



"And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing."
Psalms 107:22

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."
Psalms 100:4

VOLUME 36

NOVEMBER 1986

NUMBER 11

DOES GOD KNOW YOU'RE THANKFUL?

The story is told of a family heading home from church one Sunday. The father spent the drive home complaining about the preacher, the length of the sermon, the weather and anything or anyone that didn't totally agree with him. Upon arriving home, the family sat down at the table for dinner, at which time the father prayed. When he finished, his

son looked up and asked him, "Dad, did God hear your prayer?"

"Of course He did," answered his father.

"Well, did God hear all you said on the way home from church today?" asked the persistent lad.

"I guess so," said his father. His perplexed boy then asked, "How does God know what to believe!?"



Many times the words that come from our lips betray attitudes of ungratefulness that we think are hidden. Maybe we should think about showing God our thankfulness by what we **don't** say. Does God know you're thankful? Be sure and tell him, but don't forget to show Him!

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."

Hebrews 13:15

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORK PROJECTS

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

Galatians 6:10

The approved work projects list for 1986 - 1987 has been compiled and sent to all of the elder brothers. It is available for posting on the church bulletin boards.

The Foreign Work Projects include: Haiti Work Teams and Mexico City Earthquake Rebuilding.

The Domestic Work Projects include: Home Sweet Home, Alabama Summer School, Vacation Relief at Apostolic Christian Homes and Facilities, Personnel Staffing Opportunities and Alabama Maintenance & Improvements.

The Special On-Going Work Projects include: European Relief Food Packages at Bluffton Distribution Center and Assisting Smaller Congregations to Grow.

Future Work Projects in the planning stages include: Tape Library, Local Church Volunteer Opportunities, Veterinarian Assistance, Church & Facility Building Projects for Taylor, MO; Lafayette, IN; Tucson, AZ; Minneapolis, MN; and Children's Home, Leo, IN.

Anyone interested in volunteering for these or any future Work Projects should contact the Work Projects Com-

mittee Secretary and/or submit a Volunteer Information Form available from their local elder. Forms should be sent to: John G. Klotzle, 1689 Home-wood Drive, Altadena, CA 91001, (818) 794-2262.

MEXICO CITY UPDATE

The Earthquake Rebuilding Project is making good progress in Mexico City. To date 71 volunteers have participated representing 21 congregations. This project will continue well into 1987. The dedication ceremony for the occupancy by 22 families of the first multiple dwelling unit completed was held October 18. Many of our volunteers assisted with this unit. The two units funded by our Apostolic Christian World Relief Fund are well under way with completion of the first one at 53 Pintoras expected in March, 1987. Several work teams are scheduled to help during the winter months ahead. There is still a need for more volunteers for this project. This includes both heavier manual labor-type of construction and also painting and finishing in which female volunteers can participate. If you are interested, please contact either your local World Relief Treasurer Representative or the Project Coordinator, Bro. Richard Beery (Phoenix, AZ) at (602) 266-1517.

MEXICO TRIP

Bro. Gerald Fiechter, Bluffton, IN

Our trip to Mexico began when Bro. Richard Beery (Phoenix, AZ) informed us that a great need for food and clothing existed in Juarez, Mexico. Our clothing committee had been formed in March for the purpose of collecting and packaging used clothes to distribute where needed.

After Bro. Richard told us about the need in Juarez, our chairman contacted Edgar and Giusy (pronounced Josie) Avitia (El Paso, TX). They are working with the poor in Juarez. It became apparent that God was opening a door for us to serve. A semi tractor and trailer were arranged by other willing brothers. It was decided that since this was to be the first time a shipment of this size was going to Juarez, someone should accompany it to check out the conditions on a first-hand basis. Bros. Gerald Fiechter, Stan Isch and Rick Yergler and their wives volunteered to go along.

We left on Friday, August 14, 1986,

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
Uriel Gehring
Lynn Stieglitz

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

Published Monthly By the Apostolic
Christian Church of America.

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

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining
c/o David Bertsch
Route 2, Box 157A
Grabill, IN 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$7.00 per year. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

HOUSEPARENT OPENING AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

Greetings in the Lord Jesus,

In January of 1987, there will be an opening at the Children's Home for an Alternate Houseparent couple. At that time Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick, who have been at the Home since 1984, plan to leave; and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr will move from Alternates to regular Houseparents.

This challenging and rewarding position offers the opportunity for a couple to work as a team with a dedicated and unified staff of fellow brothers and sisters as they strive to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of abused, neglected and disturbed children. (James 1:27)

Interested couples are encouraged to write or call any of the brothers listed below for more information concerning qualifications, responsibilities, salary and benefits.

Your servants in Christ,

The Children's Home
Board of Directors

Bro. Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159 or
219/627-2606

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

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

at around 3:30 p.m. On Sunday we had a blessed day at Kiowa, KS. We arrived in El Paso, TX, Tuesday, August 19, in the late afternoon. At that time, we attempted to contact Edgar and Giusy, but could not reach them. We made contact by telephone around 9:00 in the evening. It was agreed that they would pick us up around 8:00 the next morning.

The next morning, we were met by Giusy and the leader, who was called Chito. Chito spoke no English so Giusy had to translate everything. We crossed the border into Mexico with no trouble. After eating breakfast, we were taken to Chito's house. Three times a week Chito and his wife, Lidia, and others who help them, go out to the colonia and feed approximately 30 - 40 children and a few adults a lunch. For some of the children that is all the food they get. The colonia is located on the outskirts of Juarez. It is here where the people settle when they come from the mountains seeking work or a chance to get into the United States. The people who live here have running water and electricity supplied by the government. There are no paved streets and no sewage facilities. Some of the homes are built out of stone, but some were made of cardboard. There were small children everywhere. As we drove back to the place where Chito operated from, the dirt streets and houses seemed to go on for miles. The place where the lunch was served was an open building with an awning to pro-

tect them from the sun. The people, and especially the children, were very friendly. Before serving the food, a Sunday school was held for the children. After the lunch was served, Chito had a Bible study for the adults. There were 10 - 12 people, but only 1 or 2 had Bibles. We had brought Spanish Bibles with us and at this time we passed them out. The people were very appreciative of the Bibles and thanked us over and over again. Later that afternoon we visited a Christian home in the colonia. The mother and father had only recently been converted. The house they lived in was about 10' x 10' with a dirt floor. There were 5 in the family. The house was sided with cardboard. The bathroom facilities were outside behind the house.

Later in the day we returned to Juarez. We were taken to a church of which Chito is a member. At the church, we were introduced to Pastor Gerardo Martinez. We had the opportunity to speak with him on their beliefs and what they teach the people. Our hearts were gladdened as we spoke. The beliefs of Pastor Gerardo and his church closely paralleled our own.

We returned to our motel late that night. Upon arriving, we saw that the semi, loaded with food, clothing, blankets and more Bibles, had arrived safely. We looked forward with prayer and anticipation to the next day when we would attempt to take the truck across the border and unload it.

(Continued Next Month)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

We are in the midst of the fall season, with blustery winds, low hanging clouds, weather forecasts of cold rain and the warmness of lovely summer breezes tucked away for the time being. The trees are adorned in their fall fashion parade review attire, and with their assortment of leaf shades, present a myriad of color schemes to the distant horizon. We sense the touch of the Master's hand with His infinite architectural wisdom, and the inevitable fact that He is a God of beauty. Let us pause awhile and behold His miracles. We sing in one of our hymns, "There is beauty all around when there's love at home." We shall manifest that virtue to our children, if so be that Christ liveth in us. His presence in our lives produces love, joy and peace for the whole world to see. This is the thrust of our being here, to radiate the love of God.

After having been through the "heat of the day" during the summer, fall begins a slumber time for nature, a rather peaceful time for we earth-dwellers as we behold Mother Nature rock her creations to sleep for the winter to be awakened again in the springtime. "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day

CHILDREN'S HOME COUNSELING POSITION

This full-time position in our family/team program offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity to work with a dedicated Christian staff serving abused, neglected, and disturbed adolescents. Responsibilities include individual, group, and family counseling, intake screening, liason work with outside agencies, and consultation to staff.

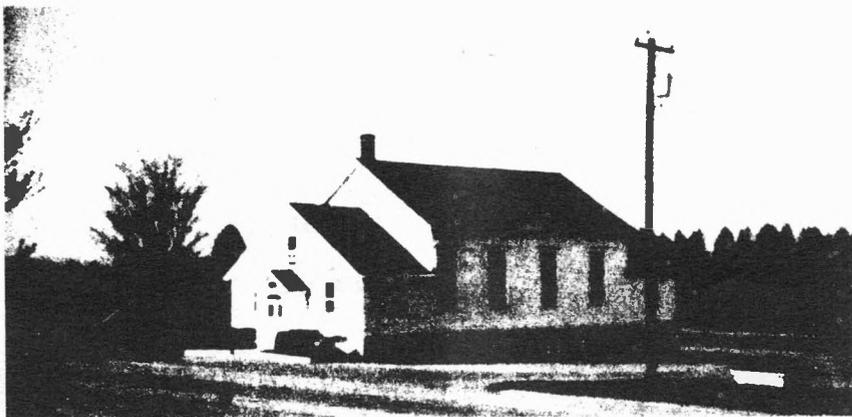
This position requires that the brother or sister have at least a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology or counseling (includes guidance counseling).

For further information on job description, salary, and benefits, contact Bro. Tim Sauder, Administrator, A.C.C.H., Box 151, Leo, IN 46765; (219) 627-2159.

Your brothers in faith,
The Children's Home
Board of Directors

CORRECTION to the October Silver Lining Cover

The Croghan Church picture should have shown this view:



and night shall not cease." Genesis 8:22.

A farewell party was held in the East House for Chuck Willis, a resident here for over seven years. Chuck is now a resident at Christian Haven Homes; Moe Cottage, Route 1, Box 17, Wheatfield, IN 46392. We have enjoyed many happy times together, and we wish Chuck much success in his new home.

Recently, Denise C., Javon S., Ayne J., and Bertha W. accompanied their Bible class to the Valparaiso church for a weekend, a time to renew old friendships and establish new ones.

We have had our first home-grown beef butchered and placed in our very own freezer. We are now eating our

first home-grown beef — it's rather exciting.

Saturday, October 18, was our semi-annual visit to the dentist in Berne, IN. We meet at Bro. Allen Stoller's office and Bro. Eric Zeller, a dentist from Indianapolis, comes to Berne to help with the dental work. Thank you, doctors, for your concern for the dental needs of our children.

Ayne J., from the East House, who is interested in journalism, is working on a Junior Journalism Project for the Journal Gazette, a daily newspaper in Fort Wayne. Bob W. and Jeff J. have just completed a season as members of a successful seventh grade football team. Next comes basketball season.

Last week Mike T. performed in his first piano recital. Keep it up, Maestro. Other musicians and school choir members include Beth H., Marie H., Bob, Andrea H., Ayne, Bertha, Denise, Kara H. and Jeff J.

On a recent Saturday, the West House visited Sauder Village in Archbold, OH, an Arts and Crafts Center. They observed such things as candle making, pottery making, cider making, slateboard making, etc. It was an interesting and educational outing.

The most recent church presentations about the Home were at Lester, IA, West Bend, IA, and Sardis, OH. Any church wanting a presentation should contact the Home.

It was interesting watching the children getting off the school bus this evening as viewed from an east window in my office. Some walk up the lane and occasionally one cuts through the field to beat the rest home. This scene takes me back 40 - 45 years when I got off the bus and headed up the lane to spend the remainder of the day at home. Did I say 40 - 45 years ago? That is correct. How swiftly we march through the pages of time, as believers in Christ, to that beautiful city of God. We shall get off the school bus of the cross and walk up to our eternal rest at our Heavenly Father's appointed time — what a glorious hope!

It was always pleasant, especially in the fall and winter, to look forward to a good, hot supper after a busy day at school and then an evening with the family and a warm bed to sleep in — that is the evening our children often anticipate as they return home from school at the end of the day.

'Til the sun arises on another edition of the Silver Lining, fare ye well.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

As the fall season winds down somewhat later than usual, due, in part, to the heavy rains we had in September, our activities are slowing down, also, from the hectic, busy activities of summer.

Approximately 40 residents and staff attended the "Snow White on Ice" show at the Peoria Civic Center October 17, and it was very much enjoyed by all.

Residents who will take part in the monthly birthday party for November are: Susie McGinley, Ken Clauss, Keith Weyeneth, Rhonda Pullen,

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Greetings in love and esteem in our dear Saviour's name.

The Lord has surely blessed the labors of our brethren in giving and distributing the Bible and New Testaments this past year, with 18,247 Bibles being shipped to our churches. Many opportunities were found to give and share God's Word. Bibles were given to individuals, placed in prisons, reformatories, rescue missions, the Salvation Army, in motels, doctor and optometrist offices, sent with food and clothing shipments to the needy, sent with mission teams to India, Haiti, Mexico and Central America. Bible tapes and braille Bibles were provided for the blind and for those with poor eyesight. Brethren in several church areas have been able to work together to expand the outreach in giving the Bible.

With many revisions of the Bible being offered to the people today, we have grave concern about the additions, deletions, changes and paraphrase that has changed the thought and meaning of the Word. We remain committed to giving the King James Version and will be providing Bibles, tapes and Testaments of the King James Version.

Listed below is a summary of the Bible distribution on the last three years.

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

Third Year — August 1985 thru July 1986 — 18,247

Bibles Distributed — Fourth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1986 —	1729	1729
September 1986 —	865	2594
October 1986 —	1667	4261

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.

Listings of Bibles, testaments, tapes and braille Bibles at the Leo, IN, Bible Distribution Center will be sent to each congregation.

We wish to express our thanks for the generous contributions to the Bible Fund, enabling the work to continue and to grow.

David Bertsch,
Mission Committee

Kathy Knapp, Tom Manley, Bernice Heiniger, Lucy Endress, Jane Aberle, Alan Unsicker, Dave Metz and Marian Funk. The birthday cards they receive mean so much to them.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good" . . . I Chronicles 16:34. With the Thanksgiving season approaching, we are reminded of so many reasons to be thankful. It would be impossible to enumerate them all, but we are particularly grateful for the many volunteers who so faithfully help us in so many ways all through the year — the quilting ladies; those who relieve the cooks for the Sunday meal; the bus drivers who take the residents to church services; the ladies who help in the laundry, the office and the gift shop; those who go with the residents shopping for items or clothes that they need; the young people who come to help with Monday evening Bingo, Sunday school classes and other activities; those who come to sing for us or present various programs. Not to be forgotten are the many willing workers who help preserve produce from abundant gardens. For example, volunteers recently "put up" 30 bushels of apples, 120 gallons of tomato juice and 100 gallons of corn. Then there are the many who help each year with our Benefit Day — those who supply the dozens of items for us to sell and those who plan and implement the entire event, including the luncheon. Also, we want to say once again how very much we appreciate and are dependent upon your financial support and your prayers. Without these, our Home could not prosper. We are truly grateful and thankful for each and every one of you, and we wish the Lord's continued blessings upon you for your deeds of love and kindness. The Bible tells us that even a cup of cold water shared with someone in need will not go unrewarded; how much more the kind and loving deeds shown to our dear ones who are less fortunate!

With the responsibility of our "large" family of 102, we keenly can relate to the following poem:

A PRAYER AT THANKSGIVING

Dear Lord, as autumn drops across the land,
A crisp reminder of chilly days ahead,
The sight of falling leaves on every hand,
And hillsides etched in sparkling gold and red —

We ask Thy guidance for the FAMILY here.

Our work, receive all blessings from above,

That we may have a most successful year.

Give us your grace and ever constant love.

Keep us forever in a watchful glow
And may we never fail to do Thy will;
So looking down upon us here below,
Our hearts with all Your heavenly peace fulfill.

This is our prayer, that we may spread the light

Of truth to all who labor in Thy sight.
Author Unknown

We wish a blessed Thanksgiving Day to each of you.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Marilyn Walder

" . . . behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." St. John 4:35. I thought of this verse as I observed the cotton turning white and being ready to be harvested. The whole process was interesting to me as I have never watched it before. I also had to think of Revelation 14:15, ". . . Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time has come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe." I hope we are all ready to stand before our Maker and give an account of our lives when the time comes for the harvest of souls. That will be a beautiful time for the committed Christian, but oh, how sad for those to whom will be said, "Depart from me, I never knew you." Matthew 7:23. Let's keep our eyes on the eastern sky and anticipate with hope and joy the coming of our Saviour.

During the past month we have had visitors from Princeville, Bradford, Fairbury, Cissna Park and Peoria, IL, and Alto, MI. We thank them for assembling with us.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Frank Haggemaker, Bro. Albert Martin, Sis. Louise Haggemaker and Karen Moore. They have been hospital patients. May the Lord heal them according to His will.

We have started singing at the Athens Nursing Home on the second Sunday of each month from 2:00 - 3:00. We enjoy praising our Lord in song as do the residents of the nursing home.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

The Lord blessed Bros. Dick Beery, John and Keith Kaufman, Darby and Herb Knochel and Ervan Rokey when they traveled to Mexico to do volunteer work in construction. They were in Mexico on the day of the first anniversary of the earthquake that left so many homeless.

We wish the Lord's guidance and blessings upon Bro. George Schuster, who moved to Indiana and for Sis. Elizabeth Martin, who moved to Tucson, AZ.

Bro. John Kaufman welcomed a new grandson September 20. Curtis John, Jr. is the son of Bro. Curtis and Sis. Caroline Kaufman.

While doing volunteer work in Mexico, Bro. Ervan Rokey was called home so he and Sis. Ione could fly to Roanoke, IL, for the funeral of their brother-in-law, Sam Zimmerman.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Ora Schrenk extend heartfelt thanks for every kind deed and the love shown to them during Sis. Ora's surgery in Illinois and after returning home. They are especially grateful for the prayers and gifts and pray the Lord's blessing upon you.

We thank Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH), Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Harold Emch (Girard, OH) for their timely messages and other important church duties rendered in our behalf. We truly enjoyed their visits and are grateful to them.

We give thanks unto the Lord that surgical patients, Sis. Kelly Emch and Sis. Tillie Gerst have returned home. Our prayers are being answered as our dear Shayne Pulfer (Bro. John and Sis. Wilma) is making progress during his stay in the hospital. It is encouraging to see Sis. Linda Zollinger progressing nicely. Our congregation is well aware of the promise He gives us in Matthew 21:22, "whatever ye shall ask in prayer, believing ye shall receive."

Church services are held in Prescott, AZ, the first Sunday of every month. Contact Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith, 1-445-2164 or for out-of-state calls, 602-445-2164 for directions.

The third Sunday of every month is a special time to rejoice, singing to the folks in the Bryan's Care Center. The Center is an affiliate of John Lincoln Hospital. The shut-ins and not-so-shut-ins rejoice in hearing praises sung unto the Lord.

'Tis time we extend a happy holiday season honoring the Lord to all of you and remind you of our warm welcome to visit us.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Ethel Smith

We are very thankful to report that due to a small, but growing, number of believers in northern Arizona, church services are being held once a month in Prescott, AZ. On the other Sundays, those living in this area travel the 100 miles to Phoenix to attend their services. Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach held the first service in Prescott May 4, 1986.

Services are currently being held the first Sunday of each month in a house donated by Dr. Ray C. Massner behind his clinic at 2063 Thumb Butte Road. There has been an average of 50 people in attendance at each service. We are being served by a rotation of the Phoenix ministers which include Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, Bro. Bill Dotterer and Bro. Jon Kokanovich. Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson) has also ministered to us. We truly appreciate these brothers traveling the miles to bring the Word of God.

We would welcome anyone who would be in the area to come and worship with us. Due to an occasional scheduling conflict with special occasions in Phoenix, services are sometimes held the second Sunday in the month rather than the first Sunday. You may call (602) 778-6130 or (602) 445-2164 to find out when services will be held and for directions to the location.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

We would like to welcome Curtis John Kaufman, Jr., to our congregation. He was born September 20 to Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman. Carrie, Catie and Carl welcome "C.J." as do grandparents, Bro. John Kaufman (Phoenix), Betty Kaufman (Phoenix) and Bro. Al Zeltwanger (Latty, OH). C.J. completes our bunch of baby boys (4) born in Tucson in the last year or so and we are so thankful the Lord saw fit to give us four healthy babies.

We also welcome Sis. Liz Martin to Tucson from Phoenix. Sis. Liz has found employment and is in the pro-

cess of moving into an apartment. We are sure she will be missed in Phoenix but we heartily welcome her here. We are thankful for every new member.

Last Sunday was our annual Sunday school picnic. The weather was unusually cool but it was a welcome change from the heat of the summer. We thank everyone for their efforts towards the picnic.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Brenda Stoller

"... that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee."

Titus 1:5

Bro. John Klotzle was recently ordained as elder. As Bro. John steps in, we want to give our full support to him as our shepherd. We extend our appreciation to Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger who served the California and Oregon churches for many years, but has retired due to health reasons.

Visiting ministers for that weekend were Elder Bros. Ben Maibach, Joe Ramsier, Roy Grimm, Richard Schupbach, Bros. Harold Emch, Jim Hoerr, Pete Petrovic and Doug Wagenbach.

On October 19, we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Kathy Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois) to Bro. Frank Sauder (Elder Bro. Don Sauder and Sis. Wilma). We pray that God will richly bless their lives together. They plan to return to Japan to further their mission work. We enjoyed having Elder Bro. Don Sauder share God's Word with us.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Scott and Anna Hoerr

While Jesus whispers to you, come sinner come!

While we are praying for you, come sinner come!

Now is the time to own Him, come sinner come!

Now is the time to know Him, come sinner come!

What a joy it is when another soul turns to the Lord. Many prayers have been answered as Lisa Van't Hof (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch) seeks her soul's salvation.

San Diego church was not open the weekend of the 12th and the 19th since the whole congregation went to Alta-

dena for Bro. John Klotzle's ordination and Sis. Kathy Klotzle's and Bro. Frank Sauder's wedding. These both were very blessed weekends and we look forward to the union of Brenda Jevremov and Troy Koehl this upcoming weekend.

Services continue to be held at the Meadowbrook Middle School. Please call Bro. Peter Petrovic at (619) 789-1504 or Bro. Elmer Getz at (619) 484-2702.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." Proverbs 18:22. Bro. Greg McLaughlin, believing God has directed, has found a sister to become his wife. He and Sis. Lavonne Fischer (Roanoke, IL) have set November 30 as their wedding date. May God bless them.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven..." Ecclesiastes 3:1. The engagement period past, it became time for the wedding of Bro. Tim Roecker and Sis. Diane Hohulin. They were married in Peoria, IL, October 12. We look forward to them settling in and establishing another home out here where Christ does live and reign. May they ever feel His nearness.

Bro. Richard Hasty and Sis. Beth Martin, two of our dear church family, were hospitalized this month. We are thankful Sis. Beth is able to assemble with us again but Bro. Richard remains in the hospital. We pray that God will indeed take care of him!

We've been blessed with several visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) gave of themselves in our behalf. May God bless them and continue to be with them as they share His Word.

We welcome Lynn Schmidt (Bro. Duane and Sis. Lucille, West Bend, IA) to our congregation. We hope she soon feels at home with us and enjoys living in Colorado.

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him." I Samuel 1:27. God has blessed the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Beth Martin with a son. Little Benjamin Kyle was born October 16. Happy first-time grandparents are

Andy and Glenda Martin (Plano, TX) and Herman and Sis. Sharon Braun (Elgin, IL). May God continue to be with our dear brother and sister and guide them as they raise their new son.

"He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar." I John 5:10. It has been brought out to us in listening to the tapes of the brotherhood conference that the word 'believe' means to rely upon, trust in, adhere to, cleave to and have faith. If we do not have this type of belief in our God and do not rely upon Him, we make Him a liar. "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. It would appear in these verses that we must acknowledge God as the divine leader of our life. God will then direct our path. If we rely upon any other means we shall utterly fail. When Gamaliel was at the trial of the apostles his wisdom was that "if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." Acts 5:38, 39. It certainly behooves us to "Know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day." II Timothy 1:12.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Michelle Virkler

**PRAISE AND THANKS FOR
 GOD'S BLESSINGS**

We sing our heartfelt thanks
 Thy truth and love adoring
 For guidance and for light
 Thy spirit we're imploring
 Our hearts we offer Thee
 For life and every day
 That with Thy grace we tread
 The straight and narrow way.

Zion's Harp #13

As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, may we be mindful of the wonderful blessings God has given to us. To be a child of God is a blessing in itself. To our dear friends, perhaps now is the time to surrender your old life of sin and darkness and walk with our loving and merciful Savior.

This union of our hearts
 Shall stand through grace in Jesus.
 We walk the path of life

While cheer and trust increases.
 Where God in truth abides,
 Where two join hand and heart,
 We find a three-fold cord
 Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

Bro Bruce Luginbuhl (Lillian) and Sis. Karen Bahler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Aline) were united in the bonds of holy matrimony Sunday, September 28.

We have been blessed and spiritually fed with the loving visits from the following ministers this month: Bros. Glenn Hackenjoes (Altadena, CA), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Robert Beyer (Naumberg, NY), Duane Farney (Croghan, NY), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL). We thank God for allowing them to be in our midst.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary have joy in their hearts, rejoicing in the birth of Beth Anne, born October 4. May God watch over them and protect our little bundle from heaven.

"Commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still . . ."

Psalm 4:4

For those dear ones who may be in the care of a physician or be hospitalized, the scripture referenced above is so clear. Though we may not be able to attend church for whatever reason, we are still afforded the blessing and opportunity to commune with our God. Lay your heavy burdens upon His heart, and He will enfold you with His arms of love and compassion.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
 WASHINGTON**
Ed Aeschleman

Ministering Bro. Albert Schnieder (Rockville, CT) conducted services in Washington, D.C. October 12. Although the gathering was small, the Lord did not withhold His blessing.

We welcome Ken and Roberta Belsey back from a three-week trip to Europe where they visited their daughter and her husband and did some sightseeing.

Next services in Washington will be November 9, the Lord willing.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS
Kay Eisenmann

Why don't unbelievers want to become children of God? How much do

our lives influence the choices they make? Do we appear to be joyful and happy in the service of our Lord? Life is a journey and the Bible is our road map that directs us to that beautiful city described in Revelation 21. Surely this is a place where we all want to go! There will be peace such as this world cannot give; nor can it be purchased with money. The beauty of this world cannot be compared to the beauty of that place. Let us pray for wisdom to choose the better way while we sojourn here.

Little Dathan has had quite a time this past month! Although the cancer is in remission at this point, the chemotherapy side effects cause him other problems. The family wishes to thank all who have been so supportive and invite everyone to come and visit them and Dathan! We're often surprised what a 10-year-old can teach us! Please keep praying for them as well as all our sick. Sis. Dotty Beer is still in her back brace but is doing well. Bro. Roland Keller was able to be in church a half day and is doing well, also. Perhaps we all have to deal with "out of sight - out of mind" but let us be mindful and supportive of our shut-ins and not be guilty of the sin of omission.

May God help us all to be more thankful for all He has given and done for us!

Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) was our visiting minister this month!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Lucille Heiniger

As we talked with our loved ones back home, we find it is harvest time. Due to a lot of rain, harvesting has been difficult for many.

"While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22

"When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and has forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it; it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the Lord thy God may bless thee on all the work of thy hands."

Deuteronomy 25:19

Thus we are reminded to leave or give a portion to the less fortunate if we expect the Lord to bless us.

"Praise ye the Lord, Oh give thanks

unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalms 106:1

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalms 100:3-5

As Thanksgiving Day is approaching, we want to be thankful for all the Lord our God has done for us all. It behooves us all to count our blessings each day instead of just one day of the year.

At Home Tis Well! There shall the pilgrim tarry,
When tired and worn by sorrow grief and strife;
In heaven when the hard race of earthly life
Is run, the long borne load no more he'll carry.

At Home Tis Well! With God in close relation,
The soul forgets the sorrow it has borne,
With pain o'ercome on that bright golden morn,
Rejoices in our God's sublime salvation.
Zion's Harp #170, vs. 1-2

Our dear Bro. Frank Krsogacin was relieved of his suffering and has gone to be with his Lord. He passed away at Fairview Haven (Fairbury, IL), where he was staying at the time. We are so thankful he could find his salvation in his later years. He leaves to mourn his passing our dear Sis. Julia Kittl from here and a brother of Buenos Aires, Argentina. We surely miss his presence in our congregation.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. Earl Feller (Chicago, IL). Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Lucille and her family. Bro. Earl and Sis. Lucille have been spending the winter months with us here at Sarasota.

Our dear Sis. Julia Kittl met with misfortune this past week as she was riding her bicycle. Someone ran into her and caused a considerable amount of pain and discomfort. We pray for God's healing mercies.

Those who spend the winter months here in the Sarasota area from the northern states are beginning to arrive. Each Sunday we see a few more familiar faces in our assembly.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. David Eisenmann, Sr. (North Fort Myers). May they never tire of bringing the Word of God to us in truth and sincerity.

Our little friend Dathan Eisenmann is still a sick boy and needs all our prayers in his behalf. It surely teaches us patience as he has been ill so long and he seems to be so patient and appreciative to all and especially his parents. For those wishing to send him a card, here is his address:

Dathan Eisenmann
1742 Jewel Drive
Sarasota, FL 33582-9750

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Donna Hodel — Nancy Kaufmann
September 17 and 24 were set aside for the brotherhood conference tapes.

"When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will
He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey."
Hymns of Zion #186

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ."
II Corinthians 5:20

On October 4 our congregation had the privilege of hearing Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) speak to us on the "Role of the Church". We were reminded that as believers in Christ, we all hold an important part in the role of the church. We sincerely thank Bro. Loren for sharing his time and wisdom.

Bro. Elmer Witzig and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) were with us this month. We appreciate their willingness to serve.

Many gathered for our annual fall picnic October 12. It was an enjoyable day filled with fellowship and singing.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Marilyn Tanner

A MESSAGE OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, God, for everything —
the big things and the small,

For "every good gift comes from God"
the giver of them all —

And all too often we accept
without any thanks or praise

The gifts God sends as blessings
each day in many ways,

And so at this Thanksgiving time
we offer up a prayer

To thank you, God, for giving us
a lot more than our share . . .

And help us to remember
that the key to life and living

Is to make each prayer a prayer of
thanks
and every day Thanksgiving.

Helen Steiner Rice

We are thankful for those who are willing to come and minister God's Word to us. Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville) and Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville).

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Cheryl Mangers

I am reporting from Champaign instead of Urbana now since our new church building is located on 1401 Devonshire in Champaign.

As we, as a family, drove to church September 21, we were all excited and curious as to what our responses and feelings would be when we arrived at our new church building. My oldest son said, "It's like going to a visiting church." Once we arrived though, we knew we were at the same church because we felt that same love and fellowship. It was a beautiful day. Sharing the special day with us was our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) and Bro. Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO).

October 12 marked our open house which also was a very special day for us. Conducting the services were Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Don Sauder (Roanoke). Also present were our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm and Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield). "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Psalms 127:1. Our prayer is that we will always have open house for the many students and others that pass through this community. We have been richly blessed and feel so indebted to you all for the many prayers and financial support. We pray that God will bless each of

you, especially the many parents throughout the years who have supported us with love, prayers and financial support.

We rejoice with the news that we, at the present time, have six new student converts.

Visiting ministers this past month included Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) and Ken Weerts (Cissna Park). May God bless each of them for their willingness to be used in service for Him.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

How fast my students forget instructions! In a small class, I can end up repeating an instruction more often than the number of students there are in the class. Make sure you have their attention, we're told. Then only state the direction once; otherwise your students will know they don't have to listen or obey immediately. What about the next day? And the next? When I compare myself as a student of the Lord's, I tremble. How many times has He convicted me, instructed me about my becoming angry, my being sullen? What steps may He take to get my attention? What are the consequences of my not listening carefully, my not obeying immediately? My Lord God, please be more merciful to me than I may have been to my students. Help me to remember Thy Words and give me Thy wisdom to apply them to each aggravating situation.

Elder Bro. Dan Koch, Bros. Glenn Dill and Charles Sauder (Tremont), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington), Ted Witzig (Morton) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) were our visiting ministers. We have been richly blessed by them and their contributions from the Lord.

Two friends came with opposite points of view to the Chicago area. One had been searching in church after church for the one church in which to commit his soul at last to the Lord. The other wanted nothing to do with church or the Lord, or so he thought, until he found out how far down degradation was. Both were brought under conviction by Christ the Sinless. They came to church and were given grace to repent and be converted by His Word. We have been privileged to see the fruit of His Spirit grow within them, and September 27 we were uplifted by their testimonies of His work in their lives. On Sunday, September 28, we

gained two new brothers-in-faith, John Grusy and Paul Sauder, as they made their individual covenants with God in the baptismal waters, in the presence of a host of witnesses. Elder Bro. Dan Koch assisted our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann on this holy occasion. We extend our continued prayers and Christian love to Bros. John and Paul, rejoicing, given renewed vigor to pray for those yet unconverted. The Lord still calls, and, we praise His name: souls are still given grace to come from damnation to salvation, from death unto life. "For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord." Proverbs 8:35.

We already feel a bond of love with Sis. Shay Nelson (Darryl and Sis. Sandy, Morton). She has recently come to the Chicago area to care for a family. We hope she enjoys her Glenview family and her work. We also pray that she will find us, her spiritual kinfolk, open-hearted and helpful in her adjustment to a new area and position. May our love reflect the stability of His grace and peace through all the changes of our lives.

First, these two dear souls repented and were taken into His fold. Then He again spoke to their hearts as part of His divine plan. Now, in His love, the Lord has given His blessing to the engagement of Bro. Mark Butikofer from our congregation, and Sis. Kaylene Knapp (Glenn and Sis. Laura, Forrest). We share their joy, wishing them continued prayerful preparation as they anticipate setting up a new Christian household. The Lord has need of them.

As we rejoice with our loved ones at happy times, we also weep with those enduring difficulties. Several couples still have the aftermath of the severe flooding with which to deal. Several older sisters deal with chronic physical afflictions. One's children can be a concern in many ways. Loneliness or stress may mark life's pathway for many. Let us always be instant in prayer for one another. Bro. Paul Leman was hospitalized for tests. Bro. Tibor Bozzay has sustained a broken shoulder and collarbone that he must deal with. Sis. Kathi Loos has again been hospitalized in her continuing battle with cancer. Our hearts groan for their infirmities. May our lips move in prayer, as we beseech the Lord for His comfort and healing peace for them, according to His all-knowing, all-wise will.

Though we hadn't been able to enjoy Bro. Earl Feller's tenor for awhile, due to his physical problems, he is now singing a new song without a pain or tremor on heavenly shores. His son, Doayne, preceded him in death; his son, Gary, resides in Morton at the Handicapped Home. He reached the age of threescore and ten but only a few months more. He lacked a week and a half of having shared 45 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Sis. Lucille, when he was laid to rest in his home church cemetery in Cissna Park, the second week of October. Yet, he certainly died a wealthy man. The amount in his bank account? How would I know? This kind, gentle, faithful man dealt with the increasing blows to his physical health with quiet acceptance and smiled still. This brother who looked to the Lord for his strength was a pillar in the church who held up the arms of his son-in-law, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and daughter, Sis. Judy, in their increasing responsibilities in the Lord. "Grampy" went home knowing that his three grandchildren had come to the Lord in repentance, Todd and Luann, in the spring of this year. Though he could not stay to enjoy their testimonies and baptisms, Bro. Earl witnessed grandson, Bro. Brad's marriage to Sis. Cindy Herrmann in Princeville in June and rejoiced. The Lord doesn't count wealth in dollars or stored bushels. His harvest is a harvest of the fruit of the Spirit, of the love, joy, peace, meekness, gentleness, goodness, faith, temperance and long-suffering in a Christian's life. We believe Bro. Earl, a man who loved God and kept His commandments, was wealthy in the Lord and ready to go. We wonder if he even knew before his brief hospitalization that, "It's sunset, and I'm going home . . ." When someone loved is plucked from the earth, even when there is true appreciation for the Lord's timing, there are tears and there is grief and loneliness. Only the Lord can bind up these wounds, bringing the family even closer. May we draw near to Sis. Lucille, Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy, Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy, Todd and Luann, showing forth His love in our sympathy and helping to bring His balm to their hearts. "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4.

We're always stirred up by the Word when we are receptive. But Sunday morning, I especially enjoyed the two

scriptures the Lord brought together: I Samuel 17 (David and Goliath) and Matthew 5 (the Beatitudes). "... the battle is the Lord's..." I Samuel 17:47. That's how we can be the meek, merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, the salt of the earth, and the light of the world. David wasn't able to kill Goliath because David was so great. David was enabled to kill Goliath because his faith in our God was so great! So can we be blessed. When we focus our trust in God, forgetting our worth, confident in the Lord's weapons, and dropping the tactics of the world, we shall, like David, be enabled to overcome and gain the victory.

Corrections: Our new brother is Bro. Tom Waldbeser from last time. A new friend to our area is Alan Schafer. My apologies for those misspellings.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Myrna Weerts — Elaine Sauder

One of Thy children is coming home,
Open Thy merciful arms,
One of Thy children's too tired to roam,
Open Thy merciful arms,
Send out a shepherd; open the gate
Jesus has called and His sheep must
not wait.

Oh, what a joy to be traveling home:
Open Thy merciful arms.

Gospel Hymns #784

Funeral services were held Thursday, October 2, for Bro. John M. Brenner, 81, who died September 29, at the Fairbury Hospital.

Survivors, besides his wife, Martha, include one daughter, Mary Ellen Ebach (Clearwater, FL); two brothers, Paul and Earl (both of Cissna Park); one sister, Eileen Knapp (Cissna Park) and three grandchildren.

Bro. Earl Feller (Darien, formerly of Cissna Park), 70, died Tuesday, October 7, at the Hinsdale Hospital, Hinsdale. Funeral services were held October 9, at the Apostolic Christian Church of Cissna Park with burial at our church cemetery.

Survivors are his wife, Sis. Lucille; a daughter, Sis. Judy Eisenmann (Darien); a son, Gary Feller (Morton); three grandchildren; three brothers, Joel Feller (Watseka), Emanuel Feller and Bro. Edward Feller, Jr. (both of Cissna Park); and six sisters, Sis. Emily Bucher (Cissna Park), Sis. Ann Leman (Eureka), Cora Yergler (Watseka), Wilma Baier (Paxton), Sis. Helen Zim-

merman (Roanoke) and Arlene Wieland (Plantation, FL).

We want to extend our sympathy to these two families in the death of their loved ones.

We enjoyed having Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) as our visiting ministers this month. Their labors of love in the Lord are greatly appreciated.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Anna Hari and Phil Bauer. We hope and pray the Lord will strengthen and heal according to His will.

Sis. Helen Kuebler has moved to Parkview Haven (Francesville, IN). We miss her presence in our Cissna church but hope the Lord will bless and provide for her in her new home.

Looking forward to Thanksgiving Day, we thank the Lord for His bountiful blessings during the past year.

Oh God, if I could but impart
The thankfulness that swells my heart
For each and every little thing . . .
Like color bursts announcing spring,
The shaded spots the trees have
brought,
The sunshine brightening every
thought . . .
The squirrels playing on my lawn,
The eventide . . . the still, new dawn . . .
The fragrant smell of brown leaves
burned,
The fresh black dirt where earth is
turned —

So many small things such as these
Have done so much my life to please
My whole life long would be of praise
To God, the Keeper of my days.

Beverly Enderby Kimzey

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Joan Schrock — Gail Williamson

Now thank we all our God With heart,
and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done, In
whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms Has blest
us on our way
With countless gifts of love, And still is
ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

As Thanksgiving is once again upon us, may we each be reminded of the bounty of God's wonderful love and blessings that He daily bestows upon us.

We thank Bro. Loren Knapp (Tuc-

son, AZ) and Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) for their services. We are thankful we have those who "will give themselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:4.

May we remember in prayer those dear ones who are hospitalized or in the care of physicians: Bro. Harvey Schieber and Carl Eglin.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.

"For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods."

Psalms 95:2-3

With faith and believing hearts, may our thanks and praise be to His goodness all our days.

We have been blessed with visiting ministers again this month. We are thankful that God led Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Clarence Kachelmuss and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) to come and share God's precious Word. May He be their rich rewarder.

Bibles were presented to our dear seventh grade children in Sunday school. Bro. Gary Anliker reminded them if they would read a chapter every day, they would finish in the middle of their sophomore year.

We wish many blessings and much happiness for Vicki and Jerry Messman who were united in marriage September 20. Their parents are Bro. Edward, Sr. and Sis. Jenny Schambach and Caroline Messman (Elgin).

A special dinner was served at church October 16 to a number of our brethren and friends who have reached their 70th birthday. A blessed time of fellowship and singing was enjoyed by all.

May God be merciful to those who have been ill and restore health where it can be His will. Bro. Edward Schambach, Sr. is hospitalized at this time. Sis. Ruth Schurter (Harvey) underwent tests also this past month.

Again we are appreciative to be able to listen to the conclusions of the brotherhood conference. May each true believer be encouraged to greater faithfulness and obedience.

Sis. Anna Lohbauer wishes to express her heartfelt thanks to all who made her 85th birthday a special day. The outpouring of love in the many prayers, cards and gifts received are a treasured remembrance. May God bless you.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Rocke

I'm thankful for each separate day,
For every moment in it —
The chance to work, to learn, to play,
To set a goal and win it.

I'm thankful for the common things
We often take for granted:
The sun, the rain, the birds, the trees,
Each flower that's planted.

I'm thankful for the winter time,
Spring, summer and the fall;
And for a wise and generous God
Who watches over all.

And for this land, America,
Wherein free men are living,
With right to worship as they please,
I render my Thanksgiving!
M. Kathleen Haley

As we soon approach the Thanksgiving season, we should give special thanks to our God for His plan of salvation! He has permitted us to live, thus far, in this land in freedom, where we can worship Him in peace. We have our believing parents for which we are so thankful — the list is endless when we stop to "Count Our Many Blessings". Let us try to be more thankful all year long and not just at Thanksgiving.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein welcomed Keith Alan September 19. Cynde, Sam, Ed, Christy and Curt are anxious to get to know their new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield) and Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein.

Jason, Ryan, Janell and Brenda Carr are happy for a new brother, Michael John, born October 4. Thankful parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr. Michael's grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Ruth Martin and Richard and Doris White. May God's blessings rest on these homes as their children are raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Loretta Wettstein (Harold) has our

sympathy in the passing away of her mother, Felicia Goldsmith.

Also, Sis. Ann Leman (Bro. Dave) has our sympathy in the passing of her brother, Bro. Earl Feller (Chicago). May God comfort these dear loved ones during this time of sorrow.

"There's a peace in my heart that the world never gave . . ." Tabernacle Hymns #42. We're thankful to hear that JoEllen and Marlene Wettstein have this precious peace in their hearts. We look forward to hearing their testimonies in the near future.

"It's time!"

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

A PRAYER OF THANKS

Thank You, God, for everything
I've experienced here on earth —
Thank You for protecting me
from the moment of my birth —
And Thank You for the beauty
around me everywhere,
The gentle rain and glistening dew,
the sunshine and the air,
The joyous gift of "feeling"
the soul's soft, whispering voice
That speaks to me from deep within
and makes my heart rejoice —
Oh, God, no words are great enough
to Thank You for just living,
And that is why every day
is a day for real Thanksgiving.

Helen Steiner Rice

May God grant us truly thankful hearts for all of our many blessings. No matter how many tests and trials we encounter, our hearts surely can rejoice when we take a moment to count our blessings.

United in marriage September 27 were Doug Steidinger (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma) and Dixie Fosdick (Jerry Fosdick). We wish them God's blessings as they walk this earthly path as husband and wife.

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
Heed the word of God today.
Haste and flee his condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.
Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasure,
Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp #52

Our hearts are rejoicing with the

angels in heaven with our new convert, Renae Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane). We wish her God's grace that she, too, might find the peace that passes all understanding.

We deeply appreciated the blessings we received from Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest). May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love among us.

Our hospital patients have been Ryan Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary), ministering Bro. Merle Kaisner (Sis. Marge), Sis. Della Meiss (Bro. Eli) and Sis. Lena Zehr. May God ever comfort and heal according to His will. Our prayers certainly are with them and their families.

Our Fairbury congregation is grateful for the three room expansion to our Sunday school facilities. May the seed continue to be sown to our youth in their young and tender hearts.

We have been privileged to listen to the conference tapes of our last brotherhood meeting. Oh, that we would all take to heart and seriously consider what has been spoken by these inspired brethren.

ILLINOIS, FORREST Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

A PSALM OF THANKSGIVING

O Give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name:

Make known his deeds among the people.

Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him:
Talk ye of all his wondrous works.

Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

Psalm 105:1-3

As the Thanksgiving season is approaching, our thoughts go back through the past year of the many blessings the Lord has given. Let us always have thankful hearts.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Merle Kaisner and Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Jim Plattner (Princeville), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) and Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury). We thank each one for lending themselves in the service of our great God.

Loved ones hospitalized this month

were Bro. Emil Sohn (Sis. Anita), Ed Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann) and Sis. Luella Bachtold. Our prayers have been with these loved ones and we trust they will feel God's healing power.

September 28 was a blessed day for Julie Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean), Rick Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) and Duane and Mary Ifft, when they could be added to our congregation. May they always keep on the armor of God and continue to grow in their spiritual walk with Him.

The engagement of Bro. Mark Butikofer (Bro. William and Sis. Norma, Gridley) and Sis. Kaylene Knapp (Glen and Sis. Laura) was recently made known. May the Lord direct them as they plan their future.

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

Gospel Hymns #712

Our congregation is saddened to have Sis. Vicki Pruitt leave our midst and move to 12721 W. Greenway Road, Space 64, El Mirage, AZ 85335. May God be with her as she establishes a home in new surroundings.

Our dear Sis. Martha Honegger (Bro. Paul) has been relieved of her earthly cares and pains and can now rest safe in the arms of Jesus. We extend our sympathy and prayers to the beloved family; Sis. Mildred Zimmerman (Bro. Glen), Bro. Wayne (Sis. Eleanor), Sis. Nancy and Gary, all of Forrest, Sis. Eileen Getz (Bro. Maurice, Remington), Sis. Viola Bachtold (Bro. Lloyd, Fairbury) and Evelyn Zorn (Bloomington).

There is no way we can acknowledge each one personally who remembered us so richly with cards, gifts, flowers and visits during our hospital stays and our birthdays. May God bless each one.

Bro. Meredith and
Sis. Leona Ricketts

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Bev Joos

Thankfulness in all things, in every facet of our lives, still leaves one deeply indebted to our Father each day. Gratitude begins when that warm glow of appreciation swells in our hearts. Gratitude increases when it is expressed in words of thanks. However, gratitude is at its greatest when one demonstrates gratefulness in return.

We thank Thee, Thou God of harvest,
For ripened golden grain,
For art of labor, heaven-blest,
For sunshine and for rain.

We thank Thee for the meadows wide,
For cattle, barns and hay,
For fertile plains and lovely woods,
For safety night and day.

We thank Thee for the joy of life,
The fountain-spring of thought,
For glory of the setting sun,
For freedom, dearly bought.

And as the old year folds its wings
With song from wood and glen . . .
We thank Thee for Thy blessings great
And for Thy love, Amen.

S. C. Tremble

Thankful are we for God's precious
Word, for His perfect plan of salvation
and His servants true.

"And He gave some, apostles, and
some, prophets; and some, evangelists,
and some, pastors and teachers; For
the perfecting of the saints, for the
work of the ministry, for the edifying of
the body of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11, 12

With prayerful guidance on the evening of October 8, Bro. Wes Knapp was chosen for the ministry. We were truly grateful for the presence and kind words of Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton). Our prayers radiate forth to Bro. Wes and Sis. Mildred that he may receive the power, God's strengthening grace, to carry out this new responsibility that weighs heavily upon his heart.

"Strive aright when God in mercy His
compassion turns to you.
That your soul so long o'er burdened,
Freed from sin might live anew."

Zion's Harp #47

In thankfulness, we rejoice over two souls that turned to God for His tender mercy. On October 19 Greg Musselman and his wife, Laura, became our new brother and sister-in-faith. They related to us that God gave them the strength to do the things that they needed to do. Sharing this special time with us was Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana). We are appreciative of his loving efforts.

As love has warmed their hearts,

Andy Bauman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty) has announced his engagement to Rita Ehnle (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle, Bradford). We wish them God's blessing.

Our prayers extend to our three hospital patients this month. They are Brad Wiegand, Bro. Ben Tanner and Sis. Barb Ricketts. May God's comforting strength be theirs.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

" . . . knowing that tribulation worketh
patience; And patience, experience;
and experience, hope . . ."

Romans 5:3-4

Our ministering brother encouraged us to appreciate the tribulation that comes our way because God can use it to help us become better people. We learn patience best when we are called upon to endure something unpleasant. The more experience we have in learning patience and enduring tribulation, the more we learn to hope. An inexperienced individual who has pretty much lived a comfortable, "sheltered" life without much disappointment, suffering or sorrow, is sometimes especially vulnerable to a seemingly major setback. Having never been through such an ordeal before, he might wonder if there is any way out and it may be difficult for him to cope. His hope is likely to be dim and weak.

By contrast, the person who has weathered many storms and has repeatedly experienced the faithfulness of God who always lifts him out of the deep valleys — this person does not so easily lose hope. Experience has helped him acquire the blessed assurance that God will never leave him or forsake him. Hebrews 13:5. Indeed the more experience we have in enduring tribulation and patiently waiting for the Lord's deliverance, the more we will rejoice in hope. The enemy cannot easily discourage the experienced pilgrim who continues to hope in the salvation of the Lord.

Sis. Mary Ringger has been a hospital patient.

Sis. Anna Klopfenstein has moved from the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria back to her home in Gridley.

Bro. Mark Butikofer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma) was announced to be married to Sis. Kaylene Knapp (Glen and Sis. Laura, Forrest).

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Susan Kieser

As winter is rapidly approaching, our thoughts turn towards the winter holiday seasons, one of which is Thanksgiving, a time to give God thanks for blessing us throughout another year. Not that we shouldn't thank Him every day, for His Word tells us to give "thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20.

Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke) stressed this point when he spoke to us at one of our Bible studies. His topic of discussion was Philippians 3 and 4. He brought out how we need to take time each day for the Lord and be obedient to His will. The previous week, Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont) spoke to us on Philippians 1 and 2. One of his thoughts was how we need to give our life completely to Christ and let Him live in us.

This past month, we've begun a series of Bible studies on "Life of Faith". Each week we will be discussing the life and works of great men of the Bible. In October, Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville) spoke to us on Joshua and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) spoke on Abraham.

Since it is near Thanksgiving, we here at ISU would like to thank those who have contributed to our Bible studies in some way, especially our sponsors, Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley). We would also like to give a special thanks to the families here at Bloomington who have taken us in as one of their own and to those who are supporting us as we seek higher education. All are welcome to join us at our Bible studies on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in 244 Schroeder Hall.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24. We rejoice with a fellow student, Bro. Donny Endress (Princeville) as he has been directed by God to take Sis. Sandra Stoller (Princeville) as his wife. We wish them many blessings from God as they begin their life together.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

Thanksgiving Day will soon be upon us. May we be thankful children of God every day and strive to always have a thankful heart and attitude.

We want to wish God's blessings on three of our precious couples who have recently celebrated fifty years of marriage. They are John and Lucille (Martin) Hohulin, Glenn and Kathryn (Hermann) Becker and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Marie (Hirstein) Belsley. May our heavenly Father continue to bless these loved ones.

Clarence (Jerry) Braker was called into eternity. His funeral was September 22. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless his wife, Eva, his family and friends.

Sis. Emma (Strunk) Paluska was called Home. Her funeral was September 23. We pray that her family will feel God's comforting hand. Her family wishes to express their sincere thanks to all who were so kind to her during her long illness and during the loss of their loved one.

Sis. Lydia Tanner was also called Home. Her funeral was October 4. May her family and friends be comforted.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Mary (Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice) Wuthrich and Bro. Ron (Sis. Pat) Bertschi as they have announced their engagement. May God's guiding hand be with them as they plan to walk the pathway of life together.

We have many loved ones who are in the hospital, ill at home or shut-in and who cannot come and go as we do. We also have those who are grieving over the loss of a precious loved one. May they feel our continued prayers in their behalf.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Kathy Huthmann

THANK GOD FOR LITTLE THINGS

Thank you, God, for little things
That often come our way —
The things we take for granted
But don't mention when we pray —
The unexpected courtesy,
The thoughtful, kindly deed —
A hand reached out to help us
In the time of sudden need —
Oh make us more aware, dear God,
Of little daily graces
That come to us with "sweet surprise"
From never-dreamed-of places.

Helen Steiner Rice

We were blessed with the opportunity to hear the Joyful Life group sing at our monthly hymn sing. We thank them

for sharing with us the talents that God has given them.

Bro. Merle and Sis. Mary Weyeneth and big brother, Karl, welcome little Kyle Davis into their hearts and home. Kyle was born August 25. Grandparents are Wayne and Verla Davis (Fairbury) and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Leona Weyeneth (Eureka).

Brian Kaisner and Terry Blumenshine were united in marriage September 7. Their parents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner and Ron and Sis. Janet Blumenshine. We will miss them here as they will make their new home in California and will be attending the Altadena, CA, church. We wish them God's blessings.

The Lord has blessed another dear couple with a new baby. Brittany Lyn was born to Bro. Rod and Sis. Judy Getz September 17. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Margaret Getz and Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger (Pulaski, IA). Brittany's older brothers, Jesse and Jason, are happy to have a new sister.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds." Jeremiah 30:17. Bros. Jesse Leman, Pete Hoerr, Clarence Sutter, Sis. Bernice Gross, Sis. Esther Welk, Sis. Ruth Hartman, LaVerne Perdelwitz, Bill Aschelman and Lena Hoerr were hospital patients this month. We wish them God's healing power.

Our congregation was privileged to have many visiting ministers this past month. Preaching God's Word to us were Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Joe Braker (Morton), Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Fred Knapp (Congerville). We pray that God will richly bless them for their efforts.

Sis. Diane Hohulin (Bro. Vern and Sis. Marie) and Bro. Tim Roecker (Bro. Ed and Sis. Barbara, Morton) were married October 12. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their walk of life together. They will make their new home in the Denver, CO, area.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Marjean Lehman

"God of unlimited compassion,
Thou never ending fount of love!
With countless hosts in meek submission

We praise Thee now, O Lord above,
For grace and patience Thou hast
shown

Ere this created world was known."
"Give Thanks Unto the Father",
Zion's Harp

On October 12, the engagement of Sis. Sandy Stoller and Bro. Don Endress was made known. Parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller and Sis. Mildred, all of Princeville. May God bless their plans as they look forward to the day when they will walk hand in hand.

We have been blest with many messages of inspiration by our visiting ministers this past month. Our thanks goes out again to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton), Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford), Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka) and Bro. David Wiegand (Urbana). May they feel God's continual blessings as they preach according to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

On October 5, two dear souls were added to the fold. We welcome with open arms Sis. Linda Stahl (Eldon and Irene) and Bro. Jerry Leuthold (Bro. John and Sis. Shirley). May their hearts ever be overwhelmed with the thanksgiving they feel at this most precious time. May they ever look to the Saviour who purchased them with His blood.

"Now thank we all our God with heart,
and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in
whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms has blest
us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still
is ours today."

"All Come and Thank the Lord!",
Zion's Harp

Little Adam Dale Baer came to join the family circle of Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera Baer. Adam was born October 6. Grandparents are Otto and Eleanor Baer and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Bernice Frieden (Lamont, MO). May God bless their family circle with His love. Mark and Sarah are a big help with their new little brother.

Sis. Leila Elsasser has undergone major surgery. Wolf Christ was in an accident and Aaron Menold suffered a broken arm. For all of these dear ones we pray God will heal and restore as

only He can. May He also give needed strength in suffering.

"In sorrow and pain thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour."

"The Best Refuge",
Zion's Harp

Our congregation extends sincere sympathy to Sis. Julianne Wagenbach (Bro. Daryl) in the death of her mother, Helen Hodel. Funeral services were held October 1 at the Roanoke church. May God comfort as only He can.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Luginbuhl — Marge Leman

Thanksgiving time is near and although we are always thankful for what God has done for us, this is a special time to offer our thanks to Him. Following is a poem that has a special meaning to me:

The more you give,
The more you get.
The more you laugh,
The less you fret.
The more you do unselfishly,
The more you live abundantly.

The more of everything you share,
The more you'll always have to spare.
The more you love, the more you find,
That life is good and friends are kind.
For only what we give away,
Enriches us from day-to-day.

Author Unknown

We truly rejoice with Sis. Lavonne Fischer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge) and Bro. Greg McLaughlin (Denver, CO) whose engagement was announced recently.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wieland have a new son, Justin Paul, born September 19. He is welcomed by his sister, Nicole. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Rachel Leman and Sis. Lena Wiegand.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna Schwind are first-time parents of a new daughter, Megan Lynne, born September 20. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila Pfister and Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary Schwind.

Brett Dean, the third son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri Janssen was born October 3. His two brothers are Troy and Craig. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Sauder and Carl and Amelia Janssen (Benson).

Several of our loved ones who have

been in the hospital are: Sis. Doris Bowald, Elsie Sauder, Sally Hodel (Willis and Margaret Hodel), Bro. Rollie and Candice Sauder (Les and Cindy Sauder).

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Wally and Kay Knecht in the passing of Kay's father, Henry Jakob.

Sis. Lena Minger passed away at the age of 94. Sympathy is given to her half-brother, Bro. Joe Rassi, and her half-sisters, Betty Hodel (Roanoke) and Sis. Emma Rocke (Eureka).

We were indeed saddened by the sudden passing of Helen Hodel. Our deepest sympathy is given to her husband, Edward; two sons, Edward III (Roanoke) and Howard (Houston, TX); and daughter, Sis. Julianne (Daryl) Wagenbach of Toulon; one brother, Bro. John Perdelwitz (Zapata, TX) and two sisters, Mrs. Eleanore Mode (Cherry Hill, NJ) and Mrs. Clara McGee (Ames, IA).

Again the death angel visited unexpectedly for Merle Sauder. Our sincere sympathy is given to his wife, Selma; one son, Ronald (Trivoli); two daughters, Mrs. Betsy Owens (Canton) and Mrs. Marthann Hoffman (Lawrence, Homewood); two brothers, Bro. John and Bro. Curtis (Roanoke); two sisters, Mrs. Edith Conner (Donald, Washington) and Sis. Mabel Getz (Emery, Eureka).

We want to thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) for sharing with us a special exhortation on Winds of Doctrine at our September Bible study. Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) gave a very inspiring message to us during our October Bible study on ways to prepare our children for the problems they face while attending our schools. May God richly bless these brothers for all their efforts on our behalf.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach

Carolyn Bolliger

We recently had great cause for rejoicing as four dear souls were added to the fold. Our new brothers and sisters are Dale and Karol Glueck and Todd and Rita Kilgus. Their parents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck and Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Fairbury). May God be with them as they go forward on life's journey. We thank Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury) who assisted our Elder Bro. Dan Koch on this blessed occasion.

We appreciated our other visiting

ministers this month also. They were Bros. Duane Kilgus and Merle Kaisner (Fairbury) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford).

Many of us spent a blessed weekend with our Chicago congregation as two more souls were gathered in. One new brother, Paul Sauder, is the son of Bro. Dale and Sis. JoAnn of our congregation. We rejoice with them.

Our Sisters Lillian Schmid and Doris Staker (Bro. Weldon) both had eye surgery this month. Also, Cheri Frank (Doug), daughter-in-law of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam Frank was hospitalized for surgery. We are glad to see them all back worshipping with us again.

October 1 was a happy occasion for Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder as they welcomed their first son, Mark Howard. Excited big sisters are Carol, Christy, Jenny and Laura. Grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Pauline Sauder and Bro. Dave and Sis. Eunice Beutel.

Also welcoming a new baby son are Bro. Philip and Sis. Diane Koch. Little Bradley Philip was born October 17 and is welcomed home by little sister, Kathy. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Koch and Bro. Robert and Sis. Rose Mary Frank.

We congratulate also Sharon Bolliger (Sis. Alma and the late Bro. Jay Bolliger) and Royce Risinger (Harold and Sandy Risinger) who have just announced their engagement and plan to be married next summer. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan their future together.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Vicki Bucher

The second Sunday evening of each month we have a hymn sing. In September the Tremont congregation joined us for a blessed evening of song and fellowship.

The Washington choir was invited to Gridley for their monthly hymn sing. We are thankful that God has provided songs in which we can be uplifted and blessed.

Fall being the time of year for "wiener roasts", many of our Sunday school classes have taken advantage of the beautiful weather. Our Bible class spent a Sunday with the Bradford Bible class. We sincerely thank the teachers who are willing to make the arrangements for these get-togethers.

Mindy Cagle, daughter of Bob and

Sis. Lillian Cagle, was a hospital patient for a short time. We are thankful to see her up and around and back in the swing of things.

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, it reminds us to give thanks for the blessings we have received throughout the year.

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Evelyn Ringger — Lucille Isch

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

St. Matthew 28:19

It was a blessed weekend with the testimony services and baptisms of Joan Elliot (Sis. Hilda Steffen), Jeff Neuenschwander (Bro. William and Sis. Mildred), Greg Kaehr (Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen), Kami Isch (Bro. Perry and Sis. Becky), Tonia Tonner (Bro. William and Sis. Diane) and Eric and Marcia Steffen (son and daughter-in-law of Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena Steffen). We wish God's richest blessings on these seven souls. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner assisted Elder Bro. Orville Ringger in this work.

Another joyful weekend was the wedding of Bro. Michael Heinold (Bro. Vic and Sis. Sheryl, Valparaiso) and Sis. Beth Meyer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet). We wish them God's blessings on their marriage. They were united in holy matrimony by Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North). Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Rod Huber and Bro. Michael Thomas (Valparaiso), Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville), Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend) and Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont, IL).

Our sympathy went out to all families and friends that were affected by four recent deaths. Doug Moser, 24, was found dead after an explosion which about 40 others escaped. Duane and Mary Ann Moser are parents and Sis. Mary Moser is the grandmother. After an illness of 1½ years, Harry Schwartz, 67, (a son in the late Levi Schwartz family) passed away. David Adams, 36, passed away after a short one-week illness, leaving his wife, Aleda, and a son. Aleda's parents are Bro. Claren and Sis. Joyce Gehring.

Sis. Nettie Strahm, 81, was laid to rest after being hospitalized two days. She is survived by a daughter, Sis. Agnes Schaefer (Bro. Oscar). Other hospital patients were Shelley Gerber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn), Sis. Doris Reinhard (Bro. Ezra) and Bro. Roy Gerber (Sis. Helen).

Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Isch are happy parents of their first child, a baby girl, Vanessa Lynn. The grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyne Isch and Bro. Vernon Gerber.

Baby Leah Elizabeth was born to Mark and Barb Gerber. She joins brother, Seth, and sister, Sarah, in the family. Her grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Helen Gerber and Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen Hoffman (Cissna Park, IL).

October 19 was a very blessed day for our congregation. Following the afternoon services we were blessed listening to the ordination services for Bro. Edward Schwartz, Jr. With us for this special occasion were Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North). Bro. Ed was ordained elder of our church to share the duties with Elder Bro. Orville Ringger. We pray the Lord will bless him with Godly wisdom and grace as he accepts this responsibility. Bro. Ed is the son of Bro. Ed, Sr. and Sis. Josephine Schwartz. Bro. Ed's wife, Sis. Jeni, is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris Fiechter. We trust Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni can feel our support and prayers.

A THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER

"Faith of our Fathers" renew us again
And make us a nation of God-fearing
men
Seeking Thy guidance, Thy love and
Thy will,
For we are but Pilgrims in need of Thee
still —
And, gathered together on Thanks-
giving Day,
May we lift up our hearts and our
hands as we pray
To thank You for blessings we so little
merit
And grant us Thy love and teach us to
SHARE IT.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

"Blessed be God, which hath not

turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me."

Psalms 66:20

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our loved ones, Michael Gordon (Sis. Tami and Bro. Trent Reimschisel), Sis. Kathy (Bro. Steve) Longenberger and Ryan Frauhiger (grandson of Bro. Ivan and Sis. Sylvia Frauhiger) who have spent time in the hospital this month. May they all feel God's healing touch. Sis. Jodi Towle has returned from her treatment and hospital stay in Colorado. We are so glad that she can join us in worship and pray she will daily feel the Lord's presence in her life.

Sadness has touched the homes of several loved ones this month. Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Ida Schwartz Gerber in the passing of her son, Harry Schwartz (Berne) and with Sis. Agnes (Bro. Oscar) Schaefer, Sis. Betsy (Bro. Duane) Gerber and Sis. Nilah (Bro. Jon) Aschliman in the loss of their mother and grandmother. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalms 116:15.

September 27 will always be a special day to remember for Greg Owens and Annette Baumgartner (Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary), as on that day they became husband and wife. We wish them many happy years together.

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and then witness the baptisms of several dear souls September 28. Those we rejoice with are, now, Sis. Jodi Towl (Jeff, daughter of Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch); Bro. Tim and Sis. Rowena Franklin (son and daughter-in-law of Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel); Bro. Todd Gerber (Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol); and Bro. Dean VanHorn. May the joy of God remain in their hearts forever.

Our sincere thanks is expressed to those who lent their services to give God's Word this past month. Visiting us were Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo), Elder Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton), Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington). we always welcome them and their families.

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Psalms 95:2

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE

People need people and friends need friends,
And we all need love for a full life depends
Not on vast riches or great acclaim,
Not on success or on worldly fame,
But just in knowing that someone cares
And holds us close in their thoughts and prayers —
For only the knowledge that we're understood
Makes everyday living feel
WONDERFULLY GOOD,
And we rob ourselves of life's greatest need
When we "lock up our hearts" and fail to heed
The outstretched hand reaching to find
A kindred spirit whose heart and mind
Are lonely and longing to somehow share
Our joys and sorrows and to make us aware
That life's completeness and richness depends
On the things we share with our loved ones and friends.

Helen Steiner Rice

As the holiday season begins and our hearts bubble over with thankfulness and praise, may we reach out and "open our hearts" to our families and friends, and, even more, may we strive to remember and include the lonely ones we know who would otherwise be spending their holidays alone.

Ministering Bros. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) made two Sundays extra-special with their visits.

We rejoice with Bro. Dale and Sis. Terri Pelsy as they have a new baby daughter, Amy Lyn, born October 4. Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Luella Pelsy and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Polf (Pine Village, IN) are Amy's grandparents.

Bro. Rich Wuethrich was hospitalized this past month. We're happy to say he is home again and feeling steadily better.

Fifty years ago on October 18, 1936, Bro. Emil and Sis. Mary Gutwein were united in marriage. We rejoice with them as they celebrate this special anniversary, and wish them many more happy years together.

If anyone is missing a beautiful, hand-crocheted woman's cardigan of eggshell color with a floral design, please call (219) 567-9293.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford — Kathy Freed

The Lord has blessed us with two babies this month. Lindsey Marie, daughter of Bro. Todd and Sis. Marylyn Erb, was born September 22. She is their first child. Donald Erb (Francesville) is the proud grandfather. Kristin Elizabeth Bucher joins four brothers in the family of Ardie and Leann Bucher. Her birthday was October 8. Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Esther Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) are the happy grandparents.

We learned much from a visit by Mr. and Mrs. Lazarus Padale of Nasik, India, who shared with us their efforts to bring the gospel to remote villages in the jungle near their home.

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?"

Romans 10:14-15

We appreciated the visits of ministering Bro. Jack Bollier (Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

A church fellowship has been likened to a pile of burning coals, giving off warmth (love) and light (witness). When the coals stay close together (unity) the heat and light are strong and unwavering. But what happens when a coal is separated from the pile? Apart from the sustaining warmth and light, the coal fades, and may become cold and dark. If other coals are separated, the group of coals itself is in jeopardy, unable to continue in its purpose of transmitting warmth and light. However, if the coal which has somehow become separated can be brought back close to the glowing coals, it can again touch the sparks from the pile and itself glow once again.

Thus our fellowship should be like glowing coals, welcoming with our warmth, and illuminating the way.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

II Corinthians 4:6

"Gracious Spirit, love divine!
Let Thy light within me shine; . . .
. . . Let me never from Thee stray,
Keep me in the narrow way."

Hymns of Zion #32

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Debbie Nuest — Sandy Heinold

On September 24, Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) united Sis. Gwen Bucher and Bro. Elmer Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) as husband and wife. As they continue serving the Lord, they also have a new responsibility of looking out for each other's welfare. Although we miss Sis. Gwen worshipping with us, we wish her and Bro. Elmer many blessings in the Valparaiso congregation.

After hearing the conference tapes, we were encouraged in the faith we believe in, as well as made aware of the shortcomings which can easily beset us.

We were blessed with two visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL).

Our prayers are with Sis. Connie Knobloch after having surgery and Sis. Esther Bucher who is ill. We wish them a speedy and complete recovery, as they are missed in our congregation.

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Charlotte Gutwein

We all look forward to being able to gather together around God's Word. Our recent services were hosted by Bro. James Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse) and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). We were all encouraged to work for the patience Paul had and to let the Lord show us what we are to do with our lives. We need to live our lives so others can see a difference in us.

The weeks opposite our services, we get together and sing for Heritage Health Care Nursing Home. It's a joy to be able to share God's love with the residents there.

We want to express a special thanks to those who travel to visit us around God's Word at services.

**INDIANA, LEO
Thelma Schlatter**

"One day Sydney J. Harris of the Chicago Daily News walked with his friend to a newsstand to purchase a

paper. The friend thanked the vendor politely, but the vendor remained coldly silent. As they moved away, Harris remarked, 'A sullen fellow, isn't he?' And the friend remarked, 'Oh, he's that way every night.' Harris asked, 'Well, why then do you continue to be so very polite to him?' His friend answered, 'Why should I let him decide how I am going to act?'

"Blessed are the people who view the faults of others through the eyes of divine forgiveness."

Apples of Gold

Reports of the annual conference have been shared via tapes with the congregation for edification and encouragement.

An uplifting message was given by visiting minister, Bro. Robert Pflederer (Morton, IL).

The home of Bro. Phil and Sis. Stephanie Bollier was blessed by a new baby boy, Jonathan Alan. He is also welcomed by his brother, Tony, and grandparents, Janice Sylvester, and Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier.

For the Christian, every day should be a day of thanksgiving with additional gratitude that our country's government still sets aside a national day of thanksgiving.

THANKS

It's a gracious word when you think it.

It's an encouraging word when you say it.

It's an inspiring word when you hear it.

It's a magic word when you mean it. It soothes the soul and gladdens the heart.

There is great power in it, so do your part.

Anonymous

Even though you might find yourself just now in a place where the clouds seem to be hiding the sunshine, look again, and you will find reasons to praise Him. He can bless a sacrifice of praise.

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Psalms 69:30

Bits of This and That:

If we could find wealth as easily as we find fault, we'd all be rich.

It is not what he has that directly

expresses the worth of a man, but what he is.

I have never found peace of mind by giving folks a piece of mine.

Idleness is the nest in which mischief lays its eggs.

If you want to set the world right, start with yourself.

When young, consider that you may one day be old; and when you become old, remember that you once were young.

"Regardless of the hour;
Whatever you have to say,
God has time to listen
If you have time to pray."

INDIANA, MILFORD

Shelby Beer

Lord God, we honor Thee
And praise Thy mild compassion,
That Thou so gracefully
Dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great;
Thy mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink
For Spirit, flesh and soul.

Zion's Harp #13

As this is the time of year we celebrate the thanksgiving season, we really cannot begin to count all our many blessings sent from God. We must be thankful every day for the freedom of God's Word and for our salvation and the peace in our hearts.

Having a thankful heart is Bill Longcor, who has found grace for repentance and has begun his life anew in Christ Jesus. May the peace of God continue to fill his heart and give him joy in serving God.

We appreciated hearing the Word as it was spoken to us by our visiting ministers Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN).

Our sympathy goes out to Dick and Becky (Hoerr) Pelath and boys in the passing of his father. May God bless them with His comfort and peace.

"He giveth power to the faint: and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."

Isaiah 40:29

Bro. Jesse Haab, Sis. Tina Lehman and Ben Beer (Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie) have spent time in the hospital this past month. We are grateful that they

are recovering now. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31. May all of us cling to these promises.

I want to thank brethren, relatives and friends across the land for sympathy cards, get-well wishes and gifts throughout the loss of my wife, Sis. Frieda, and my three recent surgeries. Without His grace to sustain me, I know I couldn't take it. May God bless you all.

Bro. Jesse Haab

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Susan Getz — Beth Virkler

VICTORY

The perfect victory is to let Christ triumph over one's self, through the Spirit.

When you are forgotten, or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you smile, inwardly glorying in the insult or the oversight . . . that is victory.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your tastes offended, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you take it all in patient, loving silence . . . that is victory.

When you are content with any food, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, any interruption . . . that is victory.

When you can bear with any discord, any annoyance, any irregularity, unpunctuality, (of which you are not the cause) . . . that is victory.

When you can stand face to face with folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility, contradiction of sinners, persecution and endure it all as Jesus endured it . . . that is victory.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation nor to record your good works nor to seek after commendation, when you can truly "love to be unknown" . . . that is victory.

Selected

We would like to thank our visiting ministers for bringing words of encouragement and chastisement to us. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Timothy 3:16. We

give thanks to Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and their families for visiting us recently.

Bro. Harold Schieler was recently hospitalized but is doing well. He would like to thank those who remembered him with prayers, cards and gifts.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Pauline Laidig — Jill Lehman

We were very thrilled to have a men's group from Francesville come and sing for us. We thank them for coming and for bringing Bro. Chris Huber to minister to us. It was indeed a beautiful Sunday of fellowship. May God richly bless them.

Visitors are always appreciated and we want to thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) for visiting us and for sharing God's Word.

Sis. Helen Martin recently fell and was in a nursing home for a week. She had no fractures but was very badly bruised. She is now recuperating nicely at home. For it is true, we need the prayers of those we love.

November is the month in which Thanksgiving Day is observed. Many people only know Thanksgiving Day as being associated with turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Sadly, many times we fall into the same habit. Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday for giving thanks to God and this year let us make a special effort to count our many, many blessings and to thank God for all he has done for us. We are indeed a blessed people!

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Peg Huber — Cheryl Bucher

We're praising God for two more Christian homes that have been established. Bro. Mike Heinold (Sis. Sheryl and Bro. Vic) took Sis. Beth Meyer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet, Bluffton) to be his wife. We lovingly welcome Sis. Beth into our congregation, and hope she will soon feel right at home.

Our Bro. Elmer Bucher was united in holy matrimony to Sis. Gwen Bucher (LaCrosse, IN). Many of us made the short trip to LaCrosse to share their happy day with them. Sis. Gwen, too, will be heartily welcomed into our church family. She's visited us a few times in the past, as she has family in our church — so it shouldn't be too long before she feels at home.

September 28 was our new church

open house. We enjoyed the day with all our visitors, but especially our ministering brothers and their "beautiful words of life". We thank Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton) and Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) who were vessels used for the Lord's honor and glory.

Our new church dedication was held October 5, and many again came to be with us. We're so thankful for the many visitors; our church was filled to overflowing. Our visiting ministering brothers were Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville), Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Lenny Meyers (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN). It was a wonderful day, dedicating our new facility to God, and each of us rededicating our hearts and lives to Him also. We thank each one who came, and the ministers who willingly gave of themselves in our behalf.

Our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was unable to be with us, due to the illness of his father-in-law, Bro. Earl Feller (Chicago, IL). Just a few short days later, Bro. Earl passed from this life to eternity. Our sincere heartfelt condolences go to Bro. Dale, Sis. Judy and the family. May they each find comfort in the fact that Jesus knows their sorrows, knows their every care, and will surely provide for their every need.

We were privileged to have members of the Leo Sunday school Bible class with us for the weekend. Everyone seemed to have a blessed time.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

There's a special sunshine in the home, A gladness in the air; That seems to breathe the happy news — "A brand-new baby's there!"

David and Shellie Kyburz are the happy parents of a new daughter, Charis Nicole, born September 23. First-time grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat Kyburz. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Meier (Monon, IN).

Sis. Emma Furrer has moved to Parkview Haven Home at Francesville. May God richly bless Sis. Emma as she settles into her new home.

Sis. Josephine Farney was a hospital patient this month. It is our prayer that God will restore health and strength to

her that she may again assemble with us.

We thank Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington) for sharing the Word with us and trust that God will bless his labor of love.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karen Schulz — Dixie Messner

We were privileged to hear the tapes of the recent elder conference. May we pray for grace that we can be obedient children. We also want to thank our elder brothers for all their efforts to preserve the precious faith.

Sis. Edith Massner was a surgical patient this month. Rodney Scheitlin and Nathan Rowell also spent some time in the hospital. We are happy to report that all are home again.

Sis. Edith Massner expresses her thanks for all the cards, visits, gifts, food, and especially the prayers offered for her during her hospital stay and convalescence. She is grateful for God's goodness and mercy.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Ed Lanz for bringing to us the Word of Life this past Sunday afternoon.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Recently, while carrying a piece of furniture up a flight of steps, I wondered how I was going to make it around the narrow bend to the right at the top of the stairs. Deciding to take one step at a time, I made it fine. I had to think how often in our daily lives we can be spared much anxiety and turmoil by taking one step or one day at a time, trusting God for sufficient grace for the need at hand.

With Thanksgiving Day approaching, may we remember to offer a special prayer of thanks to God for our daily provisions.

GIVE THANKS UNTO THE FATHER

God of unlimited compassion,
Thou never-ending fount of love!
With countless hosts in meek
 submission
We praise Thee now, O Lord above,
For grace and patience Thou hast
 shown
Ere this created world was known.

For Thy most wonderful redemption,
For the atonement of our wrong,
For Thy most gracious invitation

And for Thy Word with promise strong,
Yea, for the comfort of Thy Word
Our hearts bring thanks to Thee, O
 Lord.

For Thy most Holy, Truthful Spirit
By which our spirit's life is shown,
For light and power we inherit
As Thy almighty work is known,
For the assurance there we find
Brings praise our newborn heart and
 mind.

Zion's Harp #75

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Glen and Sally Funk

We want to thank the Pulaski brethren again for inviting our Sunday school children for a weekend of fellowship. Friendships that will be meaningful later are so important. These weekends provide that opportunity.

Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) both came to minister to us in October. Those who came with them were also appreciated. We feel so very blessed by these efforts, and know that their reward will come.

Grandma Sis. Bertha Moser, left our small congregation and went to live at the Eureka home. We miss her more than she will ever know. The small children even ask about her and miss her presence. She was our only great-grandma in our church and that made her special. But, as Bro. Gene Smith said to her as a farewell from all of us, "We are thankful for the time she spent here, but the Lord has more work for her to do." We feel certain she will be busy doing the Lord's work in Eureka.

Last month I wrote about my friend Shelly, who was dying. For those of you who remember her, she died September 22. I would like to share with you a piece that was on the front of the remembrance passed out at her funeral.

FROM SHELLY TO HER FRIENDS

Don't run from reality,
Face every day like it is.
Life may be very tough, and give you
 pain sometimes.
Your reality can even get you down.
 You may try to escape through
 dreams and fantasies, but
Face the truth, and try to work it out.

You may say that life has been really
 hard on me —

That there is no hope or light that I can
 see.

Let me tell you, my friends,
About Jesus Christ — my Lord.

He is the one reality!

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

We extend warm thanks to all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

Our congregation is currently having the privilege of hearing the tapes of the 1986 brotherhood conference. They hold out so many good teachings for us. We were reminded that our cross, and each of us has one, will either make us bitter or better. Another elder lovingly pointed out that a great deal of the stress we experience is from being unwilling to do God's will. The following hymn, Zion's Harp #171, expounds on these two thoughts.

THE CROSS

The mighty tree, the cross, is
 spreading
Its arms of suffering ev'rywhere;
For wheresoe'er man's foot is treading.
The cross is certain to be there.

With thousand figures dark and dreary,
The cross comes nigh with pain and
 dart;
Reproach, contempt, and sufferings
 weary
Will hold their sword close to thy heart.

O, do not fear the cross' affliction!
The Saviour suffered on it, too,
To cause eternal joy and pleasure
To ripen evermore for you.

But if thou wouldst relieve its pressure,
The figure of the cross then heed.
"Twill teach thee how to ease thy
 suffering;
To consolation it will lead.

Two beams are in the cross united;
A short one lies across the long,
But instantly the cross is lightened
When short lies parallel to long.

This figure then explains the meaning:
Why often hard our sufferings press;
And how relief we may be gaining
When souls are laden with distress.

The longer beam is God's direction;
Across it lies thy will, perverse.
Thus brings the cross pain and
affliction;
God's dispensation seems for worse.

Resist not then God's regulation,
Although His hand may press thee
hard;
But conquer thy own will with patience;
Soon cross and suffering will depart.

If thus thou'lt overcome thy wishes
And let God's will prevail in thee,
Then thou wilt find peace in thy
suffering;
And grace thy great reward will be.

Then bear thy woes with Jesus gladly,
And fear the cross of life no more.
For when thy journey here is ended,
The cross will open heaven's door!

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch

The Lord has called another soul out of sin and darkness. Sherri Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris) has answered His call and is now walking in the light. We pray that God will grant her the needed grace to work out her soul's salvation.

Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) ministered to us September 14 and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) was here September 21. Bro. Uriel informatively spoke to us regarding the purpose of the Children's Home in Leo and the duties and activities involved. May God continue to bless both Bro. Don and Bro. Uriel as they carry out the Lord's work.

God has sent blessings from heaven in the form of two baby girls. Tessa Marie was born September 19 to Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser. Maternal grandparents are Bro. August and Sis. Martha Feucht and paternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona Moser. Julie Ann, daughter of Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori Popkes, arrived September 25. Paternal grandmother is Sis. Eleanor Popkes. Godly wisdom given to parents is of greatest importance in rearing their children.

Surgical patients this past month were Bro. Robert Leuthold and Daniel Moser (Mike and Kathy). Medical patients were Sis. Diane Stickling (Bro. Dale), Sis. Freida Knobloch (Bro. Emil) and Brice Teubel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline). May God's healing powers again touch these dear ones.

As we ponder and think of "Thanksgiving", our hearts overflow with thankfulness as we count our many blessings. God has abundantly provided us with our daily necessities of food, clothing, shelter and much more. Even though sickness befalls some, we are thankful He carries each one through physical and emotional afflictions. We have freedom of religion here in America and each Sunday, and in between, we are allowed to gather and worship in the edifice God has given to us. We can travel to and fro and fellowship with those of like mind and faith. God continues to call souls to repentance — the door of grace stands open yet another day! Many are confronted with trials and temptations spiritually, physically and even emotionally and victoriously God helps us to overcome. Some have even experienced the death of loved ones that they might understand the perfectness of God and know His unending love and compassion. May we give all honor and glory to our heavenly Father as we count our innumerable blessings!

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Debbie Wagenbach

We are thankful that Bro. Harold Emch (Girard, OH) was able to spend a mid-week service with us recently.

First-time parents are Bro. David and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach. Little Diana Elizabeth has made Roy and Sis. Bertha Funk (Gridley, IL) first-time grandparents, and John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach welcome her as their second granddaughter.

We always enjoy having visitors. Recently, Sis. Sandy Schneider (Rockville, CT) was with us. It's such a joy to greet loved ones from far and near and to feel the common bond of faith and love! The Oakville Single Group has recently hosted brothers and sisters from our Morris and Minneapolis, MN, churches. What a blessed weekend was shared by all!

Thanksgiving season will soon be here. Let us remember to give heartfelt thanks to our Provider, not only at this season of the year when most all the world does; but let us each day thank Him for the special blessings and abundance he has provided to sustain us!

Thought: "Our prayer and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well; while the one ascends, the other descends." Hopkins

IOWA, PULASKI

Sara Teubel — Mary Jane Knapp

SLOW ME DOWN

Slow me down, Lord, I'm going too fast;
I can't see my brother when he's
walking past.

I miss a lot of good things day by day;
I don't know a blessing when it comes
my way.

Slow me down, Lord; I want to see
more of the things that are good for
me. A little less of me and a little
more of Thee.

I want the heavenly atmosphere to
trickle through.

Let me help a brother when the going's
rough;

When folks work together, it isn't so
tough.

Slow me down, Lord, so I can talk with
some of Thine angels.

Slow me down — to a walk.

Anonymous

How it must grieve our heavenly Father when we strive so hard to achieve earthly goals and miss many of the blessings that He would have for us to enjoy, if we but took more time to look around and enjoy His beautiful creation.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock have enjoyed one of God's very special blessings with the arrival of their precious little daughter, Barbara Louise, born September 17. Her brother, Nathan, also shares in this joy, as do grandparents, Bro. Frank and Sis. Lois Schock (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice Wulf (Lester, IA).

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

Dear Lord, my thanks I offer Thee
For precious gifts bestowed on me!
I use them constantly, and yet
The Giver I sometimes forget!

Thanks for my eyes, dear Lord — I see
The glories that encircle me.

While through my ears come speech
and songs —

The world of sound to me belongs!
My hands, with their swift sense of
touch,

Are daily blessings — means so much!
My voice, too, is a gift from God —
A constant help along life's road.

My mind, my heart, my soul — all three
Are precious treasures, Lord, from
Thee.

For life on this Thanksgiving Day,
Accept my gratitude, I pray!

Dr. W. J. Thompson

It seems we take so many things for granted throughout our busy year. Everyday, especially at Thanksgiving, we are reminded to pause and thank our heavenly Father for our many bountiful blessings. May our greater "thanks" be shown in serving Thee each day!

We were pleased to have Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) with us for mid-week services recently. Following the services, Bro. Uriel gave us a short presentation on the Children's Home which was very interesting. We thank these brothers for being here and giving us God's Word.

Loving prayers are offered in behalf of the many dear ones who have been hospitalized this month: Sis. Lela Banwart, Sis. Emma Luthi, Sis. Beverly Wirtz (Bro. Verner), Bro. Silas Banwart, Harold Fischer (Marie), Tracy Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley). Bernard and Alice Metzger were seriously injured in an automobile accident. They remain hospitalized. Also, two young girls, Julie and Jill Wickman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella) were seriously injured in an automobile accident on their way to church September 28. Julie has returned home but Jill is still hospitalized in the therapy department at Rochester, MN. The Great Physician knows, cares and is able to help as loved ones go through times of illness and accident.

Our retired elder, Bro. Paul Banwart, Sr., is now residing at the West Bend Care Center. We know God can be near wherever we reside.

We have two new babies to welcome this month. Ralph and Melanie Bormann have a new daughter, Becky Ann, born September 27. Her sister, Pam, welcomes her home along with grandparents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lilly Mogler and Mrs. L. N. Bormann (St. Joe). A new little boy, Ryan James, is welcomed into the family of Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger. Ryan was born October 7 and has a brother, Kent, and sisters, Robin, Kristen and Amber. Grandparents are Sis. Marie Kellenberger (Sabatha, KS) and Bro. Walter and Sis. Hazel Geyer (Peoria, IL).

A farewell potluck meal was held at our fellowship center for Bro. Rolyce

and Sis. Lori Scheitlin and family who have been assembling with us the past 2½ years. They will again be assembling with the Lester congregation. We enjoyed their little family and hope they come back and visit us.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Fahey and Sis. Marie Gress and family in the loss recently of Bro. Fahey's mother, Mrs. Olive Gress (Milbank, SD).

On September 20, a wedding reception was held in our fellowship center in honor of Ron and Sandy Fehr. Ron's parents are Rodger Fehr and Judy Gates.

October 4 was the wedding date of Dennis Schmidt (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille) and Annette Ford (all of Humboldt, IA). God's blessings are wished both couples as they begin their lives together.

JAPAN, SHIODA Sheila Moser

Recently a young married woman attended our Sunday service. She listened intently to Bro. Willis's sermon in which he spoke of seeking God's help to find one's soul salvation. He exhorted that in that process, we must apologize for the wrong we have done. The woman went home and applied what she had heard. She returned the following week to report she had asked her husband to forgive her and earnestly asked what she should do next. Bro. Willis advised her to read the Bible daily and pray to God. She responded by saying, "But I don't believe in God." This prompted Bro. Willis to tell her to pray anyway, praying "Dear God, I don't know if you're there, but if you are, please forgive me and help me." On the third Sunday, she returned and was asked if she prayed during the week. To this she replied in English, "Yes, it has a nice effect on me." We hope that she will continue to seek her salvation and that she'll continue to feel the nice effects of prayer.

Bro. Frank Sauder and Sis. Kathy Klotzle returned to the States for their wedding and to spend time with family and friends. It is our hope that they will feel the presence and direction of God during their time there.

The annual Fall Shuyokai (fellowship meeting) was held October 10. Those who attended enjoyed the fellowship and spiritual feeding. We are always thankful to spend time together and being together in a part of God's

great creation makes it all the more special.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

We had a nice fellowship meeting at Itsukaichi, near Tachikawa, and had a blessed time there. It really is unbelievable that such beautiful scenery can be found in the Tokyo area.

Our church communion service was held here in Tokyo church October 12. Bro. Willis Ehnle came and assisted Bro. Akito Inoue. We had 14 members attending altogether. We surely thank God that we, as true Christians, can be reminded of Jesus shedding His blood on the cross for us and in one mind together, with brothers and sisters, share the table. His being crucified was really just for us.

Sis. Hiroka Utsuki is traveling in the U.S. now and will probably attend our Bro. Frank Sauder and Sis. Kathy Klotzle's wedding October 19. They will return to Japan after that, Lord willing.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger — Shirley Strahm

We appreciate having Bro. Terry Farney (Wichita), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabatha) as our visiting ministers.

Sis. Amanda Meyer was hospitalized due to a broken hip. We wish her a speedy recovery.

After Thanksgiving, we will discontinue having our Sunday evening singings. We will then begin our Wednesday evening services, alternating with Sabatha.

THE THANKFUL HEART

For all that God in mercy sends —
For health and children, home and
friends;

For comforts in the time of need,
For every kindly word or deed,
For happy thoughts and holy talk,
For guidance in our daily walk —
In everything give thanks.

For beauty in this world of ours
For verdant grass and lovely flowers,
For song of birds, for hum of bees,
For the refreshing summer breeze,
For hill and plain, for stream and wood,
For the great ocean's mighty flood —
In everything give thanks.

For the sweet sleep which comes with night,
 For the returning morning light,
 For the bright sun that shines on high,
 For the stars glittering in the sky —
 For these and everything we see,
 O Lord, our hearts we lift to Thee;
 In everything give thanks.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Teresa Bahr

“... take heed . . . so that day come upon you unawares. Watch ye therefore . . . to escape all these things that shall come to pass . . .”

Luke 21:34, 36

Many citizens of Fort Scott were caught unawares recently in a record-breaking flood. Some of you may have seen a photo in your local newspaper of cows on a porch roof. Over fifty businesses and many homes were damaged or destroyed. Folks said “this has never happened before” and probably thought it would never come to pass . . . much as the world treats the prophecy of our Lord’s second coming. But someday He will come. One would have thought our area would have been prepared as we had received heavy rains (almost twenty inches) in five days. Furthermore, weather forecasters warned the community of the impending danger. We have the Word of God and our ministers and teachers . . . let us take heed so we are ready and on higher ground when the Lord returns as He has promised. One home, under construction prior to the flood, was inundated to the rafters. Therefore, let us build our house of faith on a firm foundation, so when the rains and floods of time come we can stand firm.

May God bless Elder Bro. Paul Buttkofer and his wife for visiting us here and assisting our Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart in serving holy communion.

We have finished assembling together to listen to the tapes of the elder conference 1986.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Vola Young — Judy Kraft

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: . . . A time to get, and a time to lose: . . .”

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 6

The Lord was able to mold and find

therein a fit vessel, in our midst, who had a deep, abiding love and faith in God, and who was always available to Him and His will, to serve as shepherd over varying churches, as the need arose, for the past 35 years. It was with mixed emotions that we received the word, September 20, that Bro. Samuel Anliker was being granted his desire; that he could be relieved of eldership responsibilities. Truly we feel a sense of loss, but we have a faith and confidence in God to realize that He will provide. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson was agreeable to assume duties as shepherd of our flock. Visiting ministers that weekend were Elder Bros. Edward Lanz (Oakville, IA), Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) and Ronald Nelson (Kiowa, KS).

Megan Lynne was the name given to a daughter born to Randy and Vicki Paxson (Neodesha, KS) Thursday, September 25. She has two sisters, Melissa and Mandy. Grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Ada Beyer (Gridley) and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Paxson and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Knight (Burlington).

Bro. Loren Strahm was hospitalized. We are thankful he is now home and again able to assemble with us and minister the Word.

An evening was set aside to bid farewell to Shawn Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen) and Dale Ray Kraft (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine). Shawn has found employment in Hancock, MN) and Dale Ray will be working in the Silverton, OR, area. We are thankful that both will be close to a church with believing brothers and sisters. Their presence is missed. Our prayer would be that their lives might be blessed and that they would seek after the Lord, always aware of His presence, and that they might look to Him for guidance from day to day.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Gay Lee Farney — Janice Bahr

The weekend of October 12, we witnessed the baptism of two dear souls, Mark and Elaine Johnson (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lois Allenbach). We pray Bro. Mark and Sis. Elaine will be given the grace to stay true and faithful in their new walk of life and enjoy the blessings of a Christian home.

Hospitalized this month have been Bro. Ulysses Farney, Floyd Schupbach, Sis. Esther Hodel and Sis. Marie

Tucker. May God grant them His healing power.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Jill K. Luthi

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

II Timothy 2:19-26

These words along with I Kings 2:1-11 were ministered to us September 20 when we, as a body of believers, assembled and heard Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) speak God’s Word. On this evening our dear Elder Bro. Sam Anliker laid down his heavy cross of duties as a shepherd, and Elder Bros. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) and Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) became our temporary elders. Our prayers of thanksgiving go out to Bro. Sam and Sis. Clara for their many years of service and concerns for us all. We also want to thank Elder Bros. Art, Ed, Ron and Raymond (along with their wives) for being with us on this occasion. May the Lord richly bless them each with an abundance of grace! The weekend was truly a foretaste of those eternal and heavenly days!

On October 4 and 5, we enjoyed having with us the young groups of Bern, Sabetha and Wichita. It was really an inspiring weekend to visit with those whom we’ve known for some

time and also to make new acquaintances. How thankful we are for the short distances between us. However, we are also sorry that Fort Scott and Lamar, MO, were not able to be with us due to flooding conditions from a week-long period of rain. A heartfelt thank you and God's blessings to everyone who contributed their part in making it an enjoyable and blessed weekend.

"A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted . . ."

Ecclesiastes 3:2

Born into this world as another tender plant was a 7 lb. 4½ oz. girl to Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi. The new bundle of joy is Marie Christine, born October 11. Marie is also welcomed home by Andrea and Aaron. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Lloyd and Joann Luthi.

Plucked up and taken from this world was Sis. Matilda "Tillie" Emch, 91, a dear sister who will long be remembered for her kindness, generosity, labor and love to us all. Sis. Matilda has been patiently waiting for her call to come home, as the past two years or so she has been residing in a rest home. Our sympathy is especially expressed to Sis. Eva, who lived and toiled many years with Sis. Matilda, and to Bro. Bernie, who along with Sis. Eva made many visits to see Sis. Matilda. Everyone will always remember Sisters Matilda and Eva as "the Emch sisters". Also surviving are Martin Emch (Madison, KS), Alvin Emch (Emporia, KS) and Lydia (Clarence) Fankhauser (of here). We are thankful that the Lord could relieve her and take her to a better place — where the roses never fade.

We have been exhorted and admonished while listening to the brotherhood conference tapes. Often it is taken so lightly and we don't realize how fortunate we are to be able to sit in the stillness and quietness of the Lord's house, unmolested from the world, and to hear and feel the concerns, warnings and teachings that our elders have for us. We will never be able to grasp how deep a concern they have for us — individually and as a whole!

" . . . Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil

is understanding."

Job 28:28

KANSAS, SABETHA Charleen Hartter — Nita Grimm

With thankful hearts at this Thanksgiving season, may we "Give Thanks . . . It's something we can all afford."

Author Unknown

Our sincere love, sympathy and prayers are given to Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte Aberle, and family, since the death angels' sweeping hand touched their son, Andrew John. "Andy" is missed so very much by us all; yet, may the grace and comfort of God be with his loved ones that knew him so well and have felt that deep inward pain and sorrow. "God knows the way, He holds the key, He guides us with unerring hand; Sometime with tearless eyes we'll see; Yes, there, up there, we'll understand." "Then trust in God thro' all the days; Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand; Tho' dark thy way, still sing and praise, sometime, sometime we'll understand." Hymns of Zion #165.

There was a man named Job who lost his oxen, asses, sheep, many servants, camels, even his dear sons and daughters all in one day. At such heart-rending news, Job fell down upon the ground and worshipped and said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21. What great comfort to the believer in times of joy, as well as sorrow, to trust in the almighty God and Saviour!

Have you ever gone into a store to purchase a mechanical item, and decided to spend the highest price because you wanted quality, something that would last? You brought it home. It worked great for awhile; and then soon, it became defective. Some would call it "a real lemon". Most all of us can relate to such an experience, and know the great disappointment we feel when something we expected to be "quality" merchandise fails!

Has Christ entered the store of your heart? With His own blood, has He purchased you with that highest price? "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13.

Has He found you to be lasting "quality"? Or, has He "brought you

home", into the brotherhood, and found you scripturally defective in spite of the "highest price" paid for the soul of man? Imagine the disappointment the Lord feels when we fail Him; but the joy when His purpose is accomplished in us!

Bro. Joe Aberle was hospitalized this past month and released.

We have been amply blessed with visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Lester Hartter (Bern, KS), Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) have labored among us.

We were privileged to hear Doug and Betty Metzger's testimonies of faith in the Lord as they became our brother and sister-in-Christ. May God bless them as they continue to seek first the kingdom of heaven.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Sherry Fritz

During September and October, visiting ministers Bro. James Leman (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Bro. Michael Thomas (Valparaiso, IN) lent themselves to the Lord's service in sharing their ministry with us. We are grateful for their support and the fellowship of the guests who have visited us in Lexington.

We are thankful to have completed the installation of a small kitchen in the church. This improvement will enable us to serve lunch every week and make it more convenient for our fellowship hour which has been such a strengthening support to each of us.

"That their hearts might be comforted being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ."

Colossians 2:2

THE BLUE GRASS REGION'S ECONOMIC MIRACLE

During the August Congressional recess period, wherever I traveled throughout Central Kentucky, I found a sense of optimism that our economy is on the verge of becoming one of the most dynamic in the country.

That optimism is well warranted.

In the past year alone, more than 200 corporations have relocated to the Bluegrass region or announced their plans to locate here. These firms have or are about to inject more than \$1 billion of new investment to our local economy and will bring with them a minimum of 6,000 new jobs. The bottom line is jobs — productive, well-paid employment for the people of Central Kentucky.

We are more fortunate than many regions of our Commonwealth in that employment opportunities are expanding dramatically and unemployment is historically low.

As a center of education and vocational training in Kentucky, our challenge is to retain the graduates of our public and private schools and prevent the "brain drain" other areas have suffered.

Also, in an era of difficult and changing circumstances on our farms, the need for more job opportunities is particularly acute.

More and more farmers are looking for jobs off the farm to supplement agricultural earnings. And more sons and daughters of farmers have come to understand that perhaps the only way they can return to the farm after completing their education is with the income they must earn through non-agricultural jobs.

Fortunately, we in Central Kentucky have risen to those challenges with an unprecedented explosion of new job opportunities.

The E-Systems electronics mission at Lexington Army Depot, for which we fought so hard — a Toyota Motors plant in Georgetown — an Alusuisse aluminum plant in Shelbyville — a Sun Chemical plant in Danville — a Hitachi plant in Harrodsburg: these are evidence of the breakthroughs we have made over the past year.

In Fayette and Madison counties, for example, total personal income rose from \$2.7 billion five years ago to \$3.4 billion today.

Moreover, the unemployment rate for our area is the lowest in the state and well below the national average at 5.2%.

It's clear that we are on the verge of a great new day for the economy of our region. But development, jobs creation and growth don't just happen. They are the result of foresight and careful planning.

The foregoing article is copied out of

Congressman Larry Hopkin's Autumn report on Economics in Kentucky. We count it a privilege to share it with our churches throughout America that individuals or families looking for economic opportunities may consider Kentucky. And in so doing, share the vision in support of the little flock Jesus spoke about in Luke 12:32, "Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Jesus also said, "The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few," and we pray He will send laborers into His harvest. Matthew 9:37, 38. We appreciate so much those who have already come and pray the Lord of the harvest will cause others to share in the labors of small churches. Many opportunities are present to be a witness to the true faith where the economic growth is present and as with Paul in His vision we say, "Come over and help us." Acts 16:9.

As our Lord Jesus went about doing good and then offered Himself on Calvary, our beloved church shares in a like ministry of World Relief Projects, Bible Distribution and living example of the true church following the old paths of the forefathers, in principles of worship and discipline. How responsible we will be to give accounts for "preaching in other cities also" as was Jesus command. Please call or write. 606-745-2541, Lester Huber, Route 1, Becknerville Road, Winchester, KY 40391.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Liz Blough

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning.
Thou, Lord, wast at our side — all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,

And pray that Thou still our Defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation.
Thy name be ever praised. O Lord, make us free!

"We Gather Together",
folksong of the Netherlands,
arranged by E. Kremser

I went to my topical Bible to look up the word Thanksgiving. It said to see Praise. Praise took up about ten pages of which I was too lazy to read! Webster tells me it is a formal public expression of thanks to God. It also is listed as a United States holiday. How sad to think that other countries do not observe it. Let us be extremely thankful this season that our government allows us to observe this day to give thanks to our God.

We are thankful for the many visitors we have had at Alto recently. A goodly number from Toledo and Congerville were among them. Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City) shared holy communion with us in September. This time always seems to bring me closer to God as I am sure it does many of us. Thanks and praise be to our God.

Our annual Sunday school picnic was held this fall. From all reports, it was enjoyed by all; from sending off the helium balloons that were sent skyward, the candy hid deep in the woods, to the grand finale of bon fire and hayride. We are also thankful for all the children that attend our Sunday school to hear the wonderful stories of Jesus.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Pam Schlatter

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers assembled with us. Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley), Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) acted as channels through which the Word could be brought forth.

Wendy Ramseyer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) and Dave Hoag were united in holy matrimony. We wish them God's presence in the new home they establish.

First-time parents of little Tyler Paul are Kenn and Kathy Wackerle. Grandparents are Bro. Wallace and Sis. Alvina Wackerle. We wish them many joys in sharing the miracle of creation of this little boy.

Sunday, October 19, Sis. Clara

Wackerle passed from this life into eternity. We are thankful for the hope she leaves with her family. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Corinthians 15:19.

The family of Sis. Frieda Knochel namely, Sis. Ella Schlatter (Elias), Sis. Nina Wieland (Erwin), Sis. Arlene Belsley (Detroit), Bro. Bob Knochel, Sis. Lois Wieland (Gerald), Sis. Dorothy Reineck (Homer, Toledo, OH), Bro. Dan Knochel (Ruth, Detroit), Viola Northrup (Earl) and June Schuerch (Santa Barbara, CA), wish to give thanks for the many cards, messages and gifts given during the recent passing of their aged mother.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bev Bahr

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

At this Thanksgiving season, amidst our gratitude for the many rich blessings that are ours, we are especially grateful for souls yet turning unto our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Ingrid Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret) has heeded the gentle call and we pray that God will grant her His grace and direction in her walk of faith.

Louise (Polk) Tyler has had a lengthy hospital stay with pneumonia. Our prayer reached out to both Louise and her husband, Brian, trusting that God's nearness and strength can be theirs. Lucile Germaine has had surgery for a hip replacement. May she feel the blessings of health and strength as she recovers at home.

Our Woodhaven Nursing Home is progressing with its construction and we want to express our appreciation to the brethren and friends that spend endless hours in this labor of love. May God ever bless them and their families for their efforts and time.

We are happy to welcome two families to our church fellowship. Craig and Pat Baran have moved here from Columbus, OH. Pat's parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Wilma Ramsier (Rittman, OH). Also, Ernie and Bonnie Jermo and their children have moved from Elk Rapids, MI. Bonnie's parents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Perseda Wieland. We trust that they all can feel God's

blessings in their lives as they establish homes in our vicinity.

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH). Also, we were privileged to see Bro. Howard Getz's slides, along with Bro. Lenny's, from the World Relief Work Projects in Haiti. We appreciate the blessings these brethren shared with us.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Barbara Olson

WHEN SHOULD WE SAY THANKS?

If we base our thankfulness on our own idea of well-being rather than God's, our expressions of appreciation to Him will be superficial and immature. We would be like the child who at the end of a day kneels by his bed and says, "Thank you, God, for not letting Mom find the chocolate wrappers in my pocket. I'm glad I was able to have all the candy I could eat at Billy's today. Oh, and I almost forgot, thank you for not letting Dad miss the matches I took off his workbench. Amen."

This kind of superficial thinking sometimes characterizes us as Christians. That's why reading in Matthew 5:1-12 is so appropriate. Although the word "thanksgiving" doesn't appear in the verses, it is in this passage that our Lord shows us what the good life is all about. Rather than emphasizing material success, Christ teaches that genuine prosperity begins in the heart. Once we understand what it really means to be blessed, we will be able to give thanks "in everything".

So how can we say thanks in a most meaningful way? Try this. Thank God for the trials that caused you to recognize your spiritual needs, to mourn over sin, and to turn to God. Thank Him for the joys and sorrows that encouraged you to hunger after righteousness, to show mercy, to be pure in heart, or to be a peacemaker. Thank Him for whatever has helped you develop the blessedness that reflects His plan for your well-being.

We can give thanks in everything
And say, "Your will be done,"
For God's at work in everything
To make us like His Son.

Bro. Kenneth Schmidt was hospitalized this past month and is now going through treatment. We truly pray for God's healing touch.

God has blessed the home of Jeff and Gretchen Larson with a precious little daughter, Kendra Elyse, born October 1. Pleased grandparents are Maxine Larson and Jim and Doris Isaacson as is great-grandparent, Sis. Kathryn Olson.

Thought — Never let the abundance of God's gifts cause you to forget the Giver.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Ruth Nohl — Hildegard Koehl

The Lord has bestowed His gift of peace into the hearts of our converts, Gary and Sandy Fehr, Sara Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane) and Jill Koehl (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Wilda). We rejoice with them as they have found this firm foundation and can build their house of faith upon it. We are looking forward to hearing their testimonies of faith.

Bro. Leroy Messner and Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) refreshed us with holy teachings from God's Word. We thank them for the blessings they brought to us.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Gladys Koehl (Bro. Ernest) as she was a surgical patient. Sis. Louise Mohrman has also been hospitalized. We hope they have felt God's healing power.

Fred Moser (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce) and Tammy Lembcke were united in holy matrimony September 20. May they feel the abundance of God's love as they start through this life together.

We offer our sympathy to Rose Greiner (Otto) and Linda Greiner (Elmer) in the death of their brother, Clarence Braker (Morton, IL).

Sis. Tillie Kellenberger wishes to thank her children, grandchildren, relatives and friends that sent cards and gifts of love to her while in the hospital and at home. May God bless you all.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Anna Nohl wish to express their sincere thanks to all who remembered them from far and near with such pretty cards, letters and gifts of money. They were such nice remembrances for their 50th wedding anniversary. God bless you all!

Sis. Dorothy Zeltwanger expresses her thanks to all who remembered her with lovely cards, gifts and flowers while she was in the hospital and at

home. These deeds of kindness will long be remembered. God's blessings to all.

Jesse Thomas was born October 3 to Bro. Thomas and Sis. Ruth Schmidgall. Rachel and Matthew are happy to have their new little brother at home with them. Grandparents are Bro. Floyd and sis. Vila Schmidgall and Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn Hoerr (Peoria, IL).

As Thanksgiving opens the door to the holiday season, our hearts are warmed to think of the family gatherings and the ties of love that will be rekindled during these special days. May we always carry a prayer of "thanks" upon our heart for all the good Lord has bestowed on us this past year.

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

Hebrews 13:15

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Wanda Messner
Ella Mae Schmidt**

On September 20, we held our annual pork chop supper. We were privileged to have many visitors assemble with us. Among the visitors we were fortunate to have ministering Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN). We certainly enjoyed the wonderful fellowship and thank everyone who made the day so blessed!

As Thanksgiving Day draws near, we think of the Pilgrims and how thankful they were to their heavenly Father for their survival during their first winter in the New World. We are so grateful that our founding fathers of this land took time to reverence the almighty God. We must also "fill our hearts with thanksgiving" each and every day!

FILL YOUR HEART WITH THANKSGIVING

Take nothing for granted, for whenever you do
The "joy of enjoying" is lessened for you —
For we rob our own lives much more than we know
When we fail to respond or in any way show
Our thanks for the blessings that daily are ours . . .
The warmth of the sun, the fragrance of flowers,

The beauty of twilight, the freshness of dawn,
The coolness of dew on a green velvet lawn,
The kind little deeds so thoughtfully done,
The favors of friends and the love that someone
Unselfishly gives us in a myriad of ways,
Expecting no payment and no words of praise —
Oh, great is our loss when we no longer find
A thankful response to things of this kind,
For the joy of enjoying and the fullness of living
Are found in the heart that is filled with thanksgiving.

Helen Steiner Rice

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Linda Ziegenhorn

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

I Peter 4:12, 13

Do you rejoice over the trials, large and small, that come your way?

Sunday, September 14, was a busy day for Kansas City. The Sunday school Bible class went to Bern, KS, for the Kansas Youth Fellowship Day. Our entire church also enjoyed the annual Sunday school picnic. We always enjoy gathering together just to fellowship with others of like faith.

On September 20, our Bible class, which is the 5th grade through high school, spent the weekend at Pulaski, IA, along with the Lamar, MO, church. The children all enjoyed it very much and came home wanting to know when they could do it again!

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Loren and Betsy Schrenk

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."

Philippians 4:4

We have again had occasions to rejoice this past month. We thank Bro. Arnie Gerst for ministering to us September 21, even though his wife, Sis.

Marge, was unable to come along. On October 5, our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and his family came to St. Louis to serve. When we can extend our time of fellowship after the services, as we did both Sundays, we are especially thankful and appreciative to God for our church and the closeness we feel with the members and friends. We thank each one who came to be with us.

Note: In December we will have services here only on the seventh, as the third Sunday is so close to Christmas.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for his own inheritance."

Psalms 33:12

A THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER

"Faith of our Fathers renew us again
And make us a nation of God-fearing men
Seeking Thy guidance, Thy love and Thy will,
For we are but Pilgrims in need of Thee still —
And, gathered together on Thanksgiving Day,
May we lift up our hearts and hands as we pray
To thank You for blessings we so little merit
And grant us Thy love and teach us to "share it".

Helen Steiner Rice

"And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

St. John 11:26

We extend our sympathy to Sisters Kay (Bro. Richard) and Kris (Bro. Jim) Sutter at the death of their grandfather, Gymon Hatcher (Shelbina, MO).

TRUST YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR

Take the Saviour's loving hand
And do not try to understand,
Just let Him lead you where He will
Through pastures green, by waters still,
And place yourself in His loving care
And He will gladly help you bear
Whatever lies ahead of you
He will see you safely through,
No earthly pain is ever too much
If God bestows His merciful touch.

Hospital patients were Sis. Charlene Sutter (the late Bro. Dick), surgical; and Jason Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl), fractured arm sustained while playing football. Bro. William Cattrell (Sis. Ruth) is scheduled for surgery October 20. May God restore a full measure of health to all, if it be His will.

O, blest the parents who give heed,
Unto their children's foremost need,
And weary not of care or cost,
That they to heaven be not lost.

Von Pfeils

Bro. Joe, Sis. Jerilyn and young Carson Yackley welcomed a dear little girl, Rita Jo, into their family circle October 15. Sis. Clara Yackley (the late Bro. Perry) of our congregation and John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) are grandparents.

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

II Corinthians 9:15

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Heidi Haerr

In the past month visiting ministers were Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Al Schneider (Rockville, CT) and Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT). We are thankful to our ministering brothers, their families and to the many visitors from various places for their support and encouragement in sustaining our small congregation and for their fellowship of love.

We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler and several other visitors from Rockville with us October 12 to share in our communion service. As Bro. John Diggelman often reminds us, it is good to know God's Word will never pass away. This is especially evident when there are individuals so willing to lend themselves in God's service.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

THANKFUL

Thankful for health,
Thankful for life,
Thankful for guidance,
In sorrow and strife.

Thankful for food,
For ripe golden grain.
For all that is needful
Our life to sustain.

Thankful for home
With comforts blest,
Where peace abides,
With love, and rest.

Thankful for brethren,
Whose help does impart
Strength for the journey,
Cheer for the heart.

Thankful to hear
The still, small voice,
Making our heart
In life's sorrows rejoice.

Henry Beer

The Thanksgiving season makes us stop to consider the many things we are privileged to have and enjoy in our life. Each day we have much to be thankful for, no matter what our life is or where we live on this earth. Are we thankful enough throughout the entire year or are we only thankful during the Thanksgiving season?

We are especially thankful for our faith and the faith of our forefathers. Our elders have again counseled together and given us much good guidance. We were able to listen to the tapes of the recent conference and truly want to thank the faithful brothers for their love and concerns for our eternal welfare. May we be thankful each day for their concern and may we live each day for God in the path that is set before us.

On Saturday, September 27, many of us were able to travel to the home of Bro. Walter and Alice Rumpf near Lassellville, NY. We enjoyed the beauty of the countryside and want to thank them for the love and hospitality shown unto us.

On Wednesday evening, October 8, we gathered in the Naumburg church to be taught from the Word by Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley) and Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH). We thank them and their traveling companions for remembering us while on their trip to view the foliage.

On Sunday, October 12, the Naumburg congregation gathered with us for services and to enjoy a covered dish meal together. We also enjoyed the fellowship of those who traveled to be with us for the weekend. This is surely

a privilege to be able to travel throughout the land and fellowship with those who share a like faith.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

We thank the two brothers who visited us the Wednesday evening of October 8. They were Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL). A blessed evening was enjoyed.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

"... she became a pillar of salt". Genesis 19:26. We're familiar with the fate of Lot's wife, and we wonder why the pillar was salt and not a stump of stone, as we saw stone stubbles there. Matthew 5:13 states, "Ye are the salt of the earth . . ." and salt always changes things; it favors food with flavor and flair. Lot's wife had not won or changed one person to righteousness; not even her sons-in-law, and so they were destroyed. She had "lost her savor" and was "cast out, to be trodden under foot of men." Matthew 5:13. Lot wanted the city, to have his name be great and sit in the gate, but he not only lost the city; he lost his family, for his children committed incest. By contrast, Sarah and Abraham were the salt of the earth and changed circumstances many times. They wanted a city whose builder and maker was God, so God rewarded them by making nations of them and kings to come out of them, Genesis 17:6. They were the salt of the earth that changed the lives of many people; and both Sarah and Abraham are listed in the Hall of Fame, faith chapter, Hebrews 11:8-11.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Desma Klopfenstein

We enjoyed our visitors again this past month. We're always pleasantly surprised when brethren who we have not seen for so long stop in to gather with our congregation. It's a time to share memories and love with one another; always a blessed day of Christian fellowship. We especially thank Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman), Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield) and Bro. Harold Emch (Girard) for visiting to share God's precious Word and for

giving us the opportunity to fellowship with them and their families.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we're reminded to consider all of the blessings which we enjoy, and there are truly many. We don't need a day set aside to thank God though, because we can do this anytime, and He wants us to. Still, when we forget to praise Him for our gifts, He doesn't stop giving. Christ continued His mission on earth in the face of complete ingratitude, and He did it with love and total forgiveness for the insults He suffered. Can we, too, meet ingratitude in this compassionate manner; doing good for its own sake, and not to bring honor to ourselves?

INGRATITUDE

Then it dawned upon her. They were not going to say "thank you". She had poured out her energies on their behalf, planned and prepared. Now the thing was done and no word of thanks, no word from them at all. She readjusted her smile, but it felt mechanical. "You know they really do appreciate your efforts," she told herself too cheerfully. "They just aren't communicative. But you know they're appreciative — ". Then God interposed. "Is it praise you seek, my child? He who demands praise of men has his reward. To do right deeds because you know it's good; to follow where blood-marked footprints lead you, whether others watch your following or not; to pour out your days in service to others, because in so doing you serve Me — This is My call."

(Praise God From Whom
All Blessings Flow)

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Among our visitors this month was Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) who brought us the living Word. What a privilege it is that the same Spirit is in the brotherhood so that we can hear servants from hundreds of miles away and feel comfortable with a Spirit inspired message like we are used to hearing from our local servants.

Barb Etter (Chip) was hospitalized this month. We trust God will restore her health according to His master plan.

Our spiritual minds have been refreshed in the past few weeks as we listened to the tapes of the conference.

As the topics are discussed, and we feel the love that these brothers have for our spiritual well being, we thank God for His love for us, even when the admonitions hurt, and we are reminded that we need to do better.

OHIO, LATTY Patty Gerber — Marlene Reinhard

"... This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

"... This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton, IN) assist Elder Bro. Loren Stoller with communion services in September. It gives the soul great peace and encouragement to be reminded of His great sacrifice for us and His love and grace promised for life's battle towards heaven's open gate.

We were also thankful to have Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) minister God's Word in truth and in sincerity. May God bless them all for their efforts of dedication and labors of love.

Bro. Tim Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores) has sought God's direction in service for the Lord. He is spending the next few months with the World Relief Work Team in Mexico City. May the Lord bless him and protect him till we meet again.

Our prayers of sympathy are with Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther Stoller at the passing away of Sis. Esther's brother, Charles Buehler (Paulding). May they be strengthened and encouraged knowing we are going to a city where the roses never fade.

May each and every one of us have the wonderful peace of our blessed Redeemer down deep in the depths of our hearts.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Linda Morrison

Our sympathies are extended to Bro. Mike Batten (Carolyn) in the death of his mother. May he, by grace, look to his heavenly Father for comfort. Our prayers also support Sis. Nellie Groh in the death of her stepson, Donald Pearce. Death terminates our opportunity to extend God's love to those dear to us; may we daily let His love shine on those around us.

We rejoice that injuries were limited in an automobile accident for Sis. Cheryl Dotterer and her mother, Sis.

Christine. Christine was hospitalized for awhile. We trust our prayers help her to endure her pain and confinement. "God is our refuge and our strength, an ever present help in need."

Happy Birthday to Sis. Katie Sauder; this is her 97th year of rejoicing. Her response to "How are you?" so often is, "With the help of the Lord, there's so much to be thankful for."

Brian and Bruce Sauder (Bro. Dick and Sis. Carolyn) were both hospitalized following a traffic accident. We are thankful their injuries were not major. "Tempt not the Lord your God"; does that include our driving habits?

Terry and Kim Sauder had their first child in August. Tiffani Mae is the newest grandchild of Bro. Dick and Sis. Carolyn Sauder. May God's love enrich lives as they enjoy the blessing of an innocent child to love and nurture.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser — Judy Stoller

We were reminded recently by Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) that God wants us to be happy. We thank Bro. Edwin for ministering to us and giving us much food for thought.

Discouragement is the opposite of happiness and is one of Satan's most fruitful seeds. It is a seed he can plant into each of our hearts at one time or another. It is said, however, that there is one place where this seed cannot grow and that is "in the heart of a grateful man." We are grateful that our government allows us a day of Thanksgiving. Let us remember each day to be thankful to God for all He has done for us and given us.

Our church has been blessed with several births in the past month. We are thankful that these parents could be granted healthy babies to train in the way they should go.

Chris and Peg Camp were blessed with the birth of their first child, Brian Thomas. Brian and his parents live in Atlanta, GA. Brian's grandparents are Sis. Marie Bauman and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Camp.

Welcoming their first daughter, Catherine Mae, are Bob and Sis. Deanna Arnold. Catherine's brothers are Rudy, David and Joseph. Grandparents delighted with a new granddaughter are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Arnold and Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger.

Dennis and Chris Hartzler now have three boys with the birth of Adam

Michael, Erik and Seth will be glad for another brother to play with. Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Haught and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Hartzler are Adam's grandparents.

A son, Jared Dale, was born to Bro. Dale and Sis. Nancy Bauman. Welcoming a little brother into their home are Kelly, Julie and Stacy. Grandparents who share in their joy are Richard and Gladys Bauman and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Pauline Hartzler.

Enjoying their second son, Bradley Carl, are Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori Stoller. Matthew is Bradley's brother. Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller (Smithville) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol Steiner are Bradley's grandparents.

Brenda Lynn is the new addition in the family of Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Stoller. Keith, Karen and Dean welcome a little sister to their home. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller (Smithville) and Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder.

Mervin and Dawn Miller have another daughter with the birth of Leslie Irene. Kelly and Tara will welcome another sister to play with. Daryl Winkler and Richard and Sis. Melba Miller are the new grandparents.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner and their family in the recent death of Bro. Ron's brother, Charles. Once again we have been reminded of the uncertainty of life and that we really do not know from one minute to the next what our lot may be. May God comfort those who have experienced this sudden loss of their loved one.

Those who were hospitalized last month were Bro. Fred Gasser (Sis. Mary), Doug Saurer (Dan and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Esther Saylor, Ross Maibach (Dale and Dixie) and Sis. Adele Ickes who is now at our nursing home. May they each one experience the healing touch of our Father in heaven. May He also send His healing touch to Ralph Rock (Sis. Adena) who has been convalescing at home.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20. "I will offer to thee the sacrifice of Thanksgiving." Psalm 116:17. As we observe Thanksgiving, it reminds us of how thankful we are for the free land God gave us to live in, and the freedom

of worship we have. But thanksgiving to the Lord is a daily experience. There are so many things to thank Him for. God is so gracious and complete in His giving.

Truly the Lord has blessed us with willing laborers. Those visiting Sardis have been Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH), Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). We thank these brothers for bringing us God's Word.

John Figel, Sr. (Sis. Rosella) is a patient in the hospital. He is also seeking grace unto repentance. We pray that the Lord will be merciful both for the spiritual and physical man.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

"Ring the bells of heaven! there is joy today, For a soul, returning from the wild; See! the Father meets him out upon the way, Welcoming His weary, wand'ring child."

Gospel Hymns #622

We are happy to report that another soul has answered the Lord's call, and turned to Him in repentance. We wish Ben Maibach (Linda) God's richest blessings, and look forward to the time when he can testify of the peace that passes all understanding.

One Sunday afternoon we had the privilege of having Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) with us to give the afternoon services. We wish him God's richest blessings for being so willing to lend himself.

We have had one hospital patient this month. We wish Barb Maibach (Rudy) the touch of God's healing hand as she recovers from surgery.

This is the month we set aside a day to observe "Thanksgiving". We should not be thankful just one day each year, but we should give thanks to God each day of our lives for all He has done for us. Most of all, we should thank Him for sending His Son to die for us, so that we might have a hope of eternal life.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehklau

Frances Laidig

Thanksgiving Day will soon be here and it brings to mind that it was the determination for religious freedom that brought those early Pilgrims to America.

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING DAY
The pilgrims left a foreign strand
And sailed across the main.
And landed on New England's shore
That faith they might retain.

Some say the first Thanksgiving Day
The pilgrims did ordain,
Was when they offered thanks and
praise
For life and food and grain.

It was a day of gratitude
When stormy voyage was o'er,
When they had landed safely there
On cold New England's shore.

The rolling sea behind them lay,
Before them, trees of pine.
With thankful hearts they knelt in
prayer
And praised God's help divine.

The pilgrims marked the Plymouth
Rock
Where they had knelt to pray.
And still it stands memorial of
That first Thanksgiving Day.

"My Garden of Verse",
By Henry Beer

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). We thank them for bringing to us God's message of salvation made possible through the love of God and Jesus Christ for all mankind.

Our Sunday school picnic was September 28. It is more than just a picnic that makes it a special time as it is also a day of fellowship for both young and old. It is a blessing, too, when a minister accompanies the Sunday school that was invited to share the day with us. We thank the Mansfield Sunday school and Bro. Domka for joining us on this occasion.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Barbara Moser

"Tenderhearted".

Ephesians 4:32

It is much easier to convince a human soul of its natural impurity, than to convince it of its natural hardness and utter destitution of heavenly and divine tenderness. The very essence of the gospel is divinely imparted tenderness and sweetness of spirit.

Even among intensely religious people, nothing is rarer to find than a continuous and all-pervading spirit of tenderness.

Tenderness of spirit is not the tenderness of mind and manner which results from high culture and a beautiful social training, though these are very valuable in life. No, it is a supernatural work throughout the whole spiritual being. It is an exquisitely interior fountain of God's own sweetness and tenderness of nature, opened up in the inner spirit to such a degree that it completely inundates the soul, overflowing all the mental faculties and saturating with its sweet waters the manners, expressions, words and tones of the voice; mellowing the will, softening the judgment, melting the affections, refining the manners and moulding the whole being after the image of Him who was infinitely meek and lowly in heart.

Tenderness of spirit cannot be borrowed or put on for special occasions; it is emphatically supernatural and must flow out incessantly from the inner fountains of the life.

Deep tenderness of spirit is the very soul and marrow of the Christ-life. What specific gravity is to the planet, what beauty is to the rainbow, what perfume is to the rose, what marrow is to the bone, what rhythm is to poetry, what the pulse is to the heart, what harmony is to music, what heat is to the human body — all this and much more, is tenderness of spirit to religion. It is possible to be very religious, and staunch and persevering in all Christian duties; possible, even, to be sanctified, to be a brave defender and preacher of holiness, to be mathematically orthodox and blameless in outward life, and very zealous in good works, and yet to be greatly lacking in tenderness of spirit — that all-subduing, all-melting love, which is the very cream and quintessence of heaven, and which incessantly streamed out from the voice and eyes of the blessed Jesus.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna Rumbold have gone to Phoenix, AZ, for the winter. We surely miss them very much and look forward to their return in the spring.

We welcome all winter visitors to our beautiful area again this year.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Congratulations to Janet Kuenzi

(Jack) who is a recent graduate of St. Vincents Hospital and Medical Center's 1986 Medical Technology Program. Having received her certification, she is working as an M.T. (ASCP) at the Newberg Community Hospital.

The annual Sunday school picnic was held at the Silver Creek Falls Park August 30. There was ample fun, food and fellowship to overcome any disappointment in the showery weather.

A farewell singing and dessert was held for Sis. Pam Kyburz (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat) the night before she left Oregon to return to her hometown of Wolcott, IN. Sis. Pam came to Oregon four years ago to attend college and stayed to work a couple of years. She was given an Oregon-shaped myrtle wood clock as a remembrance from the Oregon congregations, but she also takes a part of our hearts and leaves us with many precious memories of love and fellowship. We sincerely pray that God will continue to be her ever-present Help in need and faithful Guide.

Home again and recovering from major back surgery is our dear Sis. Gloria Kuenzi (Bro. Lewis). Her courage and patience in the face of this long and painful condition is inspiring to those around her. Even different ones of the hospital personnel remarked that they did not often see smiles on patients who must wear the Halo-Vest, a device that will keep her head and upper body immobile for the next several months. As Bro. Lewis and Sis. Gloria are both deaf, mail is especially appreciated. The address is: 2295 88th Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97305.

The large sign prepared by the eager hands of Marie, Marilyn, Mark, Martha and Marvin clearly said, "Welcome Home, Mom and Marissa". Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi thank God for His goodness in safely bringing into their lives little Marissa Ann October 22. Grandparents are Lee and Louise Kuenzi (Silverton) and Louis and Jean Keiser (Okeechobee, FL).

Our area has felt it a joy and privilege to have several young people choose summer and fall employment here. They are Melissa Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA), Kurt Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris, Lester, IA), Les Kaeb (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou) and Mark Waldbeser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan), both of Cissna Park, IL, Thad Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Jan) and Lance Boer (Clarence and Karen),

both of the Lester, IA, area, and Dale Kraft (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine, Gridley, KS). Most have returned to their hometowns for college or permanent jobs and are surely missed in our congregation and community. For those that have left we pray God's blessings on their futures and for those staying on, we hope we can be an encouragement to one another.

Many thanks to our visiting ministers of the past weeks and to their faithful wives who accompanied them on their travels. They were Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft (Gridley, KS), Bro. Arnold and Sis. Margery Gerst (Taylor, MO), Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller and Bro. Garth and Sis. Connie Steffen (both of Portland, OR). May God be their rich Rewarder, now and in all eternity.

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA

Jason and Wendy Williamson

We are thankful for the visit of Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). His labor of love which he shared with us was greatly appreciated.

The Philadelphia congregation would like to extend our sympathy to Eleanor Mode (Charles) in the passing of her sister, Helen Hodel (Ed, Roanoke, IL). May God comfort them in their sorrow.

On the weekend of October 18 and 19, we hosted the young groups from the Rittman, OH, and Rockville, CT, churches. The fellowship was enjoyed by all. How wonderful it is to travel across the land and to be able to worship with one another.

"I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving."

Psalms 69:30

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Mary Plattner

Our winter family is returning for the winter season. Each Sunday we are able to greet another new one that has arrived.

Sis. Lillian Koehl had the misfortune to break her arm and was hospitalized for several days.

We again will observe Thanksgiving together as a church as we have in years past by having a Thanksgiving dinner in church following services. We certainly all have many blessings bestowed upon us.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

Then he went on to say this, "If a man therefore purge himself from these . . ." (The German language expresses it "these people") who were only a professing group. They were people who could talk out of both sides of the mouth. They were people who tolerated and endured within their own fellowship vessels of dishonor. They had disregarded what the Apostle taught in I Corinthians 5 in which he said, "Therefore separate from yourselves that wicked person" and again taught, "Purge out therefore the old leaven that ye may be a new lump." This separation was not for the purpose of the destruction of that individual but for the eventual salvation in the day of the Lord Jesus. This practice may have appeared to be too stringent for them and they might not have anybody if they were going to go through that sort of a sifting process.

But he said, "If a man will purge himself from these . . .", that is why our forefathers had no other choice (and this might be of interest to younger people) but to separate themselves. In the opinion of their neighbors perhaps and their fellow man that seemed a very peculiar and cruel thing. They perhaps entertained the thought, "Well why don't they stay with us and maybe we can lift this thing up to its proper standards." But the result has always been that they will pull the believer down to their level, and that is what the Apostle sensed here. He goes on to say after he has taken the first step of purging himself, then he shall be a vessel or honor, sanctified and meet for the Master's use and prepared for every good work. Now, for the first time, this individual makes himself available to God to provoke good works, to be a help to other struggling believers and people here on earth, as were our forefathers!

I just told Bro. Koch on the way over here that my grandfather and grandmother drove a team of horses with a large wagon 22 miles to Dillon to assemble there with the few struggling believers in their time. They could have found a place closer than that perhaps to join other people in worship, but they were once involved in this thing and they sensed it was not conducive and they were interested in one thing and that was the salvation of

their souls. I was always impressed when I heard this from the lips of my own grandmother.

Now then, that was to be prepared for what kind of works? We talk a great deal about works and I know we have people who are very antagonistic to hear us even mention works. They maintain that we are saved by grace and works doesn't enter in to it.

Let us go back and review what the apostle mentions about the fruit of the spirit. The branch that is attached to the vine represented in Christ's own language the members of His body. They were connected with Him and thru them His spirit flowed like the sap of the vine. Then He said He will purge these branches but if they don't bear fruit, they will be broken off. Therefore fruit is another name for works. That is a New Testament term for works, because the difference between works and fruit is the difference in what motivates us to produce this fruit. Not by the threatening edicts of the law, but these fruits and works of the believer arise out of a deep gratitude for what He has done for us. The basis today of our communion service, is to remind the believer that they are what they are by the reason that Christ died for them and now then, the Lord has a right to expect a response. If you don't want to call it works, call it a response. It is a willing and humble response out of willing humble service to Him, not because the law commandeth it, but because we consider it a privilege, because we love the Lord. Now there is the difference between the Old Testament works and the New Testament fruits.

Then Paul mentions, "Flee youthful lusts." It is certainly a pity that lust assails our youth. Lust perhaps has lost its attraction for the old men and women of my age. There are other things that Satan can destroy us with. But lust wants to associate itself with unsuspecting youth, and he says to flee these youthful lusts. My interpretation of the word flee is to get out as fast as you can and stay away as far as you can from these lusts. That is pretty plain language.

As I walked into the congregation this morning I was deeply moved by the beautiful Hymn # 16. As I joined you in singing this hymn, I came to the words of the third verse, "no roving wolf shall pluck it from His bosom". These are such assuring words, but let us remem-

ber if our poor unsuspecting youth put their head in the wolf's bosom, then what? It all depends on where you're laying your head. If your head reposes on the bosom of our Lord and Saviour Christ, the wolf is not going to pluck you out of that position. But when you leave the safety of your Saviour's arms, then you are going to get into trouble. Think of Rahab. She was only assured she would escape Jericho's fall if she remained in her house. She was no longer to sell her merchandise around the city of Jericho. If she wouldn't do that, the spies said they were under no obligation to spare her or anyone outside of her house. So there are conditions connected with the assurance that we are going to finally win out.

After Paul expressed himself about youthful lusts what do we read on the positive side? "But follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace. Now these are not works, my brethren, these are fruits if you want to call it that, under the law which the Apostle Paul discarded as to himself and to all believers, as having no value. The works of the law were the things that he did before he was converted, commendable as they may have been. The Pharisee fasted, (I don't know how many times in a week), gave tithes of all he possessed and he became so self-righteous that he thanked God he wasn't like other men and like this Publican. Those were the kinds of works that the Apostle Paul counted as dung (Philippians 3:8).

The response now was to live a life given to faith, to righteousness, to peace. Was this separated person to live by himself? Was he to cast himself on an island somewhere and get plumb away from everything? No! Here is the core of this whole thing. "With them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." We are blessed today with them, if we together can call on the Lord out of a heart that has been purified and sanctified through true repentance, faith and the atoning blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. This constitutes the kind of a fellowship that Paul informed Timothy to perpetuate and continue on. I hope especially you younger people will never let us down, but try to uphold and support your leadership. I hope we can work together. We belong together. We don't belong to ourselves. If you are a true member of the body of Christ, you don't belong to yourself. We belong to each other.

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY ELDER BRO. NOAH SCHROCK OF OAKVILLE, IA

Text: II Timothy 2:19

It's good that we do not premeditate what we may feel necessary to proclaim to God's people and those who sit in with us, but I confess that I am in love with the letters of Paul to Timothy. Timothy was a young man, and the Apostle Paul saw in him something that instilled in him the confidence that this man could be entrusted to carry the apostle's mantle after his departure. The letters from Paul to Timothy seem to pull the curtain down on the work of the Apostle. In this very same chapter now before me, we read his farewell in which he was ready to be offered. It is mentioned here that he was delivered from the mouth of the lion. Other reliable sources indicate that under the direction of Nero, perhaps the cruelest tyrant ever permitted to rule people, the Christians were thrown to the lions. To the sheer amusement of the audience, they witnessed the lions tearing these poor, unfortunate people apart and devouring them. But the lions didn't touch Paul and therefore, in his last chapter of this second letter to Timothy, he relates that all the Gentiles might hear, that he was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. But there came a time when all of his appeals to Caesar were exhausted and he laid down his life and sealed his faith in his Lord with his blood. However, Timothy was now to carry on and I want to read a few verses of the second chapter in II Timothy from verse 19. I admit and concede that many times I have resorted to this scripture because it seems to me that it is very fitting to our particular time in which we live. Paul may have had a long life. He was a young man, a youth, so to speak, when he witnessed the martyrdom of Stephen, the first martyr. Then we read of him as "Paul the aged". Now in this area and span of time a lot of things happened and a lot of people confessed a religion. Satan had already begun to put up opposition, and there

was a class of people who simply said, "Well, me too, without weighing the cost of what it meant to remain faithful and true and be able to discern the times in which they were living. I know in one place he mentions "all that are in Asia have turned away from me". So according to this scripture that I am going to read to you, there were already a great number of people in a religious society that had already departed from the teachings of the Apostle Paul and the result of this departure became evident. The Apostle goes on "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure. Having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His and let every man that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." Now he wanted to renew them to this. They had no right to confess the name of Christ, while continuing in sin and iniquity.

His name cannot be associated with a sinful life. The purity of the leadership among God's people will have to remain unquestioned as to their integrity and their faithfulness to God first of all. That's the kind of leadership the Apostle wanted to continue and that is why he entrusted this message to Timothy. Then he goes on to say, but in a "great house" there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; some to honor, and some to dishonor. Now here is a portrait or example of a multitude of people who called themselves a church. They have set up a religious system, but something had happened that caused the Apostle Paul to warn Timothy of this situation and how to cope with it (a majority) in this "great house". The faithful believers have always been at times an underground movement and at its best a minority. Even Isaiah, when he foresaw the passion of the Lord some 400 years prior, raised the question, "Unto whom shall the arm of the Lord be revealed? Who has believed our report?" Already

there he sensed the reluctance of people to believe the gospel and what it intends to convey to man. He sensed that they wouldn't be ready to accept it. They proceeded to distort the gospel and it appears they became interested in numbers as the main objective; in quantity instead of quality. This developed into the existence of a "great house". Here there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also in this same house mingled with them are vessels of wood and of earth, some to honor and some to dishonor. Well this constituted a conglomeration of people, a mixed multitude that was beginning to overshadow, it appears here, the very existence of a people of God who were devoted without any reservation to following the Lord and obeying the teachings of Christ and the Apostles.

It might be of interest to know that Bro. Froelich, who in his time was led to a true conversion, sensed this situation and he beheld in his nation people who were being deceived. They were being brought into a religion or association without godliness, and that alarmed him. Through his conversion he made an effort to purify this "great house" and began to preach repentance, confession of sins and a life of obedience. They wouldn't listen. He lost his job and was ostracized. What would he do now? He failed in endeavoring to clean up the "great house". There was only one thing left for him to do, and though there is no record of it, I have reason to believe, brethren, that he could have found the basis of his faith in these very words. I can see easily where he found in this very scripture the authority and the guidance that something had to be done if there was going to remain a people of God here on earth, who were wholly consecrated to obedience and separation from the world.

(Continued on Page 31)