



"O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."

Psalms 84:12

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Proverbs 3:5

VOLUME 37

JANUARY 1987

NUMBER 1

Who Are You "Leaning" on in 1987?

The future may always seem uncertain, but whenever we cross the threshold of a new year, it makes us stop and think. Let's use this seasonal reminder to ask ourselves some serious questions. Who are we "leaning" on as we enter 1987? On whom can we trust and depend? That which seems so certain today may "melt" away under heat or pressure tomorrow. There is only One that we can count on as we face the future. *"God is our refuge and strength . . . Therefore will we not fear,"* Psalms 46:1, 2. *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.* Matthew 24:35.

But there is even more good news. God isn't only eternally trustworthy, but He also knows us inside out. (Psalms 139). Even knowing us as He does, He still loved us enough to give us the only gift that could have cost him anything, the gift of his only begotten Son. The Apostle Paul rejoiced in saying, *"If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"* Romans 8:31, 32.

As we face the coming year, let us again focus on the attributes of a true and living God. May we find in Him our security, confidence and hope. Let us understand that the One that can be trusted with eternity, can also be trusted with the cares of the day. Lean on Him, cling to Him, abide in Him and let nothing hinder your pursuit of a deeper, more personal relationship with the God of eternity.



THE CAPACITY TO LOVE

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

"God is love". I John 4:16

One of the graces we should seek after in the new year is the capacity to love. This grace, or attractive quality, tends to evade us.

The New Testament is full of teachings on love. There is God's love for man, "For God so loved the world." (John 3:16). There is also the teaching of love for our fellow men, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," (Matthew 22:39) and, "By this shall all men

know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another." (John 13:35).

I once remarked that someone was not very spiritual. The person I was addressing replied, "Some people aren't capable of being spiritual, you know." That made me wonder if we are born with a tendency to be spiritual or non-spiritual, to be interested or not interested in religion.

This matter of loving others and being loved is similar to the problem of

being spiritual or not being spiritual. We might say that some people just naturally have a very loving personality and we all tend to gravitate toward that person because they are nice to be near. It's refreshing. It can be said that such a person has THE CAPACITY TO LOVE. Such a person also has the capacity to receive love which is a very important aspect of having the capacity to love.

What about the rest of us? Must we go through life with only half the ability to love others and only half the ability to receive the love of others? I would like to believe that this is not the case. Surely we can be determined and give top priority to stretching our personalities to the limit of our natural ability to love and to be loved. This is the challenge we have before us in the new year.

We are taught in Philippians 4:8, ". . . Whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report . . . Think on these things." Let's pray for grace in the new year to think all kinds of nice things about others, to say all kinds of nice things to others, and to be very kind and courteous to others. We must increase our CAPACITY TO LOVE. This is God's will for us in the new year.

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
December 1986 —	2651	8477

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

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

SISTER NEEDED TO TEACH IN JAPAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-the-Lord,

We send you warm greetings of love in Jesus name. Our precious Word tells us, "... the prayer of a righteous man availeth much . . .". And we are so appreciative of the prayers many of you breathe for the brethren, friends and work here in Japan.

We write you today with a specific need we wish to share, however. As many of you know, our church operates two basic outreach programs here in Japan: an English school and a private kindergarten. And our need today has to do with finding a sister to teach in our kindergarten.

The Shioda-American kindergarten is located in the country about one and a half hours drive from the western suburbs of Tokyo. It is a 2-year comprehensive, Christian-based English kindergarten program for 32 Japanese children. This program has served area children for nearly 20 years, and our Lord who knows all and sees all has continued to provide for our needs.

Over the years our system has developed to include a classroom for 16 four-year-old entering students and a classroom for 16 five-year-old second year students. God directed, willing sisters have been offering services for these precious children on a two-year or longer rotation plan. The sisters' transportation to and from America, housing, health insurance, a monthly

expense stipend (approximately \$600), a domestic travel package (approximately \$450) and an annual bonus (approximately \$600) are provided.

Sis. Sheila Moser (Lester, IA) will be completing 3 years of service in July, and is scheduled to return to the States. Therefore, we are praying for God to provide another willing sister to teach. We are searching for a sister who:

1) Is a mature Christian woman and a sister in good standing with the church.
2) Feels she is unquestionably led by the Father for humble service.

3) Holds a bachelors degree in education in the fields of either English as a second language, elementary education, special education, speech pathology, early childhood education or a related field.

4) Is an individual that is flexible, willing to begin studying/using a foreign language and is able to fully support a church which is located in a different culture and a country with less than a 1% Christian population.

We would like to leave you with several scriptural passages:

— Luke 1:37; With God all things are possible.

— Isaiah 6:8; I heard the voice of the Lord saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me.

— Matthew 28:18; Go ye therefore unto all nations, teaching them all

things whatsoever I have commanded you. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. And lo I will be with you always even unto the end of the world.

If the spirit is speaking to your heart today, we beg you to confer with your local elder, who in turn will contact our Missionary Committee representative, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach. He will then contact the team here in Japan. If you do have questions concerning your role here or any other details, feel free to contact us. If you are not eligible for this position, we humbly ask for your sincere prayers.

Your needy servants in the Lord,
Randy Mogler
Willis R. Ehnle

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

Winter, that exhilarating and exciting time of year, is our good portion in the great midwest — northeast Indiana in particular. How invigorating it is to be alive, up and about, and able to

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
Uriel Gehring
Lynn Stieglitz

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

Published Monthly By the Apostolic
Christian Church of America.

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

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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

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

IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

HOUSEPARENT OPENING AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

Greetings in the Lord Jesus,

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

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

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

Your servants in Christ,

The Children's Home
Board of Directors

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

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

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

enjoy the winter blessings afforded us only at this season of the year. We were awakened on a recent morning with five inches of snow on the ground. A few days later the temperature was a balmy 55 degrees. This morning we were greeted with a -15 degree wind-chill factor as we stepped into the out-of-doors. Our Creator gives us the beauty and enchantment of change on His great planet earth to add a special seasoning to our outlook on life, and to let us know the elements are under His control. What a privilege to serve such a God. What with all the changes He allows us to see and feel, His Word assures us, "I am the Lord, I change not." (Malachi 3:6). What meaneth this? He wants us to worship Him and love Him with all that within us is because He is God, our Creator. "For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people: He will beautify the meek with salvation." (Psalm 149:4). How manifold are His blessings to us.

We have a new boy, Mike K., from the Bluffton, IN, area, living in the East House. He is 12 years old and in the sixth grade in Leo. We look forward to a pleasant, growing relationship with him as he joins our family. Our family now totals fourteen special boys and girls. What an opportunity for us to "let our light shine" and portray to them the real purpose of being placed on this earth.

Our family is growing up; recent birthdays have been Ayne J., 15 on December 15; Andrea H., 12 on December 4; and Kara H., 13 on Decem-

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

ber 24. Once our children reach the "teens", it seems they move through life's schedule so fast; it is a most challenging time for them and us as these years are the stepping stones to adulthood and all its responsibilities. We all need your prayers.

The West House hosted the residents of the Retirement Center for a holiday supper recently. The evening, after a delicious turkey supper served by the children and houseparents, was spent fellowshiping and singing hymns. It was so encouraging to see our children and senior citizens enjoying each other's company — it was a pleasant, profitable evening.

Children from both houses took some food to needy families, sang a few Christmas carols for them, gave them a Bible, and then returned for supper at Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr's. What a pleasant way to spend an evening during the holiday season.

It was nice seeing Beth A., a former resident at our Home, in church and at the Christmas program. How precious are friendships.

Beth H. is very active in Brownie Scouts and enthusiastically enjoying it. Industrious little hands make happy, successful adults.

The annual Yuletide Festival for the Leo High School was held recently. Our children participating were John W., Marie H., Kara H. and Daleen C. singing in the choir; John W. sang a solo and Ayne J. played in the band. Andrea H. played in the band at the Leo Elementary Christmas program. Bertha W. sang in the choir at New Haven's Christmas program. They all did a fine job, and we thank them for representing our Home family so well.

Sunday evening, December 14, our annual Christmas church supper and Sunday school program was held at the fellowship hall. It was a full house. Participants in the program were as young as three years of age. As an added blessing, we were favored by a number from the Stieglitz quartet. As our children presented to us the Christmas story in song and verse, our hearts were warmed and our spirits were lifted heavenward. There is something special about seeing and hearing our children tell us the wonderful story, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Fa-

ther, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:6-7). May the Lord bless all who planned and provided the evening meal and the program.

The most recent presentations about the Home were at Latty, OH, and Taylor, MO. To date, 30 presentations have been given. Any church wanting a presentation should contact the Home. Presentations are usually given immediately after the Sunday afternoon service.

Sis. Elaine Norr and her mother, Sis. Helen Norr, hosted the Children's Home staff and Bro. John and Sis. Velma Bollier for a most delicious evening meal and time of fellowshiping during the Christmas season. Thank you, Sisters Norr, for caring and sharing. Bro. John told us that Bro. Herman Norr, Elaine's father and Helen's husband, was the man who had the foresight to see the need of a children's home. He lived to see the land purchased for the site, but never saw the building project started. Thanks be to God for men like Bro. Herman whose compassion for needy children kindled in the hearts of other brethren the desire to continue with the children's home. We are thankful to God that through your continued prayers, we are able to meet the needs of the children we serve.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder had the staff in for a Christmas lunch on Thursday, December 18, at their lovely home. Everything was strictly special: the food delicious, the musicians superb, the fellowship uplifting, the gift exchange rewarding, the hymn singing heavenly and the blessings many.

The children are progressing well in school — we are near the midway point of the '86-'87 school year already. How fast we march forward into the unknown to us, but the known to God.

As we launch into the year of our Lord 1987, let us review 1986 with thankful and appreciative hearts for all the goodness bestowed on us by God Almighty; and let us look forward in faith to the new year, remembering all good and perfect gifts come from Him. We can then joyously proceed at our Home in our "work of faith and labor of

love". Have a blessed and joyful New Year!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"God thundered marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend. For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength. He sealet up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work. And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth."

Job 37:5, 6, 7, 12

We are serving a great and mighty God. Serving seems to be the area we question ourselves about the most, isn't it? Are we doing what He wishes us to do? Are we doing all that we should be doing? Do we give Him the complete trust and love He deserves? God can do all things. He has a strength that we can rely upon. How often do we feel we know what is best and want things our way?

Just this past summer I was reminded of the complete trust a small child has. My grandson and his mother came for a visit. When the vacation was over, and it was time to fly home, my grandson took his mother's hand and without looking back, he boarded the plane. He had complete trust in her love for him. Wherever she led was okay with him. As I stood there a message came to me that we should be as a little child and take God's hand. He knows where He wants us to be, what He wants us to do, and without so much as a look back, we can put our hand in His and trust His love for us completely.

This message of trust makes us think of our residents here at the Home. They, too, must trust those who love them. They are led in ways that others choose for them. Many are not able to make decisions of their own. How trusting they must be. They have such a simple love and understanding of Jesus. They just know He is taking care of them. This would make a good New Year's resolution — more trust in Him who is certainly trustworthy. "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give

good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" Matthew 7:9, 10, 11.

Birthday time for our residents is a particularly happy occasion. Celebrating their birthdays in January are Edith Wagenbach, Mary Schramm, Karen Blunier, Bruce Steffen, Jackie Willett, Laverna Zobrist, Becky Huber, John Eddy and Tom Sides.

The Christmas parties are over here at the Home. Most of our residents were able to spend the holidays at home or with loved ones. Because we love our residents, we have a joy for them when we learn of their visits to family. They come to tell us with eyes shining — "We're going home!"

We wish to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you who have helped in any way to support our Home . . . money, volunteer service and prayer . . . all is so important to the Home. We want, first and foremost, for God to continually guide our decisions and alert us to any future needs where we may serve Him and all His special developmentally disabled children in the world. We have been very grateful for all His loving kindness, shown through you, during the past year, and we look forward to 1987 knowing that He is at the helm.

A GLAD NEW YEAR

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

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

Is to have and to give a glad New Year.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Marilyn Walder

We were privileged to have Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and David Bertsch (Leo, IN) with us to share in the Lord's Supper November 23. It was a special time and we felt close to one another as well as to the Lord as we thought of what He did for us when He died on the cross. We are undeserving of the sacrifice Christ made for us and yet are instructed in the Word to partake of the bread and cup to commemorate Christ's death.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk (Alto, MI) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Aaron

Steffen's wife, Sis. Loretta Steffen, were also with us for the weekend. The November board meeting for the preschool was held Saturday. A wiener roast and singing was held Saturday evening and was enjoyed by the whole church.

Our annual Christmas dinner was held Saturday, December 13, with about sixty people attending. We had a potluck supper at the fellowship hall. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Delilah Schrenk (Alto, MI) were with us. We appreciate the words of encouragement as Bros. Elmer and Marvin brought us the Word. We had a Christmas program at the Athens Nursing Home Sunday afternoon and also took the residents a box of needed personal items.

O. C. Haggemaker was in the hospital and is now home and back at work. Also, Sis. Doris Moore's mother, Berta Barnes, was hospitalized and is now recuperating at home. Our prayers are with them.

As we begin a new year, let's try to trust God more and let Him work in us what is pleasing in His sight. We make New Year's resolutions and find we can't keep them but if we rely on God's power and strength we can grow and be more obedient to Him.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

A most delightful evening was enjoyed by a more than full house when we gathered December 14 for our Sunday school program. Our Lord Jesus has truly blessed the Phoenix church! Ninety-two adorable, lovely children sang and told us of the "Joy to the World" that the birth of our Saviour brought. The second and third graders told us what Christmas meant to him or her in great expressions. A reception followed from a beautiful holiday bedecked table. Great appreciation and thanks is due the teachers. May the Lord bless them.

Elder Bro. Gene Marti came from Lamar, MO, to share with Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach in reading the conference report. Are we thankful enough how our elders try to guide us on our heavenly path?

Thanksgiving Day services were so meaningful and especially so, when our dear Shayne Pulfer (Bro. John and Sis. Wilma) joined us. We thank the dear

Lord for many answered prayers for loved ones, here and elsewhere.

The following were elected at our annual business meeting: trustee, Bro. Al Yackley; outdoor maintenance, Bro. Harlan Ramsier; S. S. superintendent, Bro. Jim Meiss; assistant S. S. superintendent, Bro. Dave Klopfenstein; usher, Bro. Steve Miracle.

We are grateful for the sermons by Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO), Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN).

Bro. Alvin Laukhuf, Sis. Shirley Zollinger and Sis. Penny Schuster have all had out-patient surgery. Bro. Dan Kokanovich was a surgical patient. Sis. Linda Zollinger has returned to work. We still request prayers for Shayne Pulfer. It was nice to see Herb Mohrman back in church again.

Christmas caroling was the night of December 21.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and Bro. Todd Feller (Phoenix) recently visited us for the day. We were encouraged by their sermons and thankful for a chance to fellowship with them and their wives, Sis. Barbara and Sis. Karen, respectively. We thank them for their efforts on our behalf and heartily invite them back.

Our ministering Bro. Loren Knapp recently returned from a visit to Mexico City. However, it was not a social visit as Bro. Loren was there to help the victims of the earthquake that hit Mexico City some time ago. The group that went with Bro. Loren was originally scheduled to go to Haiti but could not due to unrest in that area. As always, it is a concern to us when our loved ones and brethren visit a foreign country and we are indeed relieved to have Bro. Loren back safely in the United States. I am sure the Lord will bless him and the rest of the group for their sacrifice.

Sis. Martha Blessman has returned to Tucson as she does each year at this time after spending several months back in the Midwest. It is always so good to see her and have her assemble with us again.

As we approach our holiday season, our temperatures are in the 70's and the comment is often made that it is hard to "get in the holiday spirit" with no cold weather and snow. Perhaps this

should help us to remember that snow and cold weather really have no meaning. What we should be feeling is humility and joy that our Saviour was born and eventually gave His life for us on the cross.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Brenda Stoller

It was a blessed day for the Altadena and San Diego congregations who were together in Maywood for the baptism of Louise Erhart. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach join us that day.

We welcome Bryan and Terry Kaiser (Peoria, IL) and Sis. Kelly and Bro. Steve Freed (Phoenix, AZ). We're so grateful when God sends people to join our small congregation.

We were thankful David Klotzle, Keith Klotzle and Paul Beckley could go to Mexico to help in the mission work. May God bless them for their labor and efforts and continue to work in their lives.

Hospitalized were Sis. Judy Crocket, Sis. Elizabeth Feldman and Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger. Our prayer is that God will continue to make His presence felt and strengthen them.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammann

On Sunday, December 7, we had a blessed day as we heard the testimony of Louise Erhart and then witnessed her baptism. We are happy to add Sis. Louise to our congregation.

Bro. Ernest and Sis. Marcella Dapper (Elgin, IL) and Sis. Julia Ann Dapper (Peoria, IL) were here to be with their aunt, Sis. Louise.

The Altadena and San Diego congregations were with us for an afternoon and evening.

After our dinner we heard the memorandum read to us by Elder Bros. John Klotzle and Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ). How we should all follow God's Word.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Scott and Anna Hoerr

Christmas time is again past and one has to realize that another year has come and gone. As we reflect back, what have we done? How did we spend our time? Could we have better served the Lord? Yes. Would we have done or said anything differently? Yes. We can be thankful to God that He has sent us His Son, born of a virgin in a manger

low, and wrapped in swaddling clothes. Reading the Christmas story brings great joy to our hearts, knowing the truth of Christmas and in the spirit of giving, knowing God has given us the perfect gift, His Son.

Looking back throughout the year, we have had:

Three baptisms, two marriages and two ministers entrusted to bring forth God's Word.

This is a beautiful time of year to come to San Diego from the snowstorms to the sunshine. We welcome all!!!

Services continue to be held at the Meadowbrook Middle School. Please call Bro. Peter Petrovic at (619) 789-1504 or Bro. Doug Wagenbach at (619) 741-5902.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

It is a blessing to see God's children fulfilling His will. We rejoice with Bro. Greg McLaughlin and Sis. Lavonne Fischer as they begin to fulfill God's will in their lives. They were married November 30 in Roanoke. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Lavonne.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:19, 20. As the Lord spoke unto His disciples He told them to teach all things that He had commanded them. We are thankful that through World Relief we have a way of keeping this commandment by providing assistance in both spiritual and physical needs. We wish to thank Bro. Vernon Leman and Bro. Noah Hermann for sharing with us some of the activities and World Relief projects. Bro. Vernon also showed us his slides of his trip to Eastern Europe. We wish to thank these dear brothers for their time and effort. Also, we thank Bro. Vernon for bringing us God's holy Word.

"And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?" Matthew 21:16. There is no better mouth for praise, than that of a child. It is wonderful when our children can bring us the story of the Messiah as they did in the Christmas program.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Martha Hany

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

Hymns of Zion #150

"Ye cannot serve God and Mammon" (Matthew 6:24). We rejoiced to hear that Vern Bahler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Aline) has turned from the world to God in repentance. May the Lord grant him much grace to discern the spirits in his conversion.

We take this opportunity to welcome Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman and family to our congregation. They have three children, Eric, Cheryl and Christie.

Sis. Roberta Foote has been hospitalized for surgery recently and we are happy that she again has been able to assemble with us. Also, Sis. Olga Bahler, Sis. Beverly Gerber, Bro. Fred Zahner and Sis. Caroline Hartmann have spent some time in the hospital. We pray that they may be restored to moderate health once again, as well as others who may have required a physician's care during the month.

Caleb Jeremy was the name given to a son born October 27 to Craig and Roberta Hartmann. He has one brother, Joshua. Paternal grandparents are Raymond and Sis. Caroline Hartmann and maternal grandmother is Ethel Clark (Glastonbury).

"Let me go, Let me go, Lord to me Thy presence show!" This meaningful hymn was sung for departed Sis. Lydia (Gerber) Lanz, 85, who was called to her eternal home December 8, leaving her husband, Bro. Charlie Lanz.

Visiting minister for the month was Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL).

"Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely" (Psalm 147). We enjoyed meeting and greeting Elder Bro. Bob Walder and his wife, Sis. Gloria (Congerville) Saturday, December 13, at which time we had an uplifting evening of singing hymns.

We thank Elder Bro. Bob Walder for assisting our elder in reading and discussing the memorandum. We were reminded of the seriousness of our "Life in the Son", topic of the memorandum, in being obedient and submissive to the Word of God and, as proof of our love, being tolerant and submissive

to one another as brethren in Christ. It was stated that traditions and church practices act as a "fence" for our protection against the world and help us to focus more directly on God alone. We are thankful God has provided us with faithful shepherds who, out of pure love, chastise, admonish and comfort us so that we are able to remain a separate people, according to the Word.

Reminder: January is collection month for our congregation. Subscription cost is \$7.00. Please make your check payable to Martha Hany.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Ed Aeschleman

We enjoyed a blessed Sunday together December 14. We appreciate the services of Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner who came with his wife, Sis. Doris, from Croghan, NY. We were strengthened by the good teachings of God's Word and enjoyed additional hours of Christian fellowship.

It is our hope that as we again prepare to celebrate the birth of our dear Saviour, many souls who have not yet yielded to the Lord's offering of love and salvation will find it in their hearts to do so while the time is nigh.

"Be not content this babe to know, nor stay at Bethlehem.

But go with Christ to Calvary's brow, beyond Jerusalem.

'Tis there men learn to know the Christ, for there He bore man's sin.

Then open wide the door of heart. And let the Saviour in."

Hymns of Zion #36

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Terri Huber

In November, Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) was our visiting minister. We thoroughly enjoyed his two sermons, especially when he tied together Proverbs 3:6, "In all your ways acknowledge Him" and Colossians 3:23, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men."

We were pleasantly surprised with the engagement announcement of Bro. Dale Ringger (our only single brother!) to Sis. Amy Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Diane, Francesville, IN) November 30. Bro. Dale has been living in Ft. Lauderdale for two years. His parents are Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn, Bluffton, IN). We wish them God's blessings and look

forward to having Amy in our midst. They are planning a March wedding.

When this is being read, the holiday season will be past. I would like to recount the highlights of our 1986 Christmas. The traditional picture of carolers includes snow, mittens and rosy cheeks. Our Christmas caroling was no less sincere, though it lacked those elements! We sang at a home for the aged and for other elderly people — what a blessing to spread cheer to those who may be lonely in this holiday season.

The Sunday school Christmas program was delightful. The small children saying their pieces were often cute to the point of mirth, yet the message of Jesus' birth was not lost. The Sunday school also sponsored two underprivileged families through the Salvation Army, purchasing toys, clothes, Bibles and food for Christmas dinner to brighten up the holiday for them.

Many of our church members had the opportunity to participate in the Salvation Army bell ringing program. It was truly an eye-opener to realize that every coin helps, and most of us came away with the thought that never again can we walk past a bell-ringer without putting something in the pot. I hope that we have all experienced the joy of giving this Christmas.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS
Kay Eisenmann

Here it is, the beginning of a new year, and at this time, I'm so thankful for God's blessings — for a believing husband and inlaws who are such good examples to me. May we so live that we can die in peace as God promises His children. We observe some whose bodies become weaker but their faith seems to grow stronger. Thanks be to God. May we take time to pray for such loved ones in faith and be thankful for our blessings and not be saying, "Lord, I need more."

Will He find faith when He comes? Even within our own family, do we strive for peace? Let us try not to ask too much of each other! For who is the weakest? Is it the one who is considered to be more permissive or the one whom it bothers? "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:" James 1:19. What a wonderful world this would be if this scripture were our New Year's resolution! Wouldn't this

whole world be a better place to live?

We were blessed by the ministry of visiting Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and we welcome back ministering Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) who are here for the winter months.

In his message Bro. Dave spoke of how painless a shadow is. To stand in the shadow of a tree causes no pain. So, although we all must pass through the valley of the shadow of death, why should we fear it? Let's obey God and not listen to Satan who is the cause of all fear in our lives.

Our grandson, Dathan, is still in remission, but not able to go to school. He has a home tutor.

We enjoyed a Christmas program with the Sarasota congregation. We were so thankful that Dathan was able to be in the program. All the children were such a blessing. May God bless all those who worked to organize and put on these programs.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Lucille Heiniger

As we approach the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ we hear all the beautiful Christmas songs. How thankful we can be that God sent His only begotten Son that we can find our salvation through Him. After Christmas comes a new year. It behooves each one to try to do their very best in serving God, so when that great day comes, we can be ready to be with our Lord and Saviour in those heavenly mansions above.

Our dear Sis. Julia Kittl had surgery last Friday. She is doing quite well and hopes to soon be at home with her husband, Bernard. We wish her God's blessings and a complete recovery.

Sis. Minnie Nuest submitted to eye surgery recently and is doing fine.

Dathan Eisenmann seems to have improved and hopefully after Christmas holidays are past, he will be able to go to school again. It is a real joy to see him doing so well.

Some of the couples that are here for the winter have gone back to their homes in the north to spend Christmas with their families.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Dave Eisenmann (North Fort Myers). We thank them for bringing the Word to us in truth and purity.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Donna Hodel — Nancy Kaufmann

We have two new births to report this month. We rejoice with Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeannine Mariani as they welcome little Brian Allen into their lives. Brian has a sister, Lisa, and a brother, David, to welcome him home. Grandparents are Sis. Kathryn Rudin (Cissna Park) and Dave and Imogene Mariani (LaSalle). Also, we are so happy for Jan and Kim Nussbaum and their boys, Drew, Troy and Cory, as they have been blessed with a little girl, Jeni Lyn. Grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Elna Nussbaum (Forrest) and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jenkins (Towanda). May God be with these families at this very special time in their lives.

Our visiting minister this month was our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont). We ask that God bless him for his labors of love.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Marilyn Tanner

The engagement of David Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta) and Joni Maher (Veronica Maher) was recently announced. May God be near them as they plan their future.

Bro. Don and Sis. Jenny Knobloch are happy with a new baby boy, Daniel Irwin, born November 26. Nicole and Heather welcome him along with grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen and Bro. Louis and Sis. Vilas Belsley (Morton).

Hospital patients this month were Jared Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carol), Sis. Helen Knobloch, Kara Leman (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Gary Ehnle. We are thankful they are home and recovering satisfactorily.

On December 14 the Sunday school presented their Christmas program to the church. What a joy to hear the children tell the story of Christ's birth in song and verse. The hymnist writes, "Be not content this Babe to know, Nor stay in Bethlehem, But go with Christ to Calvary's brow, beyond Jerusalem. 'Tis there men learn to know the Christ, For there He bore man's sin. Then open wide the door of heart. And let the Savior in." (The Babe of Bethlehem, by Bro. Henry Beer).

What a beautiful gift God and our church received December 21 with the testimonies and baptism of two dear souls, Lori Kieser (Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha) and Mark Rumbold (Bro. El-

win and Sis. Loretta). May God's grace and Holy Spirit ever be with them. Visiting us that weekend were Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), our own Elder Bro. Joe Stoller, Bro. Dave Kieser and Bro. Jim Plattner (all from Princeville).

Other visiting ministers in recent weeks were Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville). We thank these brothers and their families for coming to share with us.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Cheryl Mangers

No one thought we could surprise them, but we did. November 23 we had a surprise singing and reception in honor of Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand's 25th wedding anniversary. Their life together has been a special joy and blessing for this congregation.

November 26 found us in Tolono for a housewarming for Colleen Tholen and children, Dean, Darin, Dayton, Kara and Corrin.

The Sunday school has had a busy month. Once again on Thanksgiving weekend, they did their own shopping and distributed food baskets to three needy families. On December 6, Bro. Les and Sis. Patti Marti took Les' Sunday school class to St. Louis for a memorable weekend with Loren Schrenks'. December 14 was our annual Christmas Sunday school program. The children brought us the Christmas story in a special way that touched all our hearts. The program was followed by caroling at three nursing homes and a chili supper. Our Sunday school children certainly have special and valuable memories to cherish.

Thanks to a special group of college students who babysat with our children, Moms and Dads had a Saturday off to go shopping. This is another one of our Champaign-Urbana traditions. Our college students have such an impact on our children because of their love and zest for a life in Christ. We, as parents, could not ask for better role models.

We have been especially blessed this past month with visiting ministers. We extend our appreciation to ministering Bros. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) and our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) for bringing us valuable words of life.

Meg thinks her new baby brother, "Baby Ben" is really neat. So do his parents, Bro. Dewayne and Sis. Larae Dill. Benjamin David was born December 16.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

I was baking and needed maraschino cherries. I stopped to cut them up and realized that my hands were going to appear red for awhile. My skin had been stained by the juice of the cherries. I remembered what a student had just told me after a false fire alarm at school. At his old school there had been a chemical substance on the alarm that would be found only on the hands of any student who pulled the alarm. Further back I remember talking to my elder as a new convert. I mentioned having a television, and he said he had been aware that I had one by some things I had said. Even though I had not mentioned having one to him before, he could see its mark. Whatever we engage in leaves on us its indefinable presence. It may be neutral as the cherries' stain, mark us with guilt as the pulled fire alarm, or be more pervasive than we know as the television. Whether it be a positive or negative activity or emotion, let us choose wisely in this new year, Anno Domini (the Year of our Lord) 1987. Time passes quickly, but it's the only time we have to spend for Christ or otherwise.

We were fortunate in having more of our own ministers home for several Sundays in this month. We are grateful for them and for our visitors, Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Ed Ringger (Gridley) and Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Loren Strahm (Gridley, KS) and Harold Emch (Girard, OH). We were blessed by their God-given wisdom in word and deed.

The members of the Bro. Dale Eisenmann family, if asked the question, "Will the circle be unbroken?" can answer, "Yes, by His grace." Son Todd and daughter Luann gave their testimonies Saturday evening, December 6. Their dad, Elder Bro. Dale, was helped by Elder Bros. Ed Ringger and Joe Braker. Todd testified to an immediate answer to the Lord's call while for Luann the weight of sin and the pain of separation kept increasing until she could come in repentance. Sunday, December 7, they were baptized. Their

family and the church family were uplifted and rejoice. Many helped in the church dinner following. For our Bro. Todd and Sis. Luann we wish the steadfast faith of Abraham, who went out not knowing whither he went.

The Sunday school Christmas program reminded us (as we always need to be reminded) of the 'reason for the season'. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. Children, parents and grandparents enjoyed listening and watching each other. We were told near the end of the program that God's ways are not our ways, that the fanfare over Jesus' birth was much less than might have been expected for a King, the Prince of heaven. 'Twas not the royalty that Christ claimed at His birth but humanity. Thus there was "just one small star, just one small choir" to proclaim His coming, with only an audience of lowly shepherds and learned wise men.

We have good tidings within the church. Mike and Arlene Ryan were married November 24 in Chicago. Also, Bro. Mark Butikofer married Sis. Kaylene Knapp (Forrest, IL) in Forrest December 7. We are so happy to welcome Sis. Kaylene to our congregation. Sis. Peggy Hunziker (Bro. Al and Sis. Ginny, Morton, IL) is engaged to Bro. Shon Haerr (Bro. Norm and Sis. Sally, Taylor, MO). Sis. Peg is in her last year of nurse's training at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Bro. Shon farms in Taylor. They are planning a June wedding. Our hearts are thrilled as the Lord of love has brought a new dimension of His love to all of our dear ones. May each household reflect His goodness and extend to others the warmth of His abundant love.

Sis. Jane Lang, so joyfully welcomed and already enjoyed so much, will be continuing her elementary education degree at Illinois State University, Normal. Though we will miss her, we know she will "brighten the corner" where she is and wish her Godspeed (and come back and visit).

Elaine Emch has undergone major surgery. We pray that she may feel the Lord's presence to face whatever she yet has ahead for her physically and otherwise. May she be lifted up by the prayers and love of her family and friends.

Heaven's doors have opened again, and Sis. Kathy Loos has entered into the eternal realms. Being bound to earth, we grieve, especially for Bro. Sebastian, that his helpmate of 45 years is gone. Katharina Fliplic was born June 7, 1922, in Chadwinka, Yugoslavia. She and Bro. Sebastian were married in Yugoslavia March 30, 1941. They came to the United States in 1952. She died of cancer November 28, at Alexian Brothers Hospital in Elk Grove Village at the age of 64 years. Her visitation was according to her wishes: a closed casket and not much more than the casket spray of flowers, more according to the European church ways. Surviving are her husband and four children, Ted (Pittsburgh, PA), Kathy Duch, Peggy Huber and Frank (all of the Chicago area). Seven grandchildren and a sister, Helen (Czechoslovakia) also survive. "... a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30b. For her Christian example and her fellowship, we will miss Sis. Kathy. We extend our sympathy, prayers and love to Bro. Sebastian and his family.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Myrna Weerts — Elaine Sauder

Our congregation was saddened by the death of Phil Bauer, 82, who died November 18 at the Gilman Nursing Home. Funeral services were held November 21. Survivors are his wife, Linda; seven brothers, Bro. Elmer (Claytonville), Bro. Aaron, Bro. Urban, Andy and Bro. Kenneth (Cissna Park), Bro. Herman (Hoopeston) and Bro. George (Paxton); two sisters, Sis. Ernestine (Alph) Eisenmann and Helen (Louis) Janssen (Cissna Park). We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Phil and pray the Lord will comfort where man cannot reach.

We share in the happiness of two blessed events this past month. Bro. Russell and Sis. Darlene Walder are first-time parents of a son, Cameron Russell, born Sunday, November 16. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy Walder and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb. Also, Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb are the happy parents of a son, Michael Frederick, born Tuesday, December 2. He is welcomed home by a one-year-old sister, Joanna. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and Sis. Grace Bauer. May the Lord guide and direct the parents in raising these two prec-

ious children in the fear and nurture of the Lord.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington). We want to thank them for giving of themselves in the labor of the Lord.

We are looking forward to the Christmas program December 17 when our Sunday school children will present the wonderful story of Jesus' birth to our congregation. May the Lord bless them and their teachers for their efforts.

On December 18 our congregation plans to separate in groups and reach out to the sick and shut-ins by Christmas caroling for them. We will enjoy a lunch at the fellowship hall after the caroling.

Our thoughts go out to those hospitalized this month: Sis. Anna Sauder (surgical), Sis. Mabel Vogel (medical), Bro. Ben Yergler (surgical), Bro. Gerald Rudin (medical), Sis. Deloris Knapp (pneumonia) and Adrea Walder (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder, medical). Sis. Mabel Vogel has been moved to the Iroquois Memorial Residence Home in Watseka. Joe Neukomm had cataract surgery and is recuperating at the Prairie View Nursing Home in Danforth. Let us remember these dear souls, especially during this Christmas holiday season.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Joan Schrock — Gail Williamson

Once again it is time for our Sunday school Christmas program. We always look forward to watching the young children tell the story of the birth of our Lord and Saviour. May we always remember the true meaning of Christmas.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Roth on the birth of their first child, Kristin Lin. She is the granddaughter of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth.

On the same day, we heard the news of the birth of David Keith Roth. He is the firstborn of Alan and Joanne Roth also. The happy grandparents of David are Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth. May God guide the new parents as they bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We would like to thank Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) for lending himself in our behalf. May God richly bless

him for his labors of love.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Carol Schrock (Bro. Allen) as she has been bedfast with back and leg pains. We miss her presence in our assembly and pray that God will extend His healing hand so that she will soon be able to assemble with us again.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

Our Sunday school youth and teachers presented the beautiful Christmas story to us in word and song. May we today and every day

"Listen to the angels' song,
As on that silent holy dawn,
Its message old, yet ever new
With sweet intent is meant for you."

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ann Scheitlin, Katherine Vick and Walter Foell at the passing of their dear brother, John Foell. He was the son of Gustav and Catherine Reber Foell and resided at the Apostolic Christian Home. How true are the words of the hymn writer: "The time flies on and death draws nigh." May they find comfort in our blessed Jesus who shares all our sorrows.

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works . . ." Psalm 139:14. We in our congregation have again witnessed the power of prayer and medical technology as our dear Sis. Peg Heiniger shared one of her kidneys with her sister, Gail Hallead. Also, Sis. Hilde Schumacher remains hospitalized at this time after submitting to surgery. Bro. Frank Schock and Elvis Kellenberger also spent a short time in the hospital. Let all honor and glory be given to God as He restores health and strength according to His will.

Sis. Tella Kellenberger wishes to thank everyone who remembered her on her 85th birthday.

As we come to the close of the year and say farewell to 1986, may we still remain confident

"He who hath helped thee hitherto
Will help thee all the journey
through."

C. H. Spurgeon

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Kathy L. Rocke

I know the year I now begin
A happy year will be,

If thou dost guide, and I but do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

Anonymous

Let us go forward. God leads us.
Though blind, shall we be afraid to follow?
I do not see my way: I do not care to:
but I know that He sees His way,
and that I see Him.

Charles Kingsley

Those having spent time in the hospital the past month are Bro. Tim Carr, Henry Blunier and Mark Wiegand (Bro. Don and Sis. Jane). May God be nigh to each one and be their Great Physician.

We were thankful for visiting Bros. Ervin Knecht (Lamar, MO), Carl Wyss (Washington), Simon Wagenbach (Tremont) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) who came and lent themselves in His ministry. May God add the increase.

Our congratulations and God's blessings go to Lisa Fenner and Mark Schmidgall who were married November 1. Their parents are Bill Fenner (Metamora) and Helen Fenner (Washington) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall.

Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa Gerber welcomed Alex James November 16. Joshua, Andrew and Matthew are happy to have a new brother. Grandparents are Roger and Sis. Eunice Gerber (Latty, OH) and Vernon and Barb Tietje (Napoleon, OH).

On November 29, Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna Hangartner welcomed Michael Knapp into their hearts and home. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Jeanette Knapp (Congerville) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma Hangartner. We pray God's presence will be felt by each member as they are entrusted with these tiny souls.

December 7 we were happy to hear the engagement announcement of Sis. Mary Wettstein (Bro. Art and Sis. Donna) and Bro. Wayne Getz (Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia). How thankful we are when God's spirit directs us upon life's pathway. We wish them much grace and favor from on high as they make plans for their wedding and their new life together as husband and wife in the Lord.

Reminder: Eureka Silver Lining collections are in January (\$7.00).

No life is ever so empty that God cannot fill it, if we seek His guidance.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

“The land whither ye go to possess it is a land of hills and valleys and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: a land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.”

Deuteronomy 11:11, 12

As another new year is dawning, it is comforting to know that the eyes of the Lord are always upon it as it reads in the verse above. It is another new year to serve God more fully and to trust Him to lead us on paths of truth and righteousness.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Joshua Broquard, Sis. Barb Mashburn and Sis. Lydia Bachtold. May the Lord be with them and grant them reasonable health and strength according to His will.

Let us all remember in prayer our dear loved ones who are ill or shut-in. Time grows long for those who cannot go in and out so freely.

We are so thankful for those who have shared of themselves this past month. Visiting ministers were Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke), Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley). We thank Him for blessings given through those who serve in the ministry.

On December 14 we enjoyed the Sunday school's Christmas program. What a comfort and joy it is to hear the children tell of Jesus and to know they are being trained in the way they should go.

The Sunday school is our delight. We love it more and more; Tis here we learn to do the right and live forevermore. We hear the truth so pure and clear, Of Jesus' love so sweet and dear; There we are taught to lift our eyes to Him who lives on high.

We thank you loving teachers too, For all your love and care. You teach us of the heav'nly home, How we may enter there. And when we leave our Father's house, And journey thru this world of strife, Oh may your loving counsel then, Show us the path of life.

Hymns of Zion #73

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

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

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

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

Author Unknown

We rejoice with our new converts Ken and Debra Roth (Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth and Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota Byrd, Roanoke) who have answered the Lord's call and surrendered their lives to Him.

December 7 was the wedding day for Sis. Kaylene Knapp (Glen and Sis. Laura) and Bro. Mark Butikofer (Bro. William and Sis. Norma, Gridley). May God bless this union of hearts.

We have been richly blessed by visiting ministers. What a precious privilege to have beloved brothers from near and far assemble with us and break the Bread of Life. Those visiting were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) as well as ministering Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Gary Anliker (Elgin), Ken Eisenmann and Ken Weerts (Cissna Park), Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Elmer Witzig and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville). May the Lord bless them for their labors.

Once again we've had loved ones who have been hospitalized. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bros. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy), John Kyburz (Sis. Bernice), Emil Sohn (Sis. Anita), Frank Honegger and Sis. Irene Traub (Bro. Ben). It warms our hearts when we can see them again assemble with us.

A precious baby girl was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri Kelson. Wendy Jo was welcomed home by Nathan and Rachel. Grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Sharon Kelson (Fairbury) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Anliker.

Our hearts were touched and we extend our sympathy to Bro. Duane

and Sis. Mary Ifft in the loss of their little son, Joel Lee, who died shortly after birth. He is survived by one sister, Theresa, and grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma Ifft.

The wonderful Christmas story was told to us when the Sunday school presented their annual Christmas program December 17.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Bev Joos

As it has been our privilege to witness the breaking of many new morns, so have we also been allowed to behold the awakening of a new year. We are beginning a new journey of opportunity. It only seems fitting that we resolve to lessen our many faults and shortcomings as we travel along this pathway of 1987. However, resolutions lacking God as their cornerstone will probably crack, split and crumble into obscurity. God's grace unveils our workload and allows us to struggle with our tasks. Although great mountains and depressions face us . . .

“Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;”

St. Luke 3:5

With God at the helm, our daily course will find stability.

God, grant us the grace as another year starts
 To use all the hours of our days
 Not for our own selfish interests and our own willful
 Often-wrong ways —
 But teach us to take time for praying
 and to find time
 For listening to You
 So each day is spent well and wisely doing
 What you most want us to do.

On Thanksgiving Day Bro. Ed Hohlun retired from the ministry of God's Word.

“So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.”

I Thessalonians 2:8

We are so indebted to Bro. Ed for his years of sacrificial service.

Others who willingly imparted and labored for our sakes were visiting ministers Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN). We are grateful for their efforts.

Three families have rejoiced over new arrivals. Blessed with a son November 25 were first-time parents, Joanne and Alan Roth. David Keith is held by his grandparents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline (Congerville) and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen. Emma Aleece arrived December 2 and brightened the lives of Mark and Dianna Tanner. She is a sister to Jesse Frank and a precious grandchild for Jack and Darlene Newell (East Peoria) and Bro. Ben and Sis. Leona Tanner. Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Martin are excited and thankful over the birth of their son, Kevin Ray. He was born December 19 and is being cuddled by his three sisters, Shari, Joni and Kelli. Happy grandparents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen Martin (Eureka) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Vera Heindold.

After many years of poor health, Leah Reeser passed away. Our sympathy is extended to her entire family, especially her son, Bro. Harold Reeser.

Also heartfelt sympathy is conveyed to Sisters Karen (Bro. Gary) and Jane (Bro. Gale) in the loss of their father, Elmore Waldbeser (Morton). May God lift them up from this valley in their lives.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Kenda Taufer, Sis. Mildred Heindold, Sis. Brenda Hinrichsen, Sis. Sue Hinrichsen, Sis. Lorene Kloter, Bro. Willis Wiegand and Bro. Richard Hartter. We are thankful that most of these loved ones have been able to return home.

The families of Gary and Gale Wiegand express their sincere appreciation for the many deeds of kindness, the prayers, and the loving support shown them during their bereavement.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"Sometimes I grow homesick for heaven,
And the glories I there shall behold:
What a joy that will be when my Savior
I see,

In that beautiful city of gold!"

Tabernacle Hymns #20

Death is but a gateway to a better place for our brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord. Her loved ones can rejoice that Sis. Frances Funk left the suffering and trials behind when she passed away December 6. Our sympathy is extended to those who will especially miss her: her husband, Bro. Amos; her daughter, Sis. Glenna Gene Fehr (West Bend, IA); her son, Bro. Gary Domnick (Morris, MN); her sister, Vera Trotter (Anaheim, CA); and her brothers, Earl Domnick (Enid, OK) and Wilmer Domnick (Burlington, OK). We were glad to have ministering Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) with us for the funeral services.

On December 7 Bro. Mark Butikofer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma, Gridley) was united in marriage to Sis. Kaylene Knapp (Glenn and Sis. Laura, Forrest).

We were blessed by the visits of Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) who were with us to assist our Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger in reading the memorandum of the annual brotherhood conference. Many wonderful exhortations on our "Life in the Son" were beneficial as we compared our walk each day to how Jesus walked, and as we continue to endeavor to more fully possess the mind of Christ.

Our Sunday school Christmas program December 14 was also an inspiration to us.

Sis. Leah Ringger and Bro. Henry Miller were hospital patients.

In 1986, we reported eight births, eight deaths, nine baptisms and six marriages in the Silver Lining. As the new year dawns, may we all look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Let us live every day as if it were our last, knowing that here we have no "continuing city".

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Susan Kieser

As the new year begins, we here at ISU, begin a new semester. God gives us each the opportunity to start over and improve our study habits and grades if they were not so good the previous semester. But He also gives us this new beginning to draw closer to Him and improve our spiritual being.

This past month we were short on Bible studies due to school breaks and finals week, but we were abundantly

blessed by the one we had. It was our Christmas program so we sang a few Christmas carols for all our guests. Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) spoke about the foretelling of the coming of Jesus Christ by the various prophets.

One of our dear sisters, Amy Vogt (Francesville, IN), who lives in this area, feels led by God to assume a new position in life as she and Bro. Dale Ringger (Fort Lauderdale, FL) are engaged to be married. We wish them many blessings from above.

Again this semester, Bible studies will be held in 244 Schroeder Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Everyone is welcome to join us.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

Bro. Bob Hermann wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and deeds of kindness while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless all who were so thoughtful.

Sis. Marie Milazzo (Sis. Marlene and the late Frank) and Bro. Jeff Hoerr (Bro. John and Sis. Dot, Peoria, IL) were united in marriage November 23. With Christ as the head of their home, we pray He will bless and keep them as they walk life's pathway together.

Sis. Mae Witzig was called Home. Her funeral was December 2. We pray that her sisters, Irene Ogg and Sis. Olga Frintz, her many nieces, nephews and friends will feel God's comforting hand.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Peggy Hunziker (Bro. Al and Sis. Ginny) and Bro. Shon Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally, Taylor, MO) as the Lord has drawn them together in love. May He continue to bless them as they plan their wedding and lives together.

Our Sunday school program was held December 7. We heard about our Saviour's birth in hymns and verses. We thank all the children and young people for a blessed evening.

December 14 was the wedding day for our Sis. Diane Fischer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan) and Bro. Fred Funk (Bro. Jim and Sis. Luann, Tucson, AZ). May our heavenly Father continue to bless them in their new life together as husband and wife.

We had a very blessed evening Sunday, December 14, singing Christmas carols to loved ones who are shut-in. Young and old enjoyed caroling and fellowship.

Bro. Mike Schmidgall, Sr. was called

into Eternity. His funeral was December 15. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless his children, Betty Davidson, Mike, Jr., his grandchildren, family and friends.

We wish to thank Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Jim Hoerr and Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Jim Funk and Noah Herrmann (Tucson, AZ) and Al Aberle (Tremont, IL) for ministering to us about God's true and holy word. May they be richly blessed.

May all of you have a very blessed New Year in the Lord. Let us all strive to have a closer walk with Him.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Kathy Huthmann

**THE MYSTERY AND MIRACLE
OF HIS CREATIVE HAND**

In the beauty of a snowflake,
 Falling softly on the land,
 Is the mystery and the miracle
 Of God's great, creative hand!
 What better answers are there
 To prove His Holy Being
 Than the wonders all around us
 That are ours just for the seeing.

Helen Steiner Rice

On November 23, many of us had the opportunity to visit the Morton congregation to witness the wedding of our Bro. Jeff Hoerr and Sis. Marie Milazzo. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Dot Hoerr and Sis. Marlene Milazzo. We wish Jeff and Marie God's richest blessings.

Those who have been in the hospital are Bros. Dave Sauder, Ivan Thomas, Ernest Klaus, John Woerner and Sisters Bernice Gross, Naomi Perrine, Pauline Little, Lois Elsasser and Ellen Siebenthal. May God grant them strength and good health, according to His will.

Bro. Jack and Sis. Jody Hoerr welcomed Kurt Fredrick into their family December 1. Wesley, Samuel and Andy are Kurt's big brothers. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dot Hoerr and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel.

I want to thank all my friends and relatives for their prayers, cards, beautiful flowers and the "goodies" that were brought in while I was convalescing.

Lena Hoerr

I want to thank every one for the prayers, cards, gifts and visits while in the hospital and convalescing at home. May our dear Lord bless each and every one.

Bro. Sam Eberhardt

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Marjean Lehman

ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

"Another year is dawning, Dear Master,
 let it be,
 In working or in waiting, another year
 for Thee.
 Another year of progress, another year
 of praise,
 Another year of proving Thy presence
 all the days."

We give thanks to our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Nate Stoller (Bradford). Also, Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) taught us at a special Bible study. May God bless each of these dear brothers for lending themselves in our behalf.

THE UNION OF HEARTS

"This union of our hearts shall stand
 through grace in Jesus;
 We walk the path of life while cheer
 and trust increases.
 Where God in truth abides. Where two
 join hand and heart,
 We find a three-fold cord, not lightly
 rent apart."

On November 30, Sis. Crystal Herrmann and Bro. David Streitmatter were united in marriage. Parents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann and Bro. Norman and Sis. Joyce Streitmatter. May God bless their lives as they walk life's pathway together.

WAIT UPON THE LORD

"Be not dismayed. Thou art not alone.
 Soon will come the springtime when
 the winter's gone.
 In every trial, your cry He'll heed.
 God will e'er defend you in every need."

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Emma Asal, Bro. Ray Martin, Jolyne Scholl (Bro. Bill and Sis. JoAnne) and Sis. Alvina Streitmatter. Sis. Deanna

Herrmann suffered a broken wrist. Also, Clint Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) suffered a broken wrist. May God be with those who suffer pain. He alone can supply every need.

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

Proverbs 22:6

November 16 was the birth date of Dane Anthony Christ. His parents are Sis. Tina and Bro. Fred Christ. Also welcoming Dane home is big brother, Nathan. Happy grandparents are Hazel Logsdon and Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ. We wish them God's blessings as they nurture this little soul.

Thank you note: We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our loved ones for their prayers, cards, visits, food and memorial contributions during our dear mother's illness and at the time of her passing. May God's richest blessings rest on each of you.

The family of Ollie Ricketts

A FAVORITE RECIPE

Take a cup of kindness
 Mix it well with love
 Add a lot of patience and faith in God
 above
 Sprinkle very generously with joy and
 thanks, and cheer —
 And you'll have lots of angel food to
 feast on all the year.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Luginbuhl — Marge Leman

Another year has begun and the words of the Apostle Paul in Philipians 4:8 come to mind. "Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. How wonderful it would be if we could all strive to think more on these things in the year ahead."

Our congratulations and best wishes are given to Matt and Christa Fehr who were married November 22. Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Vogel are their parents.

On November 29, Ellen Sauder and Eric Bachman were married. Best wishes are extended to them. Parents

of the happy couple are Sis. Dorothy and the late Bro. Willard Sauder and Ken and Mary Bachman, all of Roanoke.

Sis. Lavonne Fischer and Bro. Greg McLaughlin (Denver, CO) exchanged wedding vows November 30. May God's blessings be upon them as they begin their new life as one in the Lord. Parents of the couple are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge Fischer and Mr. and Mrs. Larry McLaughlin (Littleton, CO).

God has again called one of his loved ones home. Our dear Sis. Clara Leman passed away December 2. Surviving are one brother, Bro. Jess, and a sister, Sis. Cordelia, both of Apostolic Christian Home (Peoria).

Loved ones who have been in the hospital are Sis. Carol Feucht, Sis. Ellen Siebenthal and Fred Fischer.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Margie Sauder and Steven welcomed into their hearts and home their new baby son and brother, Joshua Matthew, who was born November 15. His grandparents are Sis. Carolee Unzicker (Peoria) and Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder.

Christopher Roger is the new son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Debbie Bertschi. Christopher was born November 21 and has two sisters, Nicole and Jennifer. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy Bertschi and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia Hohulin (Goodfield).

First-time parents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Deanna Isaia. Their little daughter, Kaitlyn Jean, was born December 6. Grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Dolores Marti (Gridley) and Dorothy and the late Barney Isaia (Roanoke).

Brothers ministering to us this past month were Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). May God bless them and reward them.

We wish to thank all who remembered us with cards and gifts on our 40th wedding anniversary.

Bro. Lee and Sis. Emma Scherer

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach

Carolyn Bolliger

We recently spent a blessed evening as we gathered to hear our annual Sunday school Christmas program. It is always a joy to listen to our Sunday school young people as they speak and sing of our Saviour's birth.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Mike Endress (Fred and Ruth

Endress) and Kris Dooléy (John and Judy Dooley, Eureka) who plan to be married January 10. We hope they have a long and happy life together.

We are glad to see many of our sick folks back home again. Surgical patients have been Sis. Annie Koch (Bro. Gene), Bro. David Koch, Sr. (Sis. Frances) and Sis. Kathy Rocke (Bro. Nelson). Bro. Robert Hodel (Sis. Royal-dine) also had surgery recently and wishes to thank all those who remembered him at that time. Bertha Michel, mother of Bro. Paul, also spent some time in the hospital and we are happy to see her feeling better and back in church again.

We always appreciate our visiting ministers. We give special thanks this month to Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) and Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford). May God bless them for their efforts.

Note: We sincerely wish to thank all those who remembered us with loving expressions of sympathy during the loss of our loved one. May God richly bless each of you.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen Michel
& family

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Vicki Bucher

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda Koehl, as they have decided to make Washington their home church. Troy's parents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Lu Koehl of our congregation and Brenda's parents are Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov (San Diego, CA). They were married in October and Troy has found employment in Peoria.

We are very happy to announce the engagement of Bro. Joey Herman (Bro. Joe, Sr. and Sis. Lucille, Washington) to Sis. Jackie Reimschisel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Louise, Bluffton, IN).

We were blessed to hear the testimony of Marie Teubel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise). Marie returned to Washington from Phoenix to share with us. We wish her grace, love and joy as she begins her walk with God. We're grateful to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and our Elder Bro. Don Sauder, for being with us for this important occasion.

We congratulate Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz on the birth of their new daughter, Katie LeAnne. Doug, Denise, Michelle, Phillip and Lynette are pretty excited to have a new little sister.

Her grandparents are Sis. Martha Fritz (Washington) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Dorothy Witzig (Gridley, IL).

Our Christmas program was held December 10. We want to thank all the students for their efforts. It was refreshing to hear the Christmas story through verse and song. The following Sunday evening many of us went caroling to various places.

Our Elder Bro. Don Sauder and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) were with us December 17 for the reading of the memorandum. We are very grateful that they are willing to share that time with us.

The following was submitted in remembrance of Bro. Vernon Streitmatter, whom we all miss so much.

How often the love and prayers of our friends and family have comforted us in the past year. Our memories of him are filled with both sorrow and joy, and ever do we long for the day when we will be together again in heaven. And though God has a very special way of filling the void and erasing our sorrows, He also has a special way of helping us remember the many kindnesses that were shown to us in our time of need. We are deeply grateful for your gifts and thoughtfulness and pray this love will always be found in the family of God.

In Christ's love,
Pearline, Paul and Kary

As a new year begins, we feel so grateful and indebted to our Savior for all the blessings of this past year. May we renew our vow to live for Him more pleasingly.

Correction: Our monthly hymn sings are held the third Sunday evening of each month rather than the second Sunday, as stated in a previous issue.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Lucille Isch — Evelyn Ringger
I AM HERE!

I am here, ready or not, but once past, I shall never return again. How will you use the precious gift of time that I extend to you?

In each hour of three hundred and sixty-five days will I give you sixty minutes. It remains for you to fill them with sixty seconds of hope, love, honest endeavor, patience, trust in God and kindness to your fellow man.

I am the New Year, clean and un-

spoiled, unused in any way. Each day I will provide a new leaf in your Book of Life and upon these pages you will place your imprint.

Four dear friends gave their testimonies and were baptized. Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard are so happy that their sons, Kris and Kevin, and Kevin's wife, Shelly, are now new brothers and sister-in-the-Lord. Also, Kirt Reimschisel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Louise) is now a new brother-in-the-Lord.

May they find grace to walk in the ways of the Lord. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner helped our elder brothers with this important work.

Also with us this month were Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). We appreciate our visitors.

We are pleased to announce three engagements: Sis. Jackie Reimschisel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Louise) to Bro. Joe Herman (Bro. Joe, Jr. and Sis. Lucille, Washington, IL) with April 26 as their planned wedding day; Sis. Kathy Neuenschwander (Bro. Walter and Sis. Joyce) to Bro. Jeff Bertsch (Sis. Fran Bertsch) with wedding plans for April 5 at Bluffton North; and Bro. Dale Ringger (Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn) to Sis. Amy Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Diann, Francesville) who are planning a March 22 wedding. May the Lord bless each of them in their coming marriage.

The six babies that were born this past month were all boys. Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy Aschliman are the parents of Byron Ray, born November 19. Grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Rose Gerber and Bro. Millard and Sis. Alice Aschliman.

On November 20 Derryl and Annette Ringger became the parents of Blake William. Bro. William and Sis. Marjorie Ringger are his grandparents.

Andrew Kenneth was born November 26 to Bro. Hal and Sis. Janean Kipfer. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyne Isch and Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Kipfer.

First-time parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Karen Isch as of November 28 when Kevin Lane was born. Bro. Walter and Sis. Joyce Neuenschwander and Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyne Isch are grandparents.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda Grube became the parents of Jason C. December 12. Grandparents are Bro. Dan

and Sis. Delores Reinhard and Paul and Jane Grube.

On December 13 Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli Kaehr welcomed Jesse Leigh. Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyne Isch and Sis. Pat Kaehr are his grandparents.

For each of them we wish to say:
May you find many blessings,
and dreams coming true
In this precious new life
God has given to you.

The annual Christmas program was held Sunday evening, December 14. On the cover of our programs was this verse:

As we sing the lovely carols,
Let us listen to their story —
That God loved the world so much
He sent the brightest of His glory
To forever end the darkness
And bring hope to all the earth —
Let each heart rejoice, and sing the joy
Of Christ the Blessed Savior's birth!
B. J. Hoff

It was a pleasure to hear the songs from our little ones in the nursery, on through to our young adults in the senior class.

Hospitalized were Bro. Kent Sprunger, Mrs. Norman (Louise) Gerber, Bro. Russell Moser, Bro. Howard Schwartz and Sis. Gwen Baumgartner.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman

"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved."

Habakkuk 2:1

As another year begins we often wonder what lies ahead for us this year. Let us remember to not only be watchful and ready for His coming (our utmost goal) but also watchful and ready to serve God in whatever way He leads us while yet here on earth.

Our prayers have been with Irene Kaehr (Bro. Ervin) who has just spent time in the hospital recently. May she be comforted by God's healing presence.

We were privileged to hear from visiting ministers, Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) this past month. We wish God's blessings on them and so many like them who give so freely of their time. We hope they and their families feel welcome to re-

turn any time.

Kevin Lane Isch, born November 28, is gladly welcomed by his first-time parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Karen. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyne Isch (Bluffton) and Bro. Walter and Sis. Joyce Neuenschwander.

Additional joy and excitement has come to Bro. Walter and Sis. Joyce as their daughter, Sis. Kathy Neuenschwander, has announced her engagement to Bro. Jeff Bertsch (Sis. Frances). May Jeff and Kathy's love for each other continue to grow as they approach their wedding day.

We would like to welcome back Bro. David and Sis. Carolyn Roberts from the Philadelphia church. We hope they feel at home among old friends and new.

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?"

Psalms 118:6

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT

Lead, Kindly Light, amid th' encircling gloom,

Lead thou me on!

The night is dark, and I am far from home;

Lead thou me on!

Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou

Shouldst lead me on;

I loved to choose and see my path; but now

Lead thou me on!

I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,

Pride ruled my will. Remember not past years!

So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still

Will lead me on

O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till

The night is gone,

And with the morn whose angel faces smile,

Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

John Henry Newman

As we begin another year, our own plans and goals should be secondary to what God's plans and goals are for us. If He leads us, our steps will be right!

On Wednesday, November 19, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) assisted Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman in reading the memorandum. Our thanks to all our church leaders who love us enough to encourage, as well as correct us.

Following the directives from the scriptures to "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;" II Corinthians 13:5, many brothers and sisters gathered for holy communion services December 6. Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo) assisted with this inspiring evening. Our thanks to him and Elder Bro. Wendell for serving us.

At the time of this writing, we are anticipating a blessed day Sunday, December 21, when, Lord willing, the Sunday school children will participate in the annual Christmas program in place of afternoon church services. In the evening many hope to gather for church carolling which is always a blessing.

Joy came in the form of an engagement to our Sis. Amy Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne) as she was announced to be married to Bro. Dale Ringger (Fort Lauderdale, FL), son of Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger (Bluffton, IN). We pray that God's leading will continue to be felt in their lives together as it has so far.

Danielle Nicole brightened the home of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich and their children, Miranda and Kayla. Danielle was born November 21. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich and Frank and Ruth Tanner (Medaryville, IN).

Our dear sister, Perseda Aeschleman, was hospitalized this past month. We're thankful she has returned to her home at Parkview Haven. Sis. Perseda's enthusiasm and joy in living have been an inspiration to all who know her!

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Gail Bradford — Kathy Freed

Ministering brothers who shared the Word with us recently were Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Bro. Kent Ringger (Bluffton).

Our love and sympathy goes out to Kathy Beer, whose grandmother passed away, and to Bill Bradford who lost his father. May God grant them

solace. Sis. Lynn Winslow is back with us, recovered from a hospital stay. We are grateful for God's mercies on our behalf.

Many of us are exercising these days, on doctor's orders or to maintain our general physical well-being. And most medical opinion finds that brisk walking benefits our bodies most of all.

Have you checked up on your spiritual "body" lately? How fit is it? Would a brisk walk with Jesus by your side help?

The Apostle Peter starts his first letter to the "strangers scattered", implying that Christians are pilgrims on a long journey. The word refers to the narrow way and the straight path.

Sometimes, as Christian travelers, we lose our perspective and our focus dims. But we can read the Word, and find guidance for our journey.

Our walk begins with a decision to receive Jesus as our personal Savior. No matter how good our life is, we are not walking the pilgrim's walk until new life is born within us. Then, we are ready for a walk through often hostile lands!

Our walk is upward. We uphold Jesus' life as a pattern for our own. Although we will never attain perfection, the adventure becomes our striving to be Christ-like. When we become frustrated at our failures and limitations, we need to keep our eyes looking ahead and accept God's forgiveness along the way.

We soon realize we are enemies in a foreign land, ruled by the prince of darkness. We cannot conform to this world's values. Remember, we are citizens of heaven!

Satan is another adversary who tempts us to stray from our path. We must gird ourselves with spiritual armor on our walk. The Holy Spirit indwelling is our source of strength, as are our prayers unceasing.

As God's love, protection and forgiveness accompany us, we experience increasing joy and genuine happiness. We are happy as we delight in the way of the Lord, firmly, joyfully and enthusiastically walking on our pilgrim's way.

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him . . ."

Colossians 2:6

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

INDIANA, LACROSSE Debra Nuest — Sandy Heinold

THE NEW YEAR

The years that come, the years that go,
As volumes written plain,
Are stored upon the shelf of time
Where memories remain.

Each year is like a little book
With leaves and covers bound.
Our deeds and acts are written there,
The year's events are found.

We trust that He may now record
Some deeds of truth and light!
May goodness in our life abound
To make the pages bright.

When once the records all are made,
Though few our deeds may be;
If to my own these deeds you've done,
You've done it unto me.

This year will come, the grand New
Year;

No bounds shall mark its days.

Eternal life by merits won,

We'll join in endless praise.

My Garden of Verse
Stanzas 1, 2, 10, 12 & 13

We enjoyed hearing the Sunday school classes express their love for Christ in word and song during our Christmas program. We received a special blessing as Sis. Eva Sabo from Hungary sang "Silent Night" in the Hungarian language.

Sis. Carol Bucher is recovering well after having surgery this past month.

Sis. Connie Knobloch wishes to sincerely thank all who kindly remembered her during her stay in the hospital and recuperation time at home.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). We welcome and appreciate visiting brethren who help share the Word with our faithful home ministers.

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Charlotte Gutwein

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Fa-

ther, The Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who take of their time to come and share God's Word with us. Our recent services were hosted by Bro. Kenneth Schneider (Remington) and Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH). In our Christmas program, we were reminded through songs, poems and scripture that “Jesus is the reason for the season”.

CHRISTMAS WISH

May you know the **truth** of Christmas
That Jesus Christ is King,
Both in a lowly manger
Where heavenly angels sing,
And on the throne of God
Where hosannas ever ring.

May you know the **peace** of Christmas
That Christ alone can give,
Not only in your home
And daily as you live,
But hourly, weekly, yearly
And onward to life's eve.

May you know the **love** of Christmas
Made incarnate on that night,
When Jesus came to live with men
Bringing hope and light;
Atoning, healing, giving life,
Conquering wrong, enthroning right.

May you know the **joy** of Christmas,
Joy that only friends can bring,
As you give and then receive,
May the warmth of Christmas cling
To you and every one of yours . . .
May you find Christ in everything.

INDIANA, LEO
Thelma Schlatter

THE MESSAGE OF THE NEW YEAR

“I asked the New Year for some motto
sweet,
Some rule of life by which to guide
my feet;
I asked and paused. It answered soft
and low:
‘God's will to know.’

‘Will knowledge then suffice, New
Year’ I cried.
But e'er the question into silence died,
The answer came: ‘Nay, but remember
too,

‘God's will to do.’

Once more I asked: ‘Is there still more
to tell?’

And once again the answer softly fell:
‘Yes! this one thing, all other things
above —

‘God's will to love.’”

Author Unknown

Groups of carolers brought cheer to
many as they went from home to home
praising the Lord in song.

Sis. Mildred Schlatter thanks all
who remembered her with cards and
prayers during her shut-in days. She
said, “I appreciate your love and con-
cern.”

Bits of This and That:

He opened the Red Sea; He saved
men in the furnace, in the lion's den,
but is this burden of yours too big for
Him?

When God seems far away, guess
who moved.

A lot more good could be accom-
plished if nobody cared who got the
credit.

Good works are not the basis of
salvation, only the evidence of it.

Christ alive in the lives of Christians
. . . that's a success story with new
chapters being written every day.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Shelby Beer

We appreciated recently the mes-
sages brought forth by Bros. Lynn
Stieglitz (Leo), Ed Bahler (Remington),
Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Ken
Souder (Mansfield, OH), Pete Baltic
(Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Orville
Ringger (Bluffton). We were truly up-
lifted and enjoyed the wonderful fel-
lowship.

May God ever care for the dear ones
who have spent time in the hospital:
Bro. Bob Hoerr, Chad Beer (Bro. Lee
and Sis. Sandy), Mike Haab (Bro. Don
and Sis. Martha) and Seth Beer (Bro.
Steve and Sis. Connie). Our thoughts
and prayers are always with those who
are sick or shut-in.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Clara Kaiser are
rejoicing over the birth of a new grand-
son born to Greg and Paula Kaiser
November 24. Kirk will enjoy his new
little brother, Eric James.

“Now it is accomplished! I'm no
longer mine: Lord, I will forever and
always be Thine.” Zion's Harp #209.
On December 13 and 14 we witnessed
with joy the testimony and baptism of

Bro. Bill Longcor. May our heavenly
Father continue to lead, guide and
direct him as he walks the narrow
pathway of life toward heaven.

The year of 1986 is now history.
We have many things to be thankful for
in the past year. In the New Year that is
before us, may we walk closer to Him,
and not stray from His side so that we
become lost. “Wherewithal shall a
young man cleanse his way? By taking
heed thereto according to thy word.
With my whole heart have I sought
thee: O let me not wander from thy
commandments. Thy word have I hid
in my heart that I might not sin against
thee.” Psalms 119:9-11.

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, before this year is born
I give it to Thy hand,
Content to walk by faith
What paths I cannot understand.

Or Lord, if all unknown to me
Thine angel hovers near
To call me to that farther shore
Before another year;

It matters not — my hand in Thine,
Thy light upon my face,
Thy boundless strength when I am
weak,
Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask — loose not my hand,
Grip fast my soul, and be
My light of life upon the path
Till — blind no more — I see!
Author Unknown

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

We stand upon the threshold of the
year;
Before us lies a strange, uncharted
land.
Go with us, Lord, remove each doubt
and fear,
Give us high courage, grasp our
reaching hand
That we may safely tread the road
ahead;
Within Thy care we will be safely led.

The past has been a strangely tangled
maze
Of futile striving, and of wasted powers.
Our need is for the old simplicities,

For serenity and peace throughout the hours
Stretching before us on the road of life—
Free us, dear Lord, from stress and strain and strife.

The New Year! And a road that we must go!
May hope be a gold blossom in the heart,
And faith a steadfast light. Lord God, you know
Each bog, each rugged hill . . . now as we start
May we look forward, not to days long spent,
But toward a year of brave accomplishment.

Grace Noll Crowell

Our hearts are rejoicing with Bro. Harold Schieler and Sis. Lorrene Clauss as they have announced their engagement. The Lord loves His own and provides for our needs if we patiently wait. His promises are true if we have faith to believe. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

We are thankful the Lord brought Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) to minister to us. It is always good to be reminded of the simplicity in serving Jesus.

Our friend, Greg Schneider (Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta) was in an automobile accident. The Lord was very merciful and spared him from serious injury. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22, 23.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Pauline Laidig — Jill Lehman

This being the time of the year when most places of business take inventory, one of our ministering brothers suggested that we, as followers of the Lord, should take inventory of our spiritual lives. It would be well for us to read in God's Word to see how we measure up to its good teachings. I Timothy 6 contains much in this respect. May we be more zealous, and dedicated to a closer walk with the Lord in the coming year.

Our annual business meeting was held recently, at which time a few terms

of duty had expired, so the following were voted in to replace them: Bro. Steve Stoller, head song leader; Bros. Scott Schafer, Dan Clauss and John Schuch, ushers; Sis. Lavilla Langhofer, assistant to the food committee chairman; Sis. Anna Marie Stoller, V.B.S. assistant; Sis. Jill Lehman, Silver Lining reporter, assisted by Sis. Annie Meyer. We appreciate the efforts of everyone, past and present. We know that if a service is rendered, "as unto the Lord", there will be a blessing.

Our thoughts and prayers are with out shut-ins, especially with those who suffer much pain. May the Good Lord be very near them.

Dean Lehman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley) has finished his studies at Ball State University. He is presently being interviewed for employment. It is our hope and prayer that he might be able to locate in this area.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Peg Huber — Cheryl Bucher

"Forgetting the past . . . I press onward."

Philippians 3:13, 14

Another year is dawning with all its opportunities. Another year to be in the service of our dear Lord.

"Through many dangers, toils and snares

We have already come,
Twas grace that brought us safe thus far,

And grace will lead us home."

Hymn, "Amazing Grace"

We need to stay close to our dear Lord, as "near to the heart of God" as we can, that in the coming year we might be more faithful, loving, joyful, meek, temperate, gentle, good, long suffering and more peaceful.

It was with joy in our hearts that we witnessed the baptism of our friend, John Sanders. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) labored together on this blessed weekend of November 22 and 23. On Saturday evening, following Bro. John's testimony, Bro. Phil and Bro. Dale read us the conference conclusions, . . . "for they watch for your souls." Hebrews 13:17. We thank them both for their love and concern on our behalf and appreciate their labors.

Other visiting ministers have been Bro. Wendell Gerber (Bluffton North) and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton). We were very blessed by the ministry of these two brothers. God will surely bless them in return.

Our congregation was very saddened by the death of Bro. John Sanders' father, Roland Sanders. It was a terrible shock, and our hearts and prayer go out to Bro. John, his mother and two brothers. It's a comfort to know God will wrap His arms around us and provide for us during each care or trial that we have.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

In the month we celebrate Christ's birth, Sis. Jenny Hopkins (Sis. Diane) has rejoiced in her new birth. We welcomed her into the fold of Christ December 7. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) shared this special day with us, as did Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend).

Also, we thank Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville) for being with us November 23. On that day our congregation shared their feelings about a new minister for our congregation. We are thankful that God has led us and provided Bro. Neal Widmer with this responsibility. Our prayers are with him and his wife, Sis. Kris, and sons, John, Bradley and Blake, for God's continued grace and blessing. Again, we thank Bro. Wendell for giving of himself in this work also. To God be the glory!

It's always a joy to watch the excited faces and hear the sweet poems and songs of Jesus' birth as we did for our Christmas program December 17 and caroling on December 20. May everyone have a peaceful and blessed New Year.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karen Schulz — Dixie Messner

Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and his family and our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) were our visiting ministers for the last two months. How thankful we are for those who are willing to give of themselves to share God's Word with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Harvey Heiniger and Sis. Mayme Gerst and Phil Heiniger, whose sister, Sis. Hilda Moser, passed away. We know they have many memories from the

past and those memories will always linger on.

First-time parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti Wagenbach welcomed little Brittany Mae into their open arms to start their family. Brittany's grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach (Oakville). We look forward to seeing Brittany Wednesday nights.

February is collection month for Burlington. Please pay \$7 00 to either Sis. Dixie or Sis. Karen.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

Our annual election was held recently with the following changes. Bro. Jim Knobloch was voted in as trustee to replace Bro. Floyd Frieden who rotates out of these duties. New Sunday school teachers are Sis. Kathy Butikofer to replace Sis. Sue Schneider for the intermediate class, Sis. Janet Schupbach to replace Sis. Karla Moore for the secondary class and Sis. Gloria Frieden to replace Sis. Leona Schmitt as preschool teacher.

THE TEACHER

Lord, who am I to teach the way
 To little children day by day
 So prone myself to go astray?

I teach them knowledge, but I know
 How faint they flicker and how low
 the candles of my knowledge glow.

I teach them power to will and do,
 But only now to learn anew
 my own great weakness thru and thru.

I teach them love for all mankind
 And all God's creatures, but I find
 my love comes lagging far behind.

Lord, if their guide I still must be
 Oh, let the little children see
 the teacher leaning hard on thee.

Leaves of Gold

A blessed evening was shared as our Sunday school youth conveyed the story of the birth of Christ through poems, songs and the scripture reading according to Luke.

We rejoice with Anita Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester, Lester) who has sought and found peace with God and man and is now awaiting baptism.

Our thanks goes to Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber (West Bend) and all their children and their families for worshipping with us Thanksgiving Day.

Correction: In the December issue of the Silver Lining I listed Bro. John Steiner as visiting minister. It should have been Bro. Paul Eisenman (Burlington).

May we not only seek God's guidance as we embark upon another new year but also at the beginning of each new day.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Bonita Frank

I was looking at cards that discussed the joy of living in the Lord's love and guidance and thought of how many souls in this world would be completely unable to understand that language. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could just give them the gift of salvation so they couldn't resist? May we all portray the wonder of God in our lives in such a way that they just cannot resist. "I cannot tell how precious the Saviour is to me; I only can entreat you to come, and taste and see." Hymns of Zion #51

Many of our congregation were privileged to be in Oakville, IA, December 6 and 7 for the testimony service of Sis. Angie Johnson who frequently attends Wednesday evening services with us. We are thankful for her and for each dear soul that is released from the clutches of Satan's grasp.

We enjoyed the blessing of caroling to Iowa City shut-ins and ended with refreshments at the Eland household. What a blessing it is to share love and caring in songs and hymns with those with hard trials or difficulties.

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch

Saturday evening, December 6, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of four dear souls, Kim and Carla Knobloch (Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy), Lynn Knobloch (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger) and Joy Feucht (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie). Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) was here to assist Elder Bro. Leo Moser in performing the baptismal rites and consecration services Sunday. Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski) were also among us and we thank God for using them to bring us His Holy Word. We were again reminded of the privilege of being God's children and the responsibilities that surround the

Christian's life. Christ carries our burdens because of His shed blood — let us never carry them alone.

Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) ministered to us and we pray God will richly bless him for allowing the Holy Spirit to bring forth the message.

Bro. Al Knobloch's life was spared in a car-truck accident and he has now undergone surgery to correct a fractured leg. His accident has reminded us of the uncertainty of life and the necessity of being prepared for eternity. Little Heather Knobloch (Lou and Karla) was very ill but has recuperated and is home again. Dana Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jolene) and Sis. Linda Moser (Jim) have both undergone surgery and are home and recovering nicely. Our hearts ache when loved ones go through so many physical afflictions but are lightened when we realize God gives peace to those whose faith is completely in His will. May each one continue to enjoy God's healing powers and His love through each day.

We enjoyed an evening of Christmas caroling with both young and old and look forward to the Sunday school program next Sunday evening. Through our youth we hear of Christ's birth and are so thankful that in such young hearts there is a great love for Jesus Christ. May we all behold that Christmas star and hear the angels' song as we ponder Christ's birth at Bethlehem so many years ago.

As we begin a year anew, we pray for each one the words of the following poem.

HOPE for a world grown cynically cold,
 Hungry for power and greedy for gold . . .

FAITH to believe when within and
 without
 There's a nameless fear in a world of
 doubt . . .

LOVE that is bigger than race or creed,
 To cover the world and fulfill each
 need . . .

God, grant these gifts
 To all troubled hearts
 As the old year ends
 And a new year starts.

Helen Steiner Rice

I thank my friends and relatives for the cards and gifts and the surprise party for my 80th birthday.

Freda Giesel

IOWA, OAKVILLE**Debbie Wagenbach**

We are so happy to have new babies added to our congregation. Bro. Chris and Sis. Mary Lou Grimm are first-time parents of a little boy, Nicholas Scott. He was born December 8 and is the grandson of Bro. Mark and Sis. Margaret Grimm and Bob and Delores Kiefer. Brittny Mae's arrival December 11 made Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti Wagenbach first-time parents. Brittny's arrival also caused Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach to become first-time grandparents and Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington, IA) to be fifth blessed. We certainly do pray for God's blessings and guidance upon these couples who now have the responsibility of raising these innocent little babies in such a sin-filled world.

Babies are such a blessing and when we can hear the testimonies of "Babes in Christ", we rejoice even more. The weekend of December 6 and 7, we gathered together to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of five dear souls. Added to the precious fold were, Sis. Ange Johnson, Bro. Troy Massner, Sis. Lori (Lanz) White and Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelli Lanz. We pray for them and wish them God's divine compassion and mercy as they walk the straight and narrow way. What a blessed and truly uplifting weekend was shared by all. We thank Elder Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) and Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) for so willingly lending themselves in the Lord's service in assisting our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz. May God reward them for their faithfulness to Him.

Along with much joy, we have also experienced the sorrow felt when a loved one is called home. Sis. Hilda (Heiniger) Moser was called out of this life recently after a spell of sickness. We pray that the dear family that is left on this side of the grave will be comforted just to know that her bodily afflictions will no longer distress her. Sis. Hilda's surviving family consists of two daughters, Alma Jean Savage (Burlington) and Eileen Varvel (Oakville); three brothers, Bro. Harvey, Bro. Clem and Phil Heiniger; four sisters, Sisters Sarah Miller, Pearl Vierling, Mayme Gerst and Ione Stoller.

Thought: Prayer is the little implement through which men reach where presence is denied them.

Emily Dickinson

IOWA, PULASKI**Sarah Teubel — Mary Jane Knapp**

Once again we are blest to see a new year dawn. With it will come many blessings, and probably some trials, but we know for certain that God will stand beside us through each and every one if we but ask His help.

We are indeed very thankful that Sis. Karoline Wuthrich is able to be home again following open heart surgery. May God continue to bless her and Bro. Russell, granting added strength daily as He sees best.

This past month we were privileged to have with us Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) to bring forth the gospel message. May each be granted a special blessing that only God can give.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sarah Teubel have been blest with a very special blessing, their first child, Katie Nicole, born December 3. May God bless this little family. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma Teubel and Bro. Devon and Sis. Lavielle Yoder (Gridley, IL).

Bro. Roger Mussleman is again able to assemble with us regularly after being down with back problems. May God continue to grant sufficient grace and strength to him and his family.

IOWA, WEST BEND**Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart**

MAKE FAITH
YOUR MIGHTY FORTRESS
THROUGH THE YEAR

We stand once more at the end of the year

With mixed emotions of Hope and Fear,
Hope for Peace we long have sought,
Fear that Our Hopes will come to naught . . .

Unwilling to trust in the Father's Will,
We count on our logic and shallow skill
And, in our arrogance and pride,
Man is no longer satisfied
To place his confidence and love
With Childlike Faith in God above . . .
But tiny hands and tousled heads
That kneel in prayer by little beds
Are closer to the dear Lord's heart
And of His kingdom more a part
Than we who search and never find
The answers to our questioning mind,
For faith in things we cannot see
Requires a child's simplicity . . .
Oh, Father, grant once more to men
A simple Childlike Faith again,
Forgetting Color, Race and Creed

And seeing only the heart's deep
need . . .

For Faith alone can save man's soul
And lead him to a Higher Goal,
For there's but one unyielding course —
We win by Faith and Not by Force.

Helen Steiner Rice

Bro. Cloyce Gress (Sis. Carol) was hospitalized as a surgical patient. Sis. Beverly Wirtz (Bro. Verner) is hospitalized at this time. We surely extend our love and prayers to these dear ones.

We are so happy and thankful to have Jill and Julie Wickman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella) assemble with us in church again after many weeks of hospitalization.

On December 2 we assembled for our annual business meeting. Bro. Leo Banwart was elected to serve as an usher. We wish him God's guidance as he fulfills his duties.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenagene Fehr and boys in the loss of her mother, Sis. Frances Domnick Funk.

The Sunday school children are preparing for the Christmas program. We appreciate the time and patience the Sunday school teachers spend with our children. We look forward to the Christmas story presented to us in song and verse.

It doesn't take a New Year to begin our lives anew; God grants us new beginnings each day the whole year through.

JAPAN, SHIODA**Sheila Moser**

On December 2, Sis. Asakawa was called to end her earthly journey and enter into the heavenly realm. She was affectionately called Grandmother by those who knew her. Bro. Willis visited her the Tuesday before she passed away. That visit reflects the personality and character that everyone loved. She had been bed-ridden for the past several months, and though her physical life was slipping away, she was very alert mentally until the end. Bro. Willis shared some family pictures with her, read from the Bible, prayed and was standing up to leave when Obasan (grandmother) started to sing. She sang the words "God is love" to a melody of her own. As Bro. Willis reached for the door of her room, he stopped and looked back. Sis. Asakawa called out to him, "Greetings to

everyone”.

When she died, Sis. Asakawa's hands were folded as if she was in prayer. Throughout her life, which was over 92 years long, she was, as someone put it, a teacher of God's Word by her kindness and service to others. Hopefully those of us that knew her or knew of her can learn from her example.

Twenty-two Sunday school children presented the story of the Birth of Christ December 21. Several visitors as well as brethren, listened to songs and scripture reading in celebration of the blessed event.

Our small church was full Christmas Eve for our Christmas service. After the message, many stayed and enjoyed a potluck Christmas dinner. Even though the food ranged from turkey to Japanese rice balls, the true spirit of Christmas was felt by all throughout the evening of special fellowship.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

Our beloved Sis. Kiyoko Asakawa passed away December 2 after a long illness. She was from our Shioda church and we paid our last respects to her at the funeral held there with our elders having services. She served the church in many ways, often sharing food and drink with those passing by as she lived in two rooms adjacent to the church. We will miss her smiling face in the hospital bed where she laid for many years, but we are thankful the Lord took her where there is no more pain and suffering. It gives us joy and thankfulness that she could keep the precious faith in our Lord and Saviour until her last breath.

Soon Steve Auer, a brother in our sister church in Del Mar, CA, has been with us for almost one year. His employer, Hughes Aircraft, has now transferred him back home, and we wish him God's blessings and guidance as he relocates again.

We were very happy to meet Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler (Rockville, CT). Bro. Terry was sent by his company, Monsanto. Their fellowship and love was a blessing to all of us for the two weeks they spent in Japan.

Our church Christmas is soon, and we trust that in all our activities we will glorify our Saviour and Lord. We wish to thank all who remembered us this past year. May God bless all Silver Lining readers.

KANSAS, BERN

Linda Esslinger — Shirley Strahm

A precious addition came to the family of Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy Strahm. A son, Hans Leslie, was born November 19. Hans has one brother, Almanzo, to welcome him home.

Kristy Hertzler (Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth) and Brian Schweitzer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte Aberle, Sabetha) were united in marriage December 6. We wish this young couple many blessings as they begin their life together.

KANSAS, FT. SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

The weekend of November 29 and 30, we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Jeff Fischer. Elder Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern, KS) was here to assist in this blessed event. Bro. Jeff is employed in Phoenix, AZ, so that is where he is making his home.

We are thankful that Sis. Debbie Banwart (Bro. Lon) is recovering as fast as she is from her recent surgery.

The annual Sunday school Christmas program will be held December 21 for the children to celebrate the birth of Jesus in song and poem.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young — Judy Kraft

As a new year dawns may our commitment to and faith in God be strengthened. Keep faith alive! Don't neglect the daily time of fellowship with Christ, through prayer and Bible reading. If we neglect the daily diet of spiritual food, we're bound to suffer. We have all heard that three square meals are needed for the average person. A man's inner strength also comes through nourishment. Our faith is fed by the Word of God. If we neglect this daily diet, the soul will suffer. The danger is that we can go much longer without being conscious of spiritual malnutrition. Just as a baby grows on its mother's milk, so the Christian man grows when he is fed by God's Word regularly. Let us search in the Living Word and through prayer to discover the wealth and sustenance we have been given through Jesus Christ.

We rejoice with Shawn Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen) who has found peace with God and eagerly awaits baptism.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson, with the help of Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, could share the conference conclusions with the Gridley-

Lamont congregations.

Bro. Albert Grimm was hospitalized for medical problems.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill K. Luthi

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20. Since the last writing, we have been fortunate to have with us Bro. Ervin Knecht (Lamar, MO), Elder Bro. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA). Bro. Ervin was with us during the weekend of November 15 - 16, as it was a weekend in which we had visiting couples. We thank him and Sis. Sandra for their visit. Elder Bro. Ron was in our vicinity December 13 - 14 to help in reading the memorandum. We want to especially thank him and Sis. Shirley for taking the time and making the effort to be with us, for there are many miles between our two locations! Our minds were refreshed and our hearts were stirred as the conclusions were ready to us. With us December 21 was Bro. Doug while on his homeward journey for the holidays with his family. We want to thank Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian for remembering us on their way out.

Though Christmas holiday is past, it is never too late to tell of a short excerpt from “Streams in the Desert” Volume II:

“It was Christmas Eve, 1875. Ira D. Sankey was traveling by steamboat up the Delaware River. It was a calm, starlight evening, and there were many passengers gathered on deck. Mr. Sankey was asked to sing a song. He stood leaning against one of the great funnels of the boat, and his eyes were raised to the starry heavens in quiet prayer. It was his intention to sing a Christmas song, but he was driven almost against his will to sing Saviour Like A Shepherd Lead Us.

There was a deep stillness. Words and melody, welling forth from the singer's soul, floated out over the deck and the quiet river. Every heart was touched.

After the song was ended, a man with a rough, weather-beaten face came up to Mr. Sankey and said, ‘Did you ever serve in the Union Army?’

‘Yes,’ answered Mr. Sankey, ‘in the spring of 1860.’

‘Can you remember if you were do-

ing picket duty on a bright moonlight night in 1862?"

'Yes,' answered Mr. Sankey, very much surprised.

'So did I,' said the stranger, 'but I was serving on the Confederate Army. When I saw you standing at your post, I said to myself, 'That fellow will never get away from here alive.' I raised my musket and took aim. I was standing in the shadow, completely concealed, while the full light of moon was falling upon you. At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to heaven and began to sing. Music, especially song, has always had a wonderful power over me, and I took my finger off the trigger.

'Let him sing his song to the end,' I said to myself. 'I can shoot him afterwards. He's my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him.' But the song you sang then was the song you sang just now. I heard the words perfectly: We are Thine, do Thou befriend Us, Be the Guardian of our way.

'When you had finished your song it was impossible for me to take aim at you again. I thought, 'The Lord, who is able to save that man from certain death, must surely be great and mighty,' and my arm of its own accord dropped limp at my side.

'Since that time I have wandered about, far and wide, but when I just now saw you standing there praying as on the other occasion, I recognized you. Then my heart was wounded by your song. Now I ask that you help me find a cure for my sick soul.'

"Deeply moved, Mr Sankey threw his arms about the man who in the days of war had been his enemy. And that night the stranger found the Good Shepherd as his Saviour."

I'm sure that there are many of us that don't realize what power the art of music has over us. I don't believe one of us goes through a day without singing, whistling or humming a favorite old-time gospel song of our own, particularly those we have known since childhood. I am as the confederate soldier, for indeed I believe in the power of those almighty hymns of praise; how they do overflow our trials and tribulations with peacefulness and joy! When Satan has us bound by sadness, depression, loneliness, blues or down-in-the-dumps, all it takes is a verse or two from any of our precious songs to loosen us from the wicked and crafty

foe of this world. God did not create man to be sad, but to be happy!!! Use wisely and in a spiritual sense the precious time that is given us.

We were reminded of those younger years in our lives by hearing and listening to the Sunday school present its Christmas program of memory verses, songs and readings. This year, the program was presented Sunday, December 21 at the noon-time period. It was a beautiful sunny day in which we went Christmas caroling after church, and later had a supper gathering. A great word of thanks goes to all of the teachers, Sunday school children, parents, friends and members who made the event so special. May God bless each one of you!

GOD'S REASON

I don't know how to say it, but somehow it seems to me That maybe we are stationed, where God wants us to be; That little place we're filling is the reason for our birth, And just to do the work we do, He sent us down to earth. If God had wanted otherwise, I reckon He'd have made Each one of us a little different, of a worse or better grade; And since God knows and understands all things of land and sea, I fancy that He placed us here, Just where He wanted us to be. Sometimes we get to thinking, as our labors we review, That we should like a higher place with greater things to do; But we come to the conclusion, when the envying is stilled, That the post to which God sent us is the post He wanted filled. And there isn't any service we can scorn for it may be just the reason God allowed us to be born.

Author Unknown

Our words and prayers of sympathy are expressed to Bro. Sam Anliker in the loss of his brother, Bro. Ben Anliker (Francesville, IN). Surely the Lord has relieved Bro. Ben from this world into a better place. The long and lingering pain for both him and his family members has now come to an end. May the Lord be the family's Comforter during their loss.

KANSAS, SABETHA Charleen Hartter — Nita Grimm

"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."

"Take Time To Be Holy",
Hymns of Zion #112

May we "take time" to set ourselves apart from the rushing world in this new year, 1987!

Our dear Sis. Matilda Steiner had an unfortunate fall and was hospitalized for awhile. We hope she will be granted a speedy recovery.

Brian Schweitzer and Kristy Hertzler were united in holy matrimony December 6. We wish them many joys in their life together!

Once again, we were privileged to hear a testimony of faith from our new brother-in-the-Lord, Lee Martin. It was refreshing to hear how God's Word and Spirit led Lee into the way of truth and uprightness. May he grow to be a strong pillar for God and the church!

We have been blest to have Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Lester Hartter (Bern, KS) and Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) to worship with us.

"I appreciate with heartfelt thanks my relatives, sisters, brethren and friends for the many prayers, beautiful cards, gifts and flowers I received. May God richly bless you all."

In Christian love,
Matilda Steiner

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Sherry Fritz

In November we were privileged to gather together to receive holy communion. This sacrament was served to our small flock by Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). This was a blessed weekend of refreshing and renewal for each of us.

Also, we are thankful to Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) for ministering to us in November.

The responsibilities of a church should be a joy to perform, not a task. This is possible when we all do our part. While our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman was with us we held our business meeting at which the following offices were filled: Adult Bible

Class, Bro. Harold Fritz; Sunday School Superintendent and Junior Bible Class, Bro. Jan Neukomm; Primary Class, Sis. Barbara Huber; Leo Children's Home Representative, Bro. John Klein; Treasurer, Bro. Harold Fritz and Secretary, Sis. Sherry Fritz.

As winter approaches, we want to extend an invitation to anyone traveling south to remember us in Lexington when you make your travel plans. We appreciate the blessed fellowship that our visitors bring.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Liz Blough

Another new year, our children another year older, and a new baby in the Oesch family. On December 15, Aaron Jeffrey was born to Jeff and Karen Oesch. Congratulations are extended to them and also the proud grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch.

These children we speak of did a terrific job of learning their verses and songs and presenting us with a wonderful Christmas program December 14. The church was packed with grandparents, mothers, fathers, friends and neighbors to hear the children.

We pray that this new year will be prosperous and rewarding for all.

We'll find . . . life on earth never a bore,
With our thoughts and minds on
Yonder Shore!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Schlatter

On the weekend of December 6 - 7 we were privileged to share in the Lord's Supper. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto) assisted in serving us and called to remembrance the suffering and death of our Saviour. On Saturday, prior to the Lord's Supper, Bro. Aaron was also with us to read the memorandum.

Several from Bay City went to Mexico this past month to aid in reconstruction resulting from the Mexico City earthquake disaster. Included among those traveling in the group from Bay City were: Del Grew, Bro. Norman Knochel, Bro. Dean Pashak and Bro. Dave Schlatter.

We were pleased to hear of the engagement of Bro. Howard Wieland to Sis. Pauline Stoller (Latty, OH). We wish them God's blessings and welcome Sis. Pauline with her special talents into our fellowship.

Sis. Inez Grew has been unable to assemble with us as of late. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her in the assembly again.

The birth of little Caitlin Adele brought much happiness to the Erismann family. Rick and Joan Long welcomed their little firstborn and her grandparents, Bro. Erwin and Sis. Della Erismann are busy showering her with their love.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bev Bahr

As the new year unfolds with all its hope and anticipation, we trust that in each new day we can live in fulfillment of God's will, sharing with others the blessings of His grace.

Our Christmas season was filled with many opportunities to express the true spirit of Christ's gift of love. On December 7 we gathered with many friends and neighbors as our Sunday school students and choir reminded us of the wonderful blessings that Christ's birth has afforded us all. On December 14 we spent an evening of caroling with our friends and loved ones at adult shelter homes and at a senior retirement home. The following week we assembled food baskets to deliver to those we especially wanted to remember. How good it would be for all of us to have this Christmas spirit throughout each and every day of the New Year.

A reception was held for Bro. Alex and Sis. Sherise Varga in Windsor, ONT, following their wedding in California. We were happy to have them here for a short stay and pray that as they establish their new life and home, God will ever abide with them and bless them.

We had a blessed weekend of inspiration when the Chicago choir visited our church in November. Sharing God's Word with us that weekend, along with the choir, was Bro. Greg Rassi.

Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) was here to share in reading the brotherhood conference memorandum November 30. May our visitors be blessed for lending themselves in God's service.

Christopher Weigele (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Mary) injured his shoulder recently but is recovering and doing well. Brian and Louise (Polk) Tyler have returned home from the hospital in Wisconsin so that Louise can enjoy

the Christmas season at home after lengthy hospital stays. Our prayers and love ever reach out to Louise, Brian and to her supportive family around her.

"The Lord is good, a strong hold in day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."

Nahum 1:7

Maggie Fortenbacher is rejoicing in the peace she has found through repentance. Her parents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret (Kitchener, ON). We are grateful for Maggie and pray that in the days ahead she can continue to grow in God's grace.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Barbara Olson

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we are once again made aware of the relentless march of time. Every minute carries us inevitably toward eternity. For this reason the Apostle Paul warned us in Ephesians 5:15, 16 to be careful how we walk life's pathway. We must be sure we are utilizing every opportunity to glorify the Lord by helping others and keeping ourselves unspotted by the evil things of the world.

Time is too precious a gift, too scarce a commodity to be squandered. Each moment holds an occasion for prayer, kindness, self-control or personal growth.

As we enter 1987, let us be determined to make the most of each passing moment. To get full value out of the time God has given us, live a service-filled, Spirit-controlled life!

May the Lord continue to richly bless and inspire our visiting and local ministers for their untiring efforts in bringing forth the Word of God in truth and clearness, prompted by the Holy Spirit. We should all pray that God's Word would be brought to us in truth, not according to what people would want to hear, but according to the will of God. We want to thank Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Alpha Moser (Morris, MN) for sharing God's love with us this month.

On December 14 the beautiful Christmas story warmed our hearts as all the Sunday school children sang songs and recited verses telling us the true meaning of Christmas.

We're thankful for another soul who has turned his life over to the Lord.

Tim Lawson (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon) was announced to the congregation as having found peace with God and is looking forward to baptism.

We were saddened December 5 when John Horn, Sis. Barbara Olson's father, passed away. The family wishes to thank everyone for the love and kindness shared in their time of sorrow.

Thought — The wise Christian gears his goals to heavenly gains.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Ruth Nohl — Hildegard Koehl

Through a true repentance, five souls are at peace with God and mankind and are awaiting baptism. They are Jennifer Kellenberger (Sis. Diane Kellenberger and Mark Kellenberger), Shawn Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen, Gridley, KS), Beth Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda), Gail Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby) and Shawn Nohl (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen).

Genuine repentance is not an easy process. It hurts our pride and deflates our ego, but it's a needed and healing hurt. When this is accomplished, we find ourselves in a renewed and joyful state. It is certainly a more contented state than what we left behind us. Repentance means not only a heart broken for sin, but from sin.

We enjoyed an uplifting weekend of testimonies and baptisms November 22 and 23. We welcomed into the fold Bro. Cary and Sis. Sandy Fehr, Sis. Jill Koehl (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Wilda) and Sis. Sara Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane). Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Art Nohl in carrying out the duties. We also enjoyed the sermons of Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

Ministering Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) were with us over Thanksgiving. We appreciated their efforts to be with us.

Wayne Moser (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marion and Dena Hintermeister were married September 6. We wish them God's blessings in their life together.

God again has called one of His loved ones home. Sis. Francis Domnick Funk passed away December 6 at the age of 69. Sis. Francis is survived by her husband, Amos Funk; one son, Gary Domnick (Morris) and one daughter, Glenagene Fehr (West Bend, IA).

Bro. Gilbert Schmidgall was a hospital patient. We hope Bro. Gilbert is experiencing a speedy recovery.

Harlan Koehl is the newcomer at the home of Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl. Harlan is their first son and has seven sisters to welcome him home. Annette, Brenda, Connie, Dawn, Emily, Fonda and Gwen make up the rest of the family. We hope they are experiencing the joy these little ones bring into our lives. Sis. Eunice Koehl and Virgil and Mildred Sauder are the grandparents.

On December 10, Corey Schaefer was born to Bro. Stan and Sis. Beverly. Corey has an older brother, Jeffrey. Grandparents are Bro. Anton and Sis. Verna Schaefer and Virgil and Mildred Sauder.

On December 11, Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Feuchtenberger welcomed their first child, Jonathan. Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger are happy to have another grandchild around. Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch (Lester, IA) welcome their first grandchild.

May these parents look to our Creator for their wisdom to raise these precious little souls.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna Fehr wish to express their sincere thanks to all who remembered them on their 50th wedding anniversary with cards, prayers and gifts. They truly appreciated it and pray that God will richly bless everyone.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Wanda Messner Ella Mae Schmidt

"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth."

St. John 1:14

We were able to hear how the "Word was made flesh" at the Sunday school Christmas program. As the children told the beautiful Christmas story in song and verse, we could journey to Bethlehem and behold the miracle of God's plan fulfilled.

"Silent Night, Holy Night". We enjoy singing the beautiful Christmas carols at this special time. What a privilege it was to share the words in these songs, as we went caroling, for those in the local nursing homes and our older brothers and sisters.

Just as the miracle of birth took

place years ago on Christmas eve; so it is still occurring today. Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda Messner were blessed with a son, Brett David. He has a sister, Shayla, and a brother, Brendon. Grandparents are Bro. Roland and Sis. Melva Messner and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger (West Bend, IA).

Our prayers and thoughts are with Kim and Todd Moser (Maywood, CA) and their families, as Kim has been back in the hospital and they were unable to come home as they had planned. May they feel God's comfort and strength.

As we look forward to a New Year of living for our Lord, let us think about the words in this poem and strive to do better each day!

AT DAY'S END

Is anybody happier because you
passed his way?
Does anyone remember that you spoke
to him today?
The day is almost over, and its toiling
time is through;
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly
word of you?
Can you say tonight, in parting with the
day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single brother of the
many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you
did or said;
Does the man whose hopes were fading,
now with courage look ahead?
Did you waste the day, or lose it? Was it
well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a
scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber, do
you think that God will say,
"You have earned one more tomorrow
by the work you did today?"

John Hall

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

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Linda Ziegenhorn

We were encouraged to be Christlike as we heard the conference report. Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) was here to share this with us.

Our Bible class enjoyed the fellowship of the Pulaski, IA; Garden Grove, IA; and Lamar, MO, Bible classes the weekend of November 22, which they spent with us.

On December 7, our entire congre-

gation enjoyed Christmas caroling and a chili supper afterwards. It's always a joy to sing of Christ's birth and Christmas caroling always brings back fond memories of the times we caroled when I was in Sunday school. Our Christmas program was held December 21 and we all enjoyed hearing the wonderful Christmas story from the little ones.

We are thankful to have Jane Patton assembling with us again. She had surgery for a broken hip, which she received in an unfortunate accident.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janice Stoller — Becky Marti

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

Hymns of Zion #150

As we begin this new year, let us all remember that serving Him should be our most important priority. He has promised each of us that He will provide for all our needs if we seek His holy will and submit ourselves to it.

Our dear Sis. Lydia Rentsch was granted her desire December 13 when she was relieved of her earthly suffering. We believe that she now has exchanged her cross for a crown. We will miss her smiling face in our midst.

Believing that it is the Lord's will, Bro. Lawrence Luthi has been chosen to serve us in the ministry. May he and Sis. Sandra ever feel our prayers, love and support as he accepts this new responsibility. May he feel God's grace and strength each day, knowing that...

"He giveth more grace when the
burdens grow greater;
He sendeth more strength when the
labors increase.
To added afflictions He addeth His
mercy;
To multiplied trials, His multiplied
peace."

"He Giveth More Grace",
Gospel Hymns #403

Hospitalized recently were Sis. Charlotte Banwart (Bro. Alfred) and Brandi Barton (Rick and Linda). We are thankful they have been able to return home and assemble with us once again.

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Loren and Betsy Schrenk

Aren't we thankful, as we start the new year, that we don't have the ability to see the future? Our faith is strengthened to look back over the past year and see how God guided and protected us, not allowing us to be crushed under a burden too heavy for us to bear. If we could see what lay ahead, we might find it difficult to, "always pray, and not to faint." Luke 18:1. May our faith increase in this year.

December 7 was a blessed Sunday when Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp (Bloomington, IL) were with us. We appreciate very much the messages containing encouragement, warnings and advice.

We look forward to many of you worshipping with us this new year.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

HAPPY NEW YEAR! "Today is the day I have been looking for. All my life has been spent in preparation for it. Yesterday and tomorrow are faraway nothings — the one a faint memory, the other a vague promise. But this is my day. It offers all that God has to give, and I'm a laggard or a coward if I fail to make the most of it." Anonymous

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Timothy 3:16. Many blessings and scriptural teachings were received through the ministry of Bros. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL), Arthur Baurer (Princeville, IL), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Uriel Gehring (Leo). We thank all for including Taylor in their travel and holiday plans.

We're thankful that Bro. Kent Heimer is enjoying reasonable health again after a short stay in the hospital as a medical patient.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:7. We share this joy with Carol Bezler as the "one" and we wish her God's love and grace to work out her soul's salvation. Carol is a music teacher in Palmyra and has been assembling with us for some time.

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell are spending the winter months in their Florida home. We miss them, but can truly understand that Florida sunshine

would be an advantage for William's health. "When God allows extraordinary trials, He also prepares for His people extraordinary comfort."

We're happy to share news of the engagement of Bro. Shon Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) to Sis. Peggy Hunziker (Bro. Albert and Sis. Ginny, Morton, IL). May God bless this couple as they make plans for a June wedding.

Our Sunday school presented a very inspiring and joyous Christmas program. One of our nine-year-old boys read the following poem which is a testimony we would all like to share with one another.

CHRISTMAS LOVE TO YOU

I've nothing else to offer,
So, to you, it's love I'll send.
It's nothing that I borrowed,
And it's nothing that I'd lend.

It has no dollar value,
And it can't be overused;
It isn't fragile, so can't break,
Though often, it's abused.

I've given it to others,
But each time it's unique.
Its meaning's always different;
It depends on what you seek.

It's something you can store away
To feel when you're in need,
But never is it on display;
Its beauty can't be seen.

I'm giving it "no strings attached",
No costly warranty.
This love that I am sending
Has a lifetime guarantee.

Penny Reuter

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Heidi Haerr

It is easy at this time of year to get caught in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. The numerous activities, family gatherings and gift-giving tend to make us forget the real reasons we celebrate Christmas. In Union City we were reminded by our Sunday school children during their Christmas program of the reasons for this special holiday. God loved the world enough to send His own Son to live among us and later to die in order to make salvation

available to all men. Hopefully we will remember the children's message, not only during the Christmas season, but throughout the year.

We appreciated the visits of the following ministering brothers and their families during the holiday season. Bros. Everett Gerber and Lee Bahler (Rockville, CT), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo, OH). In addition, we would like to thank the Sunday school children from both Rockville and Union City for preparing and presenting their Christmas program.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

As the year 1986 draws to a close, we have had many things to be thankful for throughout the past year. As we begin the year 1987, may we look ahead with hope for another year of blessings and may we strive daily to walk close to God. May we always keep our eyes on the hope of the blessed end when we can be united with God forever.

As I wrote last month's news article, I mentioned our thoughts and prayers for loved ones unable to leave their homes. Little did we know that within a month we would have five loved ones who would submit to surgery. Surely each of us has had many prayers in our hearts for these loved ones and our prayer is that they may be returned to good health according to God's will.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner's surgery was minor and he is able to minister to us again. Eddie Virkler remains a patient in Syracuse having undergone major lung surgery. Sis. Mabel Ebersol is hospitalized in Utica having submitted to major surgery last week and expects to have more surgery this week. Sis. Minnie Farney had major surgery this week and remains a patient in Lowville. Tim Virkler (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae) remains a patient at this writing after having undergone emergency surgery Sunday morning for a ruptured appendix. The age difference of these loved ones spans over 80 years. Sis. Minnie will celebrate her 97th birthday in January and Tim is a high school senior. This shows us that we are not shielded from sickness no matter what our age and that we must depend fully on our great God in so many ways each day of our life. Our continued prayers go out for each of these loved ones and may courage, grace, strength and patience

be granted to each according to their personal needs.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

Naomi Clare (Watertown) and Ethel Karcher (Castorland) have both been surgery patients this past month. Both have been able to return home and we pray God will strengthen them in their recovery. We wish them well.

God is still calling. A precious soul has seen God's great goodness and has turned to Him in repentance. Naomi Clare has been announced as having peace and wishes to have the fulfillment of baptism.

Croghan and Naumburg churches assembled together in the Naumburg church for Thanksgiving.

Martin and Linda Hirschey are first-time parents of a daughter, Marissa. Grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Berneice Hirschey.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

In Matthew 5:13, 14, Jesus gives two ways in which to change circumstances. He tells us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Light is extremely important, for when light comes into darkness, it changes to no more darkness. It lights the way so we can see; the darkness flees from light. If the sun didn't come up in the morning, we would be in trouble. Sunlight also brings growth, and is constantly changing things. Light has healing qualities. We can have a match, but it doesn't give light until we use it. The entrance of His Word gives light, but the Bible doesn't give the light until we use it. We have many examples in the Word of those who used the Word and were the light of the world. Joseph was one person who used the Word and changed one nation and saved another. Daniel was another person who used the Word and totally changed circumstances. Light is a source of energy; light is very visible and we know when light isn't here. Jesus offers us the Word to use to be that light that changes circumstances.

Congratulations go to two graduates: Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika on graduations from college.

Bro. Eric Graf (Bro. and Sis. Leon Graf) graduated from Ohio State University with a Master of Science degree in pharmaceutical administration. He has accepted a position with Ritzman

Pharmacy to work in administrative areas and in dispensing in pharmacy.

Sis. Erika Bako (Bro. and Sis. Sandor Bako) graduated from nurses' training at Akron City Hospital as a registered nurse and accepted a position to help adolescents at Children's Hospital at Akron.

We were blessed with visitors in that Bro. Leon Graf, who is on the World Relief Committee and the Work Project Committee, had the two committees meet at Akron. Those who met here were Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman, Roy Grimm, Nathan Steffen, David Bertsch, John Klotzle, Perry Zimmerman, Jesse Beer, Bros. Arnold Gerst, Jim Hoerr, Gary Ifft, Harry Isch, Vernon Lemman, Richard Schmidgall, Roy Schrock, Willis Stoller, Loren Strahm and Floyd Wieland. Bros. Dick Beery and Gerald Fiechter came in support of the Mexico City work project. We appreciated all the wives who came as it was enjoyable having them. The World Relief Committee gave a very interesting presentation to us Saturday evening describing the various projects in which they are active. We appreciate the efforts these brothers put forth on behalf of our congregation to help channel constructively our donations as we try to help those who are less fortunate.

In addition to the committees' work our brothers did while visiting us, we also appreciated the inspiring sermons brought to us by our visiting elders and ministers on these committees. Also, at other times this past month, we were blessed with guest ministers, Bro. Merrill Laukhuf, Bro. Walt Anliker and Bro. Uriel Gehring.

Our Sunday school classes presented a most inspiring program telling the Christmas story.

This year two babies were born to parents in our congregation. There were three weddings and one baptism.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Desma Klopfenstein

Karen Laparo

With the arrival of the New Year, many of us look back over the past year and find areas of our lives that could use some improvement. No area can be more important than our spiritual lives and our relationship with God. Let's all strive to have a closer walk with God in 1987!

BEGIN THE DAY WITH GOD

Begin the day with God,
Kneel down to Him in prayer;
Lift up thy heart to His abode.
And seek His love to share.

Open the Book of God,
And read a portion there;
That it may hallow all thy thoughts,
And sweeten all thy care.

Go through the day with God,
Whate'er thy work may be;
Where'er thou art — at home, abroad,
He still is near to thee.

Converse in mind with God,
Thy spirit heavenward raise;
Acknowledge every good bestowed,
And offer grateful praise.

Conclude the day with God,
Thy sins to Him confess;
Trust in the Lord's atoning blood,
And plead His righteousness.

Lie down at night with God,
Who gives His servants sleep;
And when thou tread'st the vale of
death,
He will thee guard and keep.
Inspirational Thoughts

Bro. Ray Schlatter (Toledo, OH) visited us in November and ministered to us. Also, Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL) visited and shared slides of his trip to Romania. We thank them for their labors of love to our small congregation.

December 7 was Bro. Eric Graf's last Sunday with us here in Columbus. Bro. Eric has finished his schooling and has returned to his home in Akron, OH. We will certainly miss him here and wish him God's nearness and blessings.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Les Manz**

Elder Bros. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) and Loren Stoller read the conclusions of the 1986 conference to us and were then with us Sunday to bring us God's Word. As we think about the conference and the letter which our elders read to us following it, we can be so thankful that the Spirit guides them to prayerfully consider the issues which pertain to our church. As we read in God's Word in the Acts, chapter 15, we understand that the present day conference and its associated letter are

patterned after that conference held nearly two millenniums ago. As the mid-winter conference approaches, let's all examine ourselves by asking, "Do God and my elder know they have my support — 100% of it?"

Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ray Schlatter (Toledo) also visited us and brought His Word to us.

As we enter the new year, we are reminded of bookkeeping and accounting. I thought you might enjoy this short accounting of the Junction church: Of 143 people who regularly attend, 68 are under 18 years old, 48 are between 18 and 40, 14 are between 40 and 70 and 13 are over 70. In the 1986 calendar year, we had six births, one baptism, one marriage and two deaths. The large number of children in our church reminds us of the great responsibility we have to live God-fearing lives and entreat Him to bless our efforts that these children will all some day enter heaven. When I think about how we want 100% of our loved ones to make it to heaven, it reminds me of a dear sister who had two of her grandchildren repent at the same time. I remarked to her how nice it was that God had called these two dear souls. She answered, "It is nice, but I am not satisfied, I want more."

OHIO, LATTY**Patty Gerber — Marlene Reinhard**

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Bena DeLong (Latty) and Sis. Matilda Suttor (Peoria) at the passing away of their sister, Mary Stoller (Latty). Also surviving are two sons and two daughters.

Hospitalized this month are Bros. Don Steffen (Sis. Karen), Melvin Stoller (Sis. Irene) and Dan Reinhard (Sis. Delores). We pray the healing hand of God will restore their bodies back to good health.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

Believing it is God's perfect will, the engagement of Sis. Pauline Stoller (Latty) to Bro. Howard Weiland (Bay City, MI) was announced. Also, Brian Stoller (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth) was wed to Patricia Harper (Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harper) December 6. We wish both couples God's richest blessings as they travel down life's pathway.

We rejoice along with Jennifer,

Todd and Brian Wenninger as they have a new little sister, Sarah Elizabeth (Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb). May they ever turn heavenward for guidance and direction in raising their children in the fear of the Lord.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Ray Schlatter (Toledo). Our congregation was inspired by the teachings of God and may these brothers ever feel welcome to visit us again anytime.

We were privileged to have Bro. Richard Beery (Phoenix, AZ) visit our congregation and show us slides of the World Relief Mexico City Work Project. The love of God in the lives of our brothers and sisters-in-faith is radiating forth as they help the poor and homeless in Mexico. May God bless each one for their labors of love.

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

Hymns of Zion #36

Our Christmas program was a reminder to us all that Jesus Christ is King of Kings and of how much our lives should be dedicated to serving Him.

As we look forward to the new year of 1987, may we fervently pray for strength to strive harder to perfect our soul and body for the coming of Christ; so we can be gathered together and live forever in heaven above.

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

Christmas 1986 is now in history,
But not the gift that God gave to thee.
The best gift anyone has ever given.
One that opens for us the way into
heaven.

God's Son came to earth to die for our
sins.

That's where the plan of salvation
begins;

But what about you and your gift to
Christ?

What will you give Christ whose life
was sacrificed?

It's the start of the New Year. A great time to start.

There's no time like the present to open your heart,
So start the New Year by drawing near to our Lord.
Great will be the blessings and great the reward.

We sometimes hear it said people wonder why God does not perform miracles as He once did. If we have eyes to see we will behold many miracles that are still being performed by our great God. The greatest of these miracles is the peace He can give one who has repented of their past sins. On November 22, Ralph Rock (Sis. Adena) was baptized in his home where he has been convalescing. We rejoice with the angels in having Ralph as our brother-in-Christ. May God stay ever near his side.

Also we rejoice to hear of another soul who is seeking to walk in God's way. Roscoe Hilty (son of Sis. Ruth Hilty) has started his journey upon the narrow pathway of life. May God add his blessings and grace to Roscoe. Roscoe has had to spend some time in the hospital since he started repenting. May God also send His healing touch to him.

Others who have had the misfortune of having to spend time in the hospital were Mabel Goodwin, Bro. Bill Saylor (Sis. Norma), Bro. Ernest Hartzler (Sis. Pauline) and Sis. Karen Ramsier (Bro. Steve). May God send His miracle of healing to each one of these dear souls.

We have also seen and heard of the miracle of babies entering the world. Our church has been blest with the birth of four new babies. Bro. Tom and Sis. Laura Gerber are the proud parents of their first child, Jeffrey Thomas. Grandparents, Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber and Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole Widmer, are thrilled over their new grandson.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Rupp welcomed their second daughter, Esther Marlene, into their home. Mother's willing helper is Esther's sister, Anna. Ralph and Arlene Rupp and Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder are glad for another granddaughter.

Kyann Lynn is the first daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Pat Rufener. Jesse and Todd will enjoy a sister in their home. Bro. Isaac, Jr. and Sis. Verna Rufener as well as Sis. Doris Gasser are

Kyann's grandparents.

Also first-time parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sue Ellen Gasser. Their daughter, Laura Marie, has arrived just in time for Christmas. Laura's grandparents are Bro. Emmet and Sis. Marie Gasser and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider (Rockville, CT).

Brothers who visited us this month and shared the gospel with us were Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Bros. Bill Brake and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL). May God continue to grant them the grace to bring forth His Word in truth and sincerity.

OHIO, SARDIS
Alice Ramsier

We wish to extend our thanks to the many volunteers from Bluffton North and Bluffton, IN, and Rittman, Akron and Smithville, OH, who have helped in the progress of our new church building this past month.

December 14 was our annual Christmas program. Truly we were all blessed as our Sunday school classes sang of the birth of our Redeemer. Our Sunday school superintendent reminded us that it is because of these many young people we are building a new church. God's blessings to all who participated.

To him that o'er cometh, God giveth a crown; Thro' faith we will conquer, Tho' often cast down; He who is our Saviour, Our strength will renew; Look ever to Jesus. He'll carry you through. (Hymns of Zion #166). As we go into this new year, may we remember to include our Lord and Saviour in our New Year's resolutions.

Our prayers and thoughts are with John Figel, Sr., as he has again been hospitalized.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

It doesn't take a new year
To begin our lives anew,
God grants us new beginnings
Each day the whole year through —
So never be discouraged
For there comes daily to all men
The chance to make another start
And begin all over again!

Helen Steiner Rice

As we begin another new year, let us

take time to review the past year, realize where we've made our mistakes, and ask God for the grace to walk a little closer to Him in the days ahead.

On December 14 we were privileged to assemble for our Christmas program. It was truly uplifting to see the children's faces glowing as they presented their songs for the parents. Do our faces glow with excitement and happiness when we have an opportunity to sing to our heavenly Father?

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalm 127:3. Gregory John is the new addition to the family of Bro. Harvey and Stephanie Landis. His brother, Joel, is happy for a new playmate. Grandparents, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Elizabeth Landis (Rittman), are glad for another grandson. The arrival of Julie Ann has made Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen Widmer first-time parents. Thankful for their new granddaughter are Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach and Bro. Bob and Sis. Joanne Widmer (Rittman).

We are thankful that Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Darrell) is able to assemble with us again after having surgery. May God continue to restore and heal those who are sick according to His will.

We have been richly blest this past month by the presence of four visiting ministers. They were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bros. Paul Gasser and Ernest Graf (Akron). May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehkla
Francis Laidig

We had our annual Christmas program with the singing of Christmas carols and recitation by our Sunday school classes. Somehow when singing Christmas carols and telling of His birth, one can feel the wonder of the Christ Child and know it is a special time of the year. May each one who has taken part receive a blessing for their efforts.

Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) plan to be with us December 21 for the reading of the conference memorandum.

As we will soon begin a new year, it should be a source of encouragement to us to again hear how our elder

brothers are striving to keep the true faith of God in our church and in our hearts by reviewing passages from the Bible that are the basis of our belief. We thank our brothers for their service of love and pray that God will bless our meeting.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
 PHILADELPHIA**

Jason and Wendy Williamson

How sweet the privilege of prayer;
 When we our cares and sorrows
 Share with Him who understands.
 Our Father's house has large supplies.
 He owns and rules the earth and skies,
 And bounteous are His hands.

Prayer, Hymns of Zion #205

God's hands touch all of us in many ways each and every day. Our congregation again has a bright hope for growth with a few families considering the Lancaster, King of Prussia and Philadelphia areas. These communities offer many employment opportunities as well as many other benefits to single people and especially families. For assistance or information on the Philadelphia church and surrounding community call Bro. Ed Aeschleman (302) 478-7846.

We enjoyed the Sunday school Christmas program Sunday, December 21. Our future church always inspires us as they recognize and praise Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Our young people always seem to have so much joy and energy, especially at the Christmas season. Let us in this new year have a great zeal to follow after Christ and do our part in spreading the gospel of salvation.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"... How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15. On Sunday, November 30, Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) ministered unto us.

Hospitalized this month have been: Sis. Lena (Bro. Dave) Beer (tests), Sis. Katie Bocka (surgery) and Sis. Elda (Bro. Alvin) Riegenbach (foot surgery). Sis. Matilda Schauwecker had a fall and has been unable to assemble with us. May our prayers include these dear ones.

Bro. Ed Beer has a new address: 930

Lexington Springmill Road, Mansfield, OH 44903. I apologize to Ed's many relatives for not having it printed before the holiday season.

Our Sunday school Christmas program was held Sunday, December 14. What a joy to watch the children from the very youngest (3 years old) to the oldest express their love for the Baby Jesus in song and verse. With shining eyes, smiling faces and often with fear and nervousness in their voices they tell the story of Jesus' birth but they tell it! Do we dear brothers and sisters do the same? It is our responsibility; "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. And where is "the world"? Half way around the globe? In our own neighborhood? In our own families?

As we enter a new year, may we remember we do not go into the new year alone, but with a loving God. "God is our refuge and our strength" (Hymns of Zion #4). As we walk through 1987, may we be reminded that the scriptures say the righteous shall flourish like the palm tree — but we need to remember that the palm trees don't grow in beautiful forests, but in the desert. We are called to bear fruit — but we must recognize the fruit tree grows in valleys, not on mountaintops. And so, as God goes with us into the New Year may we lean on Him and have confidence that He knows best.

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

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

H. S. Rice

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

vided from the land so that there would be dry land and there would be sea, and

it was so. And it was on the third day that God made the grass and the herbs, which have fruit and seed and it says "whose seed was in itself." The grass will grow and it is not even necessary for us to go to great lengths. Once the surface of the earth is scratched and left alone it will revert back to grass as the seed is there and within itself, because "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." He founded and established it and on the third day He made that grass and the trees bearing fruit after their kind, whose seed was in themselves. And then on the fifth day He created the animals and provided the environment and the food before He created the creature. And it is still the same, if we will but trust and believe in Him. The food is there before we are, because God provides and cares for His own.

We are living in a dark and troubled world, in the greatest technological society the world has ever known. Yet we have seen in recent months what happens when man's technology fails! We have found that it can fail; that there are some things which are beyond the hand of man.

Men make four assumptions in life which are not correct. One of them is that wealth is riches, which is not true. Another assumption is that a house makes a home, which is not true. We are reaching a point where there is almost one divorce for every marriage statistically in America, the greatest country, a land of opportunity, the finest land ever established on the face of the earth. Another assumption is that a building makes a church, and that's not true. Perish the thought that this building would be destroyed; but if it were, the Peoria church would go on. You would find another way, another place. And it is adequate and comfortable for your needs, even far more so than that; yet we would find perhaps if we lost it, maybe it would be good for us. If we lost the beautiful churches we have built for ourselves in the last 30 years or so and had to revert back to more basic things, maybe we would realize and understand that the building does not make the church at all.

And perhaps the greatest error of all that men make is when they equate knowledge with wisdom, which is absolutely false. If you don't believe it, read Job 28; how he explores the facts of the earth, the things of beauty, which God has established. "There is a path

which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen. Iron is taken out of the earth, and brass is molten out of the stone" and he asks the question, "But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Who shall ascend to the hill of the Lord, or who shall stand in his holy place?" And in the last verse he says, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."

It was that way in the days of Job, hundreds of years before the law of Moses existed upon the face of the earth, before God had made the law. In all the chapters of Job no mention is made of the law of Moses, but in the 19th chapter in verses 25 & 26 this astonishing statement is found, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Job said that centuries before anyone had ever heard that a redeemer was coming. Yet he knew it. How did he know? Was it through knowledge or through wisdom? It was through wisdom that he perceived it. And he could understand it and was able to bear his affliction. Later in that book it talks about the ostrich, who lays her eggs upon the sand, heedless of the fact that some foot may step upon them and crush them. And she forsakes her own young, and he said: "Why?" Because God has deprived her of wisdom.

"Behold the fear of the Lord is wisdom." Jesus is going to win. Let us be glad and rejoice, King of Kings, and Lord or Lords. It all fits together in one great, beautiful picture when we put it together and remember that Jesus is the center of it all. The story is told of a little girl who was given a puzzle, which had been cut out of a newspaper and cut up into small pieces; it had a map of the world on it. And just to entertain the child the parents asked her to put it together. To their astonishment she did it in a very short time and they asked her how she did it. She said, "Well, daddy, on the backside was a picture of Jesus and I just put the picture of Jesus together." And when Jesus was put together right, the world was in order.

And that is what's wrong today — we have Jesus out of focus. 40 wars are taking place right now on the face of the earth. We have commented on the

disasters of technology, which have taken place in the last few months and don't even know what the results of them are going to be. It places man's knowledge in its proper perspective and it shows us, above all, that God is in control. And the martins in the backyard care not one thing about those 40 wars or the blownup technology. They go about their pursuit and are raising their brood because that's the job God gave them to do. And they do it without fail. And the flowers come up and bloom and pay no attention to what's going on. There is a lot of comfort in it for me and I hope for you also. I hope you can appreciate those simple things of life, because they are in the city, too. Even in the midst of the city we have listened to cardinals singing. They have come to grips with city life and found a way to carry on. Even though they are creatures of the wilderness, they have learned to live with man and don't care either about the other problems and go about their pursuits.

So today, in spite of what man is doing to this earth, it still is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof still belongs to God. He has given us the duty to be stewards over His heritage and He has always required from them an accounting. There has always been a day of reckoning when stewards have to give an account. And God has given us guidelines whereby we can conduct our daily efforts and labors and do them according to His good will and pleasure. This then separates knowledge from wisdom.

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? "Who is going to be among this number when the bridegroom comes; when the marriage of the lamb is come and his wife has made herself ready? Who is the wife, the bride of Christ? It is those who have been redeemed by His precious blood. Does it not say here that he had a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called The Word of God? And putting the mysteries together, John said, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." So is the name of this person who came out of heaven, clothed with a vesture dipped in blood, riding upon a white horse, called Faithful and True, with eyes as a flame of fire, head crowned with many crowns, with a name that no man knew but he himself.

The clue is right before us. It says the name is called The Word of God and obviously it was Jesus.

Jesus was in the beginning with God, and He was God. He was a portion of God and He was The Word of God, and this Word took upon itself flesh and blood and came and dwelt among us.

And He is the center of the entire universe. Today the sun is the center of the universe we live in and everything revolves around the sun. It says here that there is going to be a day when an angel is going to stand in the sun. We can't fathom that because the sun is on fire that burns with fervent heat and many million miles away is still able to burn our skin if we stay too long in it. We are many miles away and yet an angel is going to stand in that sun. We can't even look at it today; it blinds our eyes and can cause permanent damage if we stare at it long enough. Yet that angel is going to stand there to cry with a loud voice to the fowls of the earth to come and feed upon the unrighteous, who are destroyed by the fierceness of almighty God; who were slain by the two-edged sword which cuts when it goes this way and when it goes that way. The Word of God is a two-edged sword. We have it all before us and everything fits together perfectly, describing those who are going to be in that place, those who have clean hands and a pure heart.

This gives us work to do! We know that our hands become dirty as we work here upon the earth. Even as we till the soil, as mothers work in the flower beds, the hands become soiled and dirty and we wash them. He is not talking about soiling our hands with our labor, but soiling our hands with sinful things; by handling things which ought not be handled. After he had consigned Jesus to the howling, screaming multitude, Pilate went and washed his hands. But somehow he didn't get them clean and couldn't wipe off the stain of guilt. And today, when immorality and unrighteousness happen on the face of the earth, they cannot be washed off with soap and water. There is only one thing that can erase the filth of sin: the blood of Jesus Christ which is on that vesture that was dipped in blood. That's the towel, the washcloth, which wipes away our sins, the blood of Christ, which was shed for many because God knew we would not always keep our hands clean or our eyes and hearts pure, that our souls

would be lifted up to vanity and that sometime we would swear deceitfully. God understood it and prepared a way to redeem us by sending The Word of God in the flesh upon this earth to become our redeemer and saviour, in fulfillment of what Job saw in the depth of his despair, before he even knew what he was really talking about. The psalmist likewise wrote these beautiful things and yet he didn't understand and know what he was writing. He didn't realize that the words he wrote as a shepherd, as a king, as an old man, would last for centuries and for people in a society, which are bewildered and perplexed.

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we remember the name of our God." And some trust in rockets and some in nuclear plants, but we will remember the name of our God! They are brought down and fallen, but we are risen and stand upright.

"Save Lord, let the king hear us when we call." Does it work today? Of course it does. Is there any other book in the world, is there any other source whereunto we can resort beside the Word of God, which tells us how to cope with a world that's like an engine which is completely out of control, as a train at full throttle hurtling down the track, with nobody to guide it? Even those people who have no faith wonder how much longer this world can go on the way it is going. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will remember the name of our God!

A building doesn't make a church, knowledge doesn't make wisdom, a house doesn't make a home and money is not riches. Remember that and let's trust in our God. If we do that, we shall be those who shall receive the blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. It's the only thing that matters and nothing else makes any difference!

This past March in our part of the country we lost a beloved brother. Many of us had labored with him in the household of the Lord handling physical affairs of the church; perhaps not the spiritual, but yet they are tied together. He had many successes in his life and saw many failures and had gone through troubled times in the last two years. He was a man of influence and wealth, but now it's all forgotten. In a moment he was gone and none of this makes any difference to him now. But just a few days before he died he told

one in his employ: "Naked came I into this world and naked shall I go out of it and blessed is the name of my God." That told it all. It isn't the size of the estate that makes any difference; it was the relationship he had with his God. "He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob." (Psalm 24:5, 6).

Yes, if there ever was a message for a troubled world and there ever was a time when a troubled world needed that message, it is today." Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in (24:7). Rather than become discouraged, troubled, worried and sink into despair, we are exhorted to lift up our heads so that the king of glory can come in. "And I saw the heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." (Revelation 19:11). "Who is this king of glory? Out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." (Revelation 19:15). "The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory?" (Psalms 24:8, 9). "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written: King of Kings, and Lord of Lords (Revelation 24:16). The Lord of hosts, He is the King of Glory."

Do we need to know more from the Book of Revelation? Do we need the psalmist to explain anything else to us? Can we accept what has been given in simplicity from the Word of God, speaking to us so clearly and plainly where we are to put our trust? If there remains in our presence a single person who has not yet taken advantage of the opportunity which is given you, what are you waiting for? Jesus said, an evil and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but there is no sign going to be given except the sign of Jonah, the prophet. Jonah went into Ninevah and cried and said, "Yet forty days, and Ninevah shall be overthrown." (Jonah 3:4).

When we choose leaders, they say "if you don't vote for me, a terrible thing is going to happen but if you vote for me,

something good will take place." Have you seen in the newspapers that this earth is going to be dissolved with fervent heat, the mighty men are going to be destroyed and horses and the men that sit on them will be consumed by the forces of the air? Yet it is written in the book of books, the place we finally resort to for our strength and health!

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. And the earth is His and the glory thereof. Isaiah 66, "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all these things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." (66:1, 2). Do you tremble at the Word of God? If you don't, there is going to be a day when you stand there and face it. Today we can do it in the presence of an intercessor, today we have someone pleading our case, begging the father for mercy for us. When that day comes and we have not taken advantage of mercy, we are going to get justice! Is that what you want? Be that far from me! I hope I never have to get justice; I hope that I can be dealt with in mercy and I hope you can, too. The opportunity is here and the choice is yours.

But it will not always be so. When the great busy plants of our cities have turned out their last finished work, when our merchants have sold their last order and dismissed their last tired clerk, when our banks have raked in their last dollar and paid out the last dividend, and the judge of the earth calls a hearing and asks for our balance, What Then? When the preacher has preached his last sermon, has offered God his last prayer, when the choir has sung its last anthem and the sound has died out on the air, when the Bible lies closed on the pulpit and the pews are emptied of men, and each one stands, facing the records, and the books are all opened, What Then? When the bugle calls sink into silence and the long marching columns stand still, when the captain repeats his last order, when they've captured the last fort and hill, when the flag is run down from the masthead and the wounded have all been checked in, and the world that rejected its saviour is asked for the reason . . . What Then???

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. GENE LEHMAN OF WOLCOTT, IN

Text: Revelation 19:7-21 & Psalm 24

This is a very mysterious book and I am not qualified to comment on the bulk which is written but there are portions of it which are clear to us. There was a time when a man was walking along the road and he came to a man sitting beside the road, reading from the Bible. He said to him: "What are you reading?" And he replied: "I am reading in the Revelation." And he was astonished that such a man, who appeared to have no particular importance or great knowledge, would be reading out of this mysterious book; and he said to him: "Do you understand it?" to which he replied, "No, I don't understand it but I know what it means" . . . and that confused the traveler only more and he said, "How can that be?" And he said, "It means that Jesus is going to win!"

And that's the way it is; we don't understand it but understanding is not a requirement for belief and it does mean that Jesus is going to win.

The message is very clear that Jesus is going to win, come what may, in this dark and dreary world. If we put our faith and hope and trust in Him and are on His side, we are going to be on the winning side. Someone once said to President Lincoln at the time of the great civil war that they certainly hoped the Lord is on our side. And the President said it had never concerned him whether the Lord was on our side or not. He said the Lord is always on the side of the right and what concerns him is whether we are on the Lord's side. That is the way we should look at it today; not is God on our side, but are we on His. Are we doing what is right and necessary that we can be soldiers in the army of the Lord and part of that great multitude, thousands and thousands and tens of thousands, which stood together before the white throne, clad in white raiments, waving palms in their hands and singing "Amen, glory

and honor and worship to Him that sitteth upon the throne for ever and ever."?

We want to be among that number when the saints go marching in to Zion, the cares of life forever past, the struggles of earth no more to be remembered but to be in the presence of God forever and forever. In the 24th Psalm it states that "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." He made it. He formed it out of the void; it was empty and void, yet God formed an earth and the solar system, which functions in perfect regularity. So perfect that it is possible to predict decades in advance the path of a comet, the position of a constellation, the time of the coordination of the planets, the signs of the moon. It is all very easy for them, who study such matters, to forecast; not because the forecasters are so wise but because the universe functions in perfect order and God has made it that way.

Also, the animals perform their duties in perfect order. It is a blessing in the spring, when the earth awakens once again from the slumber of winter. When the bosom of mother earth grows warm again and brings forth buds and flowers, we are able to see a miracle taking place before us. The awakening of resurrection! It is no coincidence that Easter is the time we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord (and this event really did take place at that time), when the earth is resurrected once again and we can see these miracles before us. There is a tremendous comfort for one who communes with nature and studies those things and sees the beautiful order which God has created and knows that "the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof."

In "Thanatopsis" Bryant wrote: "To him who in the love of nature holds communion with her visible forms, she

speaks a various language, in his gay hours she has a voice of gladness and she glides into his darker musings, and with a mild and healing sympathy steals away their sharpness ere he is aware." And when thoughts of the last bitter hour come over us as the theme of that poem ("Thanatopsis" means a vision of death) he says "Go forth under the open sky and list to nature's teachings." Look 'round about you.

The birds which had migrated south in the fall have come north once again and are very busily engaged in their pursuits. They have no great wisdom and yet they know exactly, without a compass, without a sextant, without a guide, how to fly hundreds of miles, often in the night, how to return unerringly to the place where they were born. The martins in our backyards come there and I fully believe it is the same family of birds each time, not the same ones, perhaps, because their lifetime is limited, but nonetheless, the same family that was born in that house returns and they go about their pursuits. They raise their little broods and the broods go south again in August. It matters not to them what happens in the house, they are not concerned for sickness or health, poverty or wealth, whether there is strife or discord, happiness or peace. They go about and do the things which God intended for them to do. There is a lesson in it for us! If God so clothed the birds and the grass of the field, which is today and tomorrow it is passed away, how much more will He clothe you and me, who have so little faith!

And it is so significant that even at the time when Jesus stilled the raging waves of the sea, he immediately afterwards asked His disciples, "Where is your faith?" He found it upon the sea and established it upon the floods. He spoke that the waters should be di-

(Continued on Page 29)