



And the angel said unto them,  
Fear not: for, behold, I bring you  
good tidings of great joy, which  
shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in  
the city of David a Savior, which  
is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10, 11

Grace and peace be multiplied  
unto you through the knowledge  
of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

According as his divine power  
hath given unto us all things that  
pertain unto life and godliness,  
through the knowledge of him  
that hath called us to glory and  
virtue:

II Peter 1:2,3

VOLUME 35

DECEMBER 1985

NUMBER 12

*Christmas . . .*



*A Time to Remember  
the Greatest Gift  
and the Greatest Giver!*

**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.**

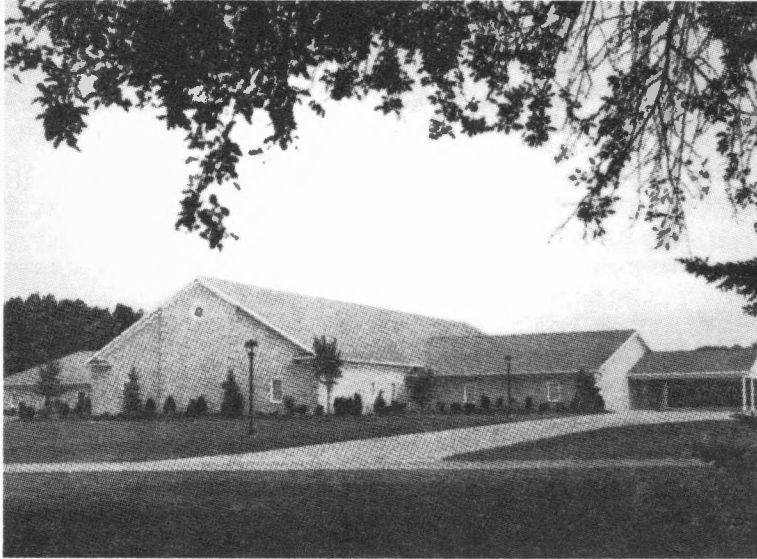
The greatest **GIVER**  
The greatest **MOTIVE**  
The greatest **RECIPIENT**  
The greatest **ACT**  
The greatest **GIFT**  
The greatest **INVITATION**  
The greatest **OPPORTUNITY**  
The greatest **ATTRACTION**  
The greatest **TRAGEDY**  
The greatest **CERTAINTY**  
The greatest **POSSESSION**

John 3:16

# Dedication Smithville Apostolic Christian Church of America

8530 Fulton Road  
Sterling, Ohio 44276

August 25, 1985



*"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it."*

*Psalms 127:1*

## History

The first Apostolic Christian Church in Wayne County, Ohio, was built around 1875. It was a simple frame building; a kitchen and dining room were added about 1895. The church became known as the Apostolic Christian Church at Rittman.

The church grew, and in 1917 a new brick church was built on the same location. It was a two-story building with a kitchen, dining room and furnace room in the basement. The capacity was about two hundred and fifty people, and in 1947 it was enlarged to seat about five hundred. In 1962 a new sanctuary was added, which doubled the seating space.

When in 1983 it again became apparent that more room was needed, the general opinion of the membership was that it would be better to build a second church than to enlarge the existing one. A questionnaire was presented to the church to find the preferred area. After considering the Ritt-

man, Orrville, Smithville and Sterling areas, Smithville was chosen.

A site committee was elected and several locations were found to be available. The congregation finally settled for the lot at 8530 Fulton Road, Sterling, Ohio, about one mile west of State Route 585, which is about three miles north of Smithville.

There was a building committee elected to manage and oversee the construction of the church, and a finance committee to handle the financial end of the project. A decorating committee and the trustees were also called upon to help with the many decisions and details that arose. There were countless donations of time, materials and money given by the brethren and friends so that this church could be built.

The ground breaking ceremony was held July 11, 1984, and the first worship service was held August 4, 1985. We are thankful for the Lord's direc-

tion and blessings during the building of our church.

## Ministers

### Rittman:

Joseph Ramsier – Elder  
Henry Dotterer – Ordained Deacon  
Ronald Steiner  
Merle Hartzler

### Smithville:

Benjamin Hartzler  
Gary Maibach  
Andrew Stoller  
Victor Bauman

## Services:

Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m.  
1:00 p.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday – 8:00 p.m. at Rittman  
1st, 3rd & 5th Week  
Smithville  
2nd & 4th Week

## Building Contractor:

Our Own Church

## THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

### EDITORIAL STAFF:

Lynn Stieglitz  
Albert Frautschi  
David Bertsch

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

Published Monthly By the Apostolic  
Christian Church of America.

Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller,  
David Bertsch, Phillip Stettner

### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Grabill, IN 46741

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:  
HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER

### Shepherd of Galilee

There was once a child born, in a  
humble little town  
In a rough and hilly country far away;  
His folks were known as very poor, and  
His birthplace very rude  
But that Child is loved and worshipped  
yet today.  
He grew up to be a man, all according  
to God's plan  
In that humble little town of Galilee;  
But He came to build a church, based  
on love and gospel truth  
And His church is still among us to this  
day.  
Because of what this one man did, and  
the teachings that He gave  
We have built this little church on  
Fulton Road;  
It is not designed to be, just a place to  
come and see  
But a place where Jesus' gospel could  
be told.  
The ones who built this Smithville  
church, spent much time on plans  
and work  
With great care and much concern  
they labored on;  
We hope the message that comes forth,  
from that pulpit in this church  
Can be helpful and inspiring in days to  
come.  
This church was built for young and old,  
for the saving of the soul  
Not a place where men could gain  
prestige and fame;  
May the ones who labor there, always  
try with love and care  
To convey the Master's words and  
holy name.  
There may be those who laugh and  
scorn, at what they see on Sunady  
morn  
But they also scoffed that man from  
Galilee;  
We are not as good as He, but we ought  
to try to be  
For there never was a man as good as  
He.  
When our Lord was on this earth, and  
spoke words of love and truth  
When He healed their blind and  
crippled with His word;  
He would often give them food, for  
their hunger and their good  
For He had a deep concern with love  
untold  
In this church on Fulton Road, which is  
based upon His word,  
We would also take a pattern from His  
life;

We should try to feed the soul, with  
that food that's given for all;  
Then also the bread we need for  
natural life.  
In this vineyard of our Lord, may we all  
with one accord  
Use the time and talent that He gives  
to one and all;  
May our voices rise to Him, as we pray  
and as we sing  
Giving praise and thanks and prayer to  
Him for all.  
Christ is coming back again, to take His  
friends and loved ones home,  
May we all be glad to meet Him when  
He comes;  
No one knows the time nor hour, when  
the Lord will come with power  
But we want to all be ready; - it might  
be soon!

Bro. Ben Hartzler

### \* ATTENTION \*

#### The Apostolic Christian Church History — Volume 1

The Church History Volume 1, which has been out of print for over two years, has recently been printed in a new edition and should be available by December 1.

You may want to consider this book in your Christmas giving.

This second edition in English will be available for a short time at the pre-publication price of \$6.50. Send order to the:

Apostolic Christian Publications  
Inc.

524 Valley Court  
Eureka, IL 61530

## BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Greetings in our precious Saviour's name.

Many of our brethren from our congregations have been active in giving and distributing the Bible. Many accounts have been heard of the blessings realized in visiting the homes, rest homes, prisons and rescue missions, when inquiry and request has come from someone wishing to have a Bible or Testament. Many requests come from individuals who have sight problems, where a large print Bible or Testament enables them to read again. We now have the KJV of the Bible on cassette tapes for those persons who can no longer see. For the blind, we have sets of braille Bibles in stock, ready for those needing a braille Bible.

During the past two years, 24,702 Bibles and Testaments have been shipped to our congregations for distribution by our brethren.

Contributions to the Bible Fund for Bible distribution can be sent to Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and requests for Bibles and Testaments can be sent to Elder Bro. David Bertsch.

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed by our Churches

First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 — 13,890

Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 — 10,812

Bibles Distributed — Third Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1985 —	876	876
September 1985 —	1369	2245
October 1985 —	1259	3504
November 1985 —	1088	4592

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind and KJV, Old and New Testament, on cassette tapes for those who can no longer read the large print.

## HELP NEEDED AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

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

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

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

The qualification requirements for the alternate houseparents are:

1. Must be a brother and/or sister sound in faith, upholding church doctrine and order.

2. Must have the support of his/her home church elder.

3. Must be able to command respect of children and adults.

4. Desirable age between 21 and 60 years. Consideration will be given to all applicants.

5. This position is full-time.

6. Training or studies in child care, social work, nursing profession, counseling or teaching would be helpful. We have a staff development program and "on-the-job" training to help you carry out your duties.

7. Information concerning duties, salary, insurance and other compensation can be obtained by writing or calling:

Bro. Dan Knochel  
30449 Barkley  
Livonia, MI 48154  
(313) 421-0711

Bro. Tim Sauder  
Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
(219) 627-5138 or (219) 484-2292

Elder Bro. David Bertsch  
Route 2  
Grabill, IN 46741  
(219) 627-2923

All inquiries will be promptly and prayerfully answered.

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

The Children's Home  
Board Members

home family. We will miss them, but we trust the time spent with us will have been a giant stepping stone in their pathway to successful adulthood.

We are well into the second quarter of the school year and we are seeing the growing up process in action as our children mature physically and academically. Their maturation in both areas progresses on an individual basis as they are all special people with individual differences. What a great freedom we enjoy in our nation; the opportunity for a quality education and the freedom of worship in the pursuit of happiness!

Between 90 and 100 of us gathered in the west house basement Friday evening, November 15, for our Annual Appreciation Supper for all the volunteer labor to the home by the Leo church people. The main dish was hot chili and the dessert was a pumpkin dessert; everything was simply delicious. It was prepared by our staff sisters. Sisters LeAnn Wulf and Maxine Sauder had a most interesting program planned which proved to be enjoyable, informative, and inspirational. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by all. We thank the staff, for their contribution toward making the evening a success and the volunteers for all they do for the home's welfare. We also thank the board members who were able to spend the evening with us.

It is that time of year again when we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came into the world for the express purpose "to save His people from their sins." He came in the humblest of surroundings (born in a stable) as prophesied by the old testament prophet, that the word of God might be fulfilled. He lived and died for us. All we have or ever hope to be is a gift of His; "the gift of God, eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." He gave His all for us; let us give our all for Him. The more we give for His great name's sake, the more He blesses us. May we never forget the blessing in giving. We wish for all a blessed Christmas. The staff is making plans for the children for the Christmas Holidays.

Your reporter has recently given presentations about the Children's Home to the following congregations: Roanoke, IL, Remington, IN, and Valparaiso, IN. Any church wanting a presentation should contact the Children's Home.

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

Ryan Daniel Schick is doing well in the east house where he is a bundle of joy to his big brother, Billy, 5, his parents, and all the children. His grandmother, Sis. Dorothy Hoerr of Peoria, spent a few days helping out with the new arrival and the routine work in the house. Thank you, Grandmother Hoerr.

A new baby, especially one born to believing parents, is always a joy to behold, because he will be cherished, loved, cared for, and reared in an atmosphere of Godliness. Children are a blessing; a gift from God. "Blessed is the man that hath his quiver full of them." The newborn babe is challenged by many new associations and he needs the constant care of his parents if he is to grow and prosper. A

similarity exists when one becomes the benefactor of the "new birth from above." "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. The new born creature needs the care and nourishment from his Heavenly Father to grow in grace and truth. This is provided through the church, of whom Christ is the Head; we become members of the mystic body of Christ and must remain attached to Him for spiritual growth. What a privilege to be called the sons of God and brothers and sisters of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

November 8 was the day we said goodbye to Jerry and Randy Fessenden and Erik Donovan as they returned to the Valparaiso area to live with their mother. They had been residents of our home for over 2 years and had become much a part of our

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Though we long for a new and more meaningful way to wish our many volunteers and the parents and families of residents a blessed holiday season, we find ourselves limited to the use of mere words on the printed page. With deep sincerity and with joy, we do, indeed, wish for each of you individually that beauty of heart and soul which inspires you toward a mind's-eye glimpse of that Holy Night so long ago, when the Heavens opened and the angel chorus sang. Knowing that this was a reality, we pray that you may be granted that warm glow which must have enveloped the hearts of those gentle shepherds, who also lived in a troubled world. May it cause each of you to pause and lift your eyes above the daily tasks and see the blessings of home and the light of love in the eyes of those around you. May you find a few quiet moments to reflect upon Heavenly things, and may the evening hour bring you the renewed assurance that our Heavenly Father is still the source of love, joy and peace. All of this is wished for you from those of us who pray that we may continue to be wise, yet gentle, while trying to understand and minister to the needs of your loved ones here.

Grant me the understanding, Lord,  
To keep my soul serene,  
That I may share the strength of it  
When shadows intervene  
In the life of a friend whose courage  
lags,  
As he walks the daily road,  
For I would count it an honor, Lord,  
To share another's load.

Velta Allen

Among the activities enjoyed by our residents this month were: rides to see the lovely fall foliage; a Halloween party with many treats and no tricks; a trip to the Civic Center in Peoria to witness the Ice Capades; the monthly Birthday Party to single out the residents with birthdays for the month; and outings to church and church functions. As usual, there was the monthly shopping spree, bingo each Monday evening, groups who came to sing to our residents and a swimming outing. As you can see, many pleasures are brought into the lives of our residents. Many of you have given of your time and financial support to

make this Home possible. We are certainly grateful for another successful Benefit Day which brought in the sum of \$21,561.76. Thanks to each of you who participated in either prayer, financial support or work. All were needed.

At this time our residents are anticipating Thanksgiving and then Christmas. Going home just has to be the most exciting times of our residents' lives as they look forward to seeing family and friends.

We hope your holiday season will be enriched by a close fellowship with the One who made it all possible.

## ARIZONA, PHOENIX

### Ron and Ev Hoerr

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come." I Cor. 11:26. And thus on the evening of November 10, Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and Deacon Bro. Noah Herman served us the Lord's supper. What a special privilege.

On November 6, Bro. Richard and Sis. Marie Beery answered the Lord's call to deliver World Relief supplies to Mexico for the victims of the earth quake.

It was a beautiful October Sunday when many families gathered at the park for our annual Sunday School picnic.

Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall are the happy grandparents of Laura Lynn Bahler, whose parents are Doreen and Brad Bahler.

A recent Saturday was well spent in Christian fellowship doing our church house cleaning.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank and family on the passing of her mother. Sis. Emily flew back to Rittman for several days. We also extend sympathy to Sis. Lena Vege, as her sister died.

Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA) brought us some timely messages from St. John 10 and 12.

Todd Zollinger is enjoying a closer walk with the Lord, since he has answered the call, "Come unto me."

What a delightful evening we enjoyed November 16, when we heard the testimonies of Jenny Hand, Steve Miracle and Kelly Emch. Each of us could rejoice as we remembered giving our own testimony. May these dear souls enjoy this special closeness all the days of their lives.

The baptism and laying on of hands took place November 17, after Bro. Schupbach preached from Romans 6. Deacon Bro. Henry Dotterer came from Rittman, OH, to assist Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach in the testimony service and baptism. Sis. Jenny Hand (Dennis) is the daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger, Bro. Steve Miracle is the grandson of Bro. Howard and Sis. Lucy Beery of Rittman, and Kelly Emch is the daughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch.

## ARIZONA, TUCSON

### Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

Our deacon, Bro. Noah Herman and his wife, Sis. Lorraine, have returned from Illinois where they spent the summer months. We are thankful that the Lord provided a safe trip home for them and we wish to extend a very warm "welcome back" to them!

Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty Kummer and their two children, Bethany and Joseph, have moved to Tucson from Peoria, IL. Although we know they will be missed by the Peoria congregation, and especially by their families, we here in Tucson are thankful that the Lord has seen fit to add to our small congregation. We hope that the Lord richly blesses them as they start their life in Tucson.

Bro. John Eisenman has also moved from Peoria to Tucson. He is a brother to Sis. Patty Kummer. Our small young group in Tucson is happy to have Bro. John. We hope that he finds his move to Tucson to be a blessing and welcome him to Arizona.

Our annual business meeting was held November 13. Bro. Paul Knobloch was elected to fill the trustee position being vacated by Bro. Jay Knapp. Bro. Jay Knapp was elected to fill the position of assistant Sunday school superintendent, previously held by Bro. Curt Kaufman. Sis. Maria Bauer was elected to fill the Sunday school teaching position being vacated by Sis. Sandy Bauer as teacher to the preschoolers and Bro. Steve Bauer was elected to assist Bro. Tim Feucht as an usher in the fellowship hall. Also elected were Bro. Fred Funk as head song leader and Bro. Nate Lehman as assistant to Bro. Fred in song leading.

We wish to thank Bro. Curt, Bro. Jay and Sis. Sandy for their willing service in their various offices and know that they will receive a blessing for their efforts. At the same time we wish to ask

the Lord to guide and direct those brethren who have been elected to positions in the near future.

Ministering Bro. Glen Hackenjios (Altadena, CA) and his wife, Sis. Kay, visited us last month to show us slides of Bro. Glen's trip to Haiti with our church group. A special thanks to Bro. Glen and Sis. Kay for the time they spent with us and for Bro. Glen's service in ministering to us.

Ministering Bro. Loren Knapp and Bro. Jay Knapp recently returned from a trip to Haiti with our church organization and wish to thank everyone who supported them in thought and prayer and also in donations to the less fortunate people living in Haiti. We are thankful for their safe journey and return home.

A very special thanks to the members and friends who came to clean the church at our fall cleaning. It is always a blessing to gather together and work as one to keep the house of the Lord in order.

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Shirley Luthi

Todd and Kim Moser welcome into their home and hearts a precious little daughter. Heather Marie was born November 5. May God shower His wisdom on them as they guide this new life.

Our thanks go to visiting ministers, Bro. Clarence Yackley (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) who recently shared God's Word with us.

We eagerly await our Sunday School Christmas Program to be held December 16. How good it is to be reminded that the joy and wonder of Christ extends beyond the manger and can be enjoyed in our hearts year 'round.

#### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Sherise Strahm—Marian Petrovic

Our congregation here was blessed this month as Bro. Glen Hackenjios and Bro. John Klozle (Altadena) shared the Word of Life with us. We extend our sincere appreciation to dear ministers who continually and willingly support the flock here in San Diego.

A farewell dinner and singing was given on behalf of our dear friends, Charles and Ada Drasil. May the Lord richly bless this couple as they make their new home in Burlington, IA.

“. . . Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name

Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14). This is one of the many prophesies in the Old Testament which was so gloriously fulfilled. “And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

It is still proclaimed in our ears that to us is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord. These should be glad tidings to all, for truly, in them all our hopes are centered, and from them all our comforts flow. What a joyous morning it must have been to those shepherds in the field when they first heard of the wonderful message which was to bring such a blessing to all mankind! Likewise today, what a joyful day it is when we are enabled to believe in Christ for the salvation of our souls.

If we as sincere Christians consider it proper to commemorate the birth of Christ at a season set apart for that purpose, we should not do it with revellings, feasting, and materialism as this society chooses to do, but rather give abundant thanksgiving to God for the precious gift of His son, and may our endeavors be to give glory to God by spreading the gospel, seeking always to make peace, and truly copying His 'good-will' towards our fellow man.

#### COLORADO, DENVER Marlene Leman

“When you look at the physical condition of the Haitians you can easily be overcome with grief and feel you aren't doing very much, but when you look at the spiritual condition, then you know that God is working here. . . . The very presence of us being here is the most important part of the trip. By us coming down, it shows to all of the other villagers who are not Christians that indeed Christians are known by their love. . . . Become aware of the talents God has given you and then put them to work for His glory and honor. If we don't do everything for God's glory, it is completely worthless.” The above comments are excerpts from Bro. Mike Martin's diary of his trip to Haiti. He was truly humbled and inspired by the people and the work being done down there. May God add His rich blessing to the brothers that have gone (and will go in the future) and to the work being done.

October 18 was the wedding day for

Terri Steffen and Craig Fair. We pray that as they go through life together they will consider God's will in all they do that they can feel His nearness and blessing.

“Let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband” I Corinthians 7:2. God provides for His own as we have seen again as He has drawn two dear couples together. Bro. Mike Martin (Andy and Glenda Martin, Plano, TX) and Sis. Beth Braun (Bro. Herm and Sis. Sharon Braun, Elgin, IL) have faith that God created them for each other. Their wedding is planned for January 5. Sis. Pam Edelman (Cliff and Sis. Barb Edelman, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Stan Wulf, Morris, MN (Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona Wulf, Lester, IA) believe that God has led them together to become one in Him. The wedding date they've chosen is January 19. We pray that God will increase the faith of these two beloved couples and bless them richly in their lives together.

“Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4. We welcome Ed Leman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene) as our dear brother-in-faith. We pray he will always humbly seek God's will in his life and follow closely the directives given in God's holy Word. Bro. Nathan Steffen, our dear elder, was with us for this blessed occasion.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron, OH) and Bro. Terry Farney (Wichita, KS). God truly blesses through His Word and we thank all the dear brothers for bringing His Word to us. May God bless each one of you!

#### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Michelle Virkler

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

Luke 2:14

May the warmth of this Christmas season be a time of praising God for sending His Son to bring true peace, joy and good will to all men. There are so often times in our lives when we get caught up in the hurried pace of this life and perhaps don't take charge of the time we have yet here on this earth. Since we are never assured of a to-

morrow, may we make the most of our today. May we keep the spirit of Christmas throughout the year, always loving and caring for one another and reaching out to those who sometimes are not as fortunate as we are.

Our congregation has been blessed with new little bundles. Sis. Dawn and Craig Winans have welcomed home Travis Richard.

Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy Carlson also have a bundle from heaven, Amy Beth.

"Give me Lord, sympathy and mercy  
With my poor brethren in distress."  
Zion's Harp #220

We have had many illnesses during this month (November): Bro. Joe Skipper, Warren Gottier, Bro. Art Lanz, Sis. Terry Gottier, and the writer. We are thankful the Lord has seen fit to restore us to health. All the praise and honour goes to Him.

We find out how quickly our life can be turned around or snuffed out in a moment's notice and how it seems everything we are doing at that time is so unimportant. "Our life is a gift from God; what we choose to do with it is our gift to him."

Just as there are new births created, our hearts are saddened in the passing of Sis. Freda Zutter. She was 76.

May you all be blessed during this Holiday Season as we rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

NOTE: Silver Lining Dues (\$7.00). January will be collection month for our congregation. If you have any change of address, deletions, corrections, please see your correspondent.

#### FLORIDA, FORT LAUDERDALE Dale Ringger—Jeff Graf

We welcome with love the returning of our winter residents and visitors.

Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein have announced the marriage of their son Richard to Diane Canaan. The couple was married Saturday, November 9 at the home of the groom's parents.

Bro. Harry Sutter was granted his request to be relieved from the pulpit ministry on Sunday, November 10, after 30 years of service to the Ft. Lauderdale congregation.

Melissa Gress, daughter of Bro. Rod and Sis. Sally Gress, was hospitalized for one week and diagnosed as dia-

betic. We are thankful that she is now home and back in school.

#### FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS Marie Keller—Edna Meister

##### "A CHRISTMAS PRAYER"

Let us pray that strength and courage abundant be given to all who work for a world of reason and understanding.

That the good that lies in every man's heart may day by day be magnified.

That men will come to see more clearly not that which divides them, but that which unites them.

That each hour may bring us closer to a final victory, not of nation over nation, but of man over his own evils and weakness.

That the true spirit of this Christmas Season — its joy, its beauty, its hope, and above all, its abiding faith — may live among us.

That the blessings of peace be ours — the peace to build and grow, to live in harmony and sympathy with others, and to plan the future with confidence.

Author Unknown

As we approach this Christmas season, our thoughts are on the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who came to die on the cross for our sins, and rose again that we might have everlasting life. Let us share this gift of love with others not just one day a year but every day of our lives.

We are so thankful for those who have come and shared the Word of God with us this past month. We received many instructions and exhortations on how we should live and walk in our Christian way of life. We were encouraged to live the fruits of the spirit daily in our lives and to esteem others higher than ourselves. "For there is no respect of persons with God." Romans 2:11.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale), Bro. Robert Pfloderer (Morton, IL), Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). We truly enjoyed their visit with us and their wives also. May God bless them for their labor of love and efforts.

We welcome Theodore and Lena Misaras from Mansfield, OH, who are spending the winter months down here at Warm Mineral Springs to worship the Lord and fellowship with us each week.

We are happy to see our winter visitors arriving again down here to worship with us. We welcome each one whether they come for one Sunday or for the winter.

Our services are held on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (E.S.T.) and Wednesday evening services start at 7:30 p.m. (E.S.T.). Our church phone number is: (813) 656-3800. If you are travelling from the north take I-75 South to Exit 27 turn-off, go right to U.S. Highway 41. Turn left, follow Highway 41 South 10 miles to Del Tura Country Club Estates. Turn left onto Trail Dairy Circle. Follow road to the first street. Turn left for two blocks to church.

Coming from 41 South, go about 2 miles north of the Shell Factory on Highway 41 to Del Tura Country Club Estates. Turn right onto Trail Dairy Circle. Follow road to the first street. Turn left for about 2 blocks to church.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

#### ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Jan Gudeman — Nancy Kaufmann

The time of year has again arrived when we are reminded of the beautiful story of Christmas. May we strive to keep Christmas — which is Christ in our hearts — so that the hopes and joys of Christmas will be ours forevermore, and not just for the season only.

Many visiting ministers willingly gave of their time to bring us God-given messages this past month for which we are grateful. These were retired Elder Bro. David Kieser (Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL), Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Carl Feucht (Lester, IA) and Bro. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso, IN).

We were privileged to witness the marriage ceremony of Sis. Laurie Huber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Terry Steffen (Bro. Carl and Sis. Merna Steffen, Calendonia, MI) October 27. It is a blessing to see the love of God through

Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie as they begin a new Christian home.

We sympathize with our dear friend, Virginia Lockwood, as her father, Bro. George C. Frank (Tremont, IL) passed away November 4. Bob and Virginia Lockwood wish to sincerely thank all those who sent cards of condolences after the death of her father.

Joe Walter (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Margaret) is recovering from surgery. We pray God will grant him a quick recovery, as only He can do.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
**Marilyn Tanner**

**GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE**

Our Father up in heaven  
 long, long years ago.  
 Looked down in His great mercy  
 on this restless world below,  
 And He saw that folks were lonely  
 and lost in deep despair  
 And so He said, "I'll send my Son  
 to walk among them there..."  
 So they can hear Him speaking  
 and feel His nearness, too,  
 And see the many miracles  
 that faith alone can do. . ."  
 And so, though centuries have passed  
 since Jesus walked on earth,  
 Time has not dimmed the wonder  
 of the Holy Christ Child's birth.

Helen Steiner Rice

May this Christmas season fill our lives with peace, joy and thankful hearts as we remember the birth of our Saviour.

We extend our best wishes to Mark Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta) and Stephanie Francis (John and Connie Francis) as they have announced their engagement. May God be with them as they plan their wedding.

Our dear friend, Harry Muller suddenly passed away October 28. We share the loss with his twin brother, Howard. May he feel God's nearness and be comforted.

We are thankful Bro. Ed. Guingrich is home and worshipping with us after recovering from a stroke. The Master's Healing Hand is just a prayer away.

The angels are rejoicing over our new converts Wesley Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Lavonne) and Tim Kieser (Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha). May these dear souls find a rich

measure of grace and strength in Jesus as they seek to walk closer with Him.

We were privileged to have five visiting ministers this past month. Preaching God's word to us were Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria), Bro. Wayne Banwart (Urbana), Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville), Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury) and Bro. Jon Schmiggall (Oakville, IA). We most graciously give thanks to these ministers.

We were fortunate to be able to hear the tapes of the General Conference which were played on Wednesday evenings.

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

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**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO**

**Kathy Schlatter**

Everything was decorated for Christmas in this huge mall. I wasn't nearly ready at the time to think about Christmas, but I was admiring the greens, the color, and the sparkle as I ambled along, staring up and all around. Then just out of the corner of my eye, I saw a person ahead of me stumble. I looked down. All those lights around Santa's village had required extra, extended wiring. There, in front of me, covered with duct tape, was a raised bit of flooring which protected the cords. Only because I had the example of the less-fortunate person in front of me did I carefully step over the dangerous spot with no loss of balance; otherwise, I, too, would have tripped and perhaps even have fallen.

Sometimes we watch someone else almost fall, and we ourselves still stumble. Truly we find it hard to learn from others' mistakes. Yet the Bible clearly points out the sins of other individuals to teach us to be more watchful. Within the church, our elders know of those who have tripped and fallen and warn us of such stumbling blocks. Do we listen to them; do we allow our eyes to be opened that we may be less likely to spiritually trip? Since the time of Korah (Numbers 16), even that obedience to those in authority has been questioned. May God grant us humility to listen, to watch and obey. Let us "walk carefully, danger is near. . . prayerfully, fear lest thou fall." "Christian, Walk Carefully," Hymns of Zion, chorus -- verses 1, 3, #198.

We were thankful for the labors of Bros. Art Baurer and Jim Plattner, Princeville, and Elder Bro. Roy Sauder, Peoria, IL. Bro. Roy assisted

our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in serving communion. Each time communion seems more holy, more peaceful, more precious. And always there is plenty of bread and wine left, even after each has shared in the cup and the loaf. In this way, it is symbolic of the room still remaining at the Lord's table, and His mercy (at the time this was penned) is freely available to those who would humble themselves enough to ask.

Kathy Loos had major surgery recently. We are grateful that she is now at home and recuperating. May the Lord grant her spiritual strength and patience as we pray also for the return of her physical strength.

I was wrapping Christmas gifts, thinking about the loved ones for whom we bought the presents. Two questions were uppermost: Will they like their chosen gifts? Also, if they like them, will they make use of them? I tried to get something each one would like, would appreciate, would use. But only time will tell, and each will decide whether the present will be valuable and well-used. When God wrapped His gift in swaddling clothes, did He know we would be such picky people? His gift is absolutely perfect for each of us, but we must reach out our hands and hearts and plan to make use of His transforming power in each aspect of our lives. Only then will we know the true meaning of Christmas.

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**  
**Myrna Weerts—Wilma Walder**

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

Hymns of Zion #196

On October 20 our congregation witnessed the marriage of Sis. Denise Kaufmann and Bro. Hartzell Kaeb. Parents of the couple are Bro. Walter and Sis. Aldean Kaufmann and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb. We wish them an abundance of happiness and may the Lord always be their guide as they journey down life's path as one.

November 10 was a day of blessing as the Goodfield choir spent the day with us. A church potluck supper was



held at our fellowship hall for our congregation and the Goodfield choir guests. We enjoyed the singing following the supper.

On November 10 the engagement of Bro. Harvey Kaeb and Sis. Judy Grahm was announced. The parents of the couple are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Grahm. May the Lord bless them in their coming marriage.

Ahmad and Kathy Hadi are the happy parents of a baby boy, Selah Al-Dean Ahmad, born October 30. Bro. Richard and Sis. Virginia Ehman and the Yousef Hadi's of Jordon are the grandparents.

Mark and Jan Swenson of Metamora are the parents of a son born October 31. Brent Matthew's grandparents are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Betty Oberffel and Ron and Joy Swenson of Washington.

Sharing the gospel with us this month were Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke), Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest), and Bro. Kenneth Schneider (Remington). We thank them and wish them many blessings in their labors of the Lord.

Now it is accomplished!

I'm no longer mine:

Lord I will forever and always be

Thine,

For Thou hast created and purchased me too.

Baptized with Thy Spirit,

Thou makest me new.

The weekend of November 16 and 17 was a blessed occasion for our congregation as Bro. John Walder was baptized. We wish him the blessings of the Lord as he begins his walk of life in the brotherhood.

Those hospitalized were Sis. Clara Scharlach, Bro. Willard Rudin and Bro. Alf Eisenmann. May God's healing power be upon them.

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

##### Joan Schrock — Tammy Roth

The season of our Lord's birth is upon us and once again we will all celebrate his coming to this world from his heavenly home above, for our salvation. May we not get so wrapped up in the festivities that we forget the seriousness of this event and the one who gave us the greatest gift of all, His Life.

"Jesus took bread and blessed it,

and brake it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is my body."

"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;"

St. Matthew 26:26, 27

This month our congregation was so lovingly reminded of these words as we partook of Holy Communion. May we strive to stay this close to our God throughout the coming year.

This past month we were happy to hear of two engagements. Bro. Walt Miller was announced to Sis. Betty Miller and Jeff McClure (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon) became engaged to Marilyn Hodel (Roger and Elaine, Roanoke). We rejoice with both couples and pray that God will guide them as they plan their lives together.

We also rejoice with our new couple in Congerville. Bro. Mark Roth (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline) and Sis. Tammy Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda) were united in holy matrimony on November 10. Our prayers are with them as they set up a Christian home. May they always feel God's presence in their new life together.

We had many visiting ministers for this joyous occasion and other events throughout the month. These included: Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). May God richly bless them for their efforts in the service of the Lord.

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

#### OUR CHRIST

I know not how that Bethlehem's Babe  
Could in the God-head be:

I only know the Manger Child  
Has brought God's life to me.

I know not how that Calvary's cross  
A world from sin could free:  
I only know its matchless love  
Has brought God's love to me.

I know not how that Joseph's tomb  
Could solve death's mystery:

I only know a living Christ,  
Our immortality.

H.W. Farrington

God's love has drawn our dear friend, Lillian Foell, to answer the call of her Maker. As she seeks forgiveness in true repentance, may love and mercy be her portion.

Marriage vows were shared by several of our area couples. Bro. Dave Steffen (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Linda Ramseyer (Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary, Bay City, MI) were united in holy matrimony October 20. Sue Graff (Henry and Marion) and Jay Rager (Carol and the late Gordon) exchanged marriage vows October 26. Jim Jepson (Bro. Dave and Sis. Millie) and Carlene Fehr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Carol, West Bend, IA) also exchanged wedding vows November 9. "These souls betrothed before Thee stand: Thy blessing we implore: Unite Thou them in heart and hand, And guide them evermore." Hymns of Zion #286.

The engagement of Sis. Beth Braun (Denver, CO) to Bro. Mike Martin also from Denver was made known to the church. She is the daughter of Bro. Herman and Sis. Sharon of Elgin. LeeAnn Scheitlin (Bro. Al and Sis. Joan) and Steven Veinotte (Ernest and Linda) of Epsom, NH, have announced their engagement and plan to be wed December 21. Also, Bro. Greg Kellenberger (Sis. Marilyn and the late Bro. Gerald) and Sis. Debbie Steffen (Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn) have faith and believe it is God's will that they be joined in holy matrimony. May His blessings be with these dear couples.

On October 31, Bro. Keith and Sis. Libby Leman welcomed their first child, Ashley Jean. May they have hearts to inquire as Samson's parents did "... teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born." Judges 13:8. Grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Edna Leman (Eureka, IL).

Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Scheiler and their three children, Jeremy, Rachel and Marla, have moved from the Latty, OH, vicinity. He has accepted employment here, and we do welcome them into our brotherhood.

Our dear Sis. Leah Kinsinger, 81, passed away November 7. We will remember her as a faithful sister and loving helper in the household of God.

"I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice, And it told Thy love to me; But I long to rise in the arms of faith, And be closer drawn to Thee." Hymns of Zion #170. We extend our sympathy to her dear family, Sisters Kay (Earl) Steffen, Wava (John) Steffen, and Bro. Bill (Sandra) Kinsinger. May God comfort their hearts.

Rachel Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon) and Bro. Don Schambach have been hospitalized this month. Sis. Cora Schambach suffered facial injuries as a result of a car accident. Bro. Dick Klopfenstein also suffered knee injury. How thankful we can be when God again heals and strengthens.

Admission of residents into our new Resthaven began November 12. May each one feel the love and warmth of God-given care as He shares grace and strength to all who labor in prayer and deed.

May God bless Bro. Mike Rinckenberg (Congerville) for his labor of love in bringing us many teachings of the Bible.

#### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Rocke

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

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

Hymns of Zion #36

The most beautiful season of the year is upon us — Christmas. May God grant us much grace, through all the activities of the season, to truly remember the real reason why we have Christmas — our Lord Jesus' birth and His purpose to save sinful men. May it be a Holy Season for all!

We rejoice in the way of salvation! Saturday evening, October 19, we gathered together to hear the testimonies of Bruce Martin (Bro. Roland and Sis. Delores) and Linda Frank (Bro. Richard and the late Sis. Nathalia). The next day we welcomed them into the fold as our brother and sister in faith. May they be granted sufficient grace to remain true and faithful unto life's end.

Those who have spent time in the hospital this month are Sis. Aldine

Leman (Bro. Sam) and Bro. George Stoller. We pray God's nearness in their affliction.

Wedding vows were exchanged Saturday, October 26 by Olivia Grimm and Kurt Blunier. Their parents are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm (Goodfield) and Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier. May God bless this young couple as they establish their home.

Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand welcomed Mark Jeffery on October 30. Alissa and Jonathan are happy for their new brother as are grandparents Bro. Richard and Sis. Edna Leman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand.

"I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle." Isaiah 41:19. Our dear Sis. Jane Rocke has felt the Lord's guiding to relocate in Portland, OR. Our many prayers and words of encouragement go with her, trusting that God leads the way. Our loss is Portland's gain. Jane's parents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline Rocke.

"Every temptation is an opportunity to get closer to God."

#### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

Our Sunday School Bible class enjoyed hosting the Princeville, Wolcott, and Remington Bible classes. May the friendships and acquaintances made, last throughout their life time. Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington), and Bruce Leman (Roanoke), were with us and we thank them for their efforts. Also visiting us the past month were Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), and Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke) and Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS). We appreciate each one.

As we approach the Christmas season, may we strive to keep the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts.

#### THE ANGELS SONG

I wonder if we'll hear again  
Such lovely song on earth,  
As that which once the angels sang,  
Of Jesus' wondrous birth.

O rapturous, holy, blissful scene  
Above Judea's plain,  
As there the humble shepherd stood  
And heard that sweet refrain.

The echoes of the heavenly song  
Did fill the earth that night

For in the town of Bethlehem  
Was born the Prince of Light.

The angels sang their praise to God,  
Of peace, good will to men.  
Such words as sung by angels host —  
Shall they be heard again?

Perhaps when Christ shall claim His  
own  
As angels 'round Him throng,  
We'll hear the blessed notes again  
Of that celestial song.

Bro. Henry Beer

ILLINOIS, FORREST  
Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

#### TO THE LONDONIERES

No one gives  
Like a friend  
No one shares  
Like a friend  
No one listens  
Like a friend  
No one comforts and cares  
Like a friend

Warm and wonderful is your friendship.  
Thank you.

Harvey and Leona Leman

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Peggy Young (Bro. Terry); Bro. Frank Honegger; Sis. Martha Honegger (Bro. Paul); and Sis. Leona Leman. We are thankful all have improved and returned home again. Once again God has healed the sick and prayers have been answered.

Dennis and Pam Zimmerman have added a precious bundle of joy to their home. Jacob Richard, born September 1, is a grandson of Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman, and Richard and Betty Lawrence of Fairbury.

We are looking forward to the reading and sincere exhortations of the memorandum, which will be brought to us soon. We pray God will be in our midst, that we might be attentive as these dear Elder Brothers remind us of duties in preserving this precious faith and standing firm till our life's end. May we not only be hearers but doers of these timely warnings.

Our dear Bro. Harvey Leman has passed from this life into Eternity. Our sincere sympathy goes to his wife, Sis. Leona; and children; Diana Ducett (Normal); Darl (Elmhurst); and Rita Wenger (Forrest). May they feel God's

comforting strength upon them. Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) had the funeral services. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago); Ken Schneider and Earl Kilgus (Remington); and Elmer Witzig (Gridley).

Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin) was with us November 17. We thank him for bringing us God's true living word.

As the holiday season draws near and the year draws to an end, we are once again brought to the time of remembering our Saviour's birth. Our Sunday School children are preparing their program to bring us the precious story of Christ's birth. Let us always remember the true meaning of this Christmas season as Christ's birth and why He came to this earth for you and me.

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

#### Pam Wiegand

How our hearts rejoice! Three souls have turned to the Lord for forgiveness and have found peace in their hearts. We look forward to the testimonies and baptisms of Krista Roth (Roy and Sis. Corrine), Matt Hohulin (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia), and Dirk Steffen (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene).

Kurt Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Liz) of Eureka and Olivia Grimm (Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna) of Goodfield were united in marriage October 26. May God be with them throughout their lives together.

We give thanks to Bro. Steve Martin, Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) for their recent visits.

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Edmund Kloter, Sis. Mary Helen Heinold, and Sis. Clara Hunzicker. May God grant them added grace and strength throughout their trials.

The family of Elizabeth Hartman would like to express the gratitude they feel for all the prayers, cards, deeds of kindness and expressions of sympathy extended to them during the illness and passing of their mother. May God bless each one.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

#### Carol Klopfenstein

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him,

and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness."

Psalm 41:1-3

We were very blessed to hear Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) tell of his experience a year ago when he was in India and how God used His Word to sustain him during his severe illness. It encouraged and inspired all who heard him to a greater faith and appreciation of such a great God and Savior who will stand by us in time of trouble and His promises are always true. Bro. Roy told us how the Lord had shown him the first three verses of Psalm 41 when he wondered if he should even go to India. He never realized then how very meaningful these words would later become when he was stricken with illness, could hear the rioting in the streets, and was told that Americans were in danger and should leave the country for their safety. The Lord did deliver him and the other brothers who were in India with him from the potential danger. The Lord also strengthened him upon his bed of languishing and kept him alive. Although he was called to endure a great test of his faith, in the end the Lord delivered him and no doubt the entire experience has now become a spiritual blessing for him as well as all of us who are privileged to hear about it.

May we be greatly encouraged to willingly bear whatever trials or suffering might come over us. Often "small" trials can press down on a soul and hearing of the "large" trials others have endured or are enduring for Jesus' sake can give the weary pilgrim new courage to wait patiently on the Lord and trust in Him.

We were also glad to have ministering Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) and John Hartman (Fairbury) with us for the two A.C.Y.F. singings Gridley recently hosted.

Bro. Curtis and Sis. Carla Stoller are the happy parents of Christy Marie who was born October 16. She has a sister, Carrie, and her grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie Stoller (Gridley) and Bro. Leland and Sis. Marjorie Kuntz (Forrest).

Kelsey Lynn is the precious new daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Vicki Zehr. She has a brother, Matthew, and

her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Emmy Steffen and Bro. Paul and Sis. Wilma Zehr, all of Gridley.

George Witzig and Sis. Ella Cargill have been hospital patients.

Sis. Judy Gramm (Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie, Gridley) is engaged to be married to Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou, Cissna Park).

### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

#### Kathy S. Rocke

As another semester comes to an end and we begin to prepare for final exams, we are thankful we still have the time and opportunity to study God's Word.

We appreciate each ministering brother who came to ISU Bible Study this past month. Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) spoke on contentment. We learned how essential it is to truly live Phil. 4:11, "... for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago) spoke on the will of God. He stressed that we must rest in the Lord, wait on Him, and yet, not become stagnant in our growth.

We had two Bible studies on attitude. Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville) divided attitudes into two areas: pride-related and humility-related. He showed how all attitudes stem from these. Bro. Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park) discussed attitudes toward procrastination, chastisement, and good and evil. We learned that bad attitudes have a detrimental effect not only on our own lives, but also on the lives of those around us. This should give us even more reason for maintaining good attitudes.

Our last Bible study of the month was on commitment. Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) described commitment as a voluntary pledge of our efforts. Our success in a commitment is determined by our motivation. We need to rely on the Spirit of God within us to direct us in making commitments and carrying them out.

Bible study is held in Schroeder 244 on Thursday evenings at 7:30. We appreciate all who come to worship with us.

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

#### Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

We had a very blessed Sunday October 20, when Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ken-

neth Dietz (Bradford, IL) ministered God's Holy Word unto us. We then gathered together for a church potluck at our Fellowship Hall and ended our blessed day with a hymn sing. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and love to our visiting ministers. We pray God will richly bless them and their families.

Our hearts were saddened to hear that Bro. Jacob (Jack) Stieglitz passed away. His funeral was November 14. We pray that God will comfort his dear wife, Sis. Emma, and his family.

Many enjoyed the annual chili supper and hymn sing given by our young group at the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds go to various charities.

We have loved ones who are sick, in the hospital, and shut-in. We would encourage sending them a note expressing our love and best wishes. Time for these dear loved ones surely does pass slowly. May they always feel our prayers.

Christmas is a time for giving, sharing and loving. Let us keep the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts. Because He loved us all, God sent His only Son. May all of you have a very blessed Christmas.

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

Tabernacle Hymns #254

### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Susi Herman — Margo Marx**

Long, long ago in a land far away,  
There came the dawn of the first  
Christmas day,  
And each year we see that promise  
reborn  
That God gave the world on that first  
Christmas morn.

For the silent stars in the timeless skies  
And the wonderment in a small child's  
eyes,  
The Christmas songs the carolers sing,  
The tidings of joy that the Christmas  
bells ring  
Remind us again of that still Silent  
Night  
When the heavens shone with a  
wondrous light,  
And the angels sang of Peace on Earth  
And told men of the Christ Child's  
birth.

For Christmas is more than a beautiful  
story  
It's the promise of life and Eternal  
Glory!

Helen Steiner Rice

During this Christmas season, many gifts will be given; but Jesus came to give the most precious gift of all — the gift of salvation. If you have already received this gift, you are praising the Lord for it. If you have not received it, why delay? Tomorrow may be too late. May your joy be full this Christmas because of Him!

Our annual German Singing was again held at the Apostolic Christian Home October 27. The residents, as well as many visitors, enjoyed an evening of memories. We appreciate the efforts of our singing leaders and all those who took part.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Bro. Chris Frank and Bro. Henry Triplett. May the Lord comfort and strengthen them in this time of grief.

We were blessed by the teachings we heard from visiting ministers: Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville), Bro. Marv and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) and Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto). May the Lord richly bless these brothers for their labors of love.

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized this month: Bro. Paul Meister, Sis. Bernice Otto, Sis. Ruth Hartman, Sis. Barbara Herman, Sis. Esther Hoerr, Bro. Clarence Suttor, Bro. Ray Martin, Sis. Lena Joos, Bro. Joe Herman, and Gertrude Mundle. We pray the Lord might extend His healing hand so that they can all again enjoy a reasonable measure of health.

### O GOD OF WISDOM

O God of wisdom, life and love,  
Thine is the blessed plan  
In holy bonds of love to join  
The twain, created man.

These souls betrothed before thee  
stand;  
Thy blessing we implore;  
Unite thou them in heart and hand,  
And guide them evermore.

As they go forth upon life's way,  
Sustain them by thy grace;  
May they thy holy laws obey  
And live in joy and peace.

May they with holy lives adorn  
Thy doctrines, Lord, and be  
Amid life's sunshine and its storm  
True witnesses for Thee.

And when Thou, Lord, shalt come  
again  
To gather home Thine own,  
May they, with duty nobly done,  
Be blessed before Thy throne.

Hymns of Zion - page 286

November 10 was the wedding day of Sis. Holly Herrmann (Bro. Harold and Sis. Ardith) and Bro. Dean Ramseyer (Sis. Lillian). May the Lord richly bless them as they begin their lives together.

A precious baby daughter was born to Sis. Susan and Bro. Larry Herman October 15. Katherine Marie was welcomed home by her sister, Cara. Happy grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Nancy Herman and Bro. Dale and Sis. Barbara Hunziker.

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Marjean Lehman

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

Isaiah 9:6

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem . . ."

St. Matthew 2:1

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

St. John 3:16

We appreciate the visits of ministering brothers who were willing to come and share the Word of life with us. May God bless Bro. Al Aberle (Tremont), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Bro. Nate Stoller (Bradford).

Bro. Chris Frank passed from this life into eternity October 31. He has been a resident of the Peoria Home for the past five years. His wife, Naomi, preceded him in death November 26, 1980. Our sympathy is extended to his son, Raymond (Dunlap); his brothers, Ernest (Mediapolis, IA) and William

(Moline); his sister, Lena Seigle (Burlington, IA). Services were held Saturday, November 2.

"Jesus knows thy conflict, hears thy burdened sigh; When thy heart is wounded, hears thy plaintive cry; He thy soul will strengthen, overcome thy fears; He will send thee comfort, wipe away thy tears."

Hymns of Zion #74

Our sincere sympathy is extended to our Sis. Grace Streitmatter in the death of her son, Gene (Rockford). He died Thursday, November 7, at age 42. His wife and two daughters survive. Also surviving is one brother, Robert (College Park, MD).

Thank you note: The family of Sis. Julia Dapper would like to thank everyone who with kind words, deeds and prayers helped to ease the burden of sorrow in the loss of their mother, sister and grandmother.

"There is beauty all around, when there's love at home . . ." An April 5 wedding is being planned by Jay El-sasser and Kim Weller. Parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Dorene El-sasser and Henry Weller (Texas) and Cheryl Weller (Peoria).

"Faith finds in Christ whate'er we need to save and strengthen, guide and feed; Strong in his grace it joys to share His cross, in hope . . . His crown to wear.

"Faith to the conscience whispers peace, and bids the mourner's sighing cease; by faith the children's right we claim. And call upon our Father's name.

"Such faith in us, O God, implant, and to our prayers Thy favor grant; In Jesus Christ, Thy Saving Son, Who is our fount . . . of health alone."

Hymns of Zion #100

Hospital patients this past month were: Nathan Christ (Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina), Brett Herrmann (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lavonne), Bro. Ray Martin, Bro. Leonard Menold, Bro. John Stahl and Lavina Sloan.

"The inn was crowded, no one from inside  
Had seen the star or heard the angels sing,  
They never knew that just beyond the door  
A baby had been born to be their King.  
For these were busy folks in Bethlehem,  
Exchanging views, lamenting of their cares,

Commanding tables and the choicest food,  
Engrossed in their own problems and affairs.

The keeper, too, was anxious for his guests  
And strived to see each detail was set right;

How could he then make room for peasant folk

Who came entreating at his door tonight?

He had made a hopeless gesture and replied

That they might seek the stable in their need,

And hurried to attend some new demand,

There were so many yet that he must feed.

Do not think harshly of the little inn  
Or yet of those who tarried long ago  
About the tables with their own

concerns . . .

They merely erred because they did not know."

"The keeper was harassed on every side,

He knew not that he turned the Christ away . . .

**THINK RATHER, AFTER NINETEEN HUNDRED YEARS,  
THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSE FOR US TODAY!"**

Wilder

#### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Marge Leman — Carol Knapp**

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11. Although many significant news events are reported to us every day, none can compare to the great news the angel heralded to those shepherds that first Christmas night!

Sharing the good news of God's Word with us recently were ministering Bros. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN), Joe Zimmerman (Morton) and Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal).

Our Sis. Emma Schumacher reached the milestone of 100 years.

Marsha Brown and Thomas Durand were united in marriage. May the life they share hold many joys. Their parents are Don and Helen Brown and Don and Linda Durand.

Sis. Martha Martin passed away peacefully at the age of 87. Sympathy

is extended to her children, Bro. Jim Martin and Sisters Winnie Martin, Annabelle Blunier (Roanoke) and Nancy Herman (Peoria).

We are thankful that our hospital patients have returned home. They are Sis. Jeanette Wagner and Norm Reckemmer.

A blessed holiday season to all of you!

ILLINOIS, TREMONT  
**Dorothy Wagenbach  
Carolyn Bolliger**

#### CHRISTMAS WONDER

Nearly two thousand years of

Christmases

With joy have come and gone,  
Since Christ was born in Bethlehem . . .  
And the wonder lingers on.

Another Christmas is with us now  
To give songs to the heart,  
And a special peace to all mankind  
With its wonders to impart.

And as we sing loved carols,  
Lift hearts to Him above,  
We think of others day by day  
For the rule of life is love.

Though many, many Christmases  
Have filled our hearts and gone,  
We have the Christ Child in our hearts . . .

And the wonder lingers on.

Mamie Ozburn Odum

As the Christmas season again approaches, let us never forget the true meaning of Christmas.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette Beutel rejoice in the birth of a new baby son, William Alan, born October 27. Baby Will has one big brother, Steven, and five sisters, Teresa, Jennifer, Marcia, Diane and Julie. Grandparents are Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach.

We will miss Bro. George Frank, as he was recently called to his rest. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Ruth, and to their daughter, Virginia Lockwood (Bloomington, IL).

We also wish to express our sympathy to Bro. Weldon and Sis. Doris Staker and their family on the death of his mother, Luella Staker (Morton, IL).

Sis. Frieda Aberle and several of her children recently flew to Germany to attend the funeral of her father, Johann

Resch. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Frieda and Bro. Ernie and their family.

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Roberta Schweigert's father, Bro. Jack Stieglitz (Morton, IL). We offer our sincere sympathy to Roberta and Clifford and their family.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Merle Getz (Sis. Iva), Sis. Royaldine Hodel (Bro. Bob), Sis. Margaret Frank, Ben Schmidgall (Helen) and Sis. Louise Wagenbach (Bro. Simon).

Submitting to eye surgery were Sisters Mary Baurer and Hanna Koch.

We recently enjoyed a Saturday evening in our fellowship hall looking at World Relief slides and hearing of the experiences of Sis. Elaine Norr (Leo, IN) and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL).

We wish to thank our visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton), Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke) and Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park).

Sis. Elizabeth Moser wishes to thank everyone for the cards, money, flowers and food received while she was sick. May God richly bless each and every one.

#### ILLINOIS, URBANA Cheryl Mangers

We are so thankful that Sis. Anne Anliker is back home with her baby sons and husband after a brief hospitalization.

We bid farewell and God's richest blessings to Sis. Marilyn Walder as she leaves our congregation for Athens, AL to become a part of our church school staff.

We have been richly blessed this past month with visiting ministers. May we each strive to live the words spoken. Thank you Bros. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), Ed Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger for being in our midst.

#### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Ellen Cox

"God thundereth marvelously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.

"For he saith to the snow, Be thou on

the earth, likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength."

Job 37:5-6

In the past few weeks our area has endured both great and small showers of rain. Tonight as I sit down to write, the air is quiet and the first flurries of snow are falling silently to the ground. We can wonder as the writer, at the greatness and strength of our Creator, who can, with the sound of His voice, send showers of rain or snow to the earth.

We are grateful to our Elder Bro. Don Sauder and Elder Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley) for sharing the memorandum with us. May God especially bless these brothers for their care, concern and unselfish donation of time for our benefit.

We look forward to a special evening November 22 with Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) who plans to speak to us about witnessing the gospel of Jesus Christ to others.

Many heartfelt prayers have been uttered on behalf of our dear Bro. Vernon Streitmatter who suffered a heart attack November 23. He remains hospitalized. May Bro. Vernie and his dear family feel the love and comfort of our heavenly Father through this difficult time.

As the Christmas season approaches, we look forward to being with family and friends. We gather together to celebrate the birth of Christ, who is the true "reason for the season". At this time we can again identify with the writer of Job 37:5 as he pondered the great things God does, things so great we can't comprehend them. That God would send His only Son into the world as a babe who would eventually die for us is hard to grasp. We, as God's people, truly have reason to celebrate this great thing God has done for us, but much more have cause to be thankful that He loved us enough to give us His Son.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON Carolyn Meyer — Eunice Fiechter

The death angel has visited our congregation and has visited different ages. Our dear Bro. Tom Heyerly (Sis. Carolyn), who was only 44 years old, was called into eternity after a period of illness. He is survived by his wife, a son, Troy, his parents, Bro. Cliff and Sis. Helen, two sisters, Mrs. John

(Lois) Brown and Mrs. Curtis (Jane) Mann, and three brothers, Robert, Kenneth and Bro. Von. Sis. Elva Aschliman, 75, left this earthly life on the same day as Bro. Tom Heyerly. Her survivors include a sister, Sis. Dora, and her brothers, Bro. Homer, Bro. Roy, Bro. Millard and Bro. Herman. Adam Michael was the stillborn son of Bro. Brian and Sis. Debbie Fiechter. Grandparents are Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter and Carl and Betty Macklin. Services were held Friday, November 15 for tiny Adam. We extend sympathy to all these loved ones.

Bro. Fred Moser (Sis. Sada) was in the hospital, but has recuperated and is able to be in church again.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Debbie Reinhard are the parents of Curt Douglas who was born October 31. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gerber and Sis. Sarah Steffen.

On the evening of November 9, our congregation gathered to hear the Brotherhood Conference report. Bro. Bob Meyer and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) helped Elder Bro. Orville Ringger as they presented the report to us.

We have a committee from our congregations (made up of brothers from both Bluffton and Bluffton North) which is working on the World Relief food packaging project to be located in this area. This is a project that all Apostolic Christians will be involved in as it is a World Relief project.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11. The true meaning of Christmas in one verse; the verse that gives meaning to our lives. If God had not sent His Son — where would we be?

Ministering brethren who have shared with us in the past month are Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Kent Ringger (Bluffton). May God bless each one and their families. We welcome them back anytime.

"Each for the other and both for the Lord." (song by: John W. Peterson); what a good foundation for marriage. We rejoiced with Sis. Martha Habegger (Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene) and Bro. Keith Stoller (Bro. Ramon and Sis.

Flossie, Bluffton) as they were united October 27. November 3 we gladly shared with Sis. Beth Flueckiger (Jerry and Bonnie) and Bro. Chris Honegger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy) as they said their wedding vows. May God's peace, joy and love be with them as they spend their first Christmas season together and continue to be with them always.

Three little girls have made their debut into our world. Arriving October 29 was Jessica Lynn Yergler. Her happy parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg. Big brother Shawn is ready to help. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander (Bluffton) and Bro. Truman and Sis. Marcella Yergler (Bluffton).

November 13 was the big day for Brittany Kay Aschliman, welcomed by her parents, Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa and her brother, Lance. Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Ida Aschliman (Bluffton) and Bro. Charlie and Sis. Sally Shively.

Adrienne Marlise Steffen made November 15 a special day for her parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise; her brothers, Jayde and Jordan; and her grandparents, Bro. Leroy and Elizabeth Steffen and Bro. Bob and Sis. Carolyn Yergler. May God be with these three families, from the first step to the first date and beyond, filling their hearts with love and wisdom all the way.

In the past months, Bro. Calvin Rauch has been hospitalized. We are happy to report that he is at home and doing quite well. Daniel Barone, foster son of Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy Shorb, has also spent time in the hospital this month. We hope and pray that God will restore him to good health.

On October 26 and 27, our high school Sunday school class shared with Bluffton in hosting the Sunday schools from Latty, OH, Milford and Francesville. We hope all had a blessed weekend.

Grades three thru twelve in Sunday school visited the mentally handicapped at the State School in Fort Wayne November 9. This was truly a good learning experience for those who participated.

As the Christmas season is upon us, with its pretty lights, delicious cookies and candies and much gift-giving, let us not forget to cherish the greatest gift of all - Christ, our Savior.

## INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lynne Wuethrich

"'Twas not the angel's message  
That gave the Christmas thought  
Nor yet the golden incense  
Which the Wise Men brought.  
'Twas not the star that led them  
Upon the unknown way;  
It was the birth of Jesus  
That makes the Christmas day!"

As we look forward to this Christmas season, let's keep this poem in our hearts. True happiness at Christmas-time is receiving the best gift of all, the birth of Jesus.

We regret we failed to report the happy occasion of the wedding of Diane Wuethrich to Dennis Carson September 7. Diane is the daughter of Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna Wuethrich (Francesville) and Dennis is the son of Mrs. James Carson (Wabash). We pray God will bless their lives together. Congratulations!

Sadness touched the homes of loved ones in our congregation as Sis. Zura Ethel Streitmatter passed away after a long illness. Sis. Zura was 88 and was living in the Parkview Haven Retirement Home. We remember in prayer her dear family, Sis. Lois (Irvin) Yaggie, Sis. Joan and Sis. Edith Streitmatter (Francesville). Sis. Zura has two sons, Keith and Dale (both of Rensselaer). May God continue to comfort them.

Our congregation is going to miss Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz and their daughter, Cheree, as they will be moving to the Washington, IL area. Due to a job transfer, they need to move and we want them to know we will miss them and we'll pray for them as they make their home in a new community.

There's a correction to be made in last month's news. Jerry Overmyer was hospitalized, not Bro. Jerry Gutwein.

## INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Judy Dubach — Lynn Winslow

Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord! Be it unto me according to thy word.

Luke 1:38

In a remote village in the outlands of Palestine, an angel visited a young girl with what most would welcome as good news - she was going to have a baby! But there were two problems. First,

she was not married. Second, the man she was engaged to marry was not the father. How would you have responded to "good news" like that? If you knew that God was the One who planned all this, would that change your response?

In Mary's case, she still considered it to be good news, because of her utter obedience. The angel's message meant, for this pure-hearted girl, a great deal of misunderstanding and reproach. It was inevitable that clouds would gather around her character, which would sorely perplex the good man to whom she was betrothed. But as soon as she realized that this lot was ordained for her by God, she humbly accepted it with words of patient faith. "Be it unto me according to thy word."

God's voice often speaks within our hearts, and no word of His is devoid of power. We must test what seems to be His voice by these three standards; first, His Word; second, by the trend of outward circumstances; third, by the sound advice of Christian people.

When these agree, we may take it that God has spoken to us, and whatever the burden of His words, we must respond, "Let it be to me according to thy Word." The responsibility thrust upon us may be caring for a dying friend, the charge of orphan children, helping an unwed mother to make the right decisions, helping an invalid, or a difficult and trying Christian ministry within the church. But whenever it comes and whatever He imposes on us, let us say with peace "Let it be to me according to thy Word."

The Indianapolis choir reminded us in song of our bountiful blessings this "Thanksgiving".

We were saddened to hear about the death of Bonnie (Bro. Steve) Huber's father, Burt Posorfke (Warren, IL). We extend our sympathy and condolence to the family and pray God will fill the loss.

Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Jack Bollier (Leo, IN) and Bro. Kent Ringger (Bluffton, IN) were here to minister to us. We extend our sincere thanks to them for their efforts.

## INDIANA, LACROSSE Connie Knobloch — Debbie Nuest

We are happy to announce the birth of David Randall, born November 13 to Sis. Mary Lynn and Bro. Randy Massner. His sisters, Jennifer and Christy, are very excited about having a little brother. Grandparents are Bro.

Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller, and Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner (Oakville, IA).

We rejoice with Larry Bucher (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) who has sought the Lord's forgiveness through repentance. We pray for much grace for him that he may always follow our Lord humbly.

A surprise open house was hosted by the family of Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank on their 40th wedding anniversary. May God bless them for the love and kindness they show to all.

Our hearts were saddened when our dear friend, Emma Fritz, was called from this life. May God comfort and bless Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry (Lexington, KY) and Sis. Lizzie Pflederer in the loss of their mother and sister.

We appreciated the visits of ministering Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). May God richly bless them and their families for their labors of love.

Kent, infant son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy, was hospitalized but we are thankful he is doing fine again.

We bid farewell to Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gudeman and Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller who have departed for their winter homes in the south. We miss them when they are gone, and pray it will be the Lord's will that we can be reunited in the spring. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carla Fritz have relocated and are now attending church in Leo. We hope they will come back to visit us often. Sis. Marlise Stieglitz (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan, Leo) has found employment in our area. I am happy and thankful I can share my home with her, and we look forward to having her worship with us.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Thelma Schlatter**

"If our greatest need had been information,  
 God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,  
 God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,  
 God would have sent us an economist.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,  
 So God sent us a Savior."

Our congregation was blessed with

the visits and ministry of Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI). The latter assisted Elder Bro. David Bertsch in services for the observance of the Lord's Supper.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick are the happy parents of a new baby boy, Ryan Daniel, who joins his brother, Billy. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr and Bro. John and Sis. Dolly Schick.

Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein, wife of Bro. William, met with accident which required surgery. Our church family has been in prayer for her healing.

Appreciation Night, hosted by the staff of the Children's Home, was indeed appreciated by all in attendance.

The old, yet ever new, and beautiful story of His birth is to be told again in the Christmas program planned for December 15.

'Tis the season of gift giving. The greatest gift ever given came wrapped in swaddling clothes and was laid in a manger. It's a gift to be accepted or rejected. Dear friend, the gift is "From God to Whosoever believeth in Him."

This Christmas may you see and know anew just how great His love is toward you!

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**  
**Joyce Kaiser — Shelby Beer**

**Editor's Note:** Milford's November article was inadvertently left out of last month's issue. We apologize to all concerned, and ask for your understanding if it has happened to others. Sorry!

Hospital patients during the month of October included Bro. John Lehman, Sr., Bro. Clark Schieler and Bro. Howard Beer.

Our visiting ministers during October included Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington) and Bros. Marvin and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo).

Now it is accomplished! With heart and with mind

To thee, my dear Savior, I now am resigned!

I'll ever be faithful in life and in death,  
 Abiding in Jesus unto my last breath.

We rejoice with Sis. Sherri Beer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Lori Price (Bro. Tom and Becky) as we were witness to their vows in the waters of

baptism November 3. May our Lord continue to grant the needed grace to them to remain true and faithful until life's end. We were thankful for Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) who came to share in this blessed weekend.

Our congregation recently had the privilege of expressing our joy and appreciation to our retired Elder Bro. Theo and Sis. Naoma Beer as they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Being two special people, they continue to touch so many of our lives in so many different ways. May they continue to feel God's blessed nearness, strength and grace each remaining day of their life.

God has called our loving Bro. Fred Schori home to find rest in Jesus. We extend our love and sympathy to his family and especially his sisters, Freida Hany (Alington, CT), Emma Clauss (Fort Wayne) and Sis. Marie Reuter of our congregation.

November 9 and 10 brought many loved ones to Milford to attend the annual World Relief meeting. It's such a blessing to feel the mutual love for our Lord and for one another in those from far and near. We appreciate the willingness of Bros. Floyd Graves (Croghan, NY), Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL) to be used in God's service on Sunday.

We always feel sorry for our loved ones when they are ill and have to spend time in the hospital. We pray that God's healing hand will continue to be upon Bros. Howard Beer, Matt Pamer and Sis. Leona Price.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Beer welcome Simon Royce into their home. Simon has two older brothers, Shane and Seth, to help care for him. Bro. Rich and Sis. Nola Wuethrich (Francesville) and Bro. Carlton and Sis. Mary Ann Beer are the happy grandparents.

God has blessed the home of Thad and Sis. Sonya Tinkey with a son, Daniel Ryan. Welcoming him home are his sister, Kayla, and his happy grandparents, Don and Sis. Ginny Hoover and Mr. and Mrs. Rex Tinkey.

During this blessed Christmas season there will be many gifts given; but Jesus came to give the most precious of all, the gift of salvation. If it's yours, you are praising Him for it. If you have not received this priceless gift, why delay? Tomorrow may be too late. May your joy be full this Christmas because of Him!



**INDIANA, REMINGTON****Beth Virkler — Susan Getz**

When the shepherds visited that babe 2,000 years ago, were there doubts? They had seen a glimmer of hope in a bright light. It led them to a red, wrinkly, newborn infant. "A king," the angel had said. But this seemed so far from it. The first thing that hit them was the foul smell of the animals. Then the man and his wife seemed so poor. Hardly said a word but looked at their tiny son in adoration. Didn't look like they had much as far as earthly goods, but there was a quiet peace and inner contentment shining from their souls. I wonder if those shepherds walked away and wondered, "Why did we take the time to come? Just an infant. He didn't even know we were here. His only response was a weak cry." Is that what the shepherds thought? No, they walked back to their flock of sheep and believed they had seen a glimpse of God's Son.

Now 2,000 years later, do you believe? Are you willing to take time to listen to God's special messages of peace? The greatest gift the shepherds gave then is still the same as today. Time. Do we take time when God says, "Go.?" But Lord, I'm so busy. It's Christmas. That means shopping, baking, so many things to do. I don't have time for that poor soul in the nursing home or that widow down the street or those children no one loves. I'll make some goodies for them. Lord, is that enough? I just don't have time to visit, to let them know I care. Little do I know I may be showing love to the children of the King. Sometimes the response will not be any more than a weak cry. Perhaps they have been so emotionally damaged they don't know how to love back. Let's make this Christmas different. Move past the glitter, Santa's gifts and food, to love and kindness that will never be forgotten. I challenge you, as I do myself, let us listen to the tiny gleam of hope from God as the shepherds did and believe as they believed that the king would reign. Are you willing? Do you care?

"Grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word." Acts 4:29. Our hearts are filled with thanks for the brothers that were willing to speak boldly of the promises of God: Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Jim Rinckenberger (Bluffton, IN).

Our Sis. Diane Isabell was in the

hospital but is back among us with her giving heart. She would like to thank those dear ones who remembered her in prayers, cards and gifts.

**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND****Pauline Laidig**

Though old be the world, the years  
passed away,  
The joy and the peace of that first  
Christmas day  
Still lingers and fills the Christ-like, the  
pure;  
The joy of the birthday of Christ will  
endure.

The birthday of Jesus has joy for the  
soul,  
And men with the angels His praises  
extoll!  
For God in His Son still dwells among  
men:  
All glory to God for this Christmas  
again.

My Garden of Verse

Christmas is indeed a beautiful time of the year when we again read and sing of our dear Savior's birth, and of the events leading up to it and those that followed. May we not allow other things to crowd out the true joy and meaning of this Holy Season.

We were certainly blest and refreshed when the choir and others from Goodfield, IL spent a weekend with us. The choir truly presented a ministry in song; and added blessings came from the messages of Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin and Bro. Jay Rinckenberger. Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford) also joined us for the afternoon service. We were happy that a goodly number from Milford came to share in this joyful time. Thank you so much Goodfield brethren.

We appreciated having Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) spend a recent Sunday afternoon with us. His inspired words of wisdom are always welcome.

Sis. Rosena Hueni is still in need of hospitalization. She has been moved to the Bremen Community Hospital. Sis. Helen Martin is at home but must still endure some problems. We pray the Lord will be very near them and bring strength and healing as He sees is best.

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO****Cheryl Bucher — Patty Bucher**

I John 3:1 - "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us,

that we should be called the sons of God" . . . We rejoice with the angels in heaven, that Bro. Dave Zeltwanger (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn) sought the Lord in repentance, felt His forgiveness and peace, gave his testimony and was baptized November 10. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) were with us for this special occasion.

Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley), Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). We thank them for their willingness to lend themselves in the Lord's service.

Elder Bro. Art Nohl also assisted our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in serving us the Lord's Supper.

According to Thy Gracious Word, In meek humility, This will we do, our dying Lord, We will remember Thee, Thy body broken for our sake, Our bread shall be: Thy sacramental cup we take, And thus remember Thee. Can we Gethemane forget? Or there Thy conflict see, Thine agony and bloody sweat, And not remember Thee? When to the cross we turn our eyes, And rest on Calvary, Oh Lamb of God, our Sacrifice, We must remember Thee.

"We Will Remember Thee",  
Hymns of Zion #301

Bro. Dean and Sis. Patty Bucher have been given the opportunity to give of their love to little Daniel Wayne, born October 17. Daniel has a brother, Bryan, and a sister, Michelle, for future playmates. Proud grandparents are Sis. Gwen Bucher and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Paarlberg.

It is so exciting to see how well our new church edifice is coming along. With the help of many kind brothers and friends, the landscaping is now completed. We just thank God, and to Him also goes the glory, for the opportunity of building a much needed new church.

**INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY****Lily Vogt**

How blessed we are to have those who minister unto us. Bro. Dave Wiegang (Champaign, IL), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott), Bro. Wayne Laubscher and Bro. Ken Weertz (both from Cissna Park, IL) shared God's Word with us this past month. We do apprec-

iate these brothers for lending themselves.

During this Thanksgiving and Christmas season, we surely have many reasons to be thankful.

### PRAISE TO GOD

Today I'll think of all the things  
That God has done for me —  
His wonderful provision  
For salvation full and free.

I'll thank Him for His blessings  
That come to me each day,  
For all the answers that He sends  
When I kneel down and pray.

I'll thank Him for His wondrous grace  
That keeps me day by day  
From all temptations fierce and wild  
He always makes a way.

'Tis sweet indeed to know the Lord  
And trust His tender care,  
To rest completely in His love  
And sweet communion share.

Sylvia L. Roache

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler**

The Christmas season is here again and we are so vividly reminded of the birth of our Lord. May the remembrance of the Christ-child inspire us with new zeal and devotion to serve Him.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume have been blessed with a new son. Clint Aaron was born November 14. Brian, Brent, Derek and Lee are Clint's brothers. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Norma Blume and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn Bahler (Remington).

We thank Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) for sharing the Word with us. May God bless him for his efforts of love.

Colleen Kyburz (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat) has spent some time in the hospital and Sis. Jo Kyburz has suffered an arm injury. It is our prayer that God will restore health and strength to them.

We rejoice with our new converts and pray that God will grant them much grace so they might build on the firm foundation.

### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Edith Massner — Dixie Messner**

The Burlington and Oakville single groups tried to show their appreciation to the dear older brothers, sisters and

friends by having a "70 Plus" supper. Those of us in the single group enjoyed planning and working together for a very blessed evening. Even though most of us can't understand or read German, we all tried singing it for part of our singing. You could see the memories going through the minds of those who grew up with German in their homes. Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) in a recent prayer on tape spoke these words: "We pray for those brothers and sisters who are living in the sunset times, after walking thru the long journey, ever striving to serve Thee, and setting before us a good example that we can be thankful for. In their old age, sometimes their eyes fail, ears fail, they start to feel the mortal body collapsing; and yet, O Father, we pray that Thou would be that source of consolation and encouragement to them that even in days of affliction they need not to say, 'my life was in vain', but rather they can look forward and upward, pressing toward the goal and crown that waits above. May they all speak of heavenly things."

"Little blessings" were ours this month in Burlington. We don't very often get to report births from our small congregation and this month we have three to report; two on the same day. Kayla Marie Eberhardt and Laurie Michelle Schulz were welcomed into their new homes October 24 and Jordan Joshua Gehring October 27.

Kayla's parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy Eberhardt; Jonathan is now a big brother. Happy grandparents are Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt (Oakville).

Laurie was welcomed home by mom and dad, Sis. Karen and Bro. Gary Schulz, and big sisters and brother, Julie, Phillip and Brenda. Proud grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz (all of Oakville).

Little Jordan was brought home by dad and mom, Brad and Gale Gehring to meet his big brother, Gregory. His grandparents are Bro. Uriel and Sis. Judy Gehring (Leo) and Dennis and Emily Burd (Burlington).

Little Kile Salek (Bro. Laverne and Sis. Kim) spent several days in the hospital but is back home and able to come to church again. We missed his little smiling face.

We want to welcome Sis. Deb Metzger to Burlington, even though she

probably won't be able to assemble with us. She is in the hospital and we hope we can all work together to make her stay as pleasant as possible. She is here for rehabilitation. We know the days will be long for her, but hope she can find strength from our heavenly Father above.

We miss seeing Sis. Clara Frank as she has not been able to assemble with us lately. We are praying that she can gain a little strength each day and soon be back in our midst again.

### IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

As the Christmas season is again upon us, let us ask ourselves what Christmas truly means to us. Are our first thoughts that of giving and receiving gifts? If so, let us remember the precious gift that our heavenly Father gave to us when He gave His only begotten Son. What great love for mankind was wrapped around this gift. May we be blest with the true Christmas spirit this year and give God thanks for the gift of His Son.

A time of fellowship was enjoyed recently when our Bible class and junior Bible class hosted the same classes from the Minneapolis Sunday school. A special thanks to Bro. Ken Lawson for also coming. We so appreciate all visiting ministers as well as our home ministers who faithfully, by the spirit of God, preach unto us from the true Word of God.

We appreciate having Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy, Amy and Meg Butikofer back with us again.

### IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Suddenly, it seems, winter is upon us and Christmas is very near. Already the shelves in many stores are lined with Christmas cards, tinsel and holly. In the busy days ahead, faced with the Christmas shopping crowds and preparation for many family, school, work and church activities, I hope each one can take time to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas.

The contrast between the elaborate commercialization of the holiday today and the humble scene that originated the same is certainly thought-provoking. Perhaps if we take ourselves away from the bustling crowds, blaring carols and artificial decorations and go out on a still, clear night, we can recapture, to a degree, the glory and wonder the

wise men and shepherds felt as they followed the star to the manger in Bethlehem. Perhaps we can imagine the splendor of the angels singing as hope for a sin-sick world arrived in the form of the Christ-child. Perhaps we can see the glow of love on the faces of Joseph and Mary as they beheld their son, knowing He was also the Son of God. Then perhaps we can begin to comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, and the peace, love and joy we experience will lift us above the plastic celebration to true thanksgiving to God for His unspeakable gift.

We wish to thank all of our visitors this past month, including ministering Bros. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA). May God richly bless all who make the effort to share in our worship services.

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
**Alice Metzger**

Winter has come early to our area. We have had several inches of snow and very cold temperatures which has caused difficulties for completing the corn harvest. The yields have been bountiful for which we are most thankful to God who provides for us in wondrous ways.

We rejoice with Bro. Stan Wulf (Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona) and Sis. Pam Edelman (Denver, CO) in their betrothal announcement. Although Bro. Stan resides in Morris, he grew up here and is dear to our hearts.

Sis. Beth Knobloch is a recent graduate of Nettleton's (Sioux Falls) in professional accounting and computer. She is employed with an accounting firm in our area for which we are thankful.

Brian Teubel and Lou Moser were hospitalized recently. We are happy to report that both are home again and doing well.

Bro. Eli and I are happy to welcome a new granddaughter into our family. Lindsay Sue was born October 30 to Jack and Sue Ellen Metzger. She has two proud brothers to welcome her. Her maternal grandparents are Keith and Ce Stratton.

May the true spirit of Christmas dwell within the hearts of all our readers, that the blessings of the season may reach out to all.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Debbie Wagenbach**

"Now it is accomplished, I'm no

longer mine..." Zion's Harp #209. We welcome Sis. Linda Gerst into the fold of Jesus Christ. May God grant her the wonderful blessings of His sustaining and enduring grace as she begins her new life in Christ. Linda is the daughter of Bro. Conrad and Sis. Roletta Gerst.

Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) were with us for Linda's testimony service and baptism.

Our congregation extends sincere sympathy to Bro. Conrad and Sis. Roletta Gerst in the death of Sis. Roletta's father and mother, Bro. Roy and Sis. Minnie Farney (Phoenix, AZ).

Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz are once again grandparents. Little Laurie Michelle Schulz was born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen Schulz (Burlington). She has two older sisters, Julie and Brenda, and an older brother, Philip.

On November 17, the betrothal of Sis. Sue Eberhardt (Bro. Jody and Sis. Ruby) to Bro. Fred Gerst (Sis. Hilda and the late Bro. Carl) was made known. We rejoice with Bro. Fred and Sis. Sue and wish them God's blessings as they plan their life together.

Bro. John Rowell (Burlington) has recently ministered to our congregation in Oakville. We thank Bro. John for lending himself in the Lord's service.

Bro. Jerry, Jr. and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach will be making their new residence in the Chicago area as Bro. Jerry has accepted employment with Case-International in Hinsdale. We will certainly miss them, but we know that whatever is God's will must be done. May God bless them in their new home.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Luella Anliker will be celebrating fifty years of marriage this year. We trust that they have felt God's love throughout their years of marriage and we wish them as many more years as God's will would provide.

The holiday season is again upon us. It does certainly behoove each one of us to look beyond the tinsel and the gifts to the Christ-child, not the Child alone, but to the cross at Calvary where this Child, our Lord and Savior, shed His precious blood for unworthy mankind.

**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**DeAnn Wuthrich**  
**Mary Jane Knapp**

We were privileged this past month to have Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) spend a Sunday with us to bring forth God's precious Word of Life. May God continue to inspire him and grant him the grace needed to stand before His people.

Sis. Debra Metzger has made much progress since her accident and has now been transferred to Burlington Medical Center, Room 570, Burlington, IA. She is truly a light to all of us, for she bears her cross without complaining. May God continue to spread His healing hand over her and stand at her side, as we know He has so bountifully done thus far.

As we again approach the Christmas season, may we find that the real blessing is the fellowship we enjoy with our families and those of like mind and faith, rather than the earthly presents that may be given and received.

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**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Elma Mogler — Polly Zaugg**

We are thankful for visitors at any time and appreciate their efforts they put forth to visit us. Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) and Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) ministered God's precious Word to us this past month.

Marriage vows were exchanged November 9 at our fellowship center. Carlene Fehr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole) and Jim Jepsen (Bro. Dave and Sis. Milly, Elgin, IL) were united as one. May God bless their lives.

"The Lord hath comforted his people and will have mercy upon his afflicted." Isaiah 49:13. Hospitalized this month and needing our prayers are: Louisa Anliker (Reuben), Sis. Jessie Fehr, Matt Fehr, Bro. Mike Wirtz and Sis. Sarah Metzger (Bro. Duane and Sis. Elizabeth). Sis. Beverly Wirtz (Bro. Verner) and Sis. Elizabeth Metzger (Bro. Duane) also need our prayers as they each continue to submit to treatments every month.

Bro. Noah Anliker, 89, passed away October 30. Surviving are: Bro. Raymond (West Bend), Sis. Irene Rick (Bro. Lyle, West Bend), Earl (Plain, WI), Sis. Hazel Moser (Bro. Joe, Morris, MN), Leona Lanus (Don, Algona), Bro. Dan (Mediapolis), Rachel Fuller (Dennis, Humboldt), Esther Steil (Mike, West Bend). It seems Bro. Noah had many crosses during his lifetime.

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Give Your Address Change  
To Your Reporter

In 1941, on the way to church on Sunday morning, they experienced a tragic car accident that took the life of their teenage daughter, Alice. His wife, Sis. Elizabeth received serious back injuries which lingered until her death in August, 1943, when their youngest daughter, Esther, was born. Six years to the day, after the tragic accident, again on Sunday, tragedy struck while part of the family was at church, their home burned to the ground and a son and a daughter, Richard and Helen, lost their lives. Last year his son, Paul, passed away leaving a wife and family. Now we are thankful Bro. Noah could leave all these earthly struggles behind. He spent some time in the hospital and as he gradually grew worse, death came as an angel of release.

At this Christmas season, may these gifts be yours.

The Gladness of Hope.  
The Spirit of Peace.  
The Warmth of Love.

#### JAPAN, SHIODA Sheila Moser

On October 10, the believers and families from the Japanese churches gathered together for our Fall Shuyokai (fellowship meeting). The theme of this year's meeting was "Fellowship of Believers". It was a blessed day and we all could rejoice and give thanks for the gift of fellowship we were enjoying.

This fall we have experienced a time of special fellowship as we were blessed with many visitors from the States. In October we were thankful that Bro. Randy's parents, Bro. Andy and Sis. Frieda Mogler; my mother, Lydia Moser, all of Lester, IA; and Sis. Jan Elsasser (Princeville, IL) were given the opportunity to visit us here. Sis. Kathy Jo's sister and cousins, Sisters Sharlene Kieser, Mary Ann Kieser (Bradford) and Cheryl Herrmann (Princeville, IL) came to be with us the first part of November.

We are thankful that they all could come and share our lives here for a short time. We hope that they returned home feeling as many blessings as they left here. We also want to thank them for all they did while they were here.

On October 21, we grieved with Sis. Harako Saigusa and her family over the passing of her father-in-law from this life. Saigusa, Ojii-san was a very special man to many of those who knew him. We want to extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Harako and her family.

#### JAPAN, TOKYO

##### Marie Inoue — Yoshio Yamazaki

This past month we journeyed to Calvary through holy communion services to remember what Christ did for us. It was a special time to reflect on our own life and examine ourselves in the light of God's Word. It causes us to be more thankful every day of the price He paid for our sins. Bro. Willis Ehnlé assisted our local elder in this service, and we deeply appreciated his presence.

Our guests from Lester, IA and Peoria, IL were a special blessing to brethren and friends. They were Bro. Andy and Sis. Frieda Mogler, Lydia Moser and Sis. Jan Elsasser. It was a blessing to learn to know the parents of those who serve here, and we appreciated their visit so much.

As we approach the holiday season, may we draw nearer to our Saviour who is not far from each of us. Acts 17:27.

#### KANSAS, BERN Linda Esslinger

Our visiting minister was Bro. James Ramseyer who was greatly appreciated.

The family of Sis. Tillie Stoller wishes to thank those who sent words of comfort during their bereavement. May God bless each of you.

#### THE JOY OF GIVING

Somehow, not only for Christmas  
But all the long year through,  
The joy that you give to others  
Is the joy that comes back to you;  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to make you glad.

John Greenleaf Whittier

#### KANSAS, GRIDLEY Vola Young — Doris Bahr

"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.

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:16, 17

We know that as Christians, the joy of Christmas is not limited to His birth. It goes further . . . His suffering and

death for our sake, and the triumph of His glorious resurrection. We realize that God gave us everything, when He gave His Son!

"Thank be unto God for His unspeakable Gift." I Corinthians 9:15.

"O death, where is thy sting?" I Corinthians 15:55.

We are thankful that Jesus is our victory over death, comforts our heart and fills us with hope.

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Corinthians 5:1

Two loved ones from our community have died. They will long be remembered and missed by family and friends.

Sis. Lydia Schneider Young, 88, died October 22. She was the daughter of Bro. Theophilus and Sis. Anna Winzler Schneider. She married Andrew F. Young in 1919 and to this union ten children were born. Shortly after marriage both repented and surrendered their lives to Christ. Surviving are children: Bro. Ephraim, Glen, Andrew, Jr., Harvey and Howard Young; Sis. Anna Marie Warner, Laura Young, Gladys Botham and Doris Norman; thirty-three grandchildren; forty-six great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; her sister, Katherine Knapp; and many nieces and nephews.

Bro. Louis R. Somerhalder, 59, died November 5 at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Aged (Sabetha, KS), where he had been a resident since November, 1962. He enjoyed wonderful care in the home and made many friends. For several years he was able to perform various duties at the home which brought him satisfaction and enjoyment.

He was born on a farm near Gridley June 13, 1926, the son of Bro. John and Sis. Lydia Freidinger Somerhalder. He lived with his parents and farmed with his father until his father died.

Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Merle (Elizabeth) Son, and Mrs. Arthur (Velma) Sullivan; and a brother, Bro. Joseph Somerhalder; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker (Lamont) and Bro. Raymond Roth (Kiowa). Bro. John Lehman (Bern) ministered at Bro. Louis Somerhalder's funeral. Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont) assisted with Sis. Lydia Young's funeral.

**KANSAS, KIOWA****Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr**

How wonderful it is to experience the love of Jesus in meeting and greeting others of the same faith. Even though we have not met before, we can feel that special bond that can only come from Jesus. This was the special feeling we experienced the weekend of October 26, when the Morton choir came to visit and to share the joy of song. It was a wonderful weekend that we will long remember and cherish. We would like to thank the choir for making the long trip to Kiowa and for sharing in Christian fellowship.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Rachel Kraft in the loss of her sister, Leah Kinsinger.

Sis. Helen Farney and Sis. Mildred Frieden are both home from the hospital and doing well.

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**KANSAS, LAMONT**  
**Jill K. Luthi**

"His name shall be called Emmanuel  
 . . . God is with us."

Matthew 1:23

"The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

"There's a song in the air!

There's a star in the sky!

There's a mother's deep prayer,

And a baby's low cry!

And the star rains its fire

While the beautiful sing,

For the manger of Bethlehem

Cradles the King."

I would like to share a true story concerning Christmas with all of you.

A few years ago a striking Christmas card was published with the title, "If Christmas Had Not Come". It was founded upon our Saviour's words, "If I had not come." The card represented a clergyman falling into a short sleep in his study on Christmas morning and dreaming of a world into which Jesus had never come.

In his dream he found himself looking through his home but there were no little stockings in the chimney corner, no Christmas bells or wreaths of holly, and no Christ to comfort, gladden and save. He walked out on the public street, but there was no church with its spire pointing to heaven. He came back and sat in his library, but every book about the Saviour had disappeared.

A ring at the doorbell, and a messenger asked him to visit a poor dying

mother. He hastened with the weeping child and as he reached the home he sat down and said, "I have something here that will comfort you." He opened his Bible and looked for a familiar promise, but it ended at Malachi, and there was no gospel and no promise of hope and salvation, and he could only bow his head and weep with her in bitter despair.

Two days afterward he stood beside her coffin and conducted the funeral service, but there was no message of consolation, no word of glorious resurrection, no open heaven, but only "dust to dust, ashes to ashes", and one long eternal farewell. He realized at length that "He had not come", and burst into tears and bitter weeping in his sorrowful dream.

Suddenly he woke with a start, and a great shout of joy and praise burst from his lips as he heard his choir singing in his church close by:

"O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

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

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

Let us be glad and rejoice today, because "He has come." And let us remember the annunciation of the angel, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10, 11.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24. We had heard the engagement of Sis. Patricia Traywick and Bro. Steve Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy), and on December 8 they were joined together as husband and wife before a cloud of witnesses. Now, and in the years to come, may God grant them the sufficient grace and blessings as He sees fit. A reception was held afterwards at Madison High School.

There were few precious hours for us to be exhorted by Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) November 17, but may their words remain with us. Let us always remember our elders and support them. Just think, if we (as sheep) did not have them (as shepherds) to lead us, this world could lead us astray. Let me conclude with a

deep and everlasting imprint upon every heart. In Hebrews 13:17 it reads as follows: "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." In verse 7, it states of the same matter for our ministers: "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

Let us begin the new year of 1986 as obedient brethren, standing united in this precious faith, given to us and handed down from generation to generation. We are living in the last and perilous times - wars, rumors of wars, unrest, earthquakes, famines and pestilence. We cannot lose anyone who has found that precious pearl. May the Lord touch many souls while there is yet time!

I apologize for being lengthy, but I felt moved by the Spirit to reveal the thoughts which laid heavy upon my heart.

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**KANSAS, MANHATTAN**

**Heidi Baumgartner — Kim Meyer**

Greetings from Kansas State University. We want to thank Elder Bro. Ron Nelson and his wife, Sis. Shirley, for coming to Manhattan to preach and proclaim God's Word. We also appreciated seeing the senior Bible class from Bern and their teachers.

We were then privileged to gather together in the apartment of Marla Schrader, Angela Plattner and Chris Strahm for a singing.

Lamont provided us with ministers Wednesday, November 6 in the campus chapel. We could again be refreshed with the Word of God in our most precious faith. Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Bro. Bill Emch spoke the words of faith.

Another special blessing was to have Bro. James Ramsier (Bay City, MI) in our area the week of November 13. He spoke on the coming of the end times and we were reminded to "keep our house in order".

We are always glad for visitors so please feel welcome to join us for our Wednesday evening services. May we all have a blessed holiday season and remember the true spirit of Christmas

**KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter**

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11. What a thrilling message the angel brought to the shepherds and what a word of hope and gladness it still is to us today!

When we think of that message, the simple words it contained, and how it was brought, a gleaming river of comfort flows through our soul. First, it was so heavenly a message that a shining, celestial being brought it to man. What were the angel's first words? Fear not. He wasn't coming with doom, condemnation or dread. We need not fear the Saviour or His coming to our hearts today. The angel was bringing "good tidings of great joy". When the Saviour comes and indwells a heart, it is always good news. When we feel Jesus' presence within us, even in hard trials, can we not say there is great joy. Then the message was sent from God to all men. Not just the wealthy, the successful, the beautiful and talented, but to all men.

In the second verse quoted, the angel said, "For unto you is born this day . . .". It was a gift to us — to the peoples of the earth. How sad when men refuse this unsurpassable gift. And what was the gift? A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Bless the God of heaven for sending us His Son, the Saviour. How badly we need to be saved from our sin and the condemnation it brings. What a cleansing He can give from fear, envy, self-centeredness, hate, pride, lust and the many vices that plague our soul. Let us take the time to thank God again and again for His gift as we remember it in this season.

We share in the joy of first-time parents, David and Shari Eisenbise, with the arrival of Maggi. LaVon and Erma Wenger are the happy grandparents and Bro. Lou and Sis. Tillie Wenger and Bro. Amos and Sis. Lena Strahm (Bern, KS) the great-grandparents. Also receiving a priceless gift from heaven were Doug and Sue Plattner. Little Asha Jo's grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Loree Plattner and Clayton and Miriam Strahm (Bern, KS).

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm and their

family in the death of Sis. Lois' father, Fred Strahm, October 27. Having lived most of his life in Wisconsin, Fred returned to Kansas and resided at our church nursing home the last few years of his life. We will miss his smiling face among the home's residents.

The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness. Psalm 41:3. We trust God will be near those in our congregation who have been afflicted with ill health. Hospitalized were Bro. Joe Steiner (Sis. Clara), Sis. Marie Kellenberger and Bro. Joe Aberle (Sis. Mary).

We were glad to hear the engagement announced of Bro. Stan Wulf of Morris, MN (Bro. Wilhelm and Sis. Leona, Lester, IA) to Sis. Pam Edelman (Denver, CO), formerly of Sabetha (Cliff and Sis. Barbara). A January 19 wedding is planned at our Sabeth church. May God bless and ever be with them in life.

Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) visited our congregation recently. We thank them for having willing hearts to speak among us.

**KANSAS, WICHITA**

**Laurie Gallatin**

October 20, visiting elders were Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS), Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO), Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL). Also, on November 10, Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS) was a visiting minister.

On November 2 and 3, we were delighted to have Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch (Princeville, IL) with us. Bro. Nick showed his slides of Ethiopia and told us of the great work the Lord is doing. We truly have so much to be thankful for. It is really humbling to see how deprived and how much suffering those people experience when we live so comfortably and abundantly. May the Lord continue to bless Bro. Nick in his efforts.

Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Ruthie Long brought a beautiful new baby girl home recently. Stephanie Lynn was born October 30. She is welcomed by older brother, Matthew, and sister, Candace. Grandparents are Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian Bowers.

The Christmas season is here again and what a special time it is as we worship the Lord for the gift of His Son to be the Savior of the world. We have

heard or read this glorious story so many times; yet it never becomes old or boring. It must have been such an exciting experience for those involved.

Just think of the shepherds in their nightly routine of caring for their sheep and all of a sudden seeing the glory of God and His angel telling them of the newborn Savior. And then the whole sky was filled with the multitude of angels in chorus praising God with the highest glory. What a special privilege the shepherds had then to go and see the newborn King in the serene setting of the birthplace.

Then they couldn't contain their joy and excitement of God's gift, so they went out and told others of this wonderful happening. They knew they had been part of a very special event and they glorified and praised God for His goodness to them.

Are we like the shepherds in our excitement at finding the Lord Jesus? Do we eagerly tell others of our wonderful experience in knowing Him personally? Let us truly glorify and praise God this Christmas for the goodness He has shown to us, and may that spirit of praise be evident to others.

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**

**Lester Huber**

With the Christmas season approaching, may we lift our hearts in praise and gratitude to our heavenly Father for sending us the most precious gift this world has ever known, the virgin birth of His Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour and our Blessed Redeemer. Let us remember to keep Christ in Christmas and in our hearts each and every day.

In a much deeper way we were privileged to commemorate His death, His broken body and blood which was shed at Calvary in a communion service with Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Dave Kieser sharing with us.

**MICHIGAN, ALTO**

**Liz Blough**

His name was called Jesus . . . Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:14

**A HOLIDAY PRAYER**

This Holiday, I ask You God,  
For all the aid we need —

That we might practice safety first  
In every thought and deed —

To cherish and protect us all  
And give us help to know  
The safest way to have our fun  
Wherever we may go.

Bestow Your blessing on us all.  
And keep us in Your care,  
And let our holidays each year  
Become another Prayer.

October 27 was the wedding date of Lauri Huber (Bluffton, IN) and Terry Steffen (Alto). We wish them God's blessings.

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine, For Thou hast created and purchased me, too, Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new." Zion's Harp #207. Laurie Pardo has given her testimony and been baptized into the death of Christ. We are pleased to have her as our new sister-in-faith. Laurie's parents are Bro. Tom Schrenk and Sis. Joanne. We are pleased to have Laurie and her husband, Jack, worshipping with us.

Bro. Tom Schrenk and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore were with us the weekend of November 16 and 17 for Laurie's baptism and the reading of the memorandum. Other visiting ministers have been Bros. Ron Palito (Akron, OH) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). Many times we take for granted the sacrifices the ministering brothers in our precious faith must make in order to travel far and near to be used as instruments in God's service. Even though we pray that the Lord will bless them for their labors, we also need to let them feel our appreciation for their efforts.

We also welcome a new family to our area. Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger and their family. Bro. Randy is a doctor and his work has brought him to the Michigan area. We hope everyone will give them a warm welcome to Alto.

"A baby is a bit of heaven — blown from the hand of God." We have two new little babies in our congregation. Ed and Joy Zaagman welcome little Ronald. He is welcomed home by his big brothers and sisters, Karen, Gary, Stephen and Lisa. We, Bro. Maru and myself, Sis. Liz Blough, also have a new little one. Cynthia Anne has two older brothers at home, Christopher and Ernie. My apologies for no article last

month — now you know the rest of the story!

### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Pam Schlatter

Just as a flock of sheep requires aid from the shepherd, so this month our congregation received the services of faithful shepherds. On November 3 Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) was with us to share in holy communion. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) spent the weekend of November 16 and 17 in Bay City and aided in the reading of the memorandum. We were encouraged by their messages, as well as their faithful shepherding.

It is often in the absence of a brother or sister that we more fully realize the talents they contribute to the body. Absent due to hospitalization this month have been Bro. Paul Waibel and Bro. Ed Freidinger. Each of them is again able to assemble with us.

Lori Pashak (Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie) and Matt Arbor, along with Wendy Ramseyer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) and Dave Hoag have announced their upcoming marriages. We wish each of the two couples the blessings of the Lord.

### MICHIGAN, DETROIT Bev Bahr

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

St. John 3:16

The weekend of November 2 and 3 was an inspiration special to many. We were privileged to share in the testimonies and baptisms of John and Linda Reardon. Their parents are Bro. George and Sis. Marie Reardon and Bro. Ben and Sis. Lois Belsley. Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) were with us for this blessed occasion. We sincerely trust that Bro. John and Sis. Linda can ever be strengthened by God's grace and guiding hand.

Sis. Lucile Maibach has moved here to a nursing home from Bluffton, IN. Our hearts and prayers go out to her and hope that she can take courage in our Lord's promise to comfort and supply her every need.

Bill Shaw was hospitalized for surgery and is recovering well at home. We trust Bill and Sis. Helen can be en-

couraged by the love and prayers of brethren. Also hospitalized was Jan (Bauer) Kavulich for a few days. May they all feel the nearness of God easing their load and sharing their cares and concerns.

"Behold I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest." Genesis 28:15. Bro. Jay and Sis. Kathy Grimm and their children have returned to Princeville, IL, after spending a few years with us. We sincerely wish them God's guidance and blessings in their new home.

We appreciate Elder Bro. Ed Ringger and his wife coming for a weekend. On Saturday evening he had a Bible study on family relationships and Sunday, after services, he helped with reading our Brotherhood Conference memorandum. The weekend was an inspiration and we are grateful for those who willingly lend of themselves for the Lord.

### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Barbara Olson

We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) with us this month to give us God's inspired Word of truth. May God bless him for his labors and we welcome him back.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Kevin Bragg, son of Kermit and Arletta, and grandson of Sis. Viola Aupperle. Kevin passed away November 2 at the age of 20 years. May God truly comfort and guide his family in the weeks and months ahead.

Our junior and senior Sunday school classes spent a most blessed weekend in Eldgin, IA, November 16 and 17. We wish to thank them for inviting us and for the wonderful fellowship and hospitality shared.

May the following guidelines point the way to a Christ-honoring Christmas.

### GUIDELINES FOR CHRISTMAS

Prepare thy soul for Christmas. Spend not so much on gifts that thy soul is forgotten.

Try not to burden the sales clerk, the mailman and the store owner with complaints and demands.

Give thyself with a gift. He who received it will treasure it always.

Try not to value gifts by their cost. The least expensive may express love,

and that is more precious than silver and gold.

Do not leave "Christ" out of "Christ-mas", making it "X-mas". For many, "X" is an unknown.

Do not let Santa Claus replace Christ. He can rob the day of its spiritual reality.

Remember the needy. Some people might go hungry and cold unless we are generous and share our blessings.

Do not neglect thy church. Its services enlighten the true meaning of the season.

Be as a little child. Until thou hast become in spirit as a little one, thou art not ready to enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Give thy heart to Christ. Let Him be at the top of our Christmas list.

We sincerely have appreciated and thank all the ministering brethren who have come and shared God's Word with us throughout this past year, as well as other visitors who have come. We also thank our own faithful ministering brethren. We extend season's greetings to each of you and may your New Year be full of love for the Lord.

Thought: Selfishness makes Christmas a burden; love makes it a joy.

#### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Hildegard Koehl  
Rhonda Zeltwanger

How truly thankful we should be that we live in this free land, America, and have been exposed to our precious faith. We are a fortunate people.

There is rejoicing here in Morris as we have two dear souls that are seeking the ways of truth and righteousness. Joan Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby) and Angie Schaefer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Eva Jean) have taken the first steps of repentance. We gladly give God thanks for helping these dear ones begin their journey to Zion.

We would like to congratulate Lowell Moser and Karen Thorstad on their recent engagement. Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Moser are the parents. They have set December 28 for their wedding date.

Sharilyn Moser (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Pearl) and Terry Setter recently exchanged their wedding vows. We pray God will direct them as they journey through this life together.

Myra Jean is the new little daughter of Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner. Excited brothers and sisters are Ryan,

Quinn, Joan, Leah and Alex. Myra's grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Gladys Messner and Bro. Fimon and Sis. Mary Wiegand (Goodfield, IL).

Todd and Kim Moser have welcomed Heather Marie, their first born, into their hearts and home. We are thankful that little Heather arrived here safely. Bro. Carl and Sis. Norene Moser and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Gerri Messner are the grandparents. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Kim and Todd as Kim continues her battle against Hodgkins Disease.

Amanda Jo is the new little girl at the home of Mark and Tami Brown. Bro. Vernard and Sis. Barbara Brown are rejoicing over their new grandchild. May God bless these families with all the good things of life.

We were inspired by the messages that our visiting ministers brought to us. Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Ken Lawson (Minneapolis), and Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA) have all brought to us encouraging words of faith. We are grateful to these brothers who travel over the miles to share God's Word.

Bro. Ferd Tohm and Sis. Vi Wulf were our hospital patients. May the Lord provide a speedy recovery for them.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Hazel Moser (Bro. Joe) in the loss of her father, Bro. Noah Anliker (West Bend, IA). May we always place our lives in God's hands and accept what He brings to pass.

The death angel came and took Esther Spohr from us. We will miss Esther as she always had a smile and kind word for all. We extend sympathy to Esther's family.

#### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Wanda Messner  
Mary Lou Schmidt

As Christmastime approaches again, we are reminded of how Christ came so many years ago as a small babe. It is good for us to remember the song, "Alas how many only know the Saviour as a child . . . 'Tis not the manger but the cross, that sets the spirit free." (Hymns of Zion #36).

We know that Lila Schmidt (Sis. Ella Mae and Gene) has come to know Christ as her personal Saviour after hearing her testimony and witnessing her baptism. May we always remember to thank our Almighty God in heaven, who so lovingly sent His only begotten

Son to die on the cross for all mankind. Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) assisted in this holy act. We were also fortunate to have ministering Bros. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) assemble with us for this special occasion. We thank these brothers, the bus-load from the Fairbury congregation and the many other visitors who came, for making the weekend so blessed!

Just as the miracle of birth took place years ago on Christmas Eve; so it is still occurring today! We rejoice with Todd and Kim Moser over the birth of their first baby, a daughter, Heather Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Geri Messner (Winthrop) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Noreen Moser (Morris).

Colleen and Wayne Waugh are also first-time parents. They had a baby girl, Amber Rose. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Rosie Howk (Winthrop).

Todd and Renee Messner are also thankful for a newborn baby in their home. They also had a baby girl, Emily Rose. A brother, Andy, welcomes home his little sister. Grandparents are Sis. Carol Ann Messner and the late Bro. Dennis.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Daigger of the Twin Cities area would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Janet, to Paul Messner (Winthrop). Paul's parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner (Peoria, IL).

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Marti - Janice Stoller

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

The mortal man may quite disown  
And speak in bold derision  
Against my labors and my name;  
Yet blest is my condition.  
The love of God dispels the fear  
And makes my faith in Him more dear.  
Zion's Harp #113, vs. 1, 10

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers in our midst during the past month. They were Bro. Marvin



Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Bro. Steve Martin and Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL). We are so thankful to have brethren that are willing to stand up and proclaim God's Word in its truth and sincerity. May they feel God's help and nearness, and may their efforts be blessed.

Bro. Art Banwart was hospitalized briefly this past month. We are happy to have him in our midst.

As we enjoy this Thanksgiving season, let us remember to count our many blessings, because we truly are a blessed people.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"IN CHRIST WHO WAS BORN  
AT CHRISTMAS ALL MEN  
MAY LIVE AGAIN"

Let us remember

When our faith is running low,  
Christ is more than just a figure  
Wrapped in an ethereal glow —  
For He came and dwelt among us  
And He knows our every need  
And He loves and understands us  
And forgives each sinful deed —  
He was crucified and buried  
And rose again in glory  
And His promise of salvation  
Makes the wondrous Christmas Story  
An abiding reassurance  
That the little Christ Child's birth  
Was the beautiful beginning  
Of God's Plan for PEACE on EARTH.

Little Seth Heimer (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue) was a hospital patient and is home and fully recovered for which we are thankful.

May we always remember —  
"Regardless of the hour;  
Whatever you have to say,  
God has time to listen  
If you have time to pray."

"Take heed that no man deceive you.  
For many shall come in my name,  
saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive  
many."

Matthew 24:4-5

### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschleman

The Union City church building was constructed in 1892. Earlier this year the building was quite extensively repaired and renovated and on Novem-

ber 10, 1985, it was re-dedicated to the glory of God. Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer, Norbert Steiner and Corbin Bahler were present for this occasion and Bro. Eugene Pamer held the afternoon re-dedication service. The Spirit of God could surely be felt among the 150 brethren and friends who attended. We were reminded of the labors and sacrifices that were offered by faithful brethren who served the church over the period of almost 100 years and how God has always provided and will continue to preserve the church and provide for the church at Union City into the future. A brief history of the Union City church taken from the re-dedication pamphlet may be of interest. "In the late 1800's, over 93 years ago, a group of worshippers settled amongst the silk mills of West Hoboken, New Jersey. Their primary occupation was silk weaving and embroidery; skills they had learned in Europe. The silk mills in that area provided them with employment and the land of America provided them with a freedom of worship. Several of the brothers were carpenters and through their generosity and labors, constructed the church in 1892 which has served that area for so many years. In the 20's, West Hoboken became Union City and the church became known as the Union City church."

Other visiting ministers that came to Union City during the past month are Bros. Lee Bahler, Vernon Wettstein, Dewayne Farney, Ed Aeschleman and Walter Anliker. May the exhortation of truth continue to bear fruit.

### NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

God's plan fulfilled as He had willed,  
Then came the Christ on earth  
The star so bright in deepest night  
Foretold His blessed birth.  
The angel's throng with joyous song  
Appeared to shepherds meek  
The angel's word the shepherds heard  
Then went they forth to seek.

The blessed Child so meek and mild  
At Bethlehem they found,  
In manger low where cattle low  
And sheep did gather round.  
In swaddling clothes there to repose  
And lying on the hay  
What glorious sight in that dark night  
Where Christ the Savior lay!

From lands afar led by the star  
The wise men came to see  
The Savior King rich gifts they bring  
For Christ's nativity.  
This story sweet I would repeat  
And praise Him with my voice.  
For he who finds Christ's peace of  
mind  
He cannot but rejoice.

Hymns of Zion #35

As we approach the Christmas season of the year, we rejoice to recall what we have learned of our Savior's coming on this earth. We rejoice that God was willing to sacrifice His Son to come and live as a human and suffer in this life for each of us. As we think of His wonderful birth at this season, let us also think of the sacrifice He made for us and always remember to be thankful for His love for us. Are we worthy of it?

We were privileged to listen to the tapes of the recent Brotherhood Conference on two Sunday evenings and a Wednesday evening. God's love is still shown to us through the words and concerns of our elder brethren. We are thankful for their love and caring for us. May we live every day as we will have wished to live when we are called from this life. Let us pray for help each day to follow God's Word, His direction and the guidance of our loving elder brothers and ministering brothers.

Sis. Martha Schulz was taken suddenly from this life after an illness of only one day. We are glad that she was able to turn her life over to God in repentance and serve Him while upon this earth. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her brother, Bro. Seth; her sister, Ruth Steiner; and their families. Funeral services were held November 14 by Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner and Robert Beyer and Bro. Duane Farney.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky Virkler has been blessed with a bundle from heaven to love and care for. Little Joseph Andrew was born October 31. He will also be loved by grandparents, Sis. Charlotte Virkler and Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart (West Bend, IA). May he bring an added blessing to this new family.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Gerry Grau and Bro. Bernard Martin. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each one who suffers bodily afflictions, especially to those who are not able to assemble with us. We are

glad Bro. Bernard has been able to be back in our midst after surgery.

On Sunday, November 17, Bro. Al Schneider and Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) were our teachers. We want to thank them for their love in serving us and encouraging us upon our pilgrim way.

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### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

A blessed weekend was spent when Bros. Kevin Ryan and Albert Schneider (Rockville, CT) were with us recently. A covered dish dinner was enjoyed in the afternoon.

Sis. Natalie Herzig had the misfortune of falling again and has broken the ankle of the same foot that was injured in a fall a short time ago. Through surgery to set the ankle, she acquired pneumonia. May the Lord be with her and give her strength to bear her trials.

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### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Christmas is a time to commemorate the birth of Jesus, who God named before His birth: "... Thou shalt call his name Jesus..." Matthew 1:21. Jesus was the last and completed a list of seven whose names were recorded before birth. The first six were Ishmael, Isaac, Solomon, Josiah, Cyrus and John the Baptist. The rest of Matthew 1:21 is "... for he shall save his people from their sins." The Greek word for save is the same word also translated as salvation from sin, danger, spiritual conflict, sickness, hell and slavery. How thankful we are for the birth of Jesus who is willing to save us.

Bro. Eric Graf has been one of our Sunday school teachers, but since he has gone back to college, Bro. Gene Henico is taking his Sunday school class.

Bro. Glen Greenbank, one of our Sunday school teachers, treated students who were interested to a tour through the vast computer area of Blue Cross and Blue Shield where Glen has been working for Burroughs.

Sis. Marie Ritzman will have reached her four score years at Christmas this year, for she will be 80 years old December 24.

We appreciated the visit of Bro. Walter Anliker and his wife, Claribel, when he ministered to us.

### OHIO, COLUMBUS Desma Klopfenstein

As we approach another Christmas season, I'm reminded of Christmas Eve two years ago. My father and I spent it in a town hall with eight or so other snowbound travelers.

We were on our way home, but the wind grew so strong and a huge drift blocked the road ahead. We turned into a little town, intending to stay until crews could clear a path. However, as the snowfall got heavier and evening was approaching, we realized that this would be our lodging for the night. It didn't seem fair to be spending this occasion in a strange place with people we didn't know. My attitude slowly changed as the blessings of Christmas unfolded.

It seemed everyone wanted to help the stranded families. One couple brought in cookies and rolls, another family sent a huge kettle of stew and a chef to cook it. The fire department brought bedded cots and a local merchant even opened his store to let couples, with children, choose gifts for their little ones (at no charge).

At one end of the building we discovered an old piano, which we used to accompany our singing of carols. It was a memorable evening. The next day, Christmas, we were able to leave for home about noon, but it was a sad parting. These dear people had given of themselves unselfishly.

The overnight delay gave me time to think about that night in Bethlehem when Mary and Joseph finally found a place to rest. It wasn't very elegant, but it was the holy spot in which our Lord was born. Jesus' birth marked the beginning of God's plan to redeem mankind, eternally. What a precious, priceless gift salvation is. And it's for anyone who is willing not just to give "of themselves" but give "themselves" completely for the Lord's purposes. With this hope, we need nothing else to make our every Christmas bright — no matter where we spend it.

We're thankful to the Lord for His continuous goodness in bringing another family to our congregation. A sincere welcome goes to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat Fischer (Roanoke, IL). They will be making their home near Columbus and we are so delighted to have them in our midst.

Our love and appreciation is extended to Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Andy Stoller (Smith-

ville), who ministered unto us this month. They brought loved ones from their congregations to worship with us, and we're grateful for their efforts.

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### OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Elder Bros. Ed Frank and Loren Stoller spent Saturday evening, November 16, with us and read us the conclusion of the conference recently held in Morton. We were reminded that when God gave us the Holy Spirit in our heart, He sent a part of Himself to be a part of us. We all left the meeting with a resolve to try harder to heed His guiding and not to grieve Him.

Bro. Ken Sauder was also in Junction this month and brought us God's Word.

Brian Bauman and Peg Manz exchanged vows of faithfulness to each other before God and man Saturday, October 26. As they establish a home in Rittman, we wish God's blessings upon their home and their union. Parents are Richard and Gladys Bauman and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz.

Two special blessings were received in Junction this month: Mary Victoria, born to Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz, Randy and Patricia. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. JoAnn Varga (Detroit) and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz. Brian Joshua Schlatter was born to Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila. Corbin, Doug and Kyle also welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner (Rittman). What joy and what responsibility these little lives are. No doubt, first in priority for both sets of parents are that someday these souls would reach heaven. And, of course, even the wealthiest parents can't buy this for their children. Heaven is a gift from God and we join these parents in prayer that he would give this to all our children.

Following an appendectomy and some complications following surgery, Rob Polter is home from the hospital and on the road to recovery. How thankful we are that God has answered our prayers on his behalf.

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### OHIO, LATTY Marlene Reinhard — Patty Gerber

Has anyone ever asked you what the favorite Christmas gift you've ever received was? Did you really think about it? We all should have the same answer. The most precious and valuable Christ-

mas gift ever given was given at the very first Christmas: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God, the Father, with His perfect love, gave us an opportunity for salvation, through His Son. Jesus Christ gave of Himself, shedding His blood and overcoming death that we might have eternal life. It was a costly price to be paid for a gift freely given to us.

New births always cause us to rejoice. Doug and Joyce Laukhuf, along with Amy and Trent, welcomed Scott Ray September 22. Grandparents Eli and Lola Laukhuf are also very happy to have another grandchild. First-time parents, Bro. Byron and Sis. Jody Dunham are excited to welcome Joel Westin. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Laura Dunham and maternal grandparents are Robert and Sis. Janet Williamson. Also experiencing the joy of being new parents are Larry and Mary Beth McCoy. Jaminson Scott will give grandparents Bro. Tom and Sis. Delores Grant many happy moments.

It is good to know that distance cannot separate brethren of like mind, for we shall always share the Holy Spirit and God's love. What we share as brethren will remain precious and cannot be destroyed or limited by things of this life. Two families from Latty recently relocated in other areas. Our prayers are with Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler and their children, Jeremy, Rachel and Marla, as they make Elgin their new church. Also settling in a new area, Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy Williamson will be assembling with the Philadelphia congregation. We trust both of these families will take refuge in the brethren of their own faith.

Hospitalized or injured recently were Kathryn Yoh (Charles), Bro. Ken Laukhuf (Sis. Marge) and Rustin Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth).

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Joe and Sis. Elsie Schlatter and their family in the death of their son-in-law, Bro. Tom Heyerly (Sis. Carolyn, Bluffton, IN).

Sis. Anna Rager recently went to her eternal home. Our prayers go out to her surviving brothers and sisters: Bro. Carol (Sis. Louise), Bro. Roy (Sis. June), Bro. Eli, Bro. Bill (Sis. Elsie), Sis. Caroline Zeltwanger (Bro. Fred), Sis. Freida Reklau (Bro. Walter, Toledo), Sis. Lillian Schlatter, Sis. Marie Steffen (Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Elsie Schlatter (Bro. Joe, Sr.). May they look

to that hope of meeting in heaven some day.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers. Our thanks are extended to Bros. John Isch (Indianapolis, IN), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Lester Huber (Lexington, KY).

December is the month for Latty to renew their Silver Lining subscriptions. Please see your reporters.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

As we anticipate the Christmas season, many old familiar hymns come to mind. "Peace, peace, wonderful peace, Coming down from the Father above; Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray, With fathomless billows of love." How much peace is the world experiencing; how much peace are you experiencing? "There are two kinds: one passive and one active. Passive peace suggests highly unrealistic no-stress, no-conflict, no-strain living. It is best achieved in isolation from the real world. Active peace is a by-product that comes from exhausting one's self on a worthwhile mission or endeavor, the outcome of which may not be known immediately, if ever. Active peace is the spiritual peace God gives to those who engage themselves in the welfare of others. You and I will find peace this Christmas in direct proportion to the degree we spend ourselves. It will come not from withdrawal, but from involvement; not from receiving, but from giving; not from wrapping presents, but wrapping people — in our love through Christ." Fred Bauer, *Guideposts*, 1985.

Marie Beer, a resident of the Rittman Nursing Home, but formerly of Mansfield, died Wednesday, November 6 and was buried in Mansfield Saturday, November 9. She had been a lifetime resident of our church area. Our sympathies are extended to her daughters, Clara (California) and JoAnn (Columbus area); also her brother, Carlton Fernyak and Francis McBride (Mansfield area); and her sister, Sis. Katherine Stevens (Toledo).

Hospital patients needing our prayerful support have been Mildred Dolce, Sis. Dora (Bro. Ora) Sauder; Sis. Ruth (Carl) Weiss. May God's grace strengthen and encourage them according to His will.

"One night as my husband tucked out little girl into bed, I heard him say,

"Do you love me?" "Oh, yes, Daddy, you know I love you," Ann replied. "I know," he said, "but I like you to tell me just the same." In the next room, I suddenly wondered if our heavenly Father longed to hear the words, too. The first question Jesus, after His resurrection, had asked Peter by the Sea of Galilee was, "Do you love me?". Jesus wanted to know. Have we told our heavenly Father we loved Him lately by word, thought and deed?

A new address to report is for Sisters Hermine and Francelia Beer at 66 North Home Road, Mansfield, OH 44906. What assurance to know "God is with us and will keep us in all places."

### OHIO, RITTMAN

Judy Stoller

"But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21

"Let Christmas be a bright and happy day; but let its brightness come from the radiance of the star of Bethlehem, and its happiness be found in Christ."

H. G. Den

We always rejoice when a soul realizes that Jesus did come to save His people from their sins and then turns to Him in repentance. Heinz Zeirau has made a beginning in his walk with our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It saddens us to lose a precious soul who has been a light to us. When one can live many years upon this earth enduring the hardships and trials that come and remain true to the very end, they do indeed "deserve our commendation" as we sing in the Zion's Harp #172. Our beloved Sis. Margaret Bauman endured the hardships of this life for many years and now is home safe at last in the arms of Jesus. May God comfort her family with the many precious memories she will leave behind.

In Hewbrews 13:4 we are told that "marriage" is honourable in all". On October 26, Brian Bauman (Richard and Gladys) and Peggy Manz (Bro. Eli

and Sis. Evelyn Manz, Junction, OH) were united in holy matrimony. On November 1 Heinz Zierau and Tonya Zollinger (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda) joined hands to walk life's pathway together. May God be with these two couples as they walk through life together.

God's Word tells us in Matthew 18:2, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." When we think about this, a baby asks for very little – only the very necessities of life. When these are supplied it returns love and affection for these favors. Bro. Steve and Sis. Jenee Rufener were blest with the birth of twins, Lynn Marie and Lisa Ann. Grandparents are Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

Bro. John II and Sis. Jody Calame were blest with their first daughter, Jami Elaine. Her brothers, John III, Joshua and Jeremy welcome her into the family. Also glad for a granddaughter are John and Sis. Margaret Calame.

Bro. David and Sis. Linda Hartzler welcomed another son into their home. Rodney and Kesia will be glad for their new little brother, Ivan Eugene. Ivan's grandparents are Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marian Hartzler and Bro. W. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Bachman.

Even the psalmist of old was often afflicted and cried unto God, "Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak; O Lord, heal me; for my bones are vexed." Psalm 6:2. Often we, too, must experience afflictions in this life. Those hospitalized this month were Dean Stoller (Bro. Joseph and Sis. Miriam Stoller), Sis. Marie Winkler, Bro. Elmer Zollinger (Sis. Clara) and Sis. Violet Baltic (Bro. Mitchel). May God comfort and provide for each one.

Brothers in the ministry who visited us were Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL). May they find that God is with them as He was with Ezekiel when He told him, "When I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth," Ezekiel 3:27. So may God open their mouths to proclaim His Word.

#### OHIO, SARDIS

**Paula Figel**

As the holiday season draws near, we wish each of our readers a blessed Christmas. The Sunday school programs, the family gatherings, the bountiful meals and the giving of good gifts

are a few of the blessings we can enjoy. The greatest blessing is God's gift to us – Jesus, who was born of a virgin, to become our Saviour and Redeemer.

We're sorry to report at this time that Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary) has been hospitalized with back problems. Let us pray for her quick recovery.

#### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Verla Stoller**

Once again, the year is drawing to a close, and the Christmas season is upon us. Let us let the true Christmas spirit fill our hearts and minds as we think of God giving His most precious gift, His only begotten Son, as a babe in a manger. But let us also remember, "... 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, That sets the spirit free." "The Babe of Bethlehem", Hymns of Zion #36.

Those hospitalized this past month due to surgery or illness were Caleb Balas (son of Mike and Connie) and Bro. Herbert and Sis. Bernice Bauman. All are home from the hospital, but Bro. Herb and Sis. Bernice are still confined at home at this time.

We want to thank our visiting minister, Bro. Don Manz (Junction). May God richly bless him for his labors of love.

#### OHIO, TOLEDO

**Frances Laidig  
Josephine Rehkla**

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

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

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Christmas is such a precious time of the year. We are frequently so busy preparing for it that sometimes we hardly remember to be thankful for the real meaning of this special day and, to think, that if Christ had not been born we wouldn't even have Christmas. Looking forward to it brings joy and blessings, especially so, if we keep a place in our hearts for Him and remind ourselves of why we really have Christmas. We wish all of you everywhere the true blessings of Christmas.

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Freda Rehkla (Bro. Walter) on the loss of her sister, Sis. Anna Rager (Latty). We also sympathize with Sis. Katherine Stevens on the passing away of her sister, Marie Beer (Mansfield). In these times, we realize how much we need the comfort and strength of the Lord.

Sis. Katherine Stevens is in the hospital. She has had a knee replacement. We wish her a good recovery and a more comfortable way of life.

Those of us who went to the World Relief meeting at Milford, IN, wish to thank them for their kind hospitality. It was a very interesting and pleasant gathering. It was heart-warming to hear of the generosity of our loved ones who are so willing to give and to help those who are less fortunate. Much time and effort is put forth to see that the projects are properly handled and that aid goes to where it is most needed. To all who work so diligently, we give thanks. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen extended a kind invitation for all to attend next year's meeting at Alto, MI.

#### OREGON, PORTLAND

**Barbara Moser**

God sent the little Christ Child  
So man might understand  
"That a little child shall lead them"  
To that unknown "Promised Land"  
For God in His great wisdom  
Knew that men would rise to power  
And forget His Holy Precepts  
In their great triumphal hour . . .  
He knew that they would question  
And doubt the Holy Birth  
And turn their time and talents  
To the pleasures of this earth . . .  
But every new discovery  
Is an open avenue  
To more and greater mysteries,  
And man's search is never through . . .  
For man can never fathom  
The mysteries of the Lord  
Or understand His promise  
Of a heavenly reward . . .  
For no one but a Little Child  
Can lead man's straying footsteps  
To Higher Realms Above!

Helen Steiner Rice

We have had loved ones who had surgery in the past couple of months. They are David Rumbold and Sis. Connie Steffen. They are both able to assemble with us again and we thank

our Lord for the mercies of restoring them to reasonable health.

We will miss Bro. Paul and Sis. Ann Rumbold as they have left to go to Arizona for the winter months. Our thoughts and prayers will be with them in the coming months and we also pray for their safe return in the spring time.

Our small Sunday school class will be able to go to Silverton to participate in their Christmas program this year and we are all looking forward to that. May God bless all the children who will be able to be in a Christmas program across the land.

### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

We welcome Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy Williamson, who have moved from Latty, OH, to Lancaster, PA. Bro. Jason has accepted employment with a seed company near Lancaster. How we enjoy having them with us.

Single groups from Rockville, CT; Rittman/Smithville/Akron, OH; and Union City, NJ, spent a weekend with us late in October. We always look forward to this annual event and are blessed by their visit.

We've also been fortunate to have support from other visitors, including the following ministers: Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY), Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT). We express our sincere appreciation to these brothers, their families and those who traveled with them.

Several months ago we published a short article in the Silver Lining which described job opportunities in the construction industry in the Philadelphia area. Two families responded to this article, and are now assembling with us. We are extremely grateful that these men and their wives and children are now with us, and we thank the Silver Lining for helping to bring them to us.

We would now like to inform our readers about another type of opportunity. A large rehabilitation center has more than 25 job openings and is looking for persons with degrees in social work, psychology or education. Anyone who might have an interest in one of these jobs should write to me at 8 Winding Lane, Penny Hill, Wilmington, DE 19809, or call me at (302) 764-0297. We are delighted that the Philadelphia church is growing, but we are

still in need of additional members and friends who would be able to help strengthen our little flock.

### WEST VIRGINIA, NEW MARTINSVILLE Minnie Weltz

Virgil Hassig, 79, of Limestone Ridge, passed away November 3 in the local hospital after a brief illness. He was a retired employee of P.P.G., a retired farmer and business man. Surviving are his wife, one son, three daughters, two sisters and eleven grandchildren.

Frank Barth, who has been a patient in the Health Care Center here since early June, does not show much improvement. He is a wheelchair patient, as a stroke left him with brain damage.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams and daughter, Norma (Akron, OH) and their son, Carl and wife (Bradenton, FL) visited here recently and enjoyed the beauty of the hills and many relatives.

Mrs. Elda Ritz and Mrs. Lillie Wade visited recently with their sister and family, the R. D. Williams, in Akron, OH.

A car load of folks from the home in Rittman, OH, visited here for a day a few weeks ago. Mrs. Zollinger, Mrs. Hubacher, Mrs. Stoller, the nurse at the home and Fred Widmer enjoyed the day with relatives, shopping and the beauty of the fall colored leaves which were bountiful at that time.

Howard Riggerbach and daughter, Bonnie, visited with relatives in Alfred, NY recently.

Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock spent the Thanksgiving holiday with their son and family in Bixbee, OK.

Mrs. Raymond Barth is slowly recovering from an operation giving her a new elbow. She has had both hips replaced, both knees, both feet cared for and both hands. She has been a victim of arthritis for many years.

We have been having much rain but were more blessed than so many areas. We are many miles from some of the places which were damaged so badly and many lost lives.

Happy Holidays to all.



## SILVER THREADS

### GOD'S SIMPLE PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Why did Jesus come down to earth to dwell among men?

*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save His people from their sins.*

St. Matthew 1:21

2. Who is a sinner?

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Isaiah 53:6

3. What is the penalty of continuing to live a sinful life?

*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

Psalms 9:17

4. What is the remedy?

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

John 3:3

5. What did God do for you and me?

*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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.*

St. John 3:16, 17

6. What do we need to do to get right with God?

*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Acts 2:37, 38

## 7. What is repentance?

*The act of turning with deep sorrow from a wrong course (penitence denotes sorrow for a wasted life and a sincere desire to reform) — Funk/Wagnalls Dictionary*

## 8. How can we repent and be born again?

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For through Him (Jesus) we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.*

Ephesians 2:8, 9,13, 18

## 9. What is grace?

*It is help from God (to do what we cannot do ourselves) to regenerate and sanctify us to God. — Funk/Wagnalls Dictionary*

## 10. What do we need to put off and what do we need to put on?

*If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Ephesians 4:21-32

## 11. What is God's reward to man for a new life of obedience, love and perseverance?

*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

Revelation 21:3, 4, 7

## 12. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?

*How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?*

Hebrews 2:3

*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Revelation 21:8

Tomorrow is when idlers work, fools reform, and mortal men lay hold on heaven. But alas for them, tomorrow never comes?

Haste today to be wise! Tomorrow's sun may on thee never rise. READ, BELIEVE, AND OBEY THE BIBLE.

There's a beautiful legend that's never been told —

It may have been known to the Wise Men of old —

How three little children came early at dawn,

With hearts that were sad to where Jesus was born.

One could not see, one was too lame to play;

While the other, a mute not a word could he say.

Yet led by His Star, they came there to peep

At the little Lord Jesus with eyes closed in sleep.

But how could the Christ Child, so lovely and fair,

Not waken and smile when He heard their glad prayer,

Of hope at His coming, of faith in his birth,  
Of praise at His bringing God's peace to the earth?

And, then, as the light softly came through the door,  
The lad that was lame stood upright once more,  
The boy that was mute started sweetly to sing —  
While the child that was blind looked with joy on the King!

**Sermon . . .**

(Continued from Page 32)

"Master, rebuke thy disciples. And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." Luke 19:39, 40.

Jesus was at the edge of Jerusalem, coming into the city in the morning of the first day of the week. The people worshipped on Saturday, the Sabbath day. There was no traveling, no work, no hustle, no bustle. Everything was quiet.

"And when he was come near (to Jerusalem), he beheld the city, and wept over it." Luke 19:41. He told them that the time would come when the city would be torn down; not one stone would be left upon another.

He said, "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace!" Luke 19:42. He was speaking specifically and directly to those Jewish people. "If only you would comprehend the things that are for your soul's salvation, for your good, but which are hid from your eyes because of our unbelief," He was telling them. The opportunity of salvation had now come to the Jewish people, and they rejected it. They refused to have any part of it or hear of it.

The Lord continued, "For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation." Luke 19:43, 44.

What does that mean? ". . . thou knewest not the time of thy visitation?" They simply did not recognize that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and that He had come to pay the supreme price for salvation.

Let's consider that in our modern day. If the Lord and Saviour came into this room, He could speak in those same words, and they would be valid. Any soul who has not yet made a covenant, who has not accepted the privilege of salvation, the benefit of His supreme offering (the giving of His life and the shedding of His blood), has not yet recognized the time of His visitation.

The days which Jesus spoke about have come to pass. He had said that when these things began to happen, they should get out of the city, go into the mountains. He told them not to go into their houses to get their coats, or anything, but to run for their lives. You can read it in the other gospels.

The prophecy was fulfilled in the year 70 A.D. A Roman general named Sestus went to Jerusalem with his legions of soldiers. They circled the city and they were about ready to strike it. In fact, they tested it on one corner, made several approaches, and then backed away. Their camp was quiet for a few days. Finally, they packed up and left.

Josephus the historian tells us that the Christians, those people who had walked with the Lord and who knew what Jesus had said, left the city immediately. They went out into the Judean hills and into the mountains of the area surrounding Jerusalem. I can well imagine that there were many scoffers who said, "They've gone. What are you so excited about?"

Then General Titus came with a different army of legions and encircled the city, and the siege began. It didn't let up until Jerusalem was leveled and burnt. The gold in the temple ran down into the crevices between the stones. The soldiers even pried the stones apart to retrieve the gold and precious metals.

The Jewish people suffered famine, and they suffered starvation. Some even ate their own children. This is historical . . . it's in the records.

"And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; Saying unto them, It is written, My house is a house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves." Luke 19:45, 46.

Can you imagine coming into this church on this Lord's day morning and seeing money changers and people selling doves and other things in the foyer?

The Jewish people had come from great distances, and did not wish to carry their sacrificial offerings with them. They went to the temple where, so conveniently, they could buy a sacrifice and go on in and make their offering.

"And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him." Luke 19:47, 48. Each day Jesus went out of the city to the little village of Bethany, and abode there over night. On the next day, He came back into the city and taught.

Earlier, when He was with Zacchaeus, He also taught the people who were around Him. He told them, "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants . . ." Luke 19:12, 13. This would be a normal procedure. We would do likewise.

He gave the servants instructions and the material things that they should care for while he was gone. He called his ten servants, and he gave them pounds (money). To one he gave ten, and perhaps to some of the others, five, and one, whatever it was. Then he said, "Occupy till I come." Luke 19:13.

Here is the analogy. We have been given "pounds". Our Lord has gone into a far country to receive a kingdom, and He is going to return with that kingdom. When He comes back, He is going to approach each one of us individually as His servant and say, "What have you done with what I have given to you?"

There are all kinds of definitions or substitutions for this "pound". A pound in that day was a portion of money. It was something valuable. When we study the gospels, we find that the most valuable thing on earth is salvation, the precious pearl. It is peace that passeth all understanding. Eternal life.

The Lord is giving us opportunity in the day of grace and salvation. He is giving us the benefit of His supreme sacrifice, the shedding of His blood on Calvary. Can there be anything of greater price? Nothing in this world!

We are taught in the Word that one soul . . . think of it, one soul . . . is worth more than this entire world! The soul was created by God in heaven, and

breathed into our bodies. We are stewards and we will give an account.

The nobleman in the parable approached this servant to whom he had given ten pounds, to whom he had said, "Occupy till I come." The servant gave him his ten pounds plus ten more. He had used them well.

The nobleman went down the line until he came to the last one. That servant said, "Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin. (or I didn't use it; I kept it.) For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow." Luke 19:20, 21.

Then the nobleman said, ". . . thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, . . . Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds." Luke 19:22, 23, 24. The pound was taken from the man who had one pound, who had the opportunity and didn't use it, and given to the one who had ten.

"(And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him." Luke 19:25, 26. Does it seem strange to you that as He was going into this Passion Week, His last few days upon earth, that this teaching was given to us? I believe that it has a special significance.

"That unto every one which hath . . ." How many of us this morning, "hath"? The opportunity of grace and salvation is here today. Each one of you has been given the opportunity to go to the foot of the cross, to repent for the sins that burden the heart, and to lay hold on the promise of eternal life.

Here were servants who rejected, and what was said of them? "But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring (them) hither, and slay them before me." Luke 19:27. Think of it!

Would we want to slay anyone who is near and dear unto us? Does this help us to understand why Jesus looked over that city? Why He wept?

He loves each one of you. He loves everyone. The opportunity for grace and salvation is here today. We have no promise of tomorrow.

FEB 02 1962 LK  
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## SERMON BY BRO. MERRIL LAUKHUF OF LATTY, OH

Text: Luke 19

According to what we have read, let us try to visualize the scene. Jerusalem was overflowing with people for it was approaching the time of the Passover Feast. Many Jews still lived in the surrounding countries where they had been taken as captives, but at this particular time of the year, they felt a yearning and a desire to go back to the holy city to worship and to take part in the Passover Feast.

Through Jericho, and then to the city of Bethany, which was close by the foot of the Mount of Olives, came Jesus of Nazareth, His followers and His disciples on their way to Jerusalem.

I imagine that the man whom Jesus had healed of leprosy was there, and the infirm man who had lain beside the pool, unable to get into the waters (when the waters were troubled) so that he might be healed. Also, the woman taken in adultery and many whom the Lord had healed were there among His followers. Also in Jerusalem were the disciples who had walked with and been taught by Jesus Christ, the greatest Teacher who ever walked upon the face of this earth.

Down deep within the hearts of all these followers was the expectancy that Christ would soon set up an earthly kingdom. They did not understand. They were not yet converted. The Lord led them slowly, gently and carefully to help them understand what was taking place. Gradually He conveyed to them the message that He would give His life upon the cross, that He would die.

"When he had thus spoken, he went before, ascending up to Jerusalem," and He told His disciples, "Go ye into the village over against you; in the which . . . ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and . . . if any man ask you, Why do ye loose him? thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him." Luke 19:28, 30, 31.

Let's just think about this. They didn't question Him. They didn't argue with Him about going into the village to untie and bring out a colt which was someone else's property. They were beginning to believe. There was a measure of faith within their hearts.

They did as they were told, and they brought the colt. They put blankets and their garments upon the colt, and the people spread their clothes in the way thinking, "Here is the new King (an earthly King)." They had been under the Roman rule for many years, and were hoping and yearning to be relieved of it.

They placed Jesus upon the colt and "as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen." Luke 19:36, 37.

They thought that the time of their freedom from Rome had come, and they began to praise Jesus and to cry out, "Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest." Luke 19:38.

Other gospels tell us that they cried, "Hosanna, Hosanna!" According to Bible dictionaries, the word hosanna means save me.

The multitude was praising God, and crying out, "Save me, save me!" Think of it! Jesus was riding into Jerusalem to become the Supreme Sacrifice and they were crying out, "Save me, save me!"

We don't fully understand what the cry of "save me" is until the call of God touches our hearts.

We read in the beginning of this chapter about Zacchaeus. When he heard the great commotion of Jesus' arrival in the little village of Jericho, he

wanted so much to see Him. However, he was a short man, small in stature.

What did he do? He ran ahead of the crowd to a sycamore tree. He climbed up into that tree, so that he might get a look at Jesus. Can you imagine the feeling that must have come over Zacchaeus when the Saviour, with His disciples and the crowd, stopped before that tree? Jesus looked up and called Zacchaeus by name. He didn't say, "Man, who are you?" He said, "Zacchaeus!"

The Lord said, "This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:9, 10.

He looked at him and said, "This day is salvation come to this (your) house." Today. Not yesterday. Not tomorrow. We do not have a promise of tomorrow, and I'm sure that this congregation has experienced that in the past few weeks or months.

Zacchaeus came down, and immediately he said, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him four-fold." Luke 19:8.

The last time that Jesus was in Jericho, salvation came to Zacchaeus.

In these few verses we have the steps to salvation. We have faith. We have the call of God. We have man's answer, his submission in humility and meekness. We have confession of faith and confession of sin. He said, "Lord, if I took anything, I will restore it four-fold." Then we have peace that passeth all understanding. "This day is salvation come to this house."

When they heard the great multitude crying, "Hail! Here comes the King! Hosanna! Praise the Lord!" and all the phrases of exclamation and joy, some of the Pharisees said to Jesus,

(Continued on Page 30)