

The Silver Lining

"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" James 2:15, 16

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58

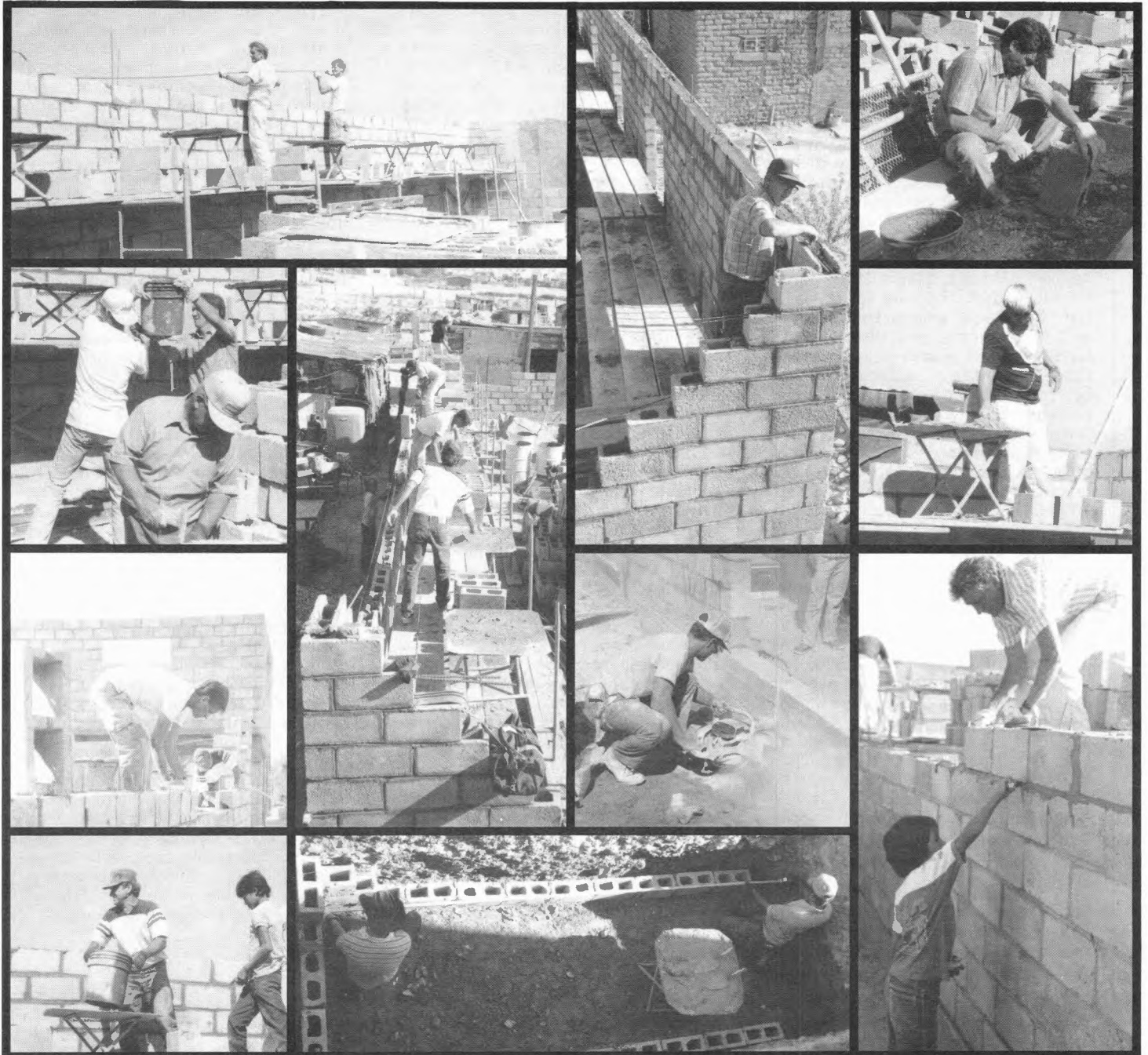
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"... whoso... seeth his brother have need..."

I John 3:17, 18



**WORK PROJECT: AMMAR
JUAREZ, MEXICO**
(See Page 3)

"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they who know thy name will put their trust in thee; for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken those who seek thee." Psalms 9:9-10



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps. 119:130).

TRUE BROTHERHOOD

True brotherhood implies a closeness, warmth, and unity that go far beyond what the flesh is capable of achieving. Doctrinal unity within a body of believers is a special favor from God, and can only be fulfilled among those who have been "crucified with Christ" (Gal. 2:20) and who subsequently walk as "new creatures" in Him (2 Cor. 5:17).

Christian brotherhood, which finds root in Scriptures, consists of a special and divine bond between brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. To bind is to arrange in a pattern that gives strength; to connect, hold together, or solidify. This powerful bond exists between those whose affection is in heaven, (Col. 3:1-2), whose lives are hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3), and who are committed, by God's grace, to a life of selfless devotion and obedience to God's word. A common goal among those voluntarily uniting in true brotherhood is to pursue a lifelong, patient struggle to serve the Lord faithfully and overcome sin and evil. "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Heb. 10:36). The fulfillment of that promise is eternal life with Christ along with all who "love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:8).

The structure of the household of faith is likened to a physical body. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?" (1 Cor. 6:15). Also, "So we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" (Rom. 12:5). It is clear that individual believers should not live their lives unto themselves, but they are to be part of a larger entity, Christ's body. Thus, their lives must coordinate with other members of this holy body, which makes up the visible church.

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches" (John 15:5). "As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me" (John 15:4). This is a vivid example of spiritual unity. As members of Christ's body, believers are also "members one of another" (Rom. 12:5). Christ and the church

are inseparable. The church is the "pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15).

Brotherhood implies a family relationship. God is the Father, Christ is the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4) and God's children are brothers and sisters in faith and "joint heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:17). Earthly shepherds (elders) are given responsibility by the Holy Spirit to oversee and feed the flock of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2). Scriptural authority is given to take souls into the church, and when necessary to apply loving discipline to those who fall into sin. Christ instructed the disciples, "whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matt. 18:18). Likewise, in Hebrews 13:7 and 17, obedience to church authority is established as a responsibility of all believers. Spiritual guidance is welcomed by those with a Christ-like submissive attitude.

The brotherhood of Christ is described as "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people" (1 Pet. 2:9). It is a privilege, as a believer in Christ, to be part of this high calling. Those who engage in the pursuit of heaven surely do so with the expectation that they will encounter struggle and suffering along the narrow way. Satan is trying desperately to divert the believer toward destruction. Consequently, the brotherhood must also be united in purpose (like-minded) and remain "perfectly joined together" (1 Cor. 1:10) in order to maintain an effective defense against the enemy. The "shield of faith" (Eph. 6:16) portrays a striking example of an impenetrable line of defense. The Roman soldiers would advance in a straight line, each with his shield held up before him and in close contact with the shields of his counterparts on either side. If one soldier lowered his shield, he not only exposed himself, but he broke the line of defense and endangered others. The same principle applies to the spiritual defense of the brotherhood.

The perpetuation of true Christian brotherhood requires humility, submission, obedience, and a loving

concern on the part of each believer for the welfare of others (1 Cor. 8:13). God's grace is promised to the humble (James 4:6). The resultant peace and love draw the flock closer together and bring glory to God. When a flock of sheep are being stalked by wolves or other predators, those which are aware of the danger press close to others and seek the security of the center of the flock. The careless and immature animals drift away from the safety of the group and become easy prey to the enemy.

To live victoriously, God's people must be faithful in doctrine and circumspect (careful) in lifestyle. Spiritual dangers abound on every side. In this intense battle against unrighteousness, the love of the brethren must be so pure, and esteem for each other so fervent, that effective, mutual exhortation will be practiced diligently as intended by God (Heb. 3:13). Brethren will be "able also to admonish one another" (Rom. 15:14), which means they love each other so much they will meet this scriptural responsibility of gently correcting each other. Brethren who have the "same care one for another" (1 Cor. 12:25), will give and receive encouragement and warning as motivated by the Holy Spirit. They will also avoid putting a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in their brother's way (Rom. 14:13), realizing that if they wound their weaker brother's conscience, they sin against Christ (1 Cor. 8:12).

Finally, true brotherhood cannot dismiss the necessity of applying a kind and loving discipline when brethren stray or fall into grievous sin (1 Cor. 5). This noble form of love is carried out in the name of Christ, in accord with God's word. The goals are the cleansing of the soul who has fallen and the preservation of a "glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but . . . holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:27).

This is the wish from all my heart
For you my loving comrades;
In our alliance may the Lord
Be felt in blessed nearness.

The power of His cross and blood
Unites us in true brotherhood.

Zion's Harp #173, "Heart's Wish"

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORK PROJECT

Ammar, A.C. — Ciudad Juarez, Mexico
Bro. Kurt Bahler

PROJECT: Community Center for Alcanzando Al Mexicano Marginado A.C. (AMMAR).

LOCATION: Colonia Granjas de Chapultepec #3, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

PROJECT DATE: September 10 - 13, 1987.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS: 22.

PURPOSE OF PROJECT: To lay block walls for two buildings. Building #1 was a 35' x 66' single story building and building #2 was a 17' x 40' double story. The purpose of the buildings is for shelter from the weather, to have a place to feed children, hold Bible studies, a medical clinic and storage. They will also be used as a center to help create jobs for the unprotected group of people coming from the interior of Mexico and settling in Juarez, hoping to obtain a better way of life. Because of the precarious situation they live in, they are unable to study, and as a result of this the average salary for women working selling gum or flowers, working as maids and working in factories averages between \$10.00 and \$18.00 per week. Men find it difficult to cope with the situation since it is harder for them to get a job in the factories. So they work part-time jobs in construction or mechanics, averaging a weekly salary of \$16.00 to \$25.00.

AUTHORIZATION: Funds for construction materials and medicine, food, clothes and blankets have been authorized by the World Relief Committee. Apostolic Christian Work Projects has approved the project and is encouraging participation for work teams.

IMPLEMENTATION: Building materials were purchased in Juarez and delivered to the building site during the week of September 7 in preparation for the work teams which arrived on Wednesday night and Thursday. Bro. Richard Beery (Phoenix, AZ) organized a large group of block layers and laborers from Phoenix and Tucson. They brought with them a truck with a mortar mixer and many necessary tools. The total group working on the project was comprised of 22 volunteers from Arizona, Illinois and Indiana.

Thursday afternoon a small group went out to the site to get everything ready. The mortar mixer was started

about 6:30 Friday morning and the action started. Everyone seemed to know their job and were willing to do whatever needed to be done. The sisters brought lunch out to the job and by 5:00 everyone was tired enough to quit for the day and go back to the motel for the night. Saturday morning the bus picked us up at 5:30 a.m. and we headed for the work site. Again we had a very productive and blessed day. We finished all the walls around 5:30 p.m. (approximately 3000 block) and even had enough help that we were able to lay the block for the septic tank. We were privileged to have some good help from a number of Mexican men and boys living in the area.

SUMMARY: We were very thankful to have 2 ministering brothers with us (Bro. Jon Kokanovich, Phoenix, AZ, and Bro. Jim Funk, Tucson, AZ) and decided to have our services on Sunday morning in one of the buildings at the work site. After our services, several of them stood up and expressed their feelings. One of the men read from Psalms 9:9-10 and then expressed his thanks to the Lord for his salvation and for how the Lord was providing the buildings and for each one that came down to help. This man was the father of seven children. Before his conversion, he and some of his children were addicted to drugs. His humble, thankful spirit was a real testimony to us. He is a welder and is making all the windows and doors for the new buildings.

By 3:30 p.m. Sunday we had all left Ciudad Juarez and were on our way home. Having felt the Lord's presence and provision during this entire project, we each took with us a very special blessing. The children won many hearts and several on the work project have expressed interest in returning to help finish the buildings.

FUTURE PROJECTS: October 14 - 18, 1987 — Pour concrete floors in two buildings and pour foundations for the wall around the property. October 19 - 26, 1987 — The trusses and roofing materials are being transported from Bluffton with clothing and food. A work team from the Bluffton area will be coordinating the construction.

COORDINATION: Bro. Gerald Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Kurt Bahler

(Remington, IN). If you have any interest in working with future projects in Ciudad Juarez, please contact your local World Relief representative or one of the brothers listed above.

ELGIN COOKBOOK "FAVORITE FIXINS"

Once again, the Elgin congregation has republished our cookbook, "Favorite Fixins". The proceeds from the sale of these cookbooks are benefitting our Apostolic Christian Resthaven nursing home in Elgin. If you would like to purchase one of these cookbooks, please contact Apostolic Christian Resthaven at 2750 W. Highland Avenue, Elgin, IL 60123 or you may call 312-741-4543. The price of our cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. If you have a multiple order, please contact Resthaven prior to ordering.

THE SILVER LINING

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USPS 496780

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

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

A REPORT FROM EAST GERMANY

Bro. Philip Webber

For several years, it has been my privilege to lend a hand with some of the German correspondence received by our World Relief Committee. One of the brothers who regularly wrote to the committee was Elder Bro. Arno Markert from East Germany. It was impossible to ignore the pathetic, depressed tone of Bro. Markert's letters, and so in the hope of bringing a bit of cheer to a dear and aged member of the faith, I began a round of correspondence which continues to the present day. Initially I had no expectation of meeting Bro. Markert in this life, but in time began to sense a recurrent desire to visit him and perhaps some of the rest of the East German brethren, if the Lord were to open the way.

The opportunity came with a working trip to Europe which encompassed most of the month of July, 1987, and included a stop in Leipzig, East Germany. Prayerful consultation with faithful brethren on the World Relief Committee and in the church leadership brought encouragement to make personal contact with Bro. Markert and his little flock.

I had been in East Germany on several short trips in 1979, and harbored rather bleak memories of intimidating searches of my person and possessions. Such recollections were re-awakened as I tried to make my way through the web of complexities confronting the individual wishing to enter the country for personal reasons, rather

than as a member of a tour group, or as a tourist following a prescribed itinerary. More than once we were discouraged, and more than once put back on track by the loving words of a concerned brother or sister, for which we are humbly grateful.

Virtually everyone who reads this is somewhat familiar with the Berlin Wall. No less frightening in my own mind is the border around the entire state of East Germany. The unbroken perimeter is surrounded by several levels of electrified barbed wire. For several hundred yards inside the border, all large vegetation has been removed to form an open space patrolled by (very visible) armed guards and monitored from frequent watchtowers. Some areas also include land mines, watchdogs and various detection devices. For all this, one is required to exchange western currency for low-value East German marks, book a fairly expensive hotel room (even if one plans to stay with friends) and pay a number of miscellaneous fees before entering the country. Crossing the border cost us the entire morning and gave all three of us (my wife, my daughter and myself) ample opportunity to observe the not-so-cheery workings of a repressive and totalitarian state.

But enter the country we did. What immediately struck us was not the poverty or hardship of an underdeveloped country, but rather the tragedy of a country which had obviously once

enjoyed quite a high level of refinement but had been allowed to go through about two generations of stagnation, decay and degeneration. The first major city we visited was Zwickau, where facades crumbled from once magnificent buildings, structures cried for maintenance, small freight was frequently transported in pushcarts by weary and resigned-looking residents, windowsills lacked the typically German flowerbox, store windows displayed few and outdated goods and the hotel for foreign guests stood out as one of the few cheerful-looking spots in town.

Our destination was not Zwickau, however, but the nearby village of Lichtenstein (not to be confused with the nation of the same name). In 1987, Berlin is celebrating 750 years of recorded history. At the same time, with far less ceremony, Lichtenstein is celebrating its 775th anniversary. The town lies in an area of gentle hills and valleys and boasts several buildings which provide a visible link with an impressive and proud heritage. Unfortunately, Lichtenstein today is crying for street repairs, refurbishing of buildings and upgrading of utilities. It was here that we first saw the all-too-familiar sight of a quarter mile long string of cars parked two abreast waiting for gasoline (though foreigners may and must purchase at the faster paced Intertanks). On a hillside near the center of town is the home of Arno Markert.

We arrived several hours later than expected, and found the Markert home charged with emotion. On the basis of having communicated the hope that we would arrive on this particular day (a Sunday), all but two of East Germany's most aged members had come to Lichtenstein to fellowship with us. Convinced that we had not been able to cross the border, the little flock had fallen into deep sadness. The joy at the arrival of visitors was now one which reached a level seldom experienced in our land of free and easy travel and we felt very humbled indeed that we could be instrumental in bringing encouragement to these dear and precious souls.

At the table we became acquainted with the little assembly. Arno Markert will be 90 in January, 1988, if the Lord so wills. Earlier this year he lost his wife of more than 65 years, and is cared for by his daughter, Traudel, who is in her early 60's. Bro. Markert has spent

(Continued on Page 26)

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
Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 —	23,048

Bibles Distributed — Fifth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1987 —	2358	2358
September 1987 —	1023	3561
October 1987 —	1605	5166

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.

REPORT ON EASTERN EUROPE Andy Hunyady

Greetings beloved brethren
and friends:

Letters and notes keep coming from loved ones in Romania to express their thanks and gratitude to God, and to you, beloved, who during the past several years have given your loyal support to provide the food shipments.

“... now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart.”

I Corinthians 1:5

Your charitable works of faith are greatly appreciated; and the proof of your love also serves as an evidence and a testimony of faith to those who know not what true Christianity stands for in this atheist dominated country.

The extremely hot and dry weather this past summer caused the vegetable gardens, pastures and fields to dry up in the early part of the season in many parts of the country. Fresh vegetables, milk, meat, eggs and other essentials are more and more difficult to obtain. Long lines in front of food shops have become a way of life. Black market prices are far too high for the average citizen to afford. We receive many requests for aspirin, various medications and vitamins, items that locally are not available. There is a great insecurity among the people, because they don't know from day to day if they will have a job or if there will be something to eat.

Conditions in the U.S.S.R. are somewhat better, but outside help is still needed. Travel between other communist countries has steadily improved. Brethren from Hungary are traveling more frequently and in greater number, and are able to take with them generous amounts of food, medications, clothing and financial assistance. During our stay in Budapest last June, we were privileged to meet visiting brethren from the Ukraine. With the help of local brothers as interpreters, we all had a blessed and memorable day of fellowship.

I am happy to report that in the early part of September, I received a package from Sis. Debra Blunier (Bloomington, IL). It was sent from Budapest and it contained the entire text of the Zion's Harp hymnal translated into the Ukrainian language. It contains the entire hymnal including the heft, and is

entirely handwritten in the Cyrillic. This monumental work of translation was the work of an older sister who, shortly after completing the work, was called home to receive her eternal reward. A brother in Windsor is working with a computer to set this text to notes, preparing it for printing; another great accomplishment, a work of faith and dedication to further the kingdom of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Russian hymnals have been in use for several years, but greatly differ from the Ukrainian language.

We were saddened to learn that Elder Bro. Jan Belohlavek in Czechoslovakia had passed away last June. He was 92 years old. We corresponded with him for many years. A man of great wisdom and compassion, he worked closely with elders in the neighboring communist countries. During our visit in his home in 1985, he was very happy to meet us and though his mind was very alert, his physical health was declining. Bro. Jan Zibritovsky is carrying on as elder. We were happy to meet him and get better acquainted in Budapest last May. The church in Czechoslovakia is enjoying a more relaxed atmosphere. Services are held in homes. The ministers are now permitted to hold funeral services, which in the past was not possible.

The Yugoslav government continues to hold firm to their old policy to imprison the young men who, as testimony of their faith, refuse to train with arms. Talks by the elder brothers and government officials to solve this problem show very little progress. Inflation is almost out of control, and creates a heavy burden upon the elderly retirees who live on fixed pension. During, and the years following, World War II, great numbers of believers emigrated to the west, causing a major decline in the local membership. As a result, there are about 14 - 15 vacant or abandoned church buildings in various parts of the country. The older brethren still cling to the hope that some day the Lord will awaken souls and a revival will take place and will make the old buildings useful again.

It is evident that a large segment of the population of these countries has roots of Christian heritage imbedded in their hearts and are searching for spiritual values.

Let us therefore dearly beloved, pray to God, that He may call many souls to seek after the way that would

lead them to Christ, the only comfort and hope in this sinsick world!

----- APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Tim Sauder

One of the most significant impacts that the years of work in children's homes has made on my life is an increased appreciation and thankfulness for having grown up as part of a loving Christian family. How easily we take for granted parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters who love us unconditionally. How easy it is to assume that we deserve the consistency and acceptance that families provide. Sometimes it takes stepping away, being separated or observing the lives of the deprived to fully appreciate that these blessings don't come easily but are wrought with love, sacrifice and commitment to marriage, children and a Godly lifestyle.

On a recent visit to my home town, an overwhelming sense of security flooded my mind and soul as we drove along the country roads and village streets toward my parents' home. To know who lived at most of the farms and houses, to know their grandparents, parents, children or grandchildren and to have memories and friendships from over the years was thrilling as we drew closer to home, where the welcome mat is always out and the open armed occupants are the dearest people on earth to me. One writer claims that almost all of our behaviors are efforts to meet two basic needs — security and significance. Isn't that what our families should and do provide? They provide security which comes from being loved and accepted unconditionally and from knowing that certain things remain constant. They provide significance which comes from knowing who we are and being affirmed in that standing by those who matter and care the most.

At this Thanksgiving time, let us praise God for what we have been given, ask forgiveness for not appreciating what we have, and then let's express our thankfulness and affection to our families and friends who love us so much. Finally, let us accept our responsibility as children of God to lift up and share with those who have not been given such blessings. “For unto whomever much is given, of him shall be much required . . .” Luke 12:48.

It is our goal at the Children's Home

to provide a secure, stable and loving Christian family environment for troubled children who need security and significance and salvation. Pray for us that we can faithfully serve as God's representatives and your representatives in this work.

As of October, Bro. Uriel Gehring, our Public Relations Coordinator, has retired and will no longer be serving at the Home. In the future the Administrator will take turns with various staff members in writing these monthly articles. We thank Bro. Uriel Gehring and Sis. Judy for their years of service to troubled children. Also in October we commemorated the work anniversaries of our counselor Sis. Judy Luginbuhl (5 years) and our West Houseparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier (3 years).

The construction of the new family house at the Home has begun, after several delays with the State of Indiana. Bro. Andy Hunyady (Columbus, OH) is our general contractor and he is assisted by contracted and volunteer tradesmen from across the Midwest. We will continue to need skilled volunteers through all phases of construction. If interested, please contact your local church representative or the Children's Home, 219-627-2159.

Our athletes have successfully completed their grueling fall seasons. Jon B. was a cross-country runner and Mike K and Jon E. were in football. Their many hours of early morning and after-school workouts and practices have paid off.

Music is in the air in our houses as our students practice their various instruments and parts. Marie H., Kara H., Beth H. and Tom D. recently performed in a piano recital; Andrea H. plays clarinet in the school band and John W., Jon E., Kara H., Tom D. and Mike are school choir members.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

At this beautiful season of the year when the color all around us almost makes us "catch our breath", may we all renew within our hearts and minds a truly THANKFUL spirit to our heavenly Father for all our many, many blessings! Our residents are already looking forward to going to visit family and friends over the Thanksgiving holiday. How eagerly they anticipate these times!

Chris Corrigan came to live at our

Home October 6. Chris is 17 years old and he lived with his parents, Joe and Judy Corrigan, in Peoria, IL. Chris has a brother, Brendan, and a sister, Dawn. Chris was born March 20, 1970, in Peoria, attended Whittier and Jamieson schools and now attends the Autistic Program at Rolling Acres School in Peoria. As far as food is concerned, Chris likes everything, but especially spaghetti and chocolate chip cookies. Some of his favorite pastimes are riding his bicycle and listening to records. We are very glad to welcome Chris to our Home and hope he will be happy here.

Our residents celebrating birthdays in November are as follows, with their special day in parentheses: Susie McGinley (1), Ken Clauss (2), Keith Weyeneth and Rhonda Pullen (4), Kathy Knapp (5), Tom Manley (8), Bernice Heiniger (11), Lucy Endress (13), Jane Aberle (14), Alan Unsicker (15), Dave Metz and Marian Funk (20).

We were very pleased to be able to break ground September 30 for our group home. This will be a 15-bed home for our residents who are ready to learn homemaking skills and take on other additional responsibilities which are not possible in our current home. We believe the Lord has directed us, and ask that everyone be prayerful that this project will proceed well and be blessed of God. We hope to open in late spring or summer of 1988, so we are beginning to think of our staff needs. The person in charge of overseeing the home will be a program director or coordinator. This person will need a bachelor's degree in education, physical or occupational therapy, social work, psychology or another human service, health or therapy field. This person will supervise the staff, develop the training programs for the residents, and plan activities. Please be prayerful that someone is led to pursue this position. If you are interested, please call us at the Home for the Handicapped to talk about it. The phone number is 309-266-9781.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Marilyn Walder

We are very thankful that God has worked in Sis. Julie Bauer's heart and that she has felt His direction to accept the teaching position here. She is originally from Cissna Park but has been working at a day care in Bloomington,

IL. She has a four-year degree in Child Development from the University of Illinois. We appreciate her enthusiasm and great ideas. May she feel God's continual guidance.

The children are learning about Moses and the children of Israel, Samson and Job. They enjoy the Bible story each morning. They learn a Bible verse each week that pertains to the Bible story. I am amazed at their capacity for remembering the previous verses as we review them.

We now have thirty-two children enrolled. We still have many openings and pray that we will be full soon. May God's will be done and we pray that we are doing all we should and can do to fulfill God's will for our school. Please keep us in your prayers.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Marilyn Walder

We enjoyed the messages that Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) brought to us. We appreciate their willingness to come and help when Bro. Lavoyd is gone. May God bless them and their wives for coming.

We had other visitors from Goodfield, Cissna Park and Tremont, IL, Wolcott and Remington, IN, and Atlanta, GA. We enjoy each visitor and appreciate their fellowship.

Recently we elected Bro. Winfred Kelly as our new trustee to serve a three-year term. Bro. Carl Haggemaker's term is over and we want to thank him for his service to our church.

We want to welcome Sis. Julie Bauer (Cissna Park, IL) to our congregation. She has moved here to work at the Preschool. We are glad she is here and pray that she will feel God's nearness during her time here.

Bro. George Kelly has been in the hospital and is back home. We pray that he can feel God's nearness also during this time of illness.

When we look at the beautiful trees turning brilliant colors and see the cotton white and ready for harvest, how can we doubt there is a God who has made all these things? It is evident to me as I look around me in the outdoors that a loving and powerful God was the Master of all creation. He has made all things well!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Thy trust will be in the Lord."

Proverbs 22:19. A group of 38 went down into Havasupi Canyon on a 3-day trek the weekend of September 27. They enjoyed singing every night but everyone especially enjoyed church services down at the bottom of the canyon. Bros. Jon Kokanovich and Greg Gramm were the back-packing ministers. Bob and Betty Lemons organized this event. All were overwhelmed with God's handiwork of this natural beauty, as well as the enthusiasm of other hikers. Many are looking forward to the next back-packing canyon trip.

Bro. Dick Beery, Bro. Ed Frautschi, Nathan Knochel and Sis. Marie Beery went on a recent working trip to Juarez, Mexico.

Sis. Stephanie Baum (Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine) is attending the University of Arizona. The time spent teaching the tiny tots in Sunday school should give her good insight in her Education Major. Sis. Stephanie's address is 1745 E. Glenn #110, Tucson, AZ 85719.

We thank Bro. Marshall Heinold for serving as our visiting minister.

We need the prayers of those we love and we ask the Lord to care for several of our church family. Bro. John Pulfer is still hospitalized. Sis. Lindy Schambach and Evelyn Howley were surgical patients. Sis. Jenny Hand (Dennis) was involved in an auto accident and is grateful for the Master's care. Jim Zollinger had out-patient surgery. Sis. Connie Frautschi (Bro. Ed) has been suffering from bronchitis. Sis. Dorothy Wenger broke her wrist. Sabrina Cummings, granddaughter of Herb and Sis. Shirley Mohrman, has a broken arm. Dan Esslinger shows a little improvement. Bro. Steve Miracle has had more surgery and will have even more on his leg. You may write to Bro. Steve at 89 Maplewood Avenue, Rittman, OH 44220, c/o William Clark.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Marge Lindenbaum welcomed baby son, Lucas Von, October 7. His sister, Aubrey, and grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Leman, are helping little Luke feel at home. John Lindenbaum is the paternal grandfather; Mrs. Mary Ann Lindenbaum, grandmother.

Sis. Lynne Fischer is doing nursing duties while on a jaunt to Ecuador. We pray the Lord will be ever close to her while out of our beloved United States.

The first half of October has had quite a few 100 degree days. Surely

the Lord is sending messages to all to get our souls ready for eternity. With such extremes in the world's atmospheric conditions, He sends the message "Come unto me."

Our church family extends Season's Greetings to all and an open invitation to visit us. You will like the weather and the beauty Arizona offers. We've enjoyed many beautiful birds. The tiny virden sings so beautiful. Hummingbirds are daily visitors. The big red-headed woodpecker perched on the window sill during a gusty shower. Through the windowpane, the bird and I both saw what the Lord created.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp — Sandy Bauer

October 10 and 11 was the weekend chosen for the testimony service and baptism of Angie Bauer (Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria). Many traveled from Phoenix and California to take part in these blest events. We are so thankful to have Sis. Angie as a part of our fellowship. May she always be as close to her Lord as she was as she rose from the baptismal waters.

Our friends, Joe and Cindy McAndrews, were recently blest with a baby brother for Christopher and Philip. Nicholas John was born October 5 and is the grandson of Bro. Loren and Sis. Evelyn Knapp and Sally McAndrews and John McAndrews. God's richest blessings are wished on this family of boys!

We have had several new additions to our young group in recent months. We are blest with the arrival of University of Arizona students, Bro. Kent Miller (Prescott), Bro. Jeff Fisher (Kansas) and Sis. Stephanie Baum (Phoenix).

Our congregation has recently completed playing the tapes of the elder conference held in August. What a blessing to hear the words of exhortations by our elder brethren who love us so much.

On Labor Day our Sunday school and teachers traveled to Altadena, CA, for a weekend of activities with the Phoenix and California Sunday schools. As is always the case, blessings abounded. Teachers and students alike benefited from the fellowship and our thanks go out to the Altadena church for their labors of love.

We have started a Bible study here in Tucson to be held monthly. Our

ministering brothers will preside over these meetings as we study God's Word.

We have also had 2 "old" friends move back to our area. Gerry and Charlene Sanders have relocated in the Tucson area. They have lived in Tucson before and we are thrilled to have them again!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Elaine Graf

October 4 was the wedding date of our Sis. Mary Beth Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois) and Bro. Greg Lehmann (Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN). They are making their home in Indiana. May our God richly bless this new couple in their lives together.

On October 4, we had four visiting ministers. They were Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron, OH), who also was with us two Wednesday nights, Bro. Gene Lehmann (Wolcott, IN) and Bros. Pete Petrovic and Doug Wagenbach (San Diego).

Our friend, Allan Crockette (Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy Graf) was injured in an automobile accident and still lies in a coma. His uncle, Don Kaisner (Doris Graf), is also in a coma. This came about due to a respiratory arrest. Please remember Allan and Don in your prayers.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Nella Varga

To share the good Word with us this past month were Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), as well as Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA).

What a joy it is when a mother hears her newborn baby cry for the first time! The chance to hear and feel the life God has created and to nurture, love, care for, provide and teach that little child God's wonderful ways is a blessing! We have two newborns in our small congregation. Ashley Nichole is the first child born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna Hoerr. Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy Fulop have named their second son, Dennis Peter. Little brother, Bobby, is very happy to have a playmate now.

Our dear Todd and Kim Moser by grace have turned to God in repentance and now experience His peace in their lives. We rejoice with them and look forward to greeting them as a brother and sister in the Lord.

With all the joy and blessing God has given us, we are saddened by one event. Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna Hoerr are moving from our small congregation. We will miss them greatly. We trust God has a purpose for their lives in their new home in Taylor, MO. We pray for the Lord's blessing on Scott and Anna with their new baby girl and new home.

Note: We are always very thankful for visitors to our congregation here in San Diego. For information or directions to our location, please contact Bro. Peter or Sis. Marian Petrovic at 619/789-1504. God bless.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

The day soon approaches when our government sets aside a day for thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is traditionally a time of looking at the blessings of our life, all of which we should be thankful to God for continually. Such blessings as the Word of God, a building in which to assemble and ministers to proclaim the Word. Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bros. Ernest Graf (Akron, OH) and Tom Schrenk (Alto, MI). May God bless them and the words they spoke. We should be thankful that the Lord blesses us but we should also remember that the Scripture speaks of blessing the Lord. "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits . . ." Psalms 103:1, 2.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Hany

The traditional time of Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching which brings the end of another bounteous harvest and start of a new season. We praise and thank the Lord for His great mercy and grace bestowed upon us to live according to His Word so that someday we will know:

"How shall it be? Oh, what this mortal vision
Can neither see, nor hear, nor understand,
Of happiness and glory shall be given
To those who pass into that promised land!
Then onward, brethren! Let us hasten
thither,

'Tis worth the hardship and the pain
we bear
To climb this path, for there shall never
wither
The blest inheritance which we shall
share!

Zion's Harp #146, vs. 6

On September 23, Joshua Lee arrived to brighten the life of Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori (Gerber) Bahler. He is their first child and grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Maxine Bahler and Bro. Ed and Sis. Beverly Gerber. Also, a third son, Nathan Michael, was born to Brian and Sandy (Luginbuhl) Hany September 24. Jason and Todd welcome their little brother home. Grandparents are Rudy and June Hany and Bro. Ed and Sis. Alma Luginbuhl.

Sis. Louise Ballasy had a setback and was readmitted to the hospital for further surgery and is now recuperating at home as is Bro. Rudy Luginbuhl after having surgery on his back. It is during sickness that we feel the frailty of our body the greatest but may the Lord grant them, as well as others who may have been sick, much spiritual strength at this time.

Visiting ministers for the month were Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont, IL). We give our thanks to them for being with us and may the Lord richly bless their efforts in proclaiming His Word.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . . A time to weep, and a time to laugh;" Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4. We rejoice to share in the faith and happiness of Bro. Gene Beutel and Sis. Lynne Gerber as their engagement was announced October 18. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Everett and Sis. Phyllis Gerber are the happy parents of the couple.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

**Catherine Klopfenstein
Rebecca Germann**

The summer months have passed and we see the beginning of a beautiful fall season. The leaves are turning colors and it appears the colors will be more brilliant than last year. It is the time of year to go to the countryside to see the beauty of God's creation.

We are back to our regular schedule again (after the summer tourist season)

of church services on the second Sunday of each month. This past Sunday we were privileged to have Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) as our minister, along with Sis. Cheryl and their daughters. Also visiting, along with her daughter, Miriam Southerland, and family of Arlington, VA, was Sis. Irene Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

During the past month, Bro. Robert and Sis. Jeannie Knapp (Eureka, IL) visited their daughter, Rebecca Germann, and her family in Herndon, VA.

We were sorry to hear that our good friends, Bill and Carol Stover, and 3 children will be moving from our area in a few weeks. Their entire family has been a good support to our small congregation. Bill is with the Department of Agriculture and has been transferred to Atlanta, GA. Our loss will be a gain for the Atlanta congregation.

We always appreciate company and can usually, on short notice, get a few together for fellowship. If you're in the Washington, D.C. area, please call Klopfensteins at 703-979-3476 or Germanns at 703-481-5163.

FLORIDA, FORT LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

Our Sunday school kids (and kids-at-heart) joined the Sarasota and Fort Myers churches and Sunday schools for a day at the Miami Seaquarium. We then were privileged to have them as our guests for the rest of the weekend. What a wonderful opportunity for our young children to get to know each other! Ministering Bro. Glenn Price and his family were among the visitors and Glenn brought us God's Word on Sunday.

Also ministering to us this month was Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA). He and his wife, Sis. Kathy, came down to visit their daughter, Tammy, who is going to school in Miami. We'll take this opportunity to warmly welcome her to the community.

Recently hospitalized were Sis. Elina Zurz and Sis. Florence Sutter.

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS Kay Eisenmann

What is the most important thing or desire in our life??? Let us answer this question honestly! It may be something in this life like the success of our business, the choice of a helpmate or health! Those things are important, but not as important as "having our name written in the Book of Life" (rest

assured, our names will be written in one book or another!) If this is not our only concern, we need to take a closer look at our lifestyle, and choose to live for God! He knocks at our heart's door, but if we don't open the door to Him, it is our loss! If we don't answer, He will eventually let us have our own way. God wants willing soldiers in His army! May we all have the grace to turn our life's problems over to our heavenly Father! He gave His Son for us, and with that kind of love, how can we not listen to His Word!

Our winter residents are starting to return, for which we are so thankful.

We, as a nation, are celebrating Thanksgiving. Let us be thankful for our nation with all its imperfections. It is our country and it can only be as "God-fearing" as its people!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Lucille Heiniger

Bro. Glen Price spent this weekend with his family at Milford, IN. A family reunion was planned for his father's birthday. What a joy it is to meet our loved ones here on earth; but how much more of a joy it will be when we will be able to meet our loved ones in those heavenly mansions above.

The Sunday school classes and a number of others from here attended the Fort Lauderdale, FL, church recently.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Willard Schieler (Milford, IN). We thank each one who so willingly came and proclaimed the Word of God to us in truth and sincerity.

We will soon be celebrating Thanksgiving Day. Do we always count our blessings and thank God each day of our lives, or just one time a year? There is a little song sung by some smaller Sunday school children some years ago called, "Is It Fair?"

We never forget to say give me,
When needy how quickly we plead.
But how oft we forget to say thank you
When the Lord has supplied every
need.

We never forget to say help me
In trouble how quickly we pray
But how oft we forget to say thank you
When He's chased all our troubles
away.

You never forget to say spare me
From sorrow, from sickness and tears
But how oft we forget to say thank you
To the One who has kept us through
the years.

It seems we only say thank you
Each time that Thanksgiving draws
near

Is it fair to say give me so often
And thank you just one time a year?

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

John Brewer

How wonderful it is to know that through faith, prayer and love in Jesus Christ, God provides for the blessings of fellowship and every need in our daily walk of life. We were blessed with visitors who took the time to worship and share the Word of God with us. On September 27, our visiting minister was Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) accompanied by his wife, Sis. Eleanor. On October 11, Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) came to minister to our congregation along with his wife, Sis. Cindy. Other visitors included Bro. Steve and Sis. Arlise Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Vi Hartzler (Rittman, OH). We thank them for the time they took to visit our congregation.

Atlanta services are held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at the Best Western Bradbury Suites in Marietta, GA. The hotel is located just off Windy Hill Road Exit at I-75 just north of the I-285 perimeter. For more information call Bro. Don Sellers 404-923-0721, Sis. Nancy Foltz 404-451-9191 or myself 404-949-7734.

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Donna Hodel — Karen Brummitt

Our prayers and thoughts are with Sis. Lu Miller as she recuperates from her recent surgery. May God bless her with restored health according to His will.

On October 6, Clark Douglas joined the family of Dave and Brenda Kaeb. He was welcomed home by Chad, Clint, Chelby and Crista. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Kaeb (Fairbury) and Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen Hoffman (Cissna Park).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sandy Zimmerman and their two children, Andrew and Heidi, have decided to make Bloomington-Normal their church. We

welcome them into our congregation.

A good number of students attended college weekend October 10 and 11. We sincerely appreciate Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) lending themselves for this occasion. Elder Bro. Eugene Marti was also persuaded to be with us Friday evening. He presented a Bible study on "Worldliness in the Church". May God richly bless them for sharing His Word.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Marilyn Tanner

A BASKET OF THANKSGIVINGS

It disturbs us to realize that we are so ungrateful to our fellow men, but the base ingratitude to God, exhibited by so many, is even more distressing. An old legend tells of two angels named "Prayer" and "Thanksgiving" whom God sent to earth, each with a basket. The container which carried the prayers to heaven was large, for it held many requests. However, the basket for the notes of thanksgiving was small, since only three expressions of gratitude were sent to heaven by the hundreds who had been blessed.

Today, as we are reminded of our selfishness and sinful ingratitude, let us fill a large basket with "thanksgivings". Then tomorrow, and the days that follow, let us echo the words of the Psalmist, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

from Our Daily Bread favorites

Special thanks is in the heart of Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch because their son, Mark, has answered God's gentle call to serve Him instead of Satan.

Our children. Yet not ours,
They are their own
Whom no one can possess.
For all the future holds of good or ill
They are their own.
Unless, dear Lord, unless
By miracles of grace
And mercy infinite
They are possessed by Thee
And so become more their own
By being Thine.

"Fields of Gold"

We're thankful Bro. Ed Ehnle is home again and recuperating nicely after having back surgery.

Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend) and their families visited recently. We offer our thanks for the Word of God they brought to us.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Cheryl Mangers

Members of our home congregation as well as a number of college students combined efforts October 3 for the annual church cleaning. Slightly over a year ago we were cleaning in preparation for the first Sunday in our new church building.

Our annual fall Sunday school hayride/weiner roast was held October 10. Rain changed our plans (as we never made it to Homer Lake!), but not our fellowship. We ended up roasting our hot dogs in Dennie and Sis. Cheryl Mangers driveway, eating in the garage sitting on bales of straw and taking a chilly hayride after supper. All of our special out-of-town guests who return each year sure make this a memorable event. We numbered about 60 this year and decided next year, Lord willing, we may need three racks!

A small group gathered on the evening of October 16 at Bro. Sam and Sis. Pam Furrer's home for a singing shower honoring Sis. Kathy Stoller and her fiance Bro. Denny Meyer (Bluffton, IN). This was a small expression of our appreciation for Sis. Kathy's love and fellowship during the past few years.

Our love and appreciation go to our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO), Virg Metzger (Chicago, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO).

I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for your many thoughtful comments and support. It was my privilege to serve as the Silver Lining reporter for our Champaign-Urbana family for three years. I now turn the reigns over to LaRae Dill and Patty Marti.

Cheryl Mangers

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

Two microprocessors are "speaking" to one another in a Chicago refinery. As we were told, one micro starts out with, "Are you there?" and the expected reply from the other is, "Yes, I'm listening." Variable speeds, too high a voltage, or any of a number of other

aspects can prevent these sophisticated machines from conversing. Thus our relationship to God was highlighted. Are we going ahead of Him or lagging behind? Is our lifestyle too highly charged? He is forever available, asking us individually, "Are you there?" And what is our answer? Always? The Lord will even help us troubleshoot if we are willing to follow His suggestions, to renew and increase our communication with Him.

Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) faithfully brought His Holy Word to our hearts. May He reward them as He has promised.

Remember the black and white Scottie dog magnets that we had during afternoon church as children? We made one turn by pushing the repelling pole of the other toward it or we used the attracting poles and would let the two get closer and closer until they clung together. A sermon taught us we have a choice about the direction of magnetism we project, The Lord would draw us ever nearer to Himself. Does that repel us or attract us? If repelled, will we turn all the way around with the Lord's gentle help so that we may be instead attracted?

We welcome our friends to our church family. Lyle Steidinger, originally from Forrest, is working in the area. Chris Knapp from Goodfield is attending DeVry, and Howard Hodel has returned to a job in Chicagoland as well. We are glad to have them among us and extend our love and wishes for the Lord's blessings.

Those with recent surgery include Ella Mae Stoller, Mabelle Welk, and Arlene Ryan. Elise Zimmerman and Sis. Louise Kettner have broken bones mending. Physical pain and the slowing of regular activities bring with them adjustments and understandings. The importance of healing is underscored. May our Great Healer grant our dear ones much rest and as quick a recovery as He deems fit. We extend our prayers.

I remember singing "I know not when my earthly house shall fall — but we did know within a span of time when our residence would fall. Yesterday the houses on either side of our old one were bulldozed to the ground. Most of our belongings have been moved from our house, and kids have broken the locks and shattered the glass screen door. Soon our "earthly house" will fall. But the structure, sad as we are to see it

go, was only a framework for family togetherness, spiritual fellowship, study and daily activities. The memories and the meaning and the souls have moved on to another, better place. We are not told how long our earthly frames will last, yet there are signs of our fragility: a loved one's fatal illness, an accident or even a near-miss, creaking joints and graying hairs, the passing of time. Each day we must prepare for our most important move.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Mary Knapp — Elaine Sauder

Sis. Helen Knapp has moved to the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria and Sis. Priscilla Knapp has moved to Fairview Haven in Fairbury. We miss these two dear sisters and ask for them courage and guidance from above as they make this adjustment in their lives.

The Bible class and their teachers attended ACYF at Washington September 27. Elder Bro. Steve Rinckenberger gave the evening message. It's always touching to hear the blending of these young voices and we pray, too, that our future church will grow through these inspirational times together.

What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. Mark 10:9. Bro. Steve Walder and Sis. Kathy Kaufman repeated their wedding vows October 18. May the Lord bless this union and how thankful we are that they plan to continue to gather with us. They certainly will be useful vessels in our Cissna Park church. Their parents are Eileen Kaufman and the late Earl Kaufman and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder, all from here.

October 10 was a memorable day for Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner and Bill and Sis. Anna Marie Reutter as they jointly celebrated their 45th wedding anniversaries at the fellowship hall. May God bless both couples with many more happy years together.

There is beauty all around,
When there's love at home;
There is joy in every sound,
When there's love at home.
Peace and plenty here abide,
Smiling sweet on every side;
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,
When there's love at home.

Hymns of Zion #64

Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Gudeman (Clearwater, FL) brought joy to the

heart of Sis. Martha Brenner when they announced the arrival of a son, Travis Alvey, who made Sis. Martha a first-time great-grandmother.

We extend our sympathy to Lawrence Kuebler and his wife, Doris, in the loss of his 90-year-old sister, Sis. Anna Rapp (Morton). She was also the sister of Sis. Helen Kuebler, who was formerly from here.

Our prayers ascend for those who are sick and in the hospital. Those hospitalized this past month were Martha Farney (surgery), Bro. Herbert Hofer (surgery) and Bro. Gerald Rudin (medical). Donna Stock (Bro. Les and Sis. Arlene Stock) was hospitalized due to an accident on her way to school. How thankful we were to learn her injuries were minor. We wish all who are ill, and their families, God's care and protection.

Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Elder Bro. Bob Walder and Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) were our visiting ministers this month.

Bro. Sam Hari, formerly of our Cissna Park congregation, who now resides at Fairview Haven, recently celebrated his 99th birthday. He wishes to thank all who so kindly remembered him at that time and throughout the year.

Bro. Art and Sis. Louella Hari say thank you and may God bless each one who helped to make their 50th wedding anniversary a special occasion for them.

Our hearts go out to the family of Bob and Sonnie Bauer whose son, Eric, was severely injured in an auto accident July 11 and has been hospitalized ever since. Eric is a grandson of the late Bro. Ernest and Sis. Mary Bauer and a nephew and cousin to several in our congregation.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
 Gail Leman — Susan Zobrist

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

Zion's Harp #79

It is a blessed joy when hearts are bonded together as a God-made union in faith and love. Joining hand and heart August 16, Bro. Michael Zobrist

and Sis. Susan Knapp began to walk the path of life together, in the grace of Jesus "where cheer and trust increases". Their parents are Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marjorie Knapp and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Joyce Zobrist, all of Congerville. May love, joy and peace abound as through this union of hearts we find a "three-fold cord not lightly rent apart."

Serving faithfully in the work of our precious Savior, Jesus, were Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Gene Bertschi (Roanoke, IL). Our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanks for the love and service of these blessed brothers.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family and loved ones of Sis. Tillie Sauder. May their sadness be turned to joy at the thought of being united with her in heaven.

Sis. Adele Stahl was hospitalized for a short period of time and our prayers are extended to her for God's wonderful healing hand.

HIS WAY

God bade me go when I would stay
 ('Twas cool within the wood);
 I did not know the reason why,
 I heard a boulder crashing by,
 Across the path where I stood.

He bade me stay when I would go;
 "Thy will be done," I said
 They found one day at early dawn,
 Across the way I would have gone,
 A serpent with a mangled head.

No more I ask the reason why,
 Although I may not see
 The path ahead, His way I go;
 For though I know not, He doth know,
 And He will choose safe paths for me.
 The Sunday School Times

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
 Elizabeth Schambach
 Betty Bachtold

GOD BLESS YOU
 THIS THANKSGIVING

As bountiful as fruitful fields,
 as wide as skies above,
 As deep and true and endless
 as our Heavenly Father's love —

May the blessings of Thanksgiving
 and all the whole year through
 Be as boundless and unending
 as our Father's care for you!

It became our blessed portion September 26 to witness the love and power of God to convert the soul that repents. Brian Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) shared his testimony, was baptized and became a lamb of Jesus. "My loving Father, Thou dost take me to be henceforth Thy child and heir..." Zion's Harp #41. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Nathan in this labor. Also this month we appreciated the kind exhortations of Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL).

Bro. William Gudeman presented a Bible to each of our seventh grade Sunday school children. May God bless His Word that it could be fruitful.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Lloyd and Carol Kellenberger in the passing of her father, Wallace Van Buren (Mesa, AZ).

Vicki Messman (Jerry), daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Jenny Schambach, was attacked by a dog and suffered severe face lacerations requiring surgery. We're thankful she was able to return home and trust she will continue to feel our love and prayers.

Bro. George Schumacher also had surgery this past month and is able to again assemble with us. For this, we thank God.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Libby Leman and Ashley were happy to add to their family little Christopher David born October 7. Also eager to help are grandparents, Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer (Sabatha, KS) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Edna Leman (Eureka, IL).

As wedding vows were spoken for Heidi Schock and Grant Larsen October 10, we wish God's blessings upon this marriage. Parents of the couple are Bro. Norman and Sis. Virginia Schock and Gordon and Corinne Larsen (Arlington Heights, IL).

NOTICE: A tan polyvinyl ladies coat, size 11, P.B.D. International, has been left at Elgin church for some time.

 Give Your Address Changes
 To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Kathy L. Rocke

In order to realize the worth of the anchor,
We need to feel the stress of the storm.

Bros. Walter Schumacher and Lawrence Zimmerman were hospital patients this past month. We pray that God will be nigh unto them.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris Leman are thankful for Kalsey Jo who was born September 29. Kalsey has a sister, Danielle, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie Schmidgall (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Wanda Leman.

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) who came and shared God's message with us.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Leman wish to thank everyone for the cards, visits and prayers offered in their behalf during Bro. Dave's recent hospital stay. May God bless you all.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord, He is God, It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise; Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations."

Psalms 100

"I want to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, cards and gifts sent my way during my recent stay in the hospital and since returning home. It is truly a blessing to be a part of the household of faith."

Humbly,

Sis. Viola (Bro. Vernon) Leman

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

It was a rich blessing when we could be led to the cross and partake of holy communion October 7. We thank Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) who assisted our Elder Bro. Arthur Bahler. In remembrance of Jesus we did eat and drink as directed by the Holy Word.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Ralph Garber (Morton), and Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO). We thank God for brothers who are willing to lend themselves in His service.

Our congregation welcomes Bro. Kenny Knapp and his family who is temporarily living in this area due to his employment in the construction field.

The waters have been troubled as two dear souls heeded the call to repentance. They are Alan Walter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen) and his wife, Linda (Nancy and the late Sam Eaton). As they surrender their will, may they find peace and joy that only God can give.

The engagement of Bro. Nick Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) to Sis. Mattie Wenger (late Bro. Ray and Sis. Miriam Wenger, Forrest) was announced. They are planning a January wedding and we wish them God's guidance and blessing.

Hospital patients this month were: Sis. Sally Schieler, Sis. Lydia Nussbaum, Sis. Sarah Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores), Bro. Anthony Fehr (Sis. Lila), Julie Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola) and Sis. Caroline Fehr. Young and old alike can say they have felt the healing power of the Lord. "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Psalms 31:24.

Sis. Dianne and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all the cards and gifts of love we have received in the past couple of months during the time of Troy's and my surgery. Our thanks cannot be expressed by word or pen as we feel so unworthy and thankful to all. May God bless each and every one as only He can do.

Bro. Tom Steidinger and family

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

We were blessed with several ministers this past month. Those who shared God's precious Word with us were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Duane Kilgus and John Hartman (Fairbury), Ted Witzig (Morton), Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal). We always enjoy and appreciate the efforts of our visiting ministers and pray God will bless them and their families.

Loved ones who have been hospitalized are Bro. Dean Nussbaum (Sis. Betty) and Jessica Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia). We are thankful both are again assembling with us.

A blessed weekend was shared September 19 and 20 when Dave and Jackie Eisenmann gave their testimonies and were baptized. We welcome them into our brotherhood and wish them God's blessings and grace as they walk the narrow road.

We rejoice with Sis. Mattie Wenger and Bro. Nick Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary, Fairbury), whose engagement was recently announced. May the Lord bless them as they seek to enter into the sacred bond of matrimony.

On September 30, Sis. Nettie Kupferschmidt and Bro. John Kyburz were united in marriage. May God bless their union of hearts.

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

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

In this ever-changing world of ours,
Sometimes we don't know what to do.
But we'd take the right steps if we
always would ask
"Would Jesus be there, too?"

If we find ourselves in an unruly crowd,
Where some people curse and swear,
And we don't feel quite right hearing all
this go on,
Our Lord Jesus would tell us . . .
"Beware!"

And if we're conversing with people we
know
But the talk isn't quite "above ground",
If we're hearing just gossip about other
folks,
Our dear Savior would not be around.

When the atmosphere is heavy and
dark,
Where loud music fills the air,
In a room that smells of alcohol and
smoke,
We know Jesus wouldn't be there!

So "Christian walk carefully through
the fierce storm",
Satan wants us all back on his side.

We must keep Jesus with us wherever we go,
And then someday with Him we'll abide.

Our thanks are extended to Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) for sharing God's Word with us this past month.

We were uplifted and encouraged as we listened to the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new brother-in-faith, Greg Wagner. We must all pray for each other, that we stay close to our Lord as the world seems to be becoming more full of sin each day.

It's a wonderful thing to see our young people meeting new friends from other churches. Our Bible class shared in the singing at Washington, IL, at ACYF and also enjoyed a bus trip to Bluffton, IN, where they spent the weekend.

We're glad to see Sis. Kathy Finley (Bro. Mike) back in church after her surgery and hospital stay.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our dear friend, Clara Dreyer, as she recovers at home from her time spent in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

In 1987, America will celebrate its 124th nationally celebrated Thanksgiving. Although this holiday dates back to 1621 when the Pilgrims observed a three-day feast, it was not made an official national commemoration until 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last day in November as "a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." The lady who received credit for persuading President Lincoln to do this was Sarah Josepha Hale, the lady who also gave America the poem, "Mary Had A Little Lamb."

It is a blessing for God's people to live in a land that encourages people to be thankful. As individuals, it is wonderful to be thankful each day for our manifold blessings. As a nation, we should rejoice that we can set aside a special day to collectively give thanks.

If we stop to count our blessings, God's gifts to us become clearly evident. God has taught us, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." The

more we give thanks, the more thankful and positive we become.

Our material blessings far exceed our needs. Never in the history of mankind has a nation like America reached such a high standard of living. In this we should be thankful, but much more, we should rejoice and be thankful for our spiritual blessings which can be a continuous fountain if our hearts remain humble.

"Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands, and voices;
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices."
Zion's Harp #236

Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger are the parents of Emily Joy, who was born September 20. She has two sisters, Becky and Katie. Her grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ringger, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Zehr, all of Gridley.

Our Sunday school Bible class enjoyed a weekend of fellowship at Bluffton, IN, along with classes from Goodfield and Peoria October 10 and 11. Twenty students along with six parents rented a special bus for the trip.

ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Cindy Witzig

We here at Illinois State are well into another school year. The Lord has blessed our college group fellowship with some new students: some who are freshmen, some who are transfer students from junior colleges. We are truly thankful for each one and rejoice in the blessing of Christian friendship. Being a Christian on a secular campus can be a real challenge, but with the Lord's grace and the support and encouragement of Christian friends, we can hopefully be the witness that God wants us to be. Your prayers on our behalf would be much appreciated.

We are so thankful for our Thursday night Bible studies held on campus in Schroeder Hall. Thursday night is the bright spot in our week. It is a time when we can get together around God's Word to hear good, sound teaching in the truth. It is also a time when we can sing praises to the Lord and fellowship with our brothers and sisters-in-Christ, not only from here at school, but from our surrounding churches.

We are so grateful for the faithful support of our ministers who so willing-

ly give of their time to come and speak. Over the summer, we had a series of studies on Women of the Bible. The following ministers took part in those studies: Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka), Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park) and Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka). We recently finished a walk through the Old Testament book of Genesis, a portion of Scripture that we may not read very often, but which contains many lessons in faith. We thank the following ministers for their contribution in these lessons: Bro. Don Waggenbach (Washington), Bro. Wayne Banwart (Urbana), Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke). We are presently going through the book of Exodus. Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville) and Vernon Leman (Eureka) have led us through an overview of the first 15 chapters.

Bible study begins at 7:30 every Thursday night, and we welcome any visitors who have Thursday nights free. One evening as we were finishing Bible study with a few songs, a woman happened to be passing in the hall. She came in and sat in the back and sang with us. She was drawn by the sound of our singing and, since that night, she has stopped more than once to sing. I share this because I think it is important to realize that people are searching for hope and stability and they need to find it in Christ. Let's do our part by letting Jesus shine through us.

I.S.U. hosted College Weekend the weekend of October 10 - 11. Our topic was "Serving God While Single". We heard some very challenging and motivating presentations from some of our ministers on how we can effectively serve God while we are single. The main message throughout the weekend was that we need to realize our position in Christ, deny ourselves, and find joy in doing God's will. God has a plan for each of our lives and we need to trust Him with our needs. The hard work that went into planning the weekend was well worth it for the blessings we received.

A special thanks is extended to the Bloomington and Gridley churches for their part in helping to make College Weekend a success. And, we can't forget to thank all of the parents of I.S.U. students who helped us out in

some way. May God bless you all for each gesture of love and encouragement. Jesus said that the world would know that we are His disciples by the love that we show each other. (John 13:35).

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

How joyful is the hope that lingers,
When loved ones cross death's sea,
That we, when all earth's toils are
ended,
With them shall ever be!
No parting words shall e'er be spoken
In yonder home so fair,
But songs of joy, and peace, and
gladness,
We'll sing forever there.
We'll never say goodbye in heav'n,
We'll never say goodbye,
For in that land of joy and song
We'll never say goodbye.
Hymns of Zion #122

Funeral services were held for Sis. Anna Rapp September 29. We extend our prayers of love and sympathy to Sis. Anna's family and many friends.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Ida Huber have moved from their home in Morton to the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home. For many years Bro. Carl maintained the cemetery and served as our church custodian for which we are very grateful.

Sis. Ruth Frintz has moved from her residence to the Apostolic Christian Restmor. She will feel welcome and "at home" at Restmor as she previously spent many hours volunteering there.

The Morton Bible class invited the Bradford, Roanoke and Washington Bible classes for a day of friendship and fellowship November 18. It was encouraging to see our young people assembled with us for our morning worship service. In the afternoon, they assembled at our fellowship hall for their Sunday school lesson. We trust old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances were made.

We have been blessed and spiritually fed with the loving visits from the following ministers this month: Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL). We thank God for bringing them into our midst.

Thanksgiving Day will soon be here. Let us continue to be thankful each

day, not just on Thanksgiving, that our heavenly Father has blessed us so abundantly. May each of you and your loved ones have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

PRAISE AND THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

Lord God, we honor Thee and praise
Thy mild compassions,
That Thou so gracefully dost hear our
supplication!
Thy love is truly great; Thy mercies are
untold;
Thou givest food and drink for Spirit,
flesh and soul.
Thy living Word is sent our souls to
feed and nourish.
Thou wilt that in our hearts Thy love
and praise we cherish.
Thou sheddest light and power upon
our pilgrim way,
And ledest us by Thy hand to heaven
day by day.

Zion's Harp #13

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Kathy Huthmann

On October 3, our Young Group had the privilege of hosting Senior Citizen's dinner at the fellowship hall. The Young Group really enjoyed working together and fellowshiping with our older brothers, sisters and friends. The theme for the evening was Matthew 5:14, "Ye are the light of the world." We were all encouraged, young and old alike, to let our lights shine that we may glorify God.

There have been several from our congregation who have suffered illness recently. Hospital patients were Sis. Donna Ferrero, Sis. Dorothy Kieser, Bros. Lester Stoller and Ray Wiegand.

It is with deep appreciation that I write this note of thanks to each of you dear ones who remembered me with prayers, gifts and cards while I was in the hospital and now that I am back at the Home. May God who is the rewarder of all good deeds bless you richly!

Sincerely, Sis. Dorothy Hohulin

Two dear ones from our church home have passed away. Marie Billerbeck passed away October 12. After a long illness, Bro. Sam Eberhardt passed away. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Persida, and their children. May our heavenly Father richly comfort and bless the families of these loved ones in their time of sorrow.

The Young Group had the opportu-

nity to attend College Weekend hosted by the I.S.U. Young Group October 10-11. The topic of the weekend was "Serving Him While Single". We were encouraged to focus our single lives on serving God. The singing and fellowship were very uplifting also. Our appreciation goes to the I.S.U. Young Group and all the ministers who participated and worked so hard to make College Weekend a blessing.

Paul wrote in Romans 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." This Thanksgiving Day, let's be especially thankful for the undeserved love that our heavenly Father gives us.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Marjean Lehman

"Here the ransomed souls shall treasure all His good in boundless measure, And praise God in full accord. Hallowed words! Most precious teaching! Unto all the world are reaching, sweet Evangel of our Lord."

"Adoration," Zion's Harp #190

We sincerely thank the ministers who visited us recently. They were Bro. Leroy Hartman (Peoria), Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Nate Stoller (Bradford) and Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA). May God's blessings rest upon their labors.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest..." Sis. Karen Menold and Bro. Bill Schrock (Oakville, IA) were joined in holy matrimony September 20. Parents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie Menold and Bro. Bob and Sis. Edith Schrock (Oakville, IA). We trust God will bestow His richest blessings on this union as they look to Him for guidance.

"Oh, may this bounteous God thro' all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, His full redemption send,
And free us from all ills, sustain us to the end."

"All Come and Thank the Lord",
Zion's Harp #236

Ken Riley underwent heart surgery and is recuperating. Sis. Elizabeth Keiser had the misfortune of breaking several bones in her foot. Bro. Noah Herrmann suffered a hand injury in a farm accident. May God heal and restore each one.

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord."

Psalms 92:1

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Luginbuhl — Marge Leman

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

"All Come and Thank the Lord",
Zion's Harp #236

The above song is so appropriate for the Thanksgiving season. May we always take time to thank our God for all that He does for us.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane Bates were blessed September 20 with a baby boy, Matthew David. Welcoming him home were his brother, Michael, and sister, Amy. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder and Sim and Virginia Bates, all of Roanoke.

Our first hymn sing of this fall was held September 27 and we were thankful to have The Joyful Life Group from Peoria with us. It was such a special way to spend a Sunday evening.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign) Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago). We appreciate their love and willingness to serve us.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Jean Kupferschmid (Bro. Charles) and Sis. Verna Hodel (Bro. Stan) whose mother, Sis. Matilda Sauder (formerly of Congerville), passed away at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home.

Sympathy is also given to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Melinda Gerber in the passing of Bro. Lloyd's mother, Sis. Hulda Gerber (Latty, OH).

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Rob Luginbuhl (Sis. Gina) and Sis. Maxine Hodel (Bro. Dave). We are thankful both are home again.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Dorothy Wagenbach
Carolyn Bolliger

A SCENE OF BEAUTY

High on a hill
And across the land,
A painter paints
With an artist's hand.

He touches leaves
With red and gold,
As burnished copper
Glints unfold.

Bluer than blue
He paints the sky,
And adds the fleecy
Clouds on high.

Mellowed soft
With smoke and haze
The world receives
These autumn days.

A thing of beauty . . .
A scene of peace . . .
The Master has painted
His masterpiece.

Evelyn Julian

We are all enjoying God's beauty around us in this fall of the year.

We appreciate having Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) as our visiting minister this month. We always enjoy having Bro. Steve and his family visit us.

Sis. Anna Beutel has been a recent hospital patient. We are thankful she can be at home again.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Vicki Bucher

A son, Jed Thomas, was welcomed into the home of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Marilyn Schellhammer. Jed was born in Korea and adds a lot of excitement to their household. Jed's two sisters, Kami and Dixy, are having a lot of fun with their little brother. His grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Esther Banwart (Washington) and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Schellhammer (West Bend, IA).

Sis. Martha McGough needed to spend some time in the hospital. We are happy that she has been dismissed and seems to be feeling better.

We are grateful to Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) for sharing the Word with us. He and his wife, Sis.

Lillian, are former residents of Washington and it is always a joy to see them again.

Thought: If the sermon pricks your conscience, it must have had some good points.

"Before you speak, listen,
Before you write, think,
Before you pray, forgive,
Before you quit, try."

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Lucille Isch — Becky Isch

We wish to thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Everett Hari and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal) for sharing with us September 20. May our heavenly Father richly bless them and their families for their labor of love.

We had two engagements announced September 27. The engagement of Sis. Jean Leman (Bro. and Sis. Richard Leman, Eureka) to Bro. Gary Compton (Bob and Betty Steffen and the late Bro. Harold Compton); and Sis. Jill Isch (Bro. Al and Sis. Carole) to Bro. Doug Frauhiger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose). We wish these couples God's blessings as they walk life's pathway together.

On October 4, Sis. Becky Baumgartner (Bro. Harry and Sis. Lula) and Bro. Rex Neuenschwander (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred) exchanged wedding vows and began their lives together.

We were happy to welcome five new babies into our church family this month. Bro. Dave and Sis. Kim Bertsch became the pleased parents of Stefanie Kaye September 18. Her grandparents are Sis. Fran Bertsch and Bro. Walt and Sis. Imogene Aeschliman.

On September 20, Abby Lynn was born to Bro. Jon and Sis. Melissa Elliott. Abby has a brother and sister waiting at home. Bill and Sis. Joan Elliott and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gentis are her happy grandparents.

Tracy and Tami Schwartz became first-time parents September 21, when little Danielle Rae joined their family. Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alice Schwartz and Sis. Colleen Landrum are her proud grandparents.

Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail Szabo welcomed the arrival of Moonlight Jennifer September 21. She has an older brother at home. Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch and Bro. Moses Szabo (Budapest, Hungary) are her grandparents.

Lisa Marie Frauhiger brought much

joy to the hearts of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny Frauhiger when she arrived October 16. She has two big brothers at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Doris Frauhiger and Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Kaehr and her family in the loss of her mother, Sis. Ida Winzeler. Sis. Ida lived in our area for several years before moving to Francesville, IN, and she left many friends here.

Sis. Justine Aschliman passed away October 9. She had been seriously ill for several months and was ready to go home. Our special prayers and sympathy go out to her husband, Bro. Ken, and her children, Nick Aschliman and Monica Lora (Houston, TX) and Annie Levy (Bluffton). May our heavenly Father comfort and bless this family.

We also extend our prayers to the family of Sis. Huldah Dubach Heinold who passed away October 16. Sis. Huldah had resided in Phoenix for several years before returning to Bluffton.

"I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

John 11:25-26

The weekend of October 10 and 11 brought Sunday schools from Gridley, Goodfield and Peoria, IL, here to visit. We pray they had an enjoyable time and many long-lasting friendships were established or renewed.

Our loved ones who have been hospitalized this month are Bro. Dave Reimschisel, Sis. Mary Speheger, Bro. Herman Drayer (Sis. Marie), Bro. Lewis Gerber and Sis. Naomi Ringger (Elder Bro. Orville). May we keep them in our prayers and may God's healing power be upon them.

Dues Reminder: Just a reminder to the Bluffton congregation that November is the month your reporters will be collecting for the Silver Lining.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Sheri Leman

"Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts; we shall be satisfied with the

goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple."

Psalms 65:4

Elder Bros. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Bros. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH) all have visited with and ministered to our congregation this past month. We are always glad for visitors and welcome all to return.

Those who heard the testimonies September 19 were "well satisfied" and on Sunday, with joy, we witnessed the baptisms of Clem and Joni Reinhard, son and daughter-in-law of Bro. Alphie and Sis. Lucille.

September 27, Sis. Jean Leman (Bro. Richard and Sis. Edna, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Gary Compton (Bob and Betty Steffen and late Bro. Harold Compton) announced their engagement.

Jill Frauhiger (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane) and Greg Thornton took their wedding vows September 16. We wish both couples a house full of love, joy and peace.

... and baby makes three, four, and five!

Leah Rachelle "made three" for the Baumgartners September 27. The proud parents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Beth. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner and Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipfer (Bluffton).

On September 30, Lucas Bradley Gerber "made four". He joins big brother, Landon, and mom and dad, Bro. Steve and Sis. Gayla. His happy grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois Gerber and Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner.

Logan Drew, number five for the Aschliman household, made his special presence felt October 3. Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa are his loving parents, Lance and Brittany, his big brother and sister, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ida Aschliman (Bluffton) and Bro. Charles and Sis. Sally Shively, his wonderful grandparents.

Some of our loved ones have spent time in the hospital. They are Emma Moser (Bro. Bill), Rachel Honegger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Sylvia Frauhiger (Bro. Ivan). We are happy to hear they are doing well and they have our prayers for the full return of health.

Our prayers have also been with Bro. Bob and Sis. Bonnie Gerber in the

passing of their mother and mother-in-law, Sis. Hulda Gerber, who resided at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home at Eureka, IL.

"As for me; I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

Psalms 17:15

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

It is easy enough to be pleasant
When life flows by like a song.
But the one worthwhile is the one who
can smile

When everything goes dead wrong.
For the test of the heart is trouble
And it always comes with the years,
And the smile that is worth all the
praises of earth

Is the smile that shines through tears.
Ella Wheeler Wilcox

I can remember times at home when I was younger when Dad would try to get my sisters, brother or I to laugh, or at least smile, by reciting that poem to us on "bad" days. He usually succeeded, and now it still comes to mind as an encouragement to look on the bright side of things!

We're thankful for faithful examples, and Bro. Morris and Sis. Verna Stedman have been that to us. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary September 18, and on September 20, friends and relatives gathered at the fellowship center and honored them with a buffet reception.

Sis. Ida Winzeler, who has been a patient at the Parkview Haven Retirement Home for the past four years, passed away September 29. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola Von Tobel and their family as Sis. Ida is Sis. Viola's mother.

We also extend our sympathy to Scott and Kathy Leman in the death of Kathy's brother of Akron, IN, and to Sis. Lisa Pedigo in the death of her stepfather of Battleground, IN.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Penny Denton rejoice in the birth of a son, Isaac James, born October 8. Issac has one sister, Tabitha, and a brother, Zachary, to welcome him home. Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally Neihouser and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Denton are the grandparents. Our congratulations are extended to them all!

Thoughts and prayers of many are

with Sis. Mary Westfall (Bro. Carl) and Benjie Masten (grandson of Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola Von Tobel) as they are in the hospital at this time.

In this harvest and thanksgiving season, there is so much to thank God for. We especially praise Him for living miracles of souls repenting and being converted. On September 26 and 27, we heard testimonies of faith and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Harvey Gutwein, Sr., Sis. Juanita Norman, Sis. Lisa Pedigo and Sis. Joy Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne). It was a very inspiring weekend, and we especially thank Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) for lending themselves in assisting our Elder Bro. Wendell in this blessed weekend. We also extend thanks to ministering Bros. Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) who also assisted with services and prayers.

It's always a joy to have visitors, and on a recent Sunday, ministering Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) were with us. We learned through God's spirit in both of these brothers, the true meaning of charity. It is not just in giving of our material blessings, but more, living a life for God, filled with the fruit of the Spirit, truly loving our brothers, sisters and neighbors as ourselves on a daily basis. The sermons were especially timely as we anticipate communion in the near future, and examine ourselves in the light of God's Word. We give thanks to these brothers for serving us true "bread from heaven".

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Gail Bradford — Kathy Freed

Our congregation would like to thank the many visiting ministers who have brought the Word to us recently. They include Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Orville Ringger (Bluffton), and ministers Jack Bollier (Leo), Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Homer Reineck and Walter Rager (Toledo, OH). Other dear ones often accompany the ministers, and we have been blessed as we share fellowship one with another.

On a recent joyful Sunday we witnessed the baptism of Dennis and Cathy Neuenschwander, who gave their testimonies Saturday evening. How grateful we are that the door of grace remains open, although we know not for how long! We also rejoice that Bill

Bradford has answered the Lord's call to follow Him. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12)

We are happy to welcome Bro. Tim and Sis. Mim Gudeman to Indianapolis. As work opportunities bring loved ones here to make their homes, we thank the Lord for each one!

Our prayers have been with Sis. Kim Wuethrich (Bro. Blake) as she has experienced difficulties in her pregnancy. Please continue to pray for their family as the baby reaches full term.

We do indeed need the prayers of those we love and we need to pray for them, "without ceasing". How is our prayer life? Is our Lord our first thought in the morning, and our last in the evening? Do we commit our cares and concerns to Him, and stop wrestling with them ourselves? Are we ready to follow His will when our prayers may reveal an answer? Perhaps our prayer should be as Moses', "Now, therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in Thy sight show me now Thy way, that I may know Thee, that I may find grace in Thy sight . . ." (Exodus 33:13).

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Sandy Heinold

THE GOLDEN HARVEST

Now the field is ripe for harvest;
Let us then all garner in;
For if we should stand here idle,
Who would bring the sheaves of grain?
Hymns of Zion #46

The seeds of goodness are still sown in hearts and minds. We're thankful for our ministering brethren, among whom was Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), who so faithfully carries out this duty. But are we bringing forth the pleasing fruit that our Master is seeking? We must all ask ourselves this question because harvest is coming for each of us and we want to be ready.

Harvest time came for a loved one in our midst. Our congregation was saddened to hear of the passing of Leonard "Bart" Antrim. Our sympathy is extended to his family and especially to his dear wife, Fern, who so faithfully cared for him.

Bro. Lee Nuest (Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma) and Sis. Paula Perl (Latty, OH) were united in marriage Septem-

ber 20 in Latty. Our prayer is that God will richly bless this union.

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Gina Huber

It is so special to gather together and to feel the refreshment of hearing God's Word and having fellowship with one another. We have been blessed to have Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse) and Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) with us this month.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Lisa Pedigo (Francesville) and her family in the loss of her father. In times of sorrow, it brings such comfort to our hearts to know that tears are a language God understands.

INDIANA, LEO

Thelma Schlatter

BE THANKFUL

When you ask God in the morning
For His guidance through the day,
Thank Him for the many blessings
He in love has sent your way.
When you're asking aid from heaven,
Mingle with your morning prayer
A word of praise and gratitude
For all His kindly care.

When you send up your petition
To the Throne of Grace on High
Thank Him for the many favors
That His mercy does supply.
Be more mindful of the blessings
That His kindness does impart
And the Lord will doubly bless you
For the joy you brought His heart.
(Mark Bullock)

"Be thankful unto Him and bless His name."

Psalm 100:4

His children will be able to praise Him through eternity; but, for those who have not accepted the precious gift of salvation, warning is still sounded. A story is told of a man who purchased an expensive barometer. When he got it home, he discovered the needle was stuck at 'hurricane'. He shook it, but it wouldn't move. Aggravated, he wrote a scorching letter to the manufacturer. The next day, he went away. When he returned, the barometer was gone, and so was his house. The needle was not stuck. There had been a hurricane. Hebrews 9:27 warns, too,

and the needle is not stuck! It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment.

Communion services were held recently with Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) assisting Elder Bro. David Bertsch. Bro. Ed ministered Sunday, also.

Bro. Bob Pflederer was the speaker at a women's meeting on the topic of better understanding self, learning how and when to put those helps to use. Bro. Bob is a medical doctor in Morton, IL.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Kristi Meyer and family have moved. They will be missed. May they know His continued blessings in their new location.

Bits of This and That:

Giving thanks is a course from which we never graduate.

The most difficult arithmetic to master is learning to count our blessings.

It should not burden the heart to be grateful any more than it burdens the heart to be blessed.

To have to have much and always more is American culture and not scriptural.

Count your blessings! It could be worse; remember that. After all, you could have burned the whole dinner instead of just the rolls. The doctor could have kept you waiting two hours instead of only twenty-two minutes. And you might have lost a thousand dollars instead of just ten. (Copied)

A happy and blessed Thanksgiving to each reader!

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr—Sue Schieler

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Mark and Sis. Kristie Meyer, Stephanie, Cecily and Jonathan who recently moved to the North Webster area, and are making Milford their home church.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Mary Ann Beer (Cap) in the passing of her dear mother, Sis. Tillie Sauder (Congerville, IL).

On October 17 and 18 we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new brother, Randy Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby). Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) was here to help on this blessed occasion.

Ministering to us recently was Bro. Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL). It

was a blessing having him and Sis. Dorothy "home" again.

Our hospital patients this month have been Vonda (Sam) Lehman, Walter Wuthrich, and Bro. Dan Beer. May God's healing be upon them.

Bro. Oliver Haab's name was omitted from the list of family when mentioning the death of Bro. Elmer Haab. We apologize for this omission.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

O God . . .

Let our thanksgiving be expressed
not in feasting, but in sharing;
not in passive enjoyment, but in
participating service,
not in an annual act, but in daily
attitude.

David M. Currie

As we reflect upon this Thanksgiving season, let's look for more ways to say thanks to our Lord than in the spoken word. The Lord will be glorified by our willingness to share our bounty with someone who needs it. Are we praying that the Lord can open our eyes to see those needs about us and for a willing heart to give? I challenge you. Listen to someone who needs to talk. Say, "I love you" to someone that needs to hear it. Let's thank the Lord with our service.

Bros. Walt Steffen (Milford) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) worshipped with us and allowed the Holy Spirit to speak through them. Thank you Lord for your continual provision.

Sisters Alta, Emily and Mary Kilgus have moved from their home in Lafayette to Remington. Their new address is R.R. 2, Box 124B, Remington, IN 47977.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Jill Lehman — Annie Meyer

THANK GOD FOR LITTLE THINGS

Thank you, God, for little things
that often come our way —
The things we take for granted
but don't mention when we pray —
The unexpected courtesy,
the thoughtful, kindly deed —
A hand reached out to help us
in the time of sudden need —
Oh make us more aware, dear God,
of little daily graces

That come to us with "sweet surprises" from never-dreamed-of places.

Helen Steiner Rice

This little poem has so much meaning! Many, many times we take the little things for granted and if we'd stop to think about them — they are endless! God truly does provide for His children daily and may we always be thankful for the many things He supplies.

Last month, Sis. Ernestine Meister underwent some surgery. She is now at home and recuperating very nicely. We thank the Lord for His healing hand and pray that Sis. Ernestine will soon be well and back in church with us.

It is with deep earthly sorrow that we said farewell to our dear brother-in-faith, Bro. Ernest Germann. We pray that God's strong, comforting arms might enfold the loved ones Bro. Ernest left behind.

We were very blessed to have many visiting ministers in the last several months. We wish to thank Bros. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). May God richly bless them.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Peg Huber — Trish Bucher

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

The harvest season, a time of thanksgiving and praise . . . We enjoyed the blending of voices of a men's group from Francesville, and a quartet from LaCrosse and Valparaiso, who lifted up songs of praise to the Lord. We were also reminded of God's great love through several poems. Our Valparaiso brothers prepared a harvest feast to share God's bountiful blessings.

Our Bro. Willis Feller (Sis. Eunice) has been in the hospital. May they feel the healing hand of the Lord during this time.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane Moser were once again blessed with the opportunity to care for one of God's precious lambs, little Josiah. May God watch over him as he begins his life in the home of his new adoptive parents.

God's servants who shared His Word

with us this month were Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL).

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Elaine Bahler — Lorene Furrer

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers recently to share God's Word with us. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan), Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) visited us and we appreciate their efforts of love.

Several from our congregation traveled to Altadena, CA, to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Greg Lehman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna) and Sis. Mary Beth Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois) October 4. A reception was given for them here October 18 with Elder Bro. John Klotzle and Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) sharing the day. The Wolcott congregation extends a heartfelt welcome to Sis. Mary Beth, and may God bless their life together as they live for Him.

IOWA, AMES/DES MOINES

Rhonda Reker

Sunday, October 11, was once again received with much support from all those who traveled to be with our group.

We appreciate all the help in the preparations which go on each month to make this all possible.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to all who were in attendance including Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) who ministered to us.

Our exhortation was comparing the season in which we are in now to our spiritual season which we are in; to be steadfast in our faith. Hebrews Chapter 6.

Truly we have a lot to be thankful for.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Dixie Messner — Karen Schulz

We were blessed this past month with two visiting ministers, Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville). May the Lord richly bless them for taking the time to visit us and bring us the Word of Life.

Sis. Melinda Christ (Princeville, IL) is attending college about 45 minutes from Burlington and on Wednesday nights she has been assembling with us. We enjoy having her with us.

We have had several in the hospital. Sis. Ingrid Buster (Bro. John), Sis. Leola Heiniger (Bro. Harvey), Bro. Ben

Wagler, Darin Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Clara Frank. May they feel the Lord's nearness and healing touch according to His perfect will.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Verna Woodward are happy grandparents again. Bro. Larry and Sis. Bev Moser (Oakville) just welcomed their first child, Lane Andrew, born October 5.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

THANKSGIVING

T — is for "thanks" for blessings received

H — for the harvest with hunger appeased

A — for another grand, bountiful year

N — is for neighbors with help ever near

K — for the knowledge to labor and prosper

S — for the season when families all gather

G — is for grace, our thanksgiving prayer

I — for God's infinite mercy and care

V — is for visions of a world even greater

I — for the instinct to do even better

N — is for nature's unending treasures

G — is for giving; life's greatest pleasure.

We truly do have so much to be thankful for.

I'm sure many from our little flock here offered prayers of thanks to God for sending His guardian angel to watch over Bro. Lon Butikofer (Sis. Sandy) during his recent visit at death's door.

How thankful we are that God does hear and answer our prayers.

We have been blessed with many visitors lately and we appreciate them all.

Christian fellowship — Another blessing we share!

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Glen and Sally Funk

Our visiting ministers for September and October were Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville), and Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL). Our blessings from their visit were great, and we pray God will bless them.

We had seven children that were old enough this year to attend the Sunday

school weekend in Wichita, KS. Bro. Brad Funk took the children and they all had a wonderful time. We thank Wichita for all their efforts and work towards making it a memorable weekend for them.

The farmers are nearly done with the harvest and it has been a wonderful year for them in southern Iowa. Praise be to God for His bountiful blessings.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Bonita Frank

We have enjoyed having our new students in the area assemble with us. Nancy Belsley and Kris Licko are here for their first year with us. Nancy is the daughter of Richard and Fern Belsley, Oakville, and Kris is the daughter of Tim and Candice Licko. Nancy's sister, Karen, is also attending school in this area. We are thankful for each one God leads to be part of our congregation.

Our sympathy goes to George and Phyllis Lance who recently lost their son, George, 18, in a motorcycle accident. When a child is lost the sorrow is truly great, but we pray that God will comfort them in this dark hour.

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bro. John Steiner (Oakville) and Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin). We appreciate the teachings they brought forth.

Our annual business meeting was October 3. We would like to thank all those who gave of themselves in the past year to fulfill their duties.

We begin the conference tapes this coming Wednesday and are looking forward to hearing them. We hope to conclude them in an all-day Saturday session later this month.

We rejoice that another soul is forsaking sin and Satan in repentance. Nancy Belsley has made that decision. We wish her God's abundant grace as she submits her life unto Him.

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch

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

Genesis 8:22

We can feel the change of seasons as the cooler weather appears and harvest in our area is rapidly nearing completion. God has blessed us with a

bountiful harvest and we are thankful as we realize it is all in His hands.

The weekend of September 20 we were blessed with visiting ministers Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN). Bro. Ed assisted with the ordination service for Bro. Dennis Warner as deacon. May God lead, guide and direct His servants as they, by His grace, carry out their duties according to His will.

Surgical patients the past month were Sis. Marjean Peasley (Bro. Dave), Bradley Scholten (Clarence and Eileen), and Sis. Emily Leuthold (Bro. Art). Also on the sick list was Neil Knobloch. May God's healing hand help each one to good health again.

As we gather in the grain and near our Thanksgiving holiday, we pray we might begin each day with thankful hearts for the many blessings which we so often take for granted. We have tables filled with food, but "Man cannot live by bread alone."

He lived in a palace on a mountain
of gold
Surrounded by riches and wealth
untold,
Priceless possessions and treasures
of art,
But he died alone of a "hungry heart".
For man cannot live by bread alone
No matter what he may have or own,
For though he reaches his earthly goal,
He'll waste away with a "starving soul".
But he who eats of holy bread
Will always find his spirit fed,
And even the poorest of men can afford
The feast at the table prepared by the
Lord.

Helen Steiner Rice

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach

Lane Andrew Moser is the name given to Bro. Larry and Sis. Bev Moser's first little boy. Bro. Roger and Sis. Naomi Moser and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Verna Woodward (Burlington) are pleased to have a new little grandson. May God grant His wisdom and blessings to Bro. Larry and Sis. Bev as they bring their child up according to His direction.

Bro. Bill Schrock and Sis. Karen Menold (Princeville, IL) were united in marriage September 20. May God bless them as they seek to establish their Christian home.

Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Glen Funk (Garden Grove) have

recently been visiting in our congregation and fed us from God's Holy Word.

Thought: "A Good Example is the Best Sermon" — Ben Franklin

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

We give thanks for all the many autumn blessings. Among them we have four precious babies to report. Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Banwart have a new son, Jason Michael, born September 14. Kyle and grandparents, Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart welcome him home.

Jerry and Joy Metzger welcome a little daughter, Paige Marie, born September 18. Happy brothers are Tyler and Logan, and grandparents, Mrs. Lois Zimmerman and Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger.

Ralph and Melanie Bormann are happy parents of a son born October 3. Jeffrey Allan has two sisters, Pamela and Becky to welcome him home. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lilly Mogler and Mrs. Julia Bormann are his grandparents.

Terry and Deb Banwart are the happy parents of their first child, Jenna Marie, born October 10. Grandparents are Dean and Irene Banwart and Don and Mary Holland.

Hospital patients to report this month are Bro. Eli Grimm, Sr. (Sis. Lena), Manuel Fehr, and Tadd Knobloch (Adolph and Jean). We are thankful that all have returned home again. With the beautiful autumn days we have enjoyed and the bountiful harvest that God has given, it seems only fitting to include the following poem:

Dear Lord, my thanks I offer thee
For priceless gifts bestowed in me!
I use them constantly, and yet
The Giver I sometimes forget!
Thanks for my eyes, dear Lord — I see
The glories that encircle me.
While through my ears come speech
and songs —
The world of sound to me belongs!
My hands, with their swift sense of
touch,
Are daily blessings — means so much!
My voice, too, is a gift from God —
A constant help along life's road.
My mind, my heart, my soul — all three
Are precious treasures, Lord, from
Thee.
For life on this Thanksgiving Day,

Accept my gratitude, I pray!

Dr. W. J. Thompson

JAPAN, SHIODA Kathy Kieser

Our guests in September were Bro. Dale and Sis. Barbara Hunziker (Peoria, IL). We were thankful that they could spend a little time with us at the kindergarten and then attend our weekly Wednesday evening Bible study at the Ehnles' home.

"Why do people become Christians?" was the topic of our fall fellowship meeting held at Lake Yamanakako in the Mt. Fuji area. What inspiration and fellowship it was as we shared our experiences and reasons for becoming Christians! Several church friends who could not attend the meeting specifically asked us to record the sessions for them. Pray for them, that they may be encouraged more each day to "come out from among them" to serve the true and living God.

I was surprised the other day to hear my kindergarten students talking among themselves about how they've evolved from monkeys. I reminded them that God made everything, He made man, and He made monkeys and humans separately. One little boy said, "But I read it in a book, that we came from monkeys!" Another boy piped up, "But sometimes the book writers lie, but the Bible never lies!" It thrilled me to hear his testimony of faith in the Word of the true and living God. Such faith is very rare here.

"For with thee is the fountain of life.
In Thy Light shall we see light."

Psalms 36:9

Let's pray that many more who live in the darkness of unbelief may be drawn to the life and light of Jesus Christ!

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

One Sunday afternoon, the Bible opened to the story of the "Good Samaritan". The message delivered focused on helping others even though we may receive nothing, or even in situations where we may feel frightened. Shortly after the services, a stranger came to the church and said he needed a place to stay. According to his story, because of emotional problems, he was unable to maintain a full-time job. So often when we hear God's Word, we don't think how we can apply

it to our lives. But on that day, God gave us the opportunity to practice what He had taught us: "Go, and do thou likewise." (Luke 10:37) So, the church was opened to him, and he has been living there the past several weeks. Some of the church members have taken him under their care by visiting with him, and helping him to get more stability in his life. How wonderful it is when we can actually practice the Word of God!

Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki recently had to move from his apartment because it was going to be demolished. Finding a reasonably priced apartment in Tokyo is not easy because of the high population and exorbitant land prices. However, a week before he had to leave, the Lord opened up the way for him to move to a small apartment that is only a three minute walk to the church. This is a real blessing, because Bro. Yoshio was crippled by polio in his youth and walking has become a little more difficult for him in the past several years. Truly, the Lord watches over and takes care of His children. His new address is: Furuhashi Apt. #7, 21-2, 1 Chrome, Nishi Tsutsujigaoka, Chofu-Shi, 182 Tokyo.

This past month, several members from our congregation were in America. Elder Bro. Akito spent a week in the midwest on business, and Sis. Kathy Sauder flew home to Altadena, CA, to attend the wedding of her sister, Sis. MaryBeth Klotzle to Bro. Greg Leman.

We were blessed with the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Warner from New Jersey who stayed with Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie and family.

On October 10, we journeyed to Lake Yamanaka, which is located at the base of Mt. Fuji for our annual fall fellowship meeting which was hosted by the Shioda church. In the morning we were privileged to listen to each member retell their testimony and why they became a Christian. In the afternoon we enjoyed fellowshiping and God's beautiful creation.

We look forward to November 8 when we can once again take holy communion. We are thankful that Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) will be able to be with us.

KANSAS, BERN
Shirley Strahm
Lori Baumgartner

"Will they ever grow up?" sighed the young mother. A middle-aged mother

standing close by turned to the young mother with a knowing smile and spoke, "Yes, your children will grow up. Just be thankful they are still small and enjoy them. For when they reach their teenage years the mischief they can get into will cause a much greater worry than you have now." "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20. Why is it that we never are thankful enough for something until it is past or it is taken from us? Why is it we never appreciate a beautiful, sunlit day until we experience days of gloomy rain? Why is it that we aren't thankful enough for our baby brother's constant chatter until he graduates from high school, and then we notice that he keeps most of his thoughts to himself? Why is it that we aren't thankful enough that we are a single brother or sister until we are married and then realize the many blessings of single life? Or why is it that when our children are small we look forward to the time when they will grow up a little, only to find that they grow up too fast? And why is it we never appreciate our health until we are sick? Yes, many times we find it hard to be thankful at the moment. But when we reflect on a certain stage or situation in our life, it seems that we always must confess, "That was such a blessed stage in my life. Why wasn't I thankful?" In God's Word we are instructed to be thankful even in trials, for our Lord can make blessings come out of trials.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Emil Strahm (Sis. Grace). We are thankful that he is back in good health.

We had one visiting minister during this past month, Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS). We always appreciate the labors of our ministering brethren.

Sis. Lucy Rokey (Bro. Roy) wishes to express a sincere thank you to all who have remembered her with cards and prayers during her past hip surgery.

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

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Vola Young — Judy Kraft

This time of year we remember how the pilgrims realized the importance of giving God praise and thanks for all blessings. Surely in our everyday walk of life we should exercise thanksgiving

to God for all blessings. We are instructed in the Word to "Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18.

We rejoice and thank God for love shown through the miracle of new life. Philonna Gail Strahm was born September 23, to Bro. Phil and Sis. Gail. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Banwart (Lamar, MO). Sis. Dora Young (Wichita) is the great-grandmother.

Bro. Eldon Metzger and Sis. Gail Strahm were hospitalized. Philonna Strahm required specialized care for a few days after birth. We are thankful for the blessings of restored health and for those individuals God has given the ability and expertise to care for our loved ones.

We have had the blessing of added spiritual food. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan), Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott) and Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott). We have heard the conference tape conclusions. The love and deep concern of the shepherds for the church could certainly be felt while listening to the tapes. May we all strive to walk closer to God, each seeking the precious gift of everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling — Janice Bahr

When upon life's billows you are
 tempest-tossed,
 When you are discouraged, thinking
 all is lost,
 Count your many blessings, name
 them one by one,
 And it will surprise you what the Lord
 hath done.

Johnson Oatman, Jr.

At this time of the year when we celebrate Thanksgiving, we take some extra time to count our blessings. Let us try to remember to have this spirit of thankfulness in our hearts every day.

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

I Thessalonians 5:18

Focusing on the Lord's blessings

might keep us from letting the trials of life weight us down.

We pray for the Lord's healing spirit to be with Sis. Matilda Schupbach at the passing of her husband, Bro. Floyd Schupbach. The death of loved ones often makes us yearn all the more for the time when we will be reunited in our heavenly home.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

Our thoughts turn to Him from whom all blessings flow, for families will be celebrating Thanksgiving this month and we all have so much to be thankful for, not only on that day, but every day.

Number 13 in the Zion's Harp expresses so well how we feel toward our loving Saviour who gave His all that we might be partakers of His holiness.

"Lord God we honor Thee, and praise Thy mild compassion, That Thou so gracefully, Do'st hear our supplication! Thy love is truly great; Thy mercies are untold; Thou givest food and drink for spirit, flesh and soul."

On a recent Thursday evening we assembled with the Gridley congregation to hear the inspiring message delivered to us by Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan).

We thank Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley) for ministering God's precious Word to us also.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Charleen Hartter — Nita Grimm

"O give thanks unto the God of Heaven: for His mercy endureth forever."

Psalm 136:26

We've been blessed with visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Alpha Strahm (Bern), Lloyd Kraft (Gridley), and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) have instructed us upon the narrow way. May we find grace to walk worthily therein.

A wedding reception was held for Bro. Ben and Sis. Anna Lou (Mattix) Aberle. May God bless their union of hearts!

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

The weekend of October 3-4 was special for the Wichita congregation. On Saturday night Elder Bros. Gene

Marti, Ed Lanz, and Ronald Nelson served holy communion. The following day, Bro. Max Reimschisel was ordained as deacon of the Wichita congregation. Retired elder, Bro. Sam Anliker was a special guest for the occasion.

Sis. Dora Young has returned from the Terrace Garden Nursing Center to the home of her daughter, Sis. Gussie Wullschlegler. In spite of her infirmities, Sis. Dora worships with us nearly every Sunday.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Lester and Glendoris Huber

Beauty is truly something with which God has blessed us. It is not the things that so many people spend all their lives looking for and never find. There is beauty in everything around us, if we let it be there. Truly there is beauty in the warming sunshine, the marvel of His creation, the beautiful autumn which we are seeing now, the air we breathe, and the tender smiles of little children. In noticing these beauties, try sharing a smile; you will soon find it is contagious. Yes, with God there is beauty in everything. Many times it is hard to see the beauty, but if we let God guide our lives, we'll find that all works for the good - to the glory and honor of the Lord.

"Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever."

Psalm 107:1

Let us truly praise the Lord with our whole heart and be grateful unto Him for His many, many blessings which we could never number. May God's love and His Holy Spirit flow richly through and in us that our lives might radiate and glorify Him at all times.

We are grateful to God for our ministering brothers who so faithfully and willingly came in the past months and shared God's living Word with us. They included Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) who came in July, Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) who came in August, Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Willard Schieler (Milford, IN) who came in September. God bless them all and their families. We do appreciate the many visitors who come from time to time and the

precious faith and Christian fellowship we can share together.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Schlatter

John the Baptist was described as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness." (Mark 1:3) Today we are thankful for those who still preach the Gospel. Although we may not be in a physical wilderness, how often do those servants of God speak to a people in a spiritual wilderness, wild and unchecked by the Holy Spirit? May the Gospel message clear and cultivate the wilderness of many hearts.

Our visiting ministers include Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL).

Matthew Scott Kent is the newest little bud in our congregation. Bro. Scott and Sis. Beth Kent were given the privilege and responsibility of raising and nurturing this precious little bundle. Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer, maternal grandparents, are also delighted by Matthew's arrival.

Fred Knochel, Sis. Helen Ramseyer, and Bro. Fred Ruegsegger (Sis. Marilyn) were hospital patients this past month. We are thankful God has restored a measure of health to each of them.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Donna Hartzler

OUR THANKS TO THEE

There is so much we have in life for which we cannot pay, the things we take for granted in our journey day by day. From early in the morning until the day is done, we ought to count our blessings and name them - one by one. Health, peace, happiness, love of kin and friends, birds, trees, flowers, seas - a list that never ends. Summer, autumn, winter, spring, each brings something rare and we accept what comes our way without a thought or care. We really ought to think a bit of what we have and why. There is so much that belongs to us - the stars, the moon, the sky. The very air we breathe each day, the food upon the board; and the only way we can every pay - "Our thanks to Thee, O Lord."

— The Better Way

At the time of this writing Bro. Joe Szilagyi is a hospital patient. Our prayers and thoughts are with Bro. Joe.

May he feel God's presence and grace in his hour of need. "Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge . . ." (Psalm 57:1)

We welcome into our fellowship as a brother and sister-in-Christ, Jim Baxter and Maggie Fortenbacher. They gave a good testimony of their faith Saturday, October 3 and were baptized Sunday. We give thanks to Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen for assisting our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, and for sharing the Word of God with us. Thanks go also to Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) for ministering to us that day.

Bro. Merle Hartzler was our visiting minister Sunday, October 11. We thank all of our ministers for their efforts, and may God grant them the grace to: "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

On Sunday, October 18, Apostolic Christian Woodhaven held an Open House for the Toledo, Alto and Bay City churches. It was an opportunity for those who worked so diligently to see the end results of their labors. We thank all who came to share with us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Ruth Nohl — Hildegard Koehl

"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein."

Psalm 24:1

The harvest season is approaching the end and once again we truly have been blest with a bountiful harvest. As tillers of the soil, we plant the seed and then we wait for God to add the increase, realizing of ourselves we can do nothing — but only wait upon our God. It certainly reminds us of the harvest that will come when this time on earth will be over. In Revelation 14:15 it states — "Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe." Let's be ready for that great harvest.

Mark Knobloch (Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy) has made a start to a new life through repentance. We are happy for Mark and his family and are praying that he might find that peace that he is searching for.

Mike Moser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Norene) and Cindy Eul have announced their engagement. An April wedding

is being planned. May God's blessing rest upon them.

Tim Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam) was injured in a hunting accident that has left him with a serious injury to a leg. He is presently in Minneapolis in the hospital. Sis. Louise Mohrman has also been hospitalized. May they feel our prayers for them.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to ministering Bros. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis), Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) for bringing God's Word to us.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Wanda Messner
Ella Mae Schmidt

We were privileged to have many visitors with us for our annual pork chop supper. Among the visitors were ministering Bros. Bert Butikofer and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA). We thank everyone for their part in making the day so blessed.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest . . ." Doreen Schmidt (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Darlene) was wed to Kevin Kopp (Waconia) and Shirley Stresemann was united in marriage to Lowell Demm (Winthrop) this past month. Rachael Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou) and Darcy Kent (Gibbon) are engaged to be married November 14. As these new homes are established, may God find a place in each one.

ALL COME AND
THANK THE LORD

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

Oh, may this bounteous God Thro' all
our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed
peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, His full
redemption send,
And free us from all ills, Sustain us to
the end.

All praise and thanks to God The
Father now be given,

The Son and Holy Ghost, Who dwell
in highest heaven.
The one eternal God, Whom earth and
heav'n adore,
Who is and shall survive, Now and
forevermore.

Zion's Harp #236

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Linda Ziegenhorn

How wonderful that, as we move from city to city, we have an "instant" family in the form of brothers and sisters-in-Christ. We welcome Sis. Lynette Meyer (Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Jamie Merei (Ft. Scott, KS) to our congregation. Our young group is rather small and the addition of these sisters is greatly appreciated.

On September 23, Sis. Anna Lou Mattix and Bro. Ben Aberle (Sabetha, KS) were united in holy matrimony. Elder Bro. Gene Marti said we should let the Lord lead us, and as sheep trust their shepherd for all their needs, the Lord will supply our needs, as we follow Him. We wish Anna Lou and Ben much happiness during their years together.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janice Stoller — Carol Braker

We are thankful that four dear souls are seeking their salvation. We wish Troy and Vanessa Luthi, Calvin Luthi (both sons of Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn), and Jodi Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary) God's guidance and His peace.

Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL) were welcome visitors to our congregation.

Sis. Cecile Braker and Terry Braker were hospital patients but are now able to assemble with us once again.

Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Banwart wish to thank all for the kindness and love shown to them during Bro. Art's surgery and recovery.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Loren and Betsy Schrenk

Our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm was our minister here in St. Louis September 6. The third Sunday of the month we had two ministers: Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Charlie Sinn (Fort Scott, KS). We thank these brothers and their families for coming.

We have had large groups assembling nearly every Sunday we have had services. What a blessing it is to have

Christian fellowship with so many from different churches. We appreciated greetings from seven churches one Sunday.

We give thanks to Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) for making the effort to visit us and minister to us in the past month. Having two services in one day is quite a lot to ask of one minister, and we humbly thank them all for lending themselves so willingly.

Our small congregation plans to listen to the conference tapes Wednesday evenings in our home. We look forward to the time when, Lord willing, we have our own church building to use for services. A convenient and beautiful church building is a blessing that most of our congregations have, but we know that the "church" is the people, not the building. We are reminded of this every Sunday that we assemble in the motel meeting rooms. We pray for God's direction and for patience as we explore our various options in this important matter.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doreen Leuthold, newlyweds from Princeville, IL, have recently moved to St. Louis where Jerry has found employment. We welcome them and pray that God will bless their new household.

Some advice given to us to help live a Christ-like life — "I will become engaged in nothing that will cause me to deceive when I tell about it."

Services are now being held the first, third and fourth Sundays each month, still at the Ben Franklin Motel, 4645 N. Lindbergh. Singing begins at 10:15 and 12:15.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

AUTUMN TAPESTRY

With just a whisper of wintry chill,
And a sprinkling of frost-diamonds
over the hill,
A blazing new sun in the blue sky above,
Autumn has come to the mountains I
love.

The forests are vistas of beauty untold:
Warm shades of burgundy, red, green
and gold.

Leaves of all colors come scurrying by,
Racing the clouds that scamper on
high.

The white of a church spire, meadows
of brown,
Hills misty purple, with clouds for a
crown;
God shows us beauty in so many ways,
Each golden moment of bright autumn
days.

Ruth G. Newman

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell are back "at home" in Florida. We miss having them with us but know this is a better climate for William. Our loss is Sarasota, FL's, gain. Their address is 377 Oak Hill Drive, Sarasota, FL 33582.

Dana Meyer (Jody and Danny) has recovered from a tonsillectomy and is happy to be back in school again.

The current status of the building of our new church as of the middle of October is the setting of the metal floor joists and putting over this the concrete cap. The next phase, which will consist of the framing, will hopefully be started by the first or second week of November. When we observe a completed building, we certainly are not aware of all the work put into the part that we don't see. May God continue to bless and guide the efforts of all who take part in this work.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) for visiting us and sharing God's messages. An interesting Bible study was held Saturday evening at the fellowship center and enjoyed by all who attended.

A THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER

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

Helen Steiner Rice

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

Psalms 33:12

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

We assembled with the Naumburg congregation Sunday, September 27 to hear the Word from Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL). After services, we enjoyed a covered dish meal. In the evening we gathered in the Croghan church for song service.

We have been blessed to be able to listen to the tapes of our conference on October 4 and 11, and expect to hear the remainder on the 18th.

Joe and Linette Bush are happy with the birth of another son, Amos Paul, September 27. Ambrose will be a happy little playmate for baby Amos. Grandparents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Celia Virkler and Richard and Sandra Bush.

We were blessed to have Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) with us for services Tuesday evening, October 13, in the Naumburg church.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

The Croghan and Naumburg congregations have been spending Sunday evenings listening to the conference tapes. Surely our elders put forth much labor and effort through God's guidance to guide us on the right pathway. We cannot express our appreciation enough for their love and concern for us.

On the weekend of September 20, we were together at Croghan, expecting that Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler would be with us, but due to a death in the family, he had to return home Saturday.

On the September 27 weekend, Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL) visited us and gave us teachings from God's holy Word. Croghan brethren assembled with us at Naumburg.

On October 13 in the evening, Bro. Earl Kilgus was with us here at Naumburg and Croghan brethren again came to be with us.

We thank these brothers for coming to visit us and hope Elder Bro. Corbin will be able to come visit us in the near future.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

John Grimm

Three years ago I moved away from home and accepted employment in Columbus. If someone at that time would have said I would be writing for the Silver Lining, I would have had a good laugh. My life, especially in the

past ten months, has changed dramatically. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, I could answer His call to repentance. I'm so thankful we have a congregation of brothers and sisters in Columbus. May God bless each one.

We appreciate the visitors over the past month and especially want to thank Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for ministering to our needs.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty) came and brought us the Word of Life this month. Having recently been in a motel near a major sports event and being awakened by so many people who were very excited and emotionally out of control gave me a fuller appreciation for our spiritual heritage. We need to be more thankful for our parents and those who influenced our lives such that the things that thrill our hearts are the things in life that really matter, like the sermons of encouragement delivered by our humble brethren.

Richard Stephen is the new arrival at Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz's home. Anxious to help mother take care of this precious little soul are Randy, Patricia and Mary. As parents, no doubt they want nothing but the best for this young soul. With God's blessings and his parents' prayers, he can have the best — a home in heaven some day. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Joanne Varga (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Elias and Sis. Evelyn Manz.

OHIO, LATTY

Marlene Reinhard — Patty Gerber

This past month our congregation was richly blessed with many visiting ministers. They were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bros. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

The hand of God has once again worked in a dear soul. Rick Plummer (Denise) has decided to let God reign in his life and live for Him. We wish him much grace to overcome the world.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts . . ."

Colossians 3:15

Kathy Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis.

Renee), Amy Stoller (Bro. Millard and Sis. Irma) and Doug Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores) have found peace with their God and man and are eagerly awaiting baptism.

Joy has once again filled the house of Bro. Dale and Sis. Jodi Stoller. Josiah David has come to help make many blessings for his mom and dad and brother, Dustin.

We want to sincerely welcome Bro. Ed and Sis. Debbie Graf and son, Ryan, to the Latty congregation. May they feel the love of God and a warm welcome from our brothers and sisters.

May God comfort the hearts of Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Gerber at the passing away of Jim's mother, Sis. Hulda Gerber. She spent the last few years in the Eureka Nursing Home.

We believe the hand of God bound the hearts of Bro. Lee Nuest (Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma, LaCrosse, IN) and Sis. Paula Perl (Paul and Sandra) in holy matrimony September 20. It was a very joyous occasion and may God richly bless their lives together.

On October 10, many of us took a small journey back to the foot of the cross at Calvary where our Saviour died. We had the privilege to partake of holy communion. It was a special time in our lives and may each and every one have a greater desire to serve our Lord and Master more humbly than before.

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

"Now Thank We All Our God",
Zion's Harp #236

May each and every one have a very blessed Thanksgiving.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Stephanie Baltic — Diane Gasser

Jesus, Rose of Sharon, balm for ev'ry
ill,
May Thy tender mercy's healing pow'r
distill
For afflicted souls of weary, burdened
men,
Giving needy mortals, health and hope
again.

Hymns of Zion #285

Those suffering affliction the past month are Bro. Karl Beery (Sis. Ruth), Bro. Harry Gasser (Sis. Marguerite), Sis. Jennie Bauman, Sis. Ruth Beery, Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier (Bro. Joe) and Sis. Violet Baltic (Bro. Mitchell). Our prayer is that each will experience God's healing mercies.

Two homes have recently been blessed with the arrival of a precious new baby. Steve and Sue Zollinger, along with Jeremiah and Charles, welcome Tiffany Sue into their family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith.

Welcoming a little son into their home is Dan and Sis. Anita Pope. Paul Andrew's sister is Danelle. Carl and Sis. Martha Zollinger and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Forthofer are the happy grandparents.

The engagement of Bro. Ron Pertee (Mr. and Mrs. Everett Perett) and Sis. Shelly Steiner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth) was recently made known. We wish them God's guidance and blessings as they make plans to be joined in holy matrimony.

We bid a fond farewell to Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn Steiner and their two little sons, Nathaniel and Isaac, as they have moved to the Columbus area. May the Lord be with them in their new location and may they be blessed and be a blessing in the Columbus congregation.

We have listened this fall to the conference tapes Wednesday evenings. As we listened to the loving words of counsel from our elders, didn't it inspire us all to strive to walk a more careful life on this straight and narrow way? May we always keep our eyes on our heavenly goal.

OHIO, SARDIS

Alice Ramsier

Visiting ministers this month, who have brought us good tidings from God's Word, were Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH).

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. (Psalms 19:1) Every fall as the trees change into their brilliant colors, we get together to enjoy a day of fellowship and activity. Truly we were blessed with a beautiful day as we made apple butter, apple cider, and roasted a pig. In the evening we finish-

ed the day by singing praises to the Lord. Thanks to all who participated in making this a special day.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Verla Stoller — Ann Maibach

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

Zion's Harp #236

November is the month in which we have a day set aside to observe "Thanksgiving". However, we shouldn't be thankful just one day of the year. It is only our reasonable service to live each day showing we are thankful to Him for all He has done for us.

We have a special reason to be thankful this month. Three more souls have answered God's knock at their heart's door. They are Mark Maibach (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann), Ted Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose), and Polly Uhler (Dale and Sis. Marilyn). May God grant them the needed grace to experience a complete repentance, and find the peace that passes all understanding.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly Indermuhle are very thankful for the safe arrival of their first child, Brienna Nicole. Sharing in their joy are grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vera Indermuhle.

It is sometimes hard to be thankful when trials and afflictions come our way; but, we know that "... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) Our dear Bro. Ben Hartzler (Sis. Clara) was hospitalized again this past month. We are thankful that he has been able to return home, and look forward to the time when he can assemble with us again.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehklaue

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise;

be thankful unto him and bless his name.

"For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalm 100:1, 2, 4, 5

We wish to thank Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman) for spending a Sunday with us bringing to us the Word of God.

The Apostolic Christian Woodhaven (Livonia, MI), a senior living complex, had Open House for Alto and Bay City, MI, and Toledo, OH, churches. The beautiful fall day with the colorful trees surrounding the building added to the lovely comfortable and well-planned home we found inside as we took our tour. Certainly all who are working so faithfully to make this a pleasant Christian home deserve our sincere thanks. Let us pray that God will bless the home and them for all their efforts.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Jerry Isch

Our thanks are offered to Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL) for giving of himself to bring us God's Word on Wednesday evening. May God bless him richly.

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus."

Romans 15:5

East Germany . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

his entire life in Lichtenstein, where he once led a congregation of about 35 members. A second daughter and her husband (retired educators) share part of the house. A third daughter lives in West Germany. Two of his five children were lost to childhood diseases. Arno and Traudel are the only members of the faith left in Lichtenstein.

The last surviving couple in church were ethnic Germans driven out of Yugoslavia near the end of World War II. Though both are over 80, they rode across 500 kilometers in a super, super compact Trabant, over roads which would challenge much younger constitutions, in order to be in Lichtenstein. There had once been members of our faith not too far from their home near East Germany's Baltic Sea coastline, and for years they had depended on

Bro. Markert's semi-annual visits. Since those trips stopped, fellowship was sporadic. We were deeply moved at the couple's zeal in overcoming personal hardship to visit us and the other faithful, who came from nearby cities and from the region along the Czech border.

One reason that many brothers and sisters could come to Lichtenstein was that adult children made a sacrificial effort (in some instances giving up work and vacation time) so that their parents might enjoy the blessing of assembling with their fellow pilgrims. One such child, a very honest and upright man, afforded us a candidly balanced and honest picture of life in the East. He never said anything negative about his country's government, but did explain in detail the situation of non-combatants, individuals who decline to take oaths of loyalty, and of those who affiliate with groups whose tenets are not consistent with government policy. His comments helped us to appreciate the dilemma of young persons whose decision not to bear arms might, for instance, mean a prison sentence twice the length of normal military service, a lifelong criminal record and vulnerability to further prosecution. I feel that we need to pray fervently not only for the baptized members of our church in East Germany, but also for those children of believers who love and respect our brotherhood but are discouraged or intimidated from open affiliation.

After dinner, services were held. A small wooden box on legs with a tilted lid serves as a portable podium and storage space for Bibles and songbooks. The rest of the day and the next morning was spent in song, fellowship and discussions of ways the American brethren can help. Here is a distillation of ideas.

Pray! These people need support and sense whether they are getting it or not. Write! If you don't know German, find someone who does, or send a beautiful picture or family photo with the message *Wir beten fur Euch* (we are praying for you).

A word of advice: do not send printed matter or cassettes (though the latter are much prized items). Such items are confiscated by the authorities and cause difficulties for the intended recipient.

Also bear in mind that these people have suffered much, and need tokens

of cheerful support. Virtually all have lost children to diseases resulting from unsanitary conditions during or after the war. One sister's husband was sent to Russia to work in the mines, and she was left alone with five children and was expecting the sixth. Several of the (current and past) brothers were imprisoned and recall a number of instances where the Lord mercifully spared a believer's life.

These people are used to sacrifice, and yet remain generous. One child of believers present that day, who is not a party member, had to wait eleven years for his tiny car. Building repair materials are in short supply and it is generally conceded that the best industrial products are either forwarded to the Soviet Union or are sold for "hard" currency in the Intershops. Nevertheless, the brethren are generous in sharing their homes and their food. No expense was spared in providing us with delicious, wholesome and plentiful food, and two of the sisters presented us with precious gifts of needlework. We were deeply touched.

Finally, these are a very interesting people to know. They are well-informed and eager to contact. They are definitely not interested in discussing politics, but are glad in a general way to learn about differences between their life and ours. Persons over retirement age are often allowed to visit outside the country, as occasionally are younger persons (if family members are left at home, to whom they must return). These are not, therefore, persons without any view to the outside, but rather persons who realize the nature of their situation, have learned to live with it, but still crave and need broader circles of contact with brethren from outside the country.

(Continued in Next Issue
of The Silver Lining)

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 28)

time really is difficult to define. Time is a period between two dates, perhaps. This is time. The breath of life is given to each of us for a time. We don't know how long this time will be. The important thing is that we do something with this time.

It speaks here of the parable of the fig tree. "When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near." Mark 13:28. We understand this, don't we?

"So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors." Mark 13:29. Now we see a lot of things fulfilling themselves, like Israel becoming a nation some time back. We see other things happening. We can go to the Scriptures and we can see where current events compare with the Scriptures in many ways. Yet, we cannot predict this time.

"Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done." Mark 13:30. Now that is hard for me to understand. Yet, one generation follows another. I am sure that each one of us in our generation, whether we be old, middle-aged or young, are going to see things that certainly have fulfilled Scripture in many ways.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Mark 13:31. This Word shall not pass away, dear ones. This Word is eternal. This Word is life-giving. This Word is directed to each one of us. This Word is for us and we are to receive it.

The Word is free, dear ones. It doesn't cost anything. The only cost to be a partaker of this Word is a life. It cost our Saviour His life. It will cost us a life of self and sin.

The Saviour said to be a partaker of the heavenly kingdom and goodness of God, we must give up this life, this earthly life, for a life of eternity. To be a victor in all eternity, we must give up this short life. That means we must humble ourselves, fall upon our knees and realize that the Saviour died for us and that we are nothing. We sing in a beautiful hymn . . . Oh, to be nothing, nothing, Only to lie at His feet, A broken and emptied vessel, For the Master's use made meet.

This is what we must experience, beloved friends. We must experience the time in our lives when we understand that we are nothing. We must experience a time in our lives when we would give all of our cares and concerns to someone else. There is One who cares for us.

I think of here in Phoenix where so many dear people can come together after they have retired. It is like a refuge. They can enjoy the goodness of God, the warmth of the climate and come together for church. I know you enjoy one another.

I've experienced the "joy unspeakable" when I have come here. Even

from our youth, when the thought was expressed that we were going to see our friends in another family, it brought joy to our hearts. It was an evening that we thoroughly enjoyed being together with our friends.

Now many of you dear folks who are retired come here and enjoy one another. That is wonderful. As we grow a little older, the time will come when the body becomes broken or begins to deteriorate. Then do we have something to rest upon? Do we have something to lean upon? As a child of God and as His children, we certainly have.

This is what this Scripture is trying to prepare us for, because that day is coming. We may not see the Saviour come in the clouds as we read of here. But even if we are in our graves, the call is going to go forth. We read throughout the Scripture that the graves will be opened. There will be a resurrection and men will come before the Righteous Judge. We read in the Scripture where their works will follow them. (See Revelation 14:13). There is going to be a reunion. There is going to be a wedding supper. There is going to be a coming together of God's children, of God's people.

God is no respecter of persons. (See Acts 10:34). We experience this as a child of God. We can go across this land, and when we meet brothers and sisters for the first time, we can feel the closeness. We can feel tied and bonded together by the love of God. It is because of the love of God.

God is even as a magnet. We sing in a hymn that God's Word draws us together as a magnet. I often think of how our Saviour and God in heaven above draws men to Him. He is a magnet.

This morning on the way to church we saw a balloon. That is unusual for us to see, even though I know it is common out here. This balloon was right over us and soon going to land. We would have like to have stopped and watched. When you see something in the sky, you raise your eyes and watch.

Here is what the Lord said when he was speaking of His return. "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." Mark 13:35, 36, 37.

I would only ask, "Are we watching? Are we ready for the Lord's return?"

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. EDWARD A. KNECHT OF SILVERTON, OR

Jesus Is Coming Back To Earth

Text: Mark 13:24 - 27

A chapter such as this certainly speaks of times that will be coming that are very, very important. It speaks of the Son of Man's return to earth. Perhaps there will be nothing said or spoken this morning that you have not heard before. You have read it in your own homes and have meditated upon it as we all do from time to time.

This speaks of our Saviour's return. That is the time, beloved ones, when there will be no more time. All that is to be accomplished will have to be done by that time.

As an earthly example, perhaps we send out an invitation. This past week you sent invitations to the churches across a good part of this land that young brothers and sisters should come. There is no doubt in my mind that when you sent these invitations, you immediately began preparation. You began making preparation for that time when these young people would come to spend the weekend with you.

As the time drew near and they began to arrive, the time of preparation was over. The time was at hand and that which you prepared for took place. Last Sunday was your big day, and everything was done so you could enjoy the day together.

At home when we know someone is coming, we clean up the house. We tidy up the place, because we want it to look good. Sometimes we get a little nervous when they come up the driveway or the lane. They are going to see it just the way it is. If we don't have everything in order, and cleaned up like we want it, we may make an excuse. It could even be a legitimate excuse.

Beloved ones, these are earthly situations and I believe we have all experienced them. But there is a time coming, as I mentioned before, that we will face eternity. It is hard to speak

about it because we don't know exactly how it will be.

Here we read of our Lord and Saviour, the Son of Man's return. He came here upon this earth among His own people and they didn't receive Him. We know then that the door was open to the Gentile people, and that wild branch was grafted into the True Tree.

The wild branches, beloved ones, were allowed to partake of that Root Stock. They were permitted through the goodness and graciousness of our Lord and Saviour to build a house upon that Solid Rock, which is Christ the Lord. Our Saviour came and suffered for us. We think of that time when He went into the Garden of Gethsemane. Our Saviour sweat drops of blood and was forsaken by His own Father. He endured the pain and the agony so that you and I might live. He, being flesh and blood, had to say, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:42.

He had to suffer much for us, beloved. He died upon the cross and they put Him in that new tomb. We know He was victorious over death and that sealed rock, and now He sits at the right hand of the Father. He intercedes for us and He is coming back.

This is what we read this morning... He is coming back!

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." Mark 13:24. I am going to admit to you, that I have a difficult time of really putting it all together. I don't think any of us can really put it together like it is going to be, because we really don't know. We know how the sun gives light, and we know how the moon reflects the light of the sun.

We sing in a beautiful hymn of our

Saviour, "He the Light and we the glow." It could be that even as He speaks of the sun and moon, that it could be of the church. Certainly the church is a reflection of our God and our Lord. The church should give off light because we look to the Son of God, and He is that Bright Light. He came into a world of darkness.

For us to have a glow, for us to show forth as a light, we must look to the Son. "And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." Mark 13:25, 26. Again, the stars of heaven and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. We are living in days that are truly perilous days. They are full of tribulations and full of trials.

There are things happening today, beloved ones, that are astounding. There really is no way that we can look down the road and clearly see the end, can we? I don't think we should. We should take one day at a time.

In many many instances people have experienced this. In facing severe sicknesses and disease, we take one day at a time, or even one hour at a time.

The Lord is good to us. The Lord has shown His mercy unto us. I'm sure in many of your lives, there have been times when you have come to a dead end and said, "Lord, how can I go any further?" But then we fall upon our knees, humble ourselves and cry to God. We know this one thing for sure, that as long as the Lord permits time to go on, it will continue on. It doesn't wait for us. We are in God's timetable. Maybe we don't think of this often, but we are. We are in the timetable of God.

We think of time as being something simple. Yet, I sometimes think that

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