros. Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Elder Bros. Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our Heavenly Father richly bless you for your labors of love.

We continue to have those loved ones who are ill, shut-in and/or in the hospital. May we continue to uphold them in prayer.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Leona Leman upon the passing of her sister, Sis. Mary Ann Winzeler (Roanoke, IL). May God comfort and bless her family and friends.

ILLINOIS, NORMAL
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Audrey Martin

What would Jesus do if He were in my position? This is a question we should all ask ourselves before each endeavor. If we could only remember to think of this before we would do anything, no matter how great or small, we would not find ourselves doing those things which we would not, and not doing those things which we would want to do. To discern just what Jesus would do we would need to rely completely on the Spirit, forsaking self. It feels so good when we can totally submit ourselves unto God and have Him take control of each situation. It feels good to give of ourselves everything we have, especially all that is our own will. Jesus gave such a beautiful example of this when He spoke of the poor widow which had cast more into the treasury than all of the rich. "For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." (St. Mark 12:44). We can do this very thing by offering to God everything we have, which He has given us to use anyway, for Him. We cannot reserve back anything for ourselves because Jesus wants total commitment. He wants us to follow Him, follow His example, give as He gave, even to His very life. If we can give ourselves anew in every situation, thinking, "What would Jesus do?" and truly follow Christ through the promptings of the Holy Spirit, we can become the true Christians God would have us to be. This is a challenge for each of us as we go about our various

occupations in which God has called us to.

School has begun again as we go forth into another semester with new zeal. As Paul wrote, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14). Bible study will begin again every Thursday evening at 7:30, starting January 17. It is still held in Schroeder 244. All are welcome to attend.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Margo Marx — Susi Herman

A SURE WAY TO A HAPPY DAY

Happiness is something
we create in our mind.
It's not something you search for
and so seldom find.
It's just walking up
and beginning the day
By counting our blessings
and kneeling to pray.
It's giving up thoughts
that breed discontent
And accepting what comes
as a "gift heaven-sent".

It's giving up wishing
for things we have not
And making the best of
whatever we've got.
It's knowing that life
is determined for us
And pursuing our tasks
without fret, fume or fuss.
For it's by completing
what God gives us to do
That we find real contentment
and happiness too.

Helen Steiner Rice

A little addition has been added to the congregation. Emily Ann is the new daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Obergfel, born January 1. Her brother, Jonathon, is excited about having a new little baby to watch. The grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr and Bro. Matthew and Sis. Betty Obergfel (Cissna Park).

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Louise Wieland who recently passed away.

I would like to express my thanks for the visits, cards and prayers during my

hospitalization and during the weeks spent at Restmor Nursing Home in Morton, IL. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated."

Katherine Knapp

The residents of our Home are busy preparing for a bazaar to be held at the fellowship hall on Saturday, March 23, from 10 - 2.

Carolyn Kuch wishes to thank all her good friends for the many cards and gifts in honor of her 91st birthday January 14.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Arlene and Arlys Martin

The wages of sin have never been reduced.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Roy Sauder (Peoria), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Fred Knapp (Congerville).

Congratulations to Bro. William and Sis. Marie Eberle who were married 50 years December 26. They have four children, Ronnie (Sparland), Larry (Henry), Marvin (Wyoming) and Carol Ganey (Luverne, AL) and 13 grandchildren. One son, Orville, is deceased.

On Saturday evening, January 5, we heard the testimony of Sis. Sheryl Martin and on Sunday, January 6, we witnessed her baptism. Sis. Sheryl's parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna Martin.

Our sympathy is given to Sis. Emma Asal. Her sister, Louise Wieland (Peoria), 84, passed away January 5.

Our prayers are also given to Elsie, Roy and Albert Mueller. Their brother, Chris (Wyoming), 73, passed away January 6.

On Sunday, January 13, we had a church potluck supper in honor of Sis. Esther Grimm. Sis. Esther plans to move to Sabetha, KS, the end of January. Our congregation will miss Sis. Esther and we wish her God's blessings in her new home.

Those on the sick list were Taunya Rumbold (Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Jackie), Bro. Bob Rumbold and Andy Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary).

At our annual business meeting, January 9, the following assignments were given: Minister in charge of charity fund, Bro. Art Baurer who will replace Bro. Joe Stoller; Trustee, Bro. Rolland Joos who will replace Bro. Elmer Martin; Treasurer, Bro. Ed Baurer who will replace Bro. Ellsworth Martin; Ushers, Bro. Kurt Ehnle and Bro. Larry Baer who will replace Bro.

John Wieland and Bro. Erik Givens; Building Aid, Bro. Alf Streitmatter who will replace Bro. Bob Scholl; Personal Property Aid, Bro. Lawrence Wagenbach who will replace Bro. Mike Menold; Church Dinner Committee, Sis. Arlene Scholl who will replace Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann; Silver Lining Reporter, Sis. Marjean Lehman who will replace Sisters Arlene and Arlys Martin.

Also, in December, Bro. Ray Wagenbach was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home. He replaces Bro. Nate Martin.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Carol Knapp — Carol Rumbold

As the old year is past and the new year is still fresh and new, three families in our congregation are rejoicing in the arrival of new additions in their homes. On December 20, Steve and Margie Sauder welcomed Steven Michael as their first child. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder (Roanoke) and Bro. Mel and Sis. Carolee Unsicker share the joy.

Mark Anthony Lindberg became the second son of Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie December 26. He is loved by his brother, Matt, and grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher and the Ron Lindbergs.

Three daughters now enrich the family of Bro. John and Sis. Mary Wiegand. Ashley Jo was born December 28. Her sisters, Bethany and Emily, and her grandparents, Sis. Lena Wiegand and Bro. Ira and Sis. Doris Farney think she is special.

God has certainly given our congregation the potential for spiritual growth. In the year 1984, 25 babies were born into families in our church. Now we see that to grow in quality is our responsibility. The Roanoke congregation is thankful for ten baptisms and four weddings. Seven funeral services were held in our church.

Hospitalized briefly and now recuperating are Glen Martin and Bro. Wayne Leman. The Great Physician's touch has been felt.

Lending themselves in the Master's service for our benefit were Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Art Baurer (Princeville), Ed Ringger (Gridley) and Francis Rother (Morton). We are richer because of their willing hearts.

Funeral services were held for Sis.

Mary Ann Winzeler, 90, who passed away January 13. Our sympathy is extended to her children, Bro. Rudy Bertschi (Tucson, AZ) and retired Elder Bro. Gene Bertschi (Roanoke and Zapata, TX); her sisters, Sis. Katie Hodel and Sis. Leona Leman; and her stepdaughters, Sis. Luella Anliker (Oakville), Loretta Ross (Chillicothe), Elsie Stickling and Leona Race (Peoria) and Mildred Stickling (Phoenix, AZ). Surely she has enriched the lives of all those who knew her.

We rejoice that another Christian home has been established. Bro. Phil Hodel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Verna) and Sis. Lynn Sauder (Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma) became one in the Lord on January 6. We rejoice with them and know God will be the head of their home.

Reminder to Roanoke readers: February is Silver Lining collection month.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach Carolyn Bolliger

We enjoyed the teachings brought to us by visiting ministers this month. Visiting us were Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Greg Rassi (Chicago), Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), Joe Braker (Morton), Willis Wiegand (Goodfield), Bob Pflederer (Morton) and Bob Grimm (Goodfield). We thank them for bringing us the Word of God so freely. May God richly reward each one.

Bro. Ed Koch has moved to Restmor Nursing Home in Morton. We hope that he enjoys his new "home".

January 6 was the wedding day of Bro. David Dill and Sis. Ann Huette. Parents of the couple are Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn Huette and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill. We wish Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann God's richest blessings as they establish a Christian home.

We welcomed Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Schweigert into our precious brotherhood on January 13. Their parents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Schweigert and the Wayne Howards (Minier). We are thankful for each soul that can forsake the world and make God's way their choice.

Sis. Carrie Bolliger (Bro. August) had the misfortune of falling in her home, confining her to her home for a time. May she ever feel God's nearness.

ILLINOIS, URBANA

Cheryl Mangers

We are so thankful that after a brief hospitalization for final surgical correction of the injuries suffered a year ago in an accident, Sis. Ethel Wiegand has returned home and has made a complete recovery.

We here at Champaign-Urbana are eagerly anticipating several new beginnings during 1985 in the construction of a new church building plus the expected arrival of several new babies. May we each never forget the most important beginning afforded to us when we repented and became converted and the chance we have daily, not just every year, to renew our commitment to Jesus Christ. Daily renewing our commitment will not be difficult if we heed the words we recently were privileged to hear when we listened to the tapes of the General Conference.

We were overjoyed that Bro. Frank Sauder (Shioda, Japan) had some time to spend with us when he visited the States. Love and prayers continue to bind us together even though the miles may be great.

Visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL). May God richly bless them for their willingness to serve our congregation.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sally Plattner

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

We were reminded this month to continually check our perspective on life. It is so easy to go spiritually blind by looking to our self for our strength rather than to Christ.

We would never get out-of-step with Jesus if we kept in mind He has promised to return, and will return, unexpectedly, with a shout.

How many days do we look, actually look, to the eastern sky expecting Christ to come? If we are true believers in a resurrected Christ, His return should be the most eagerly anticipated event in our lives. Everything else should be pale by comparison.

The last words recorded in Revelation are "Surely I come quickly." Revelation 22:20.

The gap between how we would spend our days if we knew the Lord

would return one month from now, and how we are spending our days, may give us insight into our spiritual perspective. It may help us to realize the great homecoming overshadows all the events scribbled on the Christian's calendar for 1985.

We were happy to witness the testimonies and baptisms of the following: Troy Koehl (Chris and Ida Lou), Stan and Carol Schick, and Gina Martin (Harvey and Sharon).

The visiting elders this month included the following: Roy Sauder (Peoria), Don Sauder (Roanoke), Joe Braker (Morton), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Ed Ringger (Gridley).

Visiting ministers included Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton), John Hartman (Fairbury) and Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA).

Our Elder Bro. Don Sauder and Elder Bro. Ed Ringger shared the memorandum with us this month.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Carolyn Meyer — Eunice Fiechter

Loved ones hospitalized this month are Bro. Louis Gilliom (Sis. Ethel), Sis. Sophia Gerber, Sis. Mary Steffen, Sis. Esther Geisel (Bro. Olen), Bro. Sam Kaehr and Paul Wilson. May they all feel the comfort of the Lord's nearness.

Our congregation was saddened by the death of one of our young people, Richard A. Gerber, who was 20 years old. Richard lost his life as a result of a car accident. His parents are Bro. William G. and Sis. Carolyn Gerber. He is also survived by his three brothers, Bro. Rodney, Michael and William G. Jr., and his sister, Shelley.

An "almost Christmas gift" arrived in the home of Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber December 24. They named their new son, Carson Lee. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Justine Gerber and Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger.

A "late Christmas gift" arrived at Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb Gerber's home December 26. Bruce Thomas is the name they chose for their baby boy. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Helen Gerber and Thomas and Maxine Freiburger.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky Gerber welcomed their first child, Jason Robert, January 3. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Evie Gerber and Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer.

Two loved ones from our congrega-

tion were united in marriage. Sis. Donna Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Marie) became the wife of Bro. Lemuel Vega (Remberto and Garnet) December 30.

The results of our annual voting were announced at our New Year's Day service. We have many new Sunday School teachers and church officers and we trust they will feel the Lord's guidance as they carry out their duties.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Helen Stoller (Henry) and Bro. Sam Kaehr in the passing of their sister, Sis. Lydia Schlatter (Toledo, OH).

On January 12 at our Fellowship Hall we enjoyed Bro. Robert Pflederer's talk on "Biblical Guides to Oneness in Marriage".

Visiting ministers to our congregation were Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Robert Pflederer (Morton, IL). The Lord has given each one a special talent to use for Him.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Virginia Rauch — Cindy Geisel

"Footprints in the sands of time are not made by sitting down." That should tell us that we definitely need to keep working in the vineyard of our Lord!

Little bundles of joy from heaven have been born to several families. On December 14, Kara Nicole was born to Roger and Sis. Maureen Reinhard. Grandparents are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Wanda Gerber. Little Tiffany Joy arrived December 27 to Bro. Gary and Sis. Kari Maller. Grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Delores Maller and Wally and Sis. Marilyn Leman. We rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Kristi Meyer as they welcome home Stephanie Elizabeth, born December 28. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn Meyer and Bro. Art and Sis. Goldie Kipfer. Bro. Scott and Sis. Rita DeHoff have welcomed a new little son into their home. Michael Scott was born to them January 9. Grandparents are Bro. Harry T. and Sis. Lois Gerber.

Loved ones who have been hospitalized this month are Sis. Lydia Steffen, Sis. Deb Aeschliman (Bro. Alan) and Kara Nicole Reinhard (infant daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen) and Alan Steffen (Bro. Max and Sis. Eunice). Our sincere prayers go out to them all, as we wish for them the Healing Balm of our Heavenly Father.

We wish to extend a warm and loving welcome to two dear families who have

moved back here. We welcome Bro. Dan and Sis. Laura Kieser (formerly from Bloomington, IL). We also welcome Bro. Gary and Sis. Kari Maller and family from Wichita, KS as they return to Bluffton North. Bloomington and Wichita's losses are our gains and we hope they can feel at home here, for we love them and enjoy having them assemble with us. We praise God when our church can grow in spiritual quality and we also thank Him when we can grow in quantity.

It is such a joy to have families moving here to join us in worship, but it is at the same time sad to lose a family due to job transfers. Bro. Mark and Sis. Kristi Meyer and their family have moved to South Bend, as he has found employment there. We wish God's guidance and blessings for them, but we will surely miss them. We hope that they will come back and visit us from time to time.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Jacki Huber

Many gathered in our assembly for New Year's Eve services. We thank Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) for sharing God's Word with us. The service was followed by the annual program and lunch served to all.

Prompted by inspiring thoughts shared that evening, we rejoice that more souls are seeking the Lord in repentance.

We are also rejoicing with Jason Furrer (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis) that he has found peace with our wonderful Lord. We look forward to his baptism in the near future.

On January 3 a baby girl, Joy Suzanne, brightened the lives of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein. Joy's sisters, Tricia and Sandra, are happy to have a new baby at their house. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine Gutwein (Francesville).

Three engagements were announced this past month.

Diane Wuethrich (Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna) is engaged to Dennis Carson (Mr. and Mrs. James Carson, Wabash). A September wedding is being planned.

Sis. Jody Getz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Doris) and Bro. Bruce Waibel (Bro. Harold and Sis. Arleta, Remington) are planning a May wedding.

Dan Gutwein (Bro. Elden and Sis. Mary Lee) and Heather Beer (Bro. Phil

and Sis. Millie, Milford) are planning a June wedding.

On a recent Sunday we were blessed to have Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) with us to share God's Word. May God bless every minister that depends on His Spirit.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Betty Huber as her dear father, Bro. Eli Walter (Forrest, IL), passed away.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Elmer Bucher as he has been hospitalized. We pray that he will soon have his strength fully restored.

With prayerful hearts, brothers met on Monday, January 14 for the annual business meeting. Physical and spiritual needs of the church were considered. We pray that God will work in all of our hearts, that His will can be accomplished in every decision made.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Judy Dubach — Lynn Winslow

James 1:3: Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. What do Christians know that makes it easier to face trials and benefit from them? 1. Faith is always tested. — When God called Abraham to live by faith, He tested him in order to increase his faith. God always tests us to bring out the best; Satan tempts us to bring out the worst. The testing of our faith proves that we are truly born again.

2. Testing works for us, not against us. — The word trying can be translated "approval". Again, Peter helps us understand it better: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth. I Peter 1:7. God's approval of our faith is precious, because it assures us that our faith is genuine. Trials work for the believer, not against him. Paul said, "And we know that all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28) and "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (II Corinthians 4:17).

3. Trials rightly used help us to mature. — What does God want to produce in our lives? Patience, endurance and the ability to keep going when things are tough. "We glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope." (Romans 5:3-4). In the Bible, patience is not a passive acceptance of circumstances. It is a courageous perseverance in the face of suffering and difficulty. Im-

mature people are always impatient; mature people are patient and persistent. Impatience and unbelief usually go together, just as faith and patience do. "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise". (Hebrews 10:36). God wants to make us patient because that is the key to every other blessing. The little child who does not learn patience will not learn much of anything else. When the believer learns to wait on the Lord, then God can do great things for him. Abraham ran ahead of the Lord and married Hagar, and brought great sorrow to his home.

The only way the Lord can develop patience and character in our lives is through trials. Endurance cannot be attained by reading a book, listening to a sermon, or even praying a prayer. We must go through the difficulties of life, trust God and obey Him. The result will be patience and character. Knowing this, we can face trials joyfully. We know what trials will do in us and for us, and we know that the end result will bring glory to God.

From "Be Mature"
by Warren Wiersbe

"The Responsibilities and Rewards of the Christian Life" is this year's theme of the second Couple's Retreat to be held February 28, March 1 and 2. Highlights of the agenda include: Growing, Serving, Relating, Witnessing and Discipling. We are prayerful that God would bless everyone who attends and participates. Many thanks to Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin and his wife, Elsie, for spending some time with us on their trip to Zapata, TX. We wish them God's blessings.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Connie Knobloch

We want to express our sympathy to the family of Earl Marti who passed away January 10. Surviving are his wife, Grace, and three sisters, Sis. Esther Hitz, Sis. Lena Hitz and Sis. Josephine Meiss.

We were pleased to be blessed with the visits of the following ministers and their families: Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington), Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis), Bro. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). We are always thankful to

have visitors and may God give them an extra blessing for their labors.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane Souder and children, Brooke and Nathan, have moved to Fairfax, VA, near Washington, D.C. May their witness and testimony of His love be reflected there as it was here in the Leo-Grabill area where they will be missed.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Compton and young son recently welcomed Annette Joy. Her grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Virgie Isch and Robert and Betty Steffen (Bluffton). What a beautiful blessing a baby has to begin life in a Christian home!

Mid-term election was held to fill vacated Sunday School positions. New teachers are Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheryl Blunier and Sis. Judy Gehring. Also recently elected were Bros. Oliver and David Stieglitz as trustee and usher respectively. It is a privilege to serve Him in the big or small tasks to which He calls!

This address is supplied for those who wish to send a message of cheer to Sis. Bertha Steiner. She is now at Miller's Merry Manor, Garrett, IN 46738.

Explanation on the conference memorandum was given by Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and David Bertsch (Leo) at a recent meeting.

Several have been overtaken by illness or accident this month. Bro. Gene Stoller had surgery for a hip replacement. Sis. Mary Lantz was a surgical patient because of a badly broken wrist. Timmy, baby son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Janet Hartman, was hospitalized with pneumonia. Bro. Marvin Stieglitz had a brief hospital stay. Gary Hensley, formerly at the Children's Home, met with a car accident. Your correspondent was set aside for some quiet time in the hospital, too. It can be valuable time for meditation, for prayer and for sorting out priorities — the things which seem so important from those which really are important.

Christians often give sacrificially to His work, to further the gospel and to help the needy. Can a "sacrifice of praise" be given, too? Are we willing to praise Him in song, perhaps at times when we may not feel like it? Are we as careful to be truthful in singing words

as we try to be in speaking? Or do we sing . . .

Sweet Hour of Prayer — and skip the mid-week service.

O For A Thousand Tongues — and don't use the one we have.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds — then let little misunderstandings cut it.

I Love To Tell the Story — and yet never tell it.

This Is My Father's World — and throw our garbage on the roadsides.

Faith Is the Victory — and depend on feelings.

Make Me A Blessing — and pray, "Give me a blessing".

All That Thrills My Soul Is Jesus — and seek worldly pleasures.

Jesus Loves the Little Children — and refuse to teach a Sunday School class.

Oh Say, But I'm Glad — and walk around frowning.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God — and put our trust in our bank account.

When We All Get To Heaven — and live as though we planned to stay on earth forever.

My Faith Looks Up To Thee — and then trust our own abilities.

(adapted from an article,
author unknown)

INDIANA, MILFORD

Joyce Kaiser — Shelby Beer

Our Milford congregation wishes to give a warm welcome to Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf and their family who are making their home here after living in Gridley, IL. We know that they will be a real joy to our congregation as we all share God's love with each other.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer wish to announce the engagement of two of their daughters: Heather to Daniel Gutwein (Bro. Elden and Sis. Mary, Francesville) and Janet to Daniel Chomyn (Mrs. Marge Chomyn, Boulder, CO). Plans are being made for a March 30 wedding for John Kaiser (Bro. Dick and Sis. Clara) and Toni Leever (Mr. and Mrs. Gary Leever, Anderson). May the Lord be very near to each couple as they start their lives together.

We recently had our annual business meeting. Bro. Alvin Haab will serve as trustee. Bros. Steve Beer, Dick Steffen and Tony Hoover will be Sunday School teachers. Bro. Alan Wuthrich is our treasurer. Sis. Linda Wuthrich is church secretary, Sis. Joyce Kaiser is Silver Lining reporter and Sis. Dorothy

Steffen will help with World Relief Sewing.

Hospital patients this past month were Bro. Ted Brooks, Sis. Aldine Reimschisel, Caralee Steffen (Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Leona Martin, Bro. Alan Wuthrich and Bro. John Lehman, Sr. Jay Haab (Bro. Steve and Sis. Marcy) suffered a broken ankle.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Matt and Sis. Karen Pamer in the loss of his brother, Lawrence, in Sarasota, FL; and to Bro. Noah and June Clauss, Bro. Fred Schori and Sis. Marie Reuter in the death of their brother and brother-in-law, Phil Clauss (Fort Wayne).

Our hearts were saddened when we heard the news of the passing of our dear Sis. Alice Beer, wife of the late Bro. Henry. We will surely miss her presence among us, but we rejoice that she has won the victory. Remembering their blessed years together are four sons, Bro. Victor, Marion, Lowell and Max; four daughters, Sis. Lois Ehnle, Edith Brown, Florence Henne and Marilyn Riggs. (A son, Marcus, went to heaven at age 9). Also surviving Sis. Alice are two sisters, Mary Nofzinger and Sis. Esther Getz and two brothers, Lester Getz and Willis Getz.

Bros. Walt and Dick Steffen and Don Haab spent a week in Haiti volunteering in a school construction project. They recently shared their experiences with us and showed us slides. Their experiences remind us of just how richly God has blessed us and how we truly cannot appreciate how fortunate we are until it be taken from us.

Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

S. Smiles

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Annette Bahler — Beth Virkler

Born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita Bahler December 21 was Melanie Rose. Her immediate family includes Joy and Rachel and grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn Bahler and the late Bro. Ben and the late Sis. Esther Schlatter.

Believing it is God's will to spend their lives together, Bro. Bruce Waibel announced his engagement to Sis. Jody Getz. The parents of the couple are Bro. Harold and Sis. Arleta Waibel and Bro. Keith and Sis. Doris Getz (Francesville).

Our great God who knows the rea-

sons for all things chose to suddenly call Sis. Anna M. Waibel from this earthly life. After suffering a massive stroke on Christmas Day, she passed away two days later leaving two sisters, Sis. Louise Waibel (Remington) and Sis. Sara Blunier (Lee, Eureka, IL); and two brothers, Paul (Remington) and Arnold Waibel (Lakeland, FL). Sis. Anna was a dedicated writer for the Silver Lining for many years.

Our annual church meeting brought the following changes in our Sunday School. Sis. Susan Getz and Sis. Charlene Getz were placed in our children's classes for a three-year term replacing Sis. Benita Bahler and Sis. Helen Waibel. Bro. Dan Kilgus replaces Bro. Rex Clauss in the elementary grades.

PRAY FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

It is easier for God to do a difficult thing than an easy thing. The very structure of His infinite nature is such that He lives in the realm of the supernatural, the omnipotent and the infinite.

When we ask Him for some easy and trifling thing, there is always a danger of our mingling with our faith a certain amount of human reasoning and looking quite as much to second causes as to God. But when we come out into the clear light and the high altitude of the impossible then there is no place for anything but God, and He is untrammelled by our human reasonings and limiting beliefs.

A. B. Simpson

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Pauline Laidig

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mould me and make me, After Thy will,
While I am waiting, Yielded and still.

Hymns of Zion #113

One of our ministering brothers had the opportunity of watching a potter mould some vessels. He noticed how important it was that the clay be kept damp and pliable so the potter could shape it into the type he needed. He likened this to the way we should be so the Master Potter can shape us into vessels He has need of. This illustration seemed to carry through as Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Jesse Beer (Milford) so lovingly

read and expounded upon the memorandum recently. We thank them for serving us so willingly. May we all be inspired to yield our lives more fully to the Lord. We also appreciated having Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) minister to us on Christmas Eve.

Our dear Bro. Ernest and Sis. Marie Germann were privileged to reach their 68th anniversary January 11. A group of us spent a blessed evening with them in fellowship and singing hymns in honor of the occasion. We're sorry that Bro. Ernest had to enter the hospital since then, but trust the Lord will watch over him.

Even though Sis. Marge Mangold needed to be hospitalized again, we're glad to report that she is improving, and is looking forward to going home in the not-too-distant future. May God's loving arms be around her.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

"There are friendships that we cherish . . ." was sung as we bid farewell to Sis. Madeline and Sis. Irene Anker. They have moved to the Parkview Haven Home in Francesville. It is our prayer that God will bless them in their new home.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber welcome a new baby daughter into their home. Brittany Sue was born January 10. Bobbi and Bethany are Brittany's big sisters. Grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler and Bro. Bob and Sis. Evelyn Gerber (Bluffton).

The weekend of January 13 was a very blessed occasion as we welcomed a new sister-in-faith, Sharon Furrer (Bro. Don and Sis. Rita). We thank Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) for assisting Bro. Alfred in this important work. Also, we thank Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North) for sharing in the ministry.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Walter Stoller who was hospitalized. May God grant returning health and strength to him.

As we changed the calendar for a new year, we also changed various positions within the church at our annual meeting. We appreciate and thank those who have fulfilled their duties and pray that God will guide and direct the brothers and sisters who were newly elected.

IOWA, AMES-DES MOINES Nancy Teubel

Grace to you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; Philemon 1:3-5

God has certainly given us a taste of what heaven will be like by giving us Christian friends. Special friends whom have so unselfishly given of themselves. This giving of self reveals the love they have for their God and their brothers and sisters. Thank you for caring and sharing!

The month of January found our gathering very small. It certainly made us appreciate the times when our meeting place has been filled to overflowing. But what a wonderful promise God has given us: for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 19:20.

We certainly welcome one and all to fellowship with us. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Dixie Messner — Edith Massner

We appreciated the visits of Bro. John Steiner (Oakville), Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN), Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN), Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and their families; and hope they will always feel welcome.

Bro. Harvey Heiniger had surgery on his hand. His son, Doug Heiniger, was also hospitalized a few days. Both are experiencing God's healing mercies.

Timna Taeger (Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy) and Deyona Massner (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith) were announced to the congregation as having found peace with God. We're thankful that dear souls are willing to give their hearts to God and have the precious hope of life eternal.

Our sympathy is extended to Maye Heiniger in the loss of her mother, Lora Grimes.

At our annual meeting, Bro. Gary Schulz became our new trustee. Sis. Dorothy Taeger was selected for the kitchen committee. Sisters Ingrid Buster, Dixie Messner and Donna Teubel will help fill the vacancies in Sunday School. We again extend our thanks to those who have served in the past. Perhaps now would be an opportunity to express our gratitude to our minis-

tering brothers who untiringly take their place on the pulpit every week and spend of themselves on our behalf.

Let us not forget our dear ones who spend many hours alone. Perhaps we could remember them with a card if the weather will not permit a visit. We trust they pray for us, as we are in need of their prayer. A comforting verse was read this month: "The Lord is good, a strong hold in day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." Nahum 1:7.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to Melanie Butikofer (Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah) and Steve Streicher (Duane and Anna Lou) who were recently joined in holy matrimony. May God bless their lives together.

We rejoice with those who do rejoice and weep with those who weep.

Our sympathy is extended to the Albert Hanson family in the death of Albert's father, Bernard. Also to Bro. George and Sis. Eleanor Butikofer in the death of George's sister, Minnie.

Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted.

George Schupbach has returned to the hospital for further surgery. Current report is, he is doing well.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Eileen Funk

It's easy to say "In God We Trust"
When life is radiant and fair,
But the test of faith is only found
When there are burdens to bear —
For our claim to faith in the "Sunshine"
Is really no faith at all,
For when roads are smooth and days
are bright

Our need for God is so small,
And no one discovers the fullness
Of the greatest of God's love
Unless they have walked in the "Dark-
ness"

With only a light from above —
For the faith to endure whatever comes
Is born of sorrow and trials,
And strengthened only by discipline
And nurtured by self-denials —
So be not disheartened by troubles,
For trials are the building blocks
On which to erect a fortress of faith
Secure on God's "Ageless Rocks"!

Author Unknown

IOWA, IOWA CITY Denise Duckworth

The priceless gift of life is love,
For with the help of God above
Love can change the human race
And make this world a better place —
For love dissolves all hate and fear
And makes our vision bright and clear
So we can see and rise above
Our pettiness on "wings of love".

Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:37-39, that the first commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul and mind; the second commandment is to "love thy neighbor as thyself." When Christ lives in us, we show His love in our daily actions. "My little children, let us love not in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." I John 3:18.

We offer special thanks to our visiting ministers, Bros. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL) and Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA). "... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40.

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

During the holiday season we were thankful for visiting ministers and their wives and families who spent some time with us. On December 25 Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) were with us and as directed by the Spirit, brought us the message of salvation. Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) were here the following Sunday and again we heard wonderful words of life. All were "home" for the holiday and we appreciate them so much.

In the year of 1984, we were blest with 22 new babies, 14 boys and 8 girls. We had 1 death in our church family. We rejoice that we could take 13 new members into our membership. We now have a total of 255 members. At this time we have two converts.

Several are in the hospital and we pray for their return to health. They are Sis. Diane Stickling, Bro. Henry Kellenberger, Bro. Jake Metzger and Anna Knobloch. Three dear young friends, Cindy Gerber, Marilyn Knobloch and Joel Moser were involved in a serious car accident and were hospitalized for a short time. We are thankful that God spared their lives.

We miss Jaylene Mogler who has moved to Illinois to make her home. She is the daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia and has been special to all of us. We know God loves her and will keep her in His care.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." Proverbs 18:22. Christmas Day we were delighted to hear of the betrothal of Sis. Charlene Funk (Gridley, IL) to our Bro. Dave Wagenbach. We wish them God's blessings as their wedding day approaches. Charlene's parents are Roy and Sis. Bertha Funk (Gridley, IL) and Dave's parents are John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach.

Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) were with our congregation over the holidays. May God bless them for their willingness to nourish our spiritual man.

First-time parents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz welcome little Heidi Jo into their hearts and home. Happy grandparents are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington).

January 13 was set aside for our annual church business meeting. We are thankful for our brothers and sisters who have served their elected term. Outgoing committee members are Bros. Floyd Rowell, Earl Stoller, Hartzel Schmidgall and Sis. Emma Jean Lanz. We give our support to the newly elected members, Bros. Bob Siegle, Eric Massner, Ed Stoller and Sisters Dorothy Wagenbach, Clara Frank, Doris Kuntz and Mary Jo Metzger.

IOWA, PULASKI DeAnn Wuthrich Mary Jane Knapp

Again the Lord opened the way for ministering brothers to travel and be in our midst. Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN) and Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) each spent a Sunday with us bringing forth God's Word prompted by the Holy Spirit. May God bless them for their labors of love.

On December 28, Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich were blest with a precious little daughter, Stacy Marie. Also at home to love her is her brother, Brent. Grandparents are Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman (West Bend,

IA) and Bro. Russell and Sis. Karoline Wuthrich.

At this time, Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich is a medical patient in the hospital. We pray for God's hand of love over her.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Elma Mogler

We did appreciate many visitors during the holidays when families gather together to remember the birth of Christ. Among them were Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin). We enjoyed their zeal and God-given messages of love and admonition.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber and their family who lost their mother and grandmother, Sis. Rosina Moser (Morris, MN).

Several young couples have announced their engagement this past month; Fred Wirtz, Jr. (Bro. Fred and Sis. Hulda) to Patsy Banwart (Ralph and Dorothy, Rodman); Dale Fehr (Eldon and Verdell) to Shelli Thomasen (Ron and Sharon, Monroe); Gayle Schmidt (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille) to Darris McAfee (Ray and Evelyn, Algona). We pray the Lord may guide and bless them as they take this important step in life.

Donald and Brandon Metzger, sons of Bro. Duane and Sis. Elizabeth, were hospitalized for tonsillectomies. Sis. Tillie Mogler was submitted for eye surgery and Byron Anliker (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen) for oral surgery.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb Bruellman. Sis. Deb recently lost her mother after a lingering illness.

JAPAN, SHIODA Sheila Moser

December is always a busy time of the year, especially in Christian circles around the world. Everyone is busy preparing for and celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

Here in Japan, it is no different. On the twentieth of the month, the children at S.A.K. put on the annual Christmas play. One day during practice when Mary and Joseph said, "Thank you God for choosing us.", I had to think, yes, I should thank Him daily for choosing me to serve Him. There are so many people throughout this world that really could not say that. We truly hope the Christmas story stays in the hearts and minds of those

dear children throughout their lives.

On the Sunday before Christmas the afternoon services were dedicated to the Sunday School program. The three classes made their individual presentations in both English and Japanese and sang several Christmas hymns together.

Christmas Eve was celebrated with a potluck supper at church before services. Even though the mixture of East and West was evident in both the people and the food, the true spirit of Christmas was present. All of us that were there enjoyed the wonderful Christian fellowship and the feeling of being at home.

New Year's Day brought a visiting minister to Shioda. Bro. Akito, Sis. Marie Inoue and family came to the country from Tokyo to be with us. In his sermon, Bro. Akito compared the first day of creation with the beginning of our spiritual walk. We were all very thankful for their visit.

Recently, Megume Fukusawa made it known to the church, her intentions of marrying Hidenori Mukai and relocating in America. She has been acquainted with our church for several years and regularly attending for the past year. We hope that she will continue seeking the truth in her new home in Evanston, IL.

The annual Japanese Brotherhood Conference was held January 15 in Shioda with many brethren of both churches in attendance. The memorandum was read and we all enjoyed a blessed day together. It was so good to see so many come.

Our hearts were saddened also on the fifteenth when we learned of the passing from this earth of Sis. Lois's mother, "Mom Beer". Many of us could imagine how it would feel knowing you couldn't see your mother here on earth again. We want to pass along our sympathy to her family and hope they can find comfort from above during this time of sorrow.

But yet I long for that sweet rest,
Where weary souls, I know, are blest.
There, safe and free from all alarms,
I'll rest within my Saviour's arms.

Hymns of Zion #79, vs. 7
"My Day's Journey"
by Henry Beer

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue
A blessed new year to all of you.

We had a very blessed Christmas here in our church. Our Saturday evening English Bible Class taught by Bros. Frank and Randy enjoyed a carry-in Christmas supper, after which the students and the teachers shared memories of favorite Christmas days in the past. Several Scripture passages were read concerning gift giving. We then had a small gift exchange.

The next day, on Sunday, our children's program was held with a detailed recitation concerning the wise men, and contribution from each child on the many names and attributes of our Saviour.

After the children caroled for our older neighbor couple, we enjoyed an evening carry-in meal together. Before we parted, several songs were sung, and we were thankful for the love of Christ whose birth we celebrated.

Several loved ones are traveling this season. Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathie Inoue arrived home safely from an enjoyable trip to Arizona and California. Nobuko Utsuki is now touring the Bible Lands for three weeks.

We thank those who remembered our congregation at Christmastime, and may we also be fervent in prayer for our brethren and friends everywhere as we ask you to remember us.

KANSAS, BERN Linda Esslinger

In our business meeting, Bro. Kyle Strahm was elected to replace Bro. Richard Strahm on Public Address system.

May God's richest blessings rest on the following visiting ministers: Bro. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita), Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Terry Farney (Wichita).

Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby Strahm announced the birth of a son, Myron Lee on December 22. Welcoming him are one sister, Lisa, and two brothers, Lynn and Leslie. Grandparents are Bro. Ephraim Strahm and Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer (Sabetha).

A set of twins, Douglas Richard and Renee Diane, were born to Bro. Curtis and Sis. Ellen Strahm January 4. Two brothers, Clinton and John, and one sister, Emily, welcomed them. Grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm and Richard and Dorothy Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

On January 13, Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy Strahm announced the birth of

their first child, a son, Almanzo Alpha. Grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm and Leslie and Leora Baumgartner.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Judy Bahr

The annual business meeting was held in January and the following were elected: Trustee, Bro. Wayne Miller; Sunday School teachers, Bro. David Sinn - Bible Class, Sis. Aleta Banwart - four-five-year-olds; Food Committee, Sis. Lucille Schurter; Usher, Bro. Roger Kraft; Sabetha Home Representative, Bro. Jim Bahr; Song Leader, Bro. Lon Banwart. We wish them much Godly wisdom as they fulfill their duties.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Carl Feucht (Lester, IA). May God bless you for lending yourselves to us.

Sis. Mabel Springer was a hospital patient. She recovered very nicely. Also, Sis. Carrie Massner was in the hospital and was just dismissed. She is receiving "lots of TLC" from her family. May God's healing hand mend and strengthen her so she can once again assemble with us.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY Vola Young — Doris Bahr

"Good Luck", I said, "and have a Happy New Year!" She turned to me, smiled and answered, "I don't believe in luck. I believe and trust in the Lord. He will provide for my New Year."

That quietly spoken statement made me stop and think. It's true. We don't believe in luck. We believe in the Lord.

I'm so grateful I'm a Christian. The New Year doesn't have to be greeted with the loud noise of blowing horns in order to chase out old habits and evils of the old year. A quiet prayer for guidance in this New Year is all we really need. The fact is, God takes care of us. We are Christians, saved by the grace of God and our belief in His only Son, Jesus.

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Sam Kraft, Sis. Caroline Leman and Bro. Tim Zimmerman.

Our sincere sympathy is offered to our dear Sis. Leona Kraft and family in the loss of their precious loved one, Sis. Carrie Leman December 16. Sis. Carrie resided with her sister, Leona, for many years before going to a care home

here in Yates Center. Services and burial were held "back home" in Lamar, MO.

We also wish to extend our sympathy to the dear family of Aaron Ott, especially to our Sis. Ada Beyer, Bro. Sam Kraft and also to Emma Ott in the loss of their brother-in-law and Emma's husband, Aaron "Dutch" Ott, December 15.

There lies before us a new year and who can tell what is before us? We wonder what new experiences, what changes shall occur, what new deeds shall surface? May we just hold fast to the truth of the Word and draw nearer to our Lord and Savior.

Our annual election was held January 4 with Elder Bro. Sam Anliker presiding. Let each brother and sister that has been entrusted with a new duty, count it a privilege, not a cross, that they can be of some small service. In order for Christ's body, the church, to grow, we must work together and want to be involved.

At the time of this writing, Bro. Loren Strahm and his daughter, Sis. Tina, are in Haiti with a World Relief Project. We are thankful there are those who are willing to travel abroad to help those in need, and what an opportunity to be a living witness and minister the true Word of God.

A precious gift from the Lord was provided to Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft. Kent Douglas was born January 2. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter (Sabetha) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft. What a wonderful opportunity and responsibility parents have in providing root strength to their children. We know that the sturdiest plants and those which bear best, are those whose roots sink deep, reaching rich soil, providing a foundation from which they can grow tall and beautiful and sound. So it is with children who need that soil, enriched with good talk, good music, good taste, good books, and, above all, God and His precious Word.

Other hospital patients this month were Sis. Kathy Strahm, Sis. Dorothy Young, Karen and Ashley Somerhalder.

Saturday, January 12, Lamont and Gridley gathered together as Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) shared the reading of the memorandum. Truly we realize the love and concern the shepherds of our various flocks have for us,

in wanting to sound the warnings, that we might maintain a pure lifestyle, pleasing to the Lord. We realize that our bodies can be easily led astray. It isn't that our bodies are necessarily evil; it's just that they possess any number of temptations, desires, all which may seem terribly appealing and temporarily satisfying. Let us be as we can read in Titus 2:11-14, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and Godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Sunday evening, January 13, we were fortunate again to have Bro. Art Nohl minister the Word.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

Heather Marie is the name given to a beautiful baby girl born to Elaine and Mark Johnson December 21. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lois Allenbach. Maternal great-grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Florence Guthrie, all of Kiowa. What a wonderful Christmas present! May God richly bless their family.

Our hospital patients this month are, Sis. Kathryn Miller (still recovering in the hospital from surgery) and Bro. Gary Willson, who is home from the hospital. May we remember them in our daily prayers.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill K. Luthi

GOD GRANT US HOPE AND FAITH AND LOVE

Hope for a world grown cynically cold,
Hungry for power and greedy for gold . . .

Faith to believe when within and
without
There's a nameless fear in a world of
doubt . . .

Love that is bigger than race or creed,
To cover the world and fulfill each
need . . .

God, grant us these gifts
To all troubled hearts
As the old year ends
And the new year begins.

Helen Steiner Rice

Wishing each and every one of you a blessed and prosperous new year of 1985 in serving the Lord.

The year of 1984 was ended with the reminder of our Saviour's birth in the lowly manger. All enjoyed seeing and hearing the young and small repeat their verses and sing their songs of melody and praises. "Stille Nacht" was a special treat sung to us by the Bible class. An afternoon of caroling was also permitted with cool, but sunny, weather. Following the caroling was a carry-in for all.

Our annual meeting was held January 3. Those elected are: Sis. Mary Wernli, Primary teacher; Sis. Maria Schrader, Substitute teacher; Bros. Jay Luthi and James Wernli, Ushers. Also reelected for another two years is your correspondent here.

Those with unexpected hospital stays have been Bro. Bernie Emch and Bertha Huber. May they be permitted their desired or needed measures of health. Sis. Hulda Jacobs underwent a major heart bypass at Wesley Hospital of Wichita. May the power of God's healing hand give her strength to overcome her weakness in health.

Our best wishes go to Cheri and Gene Reed (Winfield, KS). Cheri became a bride December 31 and is the daughter of Bro. Jeffrey K. and Sis. Debbie Frieden (Howard) of our congregation. Gene's parents are Al and Sharen Reed (Winfield). May God be the overseer of their life together.

Haste, while yet His grace is offered;
Waste no time in worldly thought
Now begin your pilgrim journey,
Cleansed from ev'ry stain and spot.
You will find by faith, revealing
Full redemption in His blood;
For each sinner there is healing,
Baptized in this cleansing flood.

Zion's Harp #52, vs. 4

We rejoice to know that God has certainly worked within the heart of another sinner. Patricia Traywick has been assembling with us since the first part of 1984. She has now ended the year with the first and utmost important goal of life. Our prayers are that she will never lose sight of the things which

are seen (love, joy, peace and charity) and strive eternally for the things which are not seen (faith and hope). "For we walk by faith, not by sight" II Corinthians 5:7. May she let God work within her and direct her according to His will.

KANSAS, MANHATTAN

Lori Aberle — Patti Knobloch

HEART GIFTS

It's not the things that can be bought
 that are life's richest treasure,
 It's just the little heart gifts
 that money cannot measure —
 A cheerful smile, a friendly word,
 a sympathetic nod . . .
 These are all precious treasures
 from the storehouse of our God.
 They are the priceless things in life
 for which no one can pay,
 And the giver finds rich recompense
 in giving them away.

Helen Steiner Rice

As we read in this beautiful poem above, our Lord also instructs us to give freely from the heart and to show our love toward others. "Charity suffereth long and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up." (I Corinthians 13:4).

Tim Moore was our only fall semester graduate, and we wish him God's blessings for his future life.

The students here at Kansas State have enjoyed their semester break, and we would like to extend an invitation to all who wish to be with us for an evening of fellowship.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Charleen Hartter

Little self-denials, little honesties, little passing words of sympathy, little nameless acts of kindness, little silent victories over favorite temptations — these are the silent threads of gold which, when woven together, gleam out so brightly in the pattern of life that God approves.

F. W. Farrar

Living for our God is a joy; which one of us doesn't want to do his best. There is much to be done by each of us to further our Lord's kingdom. We see others doing great things for Jesus and read in the Scriptures of wondrous works done by our faithful fathers. But in these silent victories, the Lord finds great pleasure also, and through them

we can grow and nurture the faith that so exalts our Father.

We appreciate those who proclaim the Word and are used by God to fill our cups to overflowing. Visiting us this month were Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO), Bro. Terry Farney (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI).

Sis. Lena Wenger (Bro. Will) and Bro. Joseph Traub (Sis. Viola) were hospitalized this month. We pray that our God will comfort those that are His when they suffer in the body.

On a snowy New Year's Eve, Sally Harter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) was transported to Topeka where an appendectomy was performed. She recovered quite well, and we thank God for His continual protection.

Having returned from wintering in Florida for a short stay over the holidays, Sis. Liseten Aberle (Bro. Ben) suffered a mishap. We hope her broken wrist will heal quickly.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Laurie Gallatin

Floyd Beer has been a hospital patient this month. Our prayers are with him for a quick recovery.

December 23, the Sunday School children presented a Christmas program of singing, music and the story of Jesus' birth. It is a blessing to see them honor the Lord and His birth.

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called . . . forbearing one another in love." Ephesians 4:1,2. What does "walk worthy of your calling" mean to you? I think we need to evaluate ourselves in light of this verse and honestly discern if we are. What is our calling? It is to walk in the Spirit, to have open communication with God, to live a transformed life by His power, to be used by Him in whatever capacity His purpose requires, to have the pure love of God for others, to follow Jesus only, and not man.

Our calling is not to pick over people and tear them apart just because we don't like the color of their dress or tie, or the length of their hair. We are called to a much higher level of love and maturity in Christ than to be so critical of others. I think instead of being so concerned of others in this sense, we ought to look at ourselves and evaluate our own walk with the Lord and see if we are truly listening to His Spirit (or

are we listening to man); rather than to try to judge someone else's walk. There is much more safety in judging our own selves than in judging others.

Our calling is to "forbear one another in love". This means not to get so uptight about the little insignificant differences we have but to love each other above that. We need more of Christ's love for others, and to get beyond these petty things and on to more productive use of our time and energy.

Remember I Samuel 16:7, ". . . for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." The Lord isn't concerned as much with our outward appearance as with our heart. You can be the most proper Christian outwardly, but if your heart isn't right, what does the outward amount to? Not much.

Let's each consider our walk and see if it is worthy of what God has called us to. Are we serving Him as He would like us to?

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Lester Huber

"As the snow" so shall My Word be . . .

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it. Isaiah 55:10-11

Our winter has been a mild experience so far, enough snow to keep the soil and dormant life of the flowers and grass almost alive. How wonderful can the word be in like manner, if we keep under its cover each day. What a providence of our Great God whose name means "More than Enough".

We hope our New Year roster schedule will be convenient for all our churches that are involved for monthly visits. We are very grateful to our dear ministers who so faithfully come and share in the ministry here and for all the visitors as well; we always appreciate the Christian Fellowship. May we still express our need here for permanent residents of Sunday School teachers, helpers, etc. The following is

a typical employment opportunity out of our local newspaper. "RN and LPN positions available, full or part-time. Contact Director of Nursing at Cardinal Health Care Center, Winchester, KY." For more information just write us: Lester and Glendoris Huber, Route 1, Becknerville Road, Winchester, KY 40391.

A HEART THAT SINGS

Of all life's good and lovely things
Most precious is a heart that sings;
That, like a bird in winter's tree
Chirps anthems of expectancy,
Or in the darkness of the night
Steadfastly proclaims the light.

God's rare and holy gifts abound,
His loving-kindness wraps us round;
But of all gifts that I would praise,
The peaceful nights, the fruitful days,
All true and good and lovely things,
Most precious is a heart that sings.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Liz Blough

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses . . . and He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am His own; And the joy we share as we tarry there - None other has ever known.

I wonder if the songwriter of this beautiful hymn really had a rose garden where he/she could go to spend time alone with God. It must have been beautiful. Even if we don't have such a picturesque place to be alone with God, in our mind's eye we can picture ourselves being there talking and walking with Him. Every Christian needs that quiet time every day to know that God is there always listening.

Our annual business meeting rolled around again. This year it was on January 18. Our prayers are with the newly elected officers that are called to do God's work in these special ways. Sunday School teachers are Bro. Rod Steffen and substitute Bro. Tom Oesch; Sis. Renee Steffen and substitute Sis. Carol Schlatter; and Sis. Penny Erismann; trustee, Bro. Lloyd Blough; Kitchen committee, Sis. Julie Blough; World Relief, Sis. Loretta Steffen.

Our new carpeting has just been installed and has made a nice improvement on our edifice which will soon celebrate its 20th year. How time flies.

Bro. Ferd Grawburg has been hospitalized this past month and also his

wife, Sis. Jane, has been in the hospital having some tests run. She may be undergoing major surgery soon. Our prayers are certainly with Bro. Ferd and Sis. Jane and Brian.

For I will restore health unto thee,
and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith
the Lord. Jeremiah 30:17

But my God shall supply all your
need according to his riches in glory by
Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

We're growing!! The Lord has blessed two of our church families with new babies; Brett Alan Steffen joined the ranks December 20. He joins sisters, Chelise and Gretchen, and of course, Mom and Dad, Sis. Beth and Bro. Rod Steffen. The new year brought a new baby girl to the Wally Gerst family. Stephanie Elizabeth (after Grandma Waible) was born January 9. She joins sister Sara, brothers, Jacob and Jonathan. Isn't it wonderful how a new baby can bring a smile to most anybody's face? God bless these new additions.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Linda Ramseyer

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN) and Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI). We are thankful that they could come and minister the Lord's Word to us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been hospitalized this month. These dear ones are Lyle (Rosemary) Wackerle, Sis. Doris Knochel, Bro. Don (Sis. Lou Ann) Wieland and Sis. Tonya (Bro. Scott) Wieland. We continue to have Bro. Don in our prayers, as he is still in the hospital at this time.

The Lord has blessed the homes of two of our families with new babies. Jim and Kay Knochel are the parents of a daughter, Jamie Kendra. Sarah and Jenay welcome their new sister home. Jamie's grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Leanoire Knochel. Mike and Cheryl Schmidt have become first-time parents with the birth of their son, Michael Thomas. Michael's grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Margaret Schlatter.

Our annual meeting was held recently on a Wednesday evening. Bro. Eli Schlatter was chosen as our secretary and our new treasurer is Bro. Gary

Wright. Our new trustee is Bro. Eugene Meylan and Sis. Shirley Wright was chosen to serve on the Dinner Committee. Sis. Janet Kober was also chosen to be on the World Relief Committee. May the Lord be with these brothers and sisters in their new responsibilities.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Dawn Bahr

God has again led two of His children together in His love. On December 30 the engagement of Sis. Terri Martin and Bro. Ryan Huber was announced. Terri is the daughter of Bro. Kaywin and Sis. Karen Martin, and she is currently living in the Peoria, IL, area. Ryan's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Huber (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). We are confident that they will feel God's continued guidance and love as they plan toward a June wedding.

January 2 was the wedding day of Bonnie and Ernest Jermo. Parents of the couple are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Perseda Wieland and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jermo. Ernest and Bonnie are now residing at Elk Rapids, MI. We wish them much happiness, and pray that they will look to God and feel His nearness as they begin their life together.

We sympathize with Leland and Katie Haines and their family in the death of Leland's mother, Emma Haines (Elkhart, IN). May God's comforting hand be with them, giving them hope of one day meeting their loved one in heaven.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3. Rosanne Fortenbacher is rejoicing in the peace she has found through repentance and trusting in Jesus. Her parents are Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, ON).

"Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth." Psalm 71:9. January 13 was a special day for us as we gathered together along with brethren from Alto, Bay City and Toledo, OH for the ground breaking ceremony for our new home for the aged. The "Apostolic Christian Woodhaven" will be located adjacent to our Detroit church. We are thankful that God has led us through the many hurdles we've encountered, and that we can now see our home becoming a reality.

We thank Elder Bros. Andrew Virkler (Bay City) and Aaron Steffen (Alto) for coming to be with us for our ground breaking and also for the reading of the annual conference letter. May they and their families be blessed for giving of their time to come share with us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Hildegard Koehl
Rhonda Zeltwanger**

On December 16 the Sunday School brought forth an inspiring Christmas program. It really is precious to us when these dear children recite their pieces and share with us the Christmas story. We thank the teachers and students who devoted their time and effort to make this blessing available to us.

Our congregation has experienced sadness in the death of two dear souls. Denise Nohl (Elder Bro. Arthur and Sis. Sandra Nohl) was taken from this life December 20. Denise, in her sixteen years of innocent life, touched us with a lesson of faith and love. May God's presence help to fill the lonely hours ahead.

Sis. Rosina Moser, 99, wife of the late Bro. Joseph Moser, went to her reward December 25. Sis. Rosina truly was a pillar in our church as she walked a remarkable 82 years of her life in service of the Lord. May God wrap His unfailing arms around these two dear families and grant them the peace that passeth all understanding.

Those who have been hospitalized are Kathryn Schaefer (Emil), Bro. Harold Meiss, Sis. Gladys Koehl (Bro. Ernest), Sis. Kathy Nohl and Bro. Charles Koehl. May the Lord renew their trust and faith in Him and restore health to these loved ones.

Gary Sauder (Virgil and Mildred) and Claire Bjornstead exchanged wedding vows in Canton, OH. They were also showered with many "best wishes" here in Morris at a wedding reception. Our congratulations go out to this couple.

The engagement of Dawn Nohl (Bro. David and Sis. Eileen) to Douglas Moser (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Pearl) has been made known to us. We wish for them special blessings as they plan for their future together.

Those who have been in our midst and ministered to us are Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Bros. Ken Lawson (Ft. Lauder-

dale, FL), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Carl Feucht and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Donnie Miller (Minneapolis, MN) and Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA). We thank these brothers for the blessings they brought to us.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf are rejoicing over the birth of their first son, Byron Douglas. Byron is welcomed home by his four sisters, Mindy, Molly, Marcy and Myra. Bro. Leonard and Sis. Violet Wulf and Lloyd and Dorothy Durkee are the happy grandparents.

The family of Rosina Moser would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere thanks for the many acts of kindness shown to their dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother on her 99th birthday and at Christmas time.

A special thanks to all who were so supportive at the time of her death; to our beloved ministers for their comforting words; to the choir for the beautiful hymns; and to the ladies who served supper, lunch and dinner. Thanks, too, for the food brought to their homes. They are grateful for the cards, gifts of money, flowers and calls.

There are so many that have been so kind to their mother and they pray God will richly bless each one. Your thoughtfulness will be a lasting memory.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Wanda Messner
Mary Lou Schmidt**

Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and our own Elder Bro. Harold Messner read the memorandum of our annual brotherhood conference. They brought out many good teachings and exhortations on how we can be more "holy"; so that our church can remain "holy". May God richly bless our dear shepherds of the flock; whose deep concern lies heavy on their hearts. They spend many sleepless nights over us, dear loved ones. May we all strive to do better!

The following poem was written by Sis. Leona Schmidt (Elgin, IA) and expresses one way in which we can maintain our holiness.

"SELF"

So many times I look around
At others and I say,
"I wonder why they do those things;
And why are they that way?"

So many times I look around

At others and I see:
A small mistake, a little fault, and say,
"Why can't they be like me?"

Then when I open my Bible to read;
It is Humbleness I see.

So many times I read the words —
Get rid of "self" in thee!

Each day as I walk along with God,
I pray that I may see;
Not the way others are walking along,
But how they are watching and looking
at me!

Written Oct. 21, 1984
by Sis. Leona Schmidt

The Winthrop annual business meeting was held January 5. Bro. Marvin Messner was voted in for trustee. Bro. Mark Schmidt was voted in for secretary-treasurer. Bro. Leo Messner was voted in on the hail aid. Bro. Ken Messner was voted in for the building aid. Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie Schmidt were voted in as head of our Winthrop Fellowship Hall. We pray God will give each dear brother and sister-in-Christ the grace and understanding to carry out their Christian duties.

Sis. Darlene Schmidt (Darrel) fell on the ice and broke her elbow. She seems to be getting along pretty good, but still has some pain. We pray God will add His wonderful healing touch.

Our church gathered at the Fellowship Center on New Year's Eve for services and singing. How blessed it was to sing in the New Year and to start the year with a prayer; instead of celebrating the New Year the way so many people do! May we all strive to do better than last year!

Our statistics for the year of 1984 were as follows: four weddings, three deaths and eight births!

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janice Braker — Becky Marti

"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven" (St. Matthew 5:12). We do rejoice that our Sis. Caroline (Carrie) Lehman was called home by our Heavenly Father and could be relieved of her earthly suffering December 16. Our prayers are with her loved ones left behind, especially her sister, Sis. Leona Kraft, who will miss her here. Sis. Carrie had spent her last years near Gridley, KS.

We recently held our annual business meeting. Bro. Orlan Kellenberger

was chosen to serve as trustee. Bro. Kevin Kilgus and Sis. Janice Frieden were chosen to teach in Sunday School. May we pray for them as they begin their new responsibilities. May we remember that we all have our duties in our precious faith, and may we rely on God to grant us the grace and direction to carry them out according to His will.

Bro. Leonard Braker was hospitalized for surgery this past month. We are thankful that he has been able to return home again.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

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

Hymns of Zion #150, vs. 1

May God bless our visiting ministers, Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for being an instrument in proclaiming His living Word to us this past month.

Year 1984 ended with 8 births, 1 marriage, 6 baptisms and 5 moves (3 families in and 1 moved away). We are happy to have Sis. Marge Knapp, formerly of Congerville, IL, living in our area and being a part of the "Little White Church on the Levee". May God bless her both materially and spiritually in this new venture. We look forward to 1985 and claim the promise: "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19.

The annual business meeting was conducted January 5 by Elder Bro. Roy Grimm. New trustees elected were Bros. Paul Haab and Steve Kiefaber who replaced Bros. Louis Hoerr and Don Grimm. Sis. Marjorie Gerst will take Sis. Barb Heimer's place on the Food Committee. Each served a period of three years. Our thanks to those who have filled these offices and may God direct and inspire the new officers with a zeal to continue on so that the physical affairs of our church can be carried out in order and pleasing in His sight.

— for whither thou goest, I will go;
and where thou lodgest, I will lodge:
thy people shall be my people, and thy
God my God. Ruth 1:16.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Bro. Scott Hoerr (Bro.

Robert and Sis. Emma Dee) and Sis. Anna Jevremov (Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna, 13873 Boquita Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014). May God continue to direct and bless this couple as they make plans for their wedding and future lives together.

"My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou
art mine

For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art
Thou;

If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus tis now.
(Featherston)

'My cup runneth over' is the happiness felt by Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr since their son, Brent, has felt his need of repentance and has answered God's loving call. We wish for Brent God's grace to continue on in this, the most important step in his life and may we all take inventory as to our standing before God while He is our "Savior" and not our "Judge".

Our brothers have taken part in preparing and shipping grain to Ethiopia.

"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Matthew 10:42.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

Our visiting minister during the past month was Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). We are thankful for his visit and for serving us so well. We also appreciate the presence of all who came with him. We were grateful for the opportunity to receive good teachings of truth and for the close fellowship. We could feel God's added blessing.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

On a Sunday afternoon we were able to assemble in the Naumburg church and hear the memorandum of the summer elder conference which was read and talked about by our Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner. We are fortunate to have these opportunities to hear what our shepherds have undertaken for us. May each of us be good followers.

Our Sunday School children presented a short program of song and verse on Sunday, December 23.

During the past month, we enjoyed two evenings of fellowship when we

had covered dish suppers and short song services.

Bro. Seth Schulz was a hospital patient and we are glad that he has been able to return home. We surely want to remember each of those who are hospitalized or in their homes and cannot assemble with us each week. May they each receive a blessing in a special way.

Jay Walter has been welcomed into the home of Loren and Gloria Virkler. Bradley and Daniel are anxious to play with their new brother born December 24. Their grandparents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Celia Virkler and Jesse and Betty Farney.

Charles Farney (Bro. Don and Sis. Alice) has joined the U.S. Air Force and has now been assigned to a permanent station. His address is:

AB Charles P. Farney
064-68-9878
PSC #1 Box 1544
Nellis AFB
Nevada 89191

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

Our Sunday School children spoke of the birth of our Lord in the noon hour of December 30.

Our congregation was greatly saddened by the death of Bro. Everett Virkler who lost his life in a fire. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Betty; a daughter, Sis. Linda (Bro. James) Beyer; a sister, Sis. Julia Karcher and two grandchildren. Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Bro. Leland Hirschey carried on the services.

We are in sympathy with Sis. Pearl Colgrove and family in the passing of her son, Clayton.

We had some pretty high water here in our area for a few days. There was a foot of water in the back entrance of our church and would have been more had they not put sandbags around to keep it out. With five and six pumps running in the basement, we were able to keep damage to a minimum. There were many places where it came into barns and homes. It also washed out some bridges.

We gathered at our Naumburg church Wednesday evening for a covered dish supper and a song service.

Bro. James Beyer was hospitalized for a few days but we are thankful he is able to be out again.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

OHIO, AKRON**Joyce Gasser**

Honey is pictured as God's Word or promises in Proverbs 24:14; and "... when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off." God's promises are sweet to us like honey. God's Word is incorruptible seed. It is said that certain seeds, when cut in half and put under a microscope will show a picture of what it will be. An apple seed cut in half and put under a microscope will show a picture of an apple. II Corinthians 1:20 states that all the promises of God are for us unto the glory of God. When we have found God's promise in His Word for our needs, that incorruptible seed, comes in and an image of the promise fulfilled comes to our spirit, and continuing therein we shall have a reward and our expectation shall not be cut off.

Our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer extended a grateful thanks to everyone supporting the many challenges and responsibilities in the church. A thanks was expressed to many of the efforts that seemingly go unnoticed, and a thanks for supporting our singings and all services. Expired terms of offices were filled: Bro. Carl Graf for Sunday School superintendent replacing Bro. Ned Spangler; Bro. Robert Ritzman for trustee replacing Bro. Steve Pamer; Bro. Brian Pamer for usher replacing Bro. Eric Graf; and Sis. Eva Grawunder for kitchen committee replacing Sis. Carol Gasser.

Andy and Caresse Zollinger were blessed with a baby they named Elise Marie. The baby girl has two brothers, Emmitt and Mason. Grandparents are Carl and Sis. Martha Zollinger and great-grandmother is Sis. Marie Ritzman.

Ernest Kaufman, 69, passed away Christmas Day at the Rittman Home. He is survived by his wife, Judy; a son, Ernest, Jr. (Carolyn); and two grandsons, Edward and Keith. Ernie's brothers are Elmer and Robert, and his sisters are Sis. Ruth Taylor (Akron) and Sis. Dorothy Stavenick (Mansfield).

OHIO, COLUMBUS**Desma Klopfenstein**

"And above all these things, put on charity (love) which is the bond of perfectness."
Colossians 3:14

There was once a WWII prison camp, in which, feeling hopelessly trapped, the prisoners forgot their humanness. They began to steal from one another, even to the point of jumping a dead man's body to scavenge his meager valuables. One day, though, a new prisoner came and began to care for a fellow inmate who had been left to die. Soon his act of love and kindness, done in the Lord's name, spread to the hearts of others and before long the camp had changed from a place of torment to a camp of help.

This transformation climaxed, though, when one day, after the prisoners' labors were ended, a guard counted shovels only to find one missing. He threatened to execute the whole detachment unless the guilty man stepped forward. Finally, one man did confess that he had taken the shovel. After being kicked and beaten, the man was released from his agony thru death. But because of that man's act of kindness, the others were spared. . . . Later that evening, the guard recounted the shovels. He had made a mistake. None were missing. The man had died for love's sake.

Now, if we are touched by that account of unselfish love, how much more should we be grateful and humbled by Christ's entire life, which was the purest, most self-sacrificing example of love ever given. We, as unconverted men, are prisoners of sin in the "Devil's Prison Camp," until we totally accept Christ's "Stepping Forward" to take our place thru His death on the cross. He, too, was kicked and beaten by the guards, but unlike the WWII prisoner, He triumphed over the grave, giving us a hope of eternal salvation. What Amazing Love!

Donald E. Wildmon

During the past month we were visited by Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), who faithfully shared God's Word with our congregation. We enjoyed all our visitors, especially the children, who are truly a blessing of the Lord.

OHIO, GIRARD**Kathryn Emch**

As we had our morning devotions we read, "Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us and establish thou the work of our hands upon us. Psalm 90:17.

We see this beauty as our brethren come to worship with us. Since I last visited with you we have had Bro. Gary

Maibach and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer come to share God's saving grace with us. We have had numerous brethren come to help us in singing. We even had carolers. Rittman is 75 miles from us so you can see the efforts that must be put forth. We really felt their love as 12 adults and 4 children sang for us and our brethren. This is "the beauty of the Lord in action". We thank you all and ask God's blessing on each one.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Les Manz**

Steve Manz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) was greeted by the church as a new brother following his baptism. Doubtless, by surrendering his life to the Lord in his youth he will be spared much, and yet, we know Satan tempts the young and the old. Standing in the water before his baptism, Bro. Steve vowed to be faithful all his life and the Lord promised him grace to overcome sin in this life and a home in heaven following death. We all stand amazed that God takes the time to help us in such a personal way.

Our friend, Ed Schlatter (Sis. Juliet) has received forgiveness for his sins and is ready to give his testimony and the Lord willing, be baptized. Having surrendered his life to God and repented as commanded in the New Testament, he has received peace — the peace only God can give, the peace the whole world longs for.

Those ministering to us this month were Bro. Loren Stoller and Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty).

The joys and responsibilities of raising a child in the fear of God are laid for the first time on Roger and Lisa Manz. Henry Roger was welcomed into their lives January 12. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz and Mr. and Mrs. Larimore.

Bro. Adam Manz was hospitalized this month. No doubt he has realized God's promise of grace during his stay at the hospital.

At our annual meeting the following church offices were filled: Bro. Ralph Schlatter, Bro. Eli Manz, Sis. Henrietta Manz — Sunday School; Bro. Roger Gasser — Trustee; Bro. Lowell Schlatter — Usher; Bro. Don Manz — Home for the Handicapped Treasurer; Sis. Anabell Manz — Kitchen Committee; Sis. Evelyn Manz — World Relief Sewing Representative. As each of them seeks to do God's will in their office, we appreciate their efforts, though we

don't always remember to thank them.

Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst have completed a six-month work assignment in our area. We have appreciated the love they have brought into our church and trust God will bless them in retirement.

OHIO, LATTY

Patty Gerber — Laurie Stoller

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." Psalm 95:1. We lifted our voices in prayer and song as we joined our friends in singing at our annual Christmas program. How blessed to hear His goodness through song!

We welcomed ministering Bros. Walter Rager (Toledo), John Isch (Indianapolis, IN) and Walter Steffen (Milford, IN). How we can rejoice with thanksgiving and praise to our Lord when speaking through our ministering brothers.

Bro. Byron Dunham (Bro. Charles and Sis. Laura) and Sis. Jody Williamson (Robert and Sis. Janet) were united as one in the Lord December 30. "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." Ephesians 5:33.

Our congregation rejoiced with three happy households as they welcomed a precious bundle. Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller welcomed Esther Ellen. Siblings are Neil, Trent, Ross, Blane, Rustin and Joy. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein are maternal grandparents. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Russ and Sis. Melvene Stoller. First-time parents are Jon and Lavonne Elston (Toledo). Shanna Marie was born New Year's Day. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet Stoller. Luke Offerle welcomed brother Marcus Paul. Happy parents are Terry and Patty Offerle. Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther Stoller are the maternal grandparents.

Hospital patients this month were Jeremy Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen), Shane Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie) and Harlan Riggenbach (Sis. Delores).

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill

He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.

William Cowper

On New Year's Day general elections were held. The results are as follows: Sunday School teachers, Sis. Carol Stoller (Bro. Ray), Sis. Eileen Whitman (Bro. Dick), Bro. Roger Miller (Sis. Kay); Church Trustee, Bro. Millard Stoller (Sis. Irma); Fellowship Hall Trustee, Bro. Bob Stoller; World Relief, Sis. Mildred Stoller (Bro. Louis).

We pray for our Lord's guidance as these brothers and sisters carry out their appointed offices.

As we look back on the past year, we have seen many changes in our congregation. There were ten births, four deaths, two baptisms, three church weddings and we had two converts as 1984 drew to a close. In this year 1985, let us look to Him for all. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth for ever. Psalm 111:10.

We give a special thank you to Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) for sharing the church history with us. We give all praise to God for this opportunity.

Sis. Nettie Stoller wishes to thank those who remembered her on her 90th birthday and this past holiday season. God's blessings to all of you.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

... life is for giving and the two words combined, forgiving. On January 6 Bro. Dan Sauder and Sis. Pam Martin (Rittman) were united in marriage. "... Where God in truth abides, Where two join hand and heart, We find a three-fold cord, Not lightly rent apart." (Zion's Harp #79). Parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Martin. A warm welcome is extended to Sis. Pam as she makes Mansfield her home.

Adam Daniel was born January 14 to David and Joy Sauder. Benjamin will be busy making his new brother feel welcome. The paternal grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder.

Have you been accused of being enthusiastic lately? Did you know enthusiastic is derived from "en Theo" or "in God"; therefore let's sing enthusiastically; walk our Christian life enthusiastically.

ENJOY WORK

A mother rocks a cradle
With a smile on her face . . .
An astronaut hums softly
As he charts his way in space . . .
A surgeon heaves a thankful sigh
As another life is saved . . .
A construction worker chuckles
As he drives on roads he paved . . .
God gives a special task to do
To each and everyone
And blesses us with special joy
Each time a job's well done!

Alice Joyce Davidson

If arrested for being a Christian,
would there be enough evidence to
convict me?

OHIO, RITTMANN

Judy Stoller—Verla Stoller

This is a month when the world is made aware of love through St. Valentine's Day. How much more fortunate are we when we can know of a Godly love each day of our lives.

Our hearts were warmed by the enthusiasm of the children at our Christmas program held December 23. May we not grow lukewarm but have such an enthusiasm in our service to God as we did in our first love.

Experiencing this first love is our new convert Kurt Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carole). "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

There are many different kinds of love. One is the love between man and woman. "And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh." Mark 10:8 Announcing their engagements are Russell Gerber and Ellen Blough (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lorene); Greg Bachman (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn) and Elizabeth Taylor; John Wachtel and Judy Rufener (Bro. Isaac Jr. and Sis. Verna); Bro. Ernie Stetz and Sis. Diane Maibach (Bri. Alpha and Sis. Helen); Marvin Indermuhle (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vera) and Carol Pamer (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor' Akron); Kevin Trent (Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn) and Marcia Lehman; Jonathon Gasser (Bro. Emmett and Sis. Marie) and Diana Artrip; Bro. Joe Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Betty) and Sis. Rose Hilty (Sis. Ruth); and Bro. John Kipfer (Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Marilyn, Latty) and Sis. Suzanne Rufener (Bro. Isaac Jr. and Sis. Verna).

May God richly bless each one of them.

On January 6 Bro. Dan Sauder (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Suzanne) of Mansfield and Sis. Pam Martin (Everett and Dorothy) were united in holy matrimony before many witnesses. May God richly bless them as they now walk as one. We will miss dear Sister Pam.

There is also the love of parents for children. Marvin and Dawn Miller were blest with their second daughter's arrival December 31. Grandparents of Tara Catherine are Richard and Sis. Melba Miller. Kelly will enjoy a sister. Andy and Caresse Zollinger were also blest with a daughter, Elise Marie. Mason and Emmet will welcome her home. Grandparents are Carl and Sis. Martha Zollinger.

It is also in love that our faithful brothers deliver God's word to us. Those visting us this month were Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Kenneth Sauder, Pete Baltic, and Fred Domka (Manfield), Don Manz (Junction), Bruce Leman (Roanoke, IL), and Bill Brake (Sardis). May God reward you for your unselfish service to others.

Our own Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier with Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Bro. Henry Dotterer lovingly brought us the conference memorandum January 12. Surely we heard many good teachings. May God grant us grace to live accordingly.

"And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it;" I Corinthians 12:26. Those hospitalized were Sis. Esther Saylor, Ted Beery (Sis. Rhea), Dustin Ramsier (Mike and Tina), and Sis. Helen Babin (Bro. Emanuel). God bless you with His healing touch.

"And weep with them that weep" Romans 12:15. We extend our sympathy to those who recently lost loved ones. Sis. Mary (Lawrence) Stoller experienced the loss of a brother, Robert Wormald. We sympathize with Sis. Minnie Sweigart in the loss of her son, Wayne. Bro. Emanuel Babin (Sis. Helen) also experienced the loss of a step-brother, David Babin. May God comfort each one.

Also, a resident of our home, Pauline Hrovat, passed away. Pauline had turned to the Lord in repentance prior to her coming to our home. Her sister, Sis. Helen (Charlie) Laparo resides in Sarasota, Florida.

On January 13 we had our annual election of officers. They are: Church

Trustee, Bro. Carl Steiner; Fellowship Hall Trustee, Bro. Joe Rufener; Usher, Bro. Steve Maibach; Kitchen Help, Sis. Wilda Fetty; and Nursing Home Directors, Bro. Glenn Gasser and Bro. Jim Ramsier.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

Praise the Lord! We have begun a new year and the freedom to worship the Lord is still ours, just for the asking.

What will this new year bring — sorrow, joy, pain, laughter, peace, life or death? I'm sure each of us may face some or all of these things sometime during the coming year.

II Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

These precious words could well apply to the life and death of our dear Sis. Emma Riggerbach who fell asleep in the arms of Jesus, January 1 at the age of 94. Sis. Emma was our oldest member at the Sardis church. We want to extend our deepest sympathy to her children and their families.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehlau

Francis Laidig

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

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

Psalm 121

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Sis. Minnie Schick and Sis. Lydia Schlatter (Bro. Ben preceded her in death a year ago). Sis. Minnie passed away on Christmas Day and Sis. Lydia on January 7. They now have gone to their eternal rest in Christ Jesus — no more to suffer the pain of illness in this world.

We will miss our dear beloved sisters

and their many kind deeds. They have been with us for many years.

I lay me down in peace to sleep for only Thou, God, maketh me to dwell in safety.

This is a little verse which was found tucked between the pages of Sis. Lydia's Bible and no doubt gave her much comfort during her illness and many lonely hours.

Our visiting ministers for these sad occasions were Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI).

OREGON, PORTLAND

Barbara Moser

BUT WHILE WE WAIT

Christ will soon be coming — what a glorious day!

This His blessed promise when He went away.

Once by sinful man was slain,
Then He'll come a king to reign;
Now we wait His glad return.

What a resurrection when His own arise.

Saints from all the ages meeting in the skies;

Death forever banished there,
In that lovely land so fair;
Now we wait His glad return.

Then to see our Saviour, look upon His face;

Cast our crowns before Him, Give Him rightful place;

Thank Him for the love we've known,
Kneel to worship at His throne;
Now we wait His glad return.

He will come in power, sit upon His throne;

Setting up His kingdom, ruling with His own.

Once He came in lowly birth,
Then He'll come to rule the earth.
Now we wait His glad return.

But while we wait we will the vineyard keep.

But while we wait we must the harvest reap.

With anxious hearts we slumber not nor sleep,

But labor on while we the vigil keep.
We'll labor on while we wait.

A special welcome to any brother, sister or family who feels in their hearts

that they would like to be more used of God, in His service, and to His glory. (I Peter 4:11).

We are few, but are as a closely knit family in the Lord. The late ministering Bro. Rudolph Diriwachter, known as the Portland Brethren's "loyal and respected leader" in the mid and late 30's (Marching To Zion, bottom of page 253), often spoke of "peace and harmony" we are blest with. (Psalm 133:1).

A loyal believing friend who is retirement age is offering his advertising business to any brother or friend who would feel led to move to Portland and support our church. He would give them sufficient training to take over the business. If interested, call 503-771-7834.

We believe there are various job opportunities available in the "City of Roses", which has a population of approximately 375,000. May each one of us yield to the Spirit of God through prayer, and thus be led according to the will of God. (I John 2:17).

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

"Another year is dawning, Dear Master let it be, in working, or in waiting, another year with Thee." Hymns of Zion #150. The general information of 1984 is that there were no funerals, one baptism and one birth. Our annual business meeting was held January 20 when positions were filled for those whose terms of service had expired. Those chosen to serve: Bro. Richard Kuenzi and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Bro. Nick) as Sunday School teachers; Bro. Bob Kuenzi as Trustee and Bro. Ben Bolliger as Usher. We give each one our support and may they look to God as they fulfill their responsibilities. We also would like to thank the ones whose terms have expired for their labors of love: Bro. Bob Kuenzi and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger, from the Sunday School; Bro. David Peasley as Trustee; and Bro. Ron Jones as Usher. We also want to briefly mention our appreciation of the spouses of the dear ones who served us. Their often unseen contribution of time and prayerful support is also much needed and appreciated.

A beautiful 1985 Silverton church calendar listing the birthdays and wedding anniversaries of each person in our congregation was recently distributed. The year of birth of those people

in the "under 25" group is also included. Many hours were donated to compile, type, print and assemble these attractive calendars with the thanks going to Sis. Mary Kuenzi and Jack Kuenzi.

Just a short reminder: March is Silver Lining month for Silverton. The dues for the 1985-86 year are \$7.00.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Ann Gasser

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Recently we were encouraged to consider how our lives are used as examples to those with whom we come in contact - neighbors, fellow students and co-workers. Thinking about the value of a soul and how God uses His children as agents for reaching lost souls, can motivate us to draw closer to the Lord so that His light is manifested through us.

We express our appreciation to Elder Bro. Joe Waibel (Bay City, MI) for ministering to our congregation. He was in the Philadelphia area with his daughter's family (Mr. Forrest and Mrs. Mary Black) for several days surrounding his granddaughter's wedding.

TEXAS, DONNA-McALLEN

Joyce Nohl

We held our first service of the season on January 6 with 24 in attendance. We could all feel His presence even though there were only a few of us. We thank the ministering brothers who give of their time to come and feed us with the Holy Word. Bros. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) were with us for our first service.

We once again wish to welcome those who travel south to come and worship with us in the valley. Services start at 10:30 and are held at Silver and Seventh Streets in Donna. If you wish you may call at (512) 682-0219 for more information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

Our winter season is well underway with many of our winter residents back. We've appreciated our visiting minis-

ters, Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Bro. Tom Shrenk (Athens, AL) and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). Elder Bro. Leo Moser and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr were here to read the memorandum. We appreciate all the visitors that make an effort to come so far.

Over the Christmas holidays we had many families visiting from various churches.

WEST VIRGINIA, NEW MARTINSVILLE

Minnie Weltz

At this writing, January 15, we are having a very cold spell with a bit of snow at times, schools irregular, heavy winds and are looking forward to an early spring.

Mabel Ruth Potts, daughter of the late Albert and Etta Barth Riggensbach passed away December 14 following a lengthy illness. She was preceded in death by her first husband. Surviving are her husband, Ray Potts, one son, two daughters, six grandchildren, three brothers and two sisters. Services were held on December 16.

Frank Barth (Parkersburg) has been a patient in a hospital there twice in the past month, receiving surgery and care for an artery blockage in his leg, which developed into a deep infection in his foot. He will be spending part of his time here for the remainder of the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams (Akron, OH) are spending a few weeks in Bradenton, FL. Their daughter, Norma Brandle, was their guest for two weeks in January.

Mrs. Elda Ritz visited with her grandson and family in Tulsa, OK in early December.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Giles and family (Alfred, NY) were holiday guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Riggensbach and Bonnie.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Murdock spent the Christmas holiday with their son, Timothy and family in Tulsa, OK.

The carolers from the Sardis church sang carols in many homes and nursing homes on December 19.

SILVER THREADS

LIVES DISTRESSED
CANNOT BE BLESSED

Refuse to be discouraged,

Refuse to be distressed;
 For when we are despondent
 Our life cannot be blessed —
 For doubt and fear and worry
 Close the door to faith and prayer,
 For there's no room for blessings
 When we're lost in deep despair.
 So remember when you're troubled
 With uncertainty and doubt,
 It is best to tell our Father
 What our fear is all about;
 For unless we seek His guidance
 When troubled times arise,
 We are bound to make decisions
 That are twisted and unwise.
 But when we view our problems
 Through the eyes of God above,
 Misfortunes turn to blessings,
 And hatred turns to love.

Helen Steiner Rice

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

ing must have been. Before Christ went to the cross, He cried three times that He would not have to go, but He took your sins and mine. (God let me see where my sins would have taken me.) Christ wanted to turn His back on it, but He didn't. He was obedient. That's our duty in our daily walk of life, to be obedient.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil. 2:13. It is God's working, but we have to exercise our wills. If anyone thinks that after baptism his struggles with Satan will be over, he hasn't understood what God says in His Word.

If you remember, the Apostle Paul prayed three times that God would remove the thorn from his flesh. We don't know that his burden was. We've read different accounts of what people think it was, but God's Word did not tell us because He really didn't want us to know. He didn't want us to know because He knows that our troubles are different, and He wants us to identify with Paul's handicap.

In that passage in II Corinthians, God says that in weakness His strength is made perfect. His strength is made perfect. That's what we are striving for — perfection! We are never going to reach it on this side of the grave. We're just not going to do it. I don't even think that we are close to where He wants us to be. But we hope and pray that as He gives us another day of grace, we can "chip" at it a little bit, that we can

"polish" it a little finer and walk a little bit closer.

Patience is a good virtue. I probably have less patience than anyone you have ever met. Ask my boy; he'll tell you what. I'm a little bit like the man who prayed to God for patience and said, "I want it, and I want it right now."

About four weeks ago I had the privilege to talk with Bro. Roy Farney, who is the retired elder at Phoenix, and we visited about half a day. I confessed to him that my problem with patience was almost out of hand. He said that his had been for about forty years. Then God showed him that in every situation in which he had an opportunity to show patience, he didn't do it. So he said to me, "Every time you have an opportunity to show patience, do it. God gives us these opportunities and mountains to climb over."

He also gives us many physical things which we want. Even though they are not good for us, He often gives us what we earnestly desire. If we fervently desire something He doesn't want us to have, He may finally say, "Let them have it." Then brothers and sisters, we have to accept the consequences of not asking according to His will.

I am reminded of what a brother once told me. He said that there are three ways in which God answers prayer. He may say, "Yes," and, oh, our hearts are joyful! He may say "No", and we don't understand for a little bit. But when He says, "Wait," that's the hardest of all. We forget the "No" pretty fast, but when He says, "Wait," He sort of "hangs us on a limb" to make sure it is good for us. That's the hardest answer of them all.

Paul also said, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." Phil. 2:14. We have a wonderful brother in Phoenix, Bro. Clarence Yackley. I don't know if anyone here knows Bro. Clarence. (He lost his helpmate a couple of years ago.) The Word says to give thanks in everything. Bro. Clarence tells the young kids that, when we get up to do dishes, we ought to give thanks that we're able to do the dishes. God provided food to put on the plates, or there would be no dishes to wash. He goes on down the line. Sometimes it is awfully hard to give thanks for something we don't like.

It is easier to give thanks for things which give us pleasure. I wonder how many farmers gave thanks last week for

the blessing of rain. How many of us gave thanks to His this morning for being able to rise to a new and beautiful day, and to come into His house and worship?

Sometimes we take blessings for granted. They are there, and we assume that God is going to continue to provide them. He will, whether we are obedient or not, because the Word tells us that He gives to the just and to the unjust.

I hope that, led by the wisdom that He gives us, we will share our abundance with those who are less fortunate. In this particular community, we don't see much poverty. We used to see much of it. We came from an area where there are many, many broken homes. People move from great distances, and they think that they can start new lives, which is not so. You and I know that we take our lives with us wherever we go. Christ walks with us. The closer that we walk with Him, the better life we have.

Paul continues, "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." Phil. 2:16.

Paul mentions running a race about three or four times in his letters. There were many foot races at that particular time. We have a young brother, converted about six months ago, who used to be a long-distance runner. He ran about twenty-six miles in races. I talked with him about it, because I couldn't comprehend how anyone could have the desire to run twenty-six miles. Most of us have a hard time running ten yards of so; but twenty-six miles! He confided in me that, if he dropped training one day, it took him seven days to get back up to where he had been. If he dropped two, it would take him two weeks. He said it "snowballed" on him.

I think this is what Paul is trying to tell us when he tells us to run the race. He is trying to tell us to train for God. How can we train in our spiritual walk of life? We can go to Him in prayer and ask what He wants us to do, and He will move us in that direction. I am confident of it. Then we can continue in His direction, not missing a day of our training.

Brothers and sisters-in-faith and those who love the Lord, it doesn't do a bit of good to read God's Word if we don't do what it says.

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
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SERMON BY BRO. LOREN KNAPP OF TUCSON, AZ

Text: Philippians 2:1-18

In my weak way, I can't for the life of me figure out how Paul could labor as he did. The material needs seem to abound, and we always plan for tomorrow, or the next day, or six months along the line. Paul literally put all things into the hands of God.

Paul told us in this fourth verse to "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Phil. 2:4. No doubt the Lord looks down upon us in our daily walk, and sees the many places where we could make life easier for someone else — sharing something, and we don't.

In Revelation we are told that we shall receive according to our works. I know that no one is going to work himself into heaven; that's an impossibility. But we are told to do the things that He set us on this earth to do, to share the love and compassion with others that He has given to us.

Think about the word "love". Sometimes, when you start your day in your business or whatever you are doing, count how many times the word "love" is used, and in what instances it is used. Consider the walk of people, and how they use the word. Oh, how that word is abused! Oh, how it is used! I wonder if God sits upon His throne and weighs that balance as we speak. That particular word is probably one of the most misused words in the English language. God did not intend for it to be that way.

Love cannot be bought. You cannot demand it. It is something that has to come from the heart. It has to be free. You can buy the grandest house in the world, or the fanciest car, or the services of the greatest doctor, but you cannot buy love or understanding. All the gifts that God gives cannot be bought. Sometimes we try to buy them. Sometimes it is easier to take out our checkbooks and write a check than it is

to perform for God. Sometimes it is easier to sit in an easy chair and say, "Let someone else do it."

But, brothers and sisters-in-faith, your responsibility to God is just as great as mine or that of my brother who sits behind me. Just as great. God does not draw a line.

Let us think about what God told Joshua following Israel's first defeat after crossing the Jordan River. Joshua fell to his knees and prayed to God about the defeat. God told him something like this, "Get off your knees and perform for me. Find the man who sinned against me, and then I will bless you."

God would move mountains, but there will be no checkbooks on the way to heaven . . . none. He expects us to give, and give, and give of those things that cannot be bought with money, the more important things in life.

Then Paul tells us that we should be an example of Christ. Are we? Are we Christ-like in some of the situations in which we find ourselves?

I shared this with Bloomington Tuesday night. I have a salesman in my office who always gives the better deal to someone else. His motto is: "Give it to Christ."

In any business deal, pretend that you are selling something to Christ first, or that He is buying it. If you want to buy a car or a piece of real estate, consider whether Christ would buy it. Take Him with you when you are talking about it. He is there, brothers and sisters. He is in our hearts. If He is not in everything that we do and with us as we walk, then He is not as real to us as He should be. I wonder sometimes whether we would offer to sell something if Jesus were the buyer.

Paul is telling the Philippians that they should not rob Christ of His glory. He is telling them in this particular

chapter that is they do not walk according to His will and His way, and do what He wants, they are robbing Christ of His glory. We surely do not want to rob ourselves of our home in heaven.

Consider the eleventh verse. I can't figure out why the world can't read God's Word and fear it. Oh, we know of God's love. He has much patience and understanding; but He is a just God. He is going to do what He says He is going to do, but the pleading of men sometimes postpones it. Do you remember when Abraham cried that He should not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and when Moses pleaded with Him not to destroy His people in the wilderness? If people do not change, His justice is swift and it is righteous.

Paul tells us that "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:11. We have no choice; it is right before us.

Then he says, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Phil. 2:12. You know, God always takes Himself "off the hook". I don't think that there is a human being who can read and write and comprehend to whom God doesn't offer salvation at some time or another.

He says, ". . . work out your own salvation". How many mothers and fathers and grandparents have pleaded with God. I know that these prayers are answered because God continually pricks hearts. But he says, "your own salvation," no one else's. Make sure that it is right. Make sure that there is no doubt because you and I know the alternative.

It was impressed on me a couple of weeks ago how terrible Christ's suffer-

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