



"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." Luke 2:10

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

A Christmas Meditation

Our thoughts return to the day long ago,
When heaven looked down on the grief and the
woe,

Of a world so estranged from the **Father** above
That **He** sent **His** dear **Son** in **His** infinite love.

The glory of Israel had vanished away,
And prophets lamented and grieved in their day
For the hardness of heart and the darkness of
mind,
Corrupt was the priesthood and morally blind.

But the **Father** whose love is as wide as the sea
Looked down on the world **He** so longed to make
free,
So with plan of redemption, the world to reclaim,
The **Son** of the **Highest**, the dearest **One** came.

When the days were fulfilled as the prophets of old
In psalm and in vision so long had fortold,
Transformed to be born of a virgin so mild,
The Christ, the Messiah, appeared as a child.

O joy to the world! Fallen men to redeem
The Saviour was born, what a wonderful theme!
This message of love reverberates clear
From **Jesus Immanuel**, year after year.



Then let us revert in our thoughts to the **Lord**;
Let us trust in **Him** simply and heed His good word.
For **Christ**, the **Lord** liveth — the truest of friends,
The prayer of the faithful He always attends.

A personal friendship by prayer must be won,
And pardon by faith from **God** through His **Son**.
Though nations reject **His** true peace and good
will,
The hearts of the faithful these blessings will fill.

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

Bro. Henry Beer,
Milford, IN

IF CHRIST HAD NOT BEEN BORN

Submitted by Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

If Christ had not been born we would have a much less clear picture of the existence of God, the nature of God and how we are supposed to get right with Him.

If Christ had not been born and there was no Christianity we would certainly ponder the matter of why God does not send a more accurate revelation of Himself. We can see His handiwork in nature, we can grasp the fact that He wants us to do good, not bad, and through death-bed testimonies we can believe that life continues on after we leave our bodies. But if Christ had not

come, there would be no place to go to get ready to die. That kind of a problem would defy solution.

If Christ had not come, we would not know to what extent verbal, direct prayer to God is permissible or desirable. Christ taught us to pray with perseverance and persistence, to talk everything over with God cordially and with great respect.

If Christ had not come there still would not be an atonement for our failures, our imperfections, our sins. We would not be able to have the assurance that it is well with our souls.

If Christ had not been born there would be no celebration of His birth, but of much greater importance is the fact that there would be no celebration of His resurrection. It is His resurrection which gives His birth importance and gives credibility to the atonement.

So at this Christmas season, let us take advantage of all the intangibles offered to us by the almighty God, forgiveness of sin, peace of heart, love for others and the eternal salvation of our souls. This should be a joyous Christmas, a joyous year and a joyous life for all of us.

The fact that God has revealed Himself to men on earth, which is the real meaning of Christmas, is often overlooked in favor of Christmas parties. This is certainly the case in Japan. However, in our church we have a Christmas Eve supper together and then have a Christmas Eve worship service. May you have a Christmas with real meaning and may you have all of God's blessings in the New Year.

May God bless you at this Christmas season.

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 have 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
November 1986 —	1565	5826

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

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.

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

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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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

NEED FOR A SISTER TO TEACH IN JAPAN

To our beloved brethren,

Greetings in our merciful Redeemer's name. How wonderful that grace is yet upon us and the door to serve Him is yet open. From Japan comes word that Sis. Sheila Moser (Lester, IA) is completing a three-year teaching exercise at Shioda, Japan, as a kindergarten teacher. She had agreed to stay on an additional year which has rapidly gone by, and is planning to return to the States in the summer of 1987.

We are very happy that Sis. Kathy Jo Kieser (Bradford, IL) has volunteered to also stay for a three-year term which, God willing, will expire in July 1988.

We will be in need of qualified, certified teachers to fulfill these important positions. Applicants should have been trained either as an elementary or a kindergarten teacher. We believe it is essential for such to adjust to the nursery and kindergarten teaching positions, as obviously it would be a little easier for them to relate to the students.

It would be a definite advantage if the teacher would be able to play the piano at least so the children can sing along in their various routines. Also, we have found it extremely beneficial if the teacher has an opportunity to take Japanese language lessons which are available in most university communities. To our amazement upon advertisement or examination, our teachers have had opportunity to learn basic Japanese in order to begin to communicate.

To provide rotation without serious

upheaval in the schools, we have found that a two-year term, God willing, is the minimum required. We have also learned that during the third year, if one is so inclined, it is much easier to communicate and to adjust, although this is not a mandate.

We have departed from previous practice, and now encourage available sisters who have taught in Japan to be given consideration. In addition to academic qualifications, it is required that teachers be in good standing in our brotherhood, upholding and supporting the doctrine and traditions of our beloved faith; and that they have the enthusiastic approval and support of their home elder and congregation.

Questions about this position can be answered by previous teachers, Bro. Willis Ehnle or myself; and we have found the present teachers in Japan to be in a wonderful position to give good sound advice.

We trust the Lord will direct hearts to this rewarding work — humble servants willing to give of themselves to the honor and glory of God and to the edification of their own souls.

Any of the brothers on the Mission Committee will be happy to assist. Let us remember, the fields are white for harvest and the laborers are few.

Kind personal regards,
Ben Maibach

Replies can be sent to:

Ben Maibach, Secretary-Treasurer
14726 Fox, Detroit, MI 48239

NEEDED: PROGRAM DIRECTOR For Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped

We have a new position at the Home for the Handicapped for a program director. This person needs a bachelor's degree in education, social work, physical or occupational therapy, psychology or a similar degree. They will have a caseload of residents for which they need to develop the training programs, implement and coordinate them, and monitor their delivery. Anyone interested should contact the Home.

Apostolic Christian Home
for the Handicapped
Veterans Road, Route 3
Morton, IL 61550
Phone: 309-266-9781

MEXICO TRIP

(Continued from the January Issue)

Correction: This article was written by Bro. Rick Yergler, not by Bro. Gerald Fiechter, as was stated last month.

The next morning, Chito picked us up, and along with the truck drivers, Bro. Jim Lantz and Bro. Joe Maller, we went back to the church. At the church, we began the process of filling out the customs' papers. Giusy had told us earlier that it was hoped we could get across by 6:00 p.m. that night. We had been praying for a miracle and we got one. Before the papers were completed, another local pastor arrived. He had worked for the customs before becoming a pastor. He said that he could help us get through the border. He then left with Jim and Joe to get the semi. We also left and went to another church, out in the colonia, where the truck would be unloaded.

It wasn't long after we got there, when the truck arrived. They told us when they got to the border, the truck was waived through the border without even having to be opened and checked. God certainly does answer prayers!

Even though the temperature was over 100, unloading the truck was done smoothly. As word spread that we were unloading, more people came to help. The people were very thankful for what we, through the grace of God, had

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

delivered to them. Many were given sacks of flour as a token of appreciation for their help. Our truck was unloaded by mid-afternoon, rather than still trying to cross the border, so we felt our work was blessed.

That evening we returned to the mission where we witnessed another program put on for the people. Once again, hymn singing and a prayer preceded the activity. We said good-bye to the people as they left. Even though we could not speak directly, through our common bond in Christ we were bound closely together with them. Before leaving the colonia that evening, we sang commonly known hymns. Although some were singing in Spanish and some in English, the feeling of the love of God for each other was very precious.

We were then invited to Chito's house. Giusy told us that Chito wished to speak with us before we left for home. At his house, he began sharing with us his testimony and what had led him to start this mission.

Before his conversion to Christ, Chito was a communist, terrorist and drug smuggler. He was caught by the FBI in El Paso. Faced with a certain stiff sentence, he faked a conversion in hopes of getting a light sentence. His wife was already a Christian, and she and her church were praying constantly for his release. The day of sentencing arrived and all evidence against him had disappeared. The court had no choice but to release him. About a year later, he had a true experience of faith in Jesus Christ. He had been a Christian for about a year when he began feeling he wasn't doing enough for Christ. As a communist, he was ready to die for his cause. But, as a Christian, he went to work during the week and to church on Sunday. The feeling inside him kept growing until he decided to spend all his time working with the poor. Earlier this year he founded an organization called AMMAR which means to love. Most of the funding for AMMAR comes from Chito's own auto parts business, which two Christian men run for him. He hopes to get some support for AMMAR from other groups in Juarez and elsewhere.

As we prepared to leave, we were all touched by the sincerity of each one involved in this work. It is hoped that God will open doors for us to return, in the future, and help them again. Right now their greatest need is a building in

which to meet. When we said our good-byes, we all realized that our lives had been touched by our experiences in Mexico. We pray that God will be with them as they attempt to ease the suffering of the people.

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

The trees have lost their leaves, and the beauty of their fall colors has been replaced with a brown maze of barren, undressed branches. One can almost see through the wooded area of the Children's Home timber to the bare field on the opposite side. What a difference from the scene that met the eye just a few weeks ago when the trees were all dressed up in their fine fall fashion attire, flashing their many hues with the movement of the breeze. How quickly the scene changes in nature's lovely setting, and in our own lives as well, even to the extent of being here today and gone tomorrow. It's a warning to consistency in watching and praying. The changes in nature and in our own lives both lend themselves to the awesome fact that change on this earth is inevitable. What a contrast to our Saviour in heaven who changeth not. "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever." In Him we can safely trust for He is the "Rock of Ages,

cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee."

The timber area of the Home site presented a lovely picture on a recent wintry morning. The branches of the trees were clothed with white tinsel, and as the early morning sun shed her rays on them, the beauty of the scene dazzled the eye and intrigued the imagination. The five inches of fresh snow on the ground were dotted with footprints of people and pets, and the shrubbery around the houses were capped with pure white. All in all, it was a breathtaking view, a divinely beautiful piece of artistry that only the Master could create. "Oh Lord my God, how great Thou art!" How overwhelmingly inspiring and rewarding to behold the Master's artistry. "And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us."

Visiting other Apostolic Christian churches is always a blessing to our staff and children, and this privilege has been granted a number of times here of late. The West House residents journeyed to Champaign, IL, one weekend with their houseparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier, for the dedication of the new church there. Champaign was the home church of Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri before they moved to the Leo area. The alternate houseparents, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr, took one house of children to Roanoke, IL, (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie's home church during their formative years) one weekend. The East House children traveled with their houseparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick, to Valparaiso, IN, recently. An added blessing was theirs as they picked up Chuck Willis at Christian Haven Homes and he spent the day with them at Valparaiso. Chuck is a former resident of our Home, so it was kind of like old times being with him. He is doing well in his new environment, for which we are thankful.

Some birthdays celebrated recently include Mike T., West House, 15 on November 15 and Jeff J., East House, 14 on November 4. Both received a birthday cake, some presents and many "Happy Birthday" wishes. We trust that each birthday in their young lives will be a stepping stone to future success in every aspect of their lives, and may they remember their Creator in the days of their youth . . . this we wish for them most of all.

Kara H. and Mike T. are enjoying

horseback riding lessons, thanks to Sis. Irma Souder from our Leo congregation. Thank you, Sis. Irma, for your consistent efforts for the enrichment of our children's lives.

We have butchered between 90 - 100 fryers given us by Marvin Nussbaum from Remington. We have eaten a few of them and the rest are in our walk-in freezer. They are delicious. Thanks, Marv.

Some of our Amish friends came to our home one lovely fall evening and treated us to a hayrack ride. The wagon was pulled by two horses and the ride lasted one hour. There were about thirty of us on the ride ranging in age from less than two months to sixty years. We sang songs and really enjoyed the ride. Thank you to our Amish friends. A supper for the Bible Class teachers and students, the home staff and all our children preceded the hayrack ride.

We were privileged to have two vans of visitors from the Athens, AL, church tour our Home Saturday, November 15. After the tour, they were served hot chocolate in the East House. The entire Leo congregation was invited to the fellowship hall for supper. After a delicious supper, our children and our Alabama guests participated in a program at the hall. "How good and how pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity." We certainly enjoyed the visit from our brethren from the south.

The most recent church presentations about the Home were at Francesville, IN, Rittman, OH, and Akron, OH. Any church wanting a presentation should contact the Home.

With our national Thanksgiving Day being history for the year 1986, we agree with the Psalm writer, "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with Psalms." (Psalms 95:2). Indeed God has been good to us in our great nation. Our harvest has been bounteous, and we have lacked for no good thing. How greatly we have been blessed here at the Children's Home, in our own homes, in our church, and in our country. May we continue to thank our great God every day.

The children are working on Christmas presents for their parents and friends. They are also practicing for Christmas programs at public school and Sunday school. This is a joyous time for them and for us.

We are thankful for Christ and the

true spirit of Christmas, that of giving, because we love. That was the spirit in which God gave us Jesus. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). Our greatest ambition at the Home is to instill love in the tender hearts of our children, for love is of God. Let us give of ourselves for others — this is love in its finest sense. This Christmas, let's remember that the great gift of salvation was unveiled to the mortal eye at Christmas time many years ago when Christ was presented to the world, being born of a virgin in the city of David. There was no room for Him at the inn, perhaps a prelude that many hearts would not make room for the King of Kings. Only by faith can we really grasp this great miracle of the virgin birth and the entire plan of God's love for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. "Lord, increase our faith." From all of us to all of you, have a blessed Christmas season by keeping Christ in Christmas.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"For unto us a child is born . . ." Isaiah 9:6. As we think of Jesus as a child, we appreciate the childlike qualities in so many of our dear residents. One often has to marvel how one of our handicapped friends will compassionately sense that we are sad or worried, or will joyfully reflect our happiness, even though the "important" details of our busy, daily lives completely escape their attention. Is this the childlike nature we are encouraged to develop?

Thanks to each of you for your part in making our annual Benefit Day a success. The total proceeds for the day were \$23,910.70, a tribute to your many labors of love for those who require a special home.

December finds many of our residents spending time with their families, and that is always a special time! Those who share their birthday month with Jesus are: Bryan Streid, Dianne Baltic, Lisa Menold, Delores Wieland, Nancy Wernli, Phil Fehr, Scott Hanson and Doug Clauss.

Peoria Sunday school is again hosting a Christmas party for many of us, and it is greatly anticipated by all who are able to attend. The Christmas carols, gifts and cards received make our holidays a joyous and blessed time.

Our prayer is that God may bless each of you with the joys of the holiday season, and enough time and quietness to appreciate the greatest gift man has ever received, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Marilyn Walder

We have been blessed with many visitors. Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) ministered to us. We appreciate his willingness to come. Other visitors were from Junction, OH; Bloomington, Eureka, Forrest, Cissna Park and Elgin, IL; Alto, MI; and Leo, IN. We enjoy our visitors and encourage those who will be traveling south during the winter to visit here. Accommodations are available at the church. You can contact me or Sis. Evie Blunier at 205-233-0591 to let us know your plans.

After eleven months in and out of the hospital, Debbie Thomas died October 19. We express our sympathy to her husband, her son, and to her husband's parents, James and Sis. Corrine Thomas. Our prayers are with them and they want to be remembered in your prayers also.

We also were saddened at the death of Bro. Frank Haggemaker. He had been in and out of the hospital with heart trouble. He is survived by seven sons, Bro. Ed, William, Woodrow, Bro. Carl, Bro. Arnold, Andrew and Bro. Doug and six daughters, Joyce Ray, Francis Cox, Reba Kyle, Liddy Ivey, Katherine McDougale and Sis. Claran Lynn. There are also 74 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bro. Frank served the Lord for many years and we all miss him. We express our sympathy to the family. Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN) and his wife, Sis. Marie, and Bro. Tom Schrenk (Alto, MI) and his wife, Sis. Joan, were here for the funeral. We thank them for their support.

Sis. Ora Massey was hospitalized for surgery. Our prayers are with her as she recovers at home.

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;

Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.

Make friends of God's children; help those who are weak;

Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;

Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.

By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

Hymns of Zion #112

We have heard many good teachings in a recent sermon that can be related to this song which we sang during the same service. God chooses those who are obedient and who heed the call and follow Him. If we spend time with God in secret we will learn to be more like Him. We can joyfully bear our cross and serve others if we abide in Him. The world rushes past us but we need to keep our priorities straight and not get caught up with worldly treasures or desires. We shouldn't give only to those who can repay us. Do you go out of your way to find those who are in true need? We shouldn't be afraid to witness because God is with us. When your friends look at you, who do they really see? Hopefully, Jesus! If we are unselfishly and wholeheartedly committed to God, then we will be blessed.

Seventeen of us were privileged to travel to Leo, IN, for a weekend of fellowship. We want to thank their congregation for their hospitality and for the warm welcome we all felt. We enjoyed the weekend with them and were spiritually uplifted. May God bless each one who helped to make the weekend a special blessing.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Evelyn Hoerr

Our church building and grounds were cleansed and things put back to order November 1. Getting our earthly house in order was a nice prelude to our spiritual "housecleaning". Holy communion was served November 2. We are thankful Bro. Noah Herman came to assist Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach.

The Lord has bestowed many blessings on our congregation, the most recent was His revelation concerning our need for a deacon. Bro. Jon Kokanovich was called to fulfill the duties according to I Timothy 3:8-11. We pray for the Lord's blessings upon Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy as they answer this call from the Lord.

We are equally blessed by the call of Bro. Greg Gramm into the ministry. We pray the Lord's blessings for Bro. Greg and Sis. Denise as they undertake their new calling. May our dear Lord guide

and bless the Kokanovich and Gramm children, too.

October 26 was a delightful day for the Sunday school picnic. Food, fun and the love of Jesus made this a great day to remember.

Our cup runneth over with great messages delivered by Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson), Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL), Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN).

May the Lord bless Bro. Steve and Sis. Kelly Freed as they move to California for Bro. Steve's employment.

Prayer makes life worth living. God has blessed Ella Harmon (able to return to church) and Shane Pulfer (released from the hospital, however, not ready for church). Sis. Linda Zollinger shows more proof of His love by improving, too. Sis. Alana Schrenck is recuperating from a bicycle accident. Herb Mohrman is a surgical patient at this time.

Joshua Earl is the new baby son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Patty Roth. Justin, Jordon and Brennan will always recall November 11 as their brother's birth date. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Lorene Roth and Bro. Fred and Sis. Marie Meyer. What joy to add another babe to our nursery.

Wonder of wonders! It was a gray, overcast day. Daybreak revealed a gray mass on the trunk of a tree. In an hour, the sun came up. This clump unfolded and revealed the form of a bird (head held high, legs stretched down). A beautiful red-headed woodpecker was clinging to the trunk of the tree as we cling to Him for strength. The Lord surely gives us many examples to brighten our lives.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Ethel Smith

"Oh, my son Absalom, Oh Absalom, my son, my son!" This was the lament of David who felt from the depth of his soul the error of his son's ways. So it is with the heavenly Father when He looks down on His children and longs for the obedience of His teachings. II Samuel, Chapter 19 was the text Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) used when he ministered to us November 9.

Services are held the first Sunday of each month. To inquire about the time and place, you may call 445-2164 or 778-6130.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Sandy Bauer — Lisa Knapp

We were privileged to partake of holy communion October 29. We thank our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach for being here to help administer this service so our souls could again be renewed and strengthened.

On Wednesday evening, November 12, our congregation held its annual business meeting. Bro. Nate Lehman was elected to replace Bro. Curt Kaufman as trustee. Sis. Yvonne Lehman was elected to replace Sis. Lisa Knapp in teaching the elementary class. Sis. Maria Bauer will continue teaching the preschool class. As they leave their offices, we thank Bro. Curt and Sis. Lisa for their years of service. Also, in anticipation of beginning our remodeling and expansion project for the church and fellowship hall, a building committee was elected. Those brothers elected are Bro. Nate Lehman, Bro. Jay Knapp and Bro. Curt Kaufman, with Bro. Curt serving as chairman.

We want to extend a special welcome to our winter visitors who have already started arriving. We hope that you will enjoy the time you spend here in Tucson.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Scott and Anna Hoerr

We have enjoyed the blessings of the union of Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda Koehl (Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Lou Koehl; Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov, San Diego, CA) October 26. We wish them the best from the Lord as they now will be making their home in Washington, IL.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Alex (Bro. Steve and Joanne Varga) and Sis. Sherise Varga, as well, as we witnessed the union of their hearts November 16. Many in San Diego feel blessed that the Lord has led them to make their home here.

We appreciated the visiting ministering brothers that were here this month. Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. John Klotzle, Bro. Tom Luginbuhl and Bro. Glen Hackenjos (Altadena, CA). Our prayer is that God may bless them for their efforts.

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

It is good to have dreams (hopes and plans), for people with dreams often have a more positive outlook on life. Dreams are not things which are unobtainable because God has the power to make dreams become reality. Dreams are an indication of motivation and initiative, tools which God can use to help us obey the scripture, "Whatever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord." Colossians 3:23.

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it." Ephesians 5:23-25. The engagement of Bro. Ed Leman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene) and Sis. Gail Williamson (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris, Congerville, IL) has been announced. They plan to be wed March 15. We hope that they will follow the Biblical commands in that she will be subject to him and he will care for her.

We thank God that He was with Bro. Richard Hasty during his surgery and stay in the hospital. God does truly work miracles and we are so very grateful!

Recently God blessed us with the presence of our dear Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen. In his sermon he told us that the trials, temptations and disappointments of this life are for our purification, just as the gold by heat is purified and the dross is skimmed off. Then when all is removed the refiner can look into the vat and it is so pure he can see his face. So must our lives be rid of the dross, that when God, our refiner, looks down He can see His likeness in each of us.

While Bro. Nathan was here, he and Bro. Tom lovingly brought to us the conclusions of the brotherhood conference. We do so appreciate the love, concern and many prayers our dear brothers have for each of us. We pray that they can feel God's nearness and special blessings!

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honour-

able; and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isaiah 58:13-14.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

A Time To Be Born . . .

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

John 3:16

May we hold fast to the true meaning of Christmas, renewing our love for the Lord and celebrating the birth of Jesus.

A Time To Love . . .

Bro. Bill Roscher (Sis. Edna, Sarasota, FL) and Sis. Beth Trueb (Bro. Ron and Sis. Adele) were united in holy matrimony. May God be their constant guide and companion, and unite their hearts with love and joy.

A Time To Die . . .

Sis. Bertha Lanz, 95, was laid to rest October 21. Sis. Bertha was a true example of a calm and gentle spirit, always greeting one with love and joy in her heart. She leaves three sons: Elmer, Howard and Bro. Dick; six daughters: Sis. Eloise, Alma, Florence, Charlotte and Leona and Delvena; 45 grandchildren, 84 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

We are delighted to have two couples join our Rockville congregation for services, Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand (Urbana, IL) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller (Wolcott, IN) Both Bro. Ben and Bro. Bob are attending Harvard University. We wish them joy, love and peace as they assemble with us.

A new little bundle, Douglas John, has been born to Bro. Dan Bahler and Sis. Carole. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia and maternal grandparents are Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Helen Kloter.

Visiting ministers for the month included: Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH), Bro. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL),

Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont, IL).

A Time To Break Down . . .

We were so blessed to hear the testimonies of three precious souls as how the Lord pricked their heart and soul. They are Joe Cook (Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Cook), Valerie Luginbuhl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay) and Cindy Stomberg (Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy).

We wish them grace, love and joy as they begin their walk with God. May they always hold fast to this day and remember their "first love".

"We wish to thank all our friends and relatives for cards, gifts and all kind deeds shown to us during the illness and loss of our dear mother. May God's blessings be with you all."

Bertha Lanz Family

WHAT CAN WE ASK?

God's love endureth forever
What a wonderful thing to know
When the tides of life run against you
And your spirit is downcast and low.

God's kindness is ever around you,
Always ready to freely impart
Strength to your faltering spirit
Cheer to your lovely heart.

God's presence is ever beside you
As near as the reach of your hand,
You have but to tell him your troubles
There is nothing he won't understand.

And knowing God's love is unfailing
And his mercy unending and great
You have but to trust in his promise
God comes not too soon or too late.

So wait with a heart that is patient
For the goodness of God to prevail,
For never do prayers go unanswered
And his mercy and love never fail.

"If we love one another, God dwelleth in us."

I John 4:12

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Ed Aeschleman

We are grateful and thankful that ministering Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) was willing to come to Washington to serve us with the holy Word of Truth November 9. In addition to local brethren

ren and friends, a number of visitors from Ohio and Illinois also attended services, filling our room to capacity. It was a blessed day of worship and good fellowship.

Services are held in Washington, D.C. on the second Sunday of each month at the Westpark Best Western Hotel, just off the I-495 Beltway at the Tysons Corner Exit. All who are visiting or traveling through the area are invited to attend.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Terri Huber

We extend our thanks to visiting minister Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont, IL) for enriching us with his presence and sermon this month.

It is that time of the year again! With the holidays come visitors and house guests. In preparation for that busy time, a weekend was set aside this month for cleaning the church, fellowship hall and sprucing up the yard. Ever since I was a child I have enjoyed the fellowship of working closely with brothers and sisters to clean the Lord's house.

Also in anticipation of the coming busy months, the potluck group had its last monthly meal together. We will take a break for several months so that individual plans can be made and time can be spent with visitors and guests.

The first weekend in November was the annual Sunday school excursion. This year the students and their parents had a pizza dinner and then went on a hayride. The driver informed us that if we didn't sing at least two songs for him he would not finish the ride. He wasn't expecting such willing compliance! We gave him his two songs, and more . . . Sunday school songs, campfire songs and hymns! It is a blessed feeling to sit under the stars and praise the Lord. Many thanks go to the Sunday school superintendent and his wife for organizing the event.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS
Kay Eisenmann

It is with thankful hearts at this time of Christ's birth to have our eldest son, David (Sarasota), turn his life into the hands and heart of God! It is a gift of answered prayers! This month Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) and Bro. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) visited our little group. We are always thankful for visitors! For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ,

and Him crucified! (I Corinthians 2:2). How often I'd heard this verse from a dear, departed Elder Bro. Noah Schrock.

When we think of the life of John the Baptist, we see his dedication to the job Christ set out for him, to be His forerunner! I pray for faith to be as bold for Christ no matter what the outcome. I'm sure Herod thought he was punishing John when he had him beheaded. John, being a man of God, was ready and willing to go to his Lord! Death is really a graduation from tests while in the body. If we are overcomers, the gift of all gifts is the right to live in heaven with the Lord for eternity! As a mother, I cannot but think what a price Herodias will have to pay for bidding her daughter to do such evil!

May we all learn to lean more on Christ's help and not try and go ahead of Him.

Let's use the gift of grace more!
 When grace is spelled out it is:

- G — God's
- R — Riches
- A — At
- C — Christ's
- E — Expense

How can we go wrong with such a gift, if we but listen and obey?

Our grandson, Dathan, is still improving, for which we are overjoyed and thankful!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Lucille Heiniger

As we approach one of the most blessed and joyous seasons of the year, we celebrate the birth of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us rejoice for the most important gift that was ever given to the human race. God provided far more than all the other wonderful provisions made for our earthly welfare. He gave the most precious thing He had, His only Son, to die on the cruel cross so we could be redeemed from sin if we but come to Him in humble repentance.

Another dear soul has answered the call of our Lord Jesus Christ. David Eisenmann has turned to the Lord in exchange for his old way of life. We wish for him God's richest blessings promised to His children.

Dathan Eisenmann, son of David and Sis. Sue, seems to be doing a little better. He has been attending church and Sunday school with his family for the past several weeks.

Sis. Viola Lemman submitted to eye surgery and is doing quite well.

Bro. John and I attended the annual World Relief Meeting of the Eastern Division at Alto, MI. Next winter the meeting will be held here at Sarasota, January 16, 1988. It will give those who come a chance to vacation in the warm south as well as attend the meeting.

A buffet supper was held at the church November 16 in honor of our new bridal couple, Bro. Bill and Sis. Beth Roscher, who were married November 2 at the Rockville, CT, church. We welcome Sis. Beth to our congregation.

Paulette and Bobby Cochran are the first-time parents of a son, Bobby Lee, born November 11. The grandparents are John and Sis. Margaret Calame (Rittman, OH) and Frank and Ophelia Cochran (Sarasota).

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH), Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Ft. Lauderdale). We always welcome and appreciate their efforts in bringing us God's Word.

We are seeing familiar faces each week of those who come to spend the winter months with us. Welcome back "snow birds".

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Donna Hodel — Nancy Kaufmann

We rejoice with Bro. Jerry and Tami Koehl as they welcome little Shannon Leigh into their lives. Shannon has one sister, Whitney Lynn. Grandparents are Barbara Wenger (Bloomington) and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladys Koehl (Fairbury). Also, we share in the happiness of Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum as they became first-time parents of Brendon Reid. Grandparents are Sis. Tillie Nussbaum (Bloomington) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy Honegger (Bluffton North, IN). We ask for a special blessing for both of these families at this time in their lives.

We welcome two new families into our congregation. Bro. Dave and Sis. Candy Huber and their two children, Tara and Whitney, have moved here from the Francesville, IN, area. Also, Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany and their two children, Matthew and Alexis, have moved back from the Indianapolis, IN, area. May God be with these

two families as they settle into their new surroundings.

Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Annie Widmer, Bro. Clarence Vogel and Christ Huetten. May they find strength and comfort from God's healing power.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN); and ministering Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville), Jim Byrd (Roanoke), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury) and Earl Ringger (Gridley). We thank each one of them for giving of themselves so graciously.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Marilyn Tanner

HIS NAME AT THE TOP

I had the nicest Christmas list,
The longest one in town,
Till Daddy looked at it and said,
"You'll have to cut it down."

I knew that what he said was true
Beyond the faintest doubt,
But was amazed to hear him say,
"You've left your best friend out."

And so I scanned my list again,
And said, "Oh, that's not true!"
But Daddy said, "His name's not there,
That Friend who died for you."

And then I clearly understood,
'Twas Jesus that he meant;
For Him who should come first of all
I hadn't planned a cent!

I'd made a Christmas birthday list,
And left the Saviour out!
But, oh, it didn't take me long
To change the list about.

And though I've had to drop some
names
Of folks I like a lot,
My Lord must have the most—because
His name is at the top!
Author Unknown

May we always be most thankful for
God's gift to us many years ago.

How wonderful it is that the Lord is
still changing the hearts of man. Barry
Dietz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell)
has answered the Lord's call. Our
prayers are with Barry as he follows the
Lord's way and will.

Our best wishes are extended to

Marjorie Sturm (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold) and Steve Loudenburg (Loren and Mary) as they have announced their engagement. We wish them the blessings of God as they make their future plans.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke); Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville); Bro. Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH); Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL). May God bless each of these brothers who were willing to come and share God's Word of life with us.

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

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Cheryl Mangers

October 25 marked our 6th annual (we think) Sunday school fall hayrack ride and wiener roast at Homer Lake. We were not granted beautiful weather as in the years past, but that really didn't seem to matter. Our love and fellowship were not dampened by the rain, only the hayrack ride and kids. Our special guests included Harold Fritzs' (Lexington, KY), Loren Schrenks' (St. Louis, MO), Virg Metzgers' (Chicago), Tim Sauders' (Leo, IN) and Bill and Cherri Blunier and seven of their children from the Children's Home.

Our memorable evening was followed by a memorable day, October 26, our dedication service. It was such a special day, I don't think I can find the words to describe it. The services that day were conducted by Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) who as many of you know are University of Illinois graduates and very much at "home" down here. As we, a congregation, dedicated our building to the Lord, I think each of us as individuals were stirred to rededicate our lives to His service. Also joining us for this most blessed day were our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) along with visiting ministers Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (who will always be special to every student who has passed through here), Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago). Greetings were given from 23 different churches which reflects the love and support we have felt all along. We appreciate our many visitors that day.

Someone asked that day why there were so many of us Champaign folks

crying. They were tears of joy, stirred by a deep appreciation and realization of how richly we have been blessed as a congregation. We feel very humbled and indebted to so many of you and would like to say to each of you that has contributed in some way or other, "thank you", "we love you", and "come visit us often".

October 29 we were privileged to have Bro. Frank and Kathy Sauder (Japan) in our midst for Bible study and a "mini" reception. Our thanks go to Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and ministering Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford) for lending themselves in service that very same evening.

Our appreciation is also extended to ministering Bros. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Gary Brown (Forrest) for services this past month.

How thankful we are for the growing number of students (10 at this time) who have made their souls' salvation their priority study. They are turning away from the attractions offered by a large university and instead are seeking their Lord God in repentance. May they ever feel our prayers and support along with those being offered "back home".

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

My husband has been a volunteer fireman for a number of years. He has taken special training as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), updating that certification annually, and virtually every Tuesday night of the year finds him at two-and-one-half hours of drill (on procedures about rescue or fighting fires). Whenever the radio goes off and he's home, he stops in the middle of whatever he's doing and rushes to the station to be of service. Often the calls come close together and then there may be a lull. One has yet to come at a convenient, unhurried time. Often we are getting ready for or having company. Otherwise, if Jim is low on sleep or expecting to have a short night anyway, that night he can count on being called out. I must confess I often resent the time it takes from him, both on a regular basis and the unexpected calls, but I cannot argue very much because he is doing a great service to others.

We, as Christians, can be compared to volunteer firemen to some extent. We are refueled on procedures at least once a week (Sundays, Wednesday

evenings), with periodic updating (communion) to remind us of our "career". We are also on call for the service of the Lord daily and hourly. Seldom does someone's need for our service seem to present itself when we are ready and eager to minister to one or another. But think how important it is to respond immediately when the "radio tones" sound. Someone's spiritual life may be in danger if we are not in time. A contrast, however, to firefighting, is that the Lord can give one of us the capacity to evoke Him and fill another's need: we don't always need expensive equipment and a whole crew the way volunteer firemen do materially. The Lord and one within His will are more than a host. "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Galatians 5:13.

Once again we were so moved by the Spirit manifesting itself to us in the sermons of our visiting ministering brethren. Our most recent visitors have been Bros. Wendell Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Wayne Banwart (Champaign) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park). We appreciate their exhortation, inspiring us to more humility and more love in Him, and we benefit by their example.

Friday evening, November 21, we, as a church, were privileged to renew our remembrance of Christ's holy sacrifice in our stead and to share the uniting effect of our closed meeting as we partook of communion. Elder Bro. Nathan (Elgin, IL) lent himself in our behalf, assisting our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann. Communion is such a moving experience, evoking different thoughts at different times. For me this time, I was taught so clearly that I should be less resentful of the pressures that come my way. What are my small persecutions and problems compared to what Christ has suffered! I needed to be reminded of His magnitude and my reasons for increased gratitude.

We wish to welcome others to our growing group in the Chicago area. Dan Plattner, originally from Roanoke, is working in the area as an accountant. Sis. Tina Strahm, originally from Gridley, KS, left the warmth of Florida to face Chicago in the winter. She is recruiting traveling nurses for short-term jobs in various areas. We trust

that the Lord has directed them both to our area and extend to them our love and wish for a comparatively painless adjustment to life in the area. "Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee." Psalms 33:22.

Sis. Lucille Feller and Sis. Judy Eisenmann and her family are so thankful for the prayer support and its expression in cards, letters and remembrances which were sent to them from coast to coast and areas in between, upon the death of their husband and father, Bro. Earl Feller. Let us continue to remember them in their loss.

I was privileged to be in a beautiful Christian bookstore in Huntsville, AL, recently. It's amazing how different being in a Christian bookstore feels. The customers are especially courteous to one another, as are those who are waiting on customers. In fact, I even overheard two young boys talking. As nine to eleven-year-olds can do, they were making unkind remarks about someone else. But all of a sudden, the one said to the other, "We shouldn't be making fun of him." For myself and all of you, I wish us a Christmas present. May we always act as though we are in Christian bookstore, and even though we will make mistakes, if we come to our senses, as the young lad did, we will become the Gospel Light the Lord would have others see in us.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Myrna Weerts — Elaine Sauder

Our Bible class hosted the Bluffton, IN, Bible classes this past month. Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) and Kent Ringger (Bluffton, IN) were the ministers who came with them.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Eugene Metzger and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). We were thankful for these faithful brethren.

We certainly welcome two new families to our church. Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Kaeb and their family have chosen Cissna Park as their home church. Also, Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold and their three sons have moved from Gridley. Moving, especially with a family, is quite an adjustment. We're thankful to have them. May they feel warmth and true Christian love from all of us here in Cissna Park.

Those hospitalized were Sis. Lillian Feller (Bro. Bill, surgical), Bro. Albert Kaufmann (medical), Sis. Eulahla Eisenmann (surgical) and Sis. Kathryn Enz (medical). Phil Bauer is now living

at Americana Nursing Home and Sis. Nancy (Bro. Wayne) Hauptli is recuperating from a bicycle fall. We also have several shut-ins. Let us remember these dear souls as the Lord will richly bless and recompense for every kindness shown to one another.

Bro. Albert Kaufmann was laid to rest November 7 at the age of 95. He leaves one sister, Sis. Clara Kaufmann (Fairbury) and the following children: Benjamin (Waterloo, IN), Bro. Robert, Calvin, Albert, Jr., Bro. Donald and Archie (Cissna Park), Sis. Lydia Rocke (Eureka), Sis. Martha Rinckenberger (Congerville), Sis. Bertha Sinn (Haviland, OH), Sisters Laverne Kaufmann, Emily Eisenmann and Marcella Markwalder (all of Cissna Park).

Sis. Anna (Bro. Phil) Sauder, Bro. Paul Hodel and Joe Hodel (Cissna Park) received word of the sudden passing of their youngest sister, Sis. Nettie Gerst (Chris, Mediapolis, IA) November 10. We extend our deepest and sincere sympathy to these families.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Joan Schrock — Gail Williamson

A little ray of sunshine, Emily Nancy, has come into the lives of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay Knapp. To welcome her home are Kevin, Lori and Rachel. Happy grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Jeanette Knapp and Mrs. C. O. Ritch (Leesburg, FL) and Richard Fanning (Cleveland, OH).

We are thankful to have had the opportunity and privilege to partake of holy communion October 25. Our heartfelt thanks goes to Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) for assisting our Elder Bro. Bob Walder with this service.

We are rejoicing as two engagements have been made known to our congregation. Sis. Gail Williamson (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris) and Bro. Ed Leman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO) have found the faith that they should be joined together in hand and heart. Also, Sis. Deb Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Dirk Steffen (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene, Goodfield) have felt God's guiding hand that they should become one in Him. May God richly bless these two couples.

Those hospitalized from our congregation this month include Sis. Liz Zobrist, Sis. Della Stahl and Bro. Ed Steffen, Sr. May they feel God's healing hand upon them.

We are thankful to God for the laborers He has sent into our midst. They are Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO). We pray that God will richly bless them and their families.

LET GO, AND LET GOD

Today, "I let go, and I let God" take charge of this body of mine. Now in the dark corners of my soul His light is beginning to shine.

All of the cares and worries I've carried around for so long. He's lifted them from my shoulders, and filled my heart with his song.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to everyone for their sympathy shown in the passing of our husband and father. We also appreciate the kindness shown to us the past 36 years.

The family of
Bro. Sam Zimmerman

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

As the Christmas season approaches, we cannot help but rejoice as we remember the lowly birth of our dear Saviour and the great love of our heavenly Father. "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." St. Luke 2:13-14.

The engagement of Bro. Glen Braker (Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara, Roanoke, IL) to Sis. Audrey Martin (Princeville, IL) was recently made known. She is the daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna Martin. May they seek God's help and guidance as they plan their future.

The weekend of November 1 and 2, our Sunday school teachers and students enjoyed meeting and hosting brethren and young people from the Morton and Peoria congregations. May the Lord bless their endeavors and fellowship.

Sis. Helen Banwart spent several days in the hospital this past month. Again, we thank the Lord for His

mercy and restoration to our loved ones who have been afflicted.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." St. Matthew 11:28. We rejoice that God has led Rachel Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon) to answer His loving call.

As a congregation, we welcome Bro. Anthony Blades into our fellowship. Having graduated from I.S.U., Bro. Anthony is now teaching the visually handicapped children in DeKalb County. May the love of God and His grace be with him daily.

We also welcome two new babies in our family circles. On October 26 Bro. Ken, Sis. Vicki and Jaclyn Kellenberger happily received little Stephanie Lynn. Grandparents are Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger, Wilbur Schmidgall and Marion Conro. Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby Wahl rejoice in the arrival of their first-born, Luke Fredric, November 6. Grandparents are Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler (Remington, IN) and Sis. Ida Wahl (Elgin).

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Bro. LeRoy Rocke (Eureka), who recently passed away. We shall always be grateful for their willingness to help in our time of need.

We offer our thanks and love to visiting ministers Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA).

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Kathy L. Rocke

Christmas morn, the legends say,
Even the cattle kneel to pray,
Even the beasts of wood and field
Homage to Christ the Saviour yield.
Horse and cow and woolly sheep
Wake themselves from their heavenly
sleep,

Bending heads and knees to Him
Who came to earth in a stable dim.
Faraway in the forest dark
Creatures timidly wake and hark,
Feathered bird and furry beast
Turn their eyes to the mystic East.
Loud at the dawning, chanticleer
Sounds his note, the rest of the year,
But Christmas Eve the whole night
long

Honouring Christ he sings his song.
Christmas morn, the legends say,
Even the cattle kneel to pray,
Even the wildest beast afar
Knows the light of the Saviour's star.

D. A. McCarthy

Soon Christmas Day will be here — what a precious time! May we celebrate Christmas in our heart all year, not just on a day set aside by the calendar. "Tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free."

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine." Zion's Harp #209. We were thankful to hear the testimonies of Dawn Maloney (Randy) (Bro. Gene and Sis. Caroll Zobrist), JoEllen Wettstein (Harold and Loretta) and Marlene Wettstein (Bro. Bob and Sis. Verna) Saturday evening, November 1. How thankful we are for the Lord's work. The following day they made their covenant with God and became our sisters-in-the-Lord. May His spirit lead them on paths of righteousness and dwell richly in their hearts.

"Repent ye, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:15. Our hearts truly rejoiced to hear a soul has sought his soul's salvation and turned his back to the things that this world has to offer. May God's grace and blessings be upon Mike Mangold (Sis. Mary and the late Bro. Charles). Surely the angels in heaven rejoice over each soul that answers His call.

We have many who have been in the hospital or met with accident and been confined to their homes. May we remember them in prayer and ask God's healing mercies to be upon Sisters Clara Lou Blunier (Bro. Lewis), Edna Blunier, Evelyn Gudeman (Bro. Don), Laura Kupferschmid, Emma Rocke, Merle Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola), Bros. Gary Getz and Fred Knecht.

"... and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Romans 10:14. We have been blessed with many ministering brethren and we thank them for giving of themselves; Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Bros. Ervin Knecht (Lamar, MO), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest).

"... And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4. Quietly in the early hours of November 6, my dear father, Bro. Leroy Rocke, closed his eyes in death and won the victory. How we miss his presence, but how thankful we are that he made preparation for his

never-dying soul and is dwelling with His precious Lord. He leaves his dear wife, Sis. Bena Mae; one son, William (Normal); one daughter, Kathy Lou; two grandchildren and seven sisters, Sis. Amy Stoller, Linda Fehr (Wenona), Leona Menton (Peoria) and Merina Weyneth (Livonia, MI). ". . . and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost. . ." Acts 9:31.

Our love, prayers and sympathy also go out to Sis. Lydia Rocke whose father, Bro. Albert Kaufmann (Cissna Park) passed away November 5. May God truly send His spirit to comfort all who have been visited by the death angel.

Kurt and Livy Blunier rejoiced November 4 when their daughter, Amy Kay, was born. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm (Goodfield) and Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier. May their little family circle be blessed.

We wish to express our "thanks", which seems so small, to all you dear ones for your prayers, love, visits, cards, food, anniversary cards and gifts during Leroy's illness and death. May our heavenly Father richly bless you for giving of yourselves in our behalf.

Sis. Bena Mae Rocke and family
We welcome Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna Hangartner to our congregation as they have moved here from Chicago.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

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

Isaiah 9:6

As the Christmas season draws near, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas and may it remain precious to all of our hearts.

We rejoice with the angels over three souls that have turned their backs on the world of sin: Tami Steffen (Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola), Nelson Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores) and Phil Sohn. May God continue to guide their footsteps on this narrow path of life.

November 1 was a special day for Sam Walter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen) and Judy Beal (Mr. and Mrs.

Maurice Ricketts) as they were united in marriage.

The Bible class visited Princeville Sunday school October 12. It truly was a blessed day of fellowship.

Our Bible class hosted Eureka and Congerville October 26. We thank Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) for sharing the day with the inspired Word of God.

Our cups were filled to overflowing with the heavenly manna we received by Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) and Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford). May God be their rich rewarder.

Bro. Bud Kelson had knee surgery. We pray for God's healing power.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Viola Bachtold over the loss of their dear mother, Sis. Martha Honegger.

At Home, 'tis well! With God in close relation,
The soul forgets the sorrow it has borne,
With pains o'er-come on that bright, golden morn,
Rejoices in our God's sublime salvation.

"At Home 'Tis Well!"
Zion's Harp

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

"Thy word, O Lord, forever is. The mirror where we see. Our faults and duties as they are, Our likeness unto Thee." Zion's Harp #142. Reminding us of our duties and bringing us God's Word this past month have been Bros. Bill Gudeman (Elgin), Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS), Dave Wiegand (Champaign) and Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). Also here the day we laid our dear Sis. Martha Honegger to rest were Bros. Earl Kilgus and Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville), Dave Wiegand (Champaign) and Art Bahler (Fairbury). May God bless these dear brothers for their labors.

Those who have been hospitalized recently were Harvey Rieger, Bros. Glen Zimmerman, John Kyburz, Clarence Koehl and Emil Sohn. Let's continue to pray for those who must endure the afflictions of the body.

Three families have been blessed with new little bundles from heaven. Jolyn Elizabeth is the first child of Bro. Joe and Sis. Marie Koehl. Grandpar-

ents are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler (Fairbury) and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladys Koehl. Amber Christine was welcomed home by Kenneth and Mary Lehmann and brother, Brad. Sis. Alice Lehmann is her grandmother. October 31, Joshua Ray was born to Dan and Mary Schmidgall.

The engagement and approaching marriage of Timothy Roth (Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth) and Diane McKimney (Mrs. Lynn McKimney, Decatur) was recently announced. May God bless them as they plan and begin their life together as one.

May God guide and direct Bro. Jim Schneider as he assumes his new duty of Sunday school teacher.

Amy Waibel (Eldon and Marge) has heeded God's call and turned her heart to repentance. May she build on the solid rock Jesus Christ and surrender her all.

We have been richly blessed and exhorted as we have recently heard the tapes of the brotherhood conference. May we each one take these teachings and exhortations seriously and strive to walk closer to God each step of the way.

Our Sunday school students are busy getting ready for the Christmas program. We look forward to hearing these dear little voices tell us of God's true meaning of Christmas, for where would we be had Christ not been sent to live here on earth and shed His blood for us?

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Trish Gerber

Rejoicing in the miracle of life, Ben and Shelley Rokey welcome Samuel Joseph to their family. The proud grandparents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Rokey and Ray and Jo Anne Hostetler.

Kurt and Livy Blunier are enjoying their precious baby girl, Amy Kay. Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm and Bro. Sam and Sis. Liz Blunier (Eureka) are the happy grandparents.

Bro. Morrie and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman are pleased to announce the engagements of two of their daughters. Teresa is engaged to Bruce Ruder and they plan a December 26 wedding. Jeanne and Adam Melaik look forward to April 4 for their marriage date.

Our thanks are extended to Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) for sharing God's Word with us.

Hospitalized this past month were little Bobby Schieler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa) and Sis. Kenda Taufer (Bro. Ted). May God's hand of love be a comfort to them and their families during these difficult times.

We look forward to hearing our Sunday school children tell the story of Christ's birth. It is so important for them to understand the true meaning of Christmas so that they can take advantage of God's wonderful plan of salvation.

Long ago in a crowded city,

A young man sought a room for his wife.

She was heavy with child, and the time was so near,

For her babe to be born to this life.

But no one could offer this couple a place.

The rooms were all full at the inn. Till a kindly innkeeper offered his stable

Sheltered from the crowd's noisy din.

The man gratefully settled his laboring wife

On the hay of a fresh, clean stall. And there, in the night, as the cattle stood by,

She gave birth to the king of us all.

She lovingly rocked him and kissed his soft cheeks

A manger of hay was his bed. The shepherds were led, as the angel host sang,

By a bright star that shone overhead.

The world didn't know on that peaceful night,

Man's destiny would be changed forever. For this perfect child, in his humble abode

Was Christ Jesus, our Lord and our Savior!

He'd live on this earth among sinful men

And share with us God's precious love. Then He'd die for our sins . . . but arise again,
To live forever in heaven above!

So let's not forget, as this Christmas draws near
The miracle we celebrate.

Let's live our lives to the honor of Him,
And be ready on Resurrection Day!

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord . . ."

Psalms 127:3

Heidi Ann Zimmerman is the new daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Sandy. She was born October 15 and has a brother, Andrew. Heidi's grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Anliker (Forrest) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Gridley).

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing . . ."

Proverbs 18:22

Scott Ringger (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary) was married to Becky Ellis (Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ellis) September 27.

Bro. Jim Lavallier (Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lavallier) was married to Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman (Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen) November 16.

"... that thou mayest prosper and be in health . . ."

III John 2

Bro. Edward Stoller has been a hospital patient.

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace . . ."

Romans 10:15

We were blessed by the ministering brothers who visited us: Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria), Vernon Leman (Eureka), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Earl Gerber (Forrest), Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield), Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Albert Aberle (Tremont).

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Susan Kieser

"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.

Ring the bells of heaven!
there is joy today,
For the wanderer now is reconciled;

Yes a soul is rescued
from his sinful way,
And is born anew a ransomed child.

Ring the bells of heaven!
spread the feast today,
Angels, swell the glad triumphant strain!

Tell the joyful tidings!
bear it far away!
For a precious soul is born again.

Glory! glory! how the angels sing;
Glory! glory! how the loud harps ring;
'Tis the ransomed army,
like a mighty sea,
Pealing forth the anthem of the free."

Gospel Hymns #622

We are all rejoicing with the angels in heaven over our four new converts here in the ISU area. They are Jeanne Gramm (Gridley), Tim Martin (Princeville), Dale Steiner (Tremont) and Tammy Weiland (Princeville).

This past month we completed our series on "Life of Faith". Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) spoke on the life of Noah and Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego were brought alive by Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton). Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) related Paul's life and some of his journeys to us. After hearing about these men and all that they did for God, it makes our problems today seem trivial. "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." Philipians 4:4.

Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) also spoke this month on "Thanksgiving". The idea he expressed was, "Thanksgiving is not just an expression of appreciation — it is a way of life."

"... What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matthew 19:6. Bro. Dirk Steffen (Goodfield) and Sis. Deb Knapp (Congerville) plan to be married sometime in the near future. We wish them many blessings from above.

It is once again time for our Christmas break. We will resume Bible studies on Thursday, January 15, 1987. All are welcome to attend!

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

Christmas time is a special time for families to get together and share with each other. May we never forget that our heavenly Father shared His only begotten Son so we, each one, could have life everlasting. May we continue

to thank and praise His holy name. May each of you have a blessed holiday season.

Bro. William Aupperle was called Home. His funeral was October 20. We extend our love and sympathy to his wife, Sophia, his family and friends.

Sis. Anna Ackerman was called Home. Her funeral was October 27. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her family and friends.

We were saddened to have to say "farewell" to Bro. Scott, Sis. Gigi, Luke, Caleb and Samantha Schafer as they have moved to Indiana where Bro. Scott has found employment. May our heavenly Father continue to be with them in their new home.

As one family has left us, another family has moved to Morton from Roanoke and will be making Morton their home church. A very warm welcome to Bro. John, Sis. Peg, Tricia and J. R. Sauder. We trust that they will feel at home among us.

We know the angels in heaven rejoice when one lost soul repents. We were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bena Roby Wednesday evening, November 19. We, too, are rejoicing to welcome our "sister-in-faith" into our precious brotherhood.

This upcoming holiday season provides a special time for us to remember those loved ones who are in the hospital, shut-in or sick in their homes. Let's make an extra effort to let them know we love them and we care.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Kathy Huthmann

"Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

St. Luke 2:13, 14

"Precious Memories How They Linger" were the words that came to our minds as we again held our annual German Hymn Sing October 26 at the Apostolic Christian Home. Our thanks to our song leaders and to all who helped make this an enjoyable evening with the residents at the Home.

On August 3 and 4, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Sis. Jane Hoerr (Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy) and Bro.

Joel Hoerr (Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn Hoerr).

On October 6, a precious little girl was born to Sis. Becky and Bro. Tom Hoerr. Thommy and Ashley welcome little Nicole home. The grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeanette Hoerr, and Bro. Walter Feucht (Tucson, AZ).

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Buckles (Burlington, IA) wish to thank all who remembered them during the long illness of their son, Jeff. Jeff, the nephew of our Sis. Loretta Eisenmann, passed away November 3.

Loved ones hospitalized this month were LaVerne Perdelwitz, Bro. Sam Eberhardt, Sis. Margaret Fehr, Sis. Bernice Hartman, Bill Aeschleman, Eva Gillott, Bro. Clarence Suttor and Sis. Amy Rieker. May our heavenly Father continue to be with them and all those who are ill or shut-in in their homes. May each of us continue to pray for them.

We are thankful to have another soul added to the fold recently. On October 18 and 19 we were blessed with the opportunity to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new brother-in-faith, Richard Guingrich.

Visiting us recently were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Joe Braker (Morton) Dave Kieser (Princeville) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley). We thank them for sharing God's Word.

Eva Gillott wishes to thank all who remembered her with flowers and gifts during her stay in the hospital.

Two of our residents at the Home, Sis. Pauline Whitmore and Marjorie Weyenth, passed away this past month. We extend our sympathy to their families. May God comfort them.

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

Matthew 6:6

A bus load of our congregation visited the church in Lexington, KY, November 1 and 2. We were truly uplifted and enjoyed the wonderful fellowship. In the Bible Class, we were all challenged to memorize the Bible verse for the week which was Matthew 6:6. May God bless this small congregation for their love that they have shown to us.

Our Young Group hosted a Senior Citizen's Dinner at the fellowship hall

November 15. The Young Group really enjoyed working together and fellowshiping with our older brothers and sisters. We were reminded of the precious heritage that has been passed down to us.

May the Lord bless everyone during this Christmas season.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Marjean Lehman

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!

There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!

And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King.

In the light of that star lie the ages impeared;
And that song from afar has swept over the world.

Many hearths are aflame, and the beautiful sing,
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King.

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song

That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.

Ay! We shout to the lovely evangel they bring,

And we greet in His cradle our Saviour and King."

On October 19 we heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Audrey Martin (Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna) and Bro. Glen Braker (Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara). Bro. Glen is employed in the Chicago area and attends the Elgin church. Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara attend the Roanoke church. We wish them God's blessings.

"Should praise of man be more to me than God's most blessed favor?

And though man might reject His Word, the Truth remains forever;

Unchanging, sure, it does impart a comfort to the poor in heart."

The Ministers of the Gospel

We received many blessed teachings from our visiting ministers this past month. They were: Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest), Bro. Leroy Hartman (Peoria), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Bro. Mike

Rinkenberger (Congerville) and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington). We wish to thank them and trust God to bless each of them. Also, we wish to thank our home ministers who willingly serve us in the preaching of God's Word. May God's blessings be on them and their families.

"Not mine, but His must be the choice
for every passing day,
And in His hands I gladly leave the
keeping of my way.
Not mine — for I should make mistakes
and things would all go wrong,
But His — and through the darkest
night my Saviour gives a song!"

Unknown

Hospital patients have been: Sis. Marie Everle, Sis. Martha Herrmann, Sis. Caroline Joos, Sis. Louise M. Martin and Bro. Ray Martin. May God be ever present to heal and restore according to His will.

Thank You Note: Sis. Caroline Joos wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts. May God bless you!

On Wednesday evenings our brotherhood has had the privilege of listening to the conference tapes. It is certainly for our benefit and encouragement to be reminded of our precious heritage in this beloved faith.

On November 10, Sis. Ollie Ricketts was called home. Sis. Ollie was given 102 years. Funeral services were held November 13. Our congregation wishes to express sincere sympathy to her family, especially to her daughters, Sis. Ruth Ricketts and Sis. Marian Hinshaw of our congregation. May God send His comfort to all.

"I said to a man that stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I might go safely into the unknown.' And he said to me, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better to thee than a light and safer than a known way.'"

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Marge Leman — Judy Luginbuhl

As lately we watched o'er our fields
through the night,
A star there was seen of such glorious
light.
All through the night angels did sing,
In carols so sweet of the birth of a King.

His throne is a manger, His court is a
loft,
But troops of bright angels in lays
sweet and soft,
Him they proclaim, our Christ by
name,
And earth and sky and air straight are
filled with his fame.

Then shepherds be joyful, salute your
new King;
Let hills and dales ring to the song that
ye sing.
Blessed be the hour, welcome the
morn,
For Christ our dear Savior on earth
now is born.

Traditional

Doesn't the thought of Christ, the
babe, fill our hearts with joy? We are all
so unworthy of this great gift from our
heavenly Father, but we do rejoice in it.
May we ever be thankful for Jesus the
infant and for Jesus the man who so
willingly gave His life and shed His
precious blood that you and I can have
the hope of life eternal.

On October 19, the Roanoke Bible class had Congerville and Peoria Bible classes as their guests for the day. It was a beautiful fall day for the wiener roast and other activities.

Bro. Frank Sauder and Sis. Kathy Klotzle were united in holy matrimony at Altadena, CA, October 19. Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle and Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma Sauder are parents of the couple. Bro. Frank's parents hosted a reception here October 26. We were so happy to have them spend some time in Roanoke before they returned to Japan where they are currently making their home. We truly wish them God's richest blessings in their life together.

We are thankful for our friend, Gene Whitten, who has turned to God in repentance. May God give him a full measure of grace as he walks with Christ.

Bro. Art Bauer (Princeville) was here to serve us in the ministry October 26. Thank you Bro. Art for sharing God's Word with us.

Bob Harris, the father of Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda Harris, died October 28. We extend our sincere sympathy to them and their family.

Hospital patients this past month have been Bro. Maurice Knapp, Sis. Mae Kae Hodel, Sis. Irma Moser, Sis. Elsie Beer (out-patient), Amy Schwind

(Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb), Bro. Wilmer Blunier, Sis. Cindy Leman, Sis. Clara Leman, Gene Whitten and Sis. Carol Feucht. It is our prayer that God will grant them all a full recovery.

Ben and Kathy Fehr are the happy parents of a new son, Alex Christopher, born November 1. Isaac and Alecia are Alex's big brother and sister. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell Aeschleman and Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr.

Joshua David is the newest addition to the family of Bro. Mike and Sis. Nancy Hoffman. Joshua was born November 3 and has one brother, Andrew. Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Hermann (Morton) and Bro. Rudie and Sis. Mary Hoffman are Joshua's grandparents.

We have new carpeting in the halls of our church. The workers did such a nice job of replacing the old with the new. Thank you volunteers and all who helped with this project. Thank you, trustees, for your labors on our behalf.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach

Carolyn Bolliger

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

November 2 was the wedding day of Sis. Laurie Dill and Bro. Matthew Hohulin (Goodfield). Parents of the couple are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sandy Dill and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia Hohulin (Goodfield). Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) and Bro. Earl Ringger were here for the occasion. We thank them for ministering unto us. We wish Sis. Laurie and Bro. Matt God's grace as they start on life's path together. We are also thankful that Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) could visit us this month.

Bro. Mel Kaiser (Sis. Marlene) had the misfortune of breaking his arm. Bro. Merle Getz (Sis. Iva) had surgery and is recuperating nicely.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen Michel and family in the death of her mother, Sis. Nettie Gerst (Oakville, IA).

Danny and Margaret Staker are the happy parents of Andrew Joseph, born in November. He has twin brothers, John and Jess, to welcome him home.

Grandparents are Bro. Weldon and Sis. Doris Staker and Mr. and Mrs. John Lay.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Vicki Bucher

Washington was privileged to host the Sunday portion of "College Weekend". Our church was filled to capacity. It was exciting! We wish to thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and his wife, Sis. Maureen (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. John Reinhard and his wife, Sis. Pam (Bluffton, IN) for being with us and sharing the Word.

We have had two inspiring Bible studies during the month of November. Bro. David Wiegand (Urbana) spoke on the topic, "Living the Victorious Life". Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) shared some guidelines on "Training Up A Child". Both were so beneficial and we are grateful for their willingness to share with us.

We are happy to announce the adoption of Kellen Michael-Kee into the family of Les and Sis. Connie Woodcock. Kellen was born in Korea and is four months old. His two sisters are Jenessa and Marissa. His grandmother is Sis. Tillie Nussbaum (Bloomington, IL).

We rejoice with Marie Nester as she has come to the Lord in repentance. Her parents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley (Lester, IA). We wish her God's peace in her walk with Christ.

At this Christmas season, may these gifts be yours:

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

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Lucille Isch — Evelyn Ringger

"Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

Psalms 30:4

The Detroit choir favored us with beautiful songs at our family hymn sing at the fellowship hall on a Saturday evening in October. Thank you for coming and sharing with us.

On November 2, Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville) brought us many good teachings. We appreciate his visit.

Our dear Sis. Ruth Ann Schwartz, 35, was taken from this life in an automobile accident November 12. Her car slid off the icy roadway and

struck a tree. She was the daughter of Bro. Edward, Sr. and Sis. Josephine Schwartz. Her brother is Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz, Jr. and her sister, Sis. Etta (Bro. John) Steffen. We will miss her smiling face.

On the evening of November 15 the conference report was read to us. Our elders put forth much time and effort for the church. We read in Hebrews 13 to remember and obey those who rule over us as they must give an account. Now we must pray for grace to do our part, so they can have joy and not grief. At the conclusion of the blessed evening we sang, "Thus united and in concord Let us walk the path of life. Hand in Hand O may love bind us. For each other's welfare strive." Zion's Harp #237.

Three new babies were born recently. A son, Adam Charles, was born to Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura Neuenschwander November 3. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Devona Gerber and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuenschwander.

On November 7 Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter became the parents of a son, Chad Michael. His grandparents are Sis. Dorothy Kaehr and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Eunice Fiechter.

Then, on November 15, Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie Drayer welcomed Kara Marie. Marvin and Jane Bahler (Fairbury) and Bro. Herman and Sis. Marie Drayer are her grandparents.

God's gifts are many
Both large and small,
But a precious baby
Is the sweetest gift of all.

Hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Alice Aschliman (Bro. Millard), Sis. Cheryl Gerber (daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Mary), Sis. Alice Schwartz (Bro. Ervin), Greg Isch (Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy), Bro. Harry Aschliman, Sis. Lydia Kaehr, Bro. Ervin Isch (Sis. Anna) and Sis. Justine Aschliman (Bro. Kenneth). Let us continue to pray for those who are afflicted.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

II Corinthians 4:5

We wish to thank ministering Bros.

Si Wagenbach (Tremont, IL) and Kent Ringger (Bluffton) for their willingness to be our servants for Jesus' sake. May they and their families feel welcome any time.

Three new arrivals have brought an abundance of joy among family and friends. Kasha Marie Gerber, daughter of Bro. Kent and Sis. Kim, was born October 16. Grandparents, Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois Gerber and Bro. Victor and Sis. Julia Gerber, consider her special, too! Brendon Reid Nussbaum joined his parents, Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl October 21. His happy Bluffton North grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy Honegger. On October 25 Nicholas Troy Moser was welcomed by his parents, Troy and Lindy, and grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet. May each family feel God's blessings in their home.

Our thoughts and prayers for grace and good health have been with Bro. Ted Kipfer (Sis. Theresa) and Sis. Kay Craighead (Bro. Mike), who have spent time in the hospital this past month. As humans, we have earthly infirmities; as Christians, we have a heavenly source of strength.

Christmas Praise:

WE WORSHIP YOU

We look for You just as shepherds once did.

We follow You just as wisemen once did.

We bring to You our love and devotion.
— And may the Prince of Peace come in and rule our hearts.

We sing for You just as the angels once did.

We worship You just as Mary once did.
We bring to You our full adoration.
— And may the Price of Peace come in and rule your heart.

"We Worship You,"
S. B. Booth

INDIANA, FRANEESVILLE
Lynne Wuethrich

What shall I give for Christmas,
To Him who gave Himself for me?
To Him I give my life, my love,
For time and for eternity.

Anonymous

Our congregation was happy to hear the announcement of Bro. Jan Gutwein (Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine) being

engaged to Sis. Valerie Metz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam). We rejoice with them and ask God's direction in their lives. A January wedding is being planned.

We enjoyed visiting ministers this month. Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo) came and spoke God's Word, along with telling us all about the Children's Home. Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) was here also and we want to thank him for his efforts.

Bro. Morris Eschleman (Sis. Helen) has been hospitalized recently. We pray God grants him a speedy recovery.

Our congregation is looking forward to our Thanksgiving program scheduled November 23 in the evening. Thanksgiving is a very special time of the year in which we need to thank our Father God.

One life can touch so many others,
Remembered ever more,
And leave the world a better place
Than it had ever been before.

Constance Parker Graham

Eight-month-old Abbie Sue Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene) has no more pain as the Lord called her home November 5. Abbie had been ill since birth and yet she was able to let us see Jesus Christ through her. Our congregation will miss Abbie and we pray that God will be the unseen guest in Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene's home and comfort them. Abbie had one sister, Alivia and two brothers, Austin and Trenton. Grandparents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Leman (Francesville), Mrs. Harvey Gutwein (Monticello) and Mr. Robert Metzger (Fort Wayne).

We'd like to thank the many loved ones who shared their love with our little Abbie and us over the past eight months. May God be your rewarder.

Dave, Arlene and children

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Kathy Freed — Gail Bradford

We appreciated recently the messages brought to us by ministering Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North) and Rod Huber (Valparaiso).

We welcome back Dan and Tammy Neuenschwander to our congregation. We also say farewell, but are grateful that we have been blessed by knowing dear Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany and their children, Matthew and Alexis, who are moving to Bloomington, IL. Many of our children and parents en-

joyed an October evening at Bro. Kent and Sis. Bobbi Erb's home with hot-dogs, marshmallows and a hayride!

We read too frequently about yet another American taken hostage. We are frustrated when U. S. citizens are captured and held against their will. We prize our liberty highly. We believe it is one of our inalienable rights. Freedom . . . just because we are Americans!

But are we really free? In this land of unparalleled liberty, how free are we? Think of the things that imprison us behind invisible, but mighty walls. Our possessions hold us firmly in their grip. What we have, we are afraid of losing. What we have not, we want urgently to own. We leap from state of happiness and elation, to sadness and despair, depending on our surroundings. We disappoint ourselves; we are disappointed in others. We regret the past, yet we fear the future. We think so much of ourselves, but so little of others. Our confidence fails us; our doubts assail us. How can we escape? Where can we turn?

Jesus, the Great Liberator, holds the key. He alone can rescue us from our lives of quiet desperation. We need only to reach for Him through our prison bars, and he will unlock the door and loose our chains. If we humbly accept His gift of freedom, it will be ours. The bonds will drop away and we will be free at last! Restored! Saved! United! Comforted! Liberated! Free!

"And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free."

John 8:32

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Charlotte Gutwein

I'm thankful for all good with which I've been blessed throughout life,
For hardships, and for heartaches, too.
For failures, trials, and strife.
I'm thankful for each little prayer
Someone has said for me;
For loving thoughts, for friendliness,
For all good will I see.

My thanks for hands, with which I could
Serve someone on life's way;
For all small deeds of kindness
I'm allowed to do each day.
I'm thankful for all happiness
Each long hour of deep sorrow;
God thus in His great mercy gives
More wisdom for tomorrow.

A. R. Gronros

The time of year has come when everyone sits down and counts the things they are thankful for. We need to remember not only the good things, but also the trials God has brought us safely through (Romans 5:1-5).

The Purdue group is thankful for the opportunity we have to gather together around God's Word every other Thursday night. We would like to give a special thanks to Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott) for bringing us God's Word this month.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

"Somehow, not only for Christmas
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you."
John Greenleaf Whittier

"Give special gifts this Christmas to people you know: Give the gifts of prayer, forgiveness, encouragement, friendship, hope and love."

Margaret Johnson

If you know the Savior, the greatest gift you can give to another is to tell him of the Perfect Gift to us, God's Son. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Our young people and children and their teachers are planning to portray the true meaning of Christmas in a program scheduled for December 14.

We thank the visitors from Athens, AL, for coming to spend a weekend at Leo, and we thank Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore for his ministry.

Prayers have risen for Sis. Minerva (Bro. Eugene) Stoller who had surgery at Mayo's.

Bits of This and That:

Trying to live without prayer is like trying to live without breathing.

When we get to heaven and see what prayer has done, we'll be embarrassed that we didn't pray more.

Little becomes much when we place it in the Master's hands!

Is your praying a first choice or a last resort?

Worry: pulling tomorrow's cloud over today's sunshine.

A Bible in the hand is certainly worth two on the shelf.

God often shuts every door about us, but He never shuts the door above us.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Shelby Beer

"Peace on earth" . . . this was the message angels sang nearly 2,000 years ago. It was that first Christmas night when Christ was born. Then He so willingly gave His life on that cruel cross for the sins of all mankind so that we might go free. As the Wise Men sought Him long ago, may there still be those that will be wise today by kneeling at the cross, finding forgiveness for their sins, and then having that true peace in their hearts.

We have been richly blessed and spiritually fed by the loving visits from the following ministers this month: Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Dennis Kauffman (Bloomington, IL). We thank God for allowing them and our other visitors to be in our midst.

Our special congratulations go to first-time parents, Jeff and Rocio Hoerr (Canton, OH) and a warm welcome to their daughter, Rebecca Sophia, who arrived November 15. Little Rebecca's happy grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr and Hilda Eljaiek (South America). Bro. Theo and Sis. Naomi Beer and Bro. John Hoerr (Peoria, IL) welcome their new great-granddaughter, too. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord . . ." Psalms 127:3a.

Believing that God will not allow us to be tempted above that which are able to bear should be comforting to those of our family who have recently been hospitalized. Recently submitting to surgery were Bro. Bob Hoerr and Sis. Tina Lehman.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through the dark
Not a candle was glowing
Not even a spark,
As the world lay in sorrow,
Sickness and grief,
It was longing for someone
To bring it relief;
And the hearts that were weary,
Sinsick and sore,
Cried out for deliverance,
Long promised before!

When, low on a mountain,
A wonderful light
Shone out through the darkness
And scattered the night!

When, hark! From the heavens
A wonderful song
Brought peace to the hearts
That had waited so long!
And this the glad tidings
That greet the new morn,
"Unto you, unto you
A great Saviour is born!"

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And my heart was dark.
There was no light within me,
Not even a spark!
When I heard of a Saviour
Who cleanses from sin,
And I opened my heart
And prayed him come in.
Then the light! Then the song!
Then the darkness was past!
And into my heart
There came Christmas at last!
Came the gladness and peace,
Came the radiance fair!
For Christmas is always
When JESUS IS THERE!

We wish all our many loved ones at Christmas and always . . . may your life be rich with the blessings of God's love.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Susan Getz — Beth Virkler

YURI AND TANYA

Yuri is ten years old. His sister, Tanya, is eight. They live with their parents in a small three-room house. They're an average Russian family, but we'd consider them poor by our standards. They have no car, TV, and of course, no video games! The clothes they wear are drab and there's nothing at all that makes them stand out from the crowd, until you meet them. You see, they love Jesus. They love to talk about Him, too. Their parents are believers and trust in Jesus as their Saviour. This means so much to them that they share the Good News with people they meet every day. Their parents have friends who trust in Jesus, too, but the government and some people make life very hard for them.

It is early in the morning as our story begins. Yuri and Tanya are still warm in their beds under grandmother's thick quilts. Father has just finished building a roaring fire in the wood stove, so the room and floors are still very ice cold. The children can hear Mama preparing the morning meal.

"Yuri," the tall, thin man spoke softly as he seated himself on his son's bed. "You must do your chores before we eat."

"Yes, Papa." and the boy poked his round face from out of the quilt.

"Good morning, Papa!" piped Tanya brightly from her bed. She has a way of almost singing when she speaks.

Father announces to the children, "God has blessed us with another day. Let us get up and love Him and serve Him!"

They dressed quickly. Yuri brought in wood for the day. Tanya made the beds, straightened the room and set the table. These things done, father stooped over, lifted a loose board in the floor, reached in and with his rough, calloused hand slowly drew from the hiding place a stack of loose papers. Everyone knew that this was the signal to come to the table. Seated, holding one another's hands, the family bowed their heads and lifted their hearts to the Lord. "Father, thank thee for these portions of Thy Word. Bless our study and make us strong in Thee. Amen." Gazing at the top papers, father spoke, "Brother Misha gave this hand-written portion to me yesterday. It is so worn I can barely read it." It was from the book of John. Father read several chapters. Yuri and Tanya didn't understand everything, but these verses stuck in their minds: Jesus was speaking, "Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples." In another He comforted His disciples, "I have told you all this so that you will have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world!"

Father gently placed the treasured writings beneath the floor, then offered thanks for the meal. After eating, father rose to put on his heavy coat and fur cap. "I must be off to work," he said, kissing each member of his beloved family.

"God be with you," Mama said quickly, as father walked out into the wind-driven rain. "I love you all," he replied. The door slammed shut.

"Now, Yuri, Tanya, on with your coats. You'll need extra time to fight the wind and rain on your way to school." Mama kissed each capped head and sent them on their way.

She dropped into a chair and laid her head, heavy with thought, in her hands. She reflected on the troubles at school

and the threats her husband had received lately. She cried out to God for courage and strength and worshipped Him, then arose for the day's labors.

At school, Yuri's classmates made fun of him as usual. "There's that boy who believes in Jesus. My papa says you who believe in God are crazy!" Even the teacher made up bad stories about Yuri and the other children laughed at him. Yuri took the abuse well, feeling thankful to still be in school. Some children of believing parents were not allowed this privilege. He asked God to help him have real love for his tormentors.

While Yuri was eating lunch, a new boy sat down by him. "You love Jesus, Yuri?"

"Yes. Very much," he answered, looking into the boy's anxious eyes, not knowing what to expect.

"My name is Sasha." Then the boy whispered, "I love Jesus, too!" They bowed their heads in silent prayer. This was a moment of great joy and encouragement for Yuri.

It was dark when Yuri and Tanya arrived home. The table was set for three. Mother was unusually quiet. Tanya's dark eyes darted around the room then met her mother's. "Where's Papa? There are only three plates on the table, Mama!"

Mama fell to her knees and wrapped her children in her arms. Her voice quaked. "Papa . . . is away for awhile." She could hold her sobbing inside no longer. Her anguish told the story. Their father had been arrested for sharing Jesus with workers on the job at lunch time. For many long minutes the three held each other tightly, weeping and praying until they received God's peace.

The broken family sat at the table and offered thanksgiving but no one touched their food. "Mama," Yuri's voice was choked with emotion, "Why do people hate us so much? Why do the police take Papa? Why, Mama?" Tanya's eyes didn't blink as she studied her mother's care worn face.

"Yuri, Tanya, it is not us they hate, it is Jesus. It is Jesus they put in jail, and Jesus whom your classmates make fun of."

"How can that be, Mama?"

Mother explained, "We are members of Jesus' body here on this earth. Jesus loves us and takes it personally when someone persecutes his brothers and sisters. Remember the story of

Paul before he became a believer in Jesus? His name was Saul then. Well, he was gathering Christians together to imprison them and kill them for trusting in Jesus, but one day Jesus stopped him. Jesus spoke with a thundering voice from heaven, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' Saul was frightened and screamed, 'Who are you, Lord?' Jesus answered, 'I am Jesus whom you persecute!'"

"Jesus must be hurting now, too, right Mama?" asked Tanya with tears in her eyes.

"I believe you are right, Tanya."

"Do all believers suffer, Mama?"

"Yes Yuri, many do. You know some yourself. There are other countries, though, where telling of Jesus is not a crime."

"I wish we were in such a country," Tanya murmured.

"Believers suffer there, too, Tanya, but in a different way."

"But how can believers suffer there, Mama?"

"Children, I want you to listen carefully. Satan is the enemy of Jesus. Satan uses our government to try to make us stop serving Jesus, but in free countries, he uses the love of pleasure, wealth and things to get believers to stop serving Jesus. We can see our enemy. We are better off. "Free" people don't always know their enemy. Satan even tricks believers into thinking that the enemies are friends! We must pray for our brothers and sisters in free countries."

"Now it's time you were in bed. I'll clear the table then tuck you in."

"Yes, Mama."

The room was dark when mother entered guided by her dim candle. She knelt between the two beds and put her arms on the children. They talked and prayed unto there was just enough candle left for mother to find her way to bed. She kissed Yuri, then Tanya. "Keep Papa in your prayers tonight, and don't forget to ask God for His strength towards our brothers and sisters in free countries."

"We will remember, Mama," said Yuri with determination.

Light from mother's candle danced in her tear flooded eyes. She smiled, "I love you both."

Author Unknown

Sis. Eileen Getz (Bro. Maurice) experienced the loss of her mother, Sis. Martha Honegger (Forrest, IL). Per-

haps this can serve to remind us that the time of saying "farewell" to our dear earthly parents is coming for all of us who haven't experienced this yet. (Psalms 90:10, 12).

Bro. Mark Bahler spent a week up in Toronto, Canada, in a specialized hospital to receive a needed surgery procedure which is not practiced here in the States. We are thankful that he is assembling with us again.

On November 16 our small congregation, along with many visitors, witnessed the testimony and baptism of Jane Hilton whom we embrace as our sister-in-the-Lord. Her parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Braker. Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler and Joe Braker shared in this day also.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Pauline Laidig — Jill Lehman

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

Henry Beer

This "blessed story" never grows old; and we are so thankful. May it truly stir the hearts of men, not only at Christmas, but all through the year. Even our Sunday school children, in their program of song and verse, help retell the "blessed story", as do the carollers as they sing for the sick, aged and lonely. May all receive a blessing.

It was a privilege to have two visiting ministers this month. Bro. Larry Weninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) brought us inspiring messages which were appreciated very much. It seems that no matter how few we are in number, it does not quench the Holy Spirit from flowing through our ministering brothers. The Lord is faithful in His promise, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 19:20.

We appreciated having many brethren from Milford spend a Sunday evening with us. A blessed time of fellowship and singing was enjoyed.

We heartily welcome Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer and their children, Luke, Caleb and Samantha into our church family. May the Lord provide for them as they establish their home in new surroundings.

Sis. Helen Martin was able to assemble with us once again, as was Sis.

Mildred Meister who had been hospitalized for about a week. Bro. John Schuch submitted to surgery and is now recuperating at home. We thank the Lord for His healing power.

May the good Lord be with us all as we travel over the hills and through the valleys of 1987.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher — Peg Huber

What can be purer, more innocent, or more precious than a newborn, sent from the Father's gracious heart? "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: . . ." Psalm 127:3. Our hearts have so easily expanded to include two priceless bundles: Melissa May to Jim and Kathy (Paarlberg) Baske and Zachary Daine to Jeff and Janet (Yergler) Miller. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Paarlberg, Gerry and Elmer Baske; Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev Miller and Jim and Aggie Yergler.

Two — becoming one in the bond of love. "And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Mark 10: 8, 9.

We extend our best wishes and congratulations to Susan Paarlberg (Bro. Con and Sis. Donna) and Mark Stull (Mr. and Mrs. William Stull) who were recently united in marriage.

Sis. Marie Heinold had surgery this month, but we are grateful for His healing that she can assemble with us again.

We are thankful again for the energy, time and prayer in the preparation and presentation of recent topical Bible studies: Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) on "Sanctification" and Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana) on "Conversion and the Fruits of Repentance". Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) shared in the ministry also. May God be their rich rewarder.

How fitting that we should enter the season of the King's birth through the gates of Thanksgiving. As we seek His face in prayer, it seems we are always begging, asking for more and more. May we add one more item to our requests, "Lord, grant us thankful hearts."

Our annual Harvest Supper had a special zenith this year. Volunteers who helped on our new church were invited to join us in lifting voices of praise together. May He grant us grace

to "let our lives be our thanksgiving" for "thanksgiving is thanks living".

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

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

In his dream he found himself looking through his home, but there were not little stockings in the chimney corner, no Christmas bells or wreaths of holly and no Christ to comfort, gladden and save. He walked out on the public street, but there was no church with its spire pointing to heaven. He came back and sat down in his library, but every book about the Savior had disappeared. A ring at the doorbell, and a messenger asked him to visit a poor dying mother. He hastened with the weeping child, and as he reached the home he sat down and said, "I have something here that will be of comfort to you." He opened his Bible to look for a familiar promise, but it ended at Malachi. There was no gospel and no promise of hope and salvation and he could only bow his head and weep with her in bitter despair. Two days afterward he stood beside her coffin and conducted the funeral service, but there was no message of consolation, no word of glorious resurrection, no open heaven, but only "dust to dust, ashes to ashes" and one long eternal farewell. He realized at length that "He had not come," and burst into tears and bitter weeping in his sorrowful dream.

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

"O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem:
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord."

Let us be glad and rejoice today, because "He has come." And let us remember the annunciation of the angel, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all

people, for unto you is born this day, in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10, 11.

Streams in the Desert

We always appreciate visiting ministers and their families who come to worship with us. Our thanks go to Bro. John Steiner (Oakville) for his visit this past month.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Mary Knobloch welcome their first child, Kami Sue into their family circle. The little miss arrived November 22 and is the granddaughter of Bro. Allen and Phyllis Banwart (West Bend) and Gilbert and Sis. Vicki Knobloch (Lester).

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Glen and Sally Funk

Fall is going by at such a fast pace, with children and school activities. Our farmers here are still trying to finish their harvest, and the rest of us are thinking about Christmas.

We enjoyed the visits of Elder Bro. Lester Hartter and Bro. Gerald Sutter, when they came to help with our ministry here. We realize how busy schedules are, and especially in the larger congregations, it can be very difficult, and a sacrifice to leave and come to a small flock. We hope and pray they received a blessing for making that sacrifice and coming.

When a church is small it is sometimes overlooked when there is growth. Each new baby adds to the number. It's easy to say there is no growth, when in fact there is. We were reminded this month how important each person is to us. Bro. Gene Bruellman and his wife, Sis. Evie, drive truck and their home base is Des Moines. They visit a lot of different churches, but they average about once a month here with us. They have meant a lot to all of us, and our families. It always brightens a Sunday when they appear. Two weeks ago we heard that Bro. Gene had a heart attack. After many tests and prayers, they found it was not a heart attack and treated him for less serious ailments. Rejoice with us, as we are rejoicing that Gene and Evie will be with us and he is feeling much better.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Bonita Frank

I was having a visit with one of our Sunday school children about the dangers of smoking cigarettes to our body, God's temple. When we talked about

how the substances in the cigarettes make the blood vessels in the heart "goeey", the child, in simple innocence asked, "but if God is in the heart, does He get goeey, too?" May we all keep our hearts clean and pure, not only physically, but also spiritually so we do not make God uncomfortable in any way. "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. They have been: Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend), Harvey Heiniger (Burlington) and Dale Frank (Oakville). We appreciate the efforts these brothers and their families go to to assist our dear ministering Bro. Joe Gerst in feeding our flock.

We are thankful for the addition to our congregation of Tom and Nada Little (Mount Vernon, IA). Nada is the daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr (Fairbury, IL) and is seeking her Lord in repentance. We wish her the blessings of God's guidance and His grace.

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch

Winter is upon us as we've experienced our first snow and cold spell. We are thankful that crops are in and that God has again blest the farmer's efforts with a bountiful harvest. Will we all be "ripe for harvest" when God comes again to gather his own?

We warmly welcome Bro. David, Sis. Margene and Elizabeth Peasley back "home". Both Dave and Margene have found employment in the vicinity. Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori Scheitlin have recently taken up residency in Yankton, SD, as Rolyce was transferred there. We wish both families God's blessings in their new endeavors.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;" Acts 3:19. We rejoice that Marie Nester (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley) has turned to the Lord in repentance. Marie is presently attending college in Peoria, IL. May God continue to supply her every need with His love and grace.

On Sunday, October 19, Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) lent himself in the interest of our souls' welfare by

preaching God's Word to us. May God reward Bro. Wayne for his unselfish service.

Physical afflictions have been the lot of a number of our congregation this past month. Medical patients have been Bro. Jake Knobloch, Kristy Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori), Sis. Diane Stickling (Bro. Dale), Sis. Leona Wulf (Bro. Bill), Bro. Ernest Metzger and Bro. Alfred Knobloch. Those submitting to surgery were Sis. Martha Feucht, Sis. Florence Knobloch (Bro. August) and Sis. Donna Metzger (Bro. Jake). As our prayers ascend to heaven, let us continue to praise God for His healing powers upon our loved ones.

As we approach Christmas, may each one meditate upon the real meaning of Christ's birth and the impact it has left in our individual lives. God has freely given His best gift, Jesus Christ, and it is up to each of us as to how we use this priceless gift. May the love, joy and peace of our Lord continue to fill our hearts with thankfulness as we celebrate Christ's birth.

WHERE CAN WE FIND HIM?

Where can we find The Holy One?
Where can we see His Only Son?
The Wise Men asked, and we're asking still,
Where Can We Find This Man Of
Good Will?

Is He far away in some distant place,
Ruling unseen from His throne of
grace?

Is there nothing on earth that man can
see

To give Him proof of Eternity?
It's true we have never looked on His
face,

But His likeness shines forth from
every place,

In everything both great and small
We see the Hand Of God In All,

And every day, somewhere, some place,
We see The Likeness Of His Face . . .
For who can watch a new day's birth
Or touch the warm, life-giving earth,
Or feel the softness of the breeze
Or look at skies through lacy trees
And say they've never seen His face
Or looked upon His throne of grace . . .

And man's search for God will end and
begin

When he opens his heart to let Christ in.

Helen Steiner Rice

Our prayer is that each one can find the Holy One and be obedient to His Word.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach

We extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the family of our dear Sis. Nettie Gerst. Sis. Nettie was called from this earthly life very suddenly November 10. We know that her family can take comfort in the fact that she did not have to suffer great bodily affliction and she can now rest in the peace of our Lord Jesus and the heavenly Father. The loved ones left behind are her husband, Bro. Chris; one son, Bro. Wayne Gerst; four daughters, Sis. Helen Michel (Tremont, IL), Marilyn Kaufman (Morton, IL), Sis. Rhonda and Sis. Janet Gerst. We pray that God will comfort them in their loss.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Susan Gerst are happy first-time parents of Carl Frederick. We know that little Carl has added a sparkle in the lives of his grandparents, Sis. Hilda Gerst (late Bro. Carl) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt.

Just the other day at my place of employment I noticed a thought expressed on one of the calendars in my office. It said, "Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off the goal." I thought how true that was and how many times we take our eyes off of our eternal goal and start to falter. We must strive to overcome the obstacles and lift our heads up for the day of our salvation may be here while our eyes are on the obstacles of this life.

IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Jane Knapp — Sarah Teuel

With Christmas season upon us, let us keep the true meaning of the holiday in our hearts. All of the hustle and bustle of gift buying and cooking making seems to want to drown out the birth of our Lord.

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

Luke 2:11

As we read the Christmas story, there is much we can learn. We should have the faith of Mary, in our daily walk of life to believe whatever Jesus says will come true. We know it took a lot of faith for Mary to accept what the angel said, because she knew not a man.

And the angel said unto her; Fear

not, Mary: for thou has found favor with God.

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus."

Luke 1:30, 31

We must also obey the Lord, as the Wise Men did when they returned to their own country another way.

"And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way."

Matthew 2:12

Also, we can learn from Joseph. He listened to the Lord by taking the babe and his mother to Egypt.

"... behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, arise, and take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt, . . .

"When he arose he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt."

Matthew 2:13-14

As the Christmas season comes and goes, there is always something from it that we can keep in our heart all the year through.

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont, KS).

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Arlie Banwart. Arlie passed away October 14 at the age of 73, following a lingering illness. Surviving are his wife, Eva, his children, Gary Banwart (West Bend), Mrs. Robert Burns (Gayle, Glendale, AZ), Karen Bierstedt (Lone Rock, IA) and also 13 grandchildren and a great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by a grandson. We will miss his kind and gentle manner as was mentioned in the funeral service by Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS).

We were privileged to have Bro. Alphi Moser (Morris, MN) in our midst November 2. We are so thankful for our ministering brothers and the teachings they leave for us.

It seems we always have some hospital patients to report, but are thankful that some of them are able to assemble with us again. Lucille (Bro. Edwin) Wirtz was in for surgery and the following were recent patients: Bernadine Jurgens, Sis. Lilly (Bro. Nathan) Mogler, Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. Duane) Metzger and Bro. Eugene Bruellman (Sis. Evie). We are thankful

to report that Jill Wickman continues to make some progress in the therapy department in Rochester, MN.

Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman welcome a new granddaughter, born to Jerry and Deb Larson October 29. She was named Jaci Marie.

As the winter season approaches, we are reminded that soon we will observe the birth of our Lord and Saviour. May the following words express the true meaning of this holiday season.

GOD BLESS YOUR CHRISTMAS

God bless your Christmas wherever
you are
And keep your courage bright;
For the spirit of man is the candle of
God
And it burns on the darkest night.
God bless your Christmas wherever
you are
And keep you strong in faith;
For the Spirit of God is the refuge of
man
And the light in his dwelling place,
Hazel Adams

A reminder that our Silver Lining collection is due in December.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Sheila Moser

This is the season of the year that we all take special time to recall the many blessings that God has bestowed on us throughout the past. We should never forget and always be most thankful for the greatest blessing of all, God's Son. The hope of eternal life through His dying for our sins, is a gift beyond any that we deserve.

On Sunday, November 16, many gathered together in the afternoon to meet and welcome Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder back to Japan as a couple. It was a very special event where many church brethren could meet and become acquainted with English students, kindergarten student (past and present) and students' parents. We are thankful that God has directed Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy to stay here and we hope that His work through them will continue.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler (Rockville, CT) were recent visitors. We are always thankful when God opens the way for American travelers as it adds so much to our fellowship here.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue & Yoshio Yamazaki

This month is a month of thanksgiving and we should always remember how much He has blessed us and be thankful to God first before we think of anything else.

Sis. Hiroko Utsuki is back from her overseas trip to America and Hungary. We believe that she could learn and thank God through our brothers and sisters and also church people in Hungary.

Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder returned safely to Japan following their marriage in Altadena, CA, church. We rejoiced with them November 9 when a gathering was held in their honor at the church, with many students, friends and brethren in attendance. I Corinthians 13:4-7 was read and explained. Songs were sung and prayer was offered before a light lunch was served. This was probably the first time some of the guests had heard anything of the Holy Scriptures in connection with marriage. We trust it lifted their hearts as many prayers were offered for the event.

We ask God to bless their life and work as they live in this land. Sis. Kathy teaches English and Bible lessons on Wednesday at our church and two area homes. Bro. Frank teaches Wednesday evening in downtown Tokyo. As a couple, they plan to visit our assembly one or two Sundays a month, where they are useful in our fellowship. Their address and phone are:

161 - 2 Residence Tajima #101
Aza Mizunashi
Nishiarai Tamaho-Cho
Yamanashi-Ken 409-38 Japan
Telephone 0552-73-5272

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger — Shirley Strahm

Our cups were filled to overflowing as God's precious Word was delivered to us through the service of man. Visiting ministers have been Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS). May God grant them the strength and courage to continue ministering His True Word.

Our hearts go out to Julia Plattner as her daughter, Mrs. Charles Branek (Lois), passed from this life October 2 at the age of 46. May her family feel God's nearness and comfort through the days ahead. How thankful we are to have a comforter to turn to at times like this.

We are happy to report Sis. Amanda Meyer has recovered sufficiently to be released from the hospital. She is now a resident of the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home at Sabetha. May the Lord continue to provide His healing power that she may again assemble with us at Bern.

On November 11, Bro. Rodney and Sis. Cynthia Strahm became the happy parents of a little Laura Kay. Awaiting her arrival at home are a brother and sister, Vance and Brenna. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer (Sabetha) and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. What a double joy children are when they walk in the ways of the Lord as they grow older.

The Christmas season is upon us, and another year is drawing to a close. What great love God has for mankind that He would send His Son to this earth. Then He gives us a great challenge, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:12.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Natalie Wysong

"... of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." Ecclesiastes 12:12. This is indeed true, but spending time listening to God's Word always revives the weary, especially in spirit. Last month, on October 29, Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) was here with us. Many others from surrounding churches also came and filled up our chapel. On November 5, Bros. Lloyd Kraft, Loren Strahm and Tim Zimmerman (Gridley) came up. On November 19, Bro. Al Langhofer was here from Wichita.

Each visitor is very special and we are thankful to everyone who remembers us with his presence or prayer.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr — Gay Farney

"Christmas" ... a new beginning for a world that so long had looked for the coming of their "Messiah". A beautiful time of the year when our hearts are so full of giving because of the "gift" given to us that holy night so long ago in a stable ... Jesus our Christ, God, in love, gave us His only Son, to be born as a babe, to live as a perfect man and then to die on a cruel cross for our sins.

Christ is Christmas! If we leave Him out of this blessed season, then our hope of eternal life in God is for nothing. His birth, His life and His death were all God's plan to save a sin-sick world. So come to the "stable" this Christmas through Sunday school programs, singings, special services and through the Spirit of love and joy this season always brings. When coming to the "stable" say, "Lord Jesus, I give You my heart." It's the only "gift" He really desires.

Wednesday night services have resumed here and the first three evenings we were privileged to share a part in the conference as we listened to the tapes. Praise God for our elders, ministers and brotherhood who are striving so hard to keep our faith true in a time when Satan is working so hard to make us lukewarm. May we, as children of God, support each other in Christ, especially our Spiritual leaders, and help keep the church a faithful bride. Let's not grumble and be troublemakers in the faith, thus making Satan's work easier in these latter days.

Our hospital patients this month included Sis. Edna Reed and Bro. Ulysses Farney. We are thankful Sis. Edna is home again, and pray that God will be with Bro. Ulysses in his suffering.

Each fall we set aside a day to clean the church. November 7 was that day, but some brothers and sisters worked during the week to help, especially if they couldn't be there on Saturday. May God bless each one who helped inside or outside to make our place of worship more beautiful! "And how shall they preach except they be sent? as it is written How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15. How do you thank someone who has ministered to your spiritual needs for over 19½ years? Mere words are nothing compared to the sacrifice and love shown by our dear Bro. Raymond Roth during those years. Bro. Raymond stepped down from his work of ministering this past month, and has left an empty place in our pulpit. May God bless Bro. Raymond and Sis. Laverne for all they have done for us. May He keep them in His love and care for all their lives and in all eternity.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

KANSAS, SABETHA Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter

GOD'S TIME NOW

Choose I must, and soon must choose
Holiness, or heaven lose;
While what heaven loves, I hate,
Shut for me is heaven's gate.

Endless sin means endless woe;
Into endless sin I go,
If my soul, from reason rent,
Takes from sin its final bent.

As the stream its channel grooves,
And within that channel moves,
So doth habit's deepest tide
Groove its bed, and there abide.

Light obeyed increaseth light,
Light resisted bringeth night;
Who shall give me will to choose,
If the love of light I lose?

Speed my soul; this instant yield;
Let the Light its sceptre wield;
While thy God prolongeth grace,
Haste thee toward His holy face!

Gospel Hymns #402

When we were in sin, we were constantly faced with the question of choosing holiness and light over our natural sinful way and darkness. As Christians it is no different. But now, with a transformed mind, renewed heart, and the grace of God we have help and victory.

We have continual choices to make during the day. How do we choose to meet the morning? Is it with a thankful heart? When we have a little spare time, do we choose to sit down with the Bible, or is it always some newspaper or magazine? What are we choosing to do with our paycheck when it comes? Do we set aside our "first fruits" for the Lord? These are a minute sampling of the many choices faced by us all. May we with the grace of God go up against our nature and choose that which leads to righteousness.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter, along with Sally and Rita, were blessed with Darin Lee October 14. Darin's grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter.

Steve and Selena Brownlee were recently joined to walk the path of life together. Their parents are Larry and Sis. Linda Bailey and Mr. and Mrs. Jim

Brownlee (Sabetha).

We are thankful that Bro. Ted Locher (Sis. Cordelia) is healing well after foot surgery. We hope to have him worshipping with us soon.

We are grateful for our ministering brethren who Sunday after Sunday bring us God's Word. We know that much time in prayer and reading is necessary for them to feed God's sheep in a perilous, deceitful society. May we in the congregation give as much time to prayer and reading that we can be ready to receive God's instruction and change. Visiting us this month were Bros. Alpha Strahm and John Lehman (Bern, KS), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA).

"But thanks be to God, which
"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 15:57

KANSAS, WICHITA
Judy Langhofer

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel."

Micah 5:2

It was almost dusk when our tour bus pulled up to the crest of the Judean Hills overlooking Jerusalem. The setting sun cast a reflection upon the Jerusalem white stone causing the buildings to appear as if they were burnished with gold. It was a most a breath-taking view. The forty-seven Christian tourists burst forth with song, the song of "Anticipation", Hymn #126 in the Hymns of Zion, "Oh, Jerusalem the Golden, Where God's Praises Ever Ring". Our Jewish guide, stirred with the emotion of the moment, proudly presented her city, the city where once stood the illustrious temple of Solomon, the center of Jewish culture.

Altogether we spent 8 days in Israel, five in Jerusalem. It was there the Old Jewish Culture was the most prevalent. Whether some of it actually remained from past centuries or whether it was brought back and revived by returning Jews I do not know. In one sector of Jerusalem were the Hasidic Jews, the orthodox, the men of the book with their still peculiar dress and customs and their unshaven side curls. There

were also women and children who reflected the old traditions in their dress and customs. It was as if our minds were coming alive in recollection of those things we had previously read in the scriptures regarding the strictness of the law. Then there was the modern Jew, the Zionist, fiercely dedicated to the land he had come back to claim as an inheritance. Many were in green military dress, friendly, but alert to their commission; not too compatible with the tradition of the old law. Remnants of recent conflicts between the Jews and the Palestinians were evident in the countryside.

Our greatest interest in Israel focused on the fact that this was the birthplace of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Our pulse ran high as we traveled in Israel and visited the many places we had read about in the Holy Scriptures associated with His ministry and His work. Our guide was well versed in Biblical history. She knew her story well surrounding His birth, life, death and resurrection. It was almost as if we were sharing these experiences with Jesus as we climbed into the boat which took us across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum. We were moved to tears as we sang and prayed together in the Garden of Gethsemane and reflected on the awful night of His betrayal. Our guide stood a short way off and observed as we sat on stone benches in the Garden of the Tomb and sang, "Out Onto Calvary's Hill, Where Jesus Died I'll Go". At times it almost seemed that she was a fellow worshipper, a believer in this Jesus, the Messiah.

As the end of the tour approached, sensing the questions we all had in our minds about her, she found it necessary to state her case. She is a Jew first and a historian second, doing her job that she is paid to do. She said, "This is the difference. I am still looking for my Messiah."

It is just three years ago since we visited Israel. It would be hard to guess how many tourists she has guided through the Holy Land, and how many times she has related the facts concerning this one, Jesus. Do we, as believers, have such a timid heart that we could not tell the story as convincingly as our guide? It our mission any less than hers? Each one must answer that question in their own mind. How convinced are you? We may never know until we are put to a severe test.

Mark Reimschisel, son of Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel, will be home for the holidays. He is presently serving in the armed forces in Fort Sam Houston, but will be leaving on a new assignment after the first of the year. Mark is missed here with our church people. Not only has he always been a regular attender of church but he has shown some very good traits among us. He can fix almost anything and very often lends a helping hand with cheerfulness. As a young boy, he followed his father wherever he could and a hammer and saw became his friends as he learned to use them with skill. His kindness and consideration for the elderly and handicapped was a great benefit to us here as we have several in wheel chairs. It is just a small thing to say that we hate to see him leave us here. Our prayers will go with him.

Many of us have lost family members by death in the past year. It always leaves a vacancy in the heart that is difficult to fill. After the children are married and years roll by it almost seems we stand at the garden gate, waiting.

Again we are at the end of another year. Some things that were are no more and those things new are as if they never were. One thing we know is that our Lord, He is God, unchangeable and faithful, and on this we can depend.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Sherry Fritz

What a joyful time of song and fellowship we were privileged to share this last month through the visits of the Morton, IL, choir and the Peoria, IL, young group. We thank them for sharing their songs of praise with us. Also, we greatly appreciate the ministry of our visiting Bros. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Kenneth Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

Both in preaching and in singing, our hearts have been filled with praise and thanksgiving. "Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiced; and with my song will I praise him. The Lord is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed. Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever." Psalms 28:6-9.

We thank all our visitors for their

loving support of our small congregation in Lexington. You have truly been a blessing from God to us.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Schlatter

Another miracle has been created in the form of a child. Allan and Pam Wackerle have a new blessing at their home. Little baby Brent has been welcomed by Allan, Pam and his older brother, Bradley. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine Wackerle.

Hospitalized this month have been Bro. Joe Waibel and Winson Mosher. We wish each of them a complete recovery and an awareness of God's presence.

During the past month we were visited by the Princeville choir. We thank them for the time and effort that went into their trip to Bay City. Visiting ministers who traveled with the choir were Bro. Art Bauer and Bro. Jim Plattner.

Our congregation has been privileged to have had Sis. Eiko Nozawa among us. She has returned to Japan after having spent many precious moments with us. Eiko's kind, gentle ways will long be remembered by those of us who were privileged to become acquainted with her. We wish her the ability to demonstrate that same effectual kindness to the Japanese brethren.

During the Christmas season, let us consider why the "Wise Men" were considered wise. They recognized the divinity of Christ and came to worship Him. We also can choose the "Wise Men's way" this Christmas and seek to worship Christ more fervently.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bev Bahr

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:14

As we partake of the blessings of this Christmas season, let us keep within our hearts the true spirit of love and good will that we can share this message with others throughout the New Year.

The Detroit choir traveled to Bluffton North, IN, the weekend of October 25 and 26. We extend a sincere "thank you" to the brethren and friends at Bluffton North, IN and Bluffton, IN, for their planning and Christian hospitality.

Louise (Polk) Tyler has been transferred to the Milwaukee Medical Hospital in Wisconsin for a possible bone marrow transplant from her sister Dorothy (Polk) Kattalus. Our prayers reach out to Louise, her husband, Brian, and her sister, Dorothy. May God's strength and nearness be with them all.

Several others from our congregation have experienced afflictions. Tommie Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) was hospitalized with asthma; Sis. Ruth Knochel (Bro. Dan) was hospitalized with heart problems; little Joshua Belsley (Steve and Patti) was treated for a high fever and complications from it and Karl Moilanen (Tom and Kay) is recuperating from a separated collar bone. We are grateful for the blessings of recovery as all are doing much better now.

October 25 was the wedding day of Dave and Sherri Burgos. Their parents are Gabriel and Marianne Burgos and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Merryman. November 16 was the wedding day of Bro. Alex and Sis. Sherise Varga. Bro. Alex's parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Joanne Varga from our Detroit congregation. We wish both couples much happiness, trusting that God will ever bless them with His love and direction.

The precious Word of Life was brought forth by visiting minister Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). We thank Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy and their family for sharing a weekend with us.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Barbara Olson

ISN'T HE WONDERFUL!

Everything about Jesus is wonderful! Of Him it was said, "this man hath done nothing amiss." (Luke 23:41), "Never man spake like this man" (John 7:46), "I find no fault in this man" (Luke 23:4), "Certainly this was a righteous man" (Luke 23:47). And God Himself declared from heaven, "This is My beloved Son: hear Him." (Mark 9:7). Yes, Jesus is unique and amazing because He is the only One who is both divine and human.

Throughout the centuries since Jesus' birth, man has marveled at the wonder of His person and work. He became a man that we might become the sons of God. In infancy He troubled a King; in boyhood He puzzled the teachers; in manhood He ruled the course of nature. He walked upon the

billows, hushed the sea to sleep, and healed the multitudes without medicine. He never wrote a book; yet the libraries of the world are filled with volumes that have been written about Him. He never penned a musical note; yet He is the theme of more songs than any other subject in the world. Great men have come and gone; yet He lives on. Herod could not kill Him, Satan could not seduce Him, death could not destroy Him, the grave could not hold Him. All others have failed in some way, but not Jesus! This perfect One is altogether lovely.

Not only is Christ matchless in His person and accomplishments, but He can also be known as Saviour and Friend by the most humble believer. Yes, we can say that Jesus is wonderful! Let's worship Him today!

All glory to Jesus, begotten of God,
The great I Am is He;
Creator, sustainer — but wonder of all,
The Lamb of Calvary.

We want to thank Elder Bros. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this month and also for reading and expounding on the memorandum November 5.

Loved ones hospitalized this month were Sis. Nancy Messner and Bro. Ken Schmidt. May our heavenly Father continue to be with them and all those who are ill or shut-in in their homes. May each of us continue to pray for them.

We sincerely have appreciated and thank all the ministering brethren who have come and shared God's Word with us throughout this past year, as well as the visitors who have come. We extend our best wishes for a blessed Christmas and New Year to all. May the new year bring each of us closer to our Lord and challenge us to be more effective witness for Him.

Thought: Christ's birth brought the infinite God within reach of finite man.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Ruth Nohl — Hildegard Koehl

"We shall steer safely through every storm if our heart is right, our intentions fervent, our courage steadfast, and our trust fixed on God."

Hospital patient this month was Bro. Kenneth Koehl, who sustained an in-

jury to his hand in a farm accident. He is home and doing well.

We thank Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) for bringing us the true Word of Life. May the Lord bless them for their labors.

Two families in our congregation have welcomed new additions to their households. Guy and Lynette Koehl and their daughter, Hanah, welcome to their home Michael Werd, born October 16. Grandparents are Bro. Edward and Sis. Lois Koehl and Wilbur and Ruth Spohr. Kevin James was welcomed home by his parents, Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl and two brothers and two sisters. His grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Minnie Nohl and Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia Mogler.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Moser announce the engagement of their son, Sam, to Chris Tucker. We wish them God's blessings.

Congratulations go to Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna Fehr on their 50th wedding anniversary. They were honored at a reception hosted by their children and grandchildren. May God bless these golden years.

Seasons Greetings to each of you and may your New Year be full of love for the Lord. As the Christmas season is drawing near, we think of the birth of our Lord and Saviour and the wonderful gift of life that can be ours if we seek and accept it. Let this Christmas season be a time of praising God on high for sending His Son to the earth, bringing true peace and good will to men! It is a special time of the year full of giving, sharing and rejoicing. Let us keep the spirit of Christmas in our hearts all year.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Wanda Messner
Ella Mae Schmidt

Our Father Up In Heaven, long, long,
 years ago
 Looked down in His Great Mercy on
 the restless world below
 And He saw that folks were lonely and
 lost in deep despair
 And so He said, "I'll send my Son to
 walk among them there
 So they can hear Him speaking and feel
 His nearness, too,
 And see the many miracles that Faith
 alone can do . . .

For if man really sees Him and can
 touch His healing hand
 I know it will be easier to Believe and
 Understand" . . .

And so the Holy Christ Child came
 down to live on earth
 And that is why we celebrate His holy
 wondrous birth.

Helen Steiner Rice

We thank our God for sending His
 only Son to live on earth so many years
 ago. Let us always remember that this
 is the true meaning of Christmas!

To hold your baby soft in sleep, and
 know serenity —
 This is as close to heaven as mortals
 can ever be.

Mary Hughs

Sandy and Sam Miller have been
 blessed with a new baby girl, Amanda
 Ann. Russel, Candice and Laura wel-
 come their sister home. Paternal grand-
 mother is Sis. Sophie Miller

Savior, bless us as we part, Fill our
 souls with love divine,
 Comfort every troubled heart, May we
 feel that we are thine.

Goodbye, Goodbye, If on earth we
 meet no more
 Goodbye, Goodbye, May we meet on
 heaven's shore.

Gospel Hymns #774

We sang this song together as we
 said our goodbyes to Pam and Charlie
 McMaster and their son, Kevin. We
 will miss them when they move to
 Walnut Grove, MO. We wish them
 God's blessings at their new home!

Sis. Marilyn Messner and Sis. Dar-
 lene Schmidt had surgery this month.
 Sis. Gerry Messner and Darrel Red-
 man were medical patients this month.
 My they each feel God's healing and
 comforting touch!

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Linda Ziegenhorn

The light of God surrounds me.
 The love of God enfolds me.
 The power of God protects me.
 The presence of God watches over me.
 Wherever I am, God is.

Author Unknown

Wherever I am, God is. When I am in
 the midst of sorrow, trial, frustration,
 disappointment, yes, even anger, God

is there. I must reach out, I must trust
 Him. I must submit to His will and not
 mine, but He is there! What peace we
 can have if we just submit to God in all
 things, even the bad.

We welcome a new little baby to our
 congregation. Christy Laine Miller was
 born October 19. Her parents are Bro.
 Dennis and Sis. April Miller and she
 has two happy brothers, Benjamin and
 Mark. Her grandparents are Bro.
 Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller (Fort
 Scott, KS) and Bro. Al and Sis. Martha
 Wiegand (Oakville, IA).

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janice Stoller — Becky Marti

"Obey them that have the rule over
 you, and submit yourselves: for they
 watch for your souls, as they that must
 give account, that they may do it with
 joy, and not with grief: for that is
 unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:17).
 How thankful we are that our dear
 elder brothers do "watch for our souls".
 Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN)
 was with us recently and assisted our
 Elder Bro. Gene Marti in sharing with
 us the conclusions of the brotherhood
 conference. Our elder brothers fulfill
 their duty by warning us of the dangers,
 but it is up to each of us to heed the
 warnings. Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort
 Scott, KS) also visited our congrega-
 tion recently. We appreciate very much
 these brothers ministering God's holy
 Word to us and may He be their re-
 warder.

Spending time in the hospital re-
 cently were Sis. Lydia Rentsch and
 Walter Cordill. We are thankful they
 are feeling better now. May we always
 remember to pray for our loved ones
 who suffer afflictions of the body as
 well as those who are suffering spirit-
 ually.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Loren and Betsy Schrenk

We have received many blessings in
 the past month with numerous visitors
 representing many of our churches in
 addition to the ministers coming to
 serve us. On October 19 Bro. Virg
 Metzger and his family were here from
 Chicago. Bro. Nathan Stoller and sev-
 eral others from the Bradford congrega-
 tion were here November 2. On No-
 vember 16 we had our largest group yet
 (over 70), when Elder Bro. Leroy
 Huber (Eureka) brought us the Word.
 Many children were here that day and
 we divided them into two large Sunday

school classes. We were thankful for this opportunity for our children to renew "old" acquaintances and to make many new friends. Many of us can look back on friendships started in childhood as we traveled with our parents to various Apostolic Christian churches throughout the country. We thank each person who made the effort to come and worship with us in St. Louis. Whether the group here is large or small, we feel God's presence and love.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at the Ben Franklin Motel on Lindbergh Road, near the airport, between I-270 and I-70. Singing before the morning service begins at 10:15. A lunch is served at 11:30, and the afternoon service and Sunday school start at 12:30.

Note: There will be no services here on December 21, because it is so close to Christmas.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing!"

Isaac Watts

This month's visiting ministers and their wives were Bro. Harold and Sis. Katherine Emch (Girard, OH) October 17 and Bro. Roger and Sis. Louanne Aberle (Sabetha, KS) November 2. May God bless the Word that is proclaimed faithfully that it will bring forth the message that would be pleasing to Him.

"Ring the bells of heaven, there is joy today." Judy Huber (Vernon) has answered God's tender calling and is ready to take up her cross and follow Him. We wish her a special portion of God's grace and may the peace that passeth understanding be hers in abundance.

"When sorrow comes — as sorrow must
All that can help are "Time" and

"Trust" —

"Time" the great healer of grief and
sorrow

"Trust" in the thought of a brighter
tomorrow."

We offer our sympathy to Dan and Sis. Tina Sutter at the death of Tina's grandpa, Frank Beard.

Bro. Donnie and Sis. Elaine Hoerr and family have opened their "hearts and home" to nine-year-old Danny Cheadle. May the time spent together be a blessing for all and may the memories of living in a Christian home and attending Sunday school have a special meaning for Danny and prove beneficial throughout the years ahead. The need is great and our thoughts and prayers go out to all the children who are deprived of these blessings. "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last." Anonymous.

Vernon Huber (Judy) was a medical hospital patient several days but is home again, hopefully on the mend. Colby Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kay) broke her hand in a fall. Since she is so young the bone will hopefully heal fast. Bro. William Cottrell (Sis. Ruth) is also home and doing as well as can be expected.

Trust Your Lord and Savior —

Take the Savior's 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.

Helen Steiner Rice

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Heidi Haerr

We are very thankful to the following ministering brothers and their families who were willing to travel long distances to bring God's Word to our little church in the big city. Bros. Kevin Ryan and Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) were with us in the past month. We also wish to thank our many other visitors and express a warm and sincere welcome to everyone who is visiting or living in the New York City area to please come worship with us.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

THE SON OF GOD

Know ye the Son, the sacred Son of
God?

The hero great is born in Bethlehem!

He came to us from His exalted throne,
As prince of peace, as God's eternal
Son!

Know ye this Son? Yea, He is known,
The dauntless Hero, God's own Son!

Know ye the Son, who came of royal
birth?

A star foretells His coming to this earth!
The seeking men it leads to Bethlehem,
In manger low they find and worship
Him!

Know ye this Son? Yea, He is known,
The Most Exalted, God's own Son!

Know ye the Lord, the gracious friend
of Man,

Who clothed Himself in pilgrim's
garment plain?

He came to us the prince of David's
house!

An angel's message did the world
arouse!

The Son has come! From heaven's
dome

Resounds the angel's joyous song!

Hymns of Zion #249

Do we know the Son? At this time of year we are reminded of how He came to earth in such a humble setting. Do we know why He came to earth and are we fully appreciative of all that He has done for us? May we each day of the coming new year remember what He sacrificed for us, and may we live each day as if it were our last. We do not know when He will come again, and pray that each of us will be ready and waiting when He comes. Do we know the Son?

We are thankful that Bro. Niles (Sis. Polly) Farney is recovering so well from his recent hip surgery. The only Sunday he was unable to assemble with us was the one immediately following surgery. Our thoughts and prayers have been with him and we pray he will have a full recovery.

At Christmas time we especially think of loved ones who will be unable to leave their homes and maybe even their beds to enjoy the season. May we always have a prayer in our hearts and to God for them and may God richly bless them as only He can.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

On November 9 Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice Hirschey assembled with the Philadelphia, PA, church and November 16, Elder Bro. Robert Beyer spent

the day with the Kitchner, Ontario, family.

Our thoughts go out to Billy Nortz, son of Jack and Barbra, during these shut-in hours since his accident while playing ball. His grandparents are Roy and Sis. Edna Sturtz. We know these hours can become very long.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

"The Fifth" is an items stores have stocked for the holidays, knowing the "Fifth" will be used New Year's Eve to boost pleasure. However, the "Fifth" in the Bible is used to boost love. If someone has hurt us, or if we have said something to hurt another, we need an extra boost of love; and Jesus has it for us in the "Fifth". In Leviticus 5 and 6 they were to take an offering to the priest and then he had to offer a fifth of the cost of it and give it to the priest, too. If a lamb was worth \$100, he brought the lamb and \$20. The priest sacrificed the lamb for the transgression and the priest kept the fifth. For today, it means for us that if someone hurts us or we hurt someone, take it to Jesus, our Lamb, as Jesus took the sacrifice for that, and then Jesus will give us the extra fifth, because we are priests and kings. Jesus opens our inner capacity for greater love than we ever had before. Jesus offers us the "Fifth" which boosts our love.

Bro. Glen Greenbank, son of Bro. and Sis. Gordon Greenbank (Phoenix, AZ) is engaged to Sis. Joan Stoller, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Robert Stoller (Smithville, OH). May Jesus be with them as they make their plans for their wedding and home together.

Sis. Evelyn Baumgartner had the misfortune of fracturing a bone in her foot.

Bro. and Sis. Carroll Gerber and others from Bluffton, IN, visited us and we were blessed with Bro. Carroll's inspiring messages.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Desma Klopfenstein

We'd like to thank Bro. Andy Stoller, Bro. Harold Emch (Girard) and Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) for visiting us during this past month. Also, Bro. Ben Manz worshipped with us one Wednesday evening and we thank him, too. It isn't often we have visitors on Wednesday evening, but we certainly appreciate them.

As we approach Christmas, I hoped

to find the perfect poem or story to convey all the warmth of the Christmas message. I looked through my books and cards, searching for that certain one, but nothing seemed appropriate. Finally, the thought occurred to me. Christ, the King of Kings, left all the glories of heaven and came to earth to be born in a poor innkeeper's stable. This He did to save man from everlasting punishment. What an act of love. It can never be matched. There it was, all the warmth I'd been looking for in a Christmas story. The real miracle of Christmas began in Bethlehem many years ago.

OHIO, GIRARD

Kathryn Emch

Since I last wrote we had a group of Rittman young folk visit us bringing fellowship, lunch and supper. We all went to a nearby nursing home to sing. The activities director wrote us a note saying how much everyone enjoyed the program. She said, "I heard some residents singing hymns the rest of the day."

Bro. Gary Maibach and family came to visit one Sunday. The next day Harold and I started on a trip to the west. While we were gone Bros. Eugene Pamer, Henry Dotterer and Paul Gasser served our congregation. It is a blessing to know that our people were being fed the same "living bread" while we were basking in Christian fellowship in a number of our churches.

God has given us a beautiful country to live in and we praise Him for the opportunity to travel in it.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

Visiting us and bringing us God's Word this month were Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler and Bro. Delbert Indermuhle.

Little Mary Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera) was hospitalized with burns to her head and arm, but is now home again. Also, hospitalized was Briana Manz (John and Elaine). How thankful we need to be that God in heaven watches over these little ones and heals their souls and bodies.

OHIO, LATTY

Marlene Reinhard — Patty Gerber

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance

and supplication for all saints;

"And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

"For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Ephesians 6:18-20

As Paul was asking the believers in Ephesus to pray for him that he would be able to preach the Gospel with boldness and sincerity, we believe that our ministers also have that fervent desire. We were blessed with many visiting ministers, all speaking with divine inspiration. Those brothers with teachings were: Bro. John and Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, CT), Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL). Also, Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Loren with the reading of the brotherhood conference conclusions. We appreciate all of their efforts to be with our congregation.

We were reminded as the brotherhood conference conclusions were read, that it is all of our duty, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, to "speak boldly of the Gospel, and to speak as we ought to." What a challenge for all of us.

Bro. Ken Stoller (Sis. Esther) and Harlan Riggensbach (Sis. Dolores) were hospitalized in November. We are happy to see they are doing better and are back in church with us.

We express our sympathy to Sis. Tootie Sinn and her family in the recent death of her father, Bro. Albert Kaufman (Cissna Park, IL).

Christmas is a time of joy, peace and happiness. This Christmas, let's help others to find the true joy and peace which comes only from knowing the Lord Jesus, which is the most precious gift we can give them.

It is time to collect for Silver Lining subscriptions in Latty. Please see your reporters for renewals.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

Betsy Marie brought joy to the home of Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay Rufener. Betsy was born November 10 and welcomed home by brothers: Mark, Joshua and Timothy. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nina Rufener (Mansfield) and Bro.

Carl and Sis. Ruth Berry (Rittman) are the prayerful grandparents.

Autumn is Bro. Richard and Sis. Carolyn's newest granddaughter. Vicki Sauder is the mother.

Bro. Jim Zimmer (Sis. Clara) was hospitalized but is able to again assemble with us.

Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier spent a Sunday with us. He exhorted us to love everyone with a Godly love and to forgive one another as God has forgiven us for Christ's sake.

INGREDIENTS OF LOVE

In an old notebook I recently found a new way of looking at the familiar list in Galatians 5:22-23. "The fruit of the Spirit is love," Paul writes, and then goes on to set forth what I had always taken to be additional qualities: joy, peace, patience and so on. But this is how the notebook put it:

Joy — which is love smiling

Peace — love resting

Patience — love waiting

Kindness — love showing itself sensitive to others' feelings

Goodness — love making allowances and sacrifices for others

Faithfulness — love proving constant

Gentleness — love yielding

Self-control — love triumphing over selfish inclinations

This clarified for me why Paul could speak of "fruit" in the singular. Since God is love, His Spirit ripening within us will always produce love in all its wondrous varieties.

Elizabeth Sherrill,

Guideposts Contributing Editor

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser — Judy Stoller

We are thankful for the teachings of Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) this past month. Bro. Uriel also gave us an interesting and inspiring talk about the Children's Home at Leo. May God bless the labors of love that are given by many there.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic are the parents of a new baby boy, Steven Paul. Brothers and sisters of Steven are: Sis. Stephanie, Denise, Milan, Thomas, Daniel, Matthew, Aaron, Audrey, Elaine, Rachel and Emil. Bro. Mitchel and Sis. Violet Baltic and Bro. George and Sis. Minnie Riggenbach are his grandparents.

Welcoming their first child are Bro.

Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller with the arrival of their new son, Jordon Michael. Happy first-time grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller and Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle. May God grant much wisdom and guidance to all who have this great responsibility and blessed opportunity to raise these precious souls. May we bear in mind the Bible verse, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Dale Hartzler (Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Linda Hartzler (Bro. Dave). There are also those in our congregation who have recently or for quite some time now endured much pain and suffering. Our thoughts and prayers turn to such. May God grant health and strength to those who suffer. May we say, "nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." St. Luke 22:42.

As the Christmas season approaches, may we all reflect on the birth of our Savior. May we dwell not only on His birth, but think on why He was born. He gave us this perfect example that we may follow and then He died on the cross for us, bearing our sins, so that we may be set free from our burden of sin if we humbly turn to Him in repentance. This truly is the greatest gift ever given to mankind.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

It hardly seems possible that once again the Christmas season is approaching. We are glad to remember at this blessed season of the year the precious gift that God gave to unworthy mankind in sending His only Son. We should not only think of His humble beginning, but remember that our salvation lies in the bitter death that He endured for us; a death that is able to save us from our sins if we apply His shed blood to our hearts.

Our new church building is progressing nicely. We have had many brethren lend themselves to help on this project. May the Lord bless each one for their deeds of kindness. It has certainly been a blessing and an encouragement for us as we could labor together.

Just a reminder that January is collection month for the Silver Lining at Sardis. Please see your reporter.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

The blessed story of Christ,
The babe of Bethlehem,
Is worthy of our song and praise,
And stirs the hearts of men.
The fullness of God's love divine,
Surrounds the Christ so mild,
Alas how many only know
The Savior as a child.

Henry Beer

The Christmas season is upon us once again, as we remember the greatest gift that God gave to mankind, His beloved Son, Jesus. It is so sad, as is expressed in the hymn, that so many only know Christ as a babe in a manger and not as the Savior who suffered and died for all our sins. May we who have been redeemed strive to serve our great God more sincerely and be a brighter light to those who yet stand outside the fold.

The engagement of Sis. Joan Stoller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen) and Bro. Glen Greenbank of Akron (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily, Phoenix, AZ) was made known to us Sunday, November 16. We pray that God will bless and guide them as they begin making plans for their life together.

Our dear Bro. Ben Hartzler has again been hospitalized. We are thankful that he is improving and pray that God will continue to be near him and strengthen him as only He can do.

Though I must endure affliction,
Yet I feel my Lord's affection;
He is here my strength in life,
And helps me in every strife.

Zion's Harp #157

OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehkla Frances Laidig

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shown round about them; and they were sore afraid.

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

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
St. Luke 2:8-11

May Christmas bring great joy into our lives as we still live in the day of grace when salvation is made available for all men everywhere.

Let us not allow our earthly preparation for Christmas to overshadow the preparation of our soul for eternity. That preparation brings a promise of joy and happiness. How beautiful to know that all promises are kept by our Lord and Saviour.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Victor Bauman (Smithville, OH). We were grateful that he came to spend a Sunday with us. May God bless him for his labor of love.

We welcome Bro. Paul and Sis. Connie (Troxel) Vidrine and daughter, Elise, to our congregation. They have recently moved into our area.

We thank the Alto congregation for their kind hospitality at the annual World Relief meeting. It is always good to hear and see what is being done by our churches for the needy. May God continue to bless this work and always give us the desire to help whenever and wherever we can.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Barbara Moser

We had a very blessed weekend November 8, 9 and 10 when our Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) were here. The Portland church traveled to Silverton on Sunday for afternoon services and a potluck in the evening. On Monday evening both Silverton and Portland had the blessed privilege of partaking in communion.

Our sincere prayers are offered for Bro. Art Metz and his wife, Sis. Betty, as he was put in the ministry in Silverton. May God bless them and walk closely with them in their new duties.

We want to thank all of our summer visitors who spent their vacations in the Portland area. We hope you will come again and visit us.

Our daily bread, Lord, give us
For body, soul and mind,
Thy words of life so precious,
So pure and so refined.
We pray Thee for Thy favor,
Our Lord on heaven's throne;
Thy bread of heaven's flavor
Can please our hearts alone.

Forgive us our transgressions,
Where we, O Lord, have not
In words, in deeds, or patience

Done as Thy word has taught.
They are unworthy servants.
Who do no more at best
Than what laws and commandments
Require of them, then rest.

Let us, Thy children, mindful,
Obey Thy words with cheer;
Let none of us be idle,
Nor indolent while here.
And as Thou, Lord, hast mercy,
Where we not right have done,
So are we ever ready,
Forgiving everyone.

Zion's Harp #85

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rose Lee Kuenzi

We surely experienced a blessed weekend the second weekend of November when we were able to hear the testimonies and observe the baptisms of our new Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet Kuenzi. Opportunities such as these serve not only as a great blessing to the participants but as a tremendous uplifting and encouragement to the whole congregation. We heartily thank Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) for their willingness to serve the Lord, and thereby serve the Oregon churches. "Heavenward, e'er heavenward let us wend our way/Found without delay, But not on earth./What the righteous seek is there/Joy here alternates with woe; Lift on high from earth below thy heart and mind!" Zion's Harp #91. (Dear reader, when you read the Silver Lining and see the songs and Bible quotes interspersed between the news items you maybe feel like scanning over them to quickly pick out the news. Pause and give them your attention for even a few moments, for often the writers have spent more time finding the right reference to give you the correct setting and atmosphere, than in writing the news itself. If you will permit this writer to mention that the above song has been especially comforting to our family this past year.)

Our congregation, and the Portland congregation, also, gathered recently to hear further discussion of our 1986 brotherhood conference as Elder Bro. Leo Moser and Elder Bro. Art Nohl read the memorandum. Other much appreciated services performed by our elder brothers were a valuable exhortation and serving holy communion.

The Silverton membership with, we believe, God's direction chose Bro. Art

Metz to be our third brother to minister the Word to us. Many prayers have risen, not only for Bro. Art, but also for his dear wife, Sis. Betty, and children, Sis. Lisa, Amy, Joel, Eldon and Mary.

We are thankful to have Sis. Gloria (Bro. Lewis) Kuenzi able to assemble with us again after her surgery. She is improving satisfactorily and sends the following message to all who have remembered her in any way: "Thanks for prayers, cards, flowers and gifts."

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Jason and Wendy Williamson

On October 26, we said farewell to Bro. David, Sis. Caroline and their son, David Roberts, who are leaving us to return to Bluffton, IN. We enjoyed having them in our congregation and wish them well in their new home.

We thank Bro. Leland Hirschey, his family and other guests for serving us November 9.

WEST VIRGINIA, NEW MARTINSVILLE Minnie Weltz

In this area the weather is real cold for this time of the year with heavy winds at times. The most news around here has been the layoffs and shut-down of several plants. Viking Glass plans to leave the area and Pittsburgh Plate Glass is having labor problems. The Ormet plant in Hannibal, OH, finally did get a settlement and by spring all will be back to work.

One big event was the celebration of the completion of the agreements relating to construction and operation of the 103 million dollar project, New Martinsville Hydroelectric Project, which should be completed by early 1988.

Ada Riggerbach Durig passed away October 18 after a lengthy illness. She was the daughter of the late John and Carrie Riggerbach. Surviving are her husband, Lloyd Durig, one daughter, one son, five grandchildren, one brother, Howard Riggerbach, one sister, Minnie Durig, and one foster sister. Services were held October 20.

Pearl Frei, after working in the county clerk's office for 46 years is retiring at the end of the year. She was given a farewell party October 18. She will be succeeded by Mary Caroline Riggerbach, an employee of the office for several years, who was re-elected November 4.

Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock spent several days with their son, Timothy, and family in Bixbee, OK, the last of October. They were a bit late to see the almost flooded condition of that area.

The Barth sisters attended afternoon services at the Sardis, OH, church November 1 and were taken to the site of the new church which is coming along nicely. It is a beautiful location and will be a beautiful church home.

Frank Barth had to have a leg amputated because of poor circulation. We visit with him quite often and his family is very good to him in every way.

TEXAS, DALLAS-FORT WORTH Sandy Schmidt

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalms 106:1

We have so much to be thankful for. God has provided for us here in our area.

Visiting ministers included: Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson (Kiowa, KS), Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

There is a new schedule out for our new year of services. I look forward to meeting our visitors. If I can be of any help to you, please call 214-594-1344.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

confess that I don't always do it. That is contrary to the Word of God.

Paul wrote to Timothy: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed . . ." II Timothy 2:15. Study means to put forth effort. Read and listen to the Word. Study. We want our life to meet the approval of God.

Who are we trying to fool, or who are we trying to impress? Let us always try to consider whether our lives are displaying the love of God to everybody.

Let us all listen to our employer or whoever we are working for. Let us do it from our hearts. Say, "I am doing this job as unto the Lord."

"Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart." Ephesians 6:6. The heart is the seat of authority. The heart tells us yes or no.

We think about something; then it goes to the heart. After we ponder it, action comes forth. We can read in another place, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23. In Romans 10:10 we read, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." The heart . . . the seat of authority. Let's remember this.

"With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men." Ephesians 6:7. Let's do our work as unto the Lord, willingly. You will be a better employee than you ever were before if you take these Scriptures to heart. Pray about them. Think about them, and be serious about them. Your employer may wonder what happened in his employee's life, if you haven't been already observing this instruction.

"Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening; knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him." Ephesians 6:8, 9.

To God, it doesn't make any difference who we are. Young or old, middle-aged, wealthy or poor. "God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10:34. God made every one of us, and He expects us to work with what we have. If we don't have as much as our neighbor, let's not be jealous of him and covet. God may ask a lot more from him, or from her.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:10, 11. Beloved, the devil is working overtime today.

We can read in Revelation 12:12, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." We are the inhabitants, and Satan is here and he is alive. He is real, and he is tearing down, leading astray and destroying.

"Put on the whole armour of God . . ." Ephesians 6:11. The breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, loins girt about with truth, feet shod with the gospel of peace, using the shield of faith and the sword of the

Spirit, which is the Word of God. Therein lies our safety.

Beloved, if we don't know the Word of God, we had better read it. We are living in a day when people want to know things. We are living in a world of information. People are trying to sort it out, seeking what is right. We should know the truth. If we know it, we should want to live it. We, as Christians, have to think differently. We have to believe and live differently. Otherwise, how will the world know that we are His followers?

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Ephesians 6:18. Beloved, I read not long ago that there are three posts that must be used in the building of a spiritual life for it to be successful. They are preparedness, perseverance and perspiration.

Sometimes we have to "sweat it out", don't we? But we have to hang in there and be dedicated. We must be sincere. We must be prepared, because heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Heaven is ready and waiting. Now it is up to us to get ready and to be prepared. Is there anybody here who would dare to say, "I'm planning on going to heaven, but I am not prepared?"

You can have no assurance of that. Heaven is prepared, and the time is appointed when God will tell Christ, "This is it . . . no longer. The time of the end is here." He will make an end of all things, and in a moment of time, in the twinkling of an eye, Christ will come and leave. The rapture of the church will have taken place. The believers will be gone. You and I want to go with that great multitude to be with our Lord. Beloved, that day and that hour may be nearer than we think.

The prophecies of old are being fulfilled daily. We see the moral decay. The fibers of our society are disintegrating. What is happening to America? What is happening to God-fearing people? Don't we want to witness for the truth anymore? Beloved, it takes everything we've got.

The Apostle Peter wrote, "If the righteous barely make it, how dare we take a chance? Hebrews 2:3 tells us, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Think about it, beloved.

FEB
CHARLES WALDER
EAST LYNN

LK

IL 60932 THE SILVER LINING

SERMON BY BRO. CARROLL WALDER OF BLUFFTON NORTH, IN

Text: Ephesians 6

There is something here for everyone; for children, for parents, for brethren, for all of us here today. Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter to the church at Ephesus. Things have not changed much as generations have passed.

Let us consider the first verse. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Ephesians 6:1.

It seems that we are living in a time when children don't like to obey their parents, but here we have a command. We don't want to find fault with children. We were children once. We had to learn from our moms and dads. Most of us, I am sure, are thankful for the mom and dad we had, for there is no duplicate for mom and dad. The Word says that we have a responsibility as children to obey our parents in the Lord, and look up to them because they are our parents. They are not always right... I know I wasn't, but we are not always wrong either.

You children should respect your parents. They have traveled many miles. They've crossed many bridges, and they've gone through many valleys. Their consistency, their faithfulness and their example taught us something, didn't it?

To be obedient, we must be willing to yield. I am sure that when I was a boy, I didn't always want my dad and mom to give me everything I wanted. It was good to hear, "No, not this time," or "Maybe some other time," or "That's not good for you". But as young boys and girls, we didn't always think we wanted to hear that.

To obey our parents is the first commandment that God gave with a promise. We read it together. "Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." Ephesians 6:2, 3. Boys and girls, it's the only one of the ten commandments with a promise attached. It is something to abide by.

Let's talk about the commandments just a little bit. We talk about love. That is all wonderful, but when God

gave the commandments at Mount Sinai to Moses, seven out of the ten said, "Thou shalt not...". Think about that for a minute. Seventy percent. Another one was, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." That is the first commandment. The fourth one is "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy," and then "Honor thy father and thy mother...". Those are the other three. Exodus 20:3, 8, 12.

We are born sinners. Romans 3 tells us that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. "There is none righteous, no, not one." Romans 3:10. So, we are sinners. If we never repent and become converted, we will die as sinners.

Something had to be done about our sin. God sent His Son, and the Lord came willingly. He gave His life willingly. He shed His blood to pay for your sins and mine, the greatest price that could have been paid. He paid it all. Beloved, that should humble us to the very utmost. As sinful as I was, Jesus died for me so that I could be saved. That is precious.

"Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4. We have a tremendous responsibility. We are told: "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath." I wonder if I did that, sometimes, to my shame. I'm sorry. If we would ask all the dads here, I am sure that they would say that if they could do it over, they would do things a little differently. If we learn from our mistakes that we make, it can be profitable to us spiritually, and to our children. Remember that there is a time to talk and there is a time to listen.

Our youth have important decisions to make. What is important to them may not seem so important to us, but be a good listener. If our children can't talk to us, to whom do they talk? They talk to their peers. There is tremendous peer pressure today, such as there has never been. What those peers say to them is often more important than what mom and dad tells them.

Let's remember to weigh our words carefully before we answer. Many times just a few moments will calm us down a little so that we can wisely answer questions without provoking our children.

Then Paul adds, "... but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." We should do that to the very best of our ability. Everything depends on our attitude. If we have the right attitude, we can bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

If we have the right attitude, our conduct will be right, our lifestyle will be right, and we will be consistent with the Word of God. We will be making application of the Word in our daily living, and the decisions that we make will be based upon Scripture.

People can see right through us. If you don't believe it, ask them. They see every move that we make. They see what we say, what we do and where we go. They know everything about us. And most important of all, our life is an open book before the eyes of Almighty God. He sees everything. He knows what is on the inside and what is on the outside.

Can you see why we should guard our thoughts? Our thoughts determine our words. Our words influence our actions. Our actions develop into habits. Our habits mold our character. Do you see the sequence? It is serious. It is a full-time, twenty-four-hour-a-day job.

"Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ." Ephesians 6:5. We are all serving somebody, whether it is in our home life, work or wherever we are. We are all responsible to someone else. In whatever we do, let us remember that we are supposed to do it as if we are doing it unto the Lord.

"Be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh..." Do we always do that? I am ashamed, and

(Continued on Page 31)