



"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God..."
I John 4:7

"... God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."
I John 4:16

VOLUME 37

FEBRUARY 1987

NUMBER 2

"God Is Love"

LOVE

Love of all gifts is the greatest
Which the Spirit does bestow.
Though I had a voice like angels
Lacking love, I truly know
That I'd be a tinkling cymbal
Or a wretched, sounding brass;
For, although the sound were present
Lifeless through this world I'd pass.

O Thou Spirit, which has given
To me grace to seek my Lord,
Teach me strive for love of heaven
And to love Thy precious word!
Love has mercy and is patient,
Hasty ways it does not own;
Humbleness of mind is present,
With true peace it has its home.

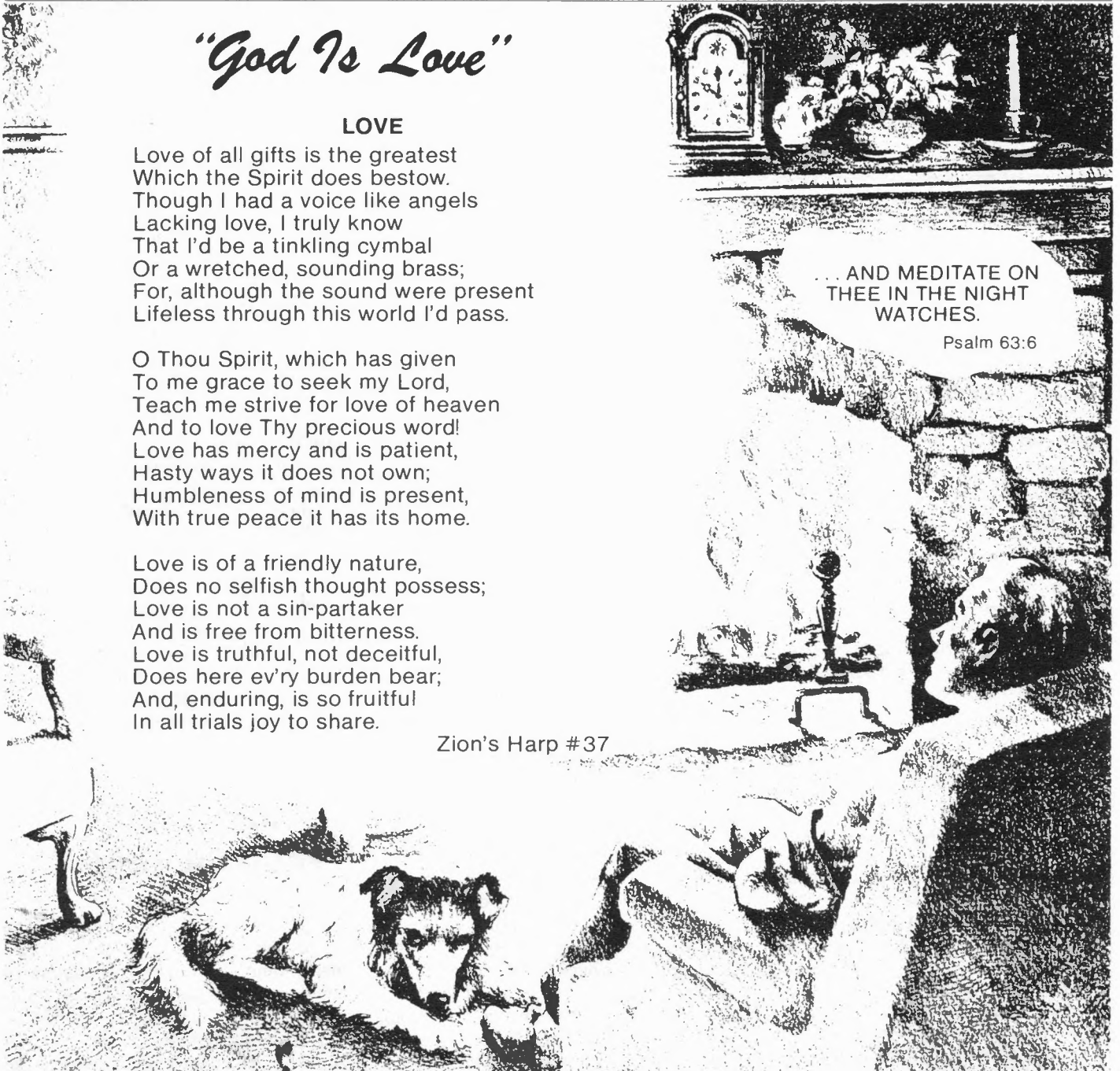
Love is of a friendly nature,
Does no selfish thought possess;
Love is not a sin-partaker
And is free from bitterness.
Love is truthful, not deceitful,
Does here ev'ry burden bear;
And, enduring, is so fruitful
In all trials joy to share.

Zion's Harp #37



... AND MEDITATE ON
THEE IN THE NIGHT
WATCHES.

Psalms 63:6



HOUSEPARENT OPENING AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

Greetings in the Lord Jesus,

There is an immediate opening at the Children's Home for an Alternate Houseparent couple. Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick, who have been at the Home since 1984 recently returned to Illinois; and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr have begun as 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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL

Marilyn Walder

We are all happy to be back at the Preschool to start the new year together after a two week break over the holidays. The children were so excited to be back! They really missed each other and were anxious to be together again. I'll have to admit that I really missed them, too! We are learning more about Jesus and the miracles He performed when He was on earth. The children listen so intently to the Bible stories and seem to absorb all they hear. Our prayer is that what they hear will stay with them as they grow and that someday it will bring forth fruit in each of their lives. It's a special blessing to hear them talk about the Bible story during their playtime. We teach them a Bible verse each week that goes along with the stories. On Fridays each child quotes the Bible verse and receives a treat from the goodie jar. It's amazing that even the two-year-olds learn so quickly!

Sis. Eunice Kelley has been added to our staff as a part-time cook and teacher's aide. We welcome her to our staff.

It's always good to be encouraged and to know that what we attempt to teach our children is really being learned. Over the holidays one of our little boys from the Preschool was playing with a friend. They were pre-

tending to cook. They sat down at the table and the friend started to eat. The little boy from the Preschool said, "Wait! We have to pray first," and then said the prayer that we say before snack and lunch. His friend's father happened to observe all this, was impressed, and started asking questions about our Preschool and church. We know that God can work wonders and can even use a little child to help others see the truth. Many of our Preschool children attend a church regularly, but some do not. Right now, we do not have any who attend our church. We hope and pray that we, who work at the Preschool, can be shining lights and examples to the parents and that they can be open to God and to the plan of salvation. We ask that you keep us in your prayers.

We ask that as you start to make plans for the summer that you consider spending some time at the Preschool. Last summer we had thirteen volunteers. We will use anyone, brothers, sister or friend, married or single, who is willing to be used for the Lord. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9. God will use your talents to help us here if you are willing to let Him. His blessings will be yours!

REFLECTIONS ON A.C.C.H.

As we reflect over the past 2½ years of our lives, we are sad to see our experience at the Children's Home come to an end. It has been one of the most rewarding and growing times for us, as a family and as a couple. The Lord has given us many experiences which are also times of growing and times of drawing closer to Him. The move to the Home was to give part of our lives to this scriptural work, but in reality we received much more than we gave and we learned so much more than we taught. We are thankful that we have had the opportunity to become a part of those lives who have not heard of a God that loves them and a Savior who died for them. We know that in the eyes of God their soul is just as important as ours or anyone else's. It is our prayer that as a church we will continue to pray for their soul's salvation as well as for all those who are lost.

Our experience has not always been easy, but it has always been rewarding. We rejoice that opportunity is given again for another couple to share the same experience we have had. You will receive manifold more than you can give.

We would like to thank the Apostolic Christian Church for their prayerful support, and may we never underestimate the power therein. We thank the Board for the opportunities that you gave us. Thanks to our fellow staff members for the love and unity that we felt. We feel that part of our family is missing, but if it wouldn't have been hard to leave, then we probably wouldn't have been very close. We just thank you for the closeness that you have shared, and thanks to each of the kids for teaching us so much and for letting us be a part of your lives. Our prayers and thoughts are with you always. We love you all.

Bill, Joan, Billy and Ryan Schick

NEWS FROM EASTERN EUROPE

Greetings Beloved:

The Romanian government has a mania about decrees. Dozens of new ones appear every few months, some of which are never published in the "Bulletin Official". Decree #408 stipulates that Romanian citizens must report all contacts with foreigners within 48

hours to the militia. Yet nobody can remember seeing its text published. Some of the decrees have been strengthened by a number of "amendments". One makes it a criminal offense for a Romanian to offer overnight lodging to a foreign visitor. The latest amendment makes it illegal for a Romanian citizen to have any serious conversation with a visiting foreigner.

One American visitor, as a tourist, visited in small villages near Bucharest, interviewing local citizens. A few days later two "gentlemen" knocked at his

hotel room door requesting his presence at the passport office for a "minor irregularity". At the passport office, not far from the hotel, the "Counsellor" told him of complaints by the local citizens in the village, who were subjected to "provocative questions" and such behavior was "incompatible with your status as a tourist". So the tourist was ordered to leave the country on the first plane out, without being able to contact the U.S. Embassy.

Tourists (individuals or groups) may be ushered in front of an official to

listen to a reading of the Decree and are asked to sign a paper as proof that they have been duly informed of it. A number of tourists, including this writer, have been subjected to this "memorable" tourist experience in Romania.

Because of tighter restrictions for Romanians to contact foreigners, our mail communications were also affected. We receive less letters and they are generally more brief. In 1986, when we began to ship food packages from America, communications with our brethren was more difficult. Because of labeling, the shipments with a name and address other than our own as sender added to the confusion. American and other visitors to Romania, not connected with our program, also complicated the matter.

We find that some of the mail addressed to the Bluffton Distribution Center is really meant for David Troyer in Millersburg, while some mail intended for us goes to Millersburg and occasionally to others, who made visits to Romania. Hopefully, things will "turn around and get back to normal".

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
January 1987 —	1113	9590

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind and KJV, Old and New Testament, on cassette tapes for those who can no longer read the large print. Also, pocket testaments with Psalms and Proverbs are available.

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

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

David Bertsch,
 Mission Committee

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
 USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
 Uriel Gehring
 Lynn Stieglitz

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

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

The April, 1986 shipment, which was reported earlier to have been held in Naples, Italy, because of Shipping Company problems, finally arrived and was delivered. Here is a quote from one of our beneficiaries, "I received a notice to pick up a package at the railroad station. It was December 27, and we were very excited. When we opened the package we found the invoice pasted on the inside of the cover. The white flour, rice, grits and the powdered yeast were missing. We also found in the box another invoice dated December 18, 1986, Oradea. It was in

Romanian. This invoice did not list the flour, rice, grits and the yeast. All the other items were in good condition. We expect that they will send these missing items later." M. H.

(Our comment: Apparently, this package was a part of the April shipment which was delayed in transit. During routine inspection by Romanian customs and health inspectors, they found these above mentioned items spoiled and infested, and ordered them removed from the boxes. This information was relayed to us earlier.)

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 alway 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

During and since the Christmas and New Year holidays we received several cards and letters that cause us to be more cheerful.

"... Beloved brethren, in these few lines I am happy to announce that we received the packages from you and had no problems. We are deeply indebted to you and we wish to express our thanks from the depth of our heart, first to the Lord, and then to all of you who have such love and mercy towards us, your least children in the Lord. Greetings to all our brethren and a holy greeting to the entire church. With brotherly love, your least brethren in the far away land." M. & J. A. (family of 9 children).

"... I received your letter and also the \$70.00 for the diesel fuel, and the packages. For all these we give sincere thanks to the Lord and all the dear believers who contributed to it. May the Lord reward you with everlasting life. Extend our greetings to all the beloved brethren there, especially to brothers, George, Vernon and Jim and Leon Graf." Elder A. V.

"Dear Brother . . . Greet you in the Lord and peace be with you. As a widow of over 12 years, I never expected to call upon you. But since the good Lord visited me with illness, and gone thru surgery, I can no longer work. My mother was in the Nazarene faith and since I became a member, my two children have forsaken me. But I have very dear neighbor who looks after me and helps me out. I ask you in the name



Apostolic Christian Childrens Home

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

1987

**CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE**

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 15, 1987**

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
LEO, INDIANA**

of our Lord to help me and wish you all good health and the very best for the new year, and may God shed His love upon you all dear brothers and sisters and may His Holy Spirit be with us all." C. I.

Another old sister writes: "... we are two retired people with an average pension, and we could live a peaceful life were it not for our poor health. My husband is 83 years old and sickly with only one kidney and other illnesses. I suffer with heart ailment and at times my feet ache. We are those, whom Christians of another country and other world, feel themselves obligated to help and extend their warm and friendly Christian heart to. It is almost impossible to believe it, but it is true. I thank you for your good will and sincerely wish you from my heart the very best for the new year!" A. G.

The cold spell that gripped Europe in January caused us some concern regarding the welfare of our brethren in Romania, knowing that their heating-fuel supplies were drastically reduced and controlled by the government. A brief telephone conversation with an elder brother in Romania January 19 relieved our anxiety as he reported that the winter in their region has been very mild and hardly any snow on the ground, for which, he said, "They are most grateful to God." The food packages have been arriving in good condition, except for one shipment. He asked that their heartfelt thanks and greetings be extended to all the brethren and friends in the U.S.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Uriel Gehring

Mid-winter and temperatures in the forties? Can this be our own Indiana? Indeed it is, and our out-of-doors is a winter wonderland. The ground is still covered with snow and the earth looks clean and white. The scene that meets the eye takes us to the words of the hymn, "Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." We can't really describe how clean, clean is or how white, white is, but they both point to the infinity of God, and the finiteness of us mortals. We are limited in our understanding of Him, but He understands us perfectly because He made us. The infiniteness of His mercy concerning our sins is projected in Isaiah 1:18, "Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord: though your sins

be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." How merciful is our God. "Thine, O Lord is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty: for all that is in heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all." I Chronicles 29:11. It is little wonder that one of His twelve disciples (Thomas), when he saw the resurrected Saviour's pierced hands and side, uttered those immortal words, "My Lord and my God". He is still our God today. What an opportunity we have to serve Him wherever He places us. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24.

Recent birthdays for our children have been Bertha W., 18 on January 10, and Denise C., 17, on January 22. Sis. Annie Fehr, houseparent, began another year January 6. Birthdays are gentle but certain reminders that we are marching forward.

The staff and children all enjoyed the holiday season, the vacation from school, and visiting relatives and friends. It is nice to have them all safely home again — there's no place like home.

An afternoon of sledding was enjoyed by the children on a recent Saturday. They also made some snowmen. Thus far this winter, we have had to take advantage of the snow when it arrives, because it doesn't last long.

Volunteers, aside from our local people, who have been helping at the Home have been Bro. Larry Gramm, Bro. Kurt Pfloderer, Jeff Steiner and Phil Baurer (college students at Champaign, IL), Bros. Greg and Rob Leman (Remington, IN) and Bro. Nathan Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Thanks to all of them for their labor of love, and especially the interest shown in our children. They need and benefit so much from your Christian perspective and companionship. You are always welcome.

After having given of their time and talent at the Children's Home since August 7, 1984, Bro. Bill, Sis. Joan, Billy and Ryan Schick have felt directed to move back to Illinois where they will once again be attending church in Washington. They served as alternate houseparents for a few months, then as regular houseparents

when Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera Baer and family moved back to the Princeville, IL, area. They served the children well and seemed to sense their needs. Their calm, relaxed lifestyle lent a special "something" to the Home's atmosphere. They were also an asset to the church. A potluck supper was held for them at the fellowship hall, with a short program following. We will miss the Schicks, and we wish them God's richest blessings as they journey through this life. Let us remember each other in our prayers. "Precious memories, how they linger . . ."

One of our resident children, Ayne J., who joined our family in January of '86, has returned to Fort Wayne to live with her parents. We have enjoyed having Ayne in our family for awhile and trust we have all benefited from being together. We wish for her the best of everything.

This morning we have ten inches of fresh snow. All is white and well on the "Home" front.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"A new heart also will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you."

Ezekiel 36:26

May we all experience the love of God filling our hearts and lives during this month of hearts.

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, liaison 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

We are in the midst of winter with all her gray skies and gusty winds. A recent 6" snowfall caused a flurry of excitement among our residents as they viewed the beautifully draped landscape from the warmth of our Home. Some of the braver, more adventuresome bundled up and went out to build a snowman and toss a few snowballs!

A cherished scene was a recent view of our small craft room! The sun, streaming through the large windows framed with green plants, our yellow canaries and parakeets, warmed and brightened the room. Just outdoors, the snowman leaning slightly to the left and decked with a bandana, straw hat and sunglasses, grinned at us with a wide berry-bush smile! The birds fluttering around the bird feeder and the squirrels underneath, scampering for their share, was a picture of Winter's special and unique beauty.

Around tables were some of our residents, busy in a variety of ways — embroidering, browsing through a magazine, sewing quilt blocks, latch-working, or just quietly sitting and chatting with our volunteer, who with mending in hand and a quiet spirit, lent a listening ear. On the blackboard, written in chalk was one of the daily inspirational messages: "Great things are little things done with a desire to please God."

Many activities are planned for these winter months to keep our residents happily occupied. Among them will be our annual Valentine Banquet

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

— an anticipated event! Included in our monthly birthday supper and party will be the following residents: John Kamm, Rosemarie Finlay, Virginia Reece, Bob Tiffin and Guy Masinelli.

Little Things — "A cup of cold water" — a little thing! But life is made up of little things, and he who would rise to higher usefulness is wise if he cherishes the loving, yet seemingly trifles of daily living.

Floyd W. Tomkins

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Marilyn Walder

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers during the past month. Bros. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and David Bertsch (Leo, IN) have all been with us. We appreciate their labors and pray that God will bless them for traveling many miles to be with us. We have had other visitors from Peoria, Eureka, IL, and Latty, OH. We anticipate many visitors during the winter months and look forward to each one. Since we are a small congregation, visitors encourage us and add a bright spot to our lives.

I have been overwhelmed lately when I think of how much God loves us and gives to us. We are so undeserving of His love and yet He so willingly and lovingly gives and gives. We should be so thankful and always appreciate God's gifts instead of taking so much for granted. We can all show God how thankful we are by doing all we can to please Him and serve Him. Even if we give our life for God, what is that compared to what He has given us? I so often feel unworthy of God's love and goodness and yet I know that I should accept it graciously. We need to have a deep desire to "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16. We need to realize that if others do see a light in us that it's because of God who dwells within us and not because of anything we have done of ourselves. Remember to give God the glory and not yourself and then we can truly be blessed.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

January 4 was a beautiful day for the

wedding of Bro. John Klotzle and Sis. Cheri Zollinger. Bro. Henry Dotterer came from Rittman, OH, to assist Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach in performing the wedding ceremony of Bro. Henry's niece. A lovely reception was held in the congregational room following the ceremony. Sis. Cheri will again be worshipping in the Rittman congregation where her parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger, took her as a child.

It is said "music speaks to the soul". The residents of the Glencroft retirement center enjoyed the beautiful singing of our church choir in December.

Jay Schmidgall (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall) is a mid-year graduate of Arizona State University.

We pray the Lord's blessings on Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and the other traveling elders as they leave on a mission to India.

We give thanks to Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Len Meyer (Chicago, IL), Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Peter Petrovich (San Diego, CA), Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL) and Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN) for serving the Lord in the Phoenix pulpit.

Our hospital patients have been Bro. Alvin Laukhuf, Sis. Emma Sanders and Sis. Clara Banwart.

A reception was held for Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca Germann and their two small sons, Kyle and Philip. His work is transferring them to the Washington D. C. area.

Bro. Nick Knobloch (Princeville, IL) showed us slides of work being done in World Relief.

We are grateful for our winter visitors who add so much love to our fellowship.

On January 5, fifty-mile-per-hour winds brought our first rain of the year. What a delight to see a beautiful big "Illinois robin" hopping around the yard when the sun did shine.

"To be spiritually minded is life and peace."
Romans 8:6

Romans 8 offers many "goodies" to make everyone have a great day.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Doug Schmidgall — Ethel Smith

We had our first snowfall of the year here in the mountains of Arizona January 5. We were thankful that the roads were clear and the skies were sunny as

we met to worship together January 11. We enjoyed the beauty of God's creation glistening in white as well as the beauty of His Word as we assembled with visitors from many places. It was noted that in our precious faith, we can come together expecting to practice the same doctrine, read from the same Bible, sing the same songs and hear the same thoughts and thanksgiving expressed in prayer.

Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) and his son, Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ), provided services for the first gathering of the New Year. Bro. Greg was just recently put into the ministry in Phoenix and he expressed his appreciation in being able to share the duties with his father. We were reminded of the people of Noah's time who disregarded the warning to repent and perished in the flood. So would we be foolish in our time if we should ignore the gospel of salvation, making light of the promise of the Lord's return and the fire and judgment that will follow. The exhortation was to stand fast in Christ, forsaking the works of the flesh and striving to show the fruits of the Spirit. Again, thanks to all our visitors for being with us and for your support.

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness."

II Peter 3:11

Our prayers go with our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and those traveling with him as they lend themselves to the people of India and Japan. May they travel under the protection of our Lord and Saviour and may their works be blessed.

We welcome Robert and Joy Spence who are moving from Refugio, TX, to Prescott. Their new address will be 81 Wildwood Drive, Prescott, AZ. Joy is the daughter of Sis. Dorothy Wenger (Phoenix).

For those who are unfamiliar with Prescott, we will try to include some information this month and next month. Prescott is located 100 miles (a 2-hour drive) northwest of Phoenix in the central mountains of Arizona. With its surrounding areas included, the population is about 25,000. One of the main features of Prescott is the climate. The mountain location provides a temperate climate with moderate tem-

peratures and about 18 inches of precipitation annually. High temperatures during the summer average 85 - 90 degrees and rarely exceed 100 degrees. During the winter the highs are 40 - 55 degrees with the lows seldom below 10 degrees. There are four distinct seasons with an average of 20 inches of snow in the winter. Typically, it snows 5 - 6 inches and melts within a week. Prescott retains its historical heritage as an early ranching and mining community and Territorial Capital of Arizona. Today it is a county seat and is growing in population rapidly.

We appreciate visitors and welcome anyone who could arrange to be in the area to fellowship and worship with us. Church services are generally scheduled the first Sunday of the month. Services are held at 2063 Thumb Butte Road, Prescott, AZ. For more information and to let us know your plans, you may call Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith, (602) 778-6130 or (602) 445-2164.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Sandy Bauer — Lisa Knapp

Bro. Fred Funk (Bro. Jim and Sis. LouAnn) and Sis. Diane Fischer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joanne) were united in holy matrimony December 14 in Morton. We wish them many happy years in which they can serve the Lord together. Members of the Tucson congregation who were unable to attend the wedding were able to attend a reception December 27 here in Tucson. We want to extend a special welcome to Sis. Diane as she makes her home here. Although we know that she will be sorely missed by her family and friends in Morton, IL, we're thrilled to have Diane with us.

Many friends and members came together December 19 to go Christmas carolling for those shut-in and less fortunate. Our Sunday school held its Christmas program December 21. Sometimes it is a little difficult to get into the Christmas spirit with the weather so warm and no "white Christmas", but after hearing the lovely, old Christmas melodies it was easy to remember the true meaning of Christmas and the precious gift of Jesus Christ.

We were glad to welcome Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix) to Tucson for the first time as a minister of the gospel. Bro. John Kokanovich (Phoenix) was also able to be with us. We want to extend a hearty thank you to these

brothers and their families for visiting Tucson.

We are happy to welcome the "snow birds" that have been visiting the Southwest. Our temperatures have been in the upper 60's.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Brenda Stoller

Kim and Todd Moser have decided to give their hearts to the Lord for which we are so thankful. They are in Texas for several weeks where Kim is undergoing treatment for Hodgkins Disease. Our prayers are surely with them during this time and may they feel the hand of God upon them.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) as they stopped over on their way to India with Elder Bro. John Klotzle. We also appreciated Bros. Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) and Elmer Witzig (Gridley) and their wives for coming and ministering to us.

Sis. Elizabeth Feldman expresses her appreciation for all the cards, gifts and prayers offered on her behalf. We are so thankful that she is recovering from surgery in the hospital.

THE WEAVER

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me
I cannot choose the colors
He works so steadily.

Of'times He weaves in sorrow
And I, in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper
And I, the underside.

The dark threads are as needed
In the Weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

Not till the loom is silent
And shuttles cease to fly,
Will God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.

Kristove

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD

Ben Ammann

Sunday, January 18, we were provided with God's Word and direction from Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL). Also with us were Sis. Ruth Vaughn and her sister from Phoenix, AZ.

Bro. Ed Ruhle is now confined in the Huntington Park Convalescent Home.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Scott and Anna Hoerr

We rejoice with Todd (Bro. Carl and Sis. Noreen Moser) and Kim Moser (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Gerry Massner) as they take the important step of repentance.

The ministering brothers who came to support us this month were Bro. Glen Hackenjos and Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena). We appreciate and thank them for their efforts.

This is a beautiful time of year to visit San Diego; to come from the snow storms 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

There is nothing more precious than children. As you look into a child's eyes you see nothing but innocence. Children are to be nurtured in the Lord so with this in mind we had our Sunday school election. Elected to fill the positions were Bro. Tim Roecker and Sis. Barb Baer. May God grant them the understanding of the importance of this work. Outgoing teachers are Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn Hohulin. We trust God will bless them for their labors.

Bro. Joe Hohulin was elected to fill the position of trustee. We pray that God will be with him as he assumes this responsibility. Bro. Eric Huber has finished his term as trustee and we ask God to reward him for his job well done.

Valentine's Day is thought of as a day of love, usually between a guy and that special girl. But you know, love goes much deeper than that for it says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. In this passage of scripture God reveals what love is. The most important part of this scripture is that God gave. True love is characterized by the willingness to give of ourselves. Love is not a feeling but an act of your will. On this Valentine's Day (and every day) share some of God's love.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Hany

Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz have left Rockville to take up residence in New Holland, PA, and they will be worshipping with the Philadelphia congregation. We wish them well in their new undertaking.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. At this season of the year, our children commemorated the birth of Jesus. How good it is to see and hear how these little ones so readily grasp and believe the Word taught to them by faithful brothers and sisters who willingly give of their time and themselves to work with our youth. We appreciate their efforts.

Visiting ministers for the month were Bro. Roy Luginbuhl and Bro. Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). It was good to have them and their wives in our midst again and we thank them for their labors.

"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. The engagement of Bro. Joe Koch (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Merna) and Sis. Sandy Schneider (Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Verona Schneider) was made known to us Sunday, December 21. We wish them God's blessings and are happy that they have the faith to share their life in the Lord together — to help one another reach that heavenly goal.

On January 13, a baby girl, Audrey Kaye, arrived to join the family of Bro. Barry and Karen Lanz, Mark and Jayme. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Frieda Lanz and Bill and Betty Drake. Also, on January 15, Bro. Scott and Sis. Joann Luginbuhl became the happy parents of their first baby, Benjamin. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Alma Luginbuhl and Bro. Ed and Sis. Beverly Gerber. Our best wishes are extended to the parents in their new responsibility.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46. Sis. Fanny Lanz, Sis. Bertha Moser, Dolf Kalas and Bro. Ken Schultz have been in the hospital. Our prayer for them, as well as for others who may be ill, is that the Lord will never leave nor forsake them but restore good health so that they soon can be up and around again.

Our sympathy is extended to Joseph

and Patti (Lanz) Shemerluk in the loss of their little son, Joseph Adam, who was not quite four months old. He leaves a sister, Amanda Jane. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Lanz.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

WASHINGTON

Ed Aeschleman

We are thankful for a New Year and the blessing of freedom to worship according to our heart's desire that we have known in our land. May God bless the many brothers who came to minister to us during the past year. Ministering Bro. Lee Bahler, his wife, Maxine, and others from Rockville, CT, came to us January 11, bringing the true Word of God and the promise of eternal salvation through our risen Lord and Saviour. We solicit the prayers of the brotherhood for continued support in the efforts to bring the Word to our dear brethren and friends in the Washington, D.C. area.

Services are presently held in Washington on the second Sunday of each month at the Westpark Best Western Hotel just off the I-496 Beltway at the Tyson's Corner Exit. All who may be traveling through the area are invited to attend.

FLORIDA, FORT LAUDERDALE

Terri Huber

Our topic at Bible study this month was prayer. Bro. Brian Webb led the group in discussion as we explored the various examples of prayer in the Bible. Bible study is held the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Visitors are welcome.

We would like to welcome Sis. Beth Alt, who has moved to Ft. Lauderdale from Sarasota. We look forward to having her as an active part of our church and we encourage other young people to consider our area when relocating.

We are grateful to Bro. Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) for his labor of love as our visiting minister this month.

In the past several Sundays we have seen the church pews fill with winter guests. At this time we start having singings each Sunday evening at 7:30 (also at the fellowship hall) and wish to invite all who are in the area to join us.

We, in Ft. Lauderdale, are fortunate to not only get visitors who have planned vacations in Florida, but also a number of brothers passing through at

various times on their way to or from Haiti. It is encouraging to see this work continuing. May those who participate be blessed for their loving contribution.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS Kay Eisenmann

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Dave Wiegand (Urbana, IL) and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). We ask God's richest blessings on them for their work of love.

We are thankful Bro. Roland Keller is back with us after heart surgery. Bro. Roland, Sis. Viola and their family want to thank each and every one for their deeds of love during this trying time. They especially want to let everyone know that they appreciated the prayers, visits and gifts of love!

We went on a trip to Pennsylvania and I cannot begin to tell you what an impression it made on us to see so many poor and (from the looks on their faces) depressed people (even a "bag lady"). We who have so much can't imagine what it must be like to raise children with such hopelessness, where everything is locked and bolted down! Surely there is not much brotherly love. It is the "I" generation; in other words, it's what I want that counts!

Even our little church here in Fort Myers was broken into, and since there was not a no trespassing sign posted, the police tell us that the law won't protect us! So now the signs are up! But what has happened to our God-fearing country? Is it not the world of "buy now and pay later?" or worse yet, "sin now and pay later"! What a price!

Don't misunderstand me. There is still much beauty in this world. We, as God's children, should do all we can to make it a place of beauty and hope for the hopeless. May we always keep in mind we are just passing through and going to a better place, not for just a few years but to be forever with our God. Oh! What joy! So, let us not commit the sin of omission!

Our little Dathan is to start school this week. I don't know just how many hours or days a week he will be able to go. It's just a day to day thing. With God's help, we accept whatever is to be. Please keep him always in your prayers!

Give Your Address Change
To Your Reporter

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Lucille Heiniger

A son, Garrison James, was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Schambach Gudeman. He also has a little sister to welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman and Bro. William and Sis. Cora Schambach.

We are sorry to see Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Gudeman and family leave us here in Sarasota. They are moving to the Chicago area where he has employment. At the present time they are in Elgin, IL, with the Schambachs until they find a home.

Sis. Beth Alt also has left and gone to Ft. Lauderdale where she has found employment. We wish each one God's blessings and success in their new venture. Our loss is their gain.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Dave Kieser (Princeville, IL), Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL).

The Homer Reineck's (Toledo, OH) are back to spend a few months with us after being home for the holidays. We are greatly blessed by each one who so willingly proclaimed God's holy Word to us.

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Donna Hodel — Karen Brummitt

We would like to extend our congratulations to Bro. Tal and Sis. Heidi Kaufmann on their marriage December 21 and wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together. Parents of the couple are Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufmann (Cissna Park) and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Dorothy Haefli (Peoria).

On January 13 a blessing from heaven, named Brant Christopher, came to gladden the hearts of Bro. Jim and Sis. Nancy Kaufmann. We wish them God's blessings as they love and guide their little one. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufmann (Cissna Park) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall (Morris, MN).

Our semi-annual business meeting was held January 14. We wish to thank all who have gladly served in the various positions; Bro. Charles Knapp,

trustee; Bro. David Kieser, usher; Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum, monthly hymn sing coordinators; Sis. Nancy Kaufmann, Silver Lining correspondent; Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger, sunrise service coordinator; and Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeanine Mariani, Vacation Bible School coordinator. The newly elected and appointed are: Bro. Bill Denick, trustee; Bro. Paul Kieser, usher; Bro. Dave and Sis. Candy Huber, monthly hymn sing coordinators; Sis. Karen Brummitt, Silver Lining correspondent; Bro. Ben and Sis. Mary Daily, sunrise service coordinators; and Bro. Ron and Sis. Ellen Farney, Vacation Bible School coordinator.

This month's visiting ministers were Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park) and Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY). We truly appreciate their faithful service.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Marilyn Tanner

"From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised."

Psalms 113:3

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Richard Frank and his daughter, Sis. Susan, in the loss of his father, Bro. Richard Frank (Eureka). May the Lord comfort them.

Monica Joy, born January 10, is the first-born of Mark and Pam Fritzenmeier. Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser and Bro. Bob and Dolores Heilman (Freeport) are the happy grandparents. What a joy to watch this precious life grow and change.

We are thankful to Elder Bro. Joe Stoller for his love and concern at our annual meeting. Those elected were trustee, Bro. Alfred Housmann and ushers, Bro. Robert Joos and Bro. David Klumpp. May God bless those who give of their time and are willing to serve.

We want to express our appreciation to Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) for his visit and bringing us the precious Word of Life.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Cheryl Mangers

What a blessed privilege we had recently when we listened to the conference tapes. Our prayer is now that

we can apply the exhortations to our lives.

Visiting ministers this past month included Bros. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Ken Eisenmann and Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us and bringing their love into our fellowship.

Our Sundays are pretty well back to normal again after a busy fall. We still welcome visitors and never tire of showing our beautiful new Lord's house to those of you visiting for the first time. Tears of thankfulness and humbleness still overwhelm me when I walk in the door. We are indeed a blessed people.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

In reading in Exodus I am amazed how much the Israelites, as they escaped from Egypt and wandered in the wilderness, remind me of the teenagers I work with — and of myself. Actually, the children of Israel were in some tough situations, but I could look at those fantastic miracles that they observed and say, they should have known the Lord could handle the next tough situation. Nevertheless, they murmured. Well, I tell my students they just need to work and think, but they don't always want to hear that. There has to be an easier way, they're sure. So they complain. And I have felt and known what the Lord has done for me, for others I am privileged to walk with. Why should I look beyond Him to tomorrow and tremble? I know He holds the future — mine and the world's. Lord, help me to replace my concerns and complaints with prayers and thanksgiving.

“. . . and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.” Exodus 40:34. We just visited the new Champaign, IL, church for the first time. It doesn't look like a house any more, yet we are grateful for this and other new church buildings being built for our other congregations: the Spirit of the house, emanating from His Word and His people is the Lord's! May His Spirit draw each one closer within His house.

We were blessed with several ministers this month. Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) was with us for our New Year's Eve service; Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) spoke to us on a wintry January Sunday; and Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) came over to share with us thoughts and verses he was given on

Sanctification at a Wednesday evening topical Bible study. Bro. Nate gleaned specific reasons for our sanctification from the Word. Being sanctified is for the glory of God, for the eternal welfare of others, for our own blessedness and peace within our hearts, and for our ultimate salvation. We were also exhorted to “Withstand the Beginnings” (Thomas a Kempis), referring to crushing temptation at first notice, however small it seems at the time. If we but ask, He will grant us grace to withstand so that we may be separated and holy (sanctified). His will is that we be sanctified and remain so. (I Thessalonians 4:3). “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world . . .” II Peter 1:4.

Just recently the engagement of Sis. Tina Strahm to Bro. Jeff Schumacher was announced in our congregation. Though both are originally from other churches, they are now living in our area, and Lord willing, we'll be having another wedding in our Chicago church. Easter Sunday is the date planned. We are happy and prayerful for them, rejoicing that each first sought the Lord Who now intends to bind them together by His threefold cord.

“Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.” Psalms 139:10. For a newly married couple, Chicago may seem a difficult place to come. Yet the Lord has promised His strength and grace on “the wings of the morning” to the “utmost parts of the sea” (Psalms 139:9), as well as in our large metropolitan area. We welcome Bro. Tal and Sis. Heidi Kaufmann. Both are originally from downstate Illinois churches. They plan to make their home in Downers Grove, and Tal will be working in the Oakbrook area as an accountant. As a body of believers, we want to welcome them with our love and support. We also want to welcome Bro. Randy and Sis. Heather Knapp back to our area. Since they have left us, they have been most recently in Dallas, TX. They moved back to Evanston on a snowy weekend, and we pray that they stay a goodly while with us. “For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God . . .” I Thessalonians 3:9.

We also have a newcomer to the

baby room. Timothy James Beutel was born December 29 to Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel. His big sisters and brother, Stephanie, Greg and Shelia, are excited and happy he is here. His grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Eunice Beutel (all of Tremont) are thankful for another healthy grandchild. And as a church we are joyful with the family and for ourselves: we have another dear one to watch grow and to pray for, that he may increase “in wisdom and stature,” (Luke 2:52) that the Lord's name may be glorified.

“There let the way appear Steps unto heav'n;
All that Thou sendest me, In mercy giv'n,
Angels to beckon me, Nearer, my God, to Thee.”

Hymns of Zion #93, vs. 3

Our beloved Sis. Christine Fuhrmann had not been able to go in and out as she would have chosen for a number of years. She was somewhat apprehensive about a move to a home for more care which would take her farther away from her family as well. The Saturday before Christmas she had enjoyed the several groups of our church and Sunday school carollers; she had enjoyed a special family time Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, she felt herself slipping away, and she prayed that God would be merciful and take her home. The Lord answered her prayer, and she died then in her daughter's arms. Funeral services were held by our ministers at the funeral home Saturday, December 27. Christine Huncinger was born August 15, 1902, in Austria-Hungary. Her father was a minister there. She was fluent in several languages, Hungarian and German, to name a few. She was married to William Fuhrmann in 1927, and in 1950 she and her husband came to the U.S. with their two children. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. Surviving are one son, Edward (Michigan); one daughter, Mrs. Leonka Stefan (Chicago); three brothers, Philip (Germany); Louie (Chicago); Lucas (Palm Coast, FL); one sister, Margaret Bender (Chicago); and three grandsons. She was preceded in death by her husband, three brothers and two sisters. Her kindness and gentleness will often be remembered. Especially for the children she had a soft spot, and many

a young mother received booties for a new little one. We sorrow with Sis. Christine's family and extend our deepest sympathy. We are also thankful to them for their loving care of her. Yet we know God's timing was perfect, and dear Sis. Christine is no longer shackled with the infirmities of her earthly body.

"But a pure and loving heart,
Conscience free from condemnation
Can repose and peace impart,
And in death give consolation.
All who are renewed in heart
Can with joyfulness depart."

Zion's Harp #253, vs. 3

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Elaine Sauder — Myrna Weerts

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN). We sincerely thank them for coming.

We met for the annual meeting the evening of January 7. Our new Sunday school teachers are Sis. Sandra Kaufmann (Sidney), Bro. Tom Stock and Bro. Keith Knapp; trustee, Bro. Elmer Kaeb and fellowship hall committee, Bro. Kenneth Bauer. May the Lord inspire our new teachers and grant grace and blessings to all for their willingness to serve.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Willard Rudin family. Bro. Willard was laid to rest December 31. The local ministers were in charge of the service.

WHEN I MUST LEAVE YOU

When I must leave you
For a little while —
Please do not grieve
And shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you
Through the years.
But start out bravely
With a gallant smile;
And for my sake
And in my name
Live on and do
All things the same,
Feed not your loneliness
On empty days,
But fill each waking hour
In useful ways,
Reach out your hand
In comfort and in cheer

And I in turn will comfort you
And hold you near;
And never, never
Be afraid to die
For I am waiting for you in the sky.
Helen Steiner Rice

Hospital patients were Sis. Nettie Clauss (Bro. Joe), surgical, and Bro. Ezra Feller, medical.

Sis. Elizabeth Knapp has moved to a Fairview Haven apartment. We miss her presence and fellowship here in Cissna Park, but know the Lord provides for those who call upon Him.

Sis. Clara Scharlach is now living at Iroquois Memorial Residence Home in Watseka. May she always feel the Lord's strengthening hand even in times of pain and strife.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Gail Williamson — Susan Knapp

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

Looking back at 1986, we see our Lord's presence in our congregation as we were blessed with five weddings, five converts and our hearts were saddened by one death. Our church was brightened by four precious tiny souls born into this world. Through our heavenly Father's loving call we witnessed the spiritual birth of two precious souls. Truly God has proved His presence in all of our days.

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

Through His service, we are thankful for the many teachings that have been brought to us by Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield). By the directions we have been taught, may we strive to prepare ourselves for that holier work above.

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

Our hearts were saddened by the deaths of Anna Wettstein and Sam Eglin. We hope and pray that some day

we will meet them in the glory of heaven above. May the Lord comfort their families and be near them.

Alex Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) was hospitalized due to a knee injury. We miss his bright, smiling face in church and hope he will be back soon.

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

God, through His wonderful grace, calls souls into His fold and lovingly provides for their needs. A helpmate, Bro. Dirk Steffen (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene, Goodfield) was provided for our Sis. Deb Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy, Taylor, MO). We will miss Sis. Deb, but we are assured that the Goodfield congregation will welcome her with loving Christian hearts. May God be with them as they walk toward that heavenly goal, together.

"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 1987, may we keep our hand in His and follow in His footsteps of love. In keeping our faith, may we follow His will and glorify His name.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold**

This past holiday brought many families together in our assembly as we celebrated the birth of our Lord. We thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Tom Leman (Denver, CO) for sharing God's Word. How often our hearts do burn within us when we can sit in heavenly places and have the scriptures opened to us.

We entreat God's blessings upon Ron and Diane (Knobloch) Julian as they welcome into their heart and lives little Joshua David, born May 31. Grandparents are Bro. Ben Knobloch (Oakville, IA) and the late Sis. Clara (Schambach) Knobloch and James and Mary Julian.

In Christian love we welcome Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Gudeman and

their two children, Jennifer and Garrison, from the Sarasota congregation. May the grace and love of God bind our hearts together.

Our sympathy is extended to Sisters Mabel Anliker and Dorothy Schambach in the passing of their loved ones, Bro. Ben Anliker (Francesville, IN) and Melvin Anliker (Aurora), who passed away January 9. Melvin was the son of the late Bro. Joe and Sis. Minnie Anliker. Also, to Sis. Sandra Rudin, we extend our condolence in the death of her father, Bro. Bill Rudin (Cissna Park). May the Lord be near and provide comfort to their hearts.

Many of our loved ones have suffered misfortune and pain. Sis. Esther Kachelmuss is recuperating with a cast after breaking a bone in her arm. After a fall, Dorothy Rinnie had hip surgery and is recovering. Sis. Anna Lohbauer and Ernie Reber were hospitalized for tests; Bro. Sam Graf remains in the hospital with a heart condition as well as Martha (Dietrich) Bauer who suffered a stroke.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

Psalms 31:24

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy L. Rocke

"I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

I Thessalonians 4:13

Again the death angel has visited our congregation and taken a loved one to his reward. December 29, Bro. Richard A. Frank laid down his cross and exchanged it for a crown. His dear helpmate, Sis. Nathalia, preceded him in death. He leaves two sons, Bros. Richard (Bradford) and Don (Eureka); one daughter, Sis. Linda Frank (Eureka); and four grandchildren. May they be comforted knowing their loved one had made preparation for this time and is "safe in the arms of Jesus".

The family of Bro. Richard A. Frank wishes to express their thanks and appreciation for the love, sympathy and deeds of kindness shown to them. May God bless you.

Our sympathy and prayers are also extended to Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall

(Bro. Marvin) in the passing of her mother, Sis. Caroline Hodel (Roanoke).

Look not mournfully into the Past, It comes not back again. Go forth in faith to meet the shadowy Future, without fear, and with a trusting heart.

"Words of Comfort"

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

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Martin are thankful for Kevin Ray who was born December 19. Kevin has sisters, Shari, Joni and Kelli, to welcome him into the family. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Vera Heinold (Goodfield) and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Maryellen Martin.

We thank Bros. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) and Glenn Dill (Tremont) for lending themselves in His service. May the words that were spoken be spiritual stepping stones in our lives.

Sis. Pauline Rocke (Bro. Virgil), Bros. George Martin and Ed Grusy were confined to hospitals this past month. May God heal and mend their afflictions according to His good will. Let us also remember those who may be confined to their homes due to illness or bodily afflictions and cannot assemble with us. May we not take our health for granted, for truly this is a rich blessing from God. ". . . I was sick and ye visited me . . ." St. Matthew 25:36.

Correction: Regarding the passing of Bro. Leroy Rocke (December issue), three sisters were omitted — Alvina Fehr (Wenona), Lillian Gudeman (Eureka) and Minerva Legel (Roanoke). His daughter is Sis. Kathy Lou Rocke.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee."

Isaiah 26:3

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

As we see the white snow lay on the ground, it brings to memory the song, "Whiter Than Snow".

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole; I want Thee forever to live in my soul; Break down every idol, cast out every foe;

Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Hymns of Zion #210

May we look at our lives every day and keep them spotless from sin.

God has called to repentance a precious soul, George Walter. We wish him God's abundant grace.

Chris and Sis. Bethany Leake welcomed a new addition to their family December 25. Lane Albert is a brother of Erin. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeannette Bahler and Helen and Carl Leake (Lexington).

Our congregation was blessed by the following ministers who gave us encouragement and kind instructions: Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Earl Gerber (Forrest) and Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN).

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Pauline Lawrence over the loss of her husband, Drexel. May the Lord be by her side.

Sis. Della Meiss wishes to express her thanks to everyone for their prayers and cards during her recovery. May God richly reward each one.

In memory of our mother, Sis. Lavina Kilgus.

SAFELY HOME

I am home in heaven, dear ones:
Oh so happy and so bright
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over
Every restless tossing passed.
I am now at peace forever
Safely home in heaven at last.

Did you wonder if I calmly
Trode the valley of the shade?
Oh, but Jesus' love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on
Could I have one doubt or dread?

When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh the rapture of that meeting,
Oh the joy to see you come!

Sadly missed by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

God's holy Word has been brought to us again in abundance. Visiting us this month were Elder Bros. Art Bah-

ler (Fairbury) and Leroy Huber (Eureka), Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Jim Plattner (Princeville), Gary Anliker (Elgin), Everett Hari and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington), and Dave Wiegand (Champaign). May God bless these dear brethren in their labors.

Several endured bodily afflictions and spent time in the hospital. Those hospitalized were Ben Rinkenberger, Carrie Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean), Sis. Carrie Roth, Sis. Velda Huette and Bro. Homer Blunier. We are thankful all are home again.

Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Knapp have been blessed with a new little bundle from heaven. Leah Jane is a new sister for Carrie, Jared and Kyle. Harry and Sis. Matilda Johnson have also been blessed with a new daughter, TeAnna Kay. Her brothers are Trent and Travis and grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Marian Rieger. May God guide and direct them as they bring up their children in His precious way of life.

As some have been born into this life, some also pass from this life into eternity. Bro. Emil Sohn's wishes were fulfilled as he passed into eternity. We will miss him, but look forward to the day when we can meet him again on that yonder shore with our God and Creator. Bro. Emil has two sisters remaining: Sis. Helen and Sis. Louise Sohn (Fairbury). May God comfort them in the loss of their brother. Our sincere sympathy also goes to Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin in the loss of their dad, Bro. Willard Rudin (Cissna Park).

Bro. John Kyburz wishes to express his heartfelt thanks to all for the many cards, visits and gifts while he was sick. May God bless each one.

1986 statistics include seventeen births, three deaths and nine baptisms.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

The winter months provide us with cold weather and time for special moments with our families and friends. Whether we're outside sledding in the snow or inside playing games around a cozy fire, we can truly enjoy God's beautiful nature and His genuine love for each of us.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen have been blessed with another little girl, Holly Nicole, who was born January 9. Her sisters, Terri and Marti, and

her brother, Hans, welcome her into their home. Holly's grandparents are Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen and Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth.

Many of us were privileged to witness the marriage vows of Bro. Dirk Steffen (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene Steffen, Goodfield) and Sis. Deb Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp, Taylor, MO) January 4. May God richly bless them as they continue their lives together in Him.

Our congregation will miss Bro. Bruce Wyss, as he will be spending the next few months in Japan. We pray for God's nearness to him and his dear family as they part for a time.

Bro. Richard Hartter has undergone surgery and is on the road to recovery. We're thankful to God for standing by him during this operation.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Norma Bauman (Bro. Louis) on the passing of her mother, Carolyn Hodel.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"Charity . . . seeketh not her own."
I Corinthians 13:5

We were recently reminded of the unselfishness of pure love. The love of Christ in us does not keep a "ledger". We serve others and give because we love them and not because of what we hope to get back in return. Knowing that our efforts (by God's grace) are doing someone good, is all the reward or gratitude a genuine love requires. A selfless love does not look for a pat on the back or words of praise. A selfless love gives to others heartily as unto the Lord. When this charity has done all, she still considers herself only a weak and needy servant. The love of God in the believer spares him from much disappointment and self pity. The love of God seeks only to build treasure in heaven and does not expect praise or gratitude from men. The soul who is controlled by the love of Christ can be happy even when his good is evil spoken of. When God's perfect love fills our hearts, His peace rules us. No other person's behavior need ever separate us from this love or disturb our peace.

Bro. Henry Miller has been hospitalized in Chicago this last month. Ryan Schlipf (son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki) was in the hospital for a couple days.

Jordan Michael is the new son of Bro. David and Sis. Debbie Meiss. He

was born December 29 and has one brother, Derek. Jordan's grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge Meiss (Gridley) and Bro. John and Sis. Sarah Diggle (Roanoke).

We were blessed by the visits of ministering Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury), Bro. Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield), Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield) and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO).

ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Susan Kieser

This semester we have a new president: Bro. Brian Fehr (Roanoke). We would like to express our thanks to our former president, Bro. Alex Paton who is no longer attending I.S.U. but is now working in the Bloomington area.

Our first Bible study of the new year was held by Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest). He interpreted the meaning of the parables in Matthew 13.

Our small group here at I.S.U. continues to grow as God continues to call lost souls. We are happy to have Brian Rumbold (Princeville) join us in our quest to serve the Lord.

Just a reminder: Bible studies are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in Schroeder 244. All are welcome!

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

We are indeed very thankful that our heavenly Father has called Breck Nelson (Darryl and Sis. Sandy) to serve in His vineyard. We heard Bro. Breck's testimony of faith and witnessed his baptism December 27. May our heavenly Father continue to bless Bro. Breck as he walks the narrow pathway of life.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Karen Staker (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary) and Bro. David Wegman (Bro. Sam and Sis. RoseMary) who became one in Christ Jesus. We witnessed their wedding vows January 4. May they be richly blessed as they walk life's pathway together.

Sis. Lois Hauter was called Home. Her funeral was January 9. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her husband, Arthur, her family and friends.

We gathered together in God's house Saturday evening, January 17, to hear the reading of the memorandum. Each one of us was lovingly reminded of our high and heavenly calling and our duties as a child of God.

May we all continue in prayer, and walk closer to our heavenly Father. May we also remember to prayerfully uphold our elder brothers, who watch over our soul's welfare. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for coming and helping our Elder Bro. Joe Braker. May our heavenly Father richly bless him for his labors of love.

We wish to thank Bros. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) for ministering God's holy Word unto us. May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

We have loved ones who are ill, shut-in or in the hospital, and bereaved of lost loved ones. May we continue to remember them in prayer, visits, phone calls, cards and notes. Our heavenly Father will heal, comfort and bless them all according to His good and holy will.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Kathy Huthmann

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

Ecclesiastes 12:1

As in years past, we enjoyed having our Christmas program with our Sunday school children singing songs and saying their verses about Christ's birth. This year, it was especially touching to see the children singing in sign language.

On December 22, our young group had the opportunity of hosting a Christmas party at our home. We enjoyed eating supper, singing carols and sharing gifts with our older brothers, sisters and friends there.

December 21 was the wedding day of Bro. Tal Kaufmann and Sis. Heidi Haefli. Their parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufmann (Cissna Park) and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Dorothy Haefli. We wish them God's richest blessings as they start their new life together.

May the Lord comfort those who have spent time in the hospital: Bros. Oscar Hoerr, David Dunbar, Sigfried Schubert, Sis. Naomi Perrine, Sis.

Pauline Little, Sis. Emily Schumacher, Sis. Delma Zigenhorn, Sis. Donna Ferrero, Sis. Bernice Hartman and Helen Thomas.

Gary and Gina Kempf were blessed with a little boy January 4. His name is Tyler John and his grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Clara Kempf (Eureka) and Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Honegger.

Several people in our congregation wish to express their thanks: "My heartfelt thanks to all who were so thoughtful to remember me with your prayers, boxes of goodies, beautiful flowers and generous gifts of love while I was in the hospital. God bless you all with love and contentment throughout the new year." Sincerely, Sis. Ellen Siebenthal

Sis. Bernice Hartman and family wish to express their heartfelt thanks for the many flowers and gifts received and the prayers offered during her hospital stay and recovery at home.

Bro. Dave Sauder extends a sincere thank you to each one that remembered him with cards, gifts, visits, offers of help and prayers as he recovers from an accident. The love and support was deeply felt and appreciated.

Sis. Lena Eberle wishes to thank all who remembered her with cards, gifts, deeds of kindness and prayers while she was in the hospital.

We would like to thank these visiting brothers for bringing us the Word during the month: Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Bros. Ed Alt (Cissna Park) and Walter Steffen (Milford, IN).

We have had several engagements announced recently. Bro. Doug Streitmatter (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Virginia, Princeville) to Sis. Cindy Plattner (Bro. Ken and Sis. Edith) and Sis. Lucille Thomas to Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Marjean Lehman

"Is thus the pious flame extinguished,
 The flame of faith divine and fervent
 love?

Who'll call the souls unto the Master,
 And lead them to the cross and Lord
 above?

Where is the Spirit's witness in this
 day?

Denying self, the Lord we should obey."

"The Call For Laborers"

Our visiting ministers this past

month were Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA), Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) and Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS). May God bless them for their willingness to speak the Word of God.

"Saviour, like a Shepherd lead us..."

On December 21 we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Doug Streitmatter and Sis. Cindy Plattner (Peoria). Their parents are Bro. Alf and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Edith Plattner (Peoria).

On December 25 we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Jay Knobloch and Sis. Deanna Graham. Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch and Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Graham are their parents.

May God bless these dear ones as they make their plans to walk life's pathway together.

On December 21 we heard the Sunday school students tell of the birth of our Saviour. May God bless each one for giving their best in song and verse to tell of God's gift of love!

"This God made union then shall never
 more be broken,
 Where faith and love have been the
 holy covenant's token..."

"The Union of Hearts"

On January 4, Sis. Sandy Stoller became the wife of Bro. Don Endress as they were joined in holy matrimony. Parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller and Sis. Mildred Endress. May God's blessings be upon their marriage as they look to Him.

Our annual business meeting was held January 7. New assignments were as follows: trustee, Bro. Norman Streitmatter replaces Bro. Floren Streitmatter for a five-year term; usher, Bro. Fred Menold replaces Bro. Sam Martin for a six-year term; funeral dinner committee, Sis. Roma Rumbold replaces Sis. Esther Martin for a six-year term.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Elsa Christ, Sis. Helen Shick and Sis. Alvina Streitmatter. Bro. Kurt Christ was a surgical patient. May God continue to heal and restore all of these dear ones.

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Deuteronomy 6:5

"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

John 13:34

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Marge Leman — Judy Luginbuhl

In central Illinois we are experiencing God's winter landscape of pure white snow. It makes us wonder if it was a time of year such as this that inspired the hymn writer to pen the beautiful words, "Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow; Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow". What a privilege and what a responsibility is ours once we have been washed whiter than snow.

January 7 was the date of our annual business meeting. The following trustees were elected: Bro. Howard Sauder, church, Bro. Jim Braker, nursing home and Bro. Larry Neukomm, fellowship hall. Bro. Bob Hodel was installed as a new usher, Bro. Ed Blunier to the building aid committee and Bro. Harlow Blunier to the nominating committee. We sincerely thank all of the brothers who have rotated off various boards and committees for their years of service on behalf of our congregation.

Michael Andrew was welcomed into the family of Bro. Marty and Sis. Patti Rebbec December 12, 1986. Jeffrey, Martin and Mary Beth are Michael's big brothers and sister. Robert and Marge Rebbec (Sun City, AZ) and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Jeffreys (Concord, NC) are the grandparents.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Suzanne Luginbuhl and Jeff Thompson. Bro. Les and Sis. Judy Luginbuhl, Bill and Lynn Ruder (Eureka) and Ken Thompson (Highland) are the parents of the couple. A summer wedding is being planned.

We also rejoice with Bro. Jeff Schumacher whose engagement to Sis. Tina Strahm (Chicago) was announced. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher and Bro. Loren and Sis. Listene Strahm (Gridley, KS) are the couple's parents. They are planning a spring wedding.

Our loved ones who were hospital patients this past month are Sis. Emma Blunier, Bro. Jim Hodel and Ethel Dorwin. It is our prayer the Lord will heal them according to His will.

My dear grandmother, Sis. Caroline Hodel, went to her eternal rest January 5. She was granted 91 years of life here on earth and was able to lay her armor

down after a short stay in the hospital. We extend our sympathy to her family, Bro. Roy (El Paso), Bro. James, Bro. William and Gerald (Roanoke), Bro. Mildred Aeschleman and Sis. Malinda Gerber (Roanoke), Sis. Norma Bauman and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (both of Eureka); a brother, Sam Huber (Eureka); 37 grandchildren, 91 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Again we have had beloved brethren visit us and minister to us so unselfishly. Our humble thanks goes out to Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont), Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville). May God be their rich rewarder.

We congratulate Bro. John and Sis. Sarah Diggie on the birth of their new grandson, Jordan Meiss (Gridley). Bro. David and Sis. Debbie are Jordan's parents.

My heartfelt thank you to all of you who remembered me in your prayers. Also to Bro. Don and Bro. Bill, a special thank you for the visit and prayers while I was in the hospital. Thank you also for your generous gifts of love, flowers and fruit. God bless you all and keep you in His care. May you all enjoy a New Year filled with health and contentment. Sincerely, Sis. Ellen Siebenthal.

Dear Sis. Ellen has felt moved to make her new home in Peoria and we certainly wish her God's abiding love and peace there. She was such a special blessing to our congregation, but as time goes on we realize changes sometimes have to be made. Sis. Ellen's new address is 7023 Skyline Drive, Peoria, IL 61614.

A reminder to the Roanoke congregation that February is the month we collect for the Silver Lining.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach Carolyn Bolliger

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA). We thank him for lending himself in our behalf.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Dill and small son, Brent, were involved in a recent auto accident. We are thankful God spared them serious injury.

Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Kaeb are the happy parents of Julie Ann, born January 3. She has a brother, Jeffrey, to help take care of her. Grandparents are Bro. William and Sis. Mari-

lyn Huette and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Darlene Kaeb.

Mary Rowell was hospitalized but is now recuperating at home. We hope to see her assembling with us soon. Halo Koch (Bro. Cleo) is in the hospital at this time. Our prayers are certainly with her and all her family.

January 10 was the wedding day of Mike Endress and Kris Dooley (Eureka). Parents of the couple are Fred and Ruth Endress and John and Judy Dooley (Eureka). We wish them a lifetime of happiness together.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Vicki Bucher

We look to the New Year with anticipation. Will this be the year we see Jesus face to face? How comforting it is to place our future in God's hands and trust His wisdom.

We would like to thank Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) for sharing the Word with us during the Christmas holiday. We know it can be exhausting to travel and then be expected to minister the Word. We appreciate having him and his wife, Sis. Lillian, with us and thank them for their thoughtfulness.

We wish the Lord's blessings upon the marriage of Bro. Dave Wegman to Sis. Karen Staker. They were united in marriage in Morton, IL, January 4. May they feel the Lord's nearness as they walk life's pathway together.

Jim and Evie Mitchell are the parents of a son, Nathan. Nathan has two sisters, Adrienne and Ashley. Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold are Nathan's grandparents.

We are happy to see Sis. Sue Rupert back in church once again. Sue was in the hospital for a short time, but is feeling better. We really missed her presence.

We were privileged to hear the testimonies of Jane Miller and Martha McGough. We rejoice with them and welcome them into the fold of Christ. We are grateful to Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder for being with us. We wish them God's blessings for their service.

We give thanks to the Bloomington choir for being with us. We received a great blessing through their singing and gained much from our fellowship. We all enjoyed a chili supper after the program.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON**Lucille Isch — Becky Isch**

Our hearts were saddened when we heard of the tragic death of nine-year-old Randy Aschliman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie). Randy was playing in an overhead wheat bin, while a truck was being filled. He was pulled into the wheat and suffocated. Randy has three brothers, Ronnie, Ryan and Ricky. His grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Ida Aschliman and Roy and Mary Lehrman.

As we gathered on New Year's Day, we heard much about being laborers together. This can be at home, in the church, for each other, or for the Lord. After worship services, the new church officers and the new Sunday school teachers were announced, and those who have finished their term were thanked. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58.

We give special thanks to Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) who ministered God's Word to us.

A son, Joshua David, was born December 23 to John and Jana Courtney. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Elaine Baumgartner and Millard and Janean Moser.

On January 4, the engagement of Bro. Brad Gerber (Bro. Leon and Sis. Mary Kay) to Sis. Shawn Burke (Bill and Karen) was announced. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Our dear ones hospitalized have been little Aaron Gerber (Bro. Darryl and Sis. Jinny), Jon Leyse (Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky), Bro. Ervin Isch (Sis. Anna), Bro. Joel Fiechter (Sis. Lucinda), Sis. Sylvia Meyer, Herman Gerber and Sis. Maxine Ringger (Bro. Dave).

Kindness is like snow — it will make beautiful anything it covers.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH**Cindy Shorb — Sheri Leman**

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Hymns of Zion #95. One of the most treasured blessings of all is the miracle of a newborn baby. Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan Harris and son, Bruce, gladly welcome their miracle, Elizabeth Marie, born December 16. Grandparents are Bro. Sherm and Sis. Lucille Steffen. Also blessed are Tim and

Teresa Habegger with their new son, Benjamin David, who came into the world December 30. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger.

We want to thank Bro. Kent Ringger (Bluffton) for sharing in the ministry with us recently. We are always happy to see and visit with our Bluffton brethren.

"His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me." C. D. Martin. Prayers have been in our hearts for Bro. Oscar Schaefer (Sis. Agnes) and Sis. Kay Craighead (Bro. Mike) who have spent time in the hospital. May they observe God's loving eye upon them and know in their hearts that He is watching over them.

Congratulations are extended to Bro. Dan and Sis. Priscilla Steffen who have recently celebrated 60 years of marriage. How special to share so many years with the mate God has given us to love.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalms 118:24

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**Lynne Wuethrich**

By looking to our Lord Jesus Christ, we realize that He is not looking away from us in complacency but looking down on us in compassion.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:1-2

Do you look to the peaks when you're in the valleys? Or are you so rutted in the valleys that you've forgotten the mountains are even there? People who fail to affirm usually do so because they fail to see the Lord in the midst of it all. When we look up, we are reminded that God is not removed, not absent, and not out of touch.

We all enjoyed a blessed New Year's Eve service and program. Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) ministered God's Word unto us and we want to thank Bro. Lester for his willingness to be used. At midnight, Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman tied the whole evening up by reading the many events that had happened through the year 1986. I believe we all left that evening with the desire to serve our Lord better.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Anne Ward are

happy to announce the engagement of their son, Brian, to Dana Hamm (Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hamm, Evansville). They plan to be married June 20. May God lead them through this wonderful time in their lives.

Our congratulations go to Denise Topp and Dave Bailey as they were united in marriage December 20. We pray God will bless their union.

Our congregation is sad to see Bro. Tim and Sis. Mim Gudeman move away. They are moving to the South Bend area, due to a job opportunity. We pray the dwelling they have moved to will soon be a home to them. They plan to attend the South Bend congregation.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Gudeman have been blessed with a new baby boy. Luke Samuel, born January 10, has one sister, Britni, who will be anxious to have someone new to play with. Grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab (Wolcott) and Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Francesville).

Bro. Bob Wuethrich (Sis. Phyllis) is hospitalized at this time due to his need for hand surgery. Also hospitalized this month were Sis. Jane Nuest (Bro. Larry) and Sis. Mary Lee Gutwein (Bro. Elden). We pray God will bless them with speedy recoveries.

A dear father and brother is going to be deeply missed as Bro. Benjamin Anliker, 85, passed away Christmas Day after an illness. Bro. Ben was living in the Parkview Haven Nursing Wing. We remember in prayer his family: three daughters, Sis. Mildred Clauss (Bro. Bob, Francesville), Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz (Bro. Oliver, Grabill), Sis. Eleanor Bogart (Bro. Jim, North Judson); two sons, Bro. Charles (Chalmers) and Bro. Earl (Winamac). Two sisters and four brothers survive also and we especially think of Bro. Eli and Bro. Elmer of our Francesville congregation. Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo) and Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) were here to take part in the Sunday service. We pray God will bless them for their labor of love.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS**Gail Bradford — Kathy Freed**

Ministering brothers from the following churches are scheduled to be with us the next few weeks: Bluffton, Bluffton North, Leo, Latty, Wolcott, Francesville and Remington. We appreciate their service on our behalf.

We rejoice with Bro. Steve and Bonnie Huber on the birth of their daughter, Allison Marie, who was born New Year's Eve. Her grandparents are Bro. Rueben and Sis. Marie Huber (Fairbury) and Betty Posorske (Warren, IL).

What do we want most of all? We may already have, or be seeking, good health, love, wealth, beauty, talent or fame. However, without peace of mind, these earthly things bring little if any joy. If we have peace in our hearts, but lack good health, wealth or beauty, our life is still very much worth living, and living joyfully.

Without peace, our possessions bring anxiety and frustration rather than happiness.

What is peace? It is not just the absence of strife; it is a positive force that flows from God and fills our souls.

In Micah 4:3, the prophet says we are to break up our swords and spears. But this is not enough. We must fashion them into plow shares and pruning hooks!

We must root out of our lives any suspicion, hate or fear. We must cultivate the virtues of love, patience and understanding.

First, we make peace within ourselves. We cannot hide from God. If we do, we will remain miserable. Letting Him in, letting His love fill us, will bring peace and quietness to our souls.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9).

When we are peaceful within, we exhibit peace without, spreading this blessed condition wherever we go!

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Debbie Nuest — Sandy Heinold

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Sis Heinold in the passing away of her mother, Edna Yergler (Cissna Park, IL), a long-time friend in the community of Cissna Park.

We are never quite ready to hear of the passing of dear old saints from our fellowship. Sis. Henrietta Heiniger passed away Thursday, January 8. She was a patient of the Parkview Haven Nursing Home. She leaves behind nieces, nephews and a host of friends. A songbook was found at her bedside, opened to this hymn:

ZION'S HILL

There waits for me a glad tomorrow,
Where gates of pearl swing open wide;

And when I've passed this vale of
sorrow,
I'll dwell upon the other side.

Someday I'll hear the angels singing,
Beyond the shadows of the tomb,
And all the bells of heaven ringing,
While saints are singing, "Home, sweet
home".

Someday my labors will be ended,
And all my wand'rings will be o'er;
And all earth's broken ties be mended,
And I shall sigh and weep no more.

Someday the dark clouds will be rifted,
And all the night of gloom be past;
And all life's burdens will be lifted
The day of rest shall dawn at last.

Chorus:

Someday beyond the reach of mortal
ken;
Someday, God only knows just where
and when
The wheels of mortal life shall all stand
still,
And I shall go to dwell on Zion's hill.

James Allen Crutchfield

Hospitalized were Sis. Esther Hitz and Bro. Enos Cadwalader. May our Lord grant them health and strength according to His will.

We were again privileged to have Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) worship with us.

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Charlotte Gutwein

"... Faith without works is dead" James 2:20. We were reminded in our recent Bible study that as Christians, we must act out our faith. We would like to extend our thanks to Bro. Fredrick Knapp (Congerville, IL) for coming and sharing God's Word with our small group. We appreciate the support we get from our neighboring churches.

We are happy to have Janell Hoffstetter (Wolcott, IN) back with us after attending a co-op program last semester in Arkansas. Bro. Trent Bucher (Bluffton) graduated from Purdue in December in accounting and is currently working in Fort Wayne, IN. We will miss him and Sis. Kelly and wish them God's best as they move on through life. Carma Stoller (Latty, OH) also graduated in December in the veterinary technician program at Pur-

due. We want to wish her God's blessings as she looks for employment.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

"Telling people about the Lord Jesus Christ is a never-ending job! The Coca-Cola Company spends millions of dollars each year advertising Coca-Cola. They do this because many millions of people die each year and many millions of people are born each year. These young ones have never heard about Coca-Cola. 'We have a never-ending job of telling people about our product,' one executive explained.

"Considering this constant flow of people through the world, you and I have a tremendous responsibility to tackle that never-ending job of telling people about something infinitely more important than a drink for the body. It is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, a drink of eternally living water for the soul.

(World Missionary Press)

"... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."

I Peter 3:15

Our lives should reflect this testimony. The story is told of a teacher explaining to little children how good, kind, forgiving, loving and merciful Jesus is. One small child became extremely excited. "I know Him," she said. "He lives right near us." Christians should so live that Christ is seen in them.

"I do not ask for mighty words
To leave the crowd impressed;
But grant my life may ring so true,
My neighbor may be blessed."

Anonymous

"Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works, and
glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Grateful appreciation is expressed to Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) for his recent visit and ministry. He and Elder Bro. David Bertsch shared in reporting the conference conclusions.

Christians never meet for the last time; that is a beautiful hope, but the

temporal parting still brings tears. We offer sympathy to Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz and family in the passing of her father, Bro. Ben Anliker (Francesville).

Also, sympathy is extended to Sis. Lucile Frank (the late Bro. Maurice), Sis. Helen Maxfield (Bro. O. W.) and Bro. William Klopfenstein (Sis. Nancy) in the death of their aunt, Sis. Henrietta Klopfenstein Heiniger, 92. She was a former Leo resident before her marriage and move to Kouts. Services were held at Leo with Bro. Uriel Gehring and Bro. Donald Gudeman (La-Crosse) officiating.

This and That:

Learn the sweet magic of a cheerful face, not always smiling, but, at least serene.

"To ease another's burden is to forget one's own." — Abraham Lincoln

Prayer is the ideal tranquilizer. When you cannot sleep, don't count sheep; talk to the Shepherd.

The world from a human standpoint is dark; but, the Christian outlook is as bright as the Lord's coming.

Happiness may be thought, sought or caught, but never bought.

INDIANA, MILFORD Shelby Beer

Those ministers who, by their presence and words of the Spirit, enriched our worship were: Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Glenn Price, Jr. (Sarasota, FL), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN). We appreciate their sincere efforts in bringing us many good teachings through the promptings of the Spirit from God's holy Word.

At our annual business meeting several brethren were elected to fill various offices: Bros. Tom Price, John Lehman, Fred Beer, Nelson Beer and Bob Cockburn, Sunday school; Bro. Bob Beer, trustee committee; Sisters Sue Schieler and Marguerite Hoerr, Silver Lining; and Sis. Mary Ann Beer, sewing committee. May God inspire and provide for those who give of their time and talents and are willing to serve.

Sis. Melba Hunsberger had surgery recently. May God restore new strength to her according to His will.

GOD KNOWS BEST

Our Father knows what's best for us, So why should we complain —

We always want the sunshine,
But He knows there must be rain —
We love the sound of laughter
And the merriment of cheer,
But our hearts would lose their
tenderness

If we never shed a tear . . .
Our Father tests us often
With suffering and with sorrow,
He tests us, not to punish us,
But to help us meet tomorrow . . .
For growing trees are strengthened
When they withstand the storm,
And the sharp cut of the chisel
Gives the marble grace and form . . .
God never hurts us needlessly,
And He never wastes our pain,
For every loss He sends to us
Is followed by rich gain . . .
And when we count the blessings
That God has so freely sent,
We will find no cause for murmuring
And no time to lament . . .
For our Father loves His children
And to Him all things are plain,
So He never sends us pleasure
When the soul's deep need is pain . . .
So whenever we are troubled,
And when everything goes wrong,
It is just God working in us
To make our Spirit strong.

Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

Our church was well filled on the crisp evening of December 30 to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Harold Schieler and Sis. Lorrene Clauss. After spending a month in Florida, they will reside at Route 1, Box 138A, Remington, IN 47977.

Bro. Herb and Sis. Mary Jo Schieler have a new granddaughter, Terrin Nicole. First-time parents are Larry and Kathi Schieler (Lafayette, IN).

Doug Getz (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Eileen) has left our small congregation to serve a four-year term in the U.S. Navy. He needs our prayers as he experiences many new adventures. His temporary address is: SR Douglas E. Getz 311763871, Company 013, Division 11, Great Lakes, IL 60088-5300. This will change around the middle of March when he completes basic training.

Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler in reading the memorandum letter on a Saturday evening.

Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL) was with us one Sunday morning as he

was on his way to a funeral in the afternoon.

The first few days of the New Year always brings our annual meeting evening. Elected to new positions in our brotherhood were: Bro. Roger Steffen and Bro. Tim Bahler as Sunday school teachers, Sis. Emily Kilgus as World Relief sewing coordinator and Bro. Andy Zickmund as trustee.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Jill Lehman — Annie Meyer

We are now in the second month of the year, better known as February. We often think of this month as the month for Valentine's Day, love, hearts, etc. This is very fitting for this month in that the original meaning of February is "the month of expiation" or in other words the month for atonement or to make amends. Therefore, brethren, let us make this a month to make amends with God and man, to be right in our hearts and to make our hearts pure from sin as to make ready for our eternal home and to love one another as Christ also loved us.

"And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."

Romans 5:11

We are always appreciative of visitors and we wish to thank Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) for bringing God's Word to us. We pray God's blessings upon them and their families.

We can say that our little church is beginning to grow slowly but surely. We are thankful that the Lord has brought us Bro. Tim and Sis. Mim Gudeman (Francesville) into our congregation. We know they will be missed in Francesville but heartily received in South Bend. Their new address is: 3224 White Maple Court, South Bend, Indiana 46628.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher — Peg Huber

One of our ministers recently concluded afternoon services asking, "Well, how would you sum up the day?" After considering what had been preached and thinking about my life, I thought, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting". (Daniel 5:27). But, unfathomable

thought! Jesus Christ, my Saviour, stands beside me and "is able to . . . present me faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy! (Jude 24) My righteousnesses are as filthy rags; (Isaiah 64:6) but my debt has been stamped "paid in full" by the blood and love of Jesus!

We appreciate Bros. Marshall Heindold (Washington, IL), Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) and Steve Gutwein (Francesville) for sharing in the ministry this month.

Dustin Arthur Bucher has arrived to gladden our church family as well as the home of Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie. A child's work is his play, and Andy, Ben and Casey enthusiastically welcome another laborer! Grandparents are Sis. Esther Bucher (LaCrosse) and Norman and Marge Jacobs (Valparaiso).

There is a song that says, "Tears are a language God understands". (Jensen). The psalmist wrote, "put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?" Psalms 56:8. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn Steffan in the loss of her mother, Pearl Croy.

Our friend, Joe Kimerer, Sr. recently suffered a heart attack. How thankful we are for the comfort of Matthew 28:20 . . . "lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

"With glorious anticipation I shout a rousing welcome to the up and coming days. The future cannot daunt me, every inscrutable mystery becomes a consolation of joy, for with You in control, dear God, the worst may happen, but the best is yet to come!"

Calkin

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

We were so lovingly counseled as we gathered together to hear the memorandum read January 11. We thank Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Alfred in this endeavor.

Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) was with us for a Wednesday evening service. May God bless him for his labors.

It is our prayer that God will restore health and strength to Bro. Walter Stoller who spent some time in the hospital.

Our annual meeting was held recently. We thank all those brothers and sisters who have fulfilled their duties

and ask God's direction and guidance for those who have been elected to serve in their place.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karen Schulz — Dixie Messner

We appreciated having visiting ministering brothers with us again this past month. They were Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). May the Lord richly bless them for being willing to be used in the Lord's service.

At our annual meeting, Bro. Milo Weissinger became our new trustee. Sis. Arlene Weissinger was selected for the kitchen committee. Bros. Henry Beyer and Kenny Scheitlin were chosen as our new ushers. We want to thank those who have served in the past.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Since February is the month for designing Valentines and hearts, let's see how scripture describes the heart of the believer.

1. Pure — Matthew 5:8, James 4:8, Psalms 24:4
2. Meek & Lowly — Matthew 11:29
3. Believing — Romans 10:9-10
4. Happy — Ephesians 6:19
5. God Loving — II Thessalonians 3:5
6. True — Hebrews 10:22
7. Trusting — Proverbs 3:5
8. Diligent — Proverbs 4:23

We had one visiting minister this past month and we give thanks to Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) for serving us in the Lord's work.

Kathryn Schneider (LaVerne) was recently in the hospital (surgical). We are thankful that she is home again and improving.

Elgin, IA, Silver Lining dues are due by the end of February. Thank you.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Glen and Sally Funk

We have had many wonderful visits from visiting ministers since November. We thank Bros. Earl Ringger, John Steiner, Doug Schock, Howard Plattner and Elder Bros. Sam Huber and Ed Lanz. Bros. Sam and Ed came and read the memorandum to us. We appreciate their time spent with us.

Our Sunday school children were invited to Kansas City for a weekend and had a wonderful visit. We want to

thank the Kansas City members and friends for their kindness and hospitality.

Christmas-time came rushing at us and we were busier in our flower shop than we had expected to be. At a time when it seemed impossible to get everything done by Christmas Day, preparing something for my Sunday school class program seemed like a real burden, especially when you hear children grumbling, "Do we have to sing?" or "Do we have to say that?" I was trying to sort in my mind, "Who is the program for?" It should be for the children to enjoy. Why do we push them to do this, when we, the parents, are the ones who want a program and enjoy seeing our children singing and reciting, hoping and praying they will receive a blessing or inspiration from this experience. On Sunday morning, the day of our program, I was in my Sunday school room trying to rush and have everything prepared. In a weak moment (when I was telling myself that next year I could easily forget a program) my oldest boy (at an age when he complains and is negative about everything) came in and asked what I was doing. I tried to be nice and tell him. He smiled and said, "I just love Christmas." The way he said it made me stop what I was doing and ask him why he liked Christmas. He said, "Oh, I like the programs, concerts and songs. And I also like the food and things." I tried to keep my composure, as I was shocked at the comment from this boy of mine who had me convinced he hated these things that we forced him to do. It was certainly a lesson to me that children don't always know what they like or what they want. We have to show them by making them experience some things that they don't feel they want to. What an opportunity we have to show them the joys of serving the Lord and being a Christian.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Bonita Frank

How beautiful it is when we look out and see all the world with a white snow blanket! All the dirt and slush is covered and the scene looks peaceful and clean. How much more precious it is when we, as sinners, surrender ourselves and say, as the Psalmist wrote in Psalms 51:7, "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

John Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) spent five days in the hospital. We

missed seeing his friendly smile. We hope things continue going well for him now that he is home.

We appreciated the visits this past month of Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA). May they and their families be blessed now and in eternity for their labors of love.

IOWA, LESTER

Mary Knobloch — Kathy Metzger

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." St. Luke 15:10. Likewise our hearts overflow with joy to learn our friend, Renee Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie) has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. May God's love and grace be her guide as she lives each day for Him.

We welcome to our congregation Ken and Sally Feuchtenberger and son, Ryan, formerly of Morris, MN. We beseech God's blessings upon them as they take up residence in Sioux Falls, SD.

Two betrothals have recently been announced to our congregation. Bro. Stan Knobloch (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Dawn Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla), both of our Lester church, have felt it God's will they be joined as husband and wife. Bro. Mike Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn, West Bend) and Sis. Mavis Wulf (Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice) also have the faith to believe they should be joined together in hand and heart. May God's blessings be showered upon them as they plan their lives together.

Throughout the Christmas season and the beginning of a new year, we have been privileged to hear many teachings and admonitions from faithful ministering brethren. Those among us were as follows: retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO). We continue to lift these brethren to God in prayer as they are led by the Holy Spirit to bring us God's Word. We were again reminded that we are responsible for every idle word, and will give account as we stand before God on Judgment Day. Will our names be written in the Book of Life?

On December 24, God blessed Lou

and Karla Knobloch with a healthy baby boy, Tyler Eric. Paternal grandparents are Gib and Sis. Vickie Knobloch.

Many loved ones have been hospitalized this past month. Surgical patients have been Leroy Van Wyhe, Bro. Pete Van Wyhe, Bro. Art Leuthold, Bro. Gus Knobloch, Bro. Albert Knobloch, Bro. Freddie Metzger, Sis. Lydia Mogler (Bro. Phil) and Sis. Martha Feucht (Bro. Gus). Bro. Jake Metzger was a medical patient. We pray that God will be manifested in each of their lives as they lean upon Him to heal and restore to reasonable health once again.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

What a wonderful winter we have had so far this year of 1987. God has certainly blessed us with mild weather. When we think of the many people in the country of Russia who are freezing to death in the awful sub-zero weather, we should count our many blessings!

January 4 was the date Bro. Dave Wegman (Washington, IL) and Sis. Karen Staker (Morton, IL) exchanged holy marriage vows in the Morton church. We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk the path of life as one. Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman (Oakville) and Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary Staker (Morton, IL) are Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen's parents.

Visiting ministers recently have been Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL).

At our annual business meeting, we elected various new members to our church committees. Elected to the cemetery committee was Bro. Keith Kuntz; church trustee, Bro. Wayne Gerst; fellowship hall committee, Bro. Floyd Rowell; and appointed as a new usher, Bro. Chris Grimm. Sis. Lois Wiegand and Sis. Dorothy Schulz were elected to serve on the kitchen committee. We give them all our support and prayers as they begin carrying out the physical duties required in the church.

Our outgoing committee members are Sisters Kathleen Heiniger and Clara Frank; and Bros. Curt Frank, Eric Massner, Lyle Pflum and Bob Frank. We appreciate their service in our church and we know that God will reward them for this.

Thought: Talk is cheap, but you can't buy it back.

IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Jane Knapp — Sarah Teubel

Love seems to be the theme for February. Everywhere we go we see hearts of all different shapes and sizes. How beautiful and unending must be the love of God that He sent His only begotten Son to a world of lost sinners. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

We, too, must have unending love for all mankind. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." I John 4:7-8.

Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) was our visiting minister New Year's Eve. How beautiful to end the year by sitting together under the sound of the Word.

Our hospital patient this past month was Sis. Karoline Wuthrich.

I sincerely thank all for the prayers, gifts, cards and kindnesses shown me while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless each one.

Karoline Wuthrich

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

This past month, we were visited by Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) and Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS). We thank these ministers for sharing God's Word with us.

On the weekend of December 28, we welcomed a new brother-in-Christ, Mark Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon). Elder Bro. Joe Stoller and our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr carried out these most important duties. It should renew our vows and give us encouragement that souls are still answering God's call.

Hospitalized the past month have been Bro. Walter Banwart (Sis. Esther) for medical reasons, Ervin Banwart (Nettie), surgical and Sis. Beverly Wirtz (Bro. Verner) who also had surgery. May the Lord strengthen and encourage them as they are recovering.

And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18. The engagement of Bro. Mike Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn) to

Sis. Mavis Wulf (Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice, Lester) was made known January 4.

Statistics for 1986 in our congregation were five deaths, five baptisms, seven births (three girls and four boys) and five marriages.

JAPAN, SHIODA
Sheila Moser

As our Father has allowed us to begin another year on earth, we are reminded by the following poem to live each day to the fullest. We should be taking each day from Him and using it to His greatest glory.

**LIVE EACH DAY
TO THE FULLEST**

Live each day to the fullest. Get the most from each hour, each day and each age of your life. Then you can look forward with confidence, and back without regrets . . .

Be yourself — but be your best self. Dare to be different and to follow your own star . . . and don't be afraid to be happy.

Enjoy what is beautiful. Love with all your heart and soul. Believe that those you love, love you.

When you are faced with a decision, make that decision as wisely as possible — then forget it. The moment of absolute certainty never arrives.

Above all, remember that God helps those who help themselves. Act as if everything depended on you, and pray as if everything depends on God.

S. H. Payer

We are thankful this month to have had visiting elder brethren. On New Year's Day, Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and family spent the day with us. As in the past, we were fortunate that the brethren enroute to India stopped to spend a few days with us. Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ), Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) were with us. While they were here, we were blessed with the serving of holy communion. We hope that they will be blessed continually for their efforts in doing the Lord's work.

The annual Japanese church conference was held January 15 here in Shioda. Following the theme of Life in the Son, Elder Bros. Willis Ehnle and Akito Inoue spoke on different topics.

In the afternoon a "round table" discussion was held on the growth of the churches here. We were thankful for the time together and continue to ask for prayerful support of our brethren in America.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki — Marie Inoue

The blessed season of Christmas has come and gone, and has left many thoughts and teachings of our dear Lord. It was a blessing to hear the story of Christ's birth from our Sunday school children which included the message of the "reason" for Christmas, which is to save fallen mankind. After caroling at a neighbor's home, we enjoyed a meal together and sang several songs with all the church folks.

A blessed morning was spent also when the kindergarten students, teachers and helpers of the Shioda church visited our monthly ladies' meeting and presented their Christmas play in English. We ask God to bless the efforts of those responsible, and most of all, that the precious words spoken and songs sung from the dear children will draw everyone who was present closer to the reason we celebrate Christmas.

Another special weekend drawing us closer to heaven's gates was a visit of Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Richard Schupbach to our assembly. We were encouraged to pray earnestly to our heavenly Father who hears and provides for our needs.

Most of us spent the afternoon with the Shioda brethren with whom we broke bread and drank of the cup in remembrance of Christ's death and suffering for the sins of the whole world. The elder brother speaking at the service posed these questions: How many of us had ever prayed all night? How many of us had prayed and the perspiration dropped from our brow as drops of blood? It made us think deeply as we claim ourselves to be one of Christ's followers. We wish them God's special protection and guidance on their trip to India.

Another visitor we enjoyed this past month was Fred Hess (Columbus, IN), who was here on a business trip.

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Shirley Strahm

Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of Bertha

Liechti and Bro. Jacob Wenger. Bertha, 83, passed away January 4. Surviving her are a nephew, Vernon Strahm, and a niece, Loree Duncan, both of the Kansas City area. Bertha had been a resident of the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home (Sabetha) since October of 1977.

Bro. Jacob Wenger, 93, passed away the following day, January 5. Surviving him is his wife, Sis. Stella (Sabetha), four daughters, Wilma Schuster (Detroit, MI), Lola Wilson (San Diego, CA), Mildred Hollister (Underwood, IA), Allene Plant (Shawnee Mission, KS); a son, Allen Wenger (Newburgh, NY); one brother, Ben Wenger (Hiawatha, KS); and three sisters, Mary Strahm and Sis. Sarah Beyer (Sabetha) and Lollie Pope (La Mesa, CA). Bro. Jake had also been a resident of the nursing home in Sabetha for many years where his wife still resides. May these families feel God's love and comfort in the days ahead.

May our hearts and minds be prepared when we enter God's house that we may receive His Word with gladness and then put those words into action. Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Terry Farney (Wichita, KS), Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). We thank them for their efforts of love put forth.

Recently we had our annual business meeting. Elected to fill Bro. Leroy Meyer's place as trustee was Bro. Allen Rokey. Bro. Don Menold was elected to take Bro. Curtis Strahm's position on the public address system. Bro. Dale Strahm will help on the property aid committee and Bro. Rod Strahm on the hail aid committee. Bro. Wayne Edelman and Bro. James Menold will take over the duty of Sunday school teacher as the terms of Sis. Glenda Rokey and Bro. Paul Kaeb expire in August. Sis. Heidi Baumgartner and Sis. Lori Baumgartner were also elected to carry on the duty of Sunday school teacher as the term of Sis. Glenda Rokey and Sis. Kim Meyer will also expire in August. Our Silver Lining reporter, Sis. Linda Esslinger, has resigned and Sis. Lori Baumgartner was elected to fill this vacancy.

We want to thank those who have given of their time and effort in whatever position they held. Also, our support is given to those who are taking up a new post of duty. Just as important as each of these positions is, so is the

position each person in the church has, namely, to earnestly pray that God's will be done as these duties are carried out.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

We held our annual business meeting January 4, with the following brothers and sisters elected for duty: Lon Banwart, song leader; Don Banwart, custodian; Wayne Sinn, trustee; Jerry Bahr, usher; David Sinn, building aid; John Sinn, Jim Schrader, Judy Bahr and Maria Bahr, Sunday school teachers.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young — Judy Kraft

The congregation had the pleasure of hearing the story about the promise and fulfillment of the birth of our Savior brought forth by the Sunday school children.

Our annual church elections took place in January. May each person that has been asked to assume a responsibility be committed and willing to be used, for we know that there is no limit to what He can do through committed, willing men.

The engagement of Sis. Tina Strahm, Chicago (Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten) to Bro. Jeff Schumacher, Chicago (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane, Roanoke, IL) was announced January 11. We rejoice that God has drawn them together.

Bro. Al Grimm was again hospitalized as a medical patient.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr — Darcy Kisling

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

Hymns of Zion #150, vs. 5

Looking back over the past year, what have we seen? "The joy of new life" — as natural born babes and spiritually newborn babies in Christ. Hallelujah! "The sweet sadness of death" — as we witnessed our loved ones lay down their earthly trials and sufferings and enter into eternal life with their Lord; such as our dear Bro. Ulysses Farney did Christmas morning. Sweet sadness because we will so deeply miss their physical presence among us, but the joy of knowing they are forever with the Lord brings a

comfort of its own. Our thoughts and prayers of love truly are sent to Sis. Mildred and family in their sadness and loss, and to all who laid a loved one to rest this past year. "The freedom to yet worship as we please" — as we enjoyed through church services and special services, such as Thanksgiving, New Year's, Christmas, Wednesday evenings, Bible study and singings. Praise God for this freedom. "We've witnessed much sickness" — such as this past month: Sis. Dorothy Brown has undergone knee surgery and we are thankful she is doing fine. Our friends, Meagan Farney (daughter of Cheryl Farney), Diane Stuckey, Floyd Tanner and Bro. Elmer Tanner have all been hospital patients. Bro. Elmer underwent surgery, Meagan had a tonsillectomy, Floyd is undergoing tests for a spot on his lung and Diane is still fighting her long battle with cancer. May we never forget to hold our ill ones up on the wings of prayer. We may not notice the effect, but many have said they could "feel" those prayers. Yes, another year is dawning! And as the song says, no matter what it brings forth, may it be another year for our Lord.

Our annual meeting was held this past Wednesday evening and the work of taking care of church affairs was placed upon the brethren. Whatever our duty, big or small, let's help and pray for one another and keep our brotherhood a body of unity and love, especially to the honor and glory of God.

It was our appointed Sunday to hold services at the rest home recently and the turnout was just wonderful. May God bless each one who gives of their time for the Lord's work.

"Have a beautiful year in Christ."

Kiowa Silver Lining dues will be collected in February.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jill K. Luthi

What I read, help me to heed it;
What You say, O let me do;
Strength to faith grant as I need it,
And remind me still anew
That the faith that counts above
Is e'er active here in love.

Benjamin Schmolck

Our congratulations go out to Marla Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy) as she has graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Busi-

ness Management. May the Lord be ever with Marla as she has found employment in the Denver, CO, area. We are sorry to lose her, but know she will be in great care at Denver. Our loss is their gain!

The annual meeting was held January 8. Those with new duties are: Bro. Jeff Frieden (Intermediate Sunday school teacher), Bro. Lloyd Luthi and Sis. Debbie Frieden (substitute teachers), Sisters Kathy Burnham and Susan Emch (meals committee), Bros. Jay Luthi and Max Burnham (ushers) and Sis. Mary Isch (Silver Lining correspondent). Other positions filled were those of cemetery treasurer (Bro. Tom Knobloch) and work project committee (Bro. Lloyd Luthi). Everyone has a position in the body of believers, so let us NEVER think that just because we were not elected to fulfill an office that we have no duty at all! For each one of us, "We are a channel attached to Unlimited Divine Resources!" The greatest thing we can do for God and man is pray! "Prayer is talking with God — the highest level we can attain!"

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Unuttered or expressed,
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

James Montgomery

It is difficult for me to believe that as I write this, it will be the last one for a length of time. Truly, these last four years have gone by so swiftly! As I pause to reflect back to those years, it brings many memories of sorrow and gladness. We remember those who have gone on before us to live in those heavenly mansions and the new babes who were born into this world. Now as another semester of college has begun, I must admit that this past and present semester have been and are my most rewarding ones. For I have worked with, had class with, and am under the instruction of some who are blind and deaf. Of the entire university, there is one blind student, Todd, and everyone knows him. I have several classes and have worked with Todd, a very happy and motivated student. It really humbles me to know that one who cannot see is at the top in honors (that is the President's Honor Roll). Todd's only device for class lectures is none other than a cassette tape recorder!

Among my busy schedule is a class in

Sign Language II, after taking Sign I last semester. Our new instructor is deaf, yet able to speak and read lips very well, as it wasn't until the age of 8-years-old that he went deaf. It has been 27 years now that he has been teaching American Sign Language (better known as A.S.L.) I can't describe the experience it is! The instructor travels to Emporia (from Kansas City) twice a week which one way is a good two-hour drive. Yet I have never had an instructor before that was so full of good humor and in such a cheerful mood!

Even though both Todd and the instructor are physically disabled, they have accepted their burdens and crosses and are able to cope with them. Yet, to this day forward, there are many who are spiritually deaf and spiritually blind, and those of us who find it difficult to bear burdens and crosses that we have. I am reminded of Isaiah 42:18-20: "Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see. Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord's servant? Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not."

We must accept our physical disabilities, and take care of the Spiritual disabilities before it is too late. It was through the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, in which God planned to set us free! Before I lay my pen to rest, I pray that God will grant each and every one of us the sufficient grace to overcome our barriers, our burdens, and our crosses. And as one brother (who has gone on before us) always said, "Take Courage!"

KANSAS, SABETHA

Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter

We were happy to have visiting brethren minister to our congregation this month. Bros. Alpha Strahm and Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS) were vessels for the Spirit of God to be poured out to us.

A couple of members of our body experienced Satan's buffeting of the flesh. Sis. Lydia Wenger and Bro. Dale Koehl were hospitalized. We can be ever so thankful for the healing power that Christ has. We reflect upon the scriptures and many stories of Christ healing the people. Whether it is mental affliction or handicaps, evil spirit infestation, disease, deformations of the body or spiritual sickness,

Christ can heal them all. Glory and praise to His name for having power over the greatest and smallest of things.

Bro. George Bahr (Kansas City, MO) has become a new resident of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Aged. We welcome him to Sabetha and trust He will soon feel at home here.

Recently a family member of mine suffered the horror of a house fire. The family was gone for the evening and was summoned home to find their dwelling ablaze. Everything was consumed by the angry flames. In visiting with them shortly after the fire, they excitedly reported that there was one thing that didn't burn. We were amazed. After seeing the remains of the foundation and basement we couldn't imagine what it could be. They said, "A Bible." Only the cover was charred, but the inside pages were complete and intact.

What a testimony that is to us all. The Lord can speak so loudly without words. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. (Matthew 24:35)

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Sherry Fritz

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

Luke 2:20

This past month brought the wonderful opportunity for our Lexington congregation to follow the example of the shepherds and tell others of the beautiful story of Christ. On December 13 and 14, we were able to share this miracle with others through Christmas carolling and a Sunday school program. We appreciated the support of Francesville, IN, visitors who helped make this weekend a special blessing.

Our special thanks to Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) who were willing to come and share the Holy Word with us in December.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Juanita Gerst

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

Hymns of Zion #150

As one year has drawn to a close and another has begun, may we strive to be more diligent in Christ.

With another year there comes the business of the church. Alto held its annual business meeting January 18. Elected to Sunday school were Bro. Duane Schrenk, Sis. Luanne Kaeb and Sis. Jill Steffen. May they receive a special blessing from these new duties. We offer a special thanks to those who served this past year.

As we start this new year may we all "... run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..." Hebrews 12:1-2. Through Him we can find the comfort and guidance we need.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Schlatter

"Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them." Jeremiah 1:17. Our visiting ministers this month included Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH), Bro. Ray Schlatter (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI). We are thankful they, too, were able to gird themselves with the Spirit, arise and speak what was commanded of them.

Hospitalized this month were Dick Meyland (Bro. Henry and Sis. Helen), Bro. Curt Heimer (Sis. Sue), Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta), Cindy Virkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine), Sis. Anna Magyar, Sis. Naomi Thomas, Michael Schmidt (Mike and Cheryl) and Bro. Eli Schlatter (Sis. Ella). We pray for God's presence in each of their lives and His healing hand where it is His will.

Our congregation was saddened by the death of Chris White. Chris was the grandson of Sis. Doris Knochel, and was unexpectedly taken from this life. May God comfort those that mourn his passing.

I failed to include in last month's issue the marriage of Tom Knochel (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marian) and Jane Bujalski. May God demonstrate His love for them as they begin their lives as one.

Reminder: February is collection month of dues for the Silver Lining. Please pay dues to your reporter.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Donna Hartzler**

Our prayers are that our Elder Bros. Ben Maibach, Richard Schupbach, John Klotzle and Perry Zimmerman have felt the Lord's guidance and blessing in their labors of love to help those who are so much less fortunate in India. Their four-and-one-half week journey took them via Japan to Bombay and the country north of Bombay, with a stop in Seoul, Korea, on their return.

We also pray that as our elders meet for the mid-year conference in Sabetha, KS, the Lord will bless their gathering as they seek to discern His will. We appreciate that they give so much of their time and talents in striving to lead our precious church, that it can be an anchor for the soul and a road to heaven.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser suffered injuries in an auto accident Sunday, December 28. Fortunately Bro. Randy did not have to be hospitalized. Sis. Sue is recuperating from a fractured sternum. We trust the Lord will grant His healing power that she can return to good health.

We welcome Per Wickstrom into our congregation. Per has moved here from the Bay City area.

The Alto, Bay City and Detroit, MI, and Toledo, OH, churches are in the processing of building a nursing home next to the Detroit church in Livonia, MI (Apostolic Christian Woodhaven). Construction on the Home is now 50% complete. We are thankful the building could be completely enclosed prior to winter. Our certificate-of-need approval is for 66 home-for-the-aged (shelter care) beds. We hope to get approval to convert at least half of these beds to nursing care beds within two years after opening. The Lord willing, we intend to open mid-summer '87.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**Barbara Olson****LIVING WATER**

Water is absolutely essential to human life. Medical authorities tell us that the body needs about three quarts a day to operate efficiently. You see, it helps break up and soften food. The blood, which is 90% water, carries nutrients to the cells. As a cooling agent, water regulates our temperature through perspiration. And without its lubricating properties, our joints and

muscles would grind and creak like unused parts of some old rusty machinery. So, that drink of cool, clear water does more than quench your thirst. It provides your body with the life-giving liquid it needs each day.

No wonder the Bible depicts water as having great symbolic significance. In the Old Testament, Christ is pre-figured by the rock that Moses struck and that gave forth water to sustain God's people in the wilderness (Exodus 17:6). And in the New Testament, the ministry of the Holy Spirit is also described in terms of this free-flowing liquid (John 7:38). Yet the analogy does not stop there. It extends also to the Word of God. Paul speaks of the process of sanctification as a cleansing "with the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:26).

Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible all comprise that living water which is so essential to our spiritual lives. The Savior's finished work on Calvary is an eternal gushing spring, and through God's Spirit every believer can be filled. Therefore, if we are to remain fresh and alive with spiritual vitality, there must be a regular intake from the written Word, accompanied by yieldedness to the Spirit and obedience to the Living Word.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Sam Moser and Chris Tucker. May God direct and bless this couple as they make plans for their March 7 wedding and future lives together.

Hospital and surgery patients this month have been Bro. Kenneth Schmidt and Bro. Richard Miller. May we always remember these dear ones in our prayers, as their needs are special during their times of illness.

Thought — The Bible will never be a dry book to those who use it as a source of "living water".

MINNESOTA, MORRIS**Ruth Nohl — Hildegard Koehl**

On Sunday, December 21, we heard the Sunday school children sing songs of praise, all to the honor and glory of our precious Savior. It warms our hearts to see the little children recite their pieces as they have such innocence. We can always learn so much as we relive the story of Jesus' birth while they are sharing it.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,

In watching or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

As we begin a New Year, may we stop to thank God for all the blessings He has given to us. Let us have a closer walk with our Lord and strive more diligently to be faithful followers of Him.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Lawrence Wulf (Lamar, MO). We truly do appreciate their labors of love.

Our hearts rejoice with two more souls who have turned to the Lord for forgiveness and have found peace in their hearts. We are looking forward to the testimonies and baptism of Kenny and Sally Feuchtenberger.

A baby boy was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Gramm January 3. Austin Chris is welcomed home by a sister, Savannah, and a brother, Taylor. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm and Bro. Arthur and Sis. Sandra Nohl.

Our hospital patients this month were Deb Fehr (Chip), Sis. Judy Wulf (Bro. Dennis) and Justin Wevely (Bro. Steve and Sis. Sara). Three loved ones, Sis. Madonna Moser, Bro. Ernest Koehl and Katherine Schaefer (Emil), are in the hospital at this time of writing. We pray God will bestow His healing power to each one. May we continue to pray for one another so none become discouraged.

We would like to congratulate Renae Moser and Al Schrek on their engagement. Bro. Dave and Sis. Norene are the parents. They have set August 8 for their wedding date.

We wish to thank all our friends for cards, gifts, visits and all kind deeds during the illness and loss of our dear mother. May God bless you all.

Frances (Domnick) Funk family

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**Wanda Messner****Ella Mae Schmidt**

On New Year's Eve, we came together to fellowship, sing and to hear God's precious Word. There is no better way to start the New Year! May we each strive to follow our Lord closer than we did last year.

Our annual meeting was held this

month. Bro. Dick Schmidt was put in as trustee. Bro. LeRoy Messner will serve on the hail aid committee and Bro. Bruce Messner on the building aid committee. May each one feel God's guidance as they carry out their Christian responsibilities.

Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin) will be missed by our congregation over the next several months. She will be with her daughter, Kim, and her husband, Todd Moser, in San Antonio, TX. Kim will be hospitalized for chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. May they feel our prayers and draw strength and comfort from God.

Sis. Celina Schmidt has also been missed by our congregation. She has been staying with her daughter, Sis. Mary Ann Theim (Peoria, IL).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin) on the loss of her father.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carol Braker — Janice Stoller

Once again we have seen the dawning of a new year. Here are some good thoughts we should strive to cultivate in this year.

Kind Hearts are the Gardens,
Kind Thoughts are the Roots,
Kind Words are the Flowers,
Kind Deeds are the Fruits.

On January 13, our annual business meeting was held. Bro. Leonard Braker will serve as trustee and Bro. Joe Marti as treasurer. Those chosen to serve as Sunday school teachers are Bro. Curtis Kellenberger, Sis. Linda Banwart and Sis. Janelle Kellenberger. Sis. Carol Braker will be our new Silver Lining reporter. Elder Bro. Gene Marti exhorted us to willingly fulfill our duties as a service to the Lord. May we do this joyfully.

Sis. Charlotte Banwart wishes to thank everyone for the birthday and get-well cards and gifts of love in the past.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Loren and Betsy Schrenk

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."

St. John 15:1

So begins a beautiful chapter of Christ's own teaching. We, as branches, all must abide in Christ to have life and bear fruit (love, joy, peace long-suffer-

ing, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance — Galatians 5:22, 23).

We can draw an analogy here with our well-established congregations. We feel, as newer tendrils from the main vine, that we need the support and encouragement we receive when ministering brothers, their wives and families, and each other visitor comes to worship with us. We appreciate each talent shared, be it in teaching Sunday school, leading the singing or in joining in congregational singing.

Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) ministered to us so willingly in January. These times of worship and fellowship are among the most treasured experiences we have in this earthly life.

Reminder — services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at the Ben Franklin Motel on Lindbergh Road, between I-270 and I-70. Singing starts at 10:15 a.m. Lunch follows the first service, and the afternoon service begins at 12:15. Gudeman's — (314) 275-2227 or Schrenk's — (314) 878-9251.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"... but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before . . ."

Philippians 3:13

The building committee is beginning to make plans for our new church. May God's love and directive be foremost in each one as they endeavor to work together in this important undertaking.

Statistics for 1986 were: five births, three weddings, no deaths or baptisms, three families and two singles moved away. We enjoy the fellowship of our neighboring St. Louis brethren, Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk and Bro. Dan and Sis. Becky Gudeman and families when services are not held there.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep." Romans 12:15. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Curt, Sis. Sue and little Seth Heimer (formerly from here) while Curt is very ill in the hospital at Ann Arbor, MI. May they and their families look to God for the help and strength so necessary at this time and

cling to the promise that "with Him all things are possible". Mark 10:27.

Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm in bringing the conference report to us Saturday evening, January 10. May we appreciate the efforts of the elder body for our eternal welfare and may we try to do better in 1987 in supporting their conclusions.

CLING TO YOUR STANDARDS

Cling to your standards
and "fight the good fight",
Take a firm stand
for things that are right,
And let nothing sway you
or turn you away
From God's old commandments —
they are still new today.

Helen Steiner Rice

February is Taylor's Silver Lining dues collection month.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Heidi Haerr

We would like to thank the following ministers and their families for taking time from their busy schedules to visit our church over the holiday season: Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Ronald Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). We are also grateful to our other visitors for their fellowship, support and love for our little congregation.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

On Sunday afternoon, December 21, we were privileged to listen to the program which was prepared and presented by our Sunday school children. May the teachings which they learn as children remain throughout their lifetime as a source of guidance, strength and comfort.

We are glad to see Tim Virkler assemble with us again in church and Sunday school following his recovery from surgery. Eddie Virkler has not been at church since his surgery and Sis. Minnie Farney and Sis. Mabel Ebersol remain hospital patients at this writing. We hope they can soon be home again. Joe Bush is a patient in Syracuse. Our prayers go out daily for each of them for God's guidance and healing power.

Dean and Joyce Greenwood are the

happy parents of little Amber Lynn born January 9. She has been welcomed home by her brother, Scott, and sisters, Tonya and Heather. Their grandparents are Bro. Bernard and Sis. Elvera Martin and Everett and Lola Greenwood.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

We were pleased to have Bro. Jim Ramseyer with us November 30. We thank him for his willingness to speak God's Word to us. The Croghan congregation also assembled with us. We had a blessed day.

On December 21, the engagement of our Elder Bro. Robert Beyer to Sis. Lucille Thomas (Peoria, IL) was announced. The wedding has been set for February 4 in Peoria. We surely wish God's blessings upon them.

Because of poor health, Norma Clare was not able to be baptized at church, so it was carried out in her home by Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner January 17. Our prayers are with her that the Lord may give her grace and strength and a measure of better health.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

"Walking through the pages with your fingers" is a motto for the Yellow Pages of a telephone book; but God had it for His Book before the phone company had it for their book. The Hebrew language has pictures, and David put a picture with each verse of Psalm 34. The Hebrew picture for verse 3: "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together", means, walking through the pages with your fingers. The same picture used for Daniel 12:4, ". . . run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased", means to have an extensive knowledge of the Word of God. The Hebrew picture is saying: To magnify the Lord and exalt His name, we walk through the Bible with our fingers. We read a portion and say, "Isn't it exciting; and this over here, and I am going to read this and read that", and we begin to have an extensive knowledge of the Word of God.

We rejoice that Susan Grawunder (Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder) has turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray she will always feel the Lord's nearness.

While Bro. Keith and Sis. Diana Ifft

were in our area, Bro. Keith completed his residency in Anesthesiology and Sis. Diana received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. We are sorry to see them move from here, but Keith has accepted a position in Peoria, IL.

Bro. Paul Gangel will have attained four score years as he has his 80th birthday February 21.

Bro. and Sis. Don Gasser's son, Tim, who is a Lieutenant in the Air Force, was married to Shelley Johns over Christmas vacation. We pray they will feel the Lord's presence as they go about their new assignments.

A thanks for faithful service of terms goes to: Sis. Gail Spangler, kitchen committee; Bro. Dave Graf, trustee; and Bro. Brian Pamer, usher. The Lord will help the following new ones to render the duties: Sis. Esther Zsoldos, kitchen committee; Bro. Don Gasser, trustee; and Bro. Eric Graf, usher.

Bro. Ken Indermuhle, Bro. Gary Maibach and Bro. Merle Hartzler were guest ministers last month.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Karen Laparo

Desma Klopfenstein

Once there was a little boy whose Mom had just brought home another baby to their family. This boy loved his tiny sister, but began to feel a bit of jealousy over all the attention she received. He also was particularly saddened by his parents seemingly unresponsive attitude to all his requests or needs. One night as they were getting tucked into bed, the little boy asked, "Mommy, do you still love me?" His mother sat down beside him and replied, "Of course, I love you, son. Why did you ask?"

"Because," he answered, "ever since you brought the new baby home, you haven't paid any attention to me, and if you love the new baby too, then how can you love me as much?"

"Oh, son," she began, "just because there's someone new in our family doesn't mean you aren't important to me. We just want to make sister feel welcome. My heart is big enough to love both of you very much, and I'll still take care of you when you need help. Will you help take care of sister, too?"

The little boy smiled, "Sure, Mommy, I'll help, cause we're a family and we love each other. Right?"

"That's right, son."

It's a sweet story, but not just a child's problem. Sometimes, perhaps

we feel God is blessing another more than ourselves. Instead of rejoicing, we might, like the little boy, feel a bit neglected, too. However, if we could measure God's love, we would find that His heart is large enough to love all of us. He will take care of His children as their needs arise. We are indeed a family in Christ. So let us love and rejoice with one another, as God welcomes new lambs to the fold. May our hearts grow in love and grace day by day.

We welcome visitors every Sunday to Columbus. Services begin at 10:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

At our annual New Year's Day meeting, the following responsibilities were laid upon our brethren: Sunday school teachers, Roger Gasser and Millie Manz; trustee, Ed Schlatter; usher, Roger Manz; head song leader, Roger Gasser; World Relief sewing committee, Juliet Schlatter; kitchen committee, Kathy Manz. As each one assumes their new responsibilities, we wish them God's grace. May we remember them all in our prayers.

A new responsibility was also laid upon Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz with the arrival of Beth Evelyn January 4. Beth was welcomed home by brothers, Marvin, Tony, Larry and Willie, and sisters, Cindy and Janice. Grandparents are Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner (Oakville) and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz.

Sis. Henrietta Manz was briefly hospitalized after a fall which resulted in a broken arm and six broken ribs. With God's healing power she is on the road to good health again.

A story was recently told to me by one of our brothers who accompanied a semi-truck load of hay which was purchased by the World Relief organization and delivered to some farmers who were hard hit by the severe drought in the southeast. The County Agent took the names of needy farmers and made a list and the farmers were allocated hay by the number of livestock they had. Although there were two truckloads of hay delivered, this was not enough so everyone received some. One lady was notified to come since she would have been the next on the list if there was enough hay in case the bales were miscounted and there were some extra bales. As she waited, she

told this brother that she had 26 head of cattle and ran out of hay three days before the shipment. She had begged four bales of hay off of a neighbor and fed her 26 cattle two bales per day for the previous two days, and now she was completely out of hay again. No hay and no way to get any. To her surprise, the bales had been miscounted and there was some hay for her when the trucks were all unloaded. As I thought about her pathetic situation, it reminded me of our pathetic condition when we came to God in repentance. She could have stayed at the farm and tended her cows, but she realized, with no hay she could do her cows no good. So she came to the truck hoping there would be help and fortunately there was, even though the help was in limited supply. Likewise, we could have continued trying to straighten up our lives, but we, too, realized we didn't have the means to make the change we wanted. So we turned to Jesus where there was abundant help, but it, too, was limited. Not limited by supply, for His blood is sufficient to cover all the sins of the world, but limited by our faith. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8.

OHIO, LATTY

Marlene Reinhard — Patty Gerber

We were recently exhorted to use our talents to further the Kingdom of God. Often, we neglect to see our own talents, but, through others, or through appointed duties we have them revealed to us. As we work with the other brethren, we realize that our abilities, no matter how great or small, are blended together with others' to build a firmer foundation. May we all have the humility to do our duties to our best abilities, taking pleasure in being able to serve the Lord, rather than complain that we are having to carry more of a load than others.

Chosen to serve in differing capacities at the annual business meeting were the following brothers and sisters: Sunday school teachers, Bro. Craig Stoller (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Wanita Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain), Sis. Tam Stoller (Bro. Jim), Sis. Charlotte and Sis. Brenda Wenninger (Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine); trustee, Bro. Dwain Laukhuf (Sis. Wanita); Sister for World Relief Sewing, Sis. Tootie Sinn; fellowship hall trustee, Bro. Curt Rager (Sis.

Denise); and fellowship hall scheduling, Bro. Glenn Stoller (Sis. Ede). May each of these brethren find a joy in their new office.

Rejoicing in a new life together are Kathy Plummer (Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann) and Doug Dodson (Dr. and Mrs. Warren Dodson). They were joined in holy matrimony the last Saturday of 1986. May the Lord bless their home.

We were privileged to have visiting ministering brothers serve us this month. They were Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo) and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville).

Sis. Ollie Laukhuf has been hospitalized. We trust the Lord is her strength.

January 17 was a special day for Bro. David and Sis. Patty Gerber as it was the birth date of their first child, little Laura Mae. May the Lord be the teacher as this little gift from heaven is raised in a Christian home.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Katie Sauder and Carmen Gearheart (surgery). Our prayers support them in their distress "For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm . . ." Isaiah 25:4. God is able to strengthen and heal. May He bless our dear ones according to His will.

Our sympathies are extended to Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker in the death of Dan's mother, Susan Tucker. Sis. Catherine Armstrong will also miss her dear sister. "Will the circle be unbroken, by and by, by and by? In a better home awaiting in the sky, in the sky?" Hymns of Zion #222.

Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH) read the memorandum January 17. Elder Bro. Joe stayed over for Sunday also. "Thy Word O Lord for ever is the mirror where we see, our faults and duties as they are, our likeness unto Thee." Zion's Harp #142.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser — Judy Stoller

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest
Which the Spirit does bestow.

Zion's Harp #37

On January 4, Bro. John Klotzle (Bro. Irwin and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Cheri Zollinger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley) were joined in holy matrimony.

Many from our congregation traveled to the Phoenix, AZ, church to share in their joy. May God's richest blessings be upon this union. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Cheri to the Rittman congregation.

We have been assembling in our former sanctuary while remodeling is being done to our present assembly room and other areas. Worshipping there has brought back many memories of days past, especially for the older brethren. We trust God is pleased with the work that is being done.

Bro. Ralph Rock passed from this life into eternity January 8. Funeral services were held at the Smithville church due to the remodeling here at Rittman. Bro. Ralph is survived by his wife, Sis. Adena; a son, Galen; a brother, Allen; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. We extend our sympathy to the family. May God be their source of comfort.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Lillian Rupp and Mabel Goodwin. May our heavenly Father grant them healing.

These offices were filled at our annual election of officers: trustee, Bro. Eugene Bachman; usher, Bro. Jim Gasser; fellowship hall director, Bro. Bob Dotterer; assistant song leader, Bro. Dale Hartzler; kitchen help, Sis. Verna Rufener; and nursing home auxiliary, Sis. Brenda Zollinger.

OHIO, SARDIS

Alice Ramsier

During one of our midweek services we meditated on Matthew 25, and were reminded of the special invitation we will have when the King says "... Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you..." Matthew 25:34. To be invited into the Father's kingdom will truly be a special invitation that will be cause for rejoicing, if we in this day and time accept the call of salvation.

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I Peter 5:7. We are thankful that God has cared for Eric Indermuhle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen) as he has recovered from his surgery. We also pray and believe God will care for Laura Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) as she is presently in the hospital recovering from surgery.

Steady progress is being made on our new church building. All of the dry-wall is hung.

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

There is joy in the presence of the angels and also in our hearts that Dave Zollinger (Sis. Mary Ann) has heeded God's call and has turned to Him in repentance. May God bless and direct him as he begins his journey on this narrow pathway of life.

We have many loved ones who have been blessed with bundles from heaven. Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer Bauman's little baby girl, Shannon Rose, came early and has been spending time in the hospital. Our prayers have been with them and we hope that Shannon will continue to improve and soon be able to come home. Grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Bernice Bauman and Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler.

Mark and Debbie Steiner have another baby girl, Kaitlin Ann. Tara, Nicholas and Andrea are all happy for a sister. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger.

Devon Michelle is the new little daughter of Doug and Nancy Jordan. Sis. Carolyn Gasser is happy for another grandchild.

Craig and Colleen Decker welcome a new little son, John David. May God give grace and wisdom to all these dear parents as they raise these precious souls entrusted to their care.

Hospitalized again this month was our dear Bro. Ben Hartzler. We are thankful that he is able to be home again and we look forward to the time when he can again assemble with us.

On January 4 we had our annual election of officers. Those elected were church trustee, Bro. Ken Zollinger; usher, Bro. Brad Oliver; nursing home director, Bro. Elmer Blough; nursing home auxiliary, Sis. Gloria Hartzler; and kitchen help, Sis. Lou Riggensch.

OHIO, TOLEDO**Josephine Rehklau****Frances Laidig**

When entering the new year, it is a natural inclination to wonder what the year ahead has in store for us. The longer we travel through the pathway of life, the more we realize it will not be all joy nor will it be all sorrow. The most important thing is that we stay close to God so that we will receive the love, courage and strength to face our trials and remember to be thankful for our blessings.

Our congregation was blessed with a weekend of fellowship by the young

group from Rittman, OH, and others from our different churches. It was especially heartwarming to us to have these visitors among us as our congregation is small.

Their singing at the nursing home where Sis. Lydia Meister resides was enjoyed and appreciated. We thank them for coming to Toledo.

We rejoice that Kent Rager (Bro. Walter and Sis. Sharon) has, through repentance, found peace with God and man and is looking forward to baptism in the near future.

A new little girl, Linda Gail, has arrived at the home of Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna Harmon. She joins her brother, Benjamin, and we wish them many blessings in raising these precious children.

Bro. Matthew Fetter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betty) graduated from the University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in education. We wish him God's blessings in his chosen profession.

OREGON, SILVERTON**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

The latter part of November was a busy and spiritually uplifting time for our congregation. The Sunday school saw the results of their summer project planning come to reality and the Oregon Young Member Group also saw their planning for Thanksgiving Week come to pass.

The Sunday school planning brought Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL) to spend a four-day weekend with us. And, a very full four days it was, including an overnight stay at Restless Surf on the coast (which means time for singing, fellowship, food, sightseeing and some rest); a lasagna supper and special talk with the Sunday school upper classes and young adults Saturday night; Sunday services; potluck supper served by the students followed by singing; and a quick Monday morning tour of Bonneville Dam and Multnomah Falls before lunch. Precious memories and bonds of friendship were made that neither many miles nor many days can erase.

Thanksgiving week brought over fifty visiting brothers and sisters to our area where we and they had opportunity for Christian fellowship and encouragement on our "pilgrim" way. Most of our families were able to keep some of these dear young people in our homes. Some of the activities, in addition

to church services both on Thanksgiving Day and Sunday, were sightseeing in the mountains and at the coast; Thanksgiving dinner, singing at nursing homes, and a pancake and sausage feed and singing for the visitors and the Silverton and Portland congregations. We surely enjoyed our visitors and hope they will come and visit Oregon again.

The Sunday school Christmas program was especially meaningful as the wonderful story of our Lord and Saviour's birth was told through the songs and recited words of the children. This year forty-two children and young people took part.

He wasn't the celebrated "New Year's Baby" in the papers, but little Justin Jeffrey Richard Kuenzi, born January 4, has certainly found a warm welcome in the hearts of his parents, Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet. First-time grandparents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi think he is pretty special, too!

With the new year comes the time of finished duties for some brethren and new duties for others. The term of service in the Sunday school in Silverton has been changed from two years to four years. The following brethren were elected by the church for service: Sunday school superintendent, two-year term, Bro. Rich Kuenzi; Sunday school teacher, four-year term, Bro. Nick Kuenzi; Sunday school teacher in the youngest class, four-year term, Sis. Kris Kuenzi; Sunday school teacher's assistant in the youngest class, four-year term, Sis. Lisa Metz; secretary-treasurer, five-year term, Bro. Ben Bolliger; trustee, three-year term, Bro. Gus Dietrich; senior usher, one-year term, Bro. Bob Kuenzi; and usher, two-year term, Bro. Jim Dietrich. Sincere thanks are extended to those who are retiring from office for their many hours of service. May God be their rich rewarder. Our prayer is that God will grant much grace to the newly elected brethren to carry out their duties with love and unity and that we may all support them by our prayers and our actions.

A warm welcome to our church and our community is extended to Bro. Richard Kraft (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine, Gridley, KS). Bro. Richard and his brother, Dale, who has been here in the Silverton area since last fall, have recently finished moving into an apartment together in Salem.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Ed Aeschleman

We said our sad farewells to Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy Williamson December 20. Having been a very active part of our congregation for more than a year, they moved to Indiana to accept a job offer there. We miss them very much but we are thankful to God that we could enjoy their love and support for at least a season. We trust that they will continue to know God's rich blessings in their new home and church.

God, however, did not forget us. With the loss of one family He provided another for our small congregation. Shortly after Christmas, Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz and their two children, Tyler and Travis, moved into our area from Rockville, CT. Bro. John has established a printing business here and we welcome them into our fellowship with great joy.

Because some of our children were ill and others were absent during the Christmas season, we postponed our Christmas program until January 11 so all could participate. Through verse, scripture and song, our children reminded us of the prophecies of our Lord's coming, of the miracle of His birth and how He began at a very young age to go about the work of His father in heaven. How thankful we are to know this compassionate and loving Saviour who was willing to die for our salvation.

We all enjoyed a wonderful day January 18 when Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler came to visit us with his wife, Sis. Virginia, and some of his family. "Our Life in the Son" was the subject of the brotherhood conference paper that Bro. Corbin read and expounded upon. We were told of God's early promise of a Saviour, of God's plan of salvation and of God's promised reward for the overcomer. May it be that through faith and obedience to His Word we will all achieve that highest of all goals.

TEXAS, DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Sandy Schmidt

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your hearts, all ye that hope in the Lord."

Psalms 31:24

We have had an abundance of visitors which has kept our little church active. We thank all those that have

gone out of their way to join us in worship.

We bid our young couple, Bro. Randy and Sis. Heather Knapp, farewell last December. They have moved to Evanston, IL, due to Randy's job.

Our visiting ministers include: Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Bro. Eugene Marti (LaMar, MO), Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury, IL), Bro. William Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield, IL/Zapata, TX) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX).

I encourage all that travel through our community to come join us. My Irving phone number is 214-594-1344.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

Most of our winter residents have now returned and it's nice to see our pews filled. We are glad to have retired ministering Bro. Eugene Berschi (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Elmer Schrenk (Alto, MI) here for the winter season.

Our hospital patients have been retired Elder Bro. Paul Fehr, surgery, and retired Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin, tests.

Trustee election was held in mid-January with Bro. Cornelius Messerli (Winthrop, MN) elected to a three-year term.

Anyone coming to South Texas is most welcome to assemble with us.

WEST VIRGINIA, NEW MARTINSVILLE

Minnie Weltz

William E. Riggenbach, 100, of Walnut Creek, OH, and formerly of Paden City, died January 10 in the Walnut Hill Nursing Home where he had been a resident for some time. He was born July 27, 1886, in Wetzel County, a son of the late Sebastian and Elizabeth Widmer Riggenbach. He was preceded in death by his wife, five children, five brothers and five sisters. He was a retired farmer and was co-owner of Riggenbach - Berger grocery store some years ago. Surviving are four sons, three daughters, 23 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the Iams Funeral Home here with interment in Northview Cemetery,

Raymond Neason Riggenbach, 59, of Limestone Ridge, New Martinsville,

died January 3, in Ohio Valley Hospital in Wheeling. He was a supervisor at Ormet Corporation, Hannibal, OH. Surviving are his wife, Ruth, four sons, nine grandchildren and his mother, who resides in a care center. His father, George Riggenbach, preceded him in death a short time ago. Services were held January 6 with interment in Northview Cemetery.

Margaret Witschey has been under a doctor's care both in the hospital and at home and is doing nicely at this time.

Frank Barth remains about the same at the Health Care Center here, carefully watched by the members of his family.

Our winter weather has been very good: one small snow storm and quite cold at times but very desirable.

SILVER THREADS

BECAUSE OF NO TIME

No father, no mother, a ward of the state,
So full of anger, mistrust and hate.
A beautiful child with a sad face,
No family, no home, just filling space.
Her heart once soft, her mind once pure,
Others corrupted her life, causing heartache and fear.
Sometimes she may smile, but her eyes never shine;
They're empty and lonely, for no one ever has time.
"No time" to visit a child who's alone,
"No time" to give a taste of the comforts of home.
"No time" to reach out and embrace this sad child,
"No time" to share laughter or bring shine to her smile.
"No time" to give to one who aches for love,
While having time to claim to serve God up above.
There's time to tell others Jesus is Lord,
And time set aside to spend in God's Word.
But when they read to help those who're unwanted,
Do they seek for the chance or do they sit undaunted? . . .
And say "Others have the time to spend
With an unloved child and to be their friend.
I'll let others take time to hug and care,

They can give of their time for I have
no extra to spare.
I need to work to provide for my life,
I've no time to bear another's burden
or strife.
And so she lives on, unloved and alone,
Never learning of heaven never having
a home.
A beautiful child, with a soul, heart and
mind;
Left to suffer through life because one
didn't take time.

S. S.

WINTER

A touch of winter is in the air
Leaves are falling everywhere
The birds don't sing like they once did
Not even the sound of a katy-did
With bees all snug within their hive
The clock strikes four instead of five
Hummingbirds with their gorgeous
plume
Will not be back 'til late next June.
At dusk the moon is shining bright
By dawn the fields are clothed in white
The sun comes up, the wind does blow
And very soon there is no snow.
Mockingbirds with their songs unfurled
Are hailed in awe throughout the world
When winter comes they fly away
Just to return another day
Walnuts high upon the tree
Wait there in silence for you and me
Winter comes and down they fall
How good they are as we recall.
Butterflies no more in sight
The glowworm does not glow at night
Frost is deep upon the vine
But deeper still upon the pine.
The lakes all frozen in their cast
The bears all hope it will not last
Beavers in their icy home
Sleep comfy in a frozen dome.
The farmers' fields bereft of grain
Await with patience the summer's rain
The flowers all have gone to rest
'Tis hard to tell which was best.
But this we know, so mark it well
In verse, others too, will try to tell
The mysteries of this earthly sphere
If such words be they are not here.
Winter, Ah, Winter.

By W. L. Cordill,
Lamar, MO

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

can have that communication with
Him, there is no confusion or conflict
with God. Then we can have open

When Love Isn't Love

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

I believe that the root of the problem
today is the failure to acknowledge or
accept love's silent partner . . . commit-
ment. I truly feel that understanding
their relationship is the key to unlock-
ing the secret of love. There is no true
love without commitment to the object
of that love. There is no love without
the cost of commitment. For God so
love the world, that He gave His only
begotten Son . . . John 3:16. As we see
God's supreme examples, let us under-
stand that speaking of love, thinking of
love and trying to love is useless without
being committed to the object of our



sharing and the healing process can
begin.

Paul stood before these Israelite
people and delivered the message of
Jesus Christ and salvation from sin.
When we get to verses thirty-eight,
thirty-nine and forty, he talks about
how this salvation is attained and how
forgiveness is possible.

We know that of our own works we
cannot be saved. Of our own good
morals or moral life, no matter how
good a person we are, we can never be
saved.

The law was the schoolmaster. The



love. Too often today we aren't inter-
ested in a committed love. We want a
quick love, one that can be stated by
words and affirmed by our thoughts.

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

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

Reprinted from February 1986
Silver Lining

law was not a salvation instrument.
The law brought the people of Israel to
the knowledge of Jesus Christ, but the
law could not save them. That's what
Paul told the Israelite people. Our
good works cannot save us.

You can look at my life and go over it
with a fine-tooth comb and say, "I'm
just as good as he is; or, I'm better than
he is. He fails here and he fails there."
You're probably right. You can do that
with any Christian. You can say, "He is
weak in this area, or this area. I can lead
as good a life as him."

But that is not what salvation is all

about. Good works just don't cut it. We can read that in Romans, in Titus, and in Ephesians that we are not saved by works. We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. It is His shed blood that provides the remission of sins and the forgiveness.

That is what we read in these verses: "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins." Acts 13:38. That is a new concept because in the old law, the sins could be covered up. The sins could be atoned for, but not forgiven. Now we have this concept of forgiveness of sins.

"And by him all that believe are justified from all things..." Acts 13:39. There is none who can work out his own righteousness. But then on the other hand, there is none that God cannot work out the righteousness for, no matter how deep the sin. No matter how deep the sin, we can be freely justified from all by Jesus Christ.

How do we do that? How do we get that justification? How do we get that freedom? If we are in sin, no matter how little the sin, we are a slave to that sin. It is our master. But we can have liberty and freedom from that through Jesus Christ. How do we do that? We need to confess those sins. We read in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." That is for all of us... that's all unrighteousness. That doesn't mean that you have to be an unconverted person to confess your sins. If you are a brother or sister-in-Christ, do you miss the mark? Do you make mistakes? Satan wants you to keep those hidden just like you did when you were unconverted. We need to bring those out. We need to talk about them. We need to expose Satan for what he is.

I just talked recently with a brother who, like me, was just called into the ministry. He was talking about some of the difficulties and trials he was having with Satan. He said that it taught him one thing, that Satan is ruthless. Go talk to some of the older brothers and sisters in the nursing homes, in the hospital or wherever. God is still there, but so is Satan. He is ruthless and he doesn't care who you are or where you are coming from. Satan is out to kill and to destroy (see John 10:10), but God is there to provide redemption and deliverance from all unrighteousness. We need to confess those sins and bring them out into the open so Satan can be

exposed. Then God can have a pure and clean heart to dwell and work in.

After Paul's sermon of repentance, of forgiveness and of justification (some of the basic tenants of all faith), what were the responses? It is interesting to read about the responses. We will face this response in our lives, too, as we share the gospel. Two things happened.

One group of people invited him back and said, "Tell us more." We can read verses forty-two, forty-three and forty-four, "And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." Acts 13:44. Ah, that is the results we look for! A willingness to hear more.

But then we realize there will be the other response and that was from the Jewish sect. "But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming." Acts 13:45. As we walk daily with Christ, and He presents opportunities to share the gospel, the Word, and the knowledge of Jesus Christ with others, expect two results. Expect times when there is a receptivity of the message, a willingness to hear and a desire to hear more. Then expect the other consequence that some will reject and say contradicting and blasphemous things against the gospel of Christ.

But was Paul discouraged? He was put in prison, beaten and stoned and what did he do? He got up again. He sang hymns in the prisons. He got up after the stoning when they thought he was dead, and walked to another city. What did he do in the other city? Preached the gospel. The important thing in Paul's life as an example to us, is that he went where the Spirit led him. He did not run ahead of the Spirit, or trail behind the Spirit. There were times in his life when he said, "I want to go to Asia. I want to go to Bithynia." But the Spirit said, "Go to Macedonia." So he went.

There will be times in our lives when we will look at an opportunity and say, "Here is an opportunity to witness for Christ, but the Spirit is not there." Then there will be other times when we won't be expecting it and will say, "Surely this can't be God's timing. Surely He wouldn't work in this way." God's timing is not our timing. God's ways are not our ways. God's knowledge is far above our knowledge. (See Isaiah 55:8 and 9).

How about us? Paul's message was to the Israelite people and he fed them the milk of the gospel... the introduction to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. That message goes out to us today also. How receptive are we to it? Are we desirous? Are we hungry? Are we thirsty? Do we want to know more about Jesus Christ? Do we want to have a deeper love, a deeper understanding, and a deeper holiness? Or are we like the Jewish people who said in effect, "Wait a minute. This infringes on our nice comfortable life. This threatens my security. Things are going well with me. I was a Pharisee and everyone looked up to me. I was doing things that were right and leading a good life. I had things the way I wanted them to be."

When God speaks to us, it places conviction on our heart. How do we respond to it? Do we say, "Yes, Lord," then drink it in and say, "I want more?" Or, because it threatens our security, threatens our contentment with our material lot in life, do we say, "I don't want to go along with what God is telling me to do?" What about that? How is our own life? Are we receptive to the message of God?

If you are an unconverted person (I don't know at all, but you know in your heart), and the Spirit speaks to you, what is your receptivity? Are you open to that voice? Many of you may be sitting out there now with closed ears saying, "I don't want to hear this." When a conviction is laid on your heart, how will you respond to it?

Brothers and sisters, when we are asked to share of our material things, of our time, of our talents, of our love, of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and it threatens our security, are we willing to say, "Yes, Lord, I will hear more of You. I will do more. I will do whatever You want me to do."

There is an old saying that says, "A ship in a harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." Brothers and sisters, we are God's vessels and we can tuck that talent away in a napkin, bury it and hide in the harbor, but that is not what He has built us for. He has built us to be His instruments, and His servants. How He wants to use you, I don't know. How He wants to use me, I don't know. But the important thing is that we trust God to use us however He sees fit. Sometimes there is a risk involved. But without risk, there is no reward.

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
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SERMON BY BRO. JOHN REINHARD OF BLUFFTON, IN

Text: Acts 13:14-45

Here is an opportunity for Paul. An invitation has been extended to him. We meet those everyday if we are open and receptive to them. It may not be that some will say to us, "Will you please tell me about your faith?" We may not hear those words directly, but as we deal with people in our everyday walk of life, many times that invitation is extended to us. It may not come with the words, "Help! I need help," but the messages and the hints are more subtle.

It happens to me as I teach at school. If a student needs help, let's say in an emotional or in a spiritual sense, it is rare that that student will come to me and say, "Mr. Reinhard, I need help in this matter." But they send little signals.

Sometimes you need to build relationships first in order to sense those signals. Then when that opportunity comes, if we have our minds, hearts and spirits prepared, and are communicating with God, the words come too. Paul's mind and heart were right and the opportunity came when they said, "Tell us the message, say on."

Remember who he was talking with. He said, "Men of Israel." He is talking to the Israelite people. So what did he do? He brought in their history of how they had been delivered from Egypt and had been given Canaan land. They wanted a king, so Saul was given, followed by David. Then, following that same track, he said, "Of this man's seed (David's seed) hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus" Acts 13:23.

As Paul witnessed and spoke to these individuals, he spoke from their position and brought them to the knowledge of Christ.

We in the same sense, must first of all, build those relationships. Establish where they are coming from and then lead them from that position to the knowledge of Christ.

Early in the fall an individual at school came up to me. We were talking

about the summer, and I asked, "How did the summer go?" He said, "Not very good, really." As we talked, he shared with me some of his concerns and struggles in life, of his despair and his depression.

You take those positions where they are at, and build from there into a knowledge of Jesus Christ. Paul did this with the Israelite people, when he talked about David becoming king over the children of Israel.

There is a message here for us. It's a message on spreading the gospel of Christ. There was an opportunity for Paul to share the gospel and rather than turn away from it, he stood up and spoke to them. He related to them where they were. He brought them through their past history to the point and time where he said, "Now! Now Christ died for you also . . . to you is the word of this salvation sent." Acts 13:26. There is a message there on how believers are to relate to unbelievers, as well as how individuals are to relate to any other individuals.

First of all, when sharing the gospel with an unbeliever (we just went through it) we need to start from the position where they are at, where their head is and where their heart is. Then we can bring them and nurture them along to the point of, "This is where you stand in relationship to Jesus Christ. This is where you are. This is what needs to be done."

In so doing, Paul shared scriptures with them, didn't he? He quoted Psalms that they were familiar with. Brothers and sisters-in-Christ, if someone were to ask us of the salvation plan, what scriptures would we quote? What message would we give them?

Do you know the scriptures? There are verses in Romans that say, "There is none righteous, no, not one?" Romans 3:10. All are sinners. That is where the unbelievers, the unconverted, the unregenerate man and the man who does not have Christ in his life find

themselves. Then we read that ". . . the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. Here is another scripture that we can count on and share. If you are an unbeliever, you are in this position and here is where you stand. You are unrighteous and a sinner; and the wages of sin is death. But, through Jesus Christ the gift is eternal life! You can attain that gift if you are justified through faith. Look at your faith! How is your faith? We should have these scriptures tucked away in our hearts so we can share with others when the opportunity comes, just like it did for Paul. Build that relationship with the individuals, and then share the scriptures with them.

Now, let's deal with the concept of interpersonal relationships with each other. Maybe it concerns a family member or someone you work with. Maybe we are both converted people. Still, we are all different, aren't we? By virtue of the fact that we are all different, there will be differences of opinion. There will be times when we will have a conflict in our relationship.

Here again we have a good pattern to follow. Look back at the past history and many times, the conflict that seems so big, when we "boil it all down", started over something little and foolish. We need to go back in history, as Paul did with the children of Israel, and then develop the relationship from there. We need to get to the core, the center of it. Then, many times it seems so trivial. Then we build up to the point where we read, ". . . to you is the word of this salvation sent." Acts 13:26.

There is the solution! The solution is God! God will help us. God will deliver us. Remember, Jesus lives. He is our Deliverer. He is our Help.

If we are in total communication with the Holy Spirit of God, He is not far from us as He is within our hearts. If we

(Continued on Page 30)