



To everything there is a **season**, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Thou hast set all the borders of the Earth, Thou hast made **summer** and **winter**.

Psalms 74:17

VOLUME 36

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NUMBER 1

Wishing You All A Blessed New Year

My Prayer as a New Year Begins . . .

O Lord, as on the threshold of another year I stand and turn the pages in my book of golden memories, I thank Thee, Lord, for all the lovely things therein I see, for all the sweet forget-me-nots of yesterday.

The scented woodland paths in memory once again I see where buttercups and primroses and violets smile at me; the lichen and the ivy clinging to the garden wall; and the perfume of the roses — I thank Thee, Lord, for all the wondrous things that life has given — for friends, both new and old, whose love has stood the test of years, whose hearts are hearts of gold.

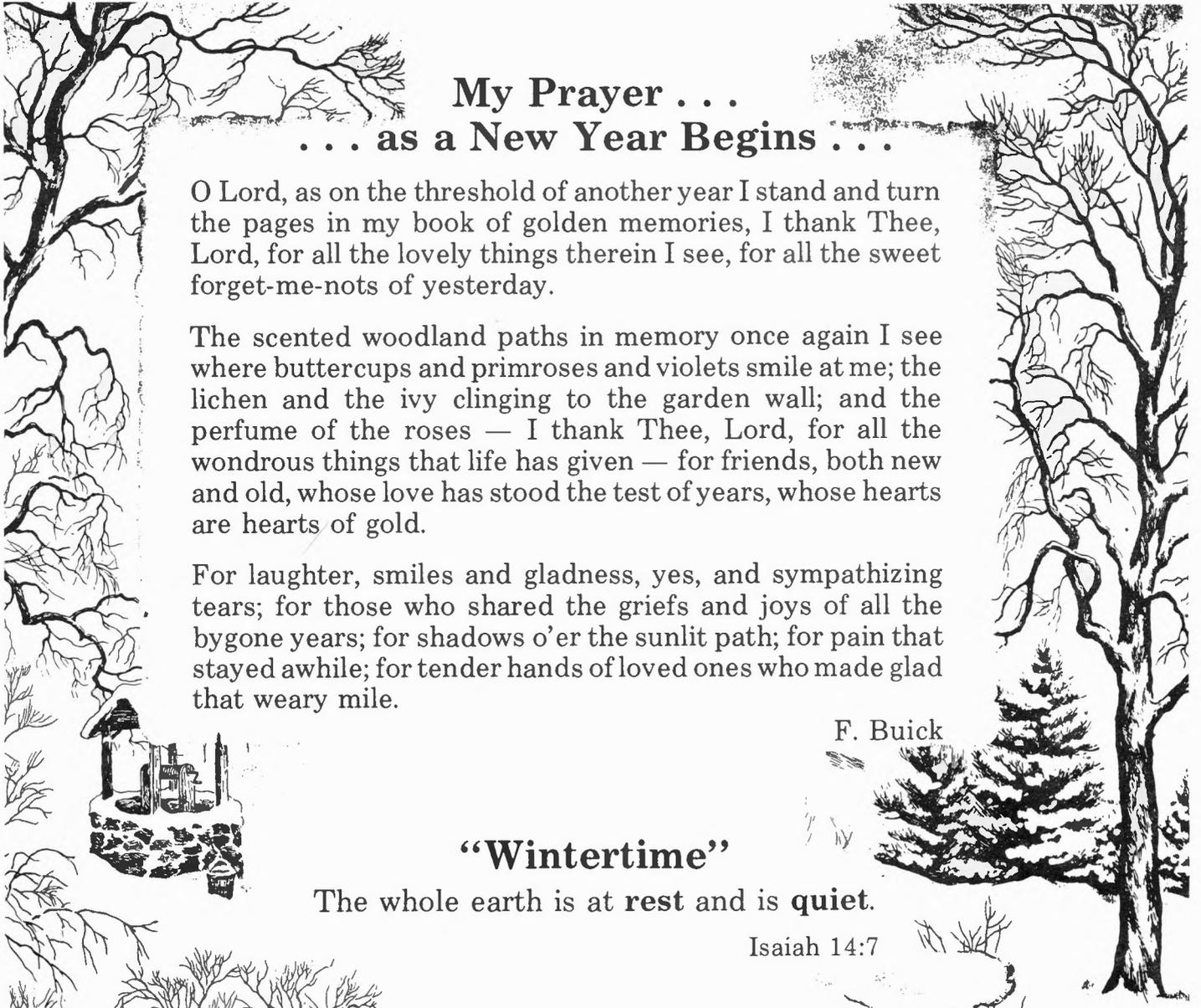
For laughter, smiles and gladness, yes, and sympathizing tears; for those who shared the griefs and joys of all the bygone years; for shadows o'er the sunlit path; for pain that stayed awhile; for tender hands of loved ones who made glad that weary mile.

F. Buick

“Wintertime”

The whole earth is at rest and is quiet.

Isaiah 14:7



IF YE BE WILLING

Bro. Edwin Bahler, Remington, IN

"Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land."

Isaiah 1:18, 19

The eyes of the covetous are never full; the tongue of the glutton is never satisfied. The desire of the lustful is never quenched; and the heart of the flatterer does not love. Those given to a quest of knowledge will always be ignorant and those liberated carnally are still in shackles. The proud are not happy though they be called thus (Malachi 3:15). The world is deceived, and we ourselves sometimes, in believing that satisfaction is the expected object of following our own lusts.

With the believer this should not be so. Jesus said if any man come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. The true followers of Jesus love Him. They love His Word and they desire to obey it. This submission cheers their hearts and brings them peace in a troubled world. Though they stumble, they rise again and thirst after greater understanding and victory over sin. They desire to talk pleasantly, and pointedly to others about His Word to establish greater conviction, more love between brethren, and, as further light is shed, more willingness to obey. They have patience for and visit the weak; they have compassion for and descend to the needy. Their hearts burn within them as did the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They build on the Solid Rock which is Christ. They hate sin. Fashion

is repulsive to them and honor they will not seek. They realize that highminded living is not following in the Saviour's footsteps, for it pertains to self. They truly understand Christian joy – for where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty, there is life, there is obedience, there is a hunger for the Word, and there is joy, peace and true redemptive love. "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: He preserveth the souls of His saints; light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness." Psalm 97:10-12.

The unbeliever and carnally-minded Christian does not see it thus. He mocks the word or excuses it as being out of date. He does not long for a higher plain, but seeks to cloak his sin. He is disobedient to those who watch for his soul and sows strife and discord among the brethren by submitting to his own passions. He finds many excuses to avoid the ordinances of the New Covenant for fear of reproach or being too peculiar. He is demanding in

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
December 1985 —	1610	6202

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.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

his own waywardness and belittles those who are sincere in heart. He uses honor, and flattery in spinning his web for others; his playfulness and jestful spirit is comforting to those inclined to hear him, for it soothes their conscience. Many times his hardness of heart is simply manifested by disinterest in the whole council of God, disrespect for kings, rulers and their laws, and carnal interests that are not conducive to sound doctrine.

"These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage."

Jude 16

Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord? Let's individually break the bands of unwillingness that strangle the church and misdirect the coming generation. If we are willing, there is promised peace among the brethren and eternal reward. Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then ye are my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free." John 8:31, 32.

Witness the blessedness that followed Israel of old when they became willing. "Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord? Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's

work, offered willingly. Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy. And David said, "Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee." I Chronicles 29:5-14.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1. "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.'" Luke 17:10.

There will be a willing remnant; will you be a part of it? "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." Malachi 3:16-18.

"Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth." "Happy are ye if ye suffer for righteousness sake." "Happy is the man that feareth alway." "We count them happy which endure." Romans 14:22, I Peter 3:14, Proverbs 28:14, James 5:11. "But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured. For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven." Isaiah 1:20, Malachi 4:1.

FOOD PACKAGING & DISTRIBUTION

DEDICATION OF THE CENTER

Since the World Relief Committee's decision to locate the Food Packaging Center in Bluffton, IN, several people have been preparing the building along with the other aspects of procuring the food and checking out the channels of distribution. The food packages for our needy Romanian brethren will now be sent from the United States, instead of Switzerland, as we have been doing.

On Monday, December 2, the first boxes for Romania were packed. At 8:00 that evening, a dedication service was held at the building. Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen, Wendell Gudeman, Orville Ringger and Phil Stettner conducted the service. Bro. Wendell opened with a prayer that God's work could be done and His name would be glorified.

Bro. Nathan then gave the dedication message. Using Isaiah 54:2 as his text, he told us that we should strengthen our stakes by putting our faith in God and being thankful for Apostolic Christian heritage. As he related an incident concerning the pounding of the first stake in the old Bluffton church, he told us how we need to make certain we are well grounded so God can bless the work. If this work is of ourselves it will surely come to naught.

Bro. Andy Hunyady told of specific, touching instances where the food packages in the past were very much appreciated. He also told us of the great need currently in Romania. Bro. Leon Graf gave an interesting history of the work over the past few years. He also discussed the function of the Works Project Committee and the World Relief Committee in bringing the center to pass.

Bro. Orville concluded by again reminding us of the needs in Romania and our duty to help them. He empha-

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE CHILDREN'S HOME

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

From its inception, our goal at the Apostolic Christian Children's Home has been to provide a Christian family setting to care for needy children and youth. We believe that this is God's ideal plan for raising children. However, at several times during the history of our Home we have gone for extended periods without a full staff as we looked and waited for qualified couples to serve as alternate houseparents.

For the past five months we have been seeking an alternate houseparent couple to complete our staff. Because of a lack of response, along with a need to adequately care for our children and responsibly meet state standards, we are now open to considering two single brothers or two single sisters as houseparents.

Interested couples or singles are encouraged to contact any of the brothers listed below.

Your Servants in Christ,
The Children's Home Board of Directors

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

Bro. Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159 or
(219) 484-2292

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

sized that we must be good stewards of our material and spiritual benefits, for we have no promise of tomorrow. We should remember that someday it may be necessary for the Romanian Nazarenes to send food to us.

Bro. Phil closed the service with a prayer that our motives would be pure and that God would be glorified through this work.

We truly appreciated the dedication service and thank the brothers for driving many miles to be present that night. We ask all of you for your continuing prayer support of the project.

NEWS FROM EASTERN EUROPE

Andy Hunyady

1985 was a very bad year for Romania, and according to a diplomatic observer: "Things aren't getting any better. They are living on the ragged edge here, the energy situation is going to be very bad. The people are grimly preparing for another dark, cold winter of austerity." All sources of energy are in critically short supply. The electric power industry is under strict military control, current is abruptly cut off, both day and night for hours and hospitals are not spared. Both cities and small communities are dark with no street lights and no traffic lights in operation. Due to gasoline shortages, the traffic is very light and public transportation is cut to about 25% of normal operation.

"Besides energy shortages and foreign debt payments, the worst grain harvest in at least 15 years is threatening this communist-ruled nation with privation unknown in Eastern Europe since World War II. Officials insist that no grain will be imported this year even though the grain harvest is far below the normal consumption needs of the 22 million people." "Malnutrition is a real problem," says the observer, even with rationing there just isn't enough food to go around as part of the grain was "exported" to pay for the country's debt. It appears that the government is not concerned and is not doing anything to solve the food problem. In order to prevent any unrest or possible uprising the country is under the very tight security. Religious leaders are under constant scrutiny, especially those who have contact with foreigners, and the government is seeking mea-

asures to limit these outside contacts in order to restrict the flow of information. Local travel is also curtailed in order to conserve, thus making it difficult for elders and ministers to visit the brethren in isolated areas.

Government attitude toward "Unrecognized Sects" were revealed last spring in a series of articles in the official monthly publication of the Ministry of interior, Pentru Patria, (For the Homeland). This ministry controls the police and other "organs of the security".

The author characterizes the religion as "... an obstacle in the conscious creation of human destiny" and headlines one of his articles: "The Nazarenes - or one of the aspects of mystical fanaticism" and describes the faith as being characterized by "isolation, intolerance and mysticism". "Members of the sect are profoundly antisocial and oppose any progressive ideas, etc."

During his recent visit to Eastern Europe, Secretary of State George Schultz had a message for Romania: "To ease up on persecution of Christian evangelists or risk losing favorite U.S. trade status". (US News & World Report).

According to latest information, the brethren are still holding services in homes, but have been warned to keep the discussions and activities to "Religion only".

Food packages are going through very well and are appreciated more than every, due to the severe shortages. Soon they will be receiving parcels direct from our Bluffton, IN, Distribution Center. This will enable World Relief to send more food for dollar spent. Letters are now less frequent and more brief than in the past, but still bring the same message of thanks and appreciation of the beneficiaries. They express their gratitude to Almighty God and to all who so generously and lovingly share their God-given gifts with them.

A brother in Hungary who regularly visits the brethren in the Soviet Union writes: "The brethren and principally the elder brothers in the S.U. thank you for the love that was literally 'cast upon' them by your gifts, as it is a tremendous help to them. They feel very unworthy of such great expressions of love. Their prayer to God is that He reward you and everyone who

gave so bountifully. They send their warm brotherly greetings to you who so diligently labor, to the ministers of the Word and to all the churches.

We, also, as your co-laboring brothers, our families and our congregation, greet you. (J. N.)

From Yugoslavia, an 84-year-old elder, with whom we visited briefly, writes: "Your visit from the far end of the Earth, beside the greetings from the many brethren, brought us much joy and happiness. It was a true demonstration of much sacrifice on your part, and we know that it was due to the love that God had placed in your hearts. In our old age we feel so weak and often helpless. What could we offer for you as we have nothing but the love that God shed upon us all? May He bless you and grant you a peaceful and blessed life here on this earth? What a great joy it is when hearts are bound together from far and near by the love of God! We also send our thanks and loving greetings from Yugoslavia to the brethren and especially to those who so lovingly participate in the gifts of love sharing. M. and R. K.

Dearly beloved, during our visit last spring we were able to personally take your greetings and share your gifts of love with many of our dear brethren, both in cities and small isolated and forsaken villages, and though our visits were very brief, yet we could see and feel that mutual love that binds our hearts with theirs, and the new hope and courage left in their hearts, knowing that God had not forsaken them.

Still, there are many faithful today who must endure much "persecution, hate and wrong for the sake of God's kingdom." Please, don't let them down. Your fervent intercession and prayer to God in their behalf is needed more today than ever! Thank you and God bless you all.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

Winter is upon us in the Hoosier State — this morning the wind chill factor was 36 degrees below zero, and there is a beautiful white blanket of snow covering the ground. Each season has its own uniqueness and change. How invigorating is change in the great midwest of our nation as seasons come and go. Each day of each season holds

forth new challenges for us at the Home, and we ask God each day for grace and strength to meet and be victorious over the challenges because young lives are being molded into future adulthood status with every contact between staff and children. The task of molding young lives becomes more important with each passing day as our children get closer to moving into the "society of today" with all its complexities and where the forces of evil are rearing their ugly head more predominantly each day. We all need to be founded on the "Rock", Jesus Christ, to emerge the victor over the dread disease of sin and all its side effects. We need the prayers of all our brethren that the blessings and mercies of God may be ours.

Among the changes here is our new secretary, Sis. Cindy Baurer (Princeville, IL). She is taking Sis. Judy Gehring's place. Sis. Cindy is a former assistant houseparent at the East House, so she is not a stranger to the Home environment. We welcome her back and wish for her many pleasant, productive hours here. In addition to her secretarial duties, Sis. Cindy and Sis. Judy Luginbuhl are supervising an independent living program for young adult girls who need guidance in the outside world after leaving the Home. Their house is in Fort Wayne, and at present there is one girl in the program.

We have a new boy at the West House, Ray W., age 16, from the Fort Wayne area. We trust his residency at the Home will lend itself to his spiritual, physical and emotional growth.

We are presently erecting an addition to the machine shed that will be used for a woodworking shop and storage space. We say thanks to the brethren from the area churches; namely Latty, OH, Remington, Wolcott, LaCrosse and Francesville, IN. Very shortly some brethren from Bluffton plan to remodel the old office building, converting it into a multi-purpose apartment. Thanks to them, and to all the local Leo people who are helping out in houseparenting on the regular houseparents' days off. Our volunteers will never know how much this contributes to the functioning of the Home.

The fireplaces are used consistently in both houses — the warmth and brightness of an open flame lends a special kind of warmth to the living room, and bringing in the wood from

our very own woods is part of the winter routine. The children are gaining new insights in animal husbandry as they care for and observe the animals grow, namely the calves and pigs. School is progressing well — we are at the midway point of the '85-'86 school year already.

The most recent presentation about the Children's Home was at Burlington, IA. Any church wanting a presentation should contact the Home.

As we launch into the year of our Lord, 1986, let us approach it with much anticipation and expectation of the great things the Lord can accomplish in our lives and in the lives of our children if only we let Him. Let's not forget His blessings to us in the year 1985. How good God is to us!

NOTE: Our phone numbers have changed to the following: Office - 219/627-2159; East House - Bill and Joan Schick, 219/627-2601; West House - Bill and Cheri Blunier, 219/627-3006.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Twelve new pages on our calendar face us as we write this article. As yet, most are void of plans and activities; there is a measure of peace as we contemplate a less hectic path of life. But, as we all know too well, these pages will soon be filled with many activities and commitments.

The beginning of a year should behoove all of us to search ourselves. Did we accomplish any of our goals set for last year? What are our goals for this year? Have we included a closer walk with our Lord and Savior once again? Surely, this is the answer for receiving the "peace which passeth all understanding", for if we are completely desirous of God's will in our lives, then anything that happens to us will be alright as we know God allows only those things which help us. We can trust Him!

Here at the Home we look forward to another year of furthering the work which He began. There is always a challenge to do better, show more patience, show more love and show our love for our Savior more completely.

As you read this, our family of 99 residents has settled back to a routine after the rushing holiday plans. Most were able to go home with family or friends. This is such a delightful time for all, and we rejoice with them. And, we have thankful hearts when we are told they also look forward to returning

to the Home for the Handicapped after their stay at home. This tells us our goal of making this a "home-away-from-home" has been successful. We do not take credit for this alone. Our Home has been aided by so many through prayer, volunteer help and financial help. This coupled with much tender, loving care makes the Home a warm and caring place to live. And, as always, none of this would be possible without the love of God in the hearts of many. We are grateful!

The January birthday celebration will single out Edith Wagenbach, Mary Schramm, Bruce Steffen, Jackie Willett, Laverna Zobrist, John Eddy and Tom Sides, who all have January birthdays. They will feel special with their royal treatment.

Christmas is over and it might be a good time to reflect. Here are some questions we must all answer for ourselves: Did we return to the Babe in Bethlehem's manger and give Him honor? Did we race and rush through the holidays with only an occasional thought of Him? Did we sing our carols with meaning and remember whom we were honoring or did we sing them with our mind on what all needed to be done? Did we hurriedly exchange our presents without expressing the love that went into the purchasing of these presents? Let us, like the wise men of old, linger in His presence and offer Him our gifts of quietness, worship, devotion and love, not only in the Christmas season, but for the entire year — year after year.

Oh, Lord, 'tis the time of year for resolution.

Puzzled, I knelt to You for solution.
So simple Your answer hastened to me:
"Resolve more and more to bend thy knee."

Author Unknown

We wish each of you a blessed New Year filled with the peace of knowing that He who we are serving is worthy.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"What then? Are we better than they?"
Romans 3:9

We enjoyed slides of Haiti and Mexico, taken when Bros. Ted Knochel, John Kaufman, James Emch, Jerry Emch and Jeff Fischer went to Haiti to

do construction work on school buildings. It is encouraging how grateful the Haitians were for every deed shown unto them. The destruction of the earthquake in Mexico City shown in Bro. Dick and Sis. Marie Beery's slides were quite humbling. We saw enough destruction to cause anyone to feel the need to turn to the Lord.

We appreciated the visiting ministers, Bro. Raymond Roth (Kiowa, KS), Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN). We are glad to have Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen return for the winter.

We congratulate Bro. Herb and Sis. Joanne Knochel on the birth of grandson, John Daniel Klotzel. Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody are his parents, and baby John has a big brother, James. Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr have a new granddaughter, Amy Rose. The first-time parents are Debbie and Tate Greenway.

Sis. Ora Schrenk and Carol Doolittle had eye surgery. Hospital patients for surgery or studies were Bro. Ellsworth Niemeyer, Sis. Martha DeMille, Sis. Cathy (Jerry) Emch and Bro. Joe Dotterer.

New officers elected at our business meeting are Trustee - Bro. Earl Roth, Song Leaders - Bros. John Dotterer and Doug Schmidgall, Usher - Bro. Todd Roth, Lunch Fund - Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Sophie Huber, Congregational Room Coordinators - Bros. Herb Knochel, Jr. and Ellsworth Niemeyer. We pray the new officers will be directed by the Lord as they undertake their new duties.

On December 15, our Sunday school Christmas program theme was "The Wonderful Story of Love". The beautiful program ended with the older children singing Silent Night in German.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

It is always a joy to have company at our small church and we thank Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and his wife, Barbara (Phoenix), and Bro. Todd Feller and his wife, Karen (LaCrosse, IN), for their visit Sunday, December 8. That evening we gathered again to partake of holy communion. We thank these brothers for being with us for this special occasion.

On November 15, Daniel Ryan was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy Bauer. Daniel was welcomed home by

big sister, Melinda. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer and Bro. Willis and Sis. Gloria Hunziker (Peoria, IL).

During our midweek services, we have been listening to the conference tapes. There is much food for thought and we can learn to appreciate more fully the traditions and doctrine of our church.

On Saturday evening, December 14, our Sunday school students and many others gathered together to go caroling at some of the more needy nursing homes. We want to thank all those who took part. The residents of those nursing homes truly appreciated your efforts.

Our annual Sunday school Christmas program was held December 15. We want to thank all the students for their efforts. It was refreshing to hear again the Christmas story through verse and song.

With the coming new year, we realize how we have been blessed in the past year and how much we have to be thankful for. Let us always remember not to take God's blessings for granted and to appreciate fully His mercy and grace.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Shirley Luthi

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Luke 2:10

On December 15, our congregation was again reminded of the "good tidings of great joy" as our Sunday school presented in poems, songs and scripture the story of Christ's birth. Later that evening those who wished, participated in dinner together and Christmas caroling.

We are happy to share that Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle have been blessed by the birth of another son, John Daniel. He is welcomed by his brother, James.

We thank Bro. Leonard Locher for an evening of sharing about his recent trip to Haiti. The slides and stories about his experiences while on the work project were both fascinating and inspiring.

We also extend thanks to Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for ministering God's Word to us during his visit.

Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger is recuperating after surgery. We continue to pray for his healing and anticipate his gathering with us for worship.

We continue to pray for his healing and anticipate his gathering with us for worship.

Our well wishes and prayers for recovery are with Marie Feuchtenberger who was injured in a recent auto accident.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

We welcome Bro. Richard and Sis. Katie Hasty, formerly of Congerville, IL, to our area. They moved here from the Dallas area and are living in Colorado Springs to be near their son. Their address is: 1244 East Monroe Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80907.

Due to the growing number of members in the Colorado Springs area (there are four, all of whom have health problems and can't assemble with us very often) we are holding evening services there the third Friday of every month. May God grant the increase!

As Sis. Pam Edelman has left us to return to Sabetha, KS, to prepare for her wedding, a sister has been chosen to fill the vacancy she leaves in our Sunday school. Sis. Kristin Leman has been chosen to serve in this capacity. We wish her much grace in the important work of helping to shape these little lives.

We wish to thank Bro. Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL) for coming out and offering himself in God's service. May God bless Bro. Vern.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Michelle Virkler

As a new year begins, we feel so grateful and indebted to our Savior for all the blessings during this past year. Somehow, through His goodness and mercy, we seem to find a way to ride the waves of sorrow and tribulations. May we renew our vow to walk for Him more pleasingly.

"Our life is a gift from God
What we do with it, is our Gift to Him."
Author Unknown

"... the goodness of God leadeth to repentance."
Romans 2:4

We rejoice once again as more souls are turning to Jesus Christ, our Savior. Bonnie and Ron Bahler, recently married, have chosen to have Christ the head of their house and guide their future days together. Our dear friend,

Joe Cook, has also chosen a new walk of life.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest
Which the spirit does bestow."

Zion's Harp #37

Sis. Carole Luginbuhl (Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Florine) has been announced to Bro. Dan Crohan (Dan and Jane). A January wedding is planned.

We recently were privileged to have the following visiting ministers with us: Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA).

On Sunday, December 14, we heard the Sunday school children sing songs of praise, all to the honor and glory of our precious Savior. It warms our hearts to see our little children recite their pieces as they have such an innocence in their deliverance.

Those who were hospitalized this month, but are on the road to recovery, are Bro. John Bahler, Sis. Olga Bahler and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl. We surely feel thankful to the Lord for their recovery.

Note: January is collection month for Rockville. (\$7.00) Please make every effort to pay your subscription through your correspondent as it saves the staff much time and effort. If you do not wish to receive the Silver Lining, would like your name deleted, have a change of address, or any corrections, please see your correspondent this month. Thank you.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS
Marie Keller — Edna Meister

NEW YEAR

Upon the threshold of another year
We stand again.

We know not what of gladness and
good cheer,

Of grief or pain

May visit us while journeying to its
close.

In this we rest,

God dealeth out in wisdom what He
knows for us is best.

Thomas Wearing

As the holiday seasons were observed this past month, let us reach out this new year to others and give something of ourselves — to family and friends, but also to those in our communities who may be lonely and dis-

pirited. May we particularly remember those who are widowed or lack immediate family members. We should make a special effort to let them know that someone really cares about them in our Christian walk of life. We pass this way but once in our lives, let's see that every new day has a blessing in it.

Visiting ministers during the holiday season were our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. David Weigand (Urbana, IL). We truly appreciate their efforts to come to minister to us during their visit down here in Florida. It is so good to see our brethren coming back again to spend the winter months with us.

Greetings be to you, our brethren,
To our sisters in the Lord,
Here from far and near assembled,
Gathered here in one accord.
Welcome, welcome, All ye loved ones:
Greetings in the Saviour's name.

Hymns of Zion #7, verse 1

Anyone who is in our area travelling is welcome to come and to worship with us. There are two services on Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (E.S.T.). We also have Wednesday evening services at 7:30 p.m. year around. Our phone number is (813) 656-3800.

If you are travelling from the north, take I-75 south to exit #27. Go right to U.S. 41. Turn left, follow highway 44 south 10 miles to Del Tura Country Club Estate. Turn left onto Trail Dairy Circle. Follow road to the first street. Turn left for 2 blocks to church.

Coming from Highway 41 south, go approximately 2 miles north of the Shell Factory on Highway 41 to Del Tura Country Club Estate. Turn right onto Trail Dairy Circle.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Elaine Gudeman — Elda Martin

O Lord behold us gathered here,
As children 'round a light!
We pray Thee, Lord, that Thou come
near,
And guide our hearts aright.

Zion's Harp #216

The Lord continually answers our prayers and each time we gather together, our ministering brothers stand before us to proclaim God's Word in its truth and fullness. We're thankful for those visiting ministers who have la-

bored on our behalf. May God bless each of them: Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN).

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

Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

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

Hymns of Zion #156

How often we have sung these words and so often at a time of parting, when our hearts are pained. But truly the blessing is ours to have shared this "tie" that binds us in such deep love, that we can truly share each other's joys and sorrows. The joy is ours to have shared this precious tie with Sis. Louella Jacobs and our hearts ache to have her leave us and move north to Cissna Park, IL. We thank our Lord for the memories which are ours and for that tie that will continue to bind us in love, though many miles shall separate us.

Hospital patients this month are Sis. Lydia Vonia, Sis. Elizabeth Knapp and Frank Krispanik. We pray the Lord will stretch forth His loving hand of healing and restore each one to health and strength, according to His will.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Jan Gudeman — Nancy Kaufmann

At this blessed time of year we again were privileged to witness the account of the miraculous virgin birth of our precious Lord and Saviour given by our dear Sunday school children in the Christmas program December 15. We can always learn so much from these

dear ones as we relive the story while they are sharing it.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN). We truly appreciate their labors of love.

A new little baby boy was born to Bob and Laura Kieser November 25. Philip Lee is welcomed by brothers, James, Joseph, Ronald and Andrew, and sisters, Sharon and Suzanne. Grandparents are Louis and Jean Kieser (Okeechobie, FL) and Lee and Louise Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jan Keeley are parents again to little Leah Marie. She was born December 12 and joins a sister, Anna. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Ann Maurer and Tom, Sr. and Oleda Keeley (all of Forrest, IL). The Keeleys have just moved to Dyer, IN and will be worshipping with the Valparaiso congregation. May the Lord truly bless these families.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Marilyn Tanner

FACING A NEW YEAR

Standing at the portal of the opening
year,
Words of comfort meet us, hushing
every fear;
Spoken through the silence by our
Father's voice,
Tender, strong and faithful, making us
rejoice.
Onward then, and fear not, children of
the day!
For His Word shall never, never pass
away!

For the year before us, oh, what rich
supplies!
For the poor and needy living streams
shall rise;
For the sad and sinful shall His grace
abound;
For the faint and feeble, perfect
strength be found.
Onward then, and fear not, children of
the day!
For His Word shall never, never pass
away.

Frances Ridley Havergal

A precious little boy was welcomed by Dick and Cheryl Dietz November 19. Sharing the joy are grandmothers, Joan White, and Sis. Hilda Dietz.

Our Sunday school Christmas program, held December 15, was a beauti-

ful reminder of our Lord and Savior's birth. It was a joy to watch our little children as they told the "old story" in song and verse.

We were blessed this past month with two visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH).

Hospitalized, but thankfully at home again, were Sis. Doris Guingrich and Sis. Donna Ehnle. May He continue to heal.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10. Sometimes I'm afraid I spend no more time with Christ to cleanse my heart than I spend cleaning my house. When company is coming, I quickly try to eliminate the clutter and dust and sweep the surfaces of furniture and floor. Many times the stacks of unsorted mail and projects (crafts and otherwise) begun, but not finished, get pushed back into the den ("store-room"). The window washing and the walls, the carpet shampooing, the deep cleaning of spring and fall housecleaning rarely, if ever, happen at our house. But on the surface — if you're company — the house may look well-kept. And although I know its cleanliness quotient much better, I am also pleased that the house "looks" nice. Spiritually, cleaning with depth is even more important and takes even more time, more concentration, more care. The quick broom sweeper run-through and clutter pile movement from one room to another is much less desirable for the soul. Satan likes to tell us "out of sight, out of mind," so that always there is an accumulation of stuff somewhere, holding back the true righteousness of the soul. Therefore it is good for us to look at January and the New Year as a time of allowing the Lord a special inspection time. We want to give Him permission to use the toughest cleaning agents, that He may rout out the hidden dust balls and the nasty black marks on the linoleum, all those unsightly, unclean taints which have been added throughout the year. Then truly we will be blessed as we, pure and holy, meet 1986.

Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) were our visiting ministering brothers. Bro. Rod used Colossians 4:7 and the verses following it as the basis for a

topical Bible study on Brotherly Love and Esteem. The brethren named in that chapter (and the scriptural references to them) are examples unto us of sacrifice and the love of Christ. Ultimately, of course, Bro. Rod directed us to look directly to Christ as our model. We appreciate the instruction he shared from the Spirit. Bro. Don asked us, "Where will we be a million years from now?" My thoughts flew to numerous ones we know who have lost a relative in this past year: spouse or father or mother, son or daughter, brother or sister, aunt, uncle, cousin. The ragged edge of loss must cut sharply many times with the bitterness of reminders and memories, sometimes with the added heat of guilt, something done or undone, said or unsaid. But that is as nothing compared to the anguish and despair one must possess in going over the edge of death, believing no one is there.

Our Christmas program had the theme "The Star of Bethlehem". We were well-reminded that, as the star led the wise men, pointing them to the Savior of all mankind, so our fifty-two Sunday school children were each one a star pointing us toward Christ, the newborn King. The Sunday school children and their teachers, as well as younger children and other adults and parents, had opportunity the next Saturday to extend their starlight about the "Reason for the Season" to various shut-ins and institutions in Christmas caroling. Truly, through the children's activities, we have been introduced to the truth of Christmas.

We give thanks to the Lord as He continues to add building blocks to our church. Bro. Darrell, Sis. Cindy and their son, Shawn, Gerber have moved from Bluffton, IN, to Wheaton. Bro. Darrell is with Beatrice Foods. Bro. Jerry Wagenbach is newly employed at Case in Hinsdale. He and his wife, Sis. Bonnie (Moser), originally from Oakville, IA, are now living nearby. We also welcome Sis. Paula Bahr, drawn from the Kansas City area, who is working for Keebler in Elmhurst and living near there. We rejoice that they are worshipping with us. To them we say, we love you already, but we would know you more intimately. Thus, please forgive us when we do not know your names, and you tell us again, when you answer the same questions about your work and your family and your original churches over and over. We pray that

you feel part of the warmth of His love within our church circle as we day-by-day strive to build His church, hopefully with materials of gold, silver and precious stones. (I Corinthians 3:12).

We miss Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lisa Schoenbein and their son, Joshua. They are again worshiping in Morton, IL. Though it's always hard to let loved ones go, we want for them the best that the Lord has in store. Go with God, dear ones.

Television has been called the most influential factor on people's thinking in the last thirty-five years. As a teacher, I do believe that television viewing has often dulled my students' imaginative, listening and questioning abilities while whetting their appetites for new and different entertainment continually. I also believe their sensitivity to others, which one would think could be enhanced, has instead become calloused. In the church we must GUARD against such INFLUENCES. Do we stir restlessly when we hear the unvarnished truth? Must it instead be highly polished? Do we expect Jesus and Him Crucified, the Word Incarnate to be preached and we to listen expectantly, actively, for the filling of our minds — or do we wait passively to be entertained? Are we sensitive to chastisement, or calloused because, looking around, we're "so much better than the rest of the world"?

The month of January, from its very name, referred to a man with two heads who was looking two ways at the same time, both towards the past and towards the future. That reminds me of a very young nephew of mine who delights in wearing an adult's shoes and walking in them. Every once in a while he gets into one shoe facing forward, the other facing the opposite direction, and he just can't get going. Let us take a lesson and go forward in the Lord, not dragging one foot in the world. In the words of our Savior, "... if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23b. "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God..." Colossians 1:10.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
to Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Myrna Weerts — Wilma Walder

Pray without ceasing
God hears what you say
From the moment you rise
To the close of the day
Don't think for a moment
That He turns a deaf ear
Trust and have faith
And you'll never know fear.

Helen Parker

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN). We were reminded of the necessity of not fearing but trusting completely in God who does hear our prayers and knows our cares. There are no sorrows He does not share nor cross or burden for our hearts to bear that He does not know about. In all of life's trials and troubles, its sickness and pain we are given strength and courage to face and meet tomorrow if we but trust and have faith. May our loved ones who found themselves in the hospital, in sickness and pain and distress feel this strength and help from God and know our thoughts and prayers are with them. They are Bro. Charles Walder, Bro. Eugene Hauptli, Bro. Willard Rudin, Sis. Mary Bauer and Sis. Nettie Obergfel.

Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb are rejoicing over the birth of their first child, a daughter named Joanna Elaine, born November 25. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and the late Earl and Sis. Grace Bauer.

We welcome Sis. Louella Jacob back to our community and church home after having lived several years in the Sarasota area.

When January days begin,
The New Year season enters in.
The New Year comes with hope and
cheer,
With needed blessings for the year.
We trust in providential hand
To bless our hearts and home and land.
It is the all-important year —
All will be well if He is near.

Bro. Henry Beer

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Tammy Roth — Joan Schrock

It was a blessing to witness the marriage of Bro. Walt Miller and Sis.

Betty Miller as they joined hand and heart on December 4. It is such a miracle how God provides helpmates for this life here on earth. We just have to learn to put our trust and faith in God, and He will provide for our every need.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Bob Hartman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Lou) to Lisa Springer (Dayton and Wilma, Eureka). May God bless their lives together.

Benjy Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda) would like to thank everyone who sent him cards, gifts or food during the time he was laid up with his foot. May God bless you for your deeds of kindness.

As we enter the new year, may we stop a moment to thank God for all the blessings He has showered upon us. Let us not look back with regret, but let's learn from our mistakes so that we can have a closer walk with our Lord.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

As the old year concludes, we acknowledge God's faithfulness and great love to all mankind. In looking to the new, may His life-giving Word and saving grace yet find entrance into many hearts.

"O now, my Saviour, do Thou take
My heart and make it Thine;
I'll follow Thee, a servant true,
Within Thy fold divine."

Zion's Harp #163

On December 8, four precious lambs vowed to give their heart and lives to the Lord and were baptized and welcomed into our brotherhood. These include Sis. Amy Gasser (Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary), Bro. John Kinsinger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Shirley Schifferer (Ed and Sis. Dorothy). May God continue to guide and direct them in every step of their lives. Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Nathan in this labor.

Other ministering brothers this month were: Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO). May God bless these dear ones for their love and sharing His Word with us.

Dean Schifferer (Bro. Howard and Sis. Pat) and Susan Chapman (Robert

and Judith) have announced their engagement and are planning their marriage for June 14, 1986. May God's blessings be with them.

Timothy Kilgus (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeannete) and Patricia Randels (Ron and Merry) were wed Saturday, November 30. May the love of God be with them as they walk hand in hand.

On Sunday, December 15, we were blest with an enjoyable evening as our dear Sunday school children and teachers presented the beautiful story of Jesus' birth. May the true spirit of God's love remain in all our hearts each day of our lives.

The family of Sis. Leah Kinsinger wishes to thank everyone for their love, prayers and cards during their sorrow and also for all the love shown to their dear mother during her years of sickness. May God bless you all.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Roche

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

Hymns of Zion #150

"Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years."

Galatians 4:10

Another year has again passed. Let us be mindful of the blessings and mercies that we received from God, and as a new year is now before us, may we strive more diligently to be faithful followers of Him.

Sis. Arletta Martin (Bro. Lewis) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful her hospital stay was short.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Richard Leman in the passing of his brother, Bro. Harvey Leman (Forrest).

Derek Wayne Blunier was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna Blunier December 12. Brian, Sheila and Ross are anxious to meet their new brother as are grandparents Bro. Vernon (and the late Sis. Verda) Blunier and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller (Princeville).

We have been blessed with many visiting brethren this month. We wish to thank Bros. Bill Gudeman and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) for lending themselves in His service. "... they ceased

not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Acts 5:42.

We observed our Christmas program on Wednesday evening, December 18. The story of Christ's humble birth was repeated in poems, Bible verses and songs, and we were reminded "... 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, That sets the spirit free." May the true spirit of Christmas dwell with us each day in the coming year.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell — Joann Zehr

Two homes were blessed with new babies. A boy, Russell Kent, was born to Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosetta Edelman November 22. He was also welcomed by Mark, Dean, Lisa, Lori and Walter, Jr. A daughter, Lyndsey Elayne, was welcomed into the home of Bill and Sis. Barb Mashburn November 27. She has three brothers, Nathan, Troy and Ryan.

Sis. Marie Bahler (Bro. Arthur and Sis. Suzanne) was married to Bro. Joe Koehl (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladys, Forrest) November 24. We certainly wish them God's richest blessings as they establish their home together. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest).

We are very thankful to God for five dear souls who gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekends of December 1 and December 8. They are Lori Fehr (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Linda), Wendy Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Delores), Stephanie Schieler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice), John Dohman (husband of Sis. Judy) and Amy Steidinger (Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice). May we all walk close with God as He is "only a prayer away". Ministers who visited us were Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Dan Koch (Tremont), Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest), and Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Gary Brown (Forrest), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Walter Anliker (Eureka).

We were privileged to gather with the brethren at Forrest and hear the memorandum. We thank Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Bob Walder (Congerville) as well as Perry Zim-

merman and Arthur Bahler for their love and concern for each of us.

Our Sunday school presented their annual Christmas program the evening of December 15. We thank each one for the special efforts put forth and may God bless them.

The engagement of Sis. Mary Lynn Steidinger (Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice) to Bro. Steve Stoller (Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge, Rittman, OH) was announced December 1. We wish them God's blessings.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

Our congregation was recently reminded by one of our dear ministers that we must not let our lives just coast along. If we are just coasting along, we will be pulled in and end up going with the flow or following the crowd. Let us pray for the grace and strength in this new year to swim against the current of this world.

Little Shelly Renee brightened the lives of Bruce and Cathy Hinrichsen November 13. Cuddling their baby sister are Wade and Audrey. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen and Bob and Betty Kirk (Peoria).

On November 22, Blake Robert entered the hearts and lives of Rick and Sis. Mickey Shemansky. Enjoying their new little brother are Brett, Brian, Hung and Son. Happy grandparents are Dick and Nancy Shemansky and Howard and Florence May (Wheaton).

We were allowed to witness the baptisms of three young souls December 8. Seeking new direction for their lives and beseeching God for this divine direction are Dirk Steffen (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene), Matt Hohulin (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia) and Krista Roth (Roy and Sis. Corrine).

Looking forward to their first Christmas as a family are Doug and Shari Eastman. Their first child, Shannon Leigh, was born December 9. Excited grandparents are Bill and Dottie Eastman (Eureka) and Bro. Wes and Sis. Mildred Knapp.

We are very appreciative to our visiting ministers this past month. Bringing us God's Word were Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH).

A number of our congregation have undergone surgery this past month.

We are thankful that most of them have returned home and are convelescening. They are Elder Bro. Bob Grimm, Bro. Howard Heinold, Sis. Margaret Newlin, Sis. Carol Hohulin and Sis. Brenda Hinrichsen. Also hospitalized was little Jennifer Wiegand (daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand).

Our very sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand (Bro. Simon) for the loss of her brother, Alpha Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

We also offer prayers of heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Irene Rinkenberger in the loss of her mother, Sis. Bertha Meiss. We'll hold tight to the fond memories of her smiling face and to the kind words she always shared.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Carol Klopfenstein

"Jesus lowly Savior was a humble child;
 Came on earth to enter humble hearts and mild."

Hymns of Zion #70

We were beautifully reminded of the Savior's birth when our children presented their annual Sunday school program December 15.

We were also grateful to be stirred up in our most precious faith by the kind exhortations of the elder brethren in the memorandum to the churches which was read to us December 4. How much we need our shepherds to keep their earthly vigil over the flocks the Lord has entrusted into their care! How thankful we are that they are not just hirelings, but rather are loving and humble men, directed by God's Spirit, who are willing to be our servants that God might be glorified in all things in His holy church! We are glad to have Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) with us to assist our Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger in the reading of the memorandum.

Our congregation is blessed by the births of two little girls. Aimee Joy is the precious daughter of Bro. Alan and Sis. Margie Steffen. She was born November 21. Her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Emmy Steffen and Bro. Lewis and Sis. Bernice Yergler (all of Gridley).

Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller are the happy parents of Amber Kay, who was born December 13. Carla, Alan, Arlan and Cathy are Amber's sisters and brothers. Her grandparents are

Adam and Lulu Schlipf and Bro. Rudy and Sis. Esther Miller (all of Gridley).

Bro. Si and Sis. Viola Witzig celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary December 8.

Sis. Anna Miller, Sis. Matilda Witzig, Sis. Julia Schieler and Sis. Anna Klopfenstein were hospital patients. Sis. Anna Klopfenstein is now staying at the Apostolic Christian Home, 7023 North Skyline Drive, Peoria, IL 61614.

A sincere thank you to all the dear friends and relatives who remembered me with cards and gifts of love on my 80th birthday. God bless you each and every one.

Bro. Ezra Stoller

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERISTY
Kathy S. Roche

This month we were thankful to have Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana) at our Bible study. He spoke on the topic of stress. We learned that stress is a measure of how far away we are from God. If we are close to God and completely trust in Him, we will not have stress in our lives.

The ISU Christmas program was held at Bloomington-Normal church this year. Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) gave the inspirational message. We appreciated his willingness to come and share with us.

Sis. Karen Hangartner will spend the next semester studying in Austria. We will miss her at ISU and pray the Lord will go with her.

Beginning January 16, Bible studies for the spring semester will continue to be held in Schroeder 244 on Thursday evenings at 7:30.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

We had a blessed weekend when Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) explained the "role of the church" on Saturday evening, November 23. On Sunday, we enjoyed Christian fellowship at our church potluck, followed by a hymn sing. May God richly bless Elder Bro. Loren and his family for their labors of love.

Sis. Ruth Strunk was called Home quite suddenly. Her funeral was December 3. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her husband, Bro. Bill, her family and friends.

Our Sunday school children and young people presented their annual Christmas program December 8. It was touching to hear them tell us about the

birth of Jesus through their verses and Christmas carols. We wish to thank the children, young people, Sunday school teachers and parents for a blessed program.

We are thankful that our heavenly Father has called into His vineyard Dan Kaiser (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Lorraine), Matthew Moser (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barbara) and Dennis Frank (Ray, Jr. and Shirley). We heard their testimonies of faith December 14 and witnessed their baptisms December 15. We welcome our three brothers-in-faith and wish them God's blessings as they walk the narrow pathway of life.

We have many loved ones who are in the hospital or shut in. Let us continue to remember them in prayer.

We offer our thanks to Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) for ministering God's holy Word unto us. May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

We were thankful to be able to go Christmas caroling December 15 to those loved ones who are shut-in or ill. All ages blended their voices together as we sang those beautiful Christmas carols.

The family of Bro. Jacob (Jack) Stieglitz wish to express their sincere thank you for the many deeds of kindness shown unto them during the loss of their loved one.

May each of you loved ones have a very blessed New Year with God's blessings continuing to be yours.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Susi Herman — Margo Marx

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

Another year of progress,
 Another year of praise,
 Another year of proving
 Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
 Of witness for thy love.
 Another year of training
 For holier work above."

Author Unknown

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Paul Meister, Bro. John Woerner, Bro. Harlan Thomas, Bro.

Dean Thomas, Sis. Brenda Hoerr and Victor Stickling. We pray that God will bestow His healing power to each one.

We thank ministering brothers: Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville) LaVoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL). The exhortations and words of encouragement were indeed welcomed by each thirsty soul.

The Sunday school program was held December 15. The message of God's gift to us was a blessing to all. May He richly bless each one for their part in sharing the story of our Lord's birth.

How truly precious is the miracle of birth as was experienced by Bro. Brian and Sis. Diane Hoerr (Muncie, IN) with the arrival of their son, Andrew Charles, born November 30. Andrew's grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr and William and Mary Lou Falls (Phoenix, AZ).

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the families of Sis. Lena Joos, Sis. Carrie Gehrig and Bill Kieser. May they feel the comfort of our Lord at this time of sorrow.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Marjean Lehman

New Year, 1986

"The time flies on and death draws nigh;

Unite us Lord with Thee on high!
Prepare us now to live with Thee
Forever in eternity!"

"O sanctify our heart and mind.
That we, Thy chosen ones, may find
The path from this turmoil on earth
To God's bright home of peace and
mirth!"

Redeeming Our Time,
Zion's Harp #188

The precious Word of Life was brought forth to us by visiting ministers Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington), Bro. Ben Hartzler (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park). We thank them for willingly lending themselves in God's work.

On December 15, we listened to the Sunday school students as they told of the true meaning of Christmas. It is always impressive to hear them tell and sing of the birth of our precious Sav-

our. May each student be blessed for their efforts.

We extend sympathy to the family of Sis. Lena Joos who passed from this life into eternity December 6. Services were held December 9. Sis. Lena was a resident of the Peoria Home. Her husband preceded her in death. We want to especially extend sympathy to those of her family who worship with us here in Princeville. They are her son, Bro. Walter Joos, and her sister, Sis. Marie Musselman. She will be missed by many. May God's comfort be with those who feel the loss so keenly.

Thank you note: The family of Lena Joos wishes to thank everyone for all they did for their mother over the years with visits, cards and gifts. Also, now in their sorrow, your kind expressions of sympathy, memorial gifts and all other acts of love are appreciated. May God be your rich rewarder.

"He'll shield and defend his child to the end;

No suffering or death shall appall thee.
Keep Him for your gain, earth's
pleasures are vain;

Sweet rest is found only in heaven."

The Best Refuge,
Zion's Harp #46

Linda Siebenthal (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay) was a surgical patient this past month. May God's healing hand be upon Linda.

"Humility makes a man willing and ready to bless him who curses him and to pray for him who persecutes him;

A humble heart is an abode for God,
a disciple of Christ,
a companion of angels,
a preserving vessel for grace,
and is prepared for glory."

Samuel H. Froehlich

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Luginbuhl — Marge Leman

As we think of another New Year beginning, it brings this thought to mind. If you don't change the direction in which you are heading, you will get where you are going. Let us consider the direction of our lives and strive toward the heavenly goal.

A precious baby girl was born November 8 to Marty and Patti Rebbec. Mary Beth was welcomed home by her two brothers, Jeff and Martin. Grand-

parents are Bob and Marge Rebbec (Sun City, AZ) and Stephen and Judy Jeffreys (El Paso, IL).

This month many of our loved ones have been in the hospital. They are Zach Sauder, Bros. Wayne Steffen, Wilmer Blunier, Alvin Farney and Leroy Kempf and two dear sisters, Erma Moser and Mardell Bowald. May they ever feel God's healing hand in their lives.

Visiting ministers this past month were: Bros. Carroll Gerber and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). We thank each one for lending themselves in the service of our great God.

We give special thanks to Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) for helping to bring forth the exhortations of the Brotherhood Memorandum. May God bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Dorothy Wagenbach Carolyn Bolliger

As we start another year, let us analyze our lives to see if we are pleasing in God's sight. May God give us grace to this end.

We wish to welcome Bro. Darel and Sis. Mary Alyce Hofsess and family to our congregation. They moved from the Bradford area to Lewistown.

Sis. Hanna Koch and Ben Schmidgall (Helen) were hospital patients this month. Willard Schweigert (Della) fell on the ice and broke his wrist. Sis. Lila Moser had eye surgery and is recuperating nicely. May God restore good health again to our dear ones.

Greg and Cindy Sauder are happy parents of Timothy Alan, born November 22. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill and Bro. Earl and Sis. Glenna Sauder.

December 15 was our annual Sunday school Christmas program. We enjoyed the younger children up to the Bible class, as they sang praises to our Lord. May God bless and reward each child, as well as their teachers.

Note of Thanks: Once again, everyone has been so good and kind during my recent hospital stay. We want you to know we appreciate all the cards, gifts and prayers offered in my behalf. May God bless you all for your many

gifts of love, both now and in all eternity.

A least one in faith,
Sis. Louise Wagenbach

ILLINOIS, URBANA Cheryl Mangers

Our Sunday school class again this year did their own grocery shopping and delivered food baskets to three needy families in the area for Thanksgiving.

Who is unselfish and loving enough to babysit a "bunch of kids", feed them and even keep them over night (all for free), giving their parents a day off to Christmas shop? Our young people are! The college students and some local young people spent the day and evening of December 7 with the children of our congregation. We parents say, "Thank you for showing your love in such a special way."

December 15 was such a blessed Sunday as the Sunday school children brought us their Christmas message which was followed by Christmas caroling at several nursing homes and our annual chili supper.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Bros. David Kieser (Princeville, IL), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) for bringing us the Word of Life this past month.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Eunice Fiechter — Carolyn Meyer

Four young couples had the joy of welcoming a new precious little son into their homes recently. They are Jacob William (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jeanette Ringger), Joel Brandt (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shelly Fiechter), Mick Gaius (Bro. Scott and Sis. Melinda Gerber) and Christopher James (Bro. Steve and Karen Aschliman). May the Lord bless each of these couples as they look to the future.

As new little ones are born, so also the time must come when we must say good-bye to this world. Our sympathy is extended to John Pease whose mother, Sis. Evelyn Pease, passed away recently. Also, Alfred Rauch, brother of Bro. Jay and Bro. Cal Rauch, slipped from this world into eternity. May God comfort each of these families.

Those confined to the hospital this month were Quinn Fiechter (Sis. Jenny and Bro. Jim), Jerrod and Joshua Herman (twin sons of Rick and Sandy),

Bro. Roy Aschliman (Sis. Ida), Bro. Rob Parker (Karen), Roger Steffen (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Della) and Sis. Katie Gerber of Swiss Village.

Engaged to be wed in the near future are Bro. Dan Pfister (Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose) and Sis. Sheryl Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy, Latty, OH). May God be close to them as they seek His will in their lives.

The Bluffton church was the scene of two weddings this past month. Bro. Mike Fiechter (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Eunice) and Sis. Shari Beer (Sis. Dorothy Kaehr) were united in marriage December 8 and Sis. Jodi Ringger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine) and Bro. Jerry Reinhard (Bro. Junior and Sis. Doris) were married December 1. May God bless these two young couples in the days and years that are ahead.

It is always a blessing to welcome visiting ministers and their families. We were well blessed as Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis), Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford), Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Harold Emch (Girard, OH) came to visit and bring us God's holy Word in its truth. We thank them sincerely.

The Princeville, IL, choir visited the weekend of November 23. It was a blessed weekend of Christian fellowship. We thank them for their visit.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

It is now 1986, the year of our Lord. We can look back at 1985 and remember the joys and sorrows, the trials and the triumphs; but also, we must look to the future. Will the Lord tarry yet one more year? Will this be the year we see Jesus face to face? How comforting it is to place our future in God's hands and to trust His wisdom.

Loved ones who have spent time in the hospital recently are Sis. Ida Gerber (Bro. Ray) and Bro. Roy Gerber (Sis. Helen). Our thoughts and prayers have been with them wishing them a full recovery to good health.

Our prayers and deepest sympathy have been with Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Honegger in the loss of their father, Bro. Ray Heinold (Valparaiso) and with Bro. Calvin Rauch, Bro. Jay and Sis. Mabel Rauch, Sis. Hilda Steffen and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Virginia Rauch in the loss of their brother and uncle, Alfred Rauch (Decatur, IN).

May they all feel God's nearness in their time of sorrow.

December 14 was a special day for Daryl Funk (Jerry and Vicki) and Rachelle Gerber (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo) as they were united in holy matrimony. We wish them many years of happiness and may they look to God for guidance in their new life together.

Ministers visiting and sharing with us this past month have been Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH). We thank each one and welcome them and their families to return anytime.

We enjoyed a beautiful evening of praise through singing in honor of Jesus' birth, December 8, when our children gave their Christmas program. From the little tots to young adults, they are all so precious. May God richly bless each one.

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Revelation 22:12

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

Voices were lifted in praise to God through verse and song Wednesday, November 20, when many loved ones gathered together for the Thanksgiving program.

Our thankfulness and praise to God continued throughout the next weekend, November 23 and 24, when Brian Putt (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette) gave his testimony of faith and was baptized.

Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) assisted our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman with Bro. Brian's testimony and with serving communion to the brethren Saturday evening after the testimony. Bro. Andy was also with us Sunday for the baptism, as was ministering Bro. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL). We give thanks for their service to us.

On Thanksgiving Day, we were indeed thankful to have Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) with us to share God's Word.

Three of our loved ones are hospitalized at the time of this writing. They are Sis. Mary (Bro. Carl) Westfall and Bros. Larry Linback and Jerry Overmyer. Our prayers have been with them and their families. May we continue to pray for one another so none of us become discouraged.

Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN)

was with us on Wednesday, December 11, for the reading of the memorandum and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) shared God's Word with us Sunday, December 15. May God bless these brothers and all who minister to us.

On Sunday afternoon, December 15, hearts were warmed as we listened to the Sunday school children reciting verses and songs for our Christmas program. That same evening many met at the church to join in caroling to loved ones in and surrounding the community. Although it's usually cold outside when we carol, it's always heartwarming to share with others of our Saviour's birth.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Judy Dubach — Lynn Winslow

"Be anxious for nothing . . ." Philipians 4:6. Do you cross rivers before you come to them, dread troubles that never come, expect evil from the Lord instead of good? In other words, is your soul full of unnecessary care? "Do not worry" is a plain and simple command, but it is such a difficult one to follow. Someone has given a few beneficial suggestions for the person who feels defeated because of the common ailment of worry. "The anxious Christian hurts more than himself; he hurts the faith of those who know him and the good name of his Lord, Who has promised to supply all his needs. There is nothing which we cannot pray about. Go deeper into the text: "But in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God." What we can take to God, we can trust to God. What we put our fidelity into, He will perfect by His faithfulness. We may not succeed as we hoped; we may have discipline we little expected, but the Father knows what His child needs. What God has for us to do we can do, or to bear, we can bear. Is there not enough in His ocean to fill our pitcher? With the need of every day will come His promised supply ". . . My grace is sufficient for thee." So let us bind ourselves to God and be 'Anxious for nothing, Prayerful for everything, thankful for anything — and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.'

I am sure this is very applicable for several new families which have relocated to our area. We are so thankful for each of them and welcome them with open arms. Bro. Dave and Sis.

Betty Smeltzer and their daughters, Wendy and Tami, came to us from Bluffton, as well as Bro. Gordan and Sis. Cathy Gerber and their two daughters, Karyn and Sonya. From Toledo, OH, arrived Bro. Bill and Sis. Gale Bradford and their daughter, Susan. Bro. Clint and Sis. Gale Bucher and their two girls, Rochelle and Jessica, are from the South Bend area. It is truly a blessing to be able to go from one 'Family of God' to another and feel at home. We hope that each will "Be anxious for nothing."

First-time parents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Diane Hoerr, are very proud of Andrew Charles, born November 30. His grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr and William and MaryLou Falls.

We extend a special "thanks" to the Sunday school children for their efforts in the Christmas program December 15.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Connie Knobloch — Debbie Nuest

Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) was with us the weekend of November 30 to share with Elder Bro. Ed Frank in reading and expounding on the memorandum. During the last month, we also enjoyed the precious Word of Life as brought forth by Bros. Marvin Stieglitz and Jack Bollier (Leo), Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott). We appreciate our faithful brothers who so untiringly give of themselves for our benefit.

On Sunday, December 15, we set aside the afternoon to hear the Sunday school children recite their verses and sing Christmas carols. How thankful we are to see so many young and tender hearts express their love for the Christ Child.

INDIANA, LEO

Thelma Schlatter

The beginning of a new year is frequently considered inventory time. Let's try a personal inventory. "If you find yourself loving any pleasure better than your prayers, any book better than the Bible, any house better than the house of God, any table better than the Lord's table, any person better than Christ, any indulgence better than the hope of heaven — take alarm.

Thomas Guthrie

Gratitude is expressed to Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) for his ministry and visit.

Sis. Cindy Bauer has come from Princeville to work at the Children's Home. She had helped earlier and we are happy to welcome her back.

Another welcome addition to our church family is the baby son, Tyler William, born December 4, to Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Stieglitz. Pleased grandparents are Ted and Doris Weiss (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Oliver and Sis. EmmaJean Stieglitz.

"Many people do not understand why God cannot accept human character as a basis for salvation. The natural mind, accustomed to weighing all matters by purely human standards, cannot understand that God must reject human goodness because it comes from a heart that is fallen. An anecdote about little Jimmy furnishes a good example: He was being admired because he had crawled out on the ice and rescued a playmate who had fallen through. 'Tell us, my boy, how you were brave enough to risk your life to save your friend,' said an old lady. 'I had to,' was the breathless answer. 'He had my skates on.' If we are honest with ourselves, we will realize that very often our acts of goodness, down underneath, have a selfish motive."

Power

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:23, 24

We are either going to be forever with Him or forever without Him. Yield to Him, and make 1986 a blessed New Year.

Memorial services were conducted by Elder Bro. David Bertsch for George Ehnle, 86. He was formerly from Peoria, but had lived in Fort Wayne since June. Sympathy is expressed to his widow, Bertha, and to his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bro. George and Sis. Helen Zimmer.

Sympathy is also extended to Bro. William and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein in the sudden death of their brother-in-law, Bro. Ray Heinold (Valparaiso).

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
to Your Reporter

INDIANA, MILFORD
Shelby Beer — Joyce Kaiser

THE NEW YEAR

What shall I ask for the coming year?
 What shall my watchword be?
 What would'st Thou do for me, dear
 Lord?
 What shall I do for Thee?

Lord, I would ask for a holy year,
 Spent in Thy perfect will;
 Help me to walk in Thy very steps,
 Help me to please Thee still.

Lord, I would ask for a year of faith;
 Give me Thy faith divine.
 Taking my full inheritance,
 Making Thy fulness mine.

Lord, I would ask for a year of love
 Oh, let me love Thee best!
 Give me the love that faileth not
 Under the hardest test.

Lord, I would ask for a busy year,
 Filled up with service true;
 Doing with all Thy Spirit's might
 All that I find to do.

Lord, I would ask for a year of prayer,
 Teach me to walk with Thee:
 Breathe in my heart Thy Spirit's
 breath;
 Pray Thou Thy prayer in me.

Lord, I would ask for a dying world;
 Stretch forth Thy mighty hand;
 Scatter Thy Word, - Thy power display
 This year in every land.

Lord, I would ask for a year of hope,
 Looking for Thee to come,
 And hastening on that year of years,
 That brings us Christ and Home.
 A. B. Simpson

We thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) for spending November 30 with us and assisting Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in sharing directives from the conference letter.

Bro. Matthew Pamer recently underwent major surgery. Stan Price was also a hospital patient. They are both home now and we thank God for His healing touch in their lives.

December 8 was the wedding day for Sis. Shari Beer and Bro. Mike Fiechter (Bluffton). Our Milford congregation will miss Sis. Shari, Kristin and Amy, but we rejoice in their happiness and

ask God to bless their family in their new Bluffton home.

If we would choose one resolution to make and successfully keep in the New Year - let it be to daily have closer communion with the Lord. "Life at its best is reserved for those who follow hard after God."

S. Bell

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler — Annette Bahler

GIVE US MEN

Give us men to fill our pulpits
 Who have been alone with God;
 Men who have a vital message
 As the path of life they trod;
 Men who love our God and people
 More than money, pomp or ease;
 Men who seek to do God's bidding
 Though the world they may
 displease.

Give us men whose hearts are yearning
 For redemption for the lost;
 Men who pray for real revivals
 That may come at any cost;
 Men who preach the Holy Bible
 And believe its truths sublime;
 Men who long to bless their fellows
 As to God they give their time.
 Selected

Our group of brethren gathered together on the afternoon of November 24 to hear the exhortations and encouragements delivered to us through the memorandum letter. Elder Bros. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) and Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) were willing to sacrifice their time to exhort us with timely messages for "today". One thought that was expressed that could be useful to all was the explanation of the word "conversation" that we find used approximately twelve times in the New Testament. Its original meaning in the Greek language means "behavior" or "one's whole manner of lifestyle". It was concluded how sobering we should meditate upon these life-changing verses that are meant by God to be practiced in our life. May this be one of our priorities in this new year. "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness." (II Peter 3:11).

Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI) also visited our congregation

and encouraged us to put our faith in the blood of Christ.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Pauline Laidig — Jill Lehman

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

A new life, in the Lord, has dawned for Bro. Tim Steffen, who was taken into the fold Sunday, November 23. Many relatives and friends, including Tim's brother, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) came to share in this blessed occasion. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) was also with us on Saturday evening and Sunday. We appreciated having them minister to us and then serve the Lord's Supper to our little flock. It was truly a soul-stirring weekend.

Our annual business meeting was held on a recent Wednesday evening, at which time the various expired terms of duties were assumed by those who were chosen by prayerful voting. May the Lord grant wisdom and dedication to each one.

Most of our families had a part in the Christmas program as they honored our Savior's birth with songs, poems or reading of the Scripture. After church, a potluck dinner was held in honor of Bro. Clint and Sis. Gayle Bucher and daughters, Rochelle and Jessica, who will be leaving our community soon.

Just as we were feeling sad at losing a family from our small congregation, the Lord has sent another one to us. We were happy to hear that Bro. Steve Stoller (Princeville, IL) has found employment in Elkhart. His wife, Sis. Anna Marie, and family may not be able to join him for a while, but we do look forward to their being a part of our church family.

Even though the evening was very cold, our hearts were warmed as we sang carols to the elderly and infirm in nursing homes and for Bro. Ernest and Sis. Marie Germann in their home.

Dear Sis. Marge Mangold had to spend some time in the hospital, but is home again. Sis. Helen Martin is a patient in the St. Joseph Hospital in Mishawaka, and Sis. Rosena Hueni remains in the Bremen Community Hospital. We covet your prayers for them.

A precious little baby, Jennifer Lynn, has arrived in the home of her

happy parents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Aeschliman. It goes without saying that she brings joy to her grandparents, Bro. Verne and Sis. Leona Lehman and Bro. Walter and Sis. Imogene Aeschliman (Bluffton North).

**INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

Lily Vogt

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) for taking part in our Christmas program December 12. We are so fortunate to have the freedom to gather and worship as we please.

Another year is passing

And He has not returned,
 Yet daily we're brought closer
 To that for which we've yearned.

Our hearts with longing ponder
 When will we see the face
 Of Him whose daily mercies
 Our thankful hearts can trace.

Yet looking through the lattice,
 Unseen to mortal eyes,
 Each thought and action knowing,
 He every motive tries.

With arms outstretched in waiting
 We view another year
 And ask, "O Saviour, is it
 The blessed crowning year?"

To be forever with Him
 The One our hearts adore,
 Delighting in His presence,
 Desiring nothing more.

Yet while we wait, beloved,
 Let us not fall behind.
 Before the dawn is darkest
 More testings yet you'll find.

But keep ahead the glory.
 Ne're let it fade from view.
 The Lord of glory cometh -
 What will He find in you?
 Kathryn Guernsey Darrah

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

A blessed weekend was spent with Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Steve Rinckenberger (Cissna Park, IL) November 23 as they, along with Bro. Alfred, shared the conference report with us. Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS) was with us Thanksgiving Day. We

thank the brothers for teaching God's Word to us through His inspiration.

Our dear Sis. Ada Abersoll has always been such an encouragement and inspiration to all of us at Wolcott. She has now moved to a new home at Parkview Haven (Francesville). Our love and prayers are with Ada, and may she be a blessing to everyone there.

The Christmas season seems a perfect time to rejoice in the rebirth of two precious souls. On December 8, we welcomed Sis. Missy Furrer (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Marcy Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) into the fold of Christ. For this reason Jesus came as a little babe, and "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington) shared in the weekend.

The children have eagerly been learning new songs and verses for our Christmas program December 18. May their simple faith and love for Jesus renew the joy in our hearts now and in the New Year.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner — Dixie Messner

We were thankful for the visits of Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) on the weekend when Bro. Landon Rowell (Bro. John and Sis. Nelda) gave his testimony and was baptized. We trust he will be able to rejoice in his salvation.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford) and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo). May God give grace so that our dear ministering brothers may continually be willing to be used in His service.

Believing it is God's will, Sis. Monti Taeger (Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Jeff Wagenbach's (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie, Oakville) betrothal was announced. May they be blest as they continue to prayerfully seek His guidance.

Bro. Kenneth Buehler and Clarence Massner were hospitalized lately, but have returned home. Sis. Debbie Metzger remains in the hospital, but is able to go home for weekends. She is looking forward to being dismissed from the hospital in a week or so.

February is collection month for Burlington. It will be appreciated if you

will give your \$7.00 to one of the reporters.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

With the year 1985 drawing to a close and people rushing to make plans for the new year, I can't help but reflect on the year past and wonder how many kept their "New Year's resolutions". For myself, each day in each month seemed so busy - did I take enough time for the really important things in life? I was granted the privilege of living another year for Him. Did I live each moment of each day for God, or did I live for myself, squeezing time for worship and meditation in between other events in my busy schedule? I pray that with the New Year, the year of our Lord, 1986, that each of us, myself first of all, will always have our priorities in the right order.

We offer thanks to all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). May God richly bless all who make the effort to assemble with our little flock.

IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

We were blest with many good teachings and spiritual guidance the weekend of December 15, when Elder Bro. Sam Huber was here to assist Elder Bro. Leo Moser in sharing the conclusions of the conference which was held in Morton last August. We are grateful to Bro. Sam and his helpmate for giving of themselves in our behalf. Sunday evening we were again treated with special blessings as our 212 Sunday school students presented their Christmas program in words and song.

Because of a snowstorm, we did not have services December 1. We have had a lot of winter weather and snow already.

The betrothal announcement of Sis. Beth Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor) and Bro. Tim Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN) was made. They are planning a February wedding. Also betrothed are Sis. Beth Mogler (Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie) and Bro. Myron Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie). They also plan a February wedding. Sis. Beth's twin, Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Leuthold were united in marriage in September. The family circles grow larger and how grateful we

are as there is so much more love to share.

On November 23, Devin Dale was born to Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois Mogler. He has a brother and his grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler and Bro. Silas and Sis. Edith Knobloch. Ted and Sis. Diane Larson became the parents of Lance Del December 11. He has two sisters to welcome him and his grandparents are Bro. Freddie and Sis. Esty Metzger and Betty Larson. Jim and Susie Gerber have a new daughter by adoption. Andrea was born in Korea as was her older sister and she also has two brothers to welcome her.

Hospitalized were Bro. Jerome Hartter and Bro. Jake Metzger, both for surgery and they are recuperating at home.

Bro. John and Sis. Donna Gerber have left to make their home in Phoenix, AZ. We miss them and pray they will soon feel at home in the Phoenix church.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach

The weekend after Thanksgiving was an extra blessed time for us in Oakville. We were privileged to have brothers and sisters from our church in Rockville, CT, spend a long weekend with us. We felt such a blessing in having them with us and trust that they could feel the same.

That same weekend, December 1, the betrothal of Sis. Monti Taeger (Burlington) to Bro. Jeff Wagenbach was made known to the congregation. Sis. Monti is the daughter of Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington) and Bro. Jeff is the son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach. May God ever be near them and may they counsel for His infinite wisdom as they plan their life together in Him.

Kevin Robert is the newest addition and the third son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank. Daniel, Brent and Kelli complete the family circle. Bro. Robert and Sis. Clara Frank and Bro. Ed and Sis. Jenny Schambach (Elgin, IL) are Kevin's grandparents.

Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) have recently served as visiting ministers in our congregation.

As we enter another new year, everyone is once again making New Year's resolutions and wishes. Let us resolve to pray and serve our God more dili-

gently this year than we did last year, because even if we felt like we have done our best, we all have a lot of room for improvement.

Thought: If a man could have half his wishes, he would double his troubles.

Anonymous

IOWA, WEST BEND Polly Zaugg — Elma Mogler

It was a privilege to have Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) as our guest ministers this month. We want to say, "Thank you", to each one of our ministers for depending on God's grace and guidance to help us all understand God's will and His way.

On December 1, the wedding of Sis. Marcy Banwart and Bro. James Knobloch (Zapata, TX) was solemnized. Parents of the couple are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart and Gilbert and Sis. Vickie Knobloch (Lester).

Sis. Karen Metzger and Bro. Eldon Banwart were united in marriage December 8. Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger and Bro. Earl and Sis. Edna Banwart are their parents. May God's blessings be with these couples as they begin their lives together.

We are all happy and thankful that Pat and Sue Murphy have a newly adopted son, born September 9. His name is Jared Daniel. His brother, J.P., welcomed him to their home along with grandparents, Jim and Sherry Schmidt and Mrs. Luella Murphy.

Many loved ones have been hospitalized this past month. They are: Sis. Lena Grimm (Bro. Eli, Sr.), Louisa Anliker (Reuben), Sis. Corrine Traub, Bro. George Bruellman, Judy Gates (Don), Sis. Debbie Bruellman (Bro. Mark) and Don Haverman (Mona). Sis. Elizabeth Metzger (Bro. Duane) is in Dallas, TX, receiving medical help. We surely have a loving concern for their health and hope it will be restored.

Our annual business meeting was held December 3 with the following positions being filled: Church treasurer, Bro. Wayne Grimm; trustee, Bro. Vic Banwart; Fellowship hall trustee, Bro. Don Bruellman; usher, Bro. Norm Zaugg; building aid, Bro. Ken Banwart; personal property aid, Bro. Leland Metzger; hail aid, Bro. David Bruellman; world relief, Sis. Betty Banwart; cleaning committee, Sis. Evelyn Schmidt; cooking committee, Sis. Judy Metzger, Sis. Marilyn Banwart, Sis.

Kathy Fehr and Sis. Sharon Fehr. We certainly wish to thank those who have fulfilled their terms in their various duties. May the Lord bless the new ones with their duties.

What will we do with this year that's so new?

As we start a new year untouched and unmarred,

Unblemished and flawless, unscratched and unscarred,

May we try to do better and accomplish much more

And be kinder and wiser than the year gone before —

Let us wipe our slate clean and start over again,

For God gives this privilege to all sincere men

Who will humbly admit they have failed many ways,

But are willing to try and improve these new days

By asking God's help in all that they do

And counting on Him to refresh and renew

Their courage and faith when things go wrong

And the way seems dark and rough and long —

What will you do with this year that's so new?

The choice is yours — God leaves it to you!

Helen Steiner Rice

JAPAN, SHIODA Sheila Moser

It's the end of the year and we, like most Christians throughout the world, are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. The Sunday school children will present the Christmas story in both song and scripture reading. The kindergarten students will again put on the Christmas play for their mothers. Most of the brethren plan to spend a Sunday afternoon at a local nursing home sharing the story with the residents.

In Japan, however, many people who celebrate Christmas have very little idea of the true meaning of the holiday. This is so apparent when one walks through a department store only to view beautiful decorations, to hear seasonal music and to see in the midst of it all the sign, "X-mas Sale". This says it all concerning most Japanese people's knowledge of Christmas, "Christ" is not present.

In December we had visitors from

the States: Bro. Clark Baurer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Ron Knapp (Detroit, MI). We hope that they had a very blessed adventure here and will take home many precious memories.

We are also anticipating a visit from brothers on their way to India, Lord willing, in January. We hope they have a safe journey and look forward to the additional fellowship they will supply.

We would like to wish you all a most blessed New Year and thank you for your correspondences this past year. Whether it be a prayer, thought, card or letter, they are all deeply appreciated.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

We don't know the exact date that our Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem as the Bible story does not say. However, by our calendar, the Christmas season is here and we are planning our church Sunday school program for December 22.

Recently two Finnish ladies visiting Japan and a Russian lady who resides here have been attending our church. We enjoy their presence and wish them well in the Lord.

Bro. Saburo Utsuki is hospitalized and requires family care. We uphold their family in our prayers.

It was nice to have Chuck Albritton (Sis. Marsha, Bloomington, IN) visit us on a Sunday. He flies 747's for a cargo airlines and was in Tokyo over Sunday. Since being here before, he has decided to walk with the Lord and is awaiting baptism. We are so happy for him.

Bro. Fred C. Gutwein (Francesville, IN) also stopped by during his business trip to Japan and China. We appreciate the visits of them in their busy schedules.

We thank every Silver Lining reader for their love and prayers for us. May each one have a joyous Christmas and blessed New Year in 1986.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger

Angela Christina Rae Rokey welcomes home a new baby brother, Levi Benjamin Clay. He was born November 15. His happy parents are Mr. and Mrs. Don Rokey. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Florence Rokey.

Hospitalized were Bro. Jim Kaeb, appendectomy; Sis. Linda Rokey, sur-

gery; Bro. Eldon Plattner, farm mishap; and Bro. Paul Kaeb, surgery.

THE LIVING LIGHT

Today I noticed a brilliant light
Shining across my way,
And I saw it was a beautiful
Sun's bright golden ray.
It flickered there ever before me
As though trying to show
Just the right way leading to where
I was wishing to go.
And it made me think how we can be
Free from worry and strife
If we follow the light of Jesus
That falls cross the pathway of life.

Virginia Katherine Oliver

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Judy Bahr

A joyous Christmas season to all!
The wonderful story was retold to us
Sunday evening, December 15, as the
Sunday school children had their
Christmas program. A gift exchange
and refreshments were enjoyed by all
afterwards.

Our dear sister, Dorothy Sinn, was a hospital patient. She is now home and our thoughts and prayers are with her continually. May God grant her strength to meet each new day.

May the coming year hold bright new promises from above to each and every one!

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young — Doris Bahr

As we turn the calendar to a new year, we are faced with the fact that our days on earth are numbered. I think most people do a certain amount of introspection and can't help but realize the brevity of time. We usually then resolve to make better use of our time. As Christians, I know it is a continual desire that our commitment and love, first to God and then to others, be strengthened by time. Let us take time this year to express our love in countless ways.

We are thankful Bro. Ephraim Young is recuperating nicely at home, following a lengthy stay in the hospital, much of it spent in intensive care.

Truly an inspiring message of love was brought forth by visiting Elder Bros. Edward Lanz (Oakville, IA), Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL).

Let us think upon a few scripture verses. "But now hath God set the

members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body." I Corinthians 12:18-20.

We certainly must realize our accountability to one another and may we respond in a correct manner to God-given authority with an attitude of true humility.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill K. Luthi

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THIS YEAR THAT'S SO NEW?

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

To end the old year of 1985, Lamont is happy to close the chapter with both a new convert and a birth of a little loved one. Realizing she is a sinner, and wanting to become spotless of all blemishes, Sandra Gasche has begun her walk of life with the Lord. Sandra needs our support, prayers and the abundant grace of God to overcome those worldly trials that we all face.

Shanelle Marie was born December 22. First-time parents are Bro. John and Sis. Maria Wernli. Grandparents are Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Roy and

Sis. Betty Wernli. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to all of them.

To my recollection there has only been one hospital patient since the last writing. Bro. Floyd Isch was in and out within a few days for tests and surgery. We're glad to have him assembling with us again and to know that there were no complications during his few days stay.

Wednesday, December 18 was the Lamont Sunday school Christmas program. What a blessed way to end the year and be reminded through those who are so young in age. May God bless those who took part and those who were the instructors for the endeavors they have put forth in presenting the program.

"For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit."

Ecclesiastes 2:26

KANSAS, MANHATTAN

Heidi Baumgartner — Kim Meyer

As finals week is approaching, we are anxiously awaiting the conclusion of this semester. For Sharon Strahm (Bro. Walter and Sis. Mildred, Sabetha) this will be her last semester at Kansas State, as she will be graduating. Also graduating this semester is Mark Eslinger (Waymer and Pauline, Bern).

For our most recent church service, Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita) ministered to us. He and his wife are welcome any time, especially since they have a daughter in the Manhattan area.

We were then privileged to gather together in the home of Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda Giltner. We could share a blessed evening of singing and fellowship.

Wednesday, December 11, we held our annual Christmas caroling. After singing at two rest homes and two hospitals, we congregated at Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm's home. We enjoyed chili, relishes and Christmas candy. A very special thank you goes to those who put forth the effort to attend. May the peace of Christmas be with you now and always!

On Christmas mornings long ago,
The church bell's joyous sound

Awakened all the countryside
For miles and miles around,
And families came from far and near,
Despite the wintry weather,
To fill the little country church
And worship there together.
How wonderful it was to be
Among that congregation
As friends and neighbors
Joined their hearts
In humble adoration,
To feel the warmth and unity
Of souls in true accord
And hear the lovely story
Of the birth of Christ the Lord.

Eleanor Leah Woods

KANSAS, SABETHA Charleen Hartter — Nita Grimm

"God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through.

God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
God hath not promised we shall not know

Toil and temptation, trouble and woe.
He hath not told us we shall not bear
Many a burden, many a care.

But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the laborer, light for the way.
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love."

Author Unknown

God has given to us so many beautiful promises to give us courage, hope and strength as another new year is dawning in our lives. We do not know whether the path ahead will be one of joy or sorrow; but we do know that His grace, help and love shall forever be a light for our way. May our prayers be filled with the supplications written in the hymn "My Prayer", Gospel Hymns #594. The songwriter expressed twenty-four "longings" he desired to have "more of" in serving his God. May our hearts experience these same desires as we seek the nearness of our loving Saviour!

Our dear Bro. Alphaia Aberle suffered a severe heart attack in late November sweeping him into his eternal resting place. His beloved wife, Sis. Irene; his children, Bro. Roger, Elton (Lincoln, NE), Katie Martin (Gridley, IL), Miriam Southerland (Arlington, VA) and Jane Aberle (Morton, IL) are

given our deepest sympathy and love in their great loss. We miss the cheerful countenance that Bro. Alphaia always seemed to radiate in our congregation; but is our comfort to believe that he sought the Saviour's mercy in his earthly life, and his countenance yet will shine on heaven's shores.

We enjoyed hearing the old, old story of Christ's birth as the Sunday school children brought it forth to us December 15.

Bro. Joe Aberle has patiently endured the afflictions of the physical body, and is still recuperating as of this date. Our prayers have been with him that soon he will be restored again with due strength. It is a wonderful thought to know how others do care so sincerely for the welfare of a soul found in the hour of trial and need.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Alphaia Strahm (Bern, KS). We thank them for their labors in faith.

It is always a blessing and privilege as we alternate our assembling together with the Bern congregation for Wednesday evening services throughout the winter months. Several have left our area to spend the winter months in warmer climates. Although we miss them, we trust the Lord will watch between us all until we meet again.

Our congratulations are given to Sharon Strahm (daughter of Bro. Walter and Sis. Mildred) as she has graduated from college in December. We wish her well in the days ahead.

KANSAS, WICHITA Laurie Gallatin

Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH) was a visiting minister here November 30.

A special joy filled the home of Bro. Steve and Sis. Jeanne Langhofer as they brought home their first baby girl, Lindsey Renee. Lindsey was born November 21 and is welcomed home by her older brothers, Chad, Tyson, Benjamin, Jordan and Blake. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer (Wichita) and Bro. Meredith and Sis. Leona Ricketts (Forrest, IL).

On December 15, the Sunday school children presented a Christmas play to the congregation. It is always so special to hear the Christmas story from these young ones.

Now the New Year is here, and many of us have thought of ways we could improve ourselves this year. May the

Lord really direct us in how He wants to change us by His power.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Lester Huber

FAITH FOR THE NEW YEAR

There were followers of our Lord sailing the stormy sea troubled by the stormy winds which jeopardized their very lives, and whom, for fear, sought refuge in their Lord exclaiming, "Master, we perish!" Our Lord and Master arose, and after stilling the high winds and troubled sea, asked, "Where is your faith?"

Today out on life's troubled sea disturbed by the winds of confusion and distress of the nations with perplexity, human hearts are filled with fear of perishing and asking, "What is this world coming to?" Jesus speaks of a great storm approaching in the last days, the sea and waves roaring, symbolic of the troubled nations. God's Word speaks of a greater storm in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are in it shall be burned up. (II Peter 3:10). As it is quite obvious everywhere today of an approaching storm over the horizon, "Where is our faith?" Is it anchored in one who is able to control the wind and the sea?

We appreciated and are thankful for our visitors and visiting ministers in the past month who were Bro. Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Donald Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN).

In the closing days of 1985 we acknowledge most gratefully the faithfulness of all our visiting ministers and churches who have come in the past year to worship with us. We have precious memories that will linger on and pray God will richly reward the efforts and expense involved. We extend our warmest wishes to all for a blessed New Year in the Lord.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Liz Blough

Well, we've made it through another year! 1985 is a memory. Some of our memories are good, some not so good. We now have a new year ahead of us to build new memories. May the good Lord enrich all of our lives in 1986.

Our Christmas program is history. But it was a lovely program. Our chil-

dren all worked very hard to learn their verses. We thank the teachers for their hard work, too! We could feel the presence of the Lord as He smiled down on us, listening to the children telling the wonderful story of His birth.

We welcome, to our community, the Harris family, Bob and Sis. Sharon and their four children, Robert, Samantha, Jacob and Lance. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they worship with us.

December 18 was Sis. Lydia Win-geier's 90th birthday. The church ladies had a potluck lunch for her at the nursing home. Happy birthday, Lydia!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Pam Schlatter

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." II Timothy 3:14, 15. On December 15, our Sunday school held its annual Christmas program, reminding us of the gift of love God sent to the world. We are thankful these children know the holy scriptures as Timothy did and pray that they would keep their childlike faith so they may someday be made wise unto salvation.

Our hospital patients this month included Bros. Ed Freidinger, Howard Wieland, Erwin Erisman and Gerry Wieland. We are pleased to have each of them in our presence once again, and praise God for His healing touch.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Jenny Wieland have an added responsibility in the Lord's vineyard. They have been entrusted with the care and spiritual guidance of little Jill Lynn. Jill arrived December 16. We wish Craig and Jenny the joy of serving the Lord in the capacity of parenting their family.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Bev Bahr

Christmas is God's offering of love to us and as we share this love with others, the joy of the season is truly ours. For the past several weekends, many have been caroling and quite a few gathered at church to make Christmas baskets for needy neighbors and loved ones. We are also happy to have our college students home for the holidays, making our church fellowship a little more complete.

Gary and Mary Knochel were blessed with their first child, Jessica Marie, December 3. Jessica's grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel and Guido and Dirce Galasini. May God bless their family circle with His love and nearness.

Sis. Anna Sabados was hospitalized recently but is home now and it is good to see her at church with us again. May she be blessed with strength and health in the days ahead.

Our annual Christmas program was held and we were thankful that so many visitors and friends assembled with us for the special occasion. It warms our hearts to hear the blessed story of Christ's birth in song and verse by our Sunday school students and choir. We sincerely pray that in the coming new year, many will come to know this Christ Child as their Saviour and Redeemer.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Barbara Olson

NEW BEGINNINGS

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

Helen Steiner Rice

God's servants are such a blessing to our churches. We were pleased to have as our visiting minister this month, Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN). We trust he felt our prayerful support as he brought forth the inspired Word of God.

God has blessed the home of Todd and Reenee Messner with a precious little daughter, Emily Rose, born November 10. Also welcoming her is big brother, Andrew, grandparents, Sis. Carol Ann Messner and John and Diane Ohlemann.

We will truly miss Bro. Les and Sis. Patti Marti as they have moved to Cissna Park, IL. Our prayers are with them. We will look forward to their visits.

Linus and Sis. Esther Lienemann

were blessed by having their 50th wedding anniversary. They were honored with an open house November 30 given by their children.

This past month has been a joyous time as we celebrated the birth of Christ. Our Sunday school students proclaimed this joy through songs, poems and verses in their Christmas program December 15. We thank our teachers for the effort they put forth. Certainly it was reflected in the children and their enthusiasm. We also rejoiced as we went Christmas caroling to various places this past month.

The family of Kevin Bragg wishes to express our deepest appreciation and thanks to our ministers, friends and relatives for their prayers, visits, cards and gifts during our time of bereavement. God bless all of you.

Thought — God loves every one of us as if there were but one of us to love.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Hildegard Koehl
Rhonda Zeltwanger

Desensitization is a process by which a patient with allergies receives weekly injections containing an increasing amount of the substance to which he is allergic. As a result, the body, in time, becomes accustomed to the foreign substance and is no longer irritated by it. Sadly, the same desensitization can occur in the spiritual life. Sins that once were considered unthinkable are at first tolerated, then condoned, and finally openly endorsed. Judah's citizens suffered from such desensitization. Called to be God's holy and chosen people, little by little, they became indifferent to sin's poisonous intrusion. At last they sank so low that even the burning of their little children at Tophet as sacrifices to idols no longer bothered them. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Proverbs 28:13).

Ilene Burnham has turned from the life of sin and is seeking this mercy from God. We all rejoice to have converts. It is so good to see God still calling His lambs to this life of abundant love and to receive His goodness and mercy that we may prosper in our spiritual lives.

Bro. Albert Joos (Sis. Edie), Gary Moser (Sis. Doreen), Tim Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Kathy Nohl (Elder Bro. Art and Sis.

Sandy) have been in the hospital this month. We pray for God's healing touch for each of them and also that He may comfort and uplift each of their families and loved ones.

Ryan James is the name chosen for Ken and Sally Feuchtenberger's first child. Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger are Ryan's grandparents. They will enjoy watching this precious life grow and change. Children are such a blessing to our homes.

We were able to see how fast these children grow up as we watched our Christmas program December 15. These young ladies and gentlemen touched each of our hearts as they told of Jesus' birth. How thankful we are to have so many children in our church. God has truly blessed our homes and our church with these healthy, happy young people.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Wanda Messner
Mary Lou Schmidt

IT'S A COMFORT TO KNOW

O, God, what a comfort to know that you care;
 And to know when I seek you, you will always be there.

Helen Steiner Rice

We rejoice with Marcy Schmidt (Sis. Ella Mae and Gene) who has taken her cares and burdens to our Lord. May God give her the grace and strength to overcome the trials and temptations that may lie before her.

Christmas time is such a beautiful time of year; at no other are we able to witness the spirit of sharing and giving in such full measure. How wonderful it would be if everyone could keep this spirit of sharing throughout the new year.

Christmas time also becomes a time of a lot of activities. We were so privileged to hear about the Christmas story, as told by our Sunday school children in song and verse. Much time is put into preparing this program each year and we thank each child and teacher for their efforts. Also, at Christmas time, we enjoy singing the many beautiful Christmas carols at the local nursing homes and at the homes of our older brothers and sisters. It's touching to see the joy and happiness it brings.

With Christmas comes snow! We

were unable to have services one Sunday this month because of the large amount of snow. How thankful we are that it is just the weather that forces us to stay home on Sunday and not our government!

After Christmas the year quickly comes to a close, and we look forward to a New Year of living for our Lord!

January is the month for Winthrop's Silver Lining collection.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Marti — Janice Stoller

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

Another year of mercies,
 Of faithfulness and grace.
 Another year of gladness
 In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
 Another year of praise,
 Another year of proving,
 Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
 Of witness for Thy love;
 Another year of training
 For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
 Dear Master, let it be,
 On earth, or else in heaven,
 Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

Once again we are approaching a new year, and we realize we are one year closer to eternity. Let us strive even harder in this new year to be found true and faithful.

We were saddened by the passing of our dear Sis. Marie Steward. However, now her suffering is over, and the victory won. We extend our sympathy to her family left behind.

Hospital patients this past month were Hazel Kibler, Bro. Bob Stoller, Sarah Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker) and Kayla Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha Kellenberger). May God continue to heal them, and we hope they will soon be feeling much better.

On December 15 the Sunday school Christmas program was presented at church. We thank all the teachers and children who made this possible.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
 I Thessalonians 5:18

We were privileged to have Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) as our visiting minister Thanksgiving Day. May God bless all the brothers who proclaim His Word so that we may be spiritually fed.

Our sympathy is offered to Bro. Ron and Sis. Chris Joos at the death of Ron's grandmother, Sis. Lena Joos (Peoria, IL). "One thing I have desired . . . that I may dwell in the house of the Lord." (Psalm 27:4).

Hospital patients were Sis. Penny Knochel (Bro. Eric) for tests and x-rays and Bro. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marge) for surgery. May God restore good health rapidly so each can fulfill the role in which they are placed.

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell have once again taken up their winter residence in Florida. We miss them and look forward to their return in the springtime.

"In every step, in every stride,
 I'll let the Savior be my guide;
 His word, His love, I will embrace,
 And let His wisdom set the pace."

Anonymous

We congratulate Dan and Sis. Tina Sutter at the arrival of their second child and first son, Wesley Allen, born December 11. Little Jenae will be an eager helper and grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge Sutter and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Beard (Fishhook, IL). May God bless this little family and direct them in bringing up their children in the fear and nurture of the Lord.

"Silent Night - Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright - Round yon virgin, mother and child - Holy infant so tender and mild - Sleep in heavenly peace - Sleep in heavenly peace." Once again we were entertained when our Sunday school presented the annual Christmas program. Whether it be the same "old story" or song or whether it be told in just a little different way, it is indeed a highlight of the Christmas season. We thank the students and teachers and may God bless them, each one, for their efforts.

We're happy to have our college students home for a few days — Bro.

Greg Haab (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy, Normal, IL), Carrie Hoerr (Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee), Sis. Dawn Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally, Peoria, IL) and Kim Sutter (Bro. James and Sis. Lois, Canton, IL).

"O, give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; because His mercy endureth forever." Psalm 118:1

February is Taylor's Silver Lining collection month.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Ed Aeschleman

During the past month we enjoyed and appreciated the kind visits of the dear brothers who came to minister here. They were Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY), Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Bro. Everette Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Everette Gerber (Rockville, CT). We greatly benefited from the blessed hours of fellowship together and hearing of the power and truth of God's Word.

Bro. Gary Fiechter, who spent several months with us here in Union City, returned to his home in Bluffton, IN. Though we will miss his presence and support here in our church, we know he will continue to pray for us and let himself be used in God's service wherever he is.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN
Alice Virkler

As the Christmas season is upon us, we can see God's magnificence and beauty in the blanket of white snow that surrounds us. This week we have had storms that closed schools and roads. This reminds us that we cannot control the weather but are thankful that He provides each of our needs in life.

We are looking forward to hearing the program which the Sunday school children have prepared and will present Sunday, December 22. May our children carry what they have learned with them each day of their lives.

Niles, Jr. and Barb Farney have welcomed a new little son, Derek Edward, born December 19. Derek will also be loved by his sister, Amy, who is glad for a new little playmate. Their grandparents are Bro. Niles and Sis. Polly Farney and Martha Kalamas.

As the Lord gives us new babies to enjoy in this life, He also shows His power in the taking of loved ones from our midst. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and

his family in the loss of Sis. Edna. They were comforted by many who traveled to extend their sympathy to the family. We are thankful to Elder Bros. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) who remained with us for services following the funeral services Wednesday evening, December 11. Also, our thanks are extended to Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) and Orville Ringger (Bluffton, IN) for giving of themselves at the funeral service. May we all be comforted by their love and concern for us all.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG
Rachel Snyder

Sis. Edna V. Beyer, wife of Elder Bro. Robert G. Beyer, died December 8 after heart surgery in Syracuse, where she was hospitalized for 18 days. Funeral services were held December 11 at the Naumburg church by Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), assisted by Elder Bros. Orville Ringger (Bluffton, IN) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI). Others also taking part were Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors present were from San Juan, TX, Roanoke, IL, Rockville, CT, Rochester and Syracuse, NY.

She was the daughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Nora (Virkler) Farney and married Bro. Robert Beyer October 22, 1936. Surviving besides her husband are a daughter, Mrs. Sergei (Nancy) Smith of Liverpool; a son, Philip (Castorland); four grandchildren; three sisters, Mrs. Robert (Dorothy) Easton, Rochester, Mrs. Roy (Mildred) Babcock, Syracuse, and Mrs. Fred (Leona) Farney, San Juan, TX.

Sis. Edna surely will be missed by one and all. She was a great example of a quiet, humble life. May the Lord be with Bro. Robert and give him the needed strength and grace.

Sis. Natalie Hergiz, 61, passed away December 1. She is survived by a brother, Wayland (California); nephews and cousins. Funeral services were held in the Naumburg church by Bros. Leland Hirschey and Floyd Graves.

Sis. Corine Virkler has spent a few days in the hospital for tests and Sis. Rosella Schulz has had to spend a few days in the hospital. May the Lord's help and strength be with them.

My family and I wish to thank everyone for their thoughtful prayers, cards,

gifts and all kind acts, especially the past three weeks during the illness and death of our dear one. We are also grateful for the many notes of sympathy which have come from coast to coast. God bless you all.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Nehemiah tells about the rebuilding of the walls and gates around Jerusalem where the temple was rebuilt. Today, Christians are the temple of God, and we need a wall with gates around us, for Proverbs 25:28 says: "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." Nehemiah, which means comforter, went out to survey the walls and 12 gates broken down. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, and He surveys any walls we have broken down, and there are 12 gates or areas of authority of our will. Beside each gate there was a tower and a well of water. The Holy Spirit is our watch tower to warn us to open or close the gate of our will. When the one in the tower warned to close the gate, but the enemy wanted in, since the gate was wood, the enemy would throw a fiery dart to burn the gate. Water from the well was used to quench the dart of fire. Water is symbolic of the Word. Our example, Jesus, quenched the fiery darts with the Sword of the Spirit by saying, "It is written . . ." It is necessary to know the Word so we can use the well of water Jesus gives to keep our gates and walls up around our temple.

The Sunday school classes and their teachers presented an enjoyable and interesting Christmas program Sunday evening, December 15.

Bro. Gary Maibach was our visiting minister this past month and we were blessed with his inspiring messages.

Our Akron congregation was blessed this year to have two babies born, one baptism, one marriage and there was one death.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Desma Klopfenstein

We look to the New Year with anticipation as, with the Lord's guidance, our Columbus congregation will begin having services every Sunday. Visiting ministers will now be scheduled on the second and fourth weekends, but visitor are welcome anytime and encouraged to come fellowship with us.

Bro. Fred Domka shared God's

Word with us this month. May God bless him and his family for traveling to be with our congregation.

As 1986 is upon us, we begin the year with a new vigor and enthusiasm toward serving our Lord and those around us. To do this, we'll need encouragement and Philippians, chapter 4, seems an appropriate one for strengthening the faithful spirit . . . "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13.

OHIO, GIRARD

Kathryn Emch

As I think over the last three months of the year, I recall that Bro. John Klotzle and Sis. Lois spent September 29 with us. That made an interesting Sunday as all of our congregation knew him as a young man and now thoroughly enjoy his company and ministry.

Bros. Gary Maibach and Ernest Graf were visiting ministers November 24. We were happy to welcome them and all who came to worship. We had our dining room tables filled as well as our spiritual table.

Harold left for Haiti November 29, so Bro. Ron Polito ministered to us December 1. On December 8, we attended a wedding in Bluffton, IN, so Bro. Eugene Pamer served in our pulpit. I wish to thank the ministers, song leaders and all who accompanied them, for their service and fellowship.

Sis. Margaret Kincaid is in the hospital with a broken ankle. Sis. Louisa Lance is recovering at the home of her daughter after a stay in the hospital.

I have asked Harold to share his thoughts on his trip to Haiti.

After having spent 8 days away from home and loved ones, I submit these thoughts: As Bros. Dave Ramsier and Rudy Zollinger (Rittman) and I flew from Cleveland to Miami we prayed that God would provide His loving protection. As we met loved ones from Illinois in Miami, and then flew to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, we all asked for God to carry us safely on His wings of love.

He answered our prayers and delivered us to missionaries Bob Stewart and others, in whose presence we felt His love.

All of our group of 8 men were protected from injury and had the blessing of warm and loving fellowship. We read God's Word, discussed it and prayed together. We worked hard at a Christian High School and felt that our time was well-spent in God's service.

Then came the time of parting from those to whom I had felt so close. At 4:30 p.m. December 6, I left Haiti.

As the thrilling northbound flights took me over the waters, and later the various cities, and I could see the patterns of lights in the darkness, I was reminded of I John 1:5 . . . "that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all".

I shall not soon forget the blessing of returning home to loved ones and our homeland December 7, 1985, the 44th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

Our thanks are extended to Bros. Bob Meyer and Wendell Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) who brought us Spirit-inspired sermons this month.

Sis. Louise Manz (Bro. Emanuel) was hospitalized for knee surgery and is now home and recovering.

Our friend, Bob Manz, who has been repenting since January, in Dallas, TX, has found God's favor to move home. It is such a blessing to have him back in Junction again worshipping each Sunday.

OHIO, LATTY

Marlene Reinhard — Patty Gerber

The brothers and sisters were reminded of the importance of keeping Satan out of our hearts and the Holy Spirit in, as we reviewed the conclusions from the annual conference. Much insight and wisdom were directed to help us continue on our spiritual journey. We were encouraged to give the Lord our first priorities with our time, finances, and every area of our life. Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller with this duty. We were also privileged to have Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) with us for the weekend, and Bros. Art Gudeman and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Walter Steffen (Milford, IN) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for previous services.

God gives each of us special people to help us in our spiritual walk. Oftentimes this helper comes in the form of a marriage partner. Sis. Sherry Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Dan Pfister (Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose, Bluffton, IN) have made known their engagement. We trust they will find spiritual strength in each other as help-mates.

Whitney Anne joined the Wenninger

household in time for Thanksgiving. Parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice, along with brothers, Ashley and Austin, and sister, Samantha, gave special thanks for the blessing of a healthy newborn.

Patrick Dunham (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Deb) was our only hospital patient this month, for which we are grateful.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

Our sympathies are extended to Bro. Bernie (Washington, IL) and to Sis. Katie Sauder. Death has visited both their families. Bro. Bernie's mother passed away. Sis. Katie's sister also passed away. "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." (Revelation 21:4). What a beautiful promise; what tender caring and love.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) was with us over Thanksgiving. Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) also spent a Sunday with our congregation. "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained." (I Timothy 3:6). May God bless them both for their efforts on our behalf.

Our Sunday school Christmas program was a blessing to all that participated and to those that listened; we trust it was a glory to God. The songs sung by the very young, the verses recited, the Sunday school choir voices raised in song; ". . . that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (I Peter 4:11).

When telling the Christmas account in Sunday school, it went something like this: Teacher: Baby Jesus was lying in a manger and . . . before the story could be continued that the shepherds came to worship, a three-year-old said "The cows ate him!" If we celebrate Christmas only with gift-giving that would be an accurate account . . . Christ was God's gift to the world, wrapped in swaddling clothes. May the Christmas story continue each day of the year in our lives: joining the shepherds in bowing down before the Christ Child; joining the Wise Men in bringing gifts: our talents, our posses-

sions - which are God's in the first place; and joining the angels, raising our voices in grateful praise and adoration.

As God grants to us a new year, may we each strive to serve Him by keeping His new commandment: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34, 35).

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:7, 8). That should keep us busy in the New Year!!

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser — Judy Stoller

The Lord told His disciples to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. Most of us come in contact with people every day and some of them have never heard the gospel or do not understand it. We, therefore, are to preach a silent sermon to them in our conduct which can show forth God's light. Certain of our brethren, however, have had the extra duty laid upon them of bringing the gospel to us from the pulpit. God having chosen these brethren, we have the faith to believe that He will also provide the strengthening grace for them to perform this duty. May God bless each one that His Word may continue to go forth. Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) visited us and abundantly brought forth God's Word unto us.

"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. Bro. Steve Stoller (Bro. Everett and Sis. Marjorie) and Sis. Mary Lynn Steidinger (Bro. Don and Sis. Alice, Fairbury, IL) believe it is God's will for them to become husband and wife.

Jim and Sis. Donna Calame were blest with the arrival of their first son, Jared Edward. Erica will enjoy a playmate. Also, welcoming Jared are grandparents John I and Sis. Margaret Calame. Blest by the arrival of another

son are Bro. Jeffrey and Sis. Beverly Hartzler. Julie and Michael share in the excitement of having a new baby, Brad David, in their home. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Joan Hartzler and Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen Emch.

Those in the hospital this month were Benjamin Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne) and Bro. Dave Maletich (Sis. Mary). May God send His healing touch to them.

"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?"

"He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart."

Psalm 15:1-2

We rejoice over another soul who is seeking her soul salvation. Tonya Zierau (Heinz) is seeking the Lord in repentance.

We wonder, having begun a new year, what may lie ahead and often resolve to live our lives better and walk closer to God. Perhaps we would do better if each day we had these thoughts and started each morning as the first day of the rest of our lives.

What if yesterday had it's sorrows,
What if your day was diffused by grief,
What if it rained when you wanted
sunshine,
What if you labored without relief.

It doesn't matter what did befall you,
It doesn't matter what might have been,
For God puts our yesterdays all behind
us

And every day lets us start over again.
Ruth Scarbrough

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

As we enter the new year of 1986, we stop to reflect upon the past year. Even though we cannot see into the future, it is reassuring to know that all we have to do is trust God. He promises us that all our needs will be taken care of - "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. We pray that throughout the new year we will all praise His name and that from day to day we will show forth His wonderful salvation in our walk.

The Sunday school classes presented a Christmas program Decem-

ber 15. We rejoiced in hearing the sweet little voices of our younger classes and the harmony of the Bible class. May God richly bless each and every one that took part, including the teachers for their love and patience.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who were hospitalized this past month. Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary), Bro. John Riegenbach (Sis. Hazel) and Clifford Brake, (son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake). It is at times such as these that we feel hearts fervently joined together in prayer.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust in Him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:5. After much thought and prayerful consideration our congregation gave their support to build a new church at Sardis. We hope to start this project in 1986.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Verla Stoller — Ann Maibach

A NEW YEAR'S WISH

To leave the old with a burst of song
To recall the right and forgive the
wrong

To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's
past,

To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not-worth-while of the days
grown old

To dare go forth with a purpose true
To the unknown task of the year that's
new

To help your brother along the road;
To do his work, and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good
cheer

Is to have — and give — a Happy New
Year.

Robert Brewster Beattie
Sunshine Magazine, Jan., 1985

As we begin the new year, let us each one look to God for the guidance and direction to take the unknown steps before us. Sometimes the future seems as a big mountain in front of us, but if we put our trust in God, He will lead us one step at a time. I once saw a saying on a poster that said, "Obstacles are those things we see when we take our eyes off the goal." (author unknown). So let us strive to keep our heavenly goal in mind at all times.

The arrival of Elizabeth Kim has been a blessing to the lives of Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller as they become

first-time parents. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lucille Blough (Rittman) and Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehklau

As we end this year, did we make the earth a better place because we were here? It can be a goal for us as we enter the New Year. Through prayer, God can guide each of us to do some special good, thus making this troubled world just a little better.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise."

Psalm 4:4

We enjoyed the words and songs of praise honoring the birth of our dear Saviour, Jesus. The thoughts of this precious gift to mankind were shared with us by the children in our Sunday school Christmas program.

The two students who are graduating from our universities are Kristi Warham (Bro. Al and Sis. Mary Ann Weigele) from the Bowling Green State University with a bachelor degree in education and Andrew Fetter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betty) from the University of Toledo with an associate degree of applied science. We wish them God's blessings in their chosen professions.

January is our month for the Silver Lining dues.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Barbara Moser

A time to be born, and a time to die,
A time to weep; a time to mourn.

Ecclesiastes 3:2, 4

Our hearts were saddened when the phone rang so early in the morning to say that our dear Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi (Silverton) had lost their precious son, Jeff, in a car accident. Our heartfelt prayers are that God will provide comfort and strength to the family in the days and months ahead.

Our shut-ins this month have been Bro. Ray and Sis. Anna Cooper. We are glad to have Sis. Connie Steffen (Bro.

Garth) back in our midst again after surgery.

Sis. Jane Rocke (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline, Eureka, IL) has moved to the Portland area and has found work in one of the hospitals here. She is most welcome in our small church.

THE FOLDED PAGE

"Up in the quaint old attic, as the
raindrops pattered down,
And I sat conning over a school book —
dusty, worn and brown —
I came to a leaf that was folded, and
marked in a childish hand,
'The teacher says to leave this now,
'Tis hard to understand.'

"What was so hard? I wondered. I
opened it with a smile.
Only to read, at the problem's end: We
learned "why" after a while.
My tears fell thick as the raindrops
then, up in the attic old,
As I thought of leaves that are "folded
down" till the days of our lives are
told.

"One was folded there with a tender
hand to the sound of summer rain;
When the dust of years lies thick above,
will we open this page again?
And can we write with steady hand, and
on our lips a smile,
'At last our Teacher told us "why", and
we learned it — after a while!"

OREGON, SILVERTON

Carol Dietrich

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

Barry Bolliger (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) has left Oregon this fall for service in the navy. We wish Barry God's nearness and protection throughout his endeavors. Correspondence for Barry should be sent to:

A. R. Barry Bolliger
318 - 68 - 1048
BKS S - 402 NAS
Memphis,
Millington, TN 38054

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
Ecclesiastes 3:4

Once again the Silverton and Portland congregations were privileged to share in a very special Thanksgiving weekend with many dear single sisters

and brothers from many congregations. Brothers and sisters visited here from Altadena and San Diego, CA, Denver, CO, Bern, Sabetha and Gridley, KS, Lamar, MO, Elgin, Chicago, Washington and Congerville, IL, and Wolcott and Remington, IN.

The young group in Oregon received many blessings throughout the four-day weekend and the entire congregations of both Oregon churches were uplifted and encouraged by such times of spiritual refreshing. The young group was able to spend much time viewing God's beautiful creation in the west, including the mountains and the awe-inspiring Pacific Ocean. Many times we were inspired to lift our voices in song to God's praise and honor. On Saturday night Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht hosted both churches and the visitors for a sausage and pancake supper followed by one of the many singings held that weekend.

The blessings felt by all were wonderful and reminded us of how beautiful heaven must be where we will meet to part no more.

A time to mourn, and a time to dance.

Ecclesiastes 3:4

How quickly after the whole congregation shared in such joy, we shared in sorrow. Our entire church and community was shocked and saddened when a dear young soul was so quickly taken from our midst. Jeff Kuenzi, 16, (Bro. Richard and Sis. Rosa Lee) was very suddenly taken from us by a fatal auto accident December 9. Jeff will be very greatly missed by his brothers, Jack, Brian, Monte and Bruce and sisters, Richell, Sis. Kristine and sister-in-law, Jan (Jack's wife). Everyone who knew Jeff will miss him and remember him as a very special young man. This was already evidenced by the presence of over 400 people, many of them his schoolmates, at Jeff's funeral service. Truly, the Silvertown church felt the presence of the Spirit and the power of prayer. We are grateful to Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) who so willingly lent himself to share in the services and in prayerful support. How suddenly we are reminded of the seriousness of life and the certainty of death.

Bro. Richard, Sis. Rosa Lee and their family would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the many, many dear ones who have remembered them with cards, gifts and

most importantly, their love and prayers. They have felt a great measure of the abundant love that is felt when loved ones share a common bond.

Jesus knows they sorrow, knows thine every care

Knows they deep contrition, Hears thy feeblest pray'rs.

Do not fear to trust Him, Tell Him all thy grief,

Cast on Him thy burden, He will bring relief.

Hymns of Zion #74

TEXAS, DONNA-McALLEN Joyce Nohl

We once again welcome the winter visitors that have chosen the valley for their winter home this year. It is always a joy to see them and we hope others will come and visit us and see what the valley has to offer them.

We will have services in the same building as in previous years. When on Expressway 83, exit off 433. Go south and turn right on Silver. The building will be on the left side of Silver and Seventh. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. We welcome and encourage those who come this way to take the time to come and worship with us. The schedule is as follows: January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23, March 9, March 23.

Please feel free to call us and we would be happy to visit with you or help you with any questions you may have. Our telephone number is (512) 682-0219, Lloyd Nohl.

SILVER THREADS

WHERE HOME IS HEAVEN

Home should be a place where Father and Mother are one in heart and purpose, and the children bound to "the first commandment with promise"; where the bond of love and cheerful conversation brighten the hours, and the soul is refreshed by daily family devotions; where the Bible holds the most prominent place on the center table and bookshelf, and gives color to the rest of the literature allowed admittance; where economy and simplicity are practiced on the table, in the house furnishings, in the clothing, and in the driving equipage; where "all things are done decently and in order"; where people love to visit because of the hospitality shown, and all the com-

ers and goers blessed with heavenly influences; where the innocent prattle of childhood, the cheerful voices of youth, and the sobering influences of age are blended together in beautiful harmony; where the songs of Zion are frequently heard to ring with praise, parents and children and strangers within the gates taking part in the singing; where children are taught to work, and prepared to fight the battles and bear the responsibilities of life; where the young may feel that they have a place of shelter and rest and service, the middle-aged may see their labors rewarded by results worthwhile, and the aged spend the evening of their earthly pilgrimage looking forward with fond anticipation to the time when their enraptured souls will be transported to the home above.

Daniel Kauffman

If you are making New Year resolutions, here's a suggestion for one which you may not have considered. It's important that we sing hymns in truthful and meaningful praise. We should mean the words we sing as well as those we speak. The following are examples of hymns we sing and may not mean. We sing:

Sweet Hour of Prayer — and skip the midweek service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 28)
of us, brethren and friends alike.

We must work and strive to overcome as the children of Israel and the patriarchs of old did. Even Jesus Christ struggled with the flesh and blood that clothed Him, but He became conqueror over it. He made a way of escape for us when we feel the

weights and burdens of life. Yes, Jesus had to say, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me," but He conquered death and the grave. Matthew 27:46.

What was required for God to forgive the children of Israel? "And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer." Psalm 78:35. When they remembered these things, God forgave them.

But then it says, "Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues. For their heart was not right with him, neither were they steadfast in his covenant. But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath. For he remembered that they were but flesh: a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again." Psalm 78:36, 37, 38,39.

These words touch our hearts, don't they, beloved, when we think that God sees our very frame? He knows that we are flesh and blood, and He knows that we are going to fail Him from time to time in this life. Yet, being full of compassion, He forgives us our iniquity. He destroys us not.

Think of that, beloved. As we look back on the events of our life, how many times were we not walking as close to our God as we knew that we should have been, and He turned His anger away from us and did not stir up all His wrath? That was compassion. He remembered that we were but flesh, because that's the way that He created us. We were as the wind that passeth away and cometh not again.

Beloved, God knows that we are going through this life one time, and we are as the wind that will pass away. What we do in this life will tell for all eternity.

"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came

on all them that heard these things." Acts 5:1-5.

The lesson is so clear; it's so strong. As Ananias and Sapphira lied in the presence of the apostles, death struck them immediately. What else can we say? How clear can it be? How much stronger can we make it?

"They were not willing to give all. When we come to that day when the books are opened, as we read in the Revelation, if our name is not found written in the book of life, then out of the books will our deeds be read.

Do we think that we can hide anything from God? Do we think that we will have an excuse? That we will be able to say, "Lord, I want to give myself to You," and yet have withheld something? I fear that the lesson is very, very clear here.

God's response would be instant. It will take no more time than it took here. When the deceit was revealed, they were struck dead instantly. They had no defense. They had no chance to say, "I want to do it right. I want to do it over again." That was not granted them. That was not given them.

The message is clear, beloved. That is the way it will be upon that judgment day. We will not have time, not a moment of time, to retrace and to say, "I want to do it over again."

Then we read that many were brought to the apostles' feet to be healed. They came and withheld nothing, realizing that they had no power to heal themselves, and that they wanted to be in the presence of the power of God.

It said, "There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one." Acts 5:16. We don't see such times today. De we expect it? We don't see the multitudes coming together in this glorious outpouring that was beheld in those days.

But we are living in a different age, beloved. We see a spiritual outpouring just as clearly, if we look. We see that God is not slack, and God has not become smaller in His presence. He is not diminished in the power of His Spirit. We see the souls of men being healed today.

John the Baptist sent two of his disciples to ask the Lord, so to speak, "Are you really the Lord? Or should we look for another?" What did Jesus say?

He sent them back and said, "... tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised," and so on. Luke 7:22.

Beloved, today we see the souls of men coming to God and being healed. We see them coming to repentance and to the knowledge of the truth, as God reveals in their hearts that they had been blind. They were once sick and lame, but are now walking and seeing. They have been healed. As healing takes place within, peace comes forth and cannot be hidden. It is on your faces today, and it should be there, beloved.

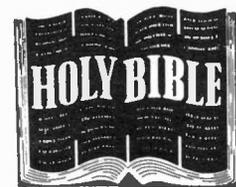
An incident that happened when I was very young and very new in the faith comes to mind. A group of us were together one night in a public eating place. I was very young in the faith, and there was another young brother with me. Several of our parents had come to visit us because we were away at school. We were waiting for our group to assemble after eating to go to the cars. I can still see it today.

Our mothers were off at a distance in the lobby in this place. The other young brother said to me, "Just look at the difference in the faces of our mothers. How different they are from all the other people around them." He said, "There is a peace there." I have never forgotten that. I can see it yet today.

This peace should be on our faces. We should see it among us. There should be a peace there that radiates from within, beloved. It comes from the love of God. It's the work of salvation. It's the redemption of a sick soul that has become well.

Such peace is available to all mankind. Dear friends, do not pass it by. If you have within your heart a desire for something better, that is what it is. Let us identify it without question.

Let us help you in this way. If you feel within you a stirring and a desire for something more in life, it is God pulling at you. It's your conscience pricking at you. It's the Spirit of God that wants to find a home within your heart.



FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. ROGER ABERLE OF SABETHA, KS

Text: Psalm 78:15-41 and Acts 5

We marvel at the zeal and the strength of the apostles as they went about the work that had been committed to them, the spreading of the gospel and the teaching of God's Word.

One Pharisee, Gamaliel, was wise enough to perceive that their testimony could really be the hand of God. He wisely said, "Just let these men alone, because if it's of man, it will fall to nought; but if it's of God, it will not fail. If it is of God," he said, "we surely do not want to stand in the way of it," or words to that effect.

It did not fail, and the evidence of that is here this morning, isn't it? The hand of God is still among His people. If the preaching of Peter and the other apostles had not been of God, we would not be assembled here around this Word. We would not be preaching the doctrine of Jesus Christ today, as we do so freely.

So it is of God. Gamaliel's counsel was very wise when he said, ". . . let them alone . . . But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." Acts 5:38, 39. The message goes forth again today.

If we are fighting within ourselves against God, what a fruitless and endless struggle it will be. If there is a struggle in any of our hearts this morning, fighting off the conviction of God, let us take Gamaliel's advice immediately. Do not fight against it, but give in. Give in to the counsel that it is of God, and no one will be able to overthrow it.

In the Psalm which we read, David recounted the struggle that the Israelites went through in the wilderness. He said that they cried for bread, and God gave them bread. They cried for meat, and God gave them so much meat that they became sick. I believe that the Word says that they vomited it out of their mouths. When the quail came, the

feathered fowls, as we read here, they completely covered the camp until the Israelites could not tolerate it any further.

There was discontent among God's people. They were not satisfied, and always wanted something more. The Word is full of such lessons and advice for all of us. Are we discontented? Are we not listening to the Spirit of God? Are we not listening to what He is telling us?

The children of Israel had needs as they journeyed in the wilderness. They definitely had things that they very much needed. Man cannot survive without food and drink. Man has to have water to drink very often. His body has to have water, lest he dry up and death come upon him.

God knew that. It says here, "He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths." Psalm 78:15.

They were athirst in the wilderness. When Moses struck the rock, it broke open and much water flowed forth which they needed. This also has spiritual significance. Jesus Christ's side was broken open, and His blood gushed forth to quench our spiritual thirst and to give us eternal life.

How can people go through life thinking that they can survive without having their spiritual thirst quenched? It is so clear that we also need to drink of the rock in our wilderness, that Rock being Jesus Christ.

The Lord brought streams out of the rock and caused the waters to run down like rivers. Doesn't it also seem that we overflow with abundance when we finally obey God and walk in the Spirit? We are filled with an abundance of the love of God. It is as the streams that ran down like rivers. It is more than we ask for, and more than we had ever imagined.

God wants us to realize that He is the

fountain of all things, and that we of ourselves are nothing. We have nothing to offer. We brought nothing into this world, did we? Do we expect, then, to take anything out of it? Do we expect that the labors of our hands will go with us?

Do we think that the labors of our hands are making an impression in heaven? Beloved, no. The thing that makes an impression in heaven is that we love and serve the Almighty God. That and that alone. We have abundant Scriptures that tell us that our walk and works should demonstrate our faith.

In the final analysis, what do we have? We have what God has imputed to us and has given to us. He gives us what we need just as He gave water to the children of Israel when they needed it.

They were also hungry, so He gave them bread from heaven. God provided fully. He told them not to gather upon the Sabbath day, the Lord's day, but to store up extra on the day ahead. That was the only day that they could make a provision for the next. On any other day of the week, we read, the manna that they gathered would be spoiled by the next day. They had to gather it fresh every day.

Are we gathering fresh manna every day? Or do we come to the house of God on the Lord's day, and think that we can gather enough to last us a whole week? Yes, we gather much in the house of God, but do we refresh that and replenish it with fresh manna every day? Do we get on our knees every day? Do we open God's Word every day? Do we look for His guidance? Do we gather fresh manna?

Lessons come leaping out at us from the Word of God. This one may not have been in those exact words, but the message is clear and strong. It is to all

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