

The Silver Lining

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: I Peter 1:22

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. I John 3:16

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When Love Isn't Love

Love . . . We hear about love a lot these days. We find it in Valentine cards, hear it discussed on talk shows and see it glorified on book covers. Even in Christian circles we hear of various Greek words for love, their different meanings and appropriate applications. With all the attention that "love" seems to be getting, why aren't we overwhelmed with its impact on our world? Why do we seem to have such a struggle with the applications of love's principles?

I believe that the root of the problem today is the failure to acknowledge or accept love's silent partner . . . commitment. I truly feel that understanding their relationship is the key to unlocking the secret of love. There is no true love without commitment to the object of that love. There is no love without the cost of commitment. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son . . . John 3:16. As we see God's supreme example, let us understand that speaking of love, thinking of love and trying to love is useless without being committed to the object of our love. Too often today we aren't interested in a committed love. We want a quick love, one that can be stated by words and affirmed by our thoughts.

As we come face to face with love, let's look for its silent, quiet partner. Parents, let's convince our children of our love by our sacrificial lives of commitment. Husbands, as we talk of loving our wives, let's apply ourselves to total commitment to them (Ephesians 5 — the whole chapter!) Young people, when you think that you might be falling in "love", ask yourself if you're willing to fall "hopelessly" into "commitment". As believers, it's useless to talk of loving the brethren unless we are willing to commit ourselves to one another (I John 3:17, 18; John 13:34). It is mockery to speak of loving a world of sinners facing eternal death, unless we are committed to the salvation of souls. Above all, we dare not tell God of our love for Him, and not expect His response, "If you love me, keep my commandments." He would rather we prove our love through our commitment to Him at the expense of self.

When isn't love really love? When it's without its partner, commitment.



NEED FOR ADMINISTRATOR AT APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WOODHAVEN

The churches in Michigan along with Toledo, Ohio, have begun construction of a 66-bed nursing home in Livonia, Michigan, a western suburb in the Detroit metropolitan area. Foundations are in and construction on the superstructure is proceeding.

The attractive wooded site adjacent to our church should provide a very beautiful environment for the occupants of this home.

We have a certificate of need for shelter care, and we have an application to upgrade this certificate to acute nursing care. In constructing the facility we are making provision for both.

We are in need of an administrator for this program. This is an excellent opportunity for a brother or sister to further develop their professional ca-

reer and to be of service to God in caring for others.

Therefore, if any of our brethren are interested or are aware of someone with the proper qualifications, we would sincerely appreciate your forwarding a resume to either Bro. Phil Bahr, 17366 Westbrook, Livonia, MI 48152 or to myself at 14726 Fox, Redford, MI 48239.

We also will be in need of a nursing supervisor and nurses or aids. Here again, applications may be forwarded to the above brethren.

We are grateful for the support we have received, and believe it is a privilege to provide help for brethren and friends who are no longer able to care for themselves.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Maibach, Jr.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

We are past the middle of the winter season already, and a variety of weather has been ours. This morning a light haze fills the eastern sky; the grass is aglaze with frozen ice, and here and there, especially in the ditch areas, there is a light covering of snow. What grandeur meets the eye when one views the Master's handiwork. In the distant horizon one can see the outline of barren trees, farm buildings, and a windmill, taking us back to the thrilling days of yesteryear and an aura of nostalgia fills the air. As one gazes into the face of the rising sun, his eyes are blinded by the dazzling penetration of its powerful rays — the greater light God gave to earth to rule the day. As the light of the sun blinds the naked eye, so the light and power of the Son defied human comprehension. But thanks be to God, the new creature in Christ has "the mind of Christ" that will guide him in all truth and righteousness. It takes the power of the Son to become a child of God. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name; Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12-13. May we walk as children of the light, that our children

may see in us the Son and be drawn to Him.

We are happy to announce as our new Alternate Houseparents, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr, originally from Roanoke, IL, and more recently from Chicago, IL. We warmly welcome them, along with their four-month-old baby daughter, Rebecca Leigh, to our staff, our church, and to our community. In addition to being "substitute houseparents" on the regular houseparents' days off, Chuck and Annie will be involved in the maintenance of the grounds and buildings here at the Home.

We want to thank all of the volunteers who have substituted in our houses over the past five months as we looked and waited for alternate houseparents. In addition, volunteers have been involved in remodeling the old office area into a multi-purpose apartment, working on the addition to the machine shed, and painting in the West House. May God bless all of you for your efforts.

Many of our children are engaged in 4-H activities in the areas of livestock, clothing or crafts. This gives them exposure to many aspects of "real life" and is encouraging and invigorating, especially when they can work with their peers. It gives them a feeling of accomplishment which they all need and profit from. We have some rabbits

again and a boar so we can get some more piglets. Our present livestock program is going well.

Mike T.'s father passed away recently — our sympathies are extended to Mike. John W. is going with a group of brethren to Haiti, leaving January 23. This should be a very informative, educational and rewarding experience for him. He also has a part in a musical production at Leo High School. Thelma W. is employed at a nursing home in our area. Our children are growing up.

The 1985-86 school year is in its last half, and the children are already talking about school being out for the summer, just as we did when we were children. All children have certain traits that manifest themselves in certain phases of life. We "oldsters" can look back to these phases in our lives and re-live them with our children, thus forming a close bond with the children; a bond so important in the human relationship and development process. The children need to relate to someone and they need to feel understood and wanted by someone. That is one of the

THE SILVER LINING

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USPS 496780

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

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

great challenges for the staff here at the Home. We trust that with the Lord's help, we are instilling in them these humanities.

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

As a result of a new phone system having been installed, our new phone numbers are: 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

February! The month the world sends cards and Valentine hearts to express words of love. Let us be reminded of the Love spoken of in I Corinthians 13:4-8: Love suffereth

long, and is kind: Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, Believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth . . .

We wish to express that love to our two newest residents, Lester Miller and Edwin Gehrig. Lester is from Hopedale, IL and is the son of Harold L. and Eva (deceased) Miller. He has two sisters, two nieces and one nephew. Lester's favorite food is "everything" and an enjoyable pastime for him is cutting out pictures. His birthday is September 16. Edwin was born in Lawn Ridge, IL, and attended school in Edelstein. He came to us from Peoria, IL, where he had lived with his

mother, Carrie Gehrig, who passed away recently. His father is also deceased. His family consists of four brothers: Robert, Ralph, Floyd, Howard and one sister, Daisy Kreiter. He enjoys working outside and his favorite food is pancakes. Edwin's birthday is June 29. We look forward to many happy times with Lester and Edwin. Their friendly, smiling faces are a welcome addition to our family which now numbers one hundred!

Many pleasant activities are being planned for our residents to keep them happily occupied during these winter months. One, always looked forward to, will be the annual Valentine's Day Banquet. The Peoria Area Blind People's Chorus is scheduled to spend an evening in song here. This, along with regularly scheduled Friday evening church services, Sunshine Sewing Club for the ladies who are entertained in various homes, Monday night bingo in the north living room with helpful, friendly volunteers, and swimming for those who enjoy the water, will fill their days with anticipation.

Each month a special supper and party is planned for those having birthdays. February birthdays belong to: John Kamm, Rosemarie Finlay, Virginia Reece, Bob Tiffan and Guy Masinelli.

February is the month
of frosty pines,
Silver etching on window panes
and Valentines!

February means snowflakes
Lazily drifting down
That add a lacy edge
to the balsam gown.

The month of February
is a blessing indeed,
With beauty on every hand
To meet each hearts need.
Earle J. Grant

"To love is to find pleasure
In the happiness of the Person loved."
Leibnitz

Well Earned Sleep — Make a rule,
and pray God to help you to keep it,
never, if possible, to lie down at night
without being able to say, "I have made
one human being, at least, a little wiser,
a little happier, or a little better this
day."
Charles Kingsley

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
January 1986 —	1068	7270

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. Also, pocket testaments with Psalms and Proverbs are available.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Marilyn Walder

We are so thankful for those who come to visit. We have had visitors from Eureka, Washington, Urbana, Gridley, IL, and Francesville, IN, during the past month. Several brothers volunteered their time to do some carpentry jobs in the church fellowship hall, school and in our apartment. We appreciate what they did for us and know that they will receive many blessings for their deeds of kindness.

We want to encourage anyone who would like to visit or volunteer some time to do so. We have several beds at the church where visitors are welcome to stay. You can contact me or Sis. Evie Blunier at 205-233-0591 anytime to let us know of your plans. Our Sunday services are as follows: Adult Sunday School - 10:00 a.m., Pulpit Service - 11:00 a.m. We meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights at the fellowship hall.

We are planning a summer program at the preschool again this year. We have about 40 children between the ages of two and five enrolled in our preschool which is in the church basement. Sis. Doris Moore, Sis. Louise Hall, Sis. Evie Blunier, Lara Pankey and I are currently working at the school. We would appreciate any brother, sister or friend who is interested, to volunteer a week or preferably two weeks or longer during the summer. Please give it some prayerful consideration as you plan your summer. You can contact us at the number given above.

Bro. Fred Haggemaker has been in the hospital again. Our prayers are with him.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." Psalm 107:9. The Phoenix church was host to the World Relief Committee January 3 - 5. Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach welcomed Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), James Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Albert Schneider (Rockville, CT), Sidney Leman (Fairbury, IL), Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS), Harry Isch (Bluffton, IN), Roy Schrock (Congerville, IL),

Willis Stoller (Latty, OH), Richard Schmidgall (Hancock, MN) and Richard Beery (Phoenix, AZ). Bro. Leon Graf had to return to Ohio because of his brother's death.

On Saturday evening, January 4, we saw slides of various World Relief projects. The commentary given by various brothers made us more aware of the Lord's blessings, which we take for granted. It was very humbling to realize others wonder where their next bit of food will come from. Surely every donation to World Relief will help God's underprivileged children. May the Lord bless the dear brothers who labor so diligently on the World Relief Committee.

On Saturday, January 11, Bro. Vernon Leman showed slides of some of the work being done in Eastern Europe. We enjoyed our arm chair travel to Romania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Once again, we realize how blessed we are to gather freely in the name of the Lord.

Visiting ministers who brought timely messages were Bros. Loren Strahm, Wendell Gudeman, James Hoerr, Vernon Leman, Raymond Roth and Todd Feller.

Surgical patients this past month were Bro. Joe Dotterer and Sis. Cathy (Jerry) Emch. Out-patients were Sis. Lindy Schambach and Carol Doolittle.

Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach welcomed a new granddaughter, Tanayn January 2. She is the daughter of Sis. Chelly and Bro. Fred Kaiser (Morton, IL).

We give thanks unto the Lord for warmer weather than usual and for the first rain of 1986 January 14.

Our monthly fellowship dinner was held January 5. The members gathered to hear the memorandum later.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

Our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) visited us last Wednesday evening and brought with him the words of exhortation from the memorandum. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) traveled to Tucson with Bro. Richard and shared in the reading of the memorandum. We certainly thank Bro. Richard, Bro. Wendell and their wives for making the trip to Tucson to perform such a necessary duty. Surely all who were present received a blessing in knowing that our

elder brethren are so concerned for our spiritual welfare.

The weather here in Tucson was indeed beautiful over the holidays, as we enjoyed temperatures in the mid 70's throughout most of the holiday season. The warm sunshine certainly makes one feel that God's love is pouring down on you. We know that the majority of our brethren are not so fortunate in the winter and we here in the warmer climate often pray that the Lord will protect those of you in the Midwest on the highways during the winter months.

We observed New Year's Eve with church services. May we all keep the thoughts that are prompted by a New Year's Eve service in our minds throughout the remainder of 1986.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Shirley Luthi

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT). May God richly bless these dear brothers for sharing God's precious Word with us.

Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger wishes to extend his sincere thanks to all those who remembered him with cards, gifts and prayers during his recent hospitalization. We are happy to report he is able to gather with us again and we are thankful to have him back among his flock.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Marian Petrovic — Sherise Strahm

These past few months we have been blessed with many winter visitors from various churches. We welcome these visitors and would like to encourage others to visit our small church here in San Diego. Again, our assembly here is every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Bro. Peter Petrovic (619-489-5165) or Bro. Victor Jevremov (619-755-3341) may be contacted for further information.

Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena) and Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS) were among the visitors who shared God's living Word with us. We thank these ministers for their labor of love.

A heartfelt welcome is extended to Bro. Troy Kail (Washington, IL). May God be with him as he makes his new home here in San Diego.

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

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him . . . And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Genesis 2:18, 23. We rejoice in the fact that Bro. Mike Martin and Sis. Beth Braun were united in holy matrimony January 5. We pray that they will always remember to keep God first in their lives, that their marriage will indeed be holy, and that they can feel God's presence and blessings. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) for administering the service. May God bless you, Bro. Art, for the love you shared with us.

We welcome Bro. Paul Fehr (Bro. Rich and Sis. Madelyn, Roanoke, IL) and hope that he continues to allow God to lead him out here.

It is a good thing when one of God's children can seek out and fulfill the will of his Father. Feeling that it was God's will, the engagement of Bro. Rod Schmidt (Sis. Betty, West Bend, IA) and Sis. Cindy Streitmatter (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Virginia, Princeville, IL) was announced. May God bless them! Bro. Rod was also elected to the position of trustee and secretary of our church in our annual election.

We have certainly felt the blessings of God upon our church in the past year. We have had 12 people move out here and five have moved away. Three souls were baptized, two babies were born and three engagements were announced. We were privileged to have 20 visiting ministers. We now have 34 members in our church. God truly blesses!

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**Michelle Virkler**

" . . . When pure and upright hearts
By flames of love ignited."

Zion's Harp #79

We witnessed the wedding ceremony of Sis. Carole Luginbuhl to Bro. Dan Crohan. We wish them God's ever abiding love and joy.

We have three new little bundles of love: Sarah, daughter to Pat and Scott Condry, our dear friends; Lauren Christine to Sis. Lynette and Bro. Bob Goric. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and

Sis. Christine Virkler and Sis. Janet Goric. Holly Beth was born to Sis. Miriam and Bro. Dean Reutter. Grandparents are Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia Bahler and Bro. Alden and Mar-ion Reutter.

" . . . God is our refuge and our strength."

Zion's Harp #47

We truly rejoice as another dear and precious friend turns to Thee, our Loving Savior. Joe Cook is now walking with our Lord.

Those in beds of affliction or now on the mend are: Sis. Muriel Fellows, Sis. Rose Luginbuhl, Kathy Luginbuhl and Sis. Clara Lanz. We trust the Lord might restore them to good health.

As we again approach Valentine's Day, may we look to those we love, enjoy each other, cherish our sweet memories and always remain faithful.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS**Marie Keller — Edna Meister****PRAYER FOR PEACE**

O God, whose will is life and peace

For all the sons of men,
Let not our human hates release
The sword's dread power again.

Forgive our narrowness of mind;

Destroy false pride, we plead:

Deliver us and all mankind

From selfishness and greed.

O God, whose ways shall lead to peace,

Enlighten us, we pray;
Dispel our darkness and increase
The light along our way.

Illumine those who lead the lands

That they may make at length

The laws of right to guide the hands

That wield the nation's strength.

O God, who callest us to peace,

We join with everyone
Who does his part that wars may cease
And justice may be done.

Enable us to take the way

The Prince of Peace hath trod;

Create the will to build each day

The family of God.

Rolland W. Schloerb

May we have continuous peace in our country as we have had many great presidents to lead and direct our country through God's help and guidance. Our country honors two men this

month: Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, men who fought for freedom and who were God-fearing men. May we also stand up for God and our faith in Him and lead others to Him by our examples.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Joseph Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We want to thank all the ministers who visited with us and gave us words of truth and life.

Anyone who will be traveling down to Florida and will be in our area is welcome to come and worship with us. The church phone number is (813) 656-3800.

There are two services on Sunday: 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. (E.S.T.) year around.

Traveling from the north take I-75 South to exit #27. Go right to Highway 41. Turn left and follow Highway 41 South 10 miles to Del Tura Country Club Estates. Turn left onto Trail Dairy Circle to Rustic Lane.

Coming from the south on 41 go approximately 2 miles north of the Shell Factory on 41 to Del Tura Estates. Turn right onto Trail Dairy Circle to Rustic Lane.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA**Elaine Gudeman — Elda Martin**

So often we find ourselves or those we love facing trials and tests that seem to overwhelm the heart and soul. We wonder how we can help, but what greater gift can we give than to lift them up on wings of prayer, knowing the Lord who keeps His promises, will provide.

Though troubles assail, And dangers
affright,

Though friends should all fail, And foes
all unite,

Yet one thing secures Whatever betide,
This promise assures us: "The Lord
will provide".

Though often the heart, With storms
be oppressed,

Afflictions do smart, By Satan
distressed,

"O what shall befall us?" We wearily
sighed;

Still He who protects us, "The Lord
will provide".

His call we obey, As Abram of old,
Not knowing our way, But faith makes
us bold;
Where e'er He shall lead us, The way
He doth guide;
He knows best who rules us; "The Lord
will provide".

When Satan appears, Obstructing our
path
And fills us with fears, We conquer by
faith;
He cannot take from us, Though oft he
has tried,
The heart-cheering promise; "The
Lord will provide".

He tells us we're weak, Our hope is in
vain;
The good that we seek, We shall not
obtain;
Yet when such temptations, Our
patience have tried,
In this we find solace: "The Lord will
provide".

Though merit and strength, We do not
possess,
And honor and wealth, Our souls would
distress;
In Thy name, Lord Jesus, We'll ever
abide,
And thus we say: "Amen, The Lord will
provide".

Zion's Harp #86

Our best wishes and prayers especially go out for our dear Dathan Eisenmann (David Jr. and Sis. Sue), who has been undergoing many tests to find the cause of his back problems. It is a time of much anticipation, waiting and the unknown on top of the physical pain. We pray for the grace and strength to be given them to trust and believe that the Lord can and will provide for each of them.

Another hospital patient this month is Sis. Helen Kloter, who had surgery. We pray for a rapid recovery.

We are always so thankful for the northern brethren that visit us. It brings a special warmth and love to have brethren gathered from so many congregations, and receive the Christian love and greetings that they bring.

We especially thank our visiting ministers: Bros. Harold Schmidgall, Ed Bahler and Marvin Stieglitz, for laboring on our behalf. May God richly bless each of them.

**ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**
Donna Hodel — Nancy Kaufmann

Now it is accomplished!
I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever
And always be Thine.

On January 18, we had the privilege of hearing the testimony of Chuck Albritton (Sis. Marsha). The following day we witnessed his baptism and welcomed him as our brother-in-faith. May God truly bless Bro. Chuck and his family on this very special occasion.

Our recent hospital patients have been Sis. Ellen Vogel, Bro. Clarence Vogel and Bro. Carl Frautschi. Our prayers go out for them at this time.

On January 8, we held our semi-annual business meeting. A new trustee, Bro. David Kieser, was elected to take Bro. Bill Denick's place, as Bro. Bill has completed his term. We want to thank Bro. Bill for his years of service.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). We thank these brothers kindly for their labors of love.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Marilyn Tanner

A summary of 1985 shows that we had one baptism, two births, one wedding and two deaths.

We thank our ministering brothers, Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) and Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) for visiting us and sharing the wonderful Word of Life with us.

Marvin Knobloch was our hospital patient, but thankfully is home again and feeling better.

Sis. Mary Ann Kieser and Joe Kieser, children of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma, have moved from our area. Sis. Mary Ann is a traveling nurse and will be in the Fort Lauderdale, FL, area and Joe will be living in the San Francisco, CA, area. They will both be missed, but we wish them our love and prayers in their new endeavors.

We were thankful for our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller's visit and for his love and concern at our annual meeting. Those elected are: trustee - Bro. Jim Knobloch, song leader - Bro. Larry Endress, and usher - Bro. Nathan Stoller, Jr. We

appreciate the time and effort put forth by these brothers.

At this time of the year, when all the trees need to be pruned, this poem came to mind. May we also feel this in our spiritual life.

THE PRUNED BRANCH

It is the branch that bears the fruit,
That feels the knife,
To prune it for a larger growth
A fuller life,

Though every budding twig be lopped,
And every grace
Of swaying tendril, springing leaf
Be lost a space.

Oh, thou whose life of joy seems reft,
Of beauty shorn,
Whose aspiration lie in dust,
All bruised and torn,

Rejoice, though each desire, each
dream,
Each hope of thine
Shall fall and fade, it is the hand
Of love divine.

That holds the knife, that cuts and
breaks
With tenderest touch,
That thou, whose life hast borne some
fruit,
May now bear much.

Annie Johnson Flint

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter

I grabbed the measuring cup, assuming it was the one-cup measure. I quickly used it for adding the brown sugar to our batches of hot apple cider. Only when we tasted the cider — which we had little choice but to serve — did I examine my actions: for there was plenty of spice, but . . . And finally I realized that the cider wasn't sweet enough. Why? Because in my haste I had grabbed the ½-cup measure by mistake. Each time I had used it, I had put in only half enough. I felt mortified and needed to be emptied of pride. Perhaps I had even learned something. Christ does not always expect us to follow the itemized list we have in our mind for a day's activities. He often gives us opportunities for kind words, words of conviction, comfort, praise, for listening and learning, for squeezing someone's hand and sharing another's burden. So often I am too busy

with the ephemeral — the phone calls, the assignments, the meals, the chores — that I instead rush on, just as I ended up grabbing the wrong measuring cup, in an unthinking hurry. Then I work so hard and believe I'm following the day's recipe exactly, but frustration sets in. That's my problem: too much spice and not enough sweetness — too much business and not enough of Christ (He even knew when someone touched His clothes and stopped to minister, Mark 5:22-36) — too much of my own will and plans and not enough prayertime to make me pliable and ready to do His will. For myself first, "... be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32. "And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." I John 4:21.

Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) generously lent himself in the Spirit's work. We are always grateful when he returns and ministers to us.

John Grusy, originally from Gridley, has come to our area via Bloomington. Now he lives in Bloomington and is working there as a computer programmer. We appreciate his worshipping with us. May "... the Lord preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore." Psalm 121:8.

We are glad that Bro. Frank Fisher is home from the hospital. May he and all those unable to attend church for any length of time feel the love and prayers of the body as Christ takes care of His own. "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers . . ." III John 5. Sis. Marge Young wanted to extend an extra thank you to those who kept her in their thoughts and prayers and phoned or sent cards and other remembrances during her months of pain.

Have you ever played — or watched children play — that game where you have to guess whose nose or shoes are visible? Children, at least girls, often decide (under the washroom door) which stall Mom is in by identifying her shoes. My daughter hasn't always recognized my shoes, though, which made me think of the verses describing the armor of God: "... your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace . . ." Ephesians 6:15. And I wondered if my Christian armor is

bright enough to be visible to those around me? Do my associates see truth about my loins and righteousness as my breastplate? Would they agree my feet are properly fitted? Have I truly the shield of faith, or am I easily discouraged by the hassles and trauma of life? Do I remember my headgear and my only offensive weapon, salvation and the Word of God? My Lord and my God, wilt Thou help me to take more time with my spiritual uniform that I may not go forth unprepared nor unrecognized. For Christ's sake, I need to be seen clearly as a soldier of Christ. "March on then right boldly, the seas shall divide . . ."

"The Lord Will Provide",
Gospel Hymns #7

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Myrna Weerts — Wilma Walder

These souls betrothed before thee stand;

Thy blessing we implore;
Unite Thou them in heart and hand,
And guide them evermore.

Hymns of Zion #286

January 21 was the wedding day of Darlene Knapp (daughter of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp) and William Medler (son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Medler, Newton, IL). We wish them much happiness and God's blessings.

Loved ones in the hospital this month were Sis. Anna Hari, Sis. Edna Hoffmann and Bro. Willard Rudin. We pray that God's healing hand will be upon them that they may feel His nearness.

Our dear Sis. Bertha Meiss, 95, died December 20 at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home in Eureka where she had lived for the past several years. She is survived by five daughters, Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Robert) Norr (Leo, IN), Sis. Marguerite (Bro. Martin) Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Sis. Irene (Bro. Joe) Rinkenberger (Goodfield), Sis. Edna (Bro. Kenneth) Zeltwanger (Hancock, MN) and Sis. Verena (Bro. Ralph) Knapp (Cissna Park); two sons, Bro. Harold (Hancock, MN) and Roy (Fort Wayne, IN). Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) brought words of comfort to the family.

Funeral services were held December 30 at the Knapp Funeral Home in Cissna Park for David Reutter, 69, a resident of Watseka Manor in Watseka, IL for the past five years and

formerly of Cissna Park. Our sympathy is extended to his family and his aunt, Sis. Katherine Walder of our congregation.

Sis. Ella Scharlach, 95, passed away January 5 at the Fairview Haven Nursing Home in Fairbury where she had resided several years. Survivors include four sisters, Sis. Clara, Sis. Nettie, Sis. Cora Scharlach and Sis. Mary Anderson (all of Cissna Park); three brothers, Harry (Hoopston, IL), Art (Bluffton, IN) and Aaron (Richmond, IN).

God understands; it is sweet to know
When we are tired and when the hand
of pain
Lies on our hearts, and when we look in
vain
For human comfort, that the Heart
Divine
Still understands those cares of yours
and mine.

Not only understands, but day by day,
Lives with us while we tread the
earthly way,
Bears with us all our weariness, and
feels
The shadow of the faintest cloud that
steals
Across our sunshine, even learns again
The depth and bitterness of human
pain.

There is no sorrow that He will not
share,
No cross, no burden for our hearts to
bear
Without His help; no care of ours too
small
To cast on Jesus; Let us tell Him all,
Lay at His Feet the story of our woes,
And in His sympathy find sweet repose.

May all who have experienced the pain and sorrow of parting with loved ones also feel the comfort of the Spirit and the nearness of our dear Lord.

We thank Bro. Kevin Knapp for bringing the message of the Christmas story to us on Christmas Day.

Our annual business meeting was held January 8 filling the various offices. We are thankful for those who have willing hearts to serve in the needed areas and trust God will bless them for their labors.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**Joan Schrock — Gail Williamson**

In this past year, Congerville has truly been blessed. We have had four births, five weddings, eight baptisms and only one death. Surely we can thank God for His rich love.

On January 12 we witnessed the baptism of Sandy Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda) as she symbolically buried her old sinful life and arose as a new child of God. We are happy to have her as a new lamb in the fold and wish her God's richest blessings in her new walk of life.

We were thankful to have many of God's servants come and lend themselves on our behalf. Visiting us were Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Carl Wyss (Washington), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH). We want to thank them for their labors of love.

We want to offer our prayers for and extend our sympathy to Bro. Bob Williamson and family in the loss of his brother, Wendell Williamson. May they feel God's comforting love during this time of loss.

Bro. John Wettstein was hospitalized for a short period of time. We are thankful to hear he is back at the "Home". May God give him the strength and grace to carry on in this life.

Notice: March is Congerville's month for collection of Silver Lining dues.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN**Elizabeth Schambach****Betty Bachtold**

We entreat God's grace and blessing upon Ted and Heidi (Schifferer) Schock, who have heeded the loving Saviour's invitation and are seeking their soul's salvation. We are thankful for the extended day of grace and rejoice with the angels in heaven.

God's love is also manifested in bringing us two new babies. Kurt William was born December 17 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Nancy Wewetzer. Grandparents are Bro. William and Sis. Marge Wewetzer and Bro. Gene and Sis. Libbie Ann Moser. On December 29, Bro. Brent and Sis. Juli Klopfenstein welcomed little Noah Richard. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Judy Klopfenstein and Bev Buckley and Ted Umland.

We bid farewell to Harold and Sis. Ramona Wenninger who have recently relocated in St. Louis. Unitedly we implored the Lord's blessings to go with them. Their son, Timothy, remains in this vicinity, and Bro. Stan resides in Urbana, IL, where he is attending college.

We are thankful Bro. Steve Scheitlin could return safely from his duties in the Peace Corps in Honduras. Presently he is seeking employment and we wish for him the guidance and grace of God to follow as He would lead.

LeeAnn Scheitlin (Bro. Al and Sis. Joan) became the bride of Steven Veinotte (Ernest and Linda) December 21. Also, the marriage of Sis. Beth Braun (Bro. Herman and Sis. Sharon) and Bro. Mike Martin was solemnized January 5 in Denver, CO. May the love and blessings of God go with these couples.

Dear ones who had to be hospitalized this month were Sisters Helen Banwart, Della Kellenberger and Mary Moser. Sis. Madeline Tobler suffered a knee injury and surgery. May the Lord be gracious to all who must endure bodily afflictions and restore to health where it can be His will.

We trust the Lord will bless the corn that was prepared for shipment for the starving people in Africa. Many brethren helped willingly in this project.

At this time of writing, we are beseeching God to share grace, wisdom and protection upon our loved ones who left January 9 for India. These include our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and Bro. Walter Gasser (MD) and other brethren who are travelling with them.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) for sharing the Word with us. God bless you.

The engagement of Bro. Jeff Kellenberger (Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Julie Schrock (Bro. Mel and Sis. Ada Mae) was made known. May the love and grace of God be with them.

I wish to thank brethren and friends for the many cards, gifts, visits and prayers on my behalf during my stay at the hospital. May God bless everyone for your love and deeds of kindness.

Bro. Calvin Weiss

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, EUREKA**Kathy L. Rocke**

"Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter."

Psalm 74:17

Sis. Beverly Hartter (Bro. John) and Adam Leman (Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley) were hospital patients this past month. We are thankful for God's healing hand on them.

"Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest."

Hymns of Zion #218

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Melvin Weyeneth upon the passing of his mother, Sis. Laura (Roanoke).

Bro. Clarence Lehman also has our heartfelt sympathy as his mother, Sis. Anna (Tremont) passed away.

Sis. Bertha Meiss passed away at the "Home". Services were held for her at Cissna Park.

Services were held at Gridley, IL, for Sis. Anna Schlipf, who passed away at the "Home". May God comfort and bless these families in their hours of bereavement.

We welcome Sis. Freda Gerber, who has moved here from Lester, IA. May she feel God's love among us here.

We want to thank Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) for coming and expounding God's Word to us December 31. May God richly bless him for his labors.

Gentle words fall lightly, but they have great weight.

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

Engaged to be married in the near future are Sis. Michelle Walter and Bro. Ben Wiegand (Champaign). Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita Walter and Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand. We wish them the blessings of God as they plan their lives together.

We enjoyed Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), who visited us on Christmas Day. We appreciate the efforts of our visiting ministers.

For the year of 1985, we report 14 births, 13 baptisms, 4 weddings and 7 deaths. As we look to the year of 1986, only God knows our future. We are thankful for our many blessings and

trust our heavenly Father to provide our needs, whatever our lot may be.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

We were privileged, along with our neighboring brethren from Fairbury, to hear the kind exhortations of the memorandum. We appreciated Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville), Bob Walder (Congerville) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) being among us to help our Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman and, united in spirit, may we be encouraged to press onward toward our heavenly goal.

We were also blessed with those who were willing to break the bread of life unto us. May God's blessings be upon Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Jim Plattner (Princeville), Bill Hodel (Roanoke) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) for giving of themselves in His service. May we all fulfill our duty in praying for His servants, that the Word of life may come forth in truth.

Bro. Joe Koehl (Bro. Virg and Sis. Gladys) and Sis. Marie Bahler (Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury) were recently united in holy matrimony. We welcome Sis. Marie and wish them God's richest blessings as they walk the path of life together.

Loved ones who have been hospitalized recently are Sis. Vicki Pruitt, Bro. Emil Sohn, Ed Honegger, Bro. Elmer Stoller and Sis. Mary Masters. May God's strength be with each one as they bear their afflictions and trust in Him.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven, as there is no better way to begin a new year than to have the sin-laden souls turn to the Lord in repentance. Turning their backs on the world and their hearts to the Lord are Ricky Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary), Ed Honegger, Barbara Edelman (Vernon and Ruth) and Phil and Charlotte Leman. Even though there are many years difference in their ages, how wonderful God can supply their every need and help them build on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

Two little "bundles of love" from heaven have been added to families in our congregation. Jeremy Joseph was born to Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol Leman Christmas Day. Jodi and Jason were glad to have a new brother at home. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna Leman and Bro. John and Sis. Beverly Eisenmann. On New Year's Day, Jacob Dennis was born to Dennis and Kathy Davis. His sisters are Valerie and Rachel. Grandparents

are Wayne and Verla Davis and Leonard and Mary Ann Rieger. May these parents be granted God's wisdom and strength to bring these precious little ones up in His true way.

Note of Thanks: We, the family of Harvey Leman, wish to express our gratitude and sincere thanks for all the love, kind concerns, cards, gifts and prayers shown to us during the long illness and death of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother. May God bless each one of you.

We had seven births, three deaths and four baptisms in 1985.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Pam Wiegand

We're pleased to announce the arrival of a baby girl, Tara Nicole, born January 3 to Mark and Debbie Farney. Grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman (Goodfield) and Bro. Ira and Sis. Doris Farney (Roanoke).

We wish to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Fritz Knapp (Congerville). We really appreciate their inspirational messages.

Quite a few of our congregation have had surgery this past month. Our thoughts and prayers have been with all of them. Those recently hospitalized are Sis. Mary Helen Heinold, Bro. Ben Tanner, Sr., Sis. Jae Gerst, little Andy Knobloch and little Christy Wiegand.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Vera Heinold send the following message:

We are at a loss for words to thank all for the concern shown for Howard's illness and surgery. The visits, food, telephone calls, gifts, the many cards, and the many, many prayers were so much appreciated. May God bless you all.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

"We find time for the things that are the most important to us." This was one of the many memorable thoughts shared with us by Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) who visited recently. His topic was, "The Husband as the Spiritual Head of the Family". As parents, and in particular, as fathers, we will take the time to be with our families, giving them the leadership and teaching they need, if it is important enough to us. If we somewhat

neglect our families, it is usually because we don't have enough time — something else is more important to us.

Bro. Dale also expounded on the helpmate relationship of the husband and wife. They are intended by God to help each other to provide for each other's needs — not to compete with each other. The man is to be strong, decisive, creative, courageous and the provider and head of his family. The woman is the weaker vessel who is to be honored by her husband as she is submissive and gives him the encouragement and support he needs. The man and the woman are different and have different roles, but they are of equal worth.

Bro. Dale also described training our children as a "window of opportunity" that doesn't last long. "Chasten thy son while there is hope," implies that there is only a certain period of time when there is hope. If the opportunity for training and discipline is not used, it will be too late when the childhood years are past.

He concluded his remarks by referring to the example of the prodigal son's father. This parable, found in Luke, chapter 15, could be called the Parable of the Faithful Father. The faithful father never gave up hope and gladly ran to meet his son when the son turned around and started home. We should also demonstrate such love and faithfulness and forgiveness to our children.

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep," describes the portion of our sister and brother-in-faith who have closed their earthly eyes for the last time.

Sis. Anna Schlipf, 83, passed away January 7. Our sympathy is extended to her brothers, Carl and Adam (both of Gridley); and three sisters, Sis. Ida Pfafman and Sis. Martha Schlipf (both of Eureka) and Esther Schlipf (Portland, OR).

Bro. Louis "Knut" Yergler, 67, passed away January 13. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Bernice; three sons, Gaylin (Lafayette, IN), Kevin (rural Gridley) and Tim (Fairbury); three daughters, Jan Rigo (Englewood, CO), Debra Edenburn (Denton, TX) and Sis. Margie Steffen (Gridley); four brothers, Armand (Pekin), Jack (Kellogg, ID), Bro. Gene (rural Tremont) and Glenn (Gridley); two sisters, Sis. Eileen Roberts (Bloomington) and Gerry Sievers

(Gridley); and nine grandchildren.

We appreciated the visit of ministering Bro. Leroy Hartman (Peoria).

Our hospital patients have been: Sis. Matilda Witzig and Bro. David Wettstein.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Joanna Kaisner

Spring semester has started here at I.S.U. As we have all come back from a month's vacation, we are privileged to have some new faces in our small group. We welcome Bro. Luiz Gomez and Bro. Alex Paton.

Our first service in the new year was held January 16. Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign) spoke to us on the Holy Spirit. It was good to be reminded of that Spirit which is living in us. May we ever listen to that still small voice. May God bless Bro. Wayne for giving of himself.

We again invite everyone to join us for our weekly Thursday night Bible study. It is held in Schroeder 244 at 7:30 p.m.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

May each one of you have a blessed new year. During the past holiday season, it was wonderful to see our loved ones who came "home" for the holidays. One of our loved ones who came "home" was Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and his family. We wish to thank Bro. Greg for ministering God's holy Word unto us. May our heavenly Father richly bless him for his labors of love.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Sam and Sis. Nettie Pflederer who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary December 29. Their children, Bro. Robert (Sis. Eleanor) Pflederer and Sis. Janet (Bro. Pete) Meiss, hosted an open house at our fellowship hall. May they continue to be richly blessed as they continue to walk life's pathway hand in hand and heart in heart with Christ as the unseen guest in their home.

Bro. Fred, Sis. Chelly, Tonya, Tasha and Tate Kaiser welcome into their hearts and home, Taryn Leigh. Taryn was born January 2. Her happy grandparents are Sis. Matilda Kaiser (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ).

We were so lovingly reminded of our high and heavenly calling and our duties as a child of God when we heard

the reading of the memorandum Saturday evening, January 11. Let us continue to be prayerful for our beloved elder brothers and be prayerful for one another. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) who helped our Elder Bro. Joe Braker in reading the memorandum and for ministering God's holy Word unto us Sunday, January 12.

We wish to thank Bro. Robert Pflederer for reminding us of "our unique position as a child of God" Friday, January 17. Truly we must be thankful that we all can attain this position through repentance and conversion.

We had a very blessed Sunday, January 19, when Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) ministered God's holy Word unto us. We then gathered for a church potluck at our fellowship hall and ended our blessed day with a hymn sing. We wish to express our sincere thanks and love to our visiting ministers. We pray that God will richly bless them and their families.

Let us continue to remember loved ones in prayer who are in the hospital or shut-in. An encouraging note would let them know we are thinking of them.

There are those who have the pain of sorrow because a loved one has passed away. May these families feel the prayers and love during their bereavement. Parting here on earth causes sorrow. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, and we hope to meet again. Won't that be a great and glad reunion up yonder in heaven?

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Susi Herman — Margo Marx

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized this past month. They are Sis. Amelia Asal, Sis. Emma Hoerr, Sis. Alma Rocke, Sis. Harriet Hoerr, Bro. Ed Hoerr, Bro. Don Hoerr II and Dave Hoerr. We pray the Lord will strengthen and heal all of these dear ones.

We rejoice with Bro. Les Stoller and Bro. Ed Dingedine. We heard their testimonies of faith and witnessed their baptisms Wednesday evening, January 15. May our heavenly Father guide and direct them as they walk the narrow pathway of life towards heaven.

We offer humble thanks to the visiting brethren who imparted many blessings unto us. With us this past month were Bros. Clifford Grimm (West

Bend, IA) and Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN).

Our sympathy goes out to the families of Sis. Lena Joos, Sis. Hulda Plattner and Fred Scharrer, who have all passed away.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Marjean Lehman

"Likewise, ye sinners, come; be healed of your transgression! O Come both great and small, here you will find remission, Salvation help and grace. Here is the cleansing flood. Each sinful stain efface, immersed in Jesus' blood."

Zion's Harp #42

On January 11 we gathered to hear the testimonies of four dear souls. They were: Don Endress (Sis. Mildred), Karen Scholl (Bro. Bob and Sis. Arlene), Doug Stahl (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty) and Sandra Stoller (Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily). The following day we welcomed them as our new brothers and sisters-in-faith. We rejoice with the angels in heaven over each soul who has left this world of sin and Satan to follow the pathway of our Lord and Saviour.

"... But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

St. Matthew 6:33

On January 12, Elder Bro. Joe Stoller announced the engagement of Sis. Cindy Streitmatter (Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny) to Bro. Rodney Schmidt (Denver, CO). Bro. Rodney's mother is Sis. Betty Schmidt (West Bend, IA). We certainly wish them God's blessings as they ask God to continue to direct their lives.

"... And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord,"

Colossians 3:23

At our annual business meeting January 8, the following assignments were given: trustee - Bro. Lavern Berchtold replaces Bro. Vernon Stoller; usher - Bro. Randy Kieser replaces Bro. Earl Grimm; fellowship hall trustee - Bro. Walt Herrmann replaces Bro. Art Baurer; fellowship hall committee - Bro. Noah Herrmann replaces Bro. Dale Martin; children's home committee - Bro. Larry Baer replaces Bro. Nick Knobloch; hail aid contact - Bro.

Daryl Wagenbach replaces Bro. Bill Stoller; Bible distribution committee - Bro. John Elsasser replaces Bro. Ed Baurer.

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

II Thessalonians 2:15

Brothers in the ministry who visited us were: Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka). May God be their rich rewarder. May they truly feel our support and appreciation.

"O, teach me, Lord, instead of grieving
And wishing all my burdens moved,
To bear them patiently, perceiving
How Thou has suffered, borne and
loved."

"Teach me the art of keeping silent
That calm, contented I remain;
Cross bearer, Thee, I would resemble
O change to love my bitterest pain."

Zion's Harp #66

Our hospital patients were: Bro. William Stahl and Bro. Harold Steiner. May they feel God's healing blessings according to His will.

Our sympathy is extended to Paul, Bro. Don, Sis. Geraldine and Bro. Alf Streitmatter in the loss of their brother, Bro. Vernie Streitmatter of the Washington congregation.

"Humility Is:

The faithful nurse of our graces and
gifts

And the mighty impulse to sacred
exercises in duty."

Samuel H. Froehlich

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Marge Leman — Judy Luginbuhl

Jesus answered, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. St. John 3:5. We rejoice with seven dear souls who were baptized and became part of the body of Christ. Leroy Kempf was baptized at the Eureka Hospital. On December 28 we heard the testimonies of Jeanne Hangartner (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Evelyn), Brian Fehr (Bro. Rich and Sis. Madelyn), Marge Sauder (Bro. Mel and Sis. Carolee Unsicker), Steve

Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Esther), Greg Blunier (Wayne and Sis. Marge) and Rod Blunier (Bro. Wally). On Sunday we witnessed their baptisms and greeted our new brothers and sisters-in-faith.

Surely the angels in heaven rejoice with our three new converts. Ann Hohulin (Bro. Mel and Sis. Shirley) and Marty and Patti Rebbec (son and daughter-in-law of Bob and Marge Rebbec) have begun their new walk in Christ. May the Lord grant them the grace to establish a solid foundation on Him.

Sis. Ethel Rassi has been a surgical patient this past month.

The death angel has visited our congregation several times in the recent past. Bro. LeRoy Kempf, 81, passed away December 14 at Morton Health Care Center. He is survived by two brothers, Dennis (Tremont, UT) and Milton (Roanoke); two sisters, Kathryn Kempf and Olivia Kempf (both of Roanoke). We certainly extend our sincere sympathy to his family, especially his two sisters with whom he made his home and who so faithfully ministered to his needs during his illness.

Our dear Sis. Marie Farney was so suddenly taken out of this life at her home December 20. We truly sympathize with her husband, Alvin, and her daughter, Sis. Ann (Dick) Hoffman. Also surviving are five brothers, Bro. Orie and Bro. Larry Aeschleman (both of Roanoke), Dave and Solomon Aeschleman (both of Peoria), William Aeschleman (Mossville); two sisters, Sis. Rose Beer (Roanoke) and Sis. Leah Frank (Ed, LaCrosse, IN); and three grandchildren.

Another beloved sister, Laura Weyeneth, was also taken from this life very quickly. She died at Methodist Medical Center December 26. She is survived by two sons, Bro. Melvin (Metamora) and Donald (Clinton, IA); two daughters, Sis. Marilyn Weyeneth (Roanoke) with whom she shared her home, and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr (John, Peoria).

We extend the sympathy of the Roanoke congregation to the family of Bro. Vernon Streitmatter (Washington) and especially to his sister, Sis. Sylvia (Wilmer) Blunier, of our congregation.

Our hearts were saddened when we heard of Sis. Marjorie Mangold's death, and yet thankful that she could be relieved of the suffering that she

endured for so long. Sis. Marge grew up in our community and we cherished the times when she and her family were able to come home and visit us. Our sympathy is extended to her husband, her sons, and her parents, Sis. Carol Schwab and Sis. Helen and Bro. Melvin Mangold of our congregation.

We know that all these dear families are going to feel the tremendous loss of their loved ones, but we have faith that the healing hand of our great God will touch their hearts and help them heal.

The Lord has also blessed our congregation with four new babies this month. Gordon and Karen Presley are the happy parents of their first child, Gordon Mark. Gordon's grandparents are Don and Helen Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Presley (Metamora).

Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni Stoller welcome their second child and first daughter, Kristi Leigh. Michael is glad to have a little playmate. Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel and Bro. Rich and Sis. Barbara Stoller are Kristi's grandparents.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Knepp have a new son, Ryan Matthew. His two big sisters are Gretchen and Kristen. Bro. Walter and Sis. Velma Leman and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp are happy to have a new grandson.

Bro. Herb and Sis. Suzie Hodel are the parents of a new baby girl. Holly is welcomed home by her brothers, Derek and Justin, and her sister, Heather. Bro. Don and Sis. Judy Feller (Morton) and Bro. Ben and Sis. Ruth Hodel are Holly's grandparents.

The Lord has truly provided for us through his servants. Those who shared His holy Word with us this past month were Bros. Kent Heimer, Art Bauer, Marvin Leman, Ken Hoerr, Earl Ringger and Everett Hari and Elder Bro. Roy Sauder. We sincerely thank them for lending themselves and pray God will richly bless them and their families for their service.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach

Carolyn Bolliger

We appreciated having Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka), Raymond Banwart and Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott, KS) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) visit us and lend themselves in God's service. May God richly reward each one.

The engagement of Dale Glueck and Kim Schmidgall (Morton) was recently announced. Parents of the couple are

Bro. Jack and Sis. Elaine Schmidgall (Morton) and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck.

Surgical patients were Bro. Chris Schweigert (Sis. Ida) and Lester Staker (Beverly). Ben Schmidgall is a hospital patient at this time. We wish all a speedy recovery with God's help and strength.

Simon Jr. and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach are the happy parents of Jill Louise born January 5. She has brothers, Simon III, Jeff, Jonathan, Curt, Daniel, Timothy and Andrew, and a sister, Jody Lynn, to help take care of her. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Louise Witzig (Gridley) and Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach.

Bro. August Bolliger (Sis. Carrie) has recently moved to the A.C. Restmor Nursing Home in Morton. Sis. Hanna Koch has also recently moved to Restmor. We hope they enjoy their new "home".

We were saddened by the sudden death of Bro. Chris B. Pflederer (Sis. Hannah). We extend our sympathy to Sis. Hannah, and sons, Bros. James (Sis. Lee) and Christ Jr. (Sis. Ruth); and daughters, Leona Ivey (Peoria), Sis. Glenna Pflederer and Ilene (Larry) Hild.

We will miss the sweet smile of Sis. Anna Lehman. Our sympathy goes out to her children, Bro. Clarence (Eureka) and Elsie Lou Wheeler (Norm, Tremont).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Louise (Bro. Simon) and family in the passing of her sister, Sis. Bertha Rouleau (Springfield, MO).

We also sympathize with Sis. Alma Bolliger and family in the death of her mother, Sis. Lydia Meyer (Bern, KS). May God comfort all that are bereaved.

ILLINOIS, URBANA Cheryl Mangers

We were privileged to be able to listen to the conference tapes as a congregation. What a heritage we have. Let us work in unity to preserve this heritage.

Since we are like a big family here in Urbana, an engagement announcement is always very special and exciting. We rejoice with our Bro. Ben Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel) and Sis. Michelle Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Wynita, Fairbury) as their approaching marriage was announced.

We are so thankful that eight-year-old Neil Banwart (Bro. Wayne and Sis.

Charlen) escaped with just minor injuries as the result of a snowmobile-truck accident over the holidays. We hope the broken foot will heal and that Neil will be up and running soon.

Having our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm back in our midst after his recovery from major surgery was a special blessing January 12.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Ellen Cox

We want to extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz and their daughter, Cheree, who have moved to our area from Francesville, IN. May God bless them in their new home.

Our congregation enjoyed the Christmas program put on by our Sunday school students December 11 and our church Christmas caroling December 15. These two events seemed special to young and old alike.

Two little bundles were welcomed home by their families in the same week. They are Rebecca Marie Wagenbach and Benjamin Joseph Winkler. Rebecca's parents are Ken and Laura Wagenbach who are quite happy about their first-born. Grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach, are also excited about their first grandchild. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lucille Wagner (Gridley). Little Benjamin has a big sister, Heidi, and a big brother, Tony, to welcome him home along with mom and dad, Doug and Sis. Elaine Winkler. Happy grandparents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold and Larry and Jane Winkler (Metamora).

Our Sis. Sue Ruppert has been hospitalized this month. We pray that she can experience God's healing power and assemble with us again soon.

We are grateful to Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) for ministering to us. May God bless these brothers and their families for sharing with us.

We sympathize with our dear Bro. Luis Gomez whose mother passed away in Mexico City. May he feel the prayers and support of the brotherhood at this difficult time.

"At Home, 'tis well! There palms of peace abounding Are gently cooling us, hot from the strife; O'ercome now are all pains of pilgrim life; The cries of fear give way to psalms resounding."

Zion's Harp #170

Our dear Bro. Vernon Streitmatter was called home December 16 after a seven-week illness. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Pearline; one son, Bro. Paul; and one daughter, Sis. Kary, as well as four brothers and five sisters and many nieces and nephews. Bro. Vernie's loving spirit and kind, smiling face will be sorely missed by our entire congregation. Our hearts go out to his family at this difficult time. They wish to enclose the following message:

"We are humbly grateful for the blessings God has provided through the outpouring of cards, gifts, visits and prayers from so many loved ones from near and far. The love we have felt has been the "Balm of Gilead" to comfort and help us through our sorrow. Thanks to all."

The Family of
Vernon Streitmatter

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord." Proverbs 18:22. Our dear Sis. Lynette Heinold (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan) and Bro. Tim Bahler (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn, Remington, IN) were united in marriage December 22. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together in Him.

We are grateful to the following brothers for ministering to us: our Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bros. Kenneth Schneider and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). May God bless them for sharing with us.

Little Ashley Sue Mitchell was born to Jim and Evie Mitchell. She is welcomed home by big sister, Adriane. Ashley's grandparents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold and Wayne and Bonnie Mitchell (El Paso, IL).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Lucille Isch — Evelyn Ringger

We were grateful to have Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) with us Sunday, December 22. In the morning the juniors and seniors were privileged to have him in Sunday school and in the afternoon he brought us many good teachings. We thank Bro. Lynn and may the Lord richly bless him.

As of the New Year, we have many new Sunday school teachers and church officers. We trust they will feel the Lord's guidance as they carry out their duties.

We have two births to announce.

Bro. Gregg and Sis. Joan Gerber are the happy parents of a little girl, Amy Lynn, born January 3. She has a sister, Beverly, and a brother, Kevin. Grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Elizabeth Schwartz and Bro. Fredrick and Sis. Margaret Gerber.

On January 9, Randall Gene was born to Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky Gerber. He will have his brother, Jason, for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer and Bro. Robert and Sis. Evelyn Gerber.

Our Elder Bro. Orville Ringger had the services for Roy Speheger, 81, who passed away January 9. Roy is survived by two sons, Kent and Ned; a brother, Bro. Walter Speheger; and four sisters, Sis. Francis Clark, Sis. Marie Ritzman, Sis. Naomi (Theo) Beer and Mrs. Irene (William) Best; and seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Hospital patients this month have been: Sis. Nettie Strahm, Sis. Maryann Fiechter, Sis. Jean Steffen (Bro. Craig), Sis. Justine Baumgartner (Bro. Paul), Bro. Walter Kaehr (Sis. Lucille), Bro. Roy Gerber (Sis. Helen), Bro. Roy Reinhard (Sis. Virgene) and Bro. Frederick Gerber (Sis. Margaret).

We were reminded to be thankful for each new day; another day to serve the Lord doing good where we can, and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

We wish to say a big "thank you" to Bro. Nick Knobloch for showing his pictures on World Relief projects at the fellowship hall.

United in holy matrimony, January 19, were Sis. Rachel Ringger (Bro. Gary and Rosetta) and Bro. Sam Beer (Elder Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley, Milford). May their lives together be filled with joy in serving the Lord.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

"To love is to give,
And loving means giving,
And giving is the key
To abundant living.
Life is a door,
And Christ is the keeper
Who opens the door
To loving still deeper."

Author Unknown

We were visited this month by ministering Bro. Jim Rinckenberger (Bluffton). May God's blessings be with him and his family. We always love having our Bluffton loved ones with us.

"... for as long as we both shall live ..." Shelly Reinhard (Bro. Glen and Sis. Leota) and Paige Hamilton were married December 21. May God be with them and guide them through many happy years together.

Several of our loved ones have spent time in the hospital during the past month. They are: Sis. Elsie Troxel (Bro. Ralph), Sis. Gladys Fiechter, Bro. Jim Geisel (Sis. Dorothy), Lanner Schwartz (son of Bro. Ernie and Sis. Robin) and Sis. Nettie Strahm. Our thoughts and prayers are with each one and their families.

Our thanks goes to Bro. Nick Knobloch (Princeville, IL) for presenting slides on World Relief projects. Truly none of us have anything to complain about!

We welcome the newly elected Sunday school teachers and thank those ending their terms. May they all be richly blessed for their efforts in teaching the Word to our precious children.

There hasn't been a lot of news lately and in some ways — that's good, but we should all be painfully aware that we have had no new converts for several months (our most recent convert being Darlene Gerber, who, we are happy to mention, has been announced as having peace and is joyfully waiting to be baptized). Are we all reaching out at every opportunity God gives us?

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

On December 31, 1985, many gathered together at the church for the New Year's Eve services and program. Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) shared God's Word with us and many loved ones shared songs, poems and inspirational thoughts.

Near the end of the evening our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman summarized the events of 1985, reviewing the births, baptisms, weddings and deaths. His dear mother, our late Sis. Katherine Gudeman passed away in 1985, and he shared with us one of the last things she taught here on earth. I Peter 5:7 was being read to her; "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." She stopped the reading and said, "That says ALL — that means EVERYTHING."

Truly we have a wonderful Lord — we can always depend upon Him!!

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Frank Gutwein (Edwin and Mary B.) to Sis. Jill Stoller

(Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy, Peoria, IL). Bro. Frank and Sis. Jill are both students at Purdue. We look forward to having Sis. Jill here with us.

Hospital patients this month were Sisters Minerva Wuethrich, Mary Westfall and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman. May God grant them His healing power, according to His perfect will.

We miss Larry and Carol Wuethrich and their three little girls, Lindsey, Lauren and Lacey, since they moved to New Jersey. Their address, for those wishing to write, is: 10 C Brookline Drive, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021.

Words fail me to express my very deep appreciation and most humble thanks to all members of my wonderful family, my two dear nieces, Lynn and Kristine, and nephew, Dr. Geier, who so faithfully cared for me at the University Hospital in Indianapolis, and also our dear ministers, all my relatives and friends who have sent me such lovely cards, remembered me in prayers and brought food to me since returning home. Again, I say a big thank you and may the Lord bless each one of you is my prayer.

Sis. Minerva Wuethrich

INDIANA, LACROSSE Connie Knobloch — Debbie Nuest

Appreciation is given to Bros. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN), Art Ringger (Indianapolis, IN), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for sharing with us the Word of God.

After Bro. Uriel's message, we were all attentive to have him explain to us some of the responsibilities of the Leo Children's Home. Many responsibilities lie with the houseparents, brothers and sisters, who are willing to give of their time and show care and kindness to less fortunate young people. They truly will be richly rewarded for their labors of love and work of faith.

Our Sister, Jan Nuest, has been ill and was confined to the Jasper County Hospital, but has left the hospital and is now recuperating at the Parkview Haven Retirement Home in Francesville, IN. Also hospitalized was our friend, Tom Mak. We wish both a full and speedy recovery.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

Valentine card displays have replaced the Christmas and New Year's

greeting cards in the shops. Many lovely sentiments are expressed, but none can even begin to compare with the beautiful true love story of His Word. God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

His love manifests itself in so many daily ways. It's revealed in the unselfish service of those who proclaim His Word. Visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) are thanked for bringing His message.

Love in the hearts of many was expressed in prayer for His blessing of healing for Sis. Velma Bollier (Bro. John) who recently underwent heart surgery.

A second son was welcomed with love in the home of Bro. Wade and Sis. Pat Stoller. The new baby is named Chad Ryan. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Dorothy Steffen (Milford) and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Minerva Stoller.

A Christian mother's love remains a beautiful memory in the hearts of her family. Sympathy is expressed to Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Norr in the home-going of her mother, Sis. Bertha Meiss (Eureka, IL).

Elder Bro. David Bertsch, Bro. William Klopfenstein and John Willis, together with other brethren, are offering their labor of love in Haiti.

Now please do your homework using your concordance for the word, Love. Among the many references, you will find these and more: John 15:9-14, Romans 5:8, 8:35-39, I Corinthians 13, I John 3:1. . . . Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts . . . Hebrews 3:15.

In Matthew 5:44, we are directed to love our enemies. The following few lines suggest a possible problem for which His grace is as always needed:

"To live above
With saints we love
That surely will be glory.

To work below
With those we know,
Well, that's another story!"

Source Unknown

A suggestion to improve face value:
"SMILE. One size fits all."

INDIANA, MILFORD

Joyce Kaiser — Shelby Beer

Another New Year has come and with it another day of grace. Possibly we need to take a closer look at our lives, clean out the dusty places and strive to walk a little closer to the path Christ has laid out for us.

January 19 was the wedding day of Bro. Sam Beer (Elder Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Rachel Ringger (Bro. Gary and Rosetta) at Bluffton. We heartily welcome Sis. Rachel to our church family. May God, as a third partner in this marriage, bless this union of their hearts.

Max and Deb Sumpter and Dustin welcome into their hearts and home little Brooks David born December 24. The happy grandparents are Jim and Sis. Irene Sumpter and the Dave Cary's.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to our Sis. Naomi Beer in the loss of her brother, Roy Speheger (Bluffton).

We were abundantly blessed with many timely and valuable teachings. We give thanks and ask the Lord's blessings on Bro. Ray Sinn and his family for spending Sunday, December 29 with us.

Little Simon Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), Sis. Carol Hurd, Walter Wuthrich and Bro. Jesse Haab have all spent time in the hospital. May our God, the Great Physician, heal and restore as it is His good will.

At our recent business meeting, Bros. Ned Speicher, Rich Schlipf and Phil Price were elected to serve a term in Sunday school. Bros. Tom Price and John Hurd will take care of the church aid and Bro. Ray Haab will serve as trustee. Sis. Mary Ann Haab was elected to help with the World Relief sewing. Our prayers are with these dear ones as they fill their position.

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate there in day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way pros-

perous, and then thou shalt have good success. Joshua 1:7, 8.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

A few days ago I was looking a word up in the dictionary and came across the word "graft". The definition was "to unite closely". There were many illustrations, but one thing was common. They all had a clean cut. It was not jagged or just partially adhered to the surface of the tree. It brought to remembrance the goodness of the Lord in letting us be grafted into the true vine, Jesus Christ. "Thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree." Romans 12:24. I want there to be a clean cut from the sin in this world that I came from into a joyful life of living in Jesus Christ. Are we willing to forsake all and cling to Jesus Christ, the only truth left on this earth? Let us encourage one another to do so.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing." Proverbs 18:22. Bro. Tim Bahler (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Lynette Heinold (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan) were married in Washington, IL, December 22. They are residing at Route 1, Reynolds, IN. We trust the Lord will bless the building of this new home. The Remington church welcomes Lynette with open arms.

We miss Bro. Harold Schieler as he has gone to Phoenix, AZ, for the winter. His address there is Crystal Springs #103, 8502 North 67th Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85302.

We thank our visiting ministers for filling our cups. They were Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL).

Sis. Eliza Getz suffered a fall but is assembling among us again. We were so thankful for no broken bones. In sufferings like these we can learn of the pain our Lord and Saviour suffered for us on the cross. She would like to thank all of those who remembered her in prayers, cards and gifts.

Bro. Herb Schieler was in the hospital for several days for minor surgery. He is gaining back strength and thankfully wasn't laid up too long.

The Remington congregation wishes to extend our whole-hearted sympathy to Sis. Caroline Virkler (Naumburg, NY) at the loss of her husband, Bro. Bernard. Sis. Caroline grew up here

and we all benefited from their many visits over the years.

Let us remember, "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalms 27:13.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Pauline Laidig — Jill Lehman

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest
 Which the Spirit does bestow.
 Zion's Harp #37

As we were privileged to listen to the tapes and the reading and deliberation of the memorandum of the brotherhood meeting by Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North), we could feel the loving concern the shepherds have for their flocks. We pray the Spirit will fill our hearts with this true love so we will walk in the Good Shepherd's pathways.

The Lord has mercifully released our beloved sister-in-faith and friend, Marjorie Mangold, from her much suffering. She was truly an example to us in faith, patience and concern for her family. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Mike, and sons, Matthew, Joshua and Nathanael; also to her mother, Sis. Carol Schwab (Roanoke, IL) and sister, Judy Laskowski (Carlock, IL). Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) came to share with her loved ones by conducting the funeral services.

Bro. Ernest Germann was in the hospital a while due to his heart condition, but was able to go home in time so he and Sis. Marie could spend their 69th anniversary together. May the Lord bless and comfort them as they experience infirmities in these twilight years. We also pray He will be very near Sis. Rosena Hueni, who has been moved to the RN Nursing Home in Bremen. Sis. Helen Martin is temporarily in the Medco Nursing Home in South Bend, but we are very thankful she is experiencing good healing.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Lily Vogt

LET IT UNFOLD

It is only a tiny rosebud
 A flower of God's design

But I cannot unfold the petals
 With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
 Is not known to such as I . . .
 The flower God opens so sweetly
 Would in my hands fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
 This flower of God's design
 Then how can I have wisdom
 To unfold this life of mine.

So I'll trust in Him for His leading
 Each moment of every day.
 And I'll look for His guidance
 Each step of this Pilgrim way.

For the pathway that lies before me
 My Heavenly Father knows.
 I'll trust Him to unfold the moments
 Just as He unfolds the rose.

Author Unknown

We rejoice with Bro. Frank Gutwein (Edwin and Mary B. Gutwein) and Sis. Jill Stoller (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy) as they have recently announced their engagement. God has allowed their paths to meet at Purdue and together, they will strive for that blessed hope of eternal life.

On January 17, Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis) shared the Word with us. The quality of our prayer life was discussed. In summary, the more adoration, confession and thanksgiving we express in prayer will result in less supplications to our all-knowing God. We would like to thank Bro. Art for bringing forth the gospel to us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

What better way to welcome the new year than by assembling together in church. We thank Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) for sharing God's Word unto us on New Year's Day.

As we turn the calendar to a new year, we also turn over fulfilled duties to newly elected brothers and sisters. How much we appreciate those who teach our children the love of God and the many willing hands that care for the physical well-being of the church.

Bro. Dwight Waibel has undergone knee surgery and is now recuperating at home. May God grant him a complete recovery.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner — Dixie Messner

Now that the Christmas season is over, we look back at the past memories with great fondness. We especially enjoyed our caroling with the young and old together and the Christmas program December 22. It is inspiring to hear the children sing and tell the blessed story of Christ, "The Babe of Bethlehem". And we hope all will go with Christ to Bethlehem and eventually "let the Savior in". (Hymns of Zion #35).

We were thankful for the visit of Bro. Bill Gerst and family (Alto) Christmas Day. He was inspired to open to the Old Testament, Isaiah 9. We were reassured that the Lord does provide.

Bro. Curt Eberhardt was elected as our new trustee and Sis. Betty Baker was added to the Women's Committee at our annual business meeting. We want to gratefully thank those who served in these positions in the past years.

Bro. Marvin Woodward was in the hospital, but is home again.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

A man was carrying a heavy basket. His son asked to help him. The father cut a stick and placed it through the handle of the basket so that the end toward himself was very short, while the end toward the boy was three or four times as long. Each took hold of his end of the stick, and the basket was lifted and easily carried. The son was bearing the burden with the father, but he found his work easy and light because his father assumed the heavy end of the stick. Just so it is when we bear the yoke with Christ; He sees to it that the burden laid on us is light; He carries the heavy end.

Leaves of Gold

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord.
 Psalms 127:3

Heather, Wesley, Jessica, Joshua and Jeremiah Moore welcome Rebecca Ann (Gene and Sis. Julie) into their family circle. Grandparents are Jerry and Marge Brehme and Elizabeth Moore.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues are due this month for Elgin, IA.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

We are currently experiencing a very welcome warm spell. Although there are undoubtedly many cold days ahead of us before spring arrives, it is kind of a promise of spring. God seems to know just when cabin fever or winter blues are getting us down and provides a breath of spring. This seems to lift us up and enables us to face the cold days ahead with renewed spirit. The author of the following song, "In the Valley He Restoreth My Soul", seemed to see how this is true in our spiritual lives also.

When I'm low in spirit I cry, "Lord, lift me up,
I want to go higher with Thee."
But the Lord knows I can't live on the mountain,
So He picked out a valley for me.

He leads me beside still waters,
Somewhere in the valley below;
He draws me aside to be tested and tried,
But in the valley He restoreth my soul.

We are again thankful for all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL).

IOWA, LESTER
Alice Metzger

We are thankful for visiting ministers who were with us during the holiday season and for their families who accompanied them. They were Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Doug Schock (Pulaski), Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL) and Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski). This was one of the many blessings we experienced during the Christmas season.

The first baby of the year for our church was born January 8 to Bro. Rodney and Sis. Twyla Bajema. Kelli Jo has three sisters to welcome her and her grandparents are Bro. Freddie and Sis. Esty Metzger and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bajema.

Several of our congregation have been in the hospital and we know it takes patience to endure the afflictions of the flesh. Our prayers are with each one. Recently hospitalized were Bro. Jake Metzger, Bro. Bill Knobloch, Bro.

Blair Metzger, Sis. Sheryl Knobloch, Sis. Edith Knobloch, Bro. Jake Knobloch and Emil Wulf.

We miss those who have recently moved and feel sure they will soon be at home in their new surroundings. Sis. Freida Gerber has moved to Eureka, Sis. Lavonne Doorneweerd has moved to Phoenix and Bro. Doug and Sis. Susie Messner and Nicole have moved to Minneapolis. We hope they come back to visit often.

In 1985 there were five baptisms in our church. We had four deaths, including one burial away from here. Eleven new babies were born, five girls and six boys and one little girl was adopted.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18. We are so happy for Bro. Fred Gerst and Sis. Susan Eberhardt. We witnessed their marriage in the Lord the last weekend in December. May God grant them His rich blessings as they establish their home. Bro. Fred's parents are Sis. Hilda and the late Bro. Carl Gerst. Susan's parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt. We have been blessed most abundantly with visiting ministers recently. Bros. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Harvey Heiniger (Burlington) have fed us from God's holy Word, for which we are so thankful.

We held our annual business meeting at Oakville in January. Our outgoing committee members are Sisters Doris Kuntz and Lucille Rauhaus (kitchen committee); and Bros. Dan Anliker (church trustee), Charles Gerst (cemetery trustee) and John Schrock (fellowship center trustee). We appreciate the efforts made by these brothers and sisters and trust that God will reward them. Our newly elected committee members are Sisters Ada Banwart and Rosemary Wegman (kitchen committee); and Bros. Roy Raubaus (fellowship center trustee), Brian Wiegand (cemetery trustee) and Bob Schrock (church trustee).

Thought: Wherever God closes a door, he opens a window.

Anonymous
We want to thank our many loved ones for remembering us on our 50th

anniversary. May God richly bless all of you.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Luella Anliker

IOWA, PULASKI
Mary Jane Knapp
DeAnn Wuthrich

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

Hymns of Zion #150, vs. 1

As the new year dawns, let us prove to be more holy and have a closer walk with our Lord and Savior. Each year should only bring us nearer to Him.

Sis. Leah Schaeer would like to thank everyone that sent cards and gifts while she was in the hospital, and at the time of the loss of her mother. She also wants to thank everyone for the cards and gifts on their anniversary, all the quilt blocks that were made, and for food brought in.

Bro. Howard Musselman was a hospital patient this past month. We are glad he is now home and feeling better.

We had a special Christmas Day blessing when Sis. Debra Metzger was able to assemble with us for the first time since her accident several months ago. She is now at home and continues to make progress as she goes to the hospital two times a week for physical therapy.

Bro. Dale Strassheim (Milford, IN) was with us December 29 to share God's precious Word. We pray God will bless him and his family for his labors of love on our behalf.

Two dear friends, Doug Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) and Dan Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn) have found peace with God and look forward to giving their testimonies and baptism in the near future. We pray for God's continued guidance and grace as they walk the path of life toward the heavenly goal.

Card of Thanks: Sis. Debra Metzger and her family wish to express many thanks for all expressions of kindness shown to them following her accident. Thanks to everyone who made an effort to visit her while she was in Iowa City and to all who saw her while she was in rehabilitation in Burlington, IA. The many cards, gifts and prayers on her behalf are greatly appreciated.

Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

Sis. Debra Metzger,
Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger
and families

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

We are saddened by the passing of a dear sister, but can find comfort and rejoice that Sis. Corrine Traub has finished life's course and gone to be with the Lord. We extend our sympathy to her family and may the Lord comfort them in times when her absence is felt. Surviving are her children: Mrs. Margaret Miller (Ames), Mrs. Paul Wagner (Shirley, West Bend), Mrs. Milo Johnson (Gladys, Algona), Mrs. Dean Wehrspan (Mary Lou, Algona) and Kenneth Traub (Ottosen). She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Fred, Sr., and son, Fred Traub, Jr., and two grandchildren.

We always appreciate our visiting ministers who come to share their time with us. Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) was our visitor Christmas Day, Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) on December 29 and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Urbana, IL) for our New Year's Eve service.

Hospital patients during the past month have been Reuben Anliker, Jamie Schmidt, Linden Venhuizen and Sam Mogler. May we always remember them in prayer.

Statistics reported for 1985 were twelve births (eight boys and four girls), five baptisms and ten marriages.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Kathy Kieser

Each day that we are privileged to live in this new year can be used to glorify the name of our heavenly Father. He will supply the needed grace and strength if we are sowing for Him, and He has promised, "... for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:7.

We were blessed by the visit of Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), ministering Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Walter Gasser (Elgin, IL) as they spent a weekend here in Japan enroute to India. Bros. Walter and John stayed in Shioda and Bros. Jim and Nathan stayed in Tokyo. Those of us of the Shioda congregation were blessed as we received the Word of God through the inspiration of Bro. John Klotzle.

May these brothers reap rich blessings as they continually give of themselves in the name of Jesus.

Our annual church conference was held in Tokyo this year. Memorandum notes from the conference in Morton, IL, concerning the Holy Spirit were reviewed in the morning. In the afternoon, issues pertaining to the local churches were discussed. A special concern of ours is finding ways to encourage the children and young people of our Japan churches to seek after what they've been taught. We also discussed the plan to have meetings again once a month in the Tamahata church. This church is about a half-hour drive from our Shioda church, and since we have not held services there for quite some time, we are thrilled at the opportunity to once again sow the Word in this area.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

We had a real blessed year in 1985, as we could serve the Lord together. God's grace, love and patience are wonderful, and as we feel the end time near at hand, we also know of God's eternal punishment. So we must daily strive and prepare.

At this writing, our dear Bro. Saburo Utsuki is very ill, and we are all daily praying that God's will be done. We know there is a purpose in all the hours and days in his life here yet, and we pray for his family who daily and hourly so lovingly care for him. (Note: After this article was written, we were saddened to hear Bro. Saburo Utsuki passed away January 14.)

Our church was very blessed as we remembered the birth of our Lord. Our Saturday evening Bible class was blessed with the attendance of two girls from Finland who lived in our neighborhood for a time. When Bro. Randy asked the question of the reason for Christ's coming, one of the girls answered, "Sin separates us from God, and Christ came to die for our sins and that by truly believing in Him we can be reunited with Him." We enjoyed a carry-in lunch after thanking God for His goodness.

Our church Christmas services and children's program were held December 22. We heard from the children the old, but very new, and blessed story of Bethlehem and that without Christ there is no Christmas. Before our meal together the children caroled for our

elderly neighbor couple. We thank those who remembered our church with Christmas greeting cards and prayers. May God bless each of you.

Our Bros. Clark Baurer and Ron Knapp (Chicago, IL and Detroit, MI) were our special visitors this past month. We thank them for their love and support in our services. They, along with several Shioda brethren, accompanied our Sunday school boys to the snow country. We thank all of them for the help and patience with the boys as they all reported an enjoyable time.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger — Shirley Strahm

Sympathy is expressed to Sis. Stella (Jacob) Wenger in the passing away of her sister, Mamie (Moser) Streit.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Terry Farney (Wichita), Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI). We always appreciate the efforts they put forth in bringing us God's Word.

We enjoyed Sabetha assembling with us Christmas Day in remembrance of Christ's birth. On New Year's Day we had the privilege of worshiping with the Sabetha congregation.

Hospitalized were Harlan Wittmer for pneumonia, and Sis. Kathy (Richard) Strahm and Earl Meyer, for surgery.

Recently we held our annual business meeting. Re-elected for trustee was Bro. Neil Hartter and Wilfred Strahm for Apostolic Christian Home board member. Bro. Richard Strahm replaced Bro. Arden Stoller on Public Address System. In the Sunday school elections, Bro. Jim Kaeb and Bro. Arden Stoller will be teaching instead of Bro. Rod Strahm and Bro. Steve Hartter. Sis. Darlene Stoller and Sis. Nancy Rokey replace Sis. Arlinda Rokey and Sis. Heidi Baumgartner. Sis. Shirley Strahm was elected to assist Sis. Linda Esslinger with the Silver Lining news.

Sabetha congregation joined us as we listened to the conference letter.

Sis. Kathy and Bro. Joe D. Rokey are happy first-time parents of a precious baby daughter, Tara Lee, born January 6. To help care for her at home are Heidi, Holly, Trent and Ryan Menold. Grandparents are Bro. Joseph and Sis. Lila Rokey and Al and Helen Dettwyler (Silverton, OR).

Sis. Julia (Wilhelm) Metzger is recuperating at the home of her daughter, Willa Steiner (Kansas City), after a stay at the nursing home.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Judy Bahr

The annual business meeting was held the third Wednesday of January. Those elected were as follows: trustee - Bro. Lon Banwart; Sunday school teachers - Sis. Rita Knoblock and Bro. Don Banwart; food committee - Sis. Pearl Miller and Sis. Ida Sinn; usher - Bros. John Sinn and Jerry Bahr; Silver Lining reporter - Sis. Teresa Bahr.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Juanita Sinn and family in the passing away of her father. May the loving memories of days gone by help fill the emptiness of today and tomorrow.

Our visiting minister was Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). May God bless him for spreading the Word of God.

Bro. Kent Miller (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl) has packed his bags once again and moved to Prescott, AZ. Our small congregation and young group miss his presence very much. To paraphrase a verse from a poem that Bro. Kent wrote to us before he left:

The happy memories of our times
 together
 Will never leave our minds,
 Nor will our gratitude for friends like
 you
 So loving, true and kind.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr — Gay Farney

We worry about our tomorrows
 Oft missing the joys of today.
 Troubled about what may happen
 Yet tomorrow, may not come our way.

Life's pathway is ever uncertain
 "Right Now" is what's yours and mine.
 The future is safe in God's keeping
 We can live, but one day at a time.

Gert Holaday

The above poem seemed very fitting for the beginning of a brand new year. So many times we do worry about tomorrow, or next month or next year. But if we could learn to take one day at a time and put the tomorrows in God's hands completely, how very much happier we all would be. Also, it's amazing how the biggest obstacles seem to melt away when left in God's hands. So let's

start this new year right by putting our trust in His guidance — one day at a time.

It's been such a blessed month for us here in Kiowa. We had the privilege of listening to the tapes of the conference several evenings, and our hearts just thrilled at the love and concern our shepherds feel for this flock. We probably don't show it enough, but thanks be to God for our watchmen in Christ.

We also received manifold blessings from all our Christmas activities; like caroling, the Sunday school Christmas program, and the Christmas party the children held at the Kiowa Manor. It's such a lovely time of the year if we just keep in mind the true message of love God sent to us from above; namely His own Son, Jesus, our ray of hope in a sinsick world. No gift we could ever receive can compare with this free gift God has given us.

After the darkness
 The daylight shines through
 After the showers
 The rainbow's in view
 After life's heartaches
 There comes from above
 The peace and the comfort
 Of God's healing love.

Our fervent thoughts and prayers are certainly with our dear Sis. Gay Farney who lost her father this month after he suffered a heart attack. Even though our loved ones are in a much better place, the separation is so hard to bear, and only a loving God can truly bring comfort to our hearts.

Kiowa dues for the Silver Lining will be collected in February.

Sis. Esther Hodel was hospitalized this month for a few days, but we are so thankful she is out again and able to worship with us.

As our loved ones head south for the coming cold months here, it is our prayer that God will go with them to keep them while we are apart.

Show me the way,
 not to fortune and fame,
 Not how to win laurels
 or praise for my name —
 But show me the way
 to spread "The Great Story"
 That "This is the Kingdom
 and Power and Glory."

Helen Steiner Rice

I have to marvel at the various

"gifts" God has bestowed upon His children to bring praise to His holy name: To some, the gift of poetry, to others the gift of song, to some the gift of preaching the Word, to others that of teaching, some are good listeners, others have boundless love. And what do we have when we put them all together? We have the bride of Christ, the church, a place to share the "gifts" or "talents" God has so graciously given us, that we may glorify His name. What is your talent? What responsibility has God given you? Whatever it is, let's be sure to use it this coming year to the honor and glory of God. Our annual meeting was held recently, and it is our fervent prayer that all who hold offices in God's church will be richly blessed for their time and effort spent in "His" service.

God blesses us so often, and in a multitude of ways, but I do believe our children are one of His most gracious blessings, and we are so happy that one of these new little bundles is in our midst. Her name is Bethany Lyn, and her parents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Sandra Hamilton. Bethany has a big brother, Craig, 5, to welcome her home, and maternal grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Nelda Ott. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Hamilton (Beggs, OK). It is our fervent prayer that God will watch over Bethany all of her life, and guide Bro. Phil and Sis. Sandra in her upbringing as well as Craig's.

Two of the most important steps in our lives are: # 1, turning our lives over to God through a true repentance and conversion, and # 2, marriage. And, oh, how beautiful it is when a husband and wife can build their marriage on the solid Rock, Jesus Christ. This is our sincere prayer for Randy Allenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lois Allenbach) who was united in holy matrimony to Janie Korzinowski (Mr. and Mrs. Frank Korzinowski, Kansas City, KS). As they begin their lives together, may God be the center of their home and ever bless them with His love.

Ninety-four years old. That is the birthday Bro. John Hoffman celebrated this month. And we would all like to join in saying God bless you, love you, keep you, Bro. John, and grant you many more happy years if it is His will.

Sis. Lucy Hoffman was hospitalized for a short time this month, and Diane Stucky is undergoing a series of treatments at this time. May they know that

our thoughts and prayers are with them!

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill K. Luthi

The Christian's robe and badge of love
 It is the cross of Christ.
 And he who knows the worth thereof
 Will bear it without sighs.

We bear it but a little while,
 A pledge of things to come,
 Of garments glorious and white
 In that eternal home.

Zion's Harp #252, vs. 1, 4

The Christian's Cross always was a favored song of Bro. Charles Gleichman, who was called home January 1 at the age of 85. Bro. Charlie was born and raised in Harper, KS, where he and his surviving wife, Sis. Carrie (Caroline Emch) lived until 1967; then moving to Madison. In March of 1984, both Bro. Charlie and Sis. Carrie took residence in Sabetha at the Apostolic Christian Home. He is survived by his wife; two sons, Richard (Oklahoma City, OK), and Bro. John (Detroit, MI); two daughters, Sis. Kathleen Gallatin (Wichita) and Sis. Joyce (Bro. Bill Moser (Morris, MN); two brothers, George and Elmer Gleichman (Harper); and one sister, Sis. Ruth Domnick (Morton, IL) and nine grandchildren. He was preceeded in death by an infant daughter, three brothers and five sisters. Our sympathy is extended to all of his family and may God comfort each one of them. Bro. Charlie will long be remembered as a pillar of our congregation who had a journey of life through the depression years, and no doubt, tougher days than what we are now facing today.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Psalm 103:2-5

Hospital patients since the last writing have been Bro. Floyd Isch (Sis. Mary) and his grandson, Justin (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch). Bro. Floyd had a close call with death, as he suffered a heart attack. The Lord's benefits have

not been forgotten, and it's great to say that Bro. Floyd is on the mend. Justin underwent surgery for a tonsillectomy.

Our Annual Meeting was held Thursday, January 2. Those elected with new duties are: Bro. Ron Isch (Bible Class Supt.) and Sis. Kathleen Wernli (Meals Committee). Representatives for various places were also elected. Taking Bro. Lloyd Luthi's place as Rest Home Rep. later on in the year will be Bro. Max Burnham on a new four-year rotation. Bros. John and David Wernli were elected as Morton Handicapped Home Rep. and Work Project World Relief, respectively. A few others were re-elected for their post of duty.

Thus far, 1986 has been a beautiful mild winter in our region of the nation. The Lord has granted us several January days in the mid-50s for temperature and a southerly breeze, instead of the cold northern arctic wind. The days are growing longer with light; it sure seems as if the winter season is ending instead of beginning. What wonders the sight of sunshine does for the soul!!! May God grant us each the grace to live each day anew at our fullest, as it may be the last day here on earth!

KANSAS, MANHATTAN

Heidi Baumgartner — Kim Meyer

We welcome each and every person back to Manhattan for another semester. After an enjoyable Christmas break, we are getting back into the college routine.

On Wednesday, January 15, we appreciated the opportunity to attend a singing at Sis. Lori Aberle, Sis. Patti Knobloch, Christy Meyer and Sis. Natalie Wysong's apartment.

The members again gathered together at Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm's home to listen in on the Brotherhood Conference tapes. We look forward to hearing the rest of them at other times.

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3

KANSAS, SABETHA
Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter

"And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; For All the Goods of His Master Were in His Hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia unto the city of Nahor."
 Genesis 24:10

Abraham must have thoroughly trusted his servant to send him on such an important mission as to find a wife for his beloved son. Besides that, it says that all the goods of Abraham were at the disposal of his servant.

Here is an example and promise for us as Christians. This servant of Abraham must have been faithful in many other tasks large and small to have been sent on this journey. And because of the servant's faithfulness, Abraham gave him access to all the provisions he would need to carry out his desires.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

Our congregation gathered with the Bern brethren to hear the exhortations from the memorandum letter January 11. It is a blessing to have shepherds who will warn and direct their flocks to a fruitful life in Christ. Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) assisted our local elders with this duty.

January 19 was the wedding day for Sis. Pam Edelman (Cliff and Sis. Barb) and Bro. Stan Wulf (Morris, MN), son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona Wulf (Lester, IA). May their life as one radiate the love of our Savior.

We are very thankful for the ministering brethren who were with us recently. How comforting it is when the simple truth is spoken even though the words may sting a little as different areas of our lives are spoken about. With us were Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS) and Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), John Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA).

 Give Your Address Change
 To Your Reporter

KANSAS, WICHITA**Laurie Gallatin**

The Lord has blessed us with beautiful spring weather this month of January, and I think we are spoiled.

Bro. Charles W. Gleichman, father of Sis. Kathleen Gallatin, died January 1. He and his wife, Sis. Caroline, who survives him, have resided at the Apostolic Christian Home (Sabetha, KS) since 1983. They farmed for many years near Harper, KS, retired in Madison, KS, and many times through the years worshipped with the Wichita congregation.

"... freely you have received, freely give." Matthew 10:8

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**Lester Huber****THE PERFECT GUIDE**

In speaking of the Bible, someone once said: "The Bible as a book stands alone. There never was, nor ever will be another like it. As there is but one sun to enlighten the world naturally, so there is but One Book to enlighten the world spiritually. May that Book, The Bible, become to each of us the man of our counsel, the guide of our journey, the inspiration of our thought, and our support and comfort... in life... and in death."

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5, 6

We continue to pray for the need of permanent residents here. We pray the Lord is speaking to families by means of occupational opportunities in the area or possibly just to share the opportunity to support establishment of small churches. The Lexington area has many openings available for professional services. If you have an interest, we can submit personnel information on hospitals, universities, educational institutions, industries, etc. May God manifest His will is our prayer. Our address is Route 1, Becknerville Road, Winchester, KY 40391.

A joyous weekend was spent when Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judith Wettstein and family (Congerville, IL) visited here. Bro. Vernon shared the living Word with us.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**Pam Schlatter**

We are always pleased to welcome visiting ministers to share the Bread of Life with us. This month Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI) visited our congregation. As Jesus served the multitude with but a few fish and loaves of bread, so these brothers brought forth the Word in abundance.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Tonya Wieland have an added blessing to enjoy this year. Their firstborn, Jesse Todd, arrived January 2. We are pleased that he will be raised in a home where Christian doctrines are espoused.

Our congregation was saddened by the death of Randy Lambert (Elmer and Arlene) from Los Angeles, CA. Randy was raised in our Sunday school and spent many precious moments with us before relocating. Our condolences and prayers are with his parents and family members.

The Bay City congregation Silver Lining dues are collected during the month of February. Please see your correspondent to pay your dues.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Bev Bahr**

As the year unfolds with all its hope and anticipation, we trust that in each new day we can live within God's grace and nearness, sharing His love and joy with all.

We appreciated the messages of Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). May they and their families be blessed for giving of their time to come and share with us.

Our heartfelt sympathy reaches out to Bro. John, Sis. Martha and Alan Gleichman in the passing of John's father, Bro. Charles Gleichman. May God's comforting hand be with them, giving them hope of one day meeting their loved one in heaven.

Bro. Paul Sabados has been hospitalized recently with a heart condition. May he and his family feel the nearness of God easing their load and sharing their cares and concerns.

Our congratulations are extended to Sis. Candy Knochel, who has completed her high school education early. May God continue to direct and bless her in the days ahead.

May we remember our elders as they

gather together for the winter conference. Our support and prayers are with them as they strive to preserve our precious faith.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**Barbara Olson****HE HEARD HIS MOTHER PRAY**

Abe Lincoln was only nine when his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died. Nine years seems a brief allotment for a mother to impress a child for life, but so deep was the influence of Nancy on the impressionable Abe that in later life Lincoln declared, "All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother."

Why was Nancy Lincoln so special to her son? She was just an ordinary woman given to the hard labors of a rugged frontier. Her life was brief and simple, but impressions she made upon the heart of her son truly lasted.

Abe Lincoln's mother taught him by precept and example the simple principle of prayer. Little Abe had knelt at his mother's knee. He had heard his mother talk to God. Years later he said, "I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S FAITH

In his first Inaugural Address, April 30, 1789, George Washington said, "it would be highly improper to omit in this first official act, my fervent supplications to Almighty God who rules over the universe and presides in the councils of nations."

Unlike many today who would disparage any reference to God in the halls of congress or in the halls of our schools, Washington warned that religion and morality are indispensable to our nations survival.

As we commemorate these presidents this month, let us truly take time today and every day to pray for our president and the other leaders of our country.

Our Minneapolis congregation wishes to give a warm welcome to Steve and Debra Joos and two children Michael and Michelle (formerly from Morton, IL). They are living in Eden Prairie.

We also warmly welcome back with us Bro. Doug and Sis. Suzie Messner and daughter, Nichole, who are making their home here after living in Lester,

IA. They are living in Eagen. We know that these families will be a real joy to our congregation as we all share God's love with each other.

We heartily welcome Sis. Lila and Marcy Schmidt to the Minneapolis area. Employment has brought them here and they are living in Chanhassen. Their parents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

Thought — Man has no lack when God is his supply.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Hildegard Koehl
Rhonda Zeltwanger

Precious memories are the memories we hold closest to our hearts. Nurtured and caressed, those memories will be there all our lives to reflect back on, to give us strength in time of affliction so we can be able to fight our spiritual battle.

Ephesians 6:13 says, Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. With this in mind let us go into this new year of 1986 clad with the armor of God.

The Lord has truly blessed Daniel and Dawn Jepma with their first child, a baby boy, Rick Daniel. His grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Judy Fehr and his great-grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna Fehr. In many ways our children are an example to us. They teach us to love, to care and to forgive more fully. Who returns love more abundantly and unselfishly than children?

Lowell Moser (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce) and Karen Thorstad were united in marriage recently. May we build our lives on the solid rock, Jesus Christ, so that we may feel His blessings throughout our lifetime. We wish the best for Lowell and Karen in their new life together.

So many times in our lives sorrow and joy are intermingled one with another. Sis. Joyce Moser (Bro. Bill) has experienced this, as not long after Lowell's wedding, her dad, Bro. Charles Gleichman, was taken from this life. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Joyce and family, realizing that through these trials God's only intention is to strengthen and bless us.

We were glad that throughout the holiday season we could have dear brothers come and minister God's holy Word unto us. Bros. Kent Mogler and

Ken Lawson (Minneapolis) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and their families were in our midst. We offer our thanks to them and welcome them back anytime.

John Moser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Norene) and Lori Kruize have announced their engagement. May they beseech the Lord for his blessing as they plan their forthcoming marriage.

Bro. Noah Nohl, Sis. Virginia Schmidgall (Bro. Don) and Sis. Lizzie Schmidgall have all experienced the need of God's healing power and also the need of our prayers for their recoveries. We are glad to have Sis. Kathy Nohl back with us after she spent time in Minneapolis in the hospital.

Bro. Albert Joos would like to thank all those who remembered his 70th birthday with birthday greetings. A special thanks to all.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Wanda Messner
Mary Lou Schmidt

Holy Spirit, faithful Guide, Ever near the Christian's side;

Gently lead us by the hand, Pilgrims in a desert land.

Weary souls for-e'er rejoice, While they hear the sweetest voice;

Ever present, truest Friend, Ever near Thy aid to lend,

Leave us not to doubt and fear,

Groping on in darkness drear.

When the storms are raging sore,
Hearts grow faint and hopes give o'er;

When our days of toil shall cease,

Waiting still for sweet release;

Nothing left but heav'n and pray'r,

Wond'ring if our names are there.

Wading deep the dismal flood,

Pleading naught but Jesus' blood;

Whisp'ring softly, "Wand'rer, come.

Follow me, I'll guide thee home."

Hymns of Zion #220

We heard so much about this wonderful gift, the Holy Spirit, when Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and our Elder Bro. Harold Messner brought forth the memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference. We heard so many timely teachings and exhortations.

On New Year's Eve we gathered together to hear God's Word, to fellowship and sing. With joyful hearts, we all sang in the New Year of 1986. Through prayers, we once again asked our prec-

ious Lord to abide with us and keep us in His tender love and care throughout another new year. May we all strive to do better than last year.

Our statistics for the year of 1985 were as follows: we had two weddings, one death and five births!

Troy Messner (Bill and Sis. Marilyn) and Amy Roepke were married November 9. May they look to God to be their guide. The blessings will then be added!

Our annual Brother's meeting was held this month. Bro. Roy Howk was put in for usher and working with the speaker system. Bro. Tim Schmidt was put on the personal property committee. Bro. Stan and Sis. Jeanine will be trustees of the fellowship hall. Bro. Leo Messner was voted in to serve another term as trustee of the church. Bro. Verl Schmidt will be filling out Bro. Dean Messner's Sunday School term. Bro. Ken Messner will be taking over Sunday School Superintendent duties. We pray God will give each dear brother and sister-in-Christ the needed grace and strength to carry out their Christian duties.

We've had two surgical patients this past month: Sis. Georgia Messner (Leo, Gaylord) and Sis. Florence Messner (Winthrop). God has surely added His healing hand to both as they are recovering well.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Linda Ziegenhorn

On December 15, we had our second annual Christmas program. Although this church was started ten years ago, it's only been recently that we've had enough children to have a program. It was quite a blessing to hear the good news of Jesus' birth through song and verse by the children.

We've had more farewells than we'd like lately. Sis. Paula Bahr moved to Chicago, IL. She will be sorely missed.

On New Year's Eve we had a farewell dinner for Bill and Carol Stover. They are living in Burke, VA, and Bill is working in Washington, D.C. We will miss them and their three children, Darci, Mandi and Tyler.

Kansas City church is located at 301 Blue Ridge Boulevard, just off of State Line and Wornall Roads. Our morning service starts at 11:00 and our afternoon service starts at 1:00. Any visitors would be greatly appreciated.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Janice Stoller — Becky Marti

"Thy living Word is sent our souls to
 feed and nourish.
 Thou wilt that in our hearts Thy love
 and praise we cherish.
 Thou sheddest light and pow'r upon
 our pilgrim way,
 And lead'st us by Thy hand to heaven
 day by day."

"Praise and Thanks
 for God's Blessings",
 Zion's Harp #13, vs. 3

We were privileged to have Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL) assemble with us recently. May God bless his willingness to minister God's living Word to us.

We held our annual business meeting this past month. Bro. Ray Luthi was selected to serve as trustee. Bro. Bob Stoller and Sisters Sandra Luthi and Alice Marti were chosen as Sunday school teachers. May they feel the direction and comfort of the Holy Spirit as they assume their new responsibilities.

Sisters Lydia Rentsch and Bonnie Braker (Leonard) have been in the hospital, but have now returned home. We pray that all those who are ill can feel His nearness and comfort.

Our dear Sis. Bertha Rouleau, 88, passed away January 14. We will remember her as a faithful and loving sister in faith. In her lingering illness she remained close to her Lord. We extend prayers of sympathy to her husband, Noel; daughter, Joanne, and family; and also sisters, Evelina Sinn (Eureka, IL), Florence Schmidgall (Mackinaw, IL) and Louise Wagenbach (Tremont, IL).

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"The Lord is good unto them that
 wait for him . . ."

Lamentations 3:25

1986 is well under way and as Christians in Christ, we have "nothing to fear this year" if we claim the instructions and promises contained in Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Summary of 1985 events were: six births, one marriage and one death.

We thank Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) who was our only visiting minister this month. May we always support our ministering brothers with our giving, cooperation, prayer and our attendance.

Little Josh Sutter (Tim and Penny) was a hospital (medical) patient this month. This is always an anxious concern when one of our family meets with illness or accident, and all do appreciate the prayers that are offered for their recovery.

**HE NEVER SENDS WINTER
 WITHOUT THE JOY OF SPRING**

Springtime is a season
 of hope and joy and cheer,
 There's beauty all around
 to see and touch and hear.
 So, no matter how downhearted
 and discouraged we may be,
 New hope is born when we behold
 leaves budding on a tree,
 Or when we see a timid flower
 push through the frozen sod
 And open wide in glad surprise
 its petaled eyes to God.
 For this is just God saying —
 "Lift up your eyes to me,
 And the bleakness of your spirit
 like the budding springtime tree,
 Will lose its wintry darkness
 and your heavy heart will sing"
 For God never sends the Winter
 without the Joy of Spring.

Helen Steiner Rice

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Ed Aeschleman

Visiting ministers were Bros. Dan Stoller, Kevin Ryan, Lee Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL). "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15.

We were saddened by the departure of Bro. Jeff Bertsch. After spending several months with us in Union City, Bro. Jeff decided to return to his home in Bluffton, IN. May it be that Bro. Jeff and all of us are ever willing to follow at God's direction.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG
Rachel Snyder

Our thoughts and prayers are always

with those who are sick. Our Elder Bro. Robert Beyer had to spend a couple days in the hospital. We are glad he has been able to return home. Also our thoughts go out to Bro. Bernard Virkler who is at the hospital in Watertown. May God grant him strength in this time of trials.

We want to thank the ministers and song leaders of the Croghan church who have been so willing to help us in the past weeks.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

We noted last month that Nehemiah set out to rebuild the walls and twelve gates around the temple. It is symbolic that today we are the temple and ought to have walls around us. There are twelve gates or areas of authority of our will to let things in or take things out.

The first was the Sheep Gate, where the sheep came through for sacrifice for the sins of the people. That is the first gate in our personality to be hung, the gate that opens for Jesus, the lamb, to come in and forgive us and be our personal Saviour.

The second was the Fish Gate. A fish wiggles, and new Christians are wiggly, like babies needing a lot of help. They bring new freshness and joy. God wants to make us fishers of men.

The third was the Old Gate. Some of the old things that hurt us need to be taken out of our life.

The fourth was the Valley Gate. It was the first gate Nehemiah rode out to see, which was by Gehenna, representing hell, where they burned trash and where he saw the dragon well. The first thing God wants to do for us is to burn our trash and rescue us from the dragon, the devil, who is dragging us into hell.

The fifth was the Dung Gate. Dung is garbage and it is to be taken out and the gate closed so no dung is brought in.

The sixth is the Fountain Gate. There is a gate for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, as God doesn't want us to have the Spirit by measure, but to overflow with His Spirit.

The seventh is the Prison Gate. It is to take out some bondages and imprisonments, and to open the gate to bring in the things God wants to bind us in faithfulness to Himself and to the body of Jesus Christ.

(There are more gates and it will be continued.)

Our retired elder, Bro. Rudolph Graf had surgery. Bro. Rudy has not been hospitalized in the past 56 years. Sis. Margaret Gruenig had heart surgery and we pray for these surgical patients.

Sis. Anne (Musselman) Francis, 83, passed away. She was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley. Surviving are her sister, Ruth Leman (Francesville, IN) and Howard Musselman (Iowa).

Elmer Graf, Jr. passed away and we sympathize with the family and relatives. His wife, Alice, is the only sister of our Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer.

We were blessed with Bro. Merle Hartzler's ministry New Year's Day.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Desma Klopfenstein

February is commonly known as Valentine month in America; a time to share special messages or gifts that express our love for those around us. As Christians we can share this attitude year round.

When I think of love, my thoughts are directed to I Corinthians 13, the love chapter, in which we are given the guidelines for "agape" love. While reading a devotional on this chapter, I found the section on verse 4 particularly interesting and to the point.

"Love is not puffed up". The author likened being "puffed" to blowing up a bag till it is full and then bursting it, leaving the owner with a mass of hot air. True love is not inflated with a sense of false importance. As converted sinners, we feel secure in Christ's love, and since we are saved by His grace, we've nothing to brag about of ourselves. This is a lesson I learn each time my words are spoken with selfish motives.

It seems there was a little man who was very conscience of his shortness and tried to make up for it by walking with heavy steps. His efforts made people chuckle, but it didn't make him seem any bigger.

The world also boasts of its ability to command the service of others, but Christ spoke many times of being here to serve rather than be served. It's good to realize we're nothing apart from God, but as His vessels, we will be filled to overflowing with true love.

We would like to thank Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) for being with us this past month to bring God's Word to our congregation. Once again we'd like to invite all to come worship with

us as we are now having services every week.

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Visiting brothers who brought us God's Word through His Spirit's inspiration this month included Elder Bro. Loren Stoller and Bro. Ray Schlatter.

At our New Year's meeting new Sunday school teachers elected to three-year terms were Bro. Eli Manz and Sis. Virginia Manz. Bro. Ken Manz was re-elected for a five-year term as Children's Home representative.

We have missed the cheerful presence of our Sis. Della Manz at church lately. We trust God will restore her to health so she can be with us again soon.

OHIO, LATTY

Patty Gerber — Marlene Reinhard

"O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord." Gospel Hymns #859. Surely God's presence was felt as we all congregated together to hear of Christ's birth and sing the joyful songs at our annual Christmas program. How encouraging to know a Saviour was born and then died for us that we might have life eternal.

We welcomed our visiting minister Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We were reminded of the importance of our duties as chosen servants of God. Let us never become slack, but always look heavenward for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Dave Wenninger (Sis. Deb) and Sis. Marge Gerber (Bro. Jim). We are glad they are doing better.

"Jesus loves me! this I know, For the Bible tells me so." Gospel Hymns #724. We rejoice with several households on the arrival of a precious bundle. Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn Sinn welcomed Janna Lyn. Joshua, Jessica, Johanna and Jacob all welcome their baby sister. Sis. Lillian Schlatter is the maternal grandparent and Sis. Tootie (Bertha) Sinn is the paternal grandparent. Arthur and Kathy Warr welcomed home Jonathon Alexander. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Stoller. Carmen Eisenmann welcomed home brother, Darren William. Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol are the happy parents. Bro. Delmar and Sis. Marguerite Stoller are the maternal grandparents. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis.

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

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4. Our sympathy goes out to Kathryn Yoh (Charles) at the death of her mother, Orpha Hymen. We sympathize with Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Bro. Kenneth) in the loss of her brother, Elmer Graf, Jr. Our prayers go out to Bro. Henry Breitwieser at the passing away of his wife, Sis. Katharina. Those surviving are two sons, Bro. John Reinhard (Sylvania, OH) and Helmut (Sumpter, SC); two daughters, Mary Ann Baughman (Gene, Paulding, OH) and Martha (Dowling, MI); and nine grandchildren.

Our general election was held on New Year's Day. The results are as follows: Sunday school teachers, Bro. John and Sis. Marcia Laukhuf, Sis. Shirley Stoller (Bro. Mark), Sis. Vickie Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce), Bro. Keith Klopfenstein (Sis. JoAnne), Bro. Bill Stoller, Jr. (Sis. Barb); church trustee, Bro. Walter Sinn (Sis. Renee); world relief sewing, Sis. Ede Stoller (Bro. Glenn); kitchen committee, Sis. Melvane Stoller (Bro. Russell); fellowship hall trustee, Bro. Bruce Laukhuf (Sis. Vickie). We pray these brothers and sisters will seek the Lord's guidance as they carry out their appointed offices.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Linda Morrison

... O Lord our God therefore we will wait upon thee ... for thou hast made all these things.

Jeremiah 14:22

Bro. Ben Stavenik (surgery) and Bro. Charles Sauder (eye surgery) are waiting on the Lord to renew their strength and health. We support them with our love and prayers.

"One method of waiting means patience, hope, contentment, assurance that God will, in His own due course and time, redeem His promises and make the heart strong; the other method of waiting is a method of fretfulness and vexation and impatience and distrust and complaining — and that kind of thing wears the soul out."

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
to Your Reporter

OHIO, RITTMAN**Diane Gasser — Judy Stoller**

Sing ye all in one accord;
 Sound forth the praises of the Lord,
 Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna to the
 Lamb of God.

Hymns of Zion #73

Our annual Christmas Sunday school program was held the evening of December 22. This blessed evening when we reflect on Christ's birth is looked forward to each year by students, parents, grandparents and friends. It is always well-attended and such a joy to hear the children sing songs of praise.

"He took them up in His arms and blessed them." Mark 10:16. God has blessed the lives of first-time parents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn Steiner with the arrival of their new son, Nathaniel John. Happy grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach and Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Steiner. Also parents for the first time are Dan and Sis. Anita Pope with a daughter, Danelle Marie. Grandparents are Carl and Sis. Martha Zollinger. May God grant much wisdom and understanding to all who are entrusted with guiding these precious little lives.

We are thankful to Bro. Fred Domka from Mansfield, OH, for ministering unto us. We could surely feel God inspired him as we received many good teachings and felt God's blessings throughout the day.

Jonathan Hartzler (Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane) has begun a new walk with our Lord and Saviour. We are thankful for him and wish Jonathon much grace from our heavenly Father. May he feel the love and prayers of our brethren are with him.

May the days ahead be happy ones for Pat Ramsier (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Wilma) and Craig Baron as they are engaged and look forward to being united as husband and wife. Believing it is God's will, Bro. Greg Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette) and Sis. Joy Gasser (Bro. Ron and Sis. Hope) are also planning to be united in marriage. May God's blessings be upon these two couples.

When the last feeble steps have been taken,
 And the gates of that city appear,
 And the beautiful praise of the angels
 Float out on my listening ear,

When all that now seems so mysterious
 Will be bright and clear as the day;
 Then the toils of the road will seem
 nothing,
 When I get to the end of the way.

Gospel Hymns #807

Our sympathy is extended to the families who recently have lost loved ones. After a lengthy season of ill health, Sis. Minnie Sweigert has gone on to her eternal rest.

After a number of years of declining health, Bro. William Rigggenbach has also gone on to that better land. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Martha; daughters, Sis. Louella Stoller, Sis. Ruth Steiner, Sis. Ellen Gasser; sons, Joe, John, Ralph, Bro. Art and Donnie. May God bring comfort to each one and their families.

Memorial services were held at our Apostolic Christian Home for Sis. Lena Wright (California). Our sympathy is extended to her sister, Sis. Elizabeth (Tschantz) Widmer, a resident of the home.

May Vernon and Sis. Martha Jane Rigggenbach also feel our love and sympathy in the death of Vernon's father, Bro. John Rigggenbach (Sardis, OH).

May God's healing powers be on Sis. Ruth Hilty who has been in the hospital.

On January 6 we had our annual election of officers. They are: trustee - Bro. Ron Christian; treasurer - Bro. Emmet Gasser; fellowship hall director - Bro. Art Ingold; ushers - Bros. Dana Emch and Norman Zollinger; nursing home directors - Bros. Melvin Beery and Jack Maibach; nursing home auxiliary - Sis. Elverna Zollinger; kitchen help - Sis. Joann Widmer; microphone - Bro. Tom Jenkins.

OHIO, SARDIS
Paula Figel

"And God shall wipe all tears from the eyes: and there shall be no more crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

What a blessed hope and consolation to ponder the very words of the Lord concerning those who die in Him! The separation is so keenly felt, and grief would overcome the soul if it were not for this abiding faith.

Our deepest sympathy is extended

to Sis. Hazel and the family of our dear Bro. John Rigggenbach, who fell asleep in the arms of Jesus January 5, at the age of 80. We'll miss seeing Bro. John in our small congregation.

In this month of the year we think of love. The test of love is loyalty. God expressed His inward thoughts and love to us through His precious Word, the Bible. God's love for us is a permanent love as should our love be toward all mankind, not only on Valentine's Day, but all year through. The best proof of love for God is in love for one another.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE**Verla Stoller — Ann Maibach**

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:12-13. How thankful we can be that our dear Savior loved us so much that He came to this earth to suffer and die that we might have a hope of life eternal.

We are thankful for ministering brothers who bring us teachings from God's holy Word. Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron) brought to us an inspiring message on New Year's Day. May God bless him for his labors of love.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Herb Bauman. May God bless him with returning good health.

On January 12, we had our general election of officers. Those elected were: church trustees, Bro. Harold Stoller, Bro. Dave Ramsier, Bro. Craig Emch, Bro. Lloyd Indermuhle and Bro. Larry Miller; usher, Bro. Jay Maibach; Sunday school superintendent, Bro. Ken Maibach; treasurer, Bro. Ben Blough; kitchen help, Sis. Lorene Blough; nursing home auxiliary, Sis. Alma Maibach; song leader, Bro. Joe Rufener; microphone operator, Bro. Brian Indermuhle.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehkla**THE FATHER LOVES US**

Rejoice, the Father loves us here,
 In sympathy remembers
 And all the gifts we need to cheer
 So graciously He renders.

What lack we then,
 Yet further, when
 Our Father has such pleasure
 To share with us His treasure?
 Zion's Harp #206

We rejoice that Edith Fetter (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Marilyn), with the grace from our heavenly Father, has found the peace that passes all understanding. She is now looking forward to baptism and becoming an heir of His eternal kingdom.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Lydia Fetter on the loss of her husband, Bro. Joseph. Our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) was with us for the services.

We also sympathize with Bro. John Breitwieser on the passing of his mother, Sis. Katie (Latty, OH). In these times we realize how much we need the comfort and strength of the Lord.

Sis. Gail Bradford and her husband, Bill, together with their son, Bill, have moved to Indianapolis, IN. We miss them in our congregation and may God's blessings be with them.

Warren Newman (Sis. Lois) had the misfortune of falling on the ice which resulted in a fractured hip which required surgery.

Miriam Reineck fell and fractured her wrist. Betty Frautschi is in the hospital recuperating from surgery. It is our prayer that they will make a good recovery.

OREGON, PORTLAND Barbara Moser

As thou dost travel down the corridor
 of Time
 Thou wilt find many doors of
 usefulness;
 To gain some there are many weary
 steps to climb,
 And then they will not yield! but
 onward press,
 For there before thee, in the distance
 just beyond
 Lies one which yet will open; enter
 there,
 And thou shalt find all realized thy
 visions fair
 Of fields more vast than thou hast
 yet conceived.
 Press on, faint not; though briars strew
 thy way,
 The greatest things are to be
 achieved;
 And he who falters not will win the day.

No man can shut the door which God
 sets wide,
 He bids thee enter there — thy work
 awaits inside.

Fairelie Thornton

Our rainy season has returned to the state of Oregon, but we have been blessed with mild temperatures. We were privileged to have Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) with us this month. He and Bro. Bert Gasser and Ralph Gasser (Rittman, OH) came to help put in the fireplace at Restless Surf, on the Oregon coast. What beautiful fellowship a number of us could enjoy while they were here.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Anna Cooper, Bro. Ray and Sis. Margaret Banwart were all ill this past month. We are happy to have the Coopers back with us again and wish a speedy recovery to the Banwarts. We are so few in number here in Portland that it leaves a big hole when our loved ones are missing.

OREGON, SILVERTON Rose Lee Kuenzi

"No death nor sorrow, fear nor
 suffering,
 All that this world and hell include,
 Shall ever part me from my Saviour
 Nor from His love and brotherhood.
 I trust the God of Faith and Truth
 With saints above my heart to sooth."
 Zion's Harp #75, vs. 7

With the coming of the new year comes the election of brethren to serve the church in various capacities. Bro. Art Manz (Sis. Betty) and Sis. Linda Hari (Harold) were chosen to teach the children in Sunday school, each for a two-year term. Retiring from their duties in Sunday school are Bro. Gus Dietrich (Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Pam Kyburz. As a gesture of thanks and love, Bro. Gus and Sis. Pam were presented with a copy of the Gospel Hymns signed by each of the children that they had taught over the last two years. Bro. Nick Kuenzi (Sis. Mary) was selected to serve as trustee, replacing Bro. Rich Kuenzi (Sis. Rosa Lee). Bro. David Peasley (Sis. Margene) was chosen to serve as an usher, replacing Bro. Nick Kuenzi. The loving service of these dear ones is greatly appreciated. May God bless them for their efforts.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) for

sharing God's Word with us. May God be his rich rewarder, both now and in all eternity.

Just a reminder: March is Silver Lining month for the Silverton area. The annual subscription for 1986 is \$7.00. This should be paid directly to your correspondent.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Ann Gasser

The birth of Laura Jane Baer, December 24, brought us all joy. Especially excited are parents, Ed and Connie, and her brother, Keith.

After services Christmas morning, we had a church fellowship dinner. How we enjoy these times together and are blessed by them.

TEXAS, FORT WORTH Mary Plattner

Services are now being held on a regular basis in Fort Worth on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. They are still being held at the Holiday Inn South on I-35 in Fort Worth. Anyone wishing more information may contact Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson (Kiowa, KS). A minister schedule has been made and ministers from the churches are on a rotation schedule. Those churches serving so far have been Kiowa, KS, West Bend, IA, Goodfield, IL, Congerville, IL, Fairbury, IL, and Zapata, TX.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We have had several visiting ministers here in Zapata this winter and we certainly wish to thank them for bringing the precious Word to us. Visiting have been Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Willis Sauder (Tremont, IL) was recently named our new trustee and replaces Bro. Roy Rokey (Bern, KS) who so willingly served as trustee for his term.

SILVER THREADS TOMORROW

He was going to be all that a mortal
 could be —

Tomorrow;
 No one would be kinder nor braver
 than he —
 Tomorrow;

A friend who was troubled and weary
he knew,
Who'd be glad of a lift and who needed
it, too,
On him he would call and see what he
could do —
Tomorrow.

Each morning he stacked up the letters
he'd write —
Tomorrow;
And he thought of the folks he would

fill with delight —
Tomorrow;
It was too bad, indeed, he was busy
today,
And hadn't a minute to stop on his way;
"More time I would have to give
others," he'd say —
"Tomorrow."

The greatest of workers this man would
have been —
Tomorrow;

The world would have known him had
he ever seen —
Tomorrow;
But the fact is he died, and he faded
from view,
And all that he left here when living
was through
Was a mountain of things he intended
to do —
Tomorrow.

Anonymous

... but the greatest of these is ...

LOVE!

I COR. 13:13

Is "love" really the greatest? What makes "love" so important? Just recently we observed Valentine's Day when a lot of thoughts turned to candy hearts, romantic cards and various expressions of "love". Was the Apostle Paul thinking the same thoughts when he wrote to the Corinthians in I Cor. 13? No, it soon becomes obvious that any "love" that ranks higher than faith or hope is far, far more than a warm feeling about someone or something. The scripture soon takes us right to the source and definition of love. I John 4:8 and 16 tells us that God is love. The essential nature of our living, personal Father is love. He proved it by sending His only Son that we might live. I John 4:9. Well, what does that have to do with us down here in the real world? **EVERYTHING!**

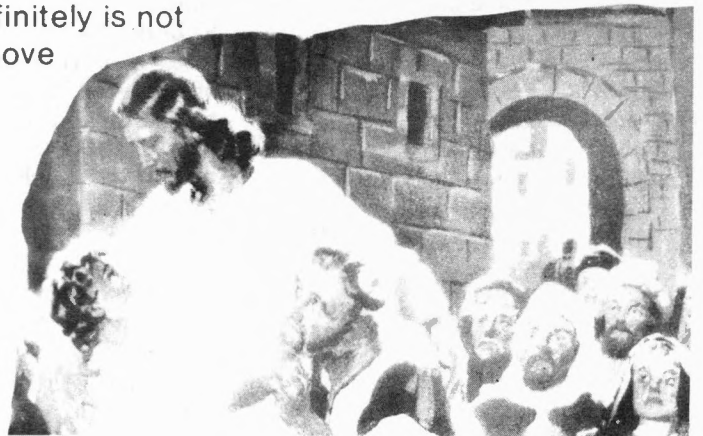
As Christians, we are directly commanded to "love others" no less than 55 times in the New Testament alone. Christ said that all the law and the prophets hung on the two commandments, to Love the Lord Your God ... and your neighbor as yourself. (Matt. 22:34-40). Only by the fact that we have love one to another will men know that we are Christ's disciple. (John 13:35). Paul warned in I Corinthians 13:2-3 that even if we have the gift of prophecy, understood all knowledge, have all faith (to move mountains), give all our goods to the poor and give our body to be burned, but have not charity or love, we are Nothing!!

True biblical, Christlike love cannot be overrated. It is the greatest! The love that the Lord wants us to have and express is not an emotion, feeling, attraction or passionate drive. Let us understand that love more often involves our attitudes and action, in spite of how we feel. It was the love that Christ had for us in the garden that put Him through agony. Dying on the cross was the last thing He **felt like** doing!

Valentine's Day and its activities may soon be forgotten. That is the way the world moves on its way. Let us, the body of Christ, never take our eyes off the very essence of love, God Himself. And as it says in Hebrews 10:24, "Let us consider one another to provoke unto **love** and good works." Love may be painful at times. It definitely is not always fun or self-gratifying. That's what makes love what it is ... the greatest!

Love suffereth long, and is kind; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth ...

I Corinthians 13:4-8.



Reprinted from the February 1984 issue of the Silver Lining.

Unity

Thus united and in concord
Let us walk the path of life;
Hand in hand, O may love bind us
For each other's welfare strive.

Thus it is our Saviour's pleasure,
As His footprints plainly show,
May God's love, our greatest treasure,
Richly every heart bestow.

Only He is called a brother
Whom the tie of love does bind;
And the love of God, the Father,
Filleth soul and heart and mind.
Zion's Harp #237

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 28)

it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work." Romans 11:6.

Paul is trying to explain that it is by a gift of God that we obtain salvation.

Paul continues, "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; . . ." Romans 11:7. Or, the things that she was ordained to have as the chosen people of God. Are you going to take their place? It said there, ". . . but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded." Romans 11:7. The chosen ones of God were blinded by sin.

The Word says, "(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day." Romans 11:8. These are what we call competing elements or competitive spirits. There are worldly things that compete for our attention. The devil is cunning. Satan says, "Here, let's get with it, fellows. This is the thing. It is the thing."

But we want you to hear the truth, so that you will be able to sort it out when things are backing you up against the wall, so to speak. It is a precious thing to have inner resources. That is why we are here today, to gain those resources.

We were reminded in the ninth verse that David recognized all this. "David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumbling block, and a recompense unto them: Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back away." Romans 11:9, 10. He recognized the shortcomings and the infidelities of his loved people. He lamented many times.

Paul said, "I say then, Have they

stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy." Romans 11:11. God will give His salvation to those who will listen. This includes us.

How thankful we are that we responded to the call and to the invitation when it was given, or at least when those little pricks in our hearts started to agitate us. We knew that we needed something. Then, through exposure to the Word, we learned where to go, and that was to the Lord Himself. There we found this strength, and we are thankful for it.

"Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? For I speak to you Gentiles (or, I speak to you, boys and girls, young ones, fathers and mothers), inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them." Romans 11:12, 13, 14. Likewise, if I can, I will provoke you to pay attention and to learn of the truth of the Word of God.

Do you realize the importance of your spreading the Word of God? If every converted person, in succession, influenced someone to seek the Lord, in thirty-five years everyone would be a child of God. You can see the importance of enlightening even one person a year. If each one did that, in thirty-five years, the population of the present world would be converted. We would all be children of God.

You don't need a computer to figure that out. Someone else has done that for us. Anyway, you see the importance of your influence on the one beside you, or some other acquaintance. It is a fact that others can be guided. Not that we would take any credit, but we all affect, whether good or bad, those about us. We want to be sure that we are a Godly influence.

Paul said, "For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches." Romans 11:16. It is a total holy process.

"And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root (bear) thee." Romans 11:17, 18.

In other words, we are supported by the Lord. It is only by the grace of God that we are what we are. Therefore, we should not brag or take any credit for what we have accomplished. Only God deserves the glory.

"Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear." Romans 11:19, 20.

"Be not highminded, but fear." Fear what? Fear going to hell? Yes, but also be God-fearing, and revere the Lord out of love. I can honestly say that I probably came to the Lord out of fear of damnation. I didn't want to go to hell. Out of fear of going to hell, I was converted and came to repentance.

Nevertheless, it is nice if you can do it out of the spirit of love, and feel the warmth of the Spirit. We can really feel that warmth today. We are thankful for opportunities like this to rejoice together in the Word, and in the sacraments of baptism that will take place.

We learn in many ways of the goodness and severity of God. We can read about it. The Word says, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity (or we might say destruction or damnation); but toward thee (toward the converted), goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." Romans 11:22. It depends upon your faith, obedience and desire. If it is genuine, and if we have a desire to be a child of God and enjoy eternal bliss, we have the opportunity. We hope that each of us has this desire.

Consider those last few verses; soak them up. Imagine that you are a dry sponge. There is spiritual moisture about you and you are going to soak it all up.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33. Our Lord God knows how to give true joy and strength in the days of need.

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen." Romans 11:34, 35, 36. Beautiful, isn't it?

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
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SERMON BY BRO. JAMES HOERR OF PEORIA, IL

Text: Romans 11

Let us consider the background of this letter. The Apostle Paul wrote it to the Romans, who were Gentiles and not the chosen people of God. Likewise, we are Gentiles.

Paul went into detail about how the Romans were converted and drawn in to become the chosen ones of God. He said that they were the "wild" ones. I'm sure that not all of you were wild, but when Paul said "wild", he meant not of God's chosen people.

When we talk about wild ones, that has a bad connotation. We don't like to apply that word to those whom we love, especially to our own children. We want to be careful not to offend them. It isn't our intent today to offend anyone, but we want to get the full meaning of what it means to be a child of God.

Today we are going to talk about the wild branches, about how they were grafted in and took the place of the chosen ones, or we might say of the selected species.

To be a child of God, we have to be grafted into this special root just as Jill is going to be grafted in today. Each of us has this opportunity.

In the natural growth process, little seedlings spring up. We also have selected species which have performed well. (Bro. John Tanner and his boys who work in an orchard could tell us a lot more about this.) There are even plants called Virus Indexed that are somewhat immune to the onslaught of disease and to various things that could become a problem in the production of high quality apples and fruit. They are selected plants. We come to the Lord so that we might be grafted to Him, the selected species and then put off those things that would be a hindrance or a deterrent to producing good, wholesome, delicious spiritual fruit.

Each of us has bitten into a nice, juicy apple, and we know how exciting

and delicious it really is. Let us switch this over into a spiritual sense, comparing it with those who have lived a righteous, holy and acceptable life. We find that this native plant had to be engrafted with the Spirit of God. That is what takes place.

In the natural grafting process, the propagator cuts a slice right into the trunk of the tree, or you might say, wounds it.

Our Lord Jesus, into whom we are grafted, was wounded at Calvary, where He shed water and blood. Water was used for cleansing. Blood, we know, was a necessity of the law for the atonement, or the covering over of the sin of mankind. The water and blood were provided when He was wounded for us.

What do we do with the little plant? We go to the Perfect Tree, the Lord Jesus, with the specimen that we have, and put it into the parent plant. You and I are the little wild plants.

After the new plant has been inserted, it is bound with wrapping tape and so forth. We might say in the spiritual sense that we are all bound together by the love of the brothers and sisters. It is beautiful, isn't it?

Then it grows there. But we still have the old self-righteous nature. It is growing right along aside the engrafted Lord Jesus. This is the period when we are trying to get away from those "wild oats", those bad habits. They may still be evident in our life, because we can't change overnight. It takes grace, and how beautifully Jill brought that out last night. (Not all of you were able to hear this.) Each of us has the opportunity to become converted, or grafted into the "True Vine" or "Good Olive Tree". If you don't avail yourself of it, you are really missing the boat.

Anyway, we find that this natural tree and the engrafted love of the Lord Jesus are growing side by side, and we

know that as time passes, the healing process takes place, doesn't it? It starts to grow, and it is nurtured by the root of the desired species.

When all is healed over, we sever the natural stalk and what do we have? We have a grafted species of the parent, which is the Lord Jesus Himself, and it is growing on this good root.

Now it will grow and prosper, but it has to be cultivated. As the Word says, in the spiritual sense we feed upon the milk of the Word. There is some tender fertilization as more love and the oil of righteousness are poured in. All these things nurture the new spiritual specimen.

Then, as it grows and develops on its own root system, we find that it gathers strength. We don't expect perfection or too rapid development, and encouragement is required from those who have the oversight. That includes the parents and all who are exposed to the wonderful truths of God. Little did we realize until we were grown and had our own children, what a protective environment and beautiful opportunity we had.

As the new "branches" are strengthened, they are able through spiritual growth and development to feed upon the meat of the Word. They are developing into full bloom, we might say into full spiritual manhood and womanhood.

It is our duty to promote and to propagate the faith to the next person. It might be a friend, a blood brother or sister, a family, children, our own offspring, or so forth. You see the process. That is what the Apostle Paul was speaking of when he talked about those who were grafted in.

Here it says, "If by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is

(Continued on Page 27)