



"For with **God** nothing shall be **impossible**."
 Luke 1:37

"And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy **Word**."
 Luke 1:38

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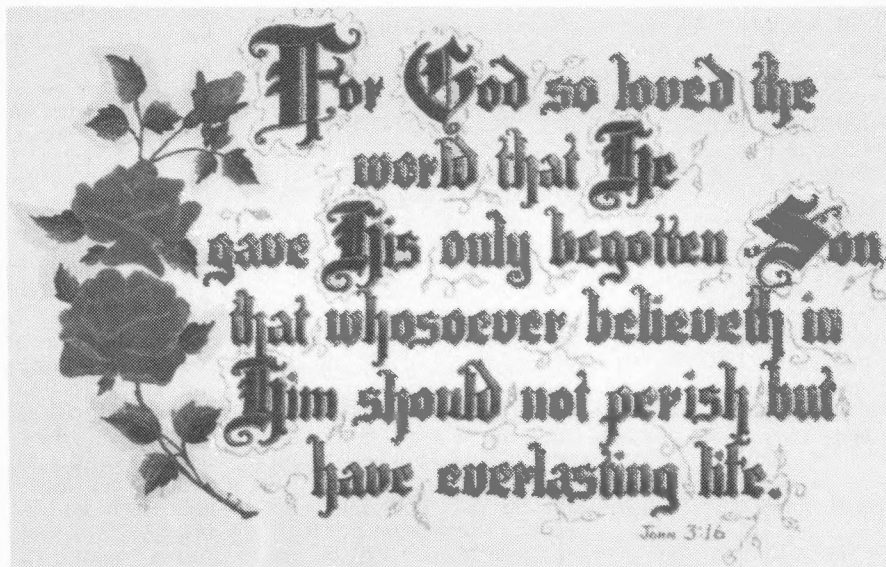


Christmas Truth

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

"... Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Luke 2:11-12



"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, ..."

Luke 23:33

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

John 19:30





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).

"Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing" (Phil. 3:16). "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind" (Phil. 2:2).

The Christian ideal of believers maintaining a healthy sense of like-mindedness finds clear expression in 1 Cor. 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

A judgment is defined as an opinion or position. If a body of believers is to be "perfectly joined together," there must be a tremendous effort to minimize self-centered opinions and blend hearts and minds together into a unified core of biblically-based positions on the significant aspects of life.

To meet this ideal requires a breaking of the strong wills of individuals. Paul wrote "Be not wise in your own conceits (opinions)" (Rom. 12:16). This can only be accomplished through conversion followed by a lifelong process of a believer's will being daily "crucified with Christ" (Gal. 2:20).

God's people today face a dilemma unique to our time. Contemporary society dismisses the biblical principle of like-mindedness. Rather, it aggressively fosters the themes of diversity and individualism. "Think for yourself," "Do your own thing," and "Do what is right in your own eyes" represent popular viewpoints which are not only appealing to human nature, but are actually given wide respect in our society. As converts come out from their former life and enter into the household of faith, great care must be taken that their hearts are thoroughly cleansed of this destructive individualism. Believers also must continually resist the development of self-centered opinions.

Christ-like love among believers draws them into close relationships in the Spirit. God's people are described in the Word as a "body" and "members one of another" (Eph. 4:25). They are thoroughly integrated in mind and spirit. All parts are to cooperate and pull in the

KEEPING THE SAME JUDGMENTS

same direction for the glorious cause of Christ. In graceful harmony they display an effective coordination that dispels self-centeredness and division. This holy body of Christ, the church, is to be "perfectly joined together" (1 Cor. 1:10), "fitly framed" (Eph. 2:21), and "compacted by that which every joint supplieth" (Eph. 4:16).

As God's children strive to keep the same judgments, a central and relevant question arises. Can all of the brethren agree in all of life's judgments? Obviously not, because individuals must make hundreds of personal, everyday judgments, many of which are unrelated to other brothers and sisters in the Lord. Yet, the brethren should agree on doctrinal matters and on clearly defined standards which are taught by the church and are based upon careful interpretation of the Scriptures under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. These standards consist of specific applications of biblical principles to various aspects of life. They provide definitions for important concepts such as worldliness, non-conformity, spiritual separation, pride, humility, sanctification, nonresistance, brotherhood, unit of spirit, and many others.

If abstract concepts are left without any uniformity of definition, then the believer's interpretation of them gravitates toward individualism. Each believer responds only as he personally understands them based on his own experiences. Spiritual truth then becomes relative, and the church becomes divided and defenseless against Satan's onslaughts. In matters of faith and verity, the truth should be defined and remain absolute.

In matters of doctrine and church practice there must be clearly defined judgments which are taught consistently in the home, Sunday School and church assembly and faithfully obeyed. These truths are sometimes referred to as "the faith." Jude exhorted, "... ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," (Jude 3). In this context "the faith" consists of a set of scripturally-based truths which must be adhered to by a body of true believers. It is evident that when Paul was preaching the gospel at

Philippi he also taught customs, which are patterned applications of scriptural truths to specific aspects of everyday life. These teachings required marked changes in living by his followers (Acts 16:19-21).

If each believer interprets the Scriptures according to his own preference, a condition develops which is little different from the time when "every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). The result was not good for God's people.

Church judgments are not rigid or suppressive when given by a "servant leadership" with deep affection and concern for the welfare of the brethren. Believers should be thankful for and not resent spiritual instruction, because the intent is to offer insights and guidance that will help on the upward road to Zion.

A great opportunity exists today for the church to present a beautiful, consistent example to an unregenerate world that is sinking lower and lower into the depths of selfishness and depravity. To do this will require Christ-like humility and brotherly love, with each preferring the other above himself (Rom. 12:10). In practical terms, this also requires submission to the kindly-administered judgments advocated by the church.

Unity and likemindedness create a deep and beautiful sense of solidarity in the household of faith. They enhance strong supportive relationships among believers allowing them to be more able, when necessary, to strengthen, encourage and admonish one another. On the other hand, variance and independence can stir up a sense of alienation and cause relationships between brethren to become lukewarm, making it almost impossible for them to admonish each other in the true spirit of love and meekness.

May we wholeheartedly obey the Scriptures: "... let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3), "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Eph. 5:21), "Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves..." (Heb. 13:17), and "... be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10).

GLORY TO GOD

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

What is it that brings glory to God? The multitude of angels who appeared to the shepherds at the time of Christ's birth, said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14. It's fine to say, "Glory to God," but we must ask ourselves if all we are supposed to do is say it. If not, what all is involved in bringing glory to God?

Mary had been visited by the angel, Gabriel, who told her she would have a son who would be called, the Son of God. Her response was, "Behold the handmaid (servant) of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." Luke 1:38.

Her attitude and the servant role she was willing to play no doubt brought glory to God. Therefore, we learn from Mary that if we want to bring glory to God, we should have the attitude of a servant in our relationship with God. This is in spite of the fact that God calls us (in the Bible) His sons and daughters, and joint heirs with Christ of all the eternal treasures of heaven. II Corinthians 6:18 and Romans 8:17.

The multitude of angels told the shepherds, "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in

a manger." Luke 2:12. The shepherds responded by saying, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." Luke 2:15. "And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." Luke 2:16.

Mary was not told to do anything in particular, nor go any certain place. She had only to wait, and trust with a sweet attitude. On the other hand, the shepherds were called into action. They went with haste. This, no doubt, brought glory to God as we understand that obedience is important in the eyes of God. "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." I John 2:4.

The wisemen, who came from the east, saying, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews?" were quite diligent in their search for the Christ Child. The diligence with which they searched for Him and their act of worshipping Him brought glory to God. To worship a baby is abnormal and would not have been proper except for the fact that this baby was the Son of God. That makes it not only permissible to wor-

ship Him but it brought glory to God.

We now have three ways of bringing glory to God, (1) by having a servant attitude toward God (2) by being obedient to God's teachings and (3) by worshipping God and His Son, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

What is it that brings glory to God? If it is an attitude, let's have it; if it is an action, let's do it; if it is worshipping, let's worship. In this way we can bring glory to God at this Christmas season and throughout the year. He deserves all glory.



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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
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EDWARD SOUDER

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN'S HOME

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me . . . For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

Jesus said it. Do you believe it? Are you responding to His call? Are you willing to be a servant for Him, to follow Him wherever He leads?

Many, many times here at the Children's Home, we cry out to God, ". . . the harvest truly is great and the laborers are few . . . Lord of the harvest, send more laborers!" And we wonder, "Where are the laborers? Is God not calling? Or are His children not listening and responding?"

At the end of December, we will be needing a married couple to serve as our Alternate Houseparents. (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr, East Houseparents, will be leaving us, after nearly two years of service. Bro. Nate and Sis. LeAnn Gerber, our present Alternate Houseparents, will be the new East Houseparents.) This is a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a couple to work as a team, with a dedicated and unified staff of fellow brothers and sisters as they strive to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of abused, neglected and disturbed children.

Please call or write either of the brothers listed below for information on responsibilities, salary and benefits:

Bro. Tim Sauder, Administrator
P. O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORKS PROJECTS

ASSISTING SMALLER CONGREGATIONS TO GROW

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

Greetings in our dear Lord's name!

The Apostolic Christian Church in the Kitchener, Ontario, area is our small congregation of approximately twelve local residents. In our present state we now have visiting ministers coming once a month. There is a fervent desire to have church services every Sunday. When we do not have visitors, we attend church in Detroit, MI, or one of our other congregations; and we try to do that at least once a month. On the remaining Sundays we hold a service, but listen to recordings sent to us by brethren from the various congregations.

We would welcome families, and especially young people, to come and live in the Kitchener, Ontario, area. We hope you will give this consideration. If you feel moved, a visit to the community would give you better insight into the possibilities.

Job opportunities are very broad at present, especially in the electronics and building trades. If you are interested, please contact the Walter Fortenbacher family, R.R. #1, Linwood, Ontario N0B 2A0 Canada, (phone 519/699-4133). Bro. Ben Maibach, Jr. (Detroit, MI) will be available for information as well.

When we consider the possibility of doing mission work, it's important that we examine fully the opportunities that exist closer to home. May the Lord move the heart of several to investigate our invitation.

God bless you all!

With many thanks,
The Fortenbachers

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

We would like to place an invitation once again in the Silver Lining for families to take residence with us here at Lexington, in support of the precious faith of our Lord and Saviour and Apostolic Christian Church. Many work opportunities are available in this growth area. However, more significant are the needs of fellowship and opportunities to serve as a song leader, Sunday school teacher, prayer brother or most significant supporters and helpers.

A modest, comfortable, 2 to 3 bedroom home adjacent to the church will be vacant November 1. For correspondence call or write: Lester Huber, 3938 Becknerville Road, Winchester, KY 40391, (606) 745-2541.

Your least ones in the fellowship
of our precious Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ

example of interceding with the Father for all who are in the world but not of the world.

If you would like to write to our loved ones in East Germany, feel free to contact a member of the World Relief Committee or Bro. Phil Webber, 212 Jackson, Pella, IA 50219 for addresses.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Ross Meyer

I've been a social work intern at the Children's Home this fall, and I've had a great experience working with such a dedicated Christian staff. I'm learning to love the children here, too. After spending three years on a secular campus, how refreshing it is to have Christian supervision and be in an environment where prayer and praise to God is encouraged! This semester has been full of challenges as I've struggled to understand the children's emotional hurts and intellectual disabilities. Many have been wounded by unstable, problem-ridden backgrounds. It just fills me with joy to realize our church is actively responding to needs, reaching out and giving new hope to each of these children.

One evening this past month everyone on campus got together for a group picture. Tim Sauder, our personal photographer (and administrator, too), did a great job getting the children lined up and keeping us all smiling. The backgrounds of beautiful autumn colors and setting sun over the St. Joe River merely highlighted the children whom God has created and entrusted in our care.

On the weekend of October 31, most of our residents and staff went to Francesville, IN. We received a hearty welcome, got airplane rides, ate delicious meals, went on a hayrack ride, sang around the campfire, attended a friendly church and went on our way with many well wishes. It was an exhausting weekend, but an exciting and memorable one as well. Many of our residents made new friends and had a lot of fun. Thanks to the Phil Gutwein family and everyone else who made our trip so enjoyable.

Back at the Home, our children have enjoyed three days of vacation from school so far this month. Two of those days were teacher conferences and the other one was Veteran's Day. Days off are fun for the children; but they usu-

A REPORT FROM EAST GERMANY

Bro. Philip Webber

(Continued from November Issue of Silver Lining)

The brethren also have a deep sense of historical perspective, and can relate their own plight to broader currents of political and social development in Europe. Perhaps we should take a lesson here.

It happens by chance that Bro. Markert's house is built over a series of underground tunnels built centuries earlier by a local monarch. Sis. Traudel showed us these tunnels and told how they were used as shelters during the war. The image of those tunnels has remained with me as a reminder of the experiences of these dear brethren. Grounded in a much older tradition than ours, they have seen and felt things unknown to most of us. We definitely have some lesson in faithfulness and patience to learn from these dear souls. The very least we can do in

turn is to reach out to them in love and fellowship.

Is East Germany worth the effort? To this question I can only give an emphatic YES. First of all, we need to help support these dear souls so that they can finish their course in faith, without losing hold of the precious prize in the final hours of their life. Secondly, a revival in East Germany would be a miracle, but one for which seeds have been sown. If this church were to revive, the glory to our Lord would be extraordinary. May He give the grace to those who need to come into the fold. Finally, the Lord tells us that even if we extend our love to "the least of these" (and I believe that our East German brethren are far more than that) we have performed a service to Him. In this spirit, may we follow His

ally mean more work for staff. It's good to know that our strength to deal patiently and lovingly with the youth comes from God. Please pray regularly for your Children's Home staff.

Good news! Houseparents, Bill and Cheri Blunier, had a healthy baby this month (Monday, November 9). Her name is Emily Kay. Bill and Cheri are pretty excited about this, and the rest of us at the Home are excited, too.

More Good News! Our building permit from the State finally came through this month. Now we can begin to work in earnest on our third residential home. Once again, Bro. Andy Hunyady is our general contractor, and Bro. Tim Reinhart is our volunteer coordinator. We give thanks in advance to all who are planning to participate in and pray for this project. We hope to house residents in the new home some time next summer or fall.

Recently, a brother asked me if I thought the Children's Home was successful or not. I suppose there are many of us who have had the same question. How many of the children we care for actually repent? How many are reunited with their families? How many finish high school? How many get jobs? Are we really being good stewards of our resources by operating a Children's Home? I don't have all the answers, but it seems to me that success really depends on how a person defines it. For instance, if we say that our goal in this work is to give the children a nurturing, structured Christian environment, and to expose them to God and His plan of salvation, the success rate is very high. Biblically-speaking, I Corinthians 4:2 says, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." Our work and everything we do with what we have, will not necessarily be measured by God in terms of success. Rather, it will be measured in terms of our faithfulness to what we know God wants us to do. Let us ask ourselves, "Are we striving for success or faithfulness?" If we are faithful, then we will be successful with God.

Christmas is approaching. The children and staff here are busy buying gifts for each other. Some of our residents packed boxes of gifts for poor children in Central and South America. Others are going to participate in the distribution of food packages to needy people in Fort Wayne. "What am I going to get for Christmas?" seems like

such a secular and selfish response to the season. This Christmas, let's follow Christ and ask, "What can I give?"

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10, 11

The good tidings of our Saviour's coming continues to bring us joy this holy, happy Christmas season. We, at the Home, find many ways of expressing this joy, and are also the grateful recipients of expressions of Christmas joy from those who are helping others in loving obedience to Jesus' teachings.

There are traditional Christmas activities here at the Home that are such a special part of December. The festive holiday decor brightens our days with each room having its own door decoration, and the different areas of the Home displaying holiday cheer. Christmas records are being played in place of other familiar songs. Loving hands are preparing Christmas goodies to the delight of many. The products coming from the ceramic and crafts departments portray the special season that we are enjoying. As Christmas greetings are being sent and received there is an abundance of mail. Outings to view the Christmas lights, and to spend a few of the dollars earned at Workshop for a special gift keep us bustling. We have our own caroling group, and also are grateful for the songs of praise and joy, and the fellowship provided by those who come to carol for us. The anticipation of family gatherings adds to the holiday excitement.

The Peoria, IL, Sunday School is again hosting a Christmas party to which the residents are invited. We appreciate their making time in busy schedules to plan this very special event!

Happy Birthday time comes in December for the following, with their day in parenthesis: Bryan Streid (8), Dianne Baltic (10), Lisa Menold (15), Delores Wieland (15), Nancy Wernli (17), Phil Fehr (18) and Doug Clauss (23).

Much time and effort was again given to make our Benefit Day successful.

The total receipts for the day were \$23,287.86. There are many of you who have faithfully supported this work of providing a home for our handicapped loved ones. We are glad that our great God is aware of your every deed of kindness!

A Christmas thought —

It isn't far to Bethlehem Town!
It's anywhere that Christ comes down
And finds in people's friendly face
A welcome and abiding place.

The road to Bethlehem runs right
through

The homes of folks like me and you.

Madeleine Sweeny Miller

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Marilyn Walder

We held our semi-annual board meeting November 14. Our board members, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Tom Schrenk (Alto, MI), Bro. Jim Schlatter (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) all attended as well as Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and David Bertsch (Leo, IN) who are on the National Education Committee. Sisters Joan Schrenk, Cindy Witzig and Kathy Schlatter also gave us their support by attending. Bro. Lavoyd Moore, who is our administrator, was present along with the six sisters on our staff. We discussed policies, procedures and plans to make our preschool run as smoothly as possible. Our main purpose is to reach out to our children, to give them a solid foundation, as well as touch their parents' lives.

Our theme for November has been Community Helpers. We toured the Athens Police and Fire Stations. The children learned how policemen and firemen help us. We saw a juvenile in a jail cell and all the children said they would be scared in jail and did not ever want to be there. Hopefully, they never will.

We are looking forward to presenting the Christmas story to our parents and relatives December 14. The children will act out the Nativity in costume. We hope to make this an annual event to celebrate the real reason for Christmas.

We have learned a Bible verse each week that goes with our Bible stories. The children learn the verses quickly and we try to teach them what the verses mean. One week our verse was

"Even a child is known by his doings." Proverbs 20:11. One of our mothers told us of an incident that happened at home. Her husband was disciplining their daughter for some inappropriate behavior. The daughter looked at her dad and replied, "But Daddy, even a child knows what he's doing." Apparently she didn't learn the true meaning of that verse! Hopefully we don't twist the Scripture to fit our circumstances!

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Marilyn Walder

Messages from the Word have been brought to us by Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Elder Bros. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and Bro. Tom Schrenk (Alto, MI) were also with us for our Preschool board meeting. We were very inspired and challenged by the messages we heard. Each Sunday we should retain some food for thought that we can ponder and apply to our personal lives.

Other visitors were a group of young brothers and sisters who sing together as the Voices of Praise. They are from Gridley, Washington and Peoria, IL. We thank them for bringing worship to God through song. We also had visitors from Peoria, Cissna Park and Chicago, IL, and Atlanta, GA. We enjoy each visitor and welcome anyone who would like to come.

November 1 was the wedding day for Bro. Mike Moore (Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris) and Sis. Pam Hinrichsen (Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene, Goodfield, IL). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

We're looking forward to our annual Christmas dinner which is planned for December 12. May each of you have a blessed Christmas.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come." I Corinthians 11:26. How sacred to partake of holy communion. A believer delights in a special kin to his baptism. O the wonder of it all! Praises to our Lord and Saviour! What a joy to be a child of God and a member of His family.

Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) came to help Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach with the reading of the memorandum November 7 and serve

holy communion November 8.

Fellowship in the Lord is one blessing easy to share when it is time to clean our house of worship and the grounds surrounding it. We are grateful to all who participated again this year.

Visiting ministers welcomed this past month were Bros. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Glenn Price, Jr. (Sarasota, FL), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Donald Miller (Minneapolis, MN), Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN).

Once again, we've heard the conference tapes on Wednesday evenings. Indeed we are thankful our dear elder body labors together to preserve the Biblical customs and traditions that we willingly embrace when we come to the Lord. A gem to hold on to is "love and peace is the complete absence of fear."

What joy and delight when generations of the largest family known get together! 'Twas a beautiful day for our annual Sunday school picnic when children, parents and grandparents of our Phoenix congregation gathered at Paradise Valley Park. Tables laden with food could well compete with any lovely smorgasboard. Beautiful singing unto the Lord was much enjoyed when Sunday school classes and the adult chorus shared the joyful noises we are encouraged to make unto God.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. Until those dear youngsters grow up and are accountable for their burden, we can only pray for them. Building on the solid rock is a happy Nathan Knochel. His parents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Joann Knochel.

With new joy and happiness within, Betty and Bob Lemons are awaiting baptism.

We rejoice that Sis. Marjorie and Bob Rebbec are able to come to church again. Sis. Marjorie Rebbec and Bro. Joe Greenbank partook of their first communion.

There is quite a need for building laborers in Juarez, Mexico. Men from our church respond readily. Some of the following have made 1, 2 or more trips! Bro. Ed Frautschi and son, Chris; Bros. John Kaufman, Erick Langhofer, Dick Beery, Greg Gramm, Bill Dotterer, John Gerber, Todd Roth, Jim Beres, James Emch, Dave Zeltwanger, Sis. Marie Beery and Sis. Donna Gerber.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger

became first-time grandparents when Sis. Suzie and Bro. Stan Warner welcomed little Matthew Alan Warner October 27. They attend the Lester, IA, church.

Recently one early morning, a light shower did prevent our usual morning visitors, birds, from showing up. Instead of birds, there were water drops in the branches of a pine tree. The sun made the droplets appear as incandescent balls of colors of the rainbow. What a great way to get one's day started. His beauty abounds. Take time to see and enjoy what He gives!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Harvey and Ethel Smith

The Prescott area has truly been blessed with showers of blessings the past few weeks. These came not only in the form of rain for the earth, but also in the Spirit for those who gathered here. We thank the Lord for His servants that ministered, Bro. Jon Kakanovich and Loren Knapp.

The message by Bro. Loren (Mark 3) related how the man with the withered hand had to follow the instructions of Jesus to stand forth and stretch out his hand before he was healed. So it is with us. Spiritually, we too have to stand in forth and reach out to Christ in order that we be healed. Christ was aware that the Pharisees watched to see if He would heal on the Sabbath Day or to do would heal on the Sabbath Day that they might accuse Him and Christ said unto them, "It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath Day or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" Bro. Loren expressed that Jesus answered them in the form of a question, very much like the freedom of choice in all men. We have choices to make and they may be to do good or to do evil. We are responsible for these choices.

Services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month. Inquiries may be directed to Harvey Smith at 602-2164 or 778-6130.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Sandy Bauer — Lisa Knapp

October 18 marked the day for our Sunday school picnic. Students, friends and brethren gathered at Ft. Lowell Park and we all enjoyed the potluck supper and beautiful weather.

"And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is My blood of

the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:27, 28

On November 1, we gathered together to partake of holy communion. Let us remember His suffering daily and not just when we take communion. Many thanks are extended to Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) for being with us for this occasion.

Sharing God's Word with us November 8 were Bro. Greg Graham (Phoenix) and Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN). May our gracious Lord reward them richly for their service of love. Our thanks also goes to their dear wives, who brought joy to our hearts. We truly appreciate having ministers from other congregations visit us.

Our annual business meeting was held November 11. Bro. Fred Funk was elected to replace Bro. Don Bauer as trustee. Bro. Jay Knapp, who was serving as Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, was elected to replace Bro. Brad Bauer as Sunday School Superintendent. As there was one year remaining in Bro. Jay's term as Assistant, Bro. Curt Kaufman was elected to serve as Assistant for the remainder of that term.

Christmastime is a special time for families to get together and share with each other. May we never forget that our heavenly Father shared His only begotten Son so we could have life everlasting. May we continue to thank and praise His holy name. May each of you have a blessed holiday season.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Elaine Graf

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him."

Matthew 3:13-15

We have two new members in our congregation. Bro. Todd and Sis. Kim Mower have taken the step of baptism. Their testimonies and baptisms took place in Winthrop, MN. May God bless and guide Bro. Todd and Sis. Kim in their lives in Jesus Christ.

Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) visited our church this month. He

and his wife were at Altadena for a Wednesday evening service. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." II Timothy 4:2. May God bless Bro. Chuck and all of His messengers for serving Him and the congregations.

Don Kaisner passed away October 20. He leaves behind his wife, Doris, his father, Bro. Albert, and brother, Harvey (Tucson, AZ). May we pray that God will comfort these as well as all who have lost loved ones.

Allan Crockett is still in a coma.

We would like to thank you for the many prayers offered for our son, Allan, as well as for us since Allan's accident September 9. We also thank you for the many cards, encouraging words, gifts, food and acts of love extended to us during this time. We would beseech your continued prayers for Allan's recovery. God bless you all.

Bro. Bob, Sis. Judy
and Brian Crockett

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Nella Varga

How can we not praise the Lord, or not be thankful, when He's given us the glorious sunshine, a comfortable 70° weather, the green grass and blue skies? God has blessed!

Blessed are we also when we have ministering brothers from other congregations, like Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA). Thanks be to God and you for visiting and supporting our small congregation.

We want to welcome Bro. Paul Foote and his son, Paul Foote, Jr., to our area. They have come from Rockville, CT, and will stay for a season. We really appreciate having them here in San Diego. They are wonderful people and a great asset to our church.

The holidays — what a wonderful time of the year! We think of little Jesus with His mother, Mary, and father, Joseph. Oh, how their hearts must have been filled with joy and overwhelming love for their newborn son! As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may we also reflect in our own families the joy and love we have felt when our children were born. As we see that newness of life, we may feel a renewing in the Spirit. Let's realize that not only was He born and lived a perfect life, but because He died and sacrificed His

life for you and me, we have that hope for eternal glory in heaven above.

This is the season, it seems, when emotions of people are at extreme ends. On the one side we have families that get together and enjoy each other's company, laughter and love as it rings through the house. And you know, that's the way it should be, a time of drawing together, sharing love and making memories.

On the other side there are those poor souls who have no family, those who eat their Christmas dinner alone. The only thing they have are their memories, perhaps of times gone by when they were sitting with family around a table, their heads bowed in thanksgiving before partaking in the festive meal. How dark and lonely it must be, to have no one to love them. This person I speak of could be anyone, including that widow or widower in your neighborhood. It could be that sad-eyed, aged person in the convalescent home with so many wrinkles on her face. You know she must have laughed long and hard a lifetime ago. It could be that motherless or fatherless young person or child you sometimes see roaming the streets.

When was the last time you visited a soul in prison? When was the last time you gave your time to help that widower around the house or garden? When was the last time you sat with that beautiful, aged person and just listened to their life stories, helping them remember the happy blessed times? When was the last time you stopped to talk to a young person, saw where they came from and pointed them to the cross, telling them of the love and salvation of Jesus Christ? When was the last time you invited any of these people to church?

Wouldn't this Christmas and New Year season be the perfect time to start?!

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

We, here at Denver, have just had the privilege of listening to the tapes of the brotherhood conference; the theme of which was "Peace". Peace. What is it? Peace is defined as having an absence of turmoil with our Maker, which is accomplished in the following manner. "If you love me", saith the Lord, "Keep my commandments." St. John 14:15. "Behold to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the

fat of rams." I Samuel 15:22. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:8. We are thankful to the many brothers who gave of their time and selves for the work of the Lord. God bless them all.

We wish to congratulate Karl Braun and Mitzi Ellerman as they have made known their plans to be married. It is our prayer that God will impress deeply into their hearts the commitment they are about to make.

We welcome Sis. Tina Wackerle (Bay City, MI) to the Denver congregation. She is with us on a short work assignment with the Flying Nurses.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Hany

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" Isaiah 7:14. The promise of a Messiah, born of the flesh, has been fulfilled and at this season we rejoice at His birth. Through His obedience to the Father's will, we have a mediator who hears our prayers as we journey onward toward that better and heavenly home. What a joyous thought that is!

Many of us take our good health so much for granted. We want to always remember and pray for those who are not as fortunate and must be in convalescent homes, especially Lena Ludwig, Frieda Reutter, Emily Schneider, Liz Hoffman, Helen Lanz, Emma Luginbuhl and Esther Heintz. There are also those who frequently are shut-in due to bodily weakness: Ernie Bourque, Sis. Elizabeth Erismann and Sis. Marie Hany.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Isaiah 55:6. Surely the three dear souls baptized November 1 have sought and found the Lord and with grace and mercy can continue to look to Him who will guide and direct their paths. Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler as we heard the testimonies of Sis. Cathy Stomberg (Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy), Bro. Scott Zahner (Bro. Mannie and Sis. Clara) and Bro. Vern Bahler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Aline).

We often wonder why certain things happen and yet take courage and have faith that God has a purpose when we read: "For my thoughts are not your

thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts" Isaiah 55:8, 9. Our prayers go out to Sis. Irma and Bro. Lenny Luginbuhl during their time of anxiety and stress when Bro. Lenny had a mishap and broke his right hip requiring extensive hospitalization and several weeks at home in bed. Also hospitalized were Gerald Farney and Alfred Kupferschmid (who once lived in Rockville and now lives in Pennsauken, NJ). May they be blessed with health once again as well as others who also may have been sick and under a physician's care.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Catherine Klopfenstein

Rebecca Germann

We were fortunate to have two services during the month of November. Bro. Ed Aeschleman and his family were with us one Sunday, as well as a group of nine young people from Francesville, IN, guests of Curt Anliker (Manassas, VA). There were more than 30 in attendance and we enjoyed a very blessed day.

We enjoy and appreciate the attendance of Sis. Mary Ann Kieser (Bradford, IL). She is on a special nursing assignment here in a D. C. hospital and plans to be with us for several more weeks.

Elder Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia Bahler, along with their son, Bro. Dan, and his wife, Sis. Carol and two children, spent a Sunday with us. Again, we had good attendance and a very blessed day. They and a group from the congregation enjoyed the evening with Ken and Roberta Belsley at their home in Silver Springs, MD.

Several of us attended the open house of Barbara Rapp, who recently moved into a very delightful older home in a historic section of D. C. Barbara is a daughter of the Henry Rapps (Morton, IL). Bro. Howard and Sis. Louise Getz from Morton visited us for services and also joined us in attending the open house.

It's always a blessing to have young friends join us, and we welcome Sharon Ramsier, who is teaching in the suburb of Annandale, VA. Her parents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez (Smithville, OH) visited our regular November service.

Again, we welcome anyone who may

be in the area to call us, just for fellowship or to attend services. Services are the second Sunday of each month at the Westpark Best Western Hotel on Route 7, just west of the I-495 Beltway at the Tyson's Corner Exit. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. For information, call Bro. Doug Germann 703-481-5163 or Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein 703-979-3476.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Terri Huber

It is the time to welcome back all the regular winter residents who are starting to arrive. It is an extra-busy time of year with impending visits of family and friends as the holidays loom before us. We are also thankful that Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys Schneider (Rockville, CT) are with us and that Bro. Al has, by God's direction, brought us the Word.

Autumn seems to be the time for Sunday school activities. The Sunday school students, teachers and parents enjoyed a picnic and hayride a few weeks ago despite the weather's attempts to "dampen" the outing.

Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker (Morton, IL) were among our visitors in November. Bro. Joe assisted Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein in reading the memorandum to the congregation.

We would like to solicit your prayers for Bro. Harry and Sis. Florence Sutter. Florence has been unable to worship with us for the past month due to various health problems.

Wednesday night church is now being held regularly at 7:30 p.m. Please join us when you are in the area!

FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS

Kay Eisenmann

This past month we had two visiting ministers, Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for which we are thankful. May God bless them and their families.

As the birth of Christ is celebrated, why is the crime rate so much higher than at other times of the year? Does the stress of life cause some to have so much hate in their lives that they don't want anyone else to be happy? Where is that brotherly love that Jesus taught about?

Let us not despair, for we know that whatever we endure in this life, it will at last come to an end! There are still a lot of good people in this world. They just

don't get the publicity that the ungodly get.

Let us remember that Jesus wasn't the most popular man while here on earth and His trial was certainly not a fair one, even by man's standards. But, without His death we would have no hope. Often something good comes out of something we call bad. God has promised to provide for us one day at a time.

When there is stress in our lives, we must go, as Jesus did, to our heavenly Father in prayer for needed strength to do whatever He wants us to do.

Dear departed Elder Bro. Noah Schrock use to say, "Many say that God is dead, but that just can't be! I talked to Him this morning!"

May we all by grace through faith be thankful for Jesus' coming to us as a small baby and follow His example of taking one day at a time.

At this time Dotty Keller is on our sick list. We pray she can soon be up and around again. Dathan is going to school a half day but may soon add another class.

We pray for traveling mercy for those who are going up north for the Christmas holidays. May God be with us till we meet again.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Lucille Heiniger

Thanksgiving season is upon us and soon Christmas will be here, when we celebrate the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is a joyous season when we can sing and hear the beautiful songs praising God for the birth of His Son. We always enjoy reading the account of Jesus' birth in St. Luke's gospel, when Mary "brought forth her first-born son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger as there was no room in the inn." We can only imagine how the shepherds felt when the angel appeared and announced that in the city of David a Saviour was born, with the multitude of heavenly hosts appearing and praising God saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men." Christmas has been so commercialized that many do not know the real meaning of Christmas.

Lord willing, our dear friend, Marilyn Bryant will give her testimony this weekend.

The church attendance on Sundays and Wednesdays has greatly increased with our northern brethren coming to

spend the winter in the south. We welcome each one of you to our fellowship. It is a pleasure to meet and greet each one as we gather together.

This is a reminder for those who are interested in attending the annual meeting of the Eastern Division of the World Relief to be held here January 16, 1988. Don't forget to make your reservations by December 28.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Willard Schieler (Milford, IN), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), David Eisenmann (North Fort Myers, FL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) and Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI). We welcome each one and thank all for giving of themselves in proclaiming the Word of God. May God bless each one for their efforts.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

John Brewer

Jesus said in Matthew 9:37, 38, "The harvest is truly plenteous, but the laborers are few, pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." The Lord beseeches us not only to be readers and studiers of the Word, but also doers of the Word. There is much work to be done while we are still on this earth, and we need to apply the Word in our works and daily walk of life so that God's plan and will may be fulfilled.

As we labor here in Atlanta, we are thankful for the ministers and the other visitors who took the time to worship with us. Those who came to minister to us were Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) on October 25, and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) on November 8. Their wives, Sis. Darlene Hoerr and Sis. Gloria Laubscher, accompanied them. Other visitors included Bro. John Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bro. Harry and Sis. Gladys Knapp (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Mark and Sis. Mindy Kiefer (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Jess and Sis. Liz Grimm (Oakville, IA). The latter couple was here visiting their daughter, Tammy Grimm, who now attends these services. Tammy works at a University hospital here in Atlanta and we welcome her here to the Atlanta area.

The church congregates on the second and fourth Sunday of every month at the Bradbury Suites Best Western. The hotel is located off the Windy Hill Road Exit, just off I-75 in

Marietta, GA. For more information, please call either Bro. Don Sellers (404) 923-0721, Sis. Nancy Foltz (404) 451-9191 or Bro. John Brewer (404) 949-7734.

ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Donna Hodel — Karen Brummitt

IN CHRIST WHO WAS BORN AT CHRISTMAS

ALL MEN MAY LIVE AGAIN

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

Helen Steiner Rice

On October 23, Kathy Stoller (Lyle and Sis. Lois) and Nelson Kaupp (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Annette Kaupp, Gridley) exchanged marriage vows. May God bless their new life together.

Many gathered for our annual fall picnic November 1. We enjoyed the fellowship with our invited guests and ended the day singing praises to our Lord.

"Doing God's work through a dedicated life" was the topic of our day of devotion held November 7. We thank Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for lending themselves that day.

Our congregation had the privilege of hearing several visiting ministers this past month. We thank each one for their willingness to lead us in God's Word. Visitors included our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN).

A note of thanks: "I wish to express my humble thanks for the prayers, cards, visits and lovely gifts I received. May God bless all who were so kind."

Sis. Lu Miller

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Marilyn Tanner

THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

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

Be not content this babe to know,
Nor stay at Bethlehem,
But go with Christ to Calvary's brow,
Beyond Jerusalem
'Tis there men learn to know the Christ,
For there He bore man's sin.
Then open wide the door of heart,
And let the Saviour in.

Henry Beer

We were sorry to have to say farewell to Bro. Kenny and Sis. Judy Knepp and their children as they moved to Eureka. They are assembling with the Roanoke congregation. Our thanks are extended to Bro. Kenny for the time he has spent teaching our children in Sunday school. We pray they will feel God's presence in their new home.

Bro. Edward Ehnle wishes to thank everyone who remembered him with prayers, cards, gifts, visits and all other loving deeds of kindness while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless all of you.

A precious baby son, Jonathan Mark, was born to Bro. Mark and Stephanie Rumbold. Happy grandparents are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold and John and Connie Francis.

The engagement of Sis. Connie Rumbold and Bro. Curt Christ (Princeville) was announced November 15. Parents are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold and Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ. May the Lord continue to bless them as they plan a February 14 wedding.

We appreciate the visits of ministering brothers who were willing to come and share the Word of life with us. May God bless Bro. Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest), Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Elder Bro. Arthur Bahler (Fairbury) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville).

Reminder: December is collection month for Bradford Silver Lining dues of \$7.00.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
LaRae Dill

We are appreciative of the visits from the following ministers: Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL).

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder and daughter, Sandy, formerly of Cissna Park, have recently moved to Urbana. They join their sons, Bros. Mike and John, who are students here at the University of Illinois. Our congregation feels blessed to have the Walders as part of our church family.

Our Sunday school students were examples to us as they shared Thanksgiving food baskets with three needy families in the Champaign-Urbana area. This annual Thanksgiving event is always an enjoyable one as the students do the grocery shopping, pack and personally deliver the baskets of goods and then enjoy a pizza lunch with their Sunday school teachers. Our prayer is that this same zealous, energetic, giving spirit will show forth someday in the giving of their lives to Christ.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter

My nephew decided he could comb his hair better than his mom had done. He had gone through the preparation she required, wetting it down under the tub faucet. But then he looked in the small mirror on the counter (and his whole face filled it), combing as it felt good — not able to see the big picture. He thought he was perfectly happy. However, besides his hair sticking out in three directions, he was no longer a well-groomed credit to the family. Of course, he got some help to return to a better way of looking. Watching him, I thought of my heavenly Father, seeing the big picture of my life, shaking His head as I look — too often — only at my selfish wants and forget who I am and the Family whose love I need to reflect. Has it ever happened to you? May we ever be thankful for our brothers and sisters, the Word and the sermons of yielded ministering brethren who help us return to the better part, a more Christ-like outlook. We are not to be as the world, looking to our own comfort and natural desires; we are to do right by His might, according to His plan.

We are grateful for the beautiful, yet often convicting, messages brought by our visitors: Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville), Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Good-

field) and Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park). Also Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) spoke to us in a topical Bible study on secular humanism. We thank him for his willingness to learn of the Lord and lend himself in warning us of this insidious tool of Satan.

As well we enjoyed the blessings of having Elder Bro. Leo Moser and his wife, Sis. Leona (Lester, IA), with us for a weekend. Bro. Leo assisted our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in message and sharing of communion with us Saturday evening. As always, the Lord bountifully shed His Spirit abroad to bind us more closely as one in His body. On Sunday, through the Lord, Bro. Leo fed us spiritually, the Sunday school children sang and shortly after services we as a church enjoyed a supper together. We were well-reminded that the wells of salvation and His Spirit are still freely and abundantly available. But Bro. Leo spoke of an incident when he went out on a morning and found that the well he depended upon to water his cattle had gone dry. He had to make immediate provisions somehow. There will come a time, in the Lord's time, when the well springs of grace are dried up and spiritual provision gone.

Sis. Alice Schlipf (Congerville, IL) was with us in Chicago for a very short time. Then the Lord had plans for her farther away from home, as she and Bro. Lee Ruegsegger (Bay City, MI) are engaged and plan to be married December 27. From our Chicago church family we wish them all the blessings of the Lord as they walk hand-in-hand together.

We extend our prayers to Sis. Jean O'Shea as she recovers from recent surgery.

We also want to express our deepest sympathy to Sis. Shay Nelson and her family on the death of her brother, Bro. Mark. The Lord alone can take such a sudden and final earthly separation, and yet bring from it, in His time, new beginnings and spiritual peace. May He be with Sis. Shay and all her family members in their sorrow, confusion, distress, loneliness or even darkness. And may we reflect to them His warmth and healing and light in our love and support.

How we rush and hurry so! In July it's back-to-school sales. By the end of August Halloween sights flood the stores. Thanksgiving is in view in early

October with Christmas decorations almost waiting until November. Our lives, if mine is at all typical, also seem to follow such "jumping ahead" patterns many times. Instead of priming the sales for the holidays and season though, we go ahead of the Lord, trying to get His okay on projects we are already set on. For myself, I believe I do not pray often enough nor am I surrendered enough to wait and listen as I need to. He has done everything for me. Can I not believe that what is to come in my life He can also use in perfectly forming me? I pray that He will help me truly yield myself as another year with Him is dawning.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Mary Knapp — Elaine Sauder

Congratulations to Scot and Denise Sims (Wellington) on the birth of a fine son and little brother for Lucas. Seth Adam was born October 9. The happy grandparents are Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Kathy Stock and Floyd and Margaret Sims (Hoopston).

Sis. Julie Bauer, daughter of Sis. Joyce, had been lead to move to Athens, AL, to assist with the teaching program there. We miss Sis. Julie in Cissna Park and pray for the Lord's continued guidance for her in her new location and work.

It was our loss and Champaign's gain when Bro. Melvin, Sis. Irma and Sandy Walder felt guidance to move to the Urbana area. Linda R. Lewis wrote, "Friendship is a beautiful tapestry woven with threads of love." We'll always appreciate the friendship we have shared, and remember their support and willingness to give of themselves wherever needed while a part of our congregation. The cherished Christian love, as the woven tapestry, becomes more valuable as time goes on.

Our hearts feel burden and sympathy for Vernon and Joanne Clauss and their family. Few of us knew Joanne's father, Ray Cottingham, but many of us know the sorrow of losing a father.

Our Bible class, their teachers and wives experienced some enjoyable trips together this past month. They were invited to Fairbury October 25. We thank those in charge for a most blessed and well-organized day. The evening of November 15 they went by bus to ACYF in Roanoke for another evening of beautiful singing and fellowship.

The morning of November 22 was a humbling experience for our Sunday school students when they delivered food baskets to the needy. That evening the Bible class delivered theirs and enjoyed a pizza outing.

October 22 was a day of special love when sisters from Goodfield came and helped make comforters for Europe. Everyone enjoyed a potluck meal at noon.

Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington), Alphai Moser (Morris, MN), Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) shared with us this past month. We appreciate their coming and giving of themselves.

Surgical patients were Amos Steiner (Sis. Esther), Fred Waldbeser and Tim Eisenmann (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon). Sis. Anna Marie Young (Bro. Lynn) is having a series of tests done. May the Lord bless each one, hear every prayer and grant new courage and strength as they recuperate.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Gail Leman — Susan Zobrist

"Anew, Lord we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament, which
we
Partook, that joined in heart and hand
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on."

Zion's Harp #200

As we partook of this holy communion, we were reminded of the love that Christ had for us. May we always keep this remembrance close to our hearts. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) who aided our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in this holy sacrament.

"O, why not turn, and heed the call,
And come in true submission!
His pardon's free to one and all;
In Him you'll find remission.
For you have lived, who-e'er you be,
In worldly thought and vanity,
Which lead into perdition."

Zion's Harp #106

Two dear souls have found remission in the Lord. Tim Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri) and Crystal Remmert (Kent) have turned their backs on their old lives and have started down the straight and narrow pathway of life.

We wish them both God's grace and strength.

The announcement of Sis. Alice Schlipf (Clarence and Lorraine) to Bro. Lee Ruegsegger (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margaret) was made known to our congregation November 1. We also heard of the engagement of Brad Baer (Ray and Dorothy) to Rhonda Miller. We wish both of these couples God's nearness as they make the necessary arrangements for their special day.

On November 21, Peggy Wettstein (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judy) and Kevin Balducci (Art and Trudy) were united in holy matrimony. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin this walk of life hand in hand as one.

We want to thank Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington) for lending of himself as he ministered unto us.

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child,
and shall bring forth a son, and they
shall call his name Emmanuel, which
being interpreted is, God with us."

St. Matthew 1:23

The time has come again when we celebrate Christmas with our family and friends. Let us never forget the true meaning of Christmas.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

PEACE

Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward
Men,

Can you hear the angels sing?
Or, are we just too busy,
With work, and play, or joy of other
things?

He gave us peace to work with,
And grace to keep us free.
A love to keep us humble,
And faith that we might see.

The joy of serving others,
With gifts and prayers of love.
That we might share with others,
His blessings from above.

It really is no secret,
We know what God can do.
The reason Baby Jesus came,
To rescue me and you.

It started in the manger there,
And finished on the Cross.

A plan of Peace, for all who seek,
Salvation for the lost.

There is no greater joy in life,
To share His Love so true.
To know, and feel the Blessing,
Of, "My Peace Be Unto You."

Bro. Sam Blunier

This dear Saviour is yet so willing to share His Peace unto the sinner that repents. It was a blessed event to hear Harvey Schurter (Sis. Ruth) tell how mercifully the Lord drew and enabled him to bring forth fruits of repentance. We welcome him as our new brother-in-faith.

The Sunday school Bible class was privileged to host the Princeville and Chicago youth November 7 and 8. May God bless this fellowship and endeavors.

We are very thankful for words of wisdom from our visiting brothers, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL).

We extend love and sympathy to the family of Bro. Larry Metzger who passed away November 8 in Jackson, MI. Larry, his wife, Sis. Bernetta, daughter, Sis. Terry, and granddaughter resided in Elgin many years. Funeral services and burial were held here.

His family wishes to thank everyone for their deeds of love and kindness shown during their bereavement.

We also share love and sympathy to Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen upon the passing of their aunt, Sis. Sarah Gerst (Oakville, IA).

This past month it was a joy to prepare and serve a dinner for our older brethren and friends who have reached that threescore and ten span of life. Blessed fellowship was enjoyed.

On November 13, Daryle and Sonia Kellenberger became first-time parents of a little girl, Nicole Marie. Happy grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Delores Kellenberger and Olga and the late Harold Datisman.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois Steffen have also been blessed with their first child, Alex John, born November 15. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Wava Steffen, and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger (West Bend, IA).

We want to remember dear ones who have recently been ill. We're thankful our hospital patients, Sis. Alison Schambach (Bro. Les) and Bro. Les Heiniger (Sis. Emma) have been able to return home.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Kathy L. Rocke

Don't try to hold God's hand;
Let Him hold yours.
Let Him do the holding and you the trusting.

We welcome Bro. Norman and Sis. Connie Hoerr and their daughters, Amanda and Marissa, to our congregation.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Donna Wettstein (Bro. Art) in the passing of her sister, Midge Crane. May God's comfort be felt.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynn Wiegand welcomed Ellen Rose into their hearts and home October 31. Ellen has a sister, Leah, to welcome her. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma Eastman and Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta Wiegand. May God bless this dear little family.

Our best wishes go to Dawn Wind and Dan Blunier (Bro. Lewis and Sis. Clara Lou) who were recently united in holy matrimony.

We appreciate the visits of Bros. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) as they expounded on the Word. May God bless them for giving of themselves.

Sis. Lezlee Leman (Bro. Dale), Sis. Ida Mae Rocke (Bro. Eldon) and Bro. Henry Frey have been hospital patients. We trust that God will heal and bless as He sees best.

With thankful hearts we were privileged to hear the testimonies of three souls who have turned their backs to the world and sought their soul's salvation. Our new brothers-in-faith are Keith Knapp (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy), Ed Leman (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma) and our new sister-in-faith is Ruth Zimmerman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie). We pray for God's nearness and blessings upon them. We also thank Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago), Bill Hodel (Roanoke) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) for being with us on this blessed occasion.

How quickly time passes and again the holy season is upon us when we celebrate the dear Lord's birth. "'Tis not the manger, but the cross that sets the spirit free." May our hearts be humbled and blessed during this precious time.

God has a purpose and plan in the operation of His universe. God is never in a hurry, but He is always on time.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

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

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

St. Luke 2:10, 11

We can be thankful every day that Jesus was born to give us salvation and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Our congregation was blessed richly by many visiting ministers. They were Bros. Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Ben Wysong and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). May the Lord reward them for their labors of love.

The Sunday school hosted the Cissna Park, IL, Francesville, IN, and Chicago, IL, Bible classes October 25. We thank Bros. Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for sounding the trumpet of salvation.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Diane Rassi (Bro. Dennis), Sis. Jeanette Bahler (Bro. Ralph) and Sis. Mary Beth Maurer.

I would like to thank each one who remembered me with prayers, cards, flowers and kind expressions of love during the time of my hospitalization. May God bless each one.

Bro. Anthony Fehr

We want to express our most sincere appreciation for all the love and support shown to us during my recent surgery. May God bless each one.

Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser

ILLINOIS, FORREST Sharon Adams — Patsy Stoller

We appreciate and thank those who have brought us God's precious Word. Visiting us this past month were Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Steve Martin (Eureka), Jim Plattner (Princeville), Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN). May God bless them for their labors.

Enduring time in the hospital recently were Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith) and Sis. Nettie Kyburz (Bro. John). May God be their strength each day.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin have been blessed with a new son. Benjamin Charles is a brother of Scott, Andy, T. Anne, Kenton, Heidi, Joseph and Betsy. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman and Sis. Tillie Rudin (Cissna Park). A precious daughter has been added to Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia Gerber's family. Rochelle Kay is the sister of Andrew, Jessica and Aaron. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber and Bro. Glen and Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Fairbury).

We rejoice with the angels in heaven, as Eldon and Stephanie Kaeb have turned their backs on the world and sin and have given their hearts and souls to Christ in repentance. May they build on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ, and surrender all to Him.

Many gathered with us November 7 and 8 when Sis. Lisa Doran gave her testimony of faith, was baptized and became one of God's children. May she feel the Holy Spirit's guidance as she walks onward toward Zion.

We are entering a busy time of year with many family gatherings, Christmas programs and such, but 1st let us keep in mind the real meaning of Christmas. Where would we be had Christ not been sent here to make a way for us. We are looking forward to hearing the blessed story told by our youth at the Christmas program.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

Tell me, how did you feel when the angel came to the garden,
When he said, "If you're afraid, I beg your pardon,
But you're the one to bear God's son."

Tell me, how did you feel on the final day?
When you arrived in Bethlehem to hear them say,
"No food, no table, save in a stable."

Tell me, how did you feel when the wise men came to see Him?
When shepherds and kings with precious things adored Him?
It had begun, here was the one!

Oh, Mary, we wish you joy,
Your little boy,
Soon to be a Savior!

Whittaker

We can't imagine how humbled Mary must have felt to have the privilege of taking part in God's most precious miracle! But we can be just as privileged . . . if we only will take advantage of the wonderful gift God has shared with us. It's so important during the Christmas season to realize the wonder of the virgin birth and to appreciate how our perfect, loving Savior lived and died for us. What a joyous gift!

Our hearts were warmed as we shared in the blessed union of our Sis. Pam Hinrichsen and Bro. Mike Moore (Athens, AL). Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore and Bro. Tom Schrenk (Alto, MI) shared this special day with us.

We also thank Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) for being inspired through God's Spirit to speak to us.

We're happy to see Sis. Persida Wiegand is recovering well after her surgery. Our prayers have included little Aaron Hohulin (son of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene) in the hopes that his frequent bouts with asthma and stays in the hospital will come to an end, if it is God's will.

Sis. Helen Streit wishes to express her thanks for the cards, gifts of love and especially the prayers offered during her stay in the hospital and since her return home. She feels the Lord has been good to her, as well as all of her dear friends.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

During the first weekend of November, our congregation received the blessing of taking four precious souls into the church. Such an occurrence becomes especially blessed since their deliverance from the ominous and growing forces of evil demonstrates the mercy and power of God.

These new souls, who have now become integrated into Christ's body, the church, are: Bro. Scott Ringger and his wife, Sis. Becky, Sis. Mindy Meiss (Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan) and Sis. Peggy Ringger (Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie). Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger was present to help in conducting their testimony service and baptism.

On Sunday morning, November 8, as Bro. Steve led the service before a large throng, including our high school

Bible class, our hearts were moved to more clearly focus on our high calling of God in Christ Jesus, as we sang verse 12 of page 184, "Behold the Lamb of God" from the Zion's Harp:

"Oh Lamb of God, Who bled for my transgression,
And for my guilt on Calv'ry's brow has trod!

Who could unto such great love give expression?
Who is like Thee, Thou chosen one of God?

As often as my pulses beat,
I lay my life, my blood, my all at Jesus' feet"

The last line of this beautiful hymn truly arouses us to more fully realize our holy calling, and the Bible's call to an unconditional surrender to Christ and His service. Our commitment is to lay "our life, our blood, and our all at Jesus' feet."

Our Gridley fellowship hall was the site of the recent marriage of Nelson Kaupp (son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Annette, El Paso, TX) to Kathy Stoller (daughter of Lyle and Sis. Lois, Bloomington) October 23. We wish them much happiness in this union, life's second most important step.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail Romersberger are the parents of Jeffrey Robert, born October 28. He has two sisters, Ashley, 6, and Alison, 4. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Betty Hari, Cissna Park and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lucille Romersberger, Gridley.

Our hospital patients during November were Sis. Lila Schlipf, Bro. Carl Schlipf, Sis. Lillian Witzig, Bro. Edward Witzig and Sis. Anna Klopfenstein.

We enjoyed the spirit-filled preaching of several visiting ministers this month: Bros. Robert Pflederer (Morton), Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Jim Leman (Roanoke).

Note of thanks: "I wish to thank everyone who extended gifts and best wishes, and who offered prayers on my behalf, during my recent hospital stay. I appreciate this greatly and may God bless all of you."

Bro. Henry Gramm (Gridley)

ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Cindy Witzig

It is very near the end of this fall semester, and we here at I.S.U. are

anticipating final exams. As Christians, we can rejoice in the promise that God will help us through this difficult time. He is faithful!

We are happy to share in the joy of two new converts in our I.S.U. young group. Peggy and Colleen Knobloch (Princeville) have repented and are now a wonderful blessing to our group of believers. We are so glad that they have decided to follow Jesus with us. We are praying for our friends who are still outside of God's grace to come along and share the joy of living for Jesus. We realize that our lives are being scrutinized by those who we come into contact with. We need your prayers that we can be faithful witnesses of Christ.

We have been blessed with some very inspiring messages at our Thursday night Bible studies. We had a series of studies on the book of Exodus, and we thank the following brothers for their part in leading them: Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville), Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka), Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley).

These brothers led us in topical Bible studies: Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger spoke on "Spiritual Vitality" for our "Invite A Friend" night. Our room in Schroeder Hall was filled to capacity with believers and friends, and we were all challenged to serve the Lord with our whole lives. Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin) spoke on "Being Thankful," a topic that we all need to be reminded of. Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) challenged us to grow in Christ with his study on Spiritual Growth and Maturity. We thank God that He promises that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that which He pleases.

We encourage anyone to join us Thursday nights at 7:30 in Schroeder Hall. I.S.U. will be on Christmas break until January 11 and Bible study will resume January 14. We appreciate all who come and share in the Word and in fellowship.

As I reflect back on the semester, I can say that my life is much richer for the friendships that God has given me here in our I.S.U. young group. There is such a blessing in being a part of the body of Christ!

A challenge to us all:
Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works.

Hebrews 10:23, 24

May God bless you all with a joyous holiday season as you celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

How thankful we were to hear Sheri Rumbold's (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Kay) testimony of faith October 21, and then to have the privilege of witnessing her baptism Sunday, October 25. It is our prayer that God will richly bless Sis. Sheri and continue to provide for her every need in her new walk of life.

Our sympathy and love are extended to the family and friends of Anna Gunther whose funeral was October 26. May our heavenly Father comfort them in their time of sorrow.

Christmas is a special time for families to share and draw closer. As each family gathers together to share gifts of love, may we remember the greatest gift of all — our heavenly Father's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. The Father's love did not stop at the manger; He gave His only begotten Son to die upon the cross for all mankind. May each one have a very blessed holiday season and new year in the Lord.

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Revelation 21:7. This challenging Word of God convicted a precious soul to repent and seek his salvation seven years ago, and thus prepared him for admission at the gateway of heaven. Our Bro. Mark Nelson was suddenly called home eternally during a construction accident November 10, and he now greets and embraces his loving Saviour in the realms of Glory! At the age of 24, he has won the victory in Jesus! We, as a church, extend our love and prayerful support to his dear wife, Sis. Jane Schmidgall Nelson; his parents, Darryl and Sis. Sandy Nelson; his brothers and sisters, Bro. Breck, Sis. Shay, Sara and Matthew; and all the family members who shared such a close and loving bond with Bro. Mark. We all will truly miss him, including our community which he served with such dedication as a volunteer fireman and emergency medical technician. May the lyrics of this song be a tribute to our dear brother.

If we never meet again
On this earth my precious friend
If to God we have been true
And we've lived above all sin
Then for us there'll be a greeting
Oh, there's going to be a meeting
I'll see you in the Rapture some sweet day!

To my loved one let me say
That there'll surely come a day
When the Lord will come again
And He'll take His bride away
So get ready now to meet Him
And with Alleluias greet Him
I'll see you in the Rapture some sweet day!

I'll see you in the Rapture
See you in the Rapture
See you at the meeting in the air
There with our blessed Saviour
We'll live and reign forever
I'll see you in the Rapture some sweet day!

Charles B. Feltner

We always appreciate visiting ministers and their families who come to worship with us. Our thanks go to Bros. Walter Anliker and Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Eugene Bertschi (Roanoke, IL), Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Wayne Banwart (Champaign-Urbana, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) for so lovingly and willingly teaching us the true Word.

Sis. Alice Knapp wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts of love received while in the hospital and since coming home.

Also, Sis. Lourine Schieber would like to thank all who remembered her with cards, gifts and prayers while she was in the hospital and recovering at home. May God continue to keep them in his loving care and bless all who were so kind.

Thank you note: "A sincere and humble thanks from Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Hermann for the cards, visits, phone calls, deeds of kindness and the many prayers offered during Bob's illness this past year. At the present time Bob is slowly showing some progress with God's help. A special thanks is given to the many Florida Snow Birds for your cards and visits this summer and your many prayers. May God bless you all."

Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Hermann

ILLINOIS, PEORIA**Kathy Huthmann**

Our annual German Hymn Sing was held at the Apostolic Christian Home October 25. Many from our area churches, as well as from our local church, were in attendance. We want to thank all who gave of their time and talents to bring back "Precious Memories" to our loved ones at the Home.

Welcomed into the home of Mike and Dori Paule is a new son, Robbie. He was born October 19 and is also welcomed by his brother, Willie. Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli are his grandparents.

On October 25 we enjoyed having the Roanoke and Goodfield Bible classes with us. Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) were with us also and we want to thank them for willingly ministering the Word to us. We were exhorted to seek God's direction and His will for the decisions we face.

Thank you note: We certainly want to thank our many friends and relatives who so generously gave of their time to remember us with cards, gifts, food and flowers during the time of our dear husband and father, Sam's, illness and death. Special thanks are given for the concern and prayers offered in our behalf. May God bless each one.

Persida Eberhardt and family

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Naomi Perrine, Sis. Bette Binkele, Sis. Jamie Zimmerman, Bro. Jesse Schrock, Sis. Mary Lou Bowald, Sis. Donna Ferrero and Sis. Jane Rieker. We pray that God will look down upon each one and strengthen them.

We were privileged again to hear the memorandum from the conference. We would like to especially thank Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley) for being with us for this occasion.

**THE PRICELESS GIFT
OF CHRISTMAS**

Now Christmas is a season
for joy and merrymaking,
A time for gifts and presents,
for giving and for taking . . .
A festive, friendly, happy time
when gladness comes our way —
But have we ever really felt
the greatness of the day . . .

For through the centuries the world
has wandered far away

From the beauty and the meaning
of the holy Christmas day . . .

For Christmas is a heavenly gift
that only God can give,

It's ours just for the asking,
for as long as we shall live.

Helen Steiner Rice

May everyone have a blessed Christmas.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**Marjean Lehman**

"From heaven in the dark of night,
He came and brought eternal light.
Behold now how this light divine
throughout this pilgrim's dale doth
shine. Hallelujah!"

Christmas Carol

Visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington), Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville). May God's blessings be upon them.

"Jesus, Friend of little children, be a friend to me; Take my hand and ever keep me, close to Thee. Teach me how to grow in goodness, daily as I grow, Thou hast been a child, and surely Thou dost know. Amen."

Mathams

A precious baby boy, Kyle Edward Plattner, was born November 4. Thankful parents are Sis. Marlene and Bro. Jim. Big brothers, Chad, Clint and Kirk, welcome Kyle into the family circle.

"I tread no path in life to Him unknown,
I lift no burden, bear no pain alone;
My soul a calm sure hiding place has
found —
The everlasting arms my life surround."

Surgery patients have been Bro. Harold Streitmatter, Sis. Joyce Streitmatter, Bro. David Kieser and Sis. Alvina Streitmatter. Sis. Shirley Leuthold suffered a broken wrist and Richard Stahl was a hospital patient. May God add His healing blessings to each in His own way.

Our congregation extends sympathy to Sis. Katherine, Sis. Leah and Sis. Martha Stahl and Bro. John Stahl in

the death of their sister, Emma Edelman.

Fred Perdelwitz, 94, passed away November 2 at the Peoria home. Funeral services were held November 4. Surviving are one brother, William, of Peoria; seven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. May God comfort and bless those who feel the loss of their loved one most keenly.

"And so, farewell to you, beloved brother, as now we part and say our fond 'farewell!' Should we, again be meeting one another, then may we find that in you still doth dwell the love of Christ, that first and dearest treasure, that always fills our hearts with grateful pleasure."

Our Wish In Parting

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doreen Leuthold have relocated in the St. Louis, MO, area. Sis. Jan Elsasser has relocated in the Phoenix, AZ, area. We will miss them from our congregation.

Our congregation has had the blessed privilege of listening to the conference tapes the past Wednesday evenings. We feel the concern of our elder brethren and are overwhelmed with appreciation for our priceless heritage of faith. We are inspired to strive to walk closer to our Lord and uphold the precious doctrine and tradition of our church.

"God gave His Son that we might know His Father heart had loved us so;
And from the heavenly home on high
Our blessed Lord came forth to die.
God gave His Son — O, holy thought
That He our foolish love had sought;
Dear Father, take this heart of mine,
And make it wholly, deeply Thine."

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**Marge Leman — Judy Luginbuhl**

In this beautiful Christmas season and approaching new year, I have to reflect back over the past year how the Lord has provided in so many different ways. At this time of year we think of God's greatest gift to us — His Son, Jesus — Who willing gave His life that we may have hope of living eternally in heaven. What love He had for mankind.

Those who have been in the hospital this past month are Sis. Lena Martin, Bro. Orville Martin, Sis. Margaret Leman, Sis. Ann Bradle and Bro. Lee Scherer.

Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) assisted Elder Bro. Don Sauder with

bringing the conclusions of the brotherhood conference held at Rockville, CT, to our congregation November 1. Other visiting ministers who shared God's Word here were Bro. Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville).

Sunday, November 8, the engagement of Sis. Joyce Bradle and Bro. Mike Barth was announced. Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle and Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth are parents of the happy couple.

Our annual nursing home bazaar was held November 14. We had wonderful support from our brethren and our community. We humbly thank everyone who participated. It is truly appreciated.

On November 15 our congregation was privileged to host all of the Illinois Bible classes for ACYF. It is truly a blessing to fellowship with loved ones from so many different churches.

Funeral services were held October 21 for Ethel Dorwin. Ethel spent most of her life in Chicago but moved to Roanoke after her retirement. We extend sympathy to the close friends she had in this area.

On October 30 funeral services were held for Sis. Barbara Martin. She was the mother of Sis. Marjorie Rebbec (Sun City, AZ), Sis. Dorothy Sauder, Lewis and Robert (Roanoke), John and Gene (Bloomington) and Wayne (Rancho Mirage, CA). Sis. Barbara was blessed with 28 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. Our sincere sympathy is also extended to this dear family.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Dorothy Wagenbach
Carolyn Bolliger**

We were thankful to have Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley), Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield), Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka). We received many instructions for our spiritual good.

Sis. Charlotte Steiner (Bro. Dan) and Sis. Frieda Schaefer both had eye surgery. Sis. Barbara Dill and Sis. June Zuercher (Bro. Curt) were surgical patients but are home again. Bro. Alvin Beutel also had surgery.

Sis. Royaldine Hodel (Bro. Robert) has been hospitalized twice this month. We hope that she feels better soon.

Sis. Ann Beutel is now a resident of A. C. Restmor Nursing Home. We hope she will adapt to her new home.

Rebekah Meister (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy) was injured when a car hit her. We are thankful she was spared serious injury.

Camille Sauder (Bro. Richard and Sis. Evelyn) had corrective surgery on her foot. We are thankful for God's healing power for all who were ill this past month.

Bro. David and Sis. Ann Dill are the parents of Kimberly Kay, born November 3. She has a brother, Brent, to help take care of her. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn Huette and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Carol Schick

This Thanksgiving season finds all of us at Washington with so much for which to be thankful. Our dear Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy Wyss and their two small children were involved in a serious auto accident but the protecting hand of God spared their lives. Our prayers are with them as they recover. It is at times such as this that we realize just how much we love each and every member of our church family.

We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) spend an evening with us to read the memorandum. We appreciate their efforts and enjoyed having them with us for Sunday morning service as well. May God bless them both for their labors of love.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Melinda Aberle recently moved to the Bloomington-Normal area. We wish them well and hope they will return to visit us often.

As we prepare our Sunday school children for our Christmas program and tell them the beautiful story of Christ's birth, I have to wonder how many children in the world know only the make-believe story of a jolly man in a red suit and his material gifts. We, as Christians, have a big responsibility to carry the good news of our Saviour to all the world. So this Christmas season, as we light our lights and sing our joyful songs, let us not forget to tell the world what it is that we are celebrating. Jesus truly is the reason for the season.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Lucille Isch — Becky Isch

"Encouragement" was the topic of our last Bible discussion. "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works." Hebrews 10:24. Our

gratefulness for visiting us and ministering God's Word goes to Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Simon Wagenbach (Tremont, IL).

We are happy to relate the engagement of Sis. Dorothy Kaehr to Bro. Vernon Gerber (Bluffton North). A Wednesday evening wedding on December 2 is being planned. On November 1, Sis. Dorothy's daughter, Sis. Susan, was announced to Bro. Tim Tonner (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diana). January 31 is the day they have planned for the marriage. We wish them joyful hearts as they prepare for their wedding days.

Sis. Esther Aschliman, 80, passed away October 23. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Noah, and many relatives.

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

First-time parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Martha Stoller with the birth of Isaac Henry November 4. His grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger and Bro. Ramon and Sis. Flossie Stoller.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth Aschliman welcomed their third son, Kreigh Daniel, November 7. Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty Steffen and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ida Aschliman are his grandparents.

Jennifer Rebecca was born to Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky Gerber November 10. She will join her two brothers and grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer and Bro. Robert and Sis. Evelyn Gerber.

November 18 was the birth date of Daniel Charles born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Connie Kaehr. He is their first child. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jean Baumgartner and Sis. Dorothy Kaehr are grandparents.

Loved ones hospitalized this month were Sis. Hilda Steffen, Sis. Connie Kaehr (Bro. Sam), Sis. Katie Maller, Sis. Clara Gerber (Bro. Wilmer), Jamie Gerber (Bro. Luther and Sis. Sharon), Bro. Lewis Gerber, Sis. Mary Speheger and Sis. Justine Baumgartner (Bro. Paul). May the Lord strengthen each of them day by day and bless them in His loving way.

Not many couples have 70 years together, but, Lord willing, on Novem-

ber 29, Bro. Joel and Sis. Lucinda Fiechter will celebrate their 70th anniversary. May they continue to enjoy fair health in the coming days.

Wishing all the Spirit of Christmas, which is Peace; the Gladness of Christmas, which is Hope; and the Heart of Christmas, which is Love.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Sheri Leman

"And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:10, 11. It really is a great joy to contemplate the Saviour and His love that took Him to the cross for us.

We rejoice with Bro. Vernon Gerber and Sis. Dorothy Kaehr (Bluffton). Their engagement was announced October 25.

Congratulations are extended to Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger in the birth of their grandson, Issac Henry (Bro. Keith and Sis. Martha Stoller, Bluffton) and also to Bro. Vernon and Sis. Carol Meyer in the birth of their granddaughter, Amanda Joy (Bro. Patrick and Sis. Annie Meyer, South Bend). We are sure the holiday seasons will be extra joyous with the new additions to their families.

On November 15, Wendy Kipfer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Rose) and Richard Runion (Eddie and Betty Runion) exchanged wedding vows. May God be ever near this young couple as they begin their life together.

Our prayers are with the family in the passing of Sis. Esther Aschliman (Bro. Noah). During this season, a loss of a loved one is deeply felt.

Bro. Harry Isch (Sis. Clarice) and Bro. Obed Gerber (Sis. Leona) have also been in our prayers during their recent stays in the hospital and while convalescing at home.

May everyone have a joyous, happy and peaceful holiday.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lynne Wuethrich

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree."

Roy L. Smith

Our congregation is thankful as Bro. Todd Denton (Sis. Penny) is recovering after a work related accident. It

really made all of us aware of the seriousness of life. We rejoice with his family that Bro. Todd is home with them again.

On November 7, our congregation had the privilege of hosting the Lexington, KY, congregation to share communion together. Many were gathered as we all were reminded of how serious our walk with Christ truly is. Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) were with us over the communion weekend. We want to extend our thanks to them for coming.

Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) was also a visiting minister this month. We appreciate the efforts of all our ministers who labor so lovingly.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford — Kathy Freed

Again we welcomed many visiting ministers who brought us inspiring messages from the Holy Bible. Although these brethren come from pulpits near and far, the Word as spoken to us remains constant, reliable and true. There are no surprises on Sunday — we hear the clear, uncluttered truth — so familiar, yet so exciting.

We wish to thank Bros. Jack Bollier (Leo), Wayne Lehman (South Bend), Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Jesse Beer (Milford).

Together we shared the sacrament of holy communion, so precious to every believer. One of the Lord's commandments, it brings joy to our hearts as we follow His teaching: "This do, in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19). We could feel His love surrounding us and flowing from one to another.

We said goodbye to Sis. Sherri Cress and her daughters, Heather and Carla, who moved to Bluffton. We hope they return to visit us often!

We look forward to Sunday morning and midweek services, when we can attend church and "hear a sermon." But the Christian message is delivered in another way. It is put forth by the way we live. Our lives are also sermons! What are we, in our daily walk, "preaching" and "teaching"? What is the message we are sending from our pulpit? When others "see" the sermons of our lives, will they want what we have? Can others tell that we are Christians or do we have to tell them?

There is a question we could ask: "If

I were put on trial as a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me?"

INDIANA, LACROSSE Sandy Heinold

After 40 years of dedicated service in the ministry, Bro. Art Gudeman will soon lay down his mantle. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to him for so faithfully bringing us the Word in its truth and sincerity over the years. Our prayer is that God will add the increase to his labors of love.

"... if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ..."

I Peter 4:11

As one lays down the mantle, we're grateful that there are steadfast brothers to pick it up. Two young brothers in our congregation now have this duty laid upon their shoulders. As Bros. Tom Troxel and Curt Frank assume their new responsibilities as ministers of the Word, may they feel God's grace, which he promised would be sufficient.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) assisted Bro. Ed Frank in reading the memorandum and seeking brothers for the ministry. Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) also brought us many good teachings from God's Word.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

Psalms 23:1

We believe this was the prayer of Bro. Enos Cadwalader, who was called to his rest November 3. Although he endured much physical suffering, we're thankful that Bro. Enos was able to find peace for his soul in his latter years. Our sympathy goes out to his family and especially to his wife, Sis. Martha, who lovingly cared for him.

Sis. Mary Gudeman (Bro. Art) was a hospital patient this month. May she feel the sustaining prayers of those who love her, as she endures these bodily afflictions.

Another Christmas season is upon us. It truly is a joyous time as we pause to thank God for the most precious gift of all, His Son.

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Gina Huber

It is getting to the time of year when we want to pause to be thankful for the many blessings we have been given. The poem below reflects the feeling of many of our hearts as we wish to show more thankfulness for all that the Lord has done for us:

GIVE ME A THANKFUL HEART

God of the winds, the snows, the rains,
The tides that fall and rise;
The Painter of the vales and plains;
Lamp lighter of the skies;
Thou who has made the land and sea
And holds them each apart;
Would You but grant me this one plea—
Give me a thankful heart.

Giver of calm in time of strife,
Giver of balm in pain;
Thou who alone can give of life
And take it back again;
Thou who gave of a love that wooed
And drew this soul apart,
That I might show my gratitude —
Give me a thankful heart.

God of the atom and its power,
Wise Keeper of the time;
Guider of men when dark the hour,
Giver of peace sublime;
Giver of faith that sees the way
Though heaven and earth depart;
Thou who has given all, I pray —
Give me a thankful heart.
Donald LaVerne Walker

Our hearts were encouraged as Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) were with us recently. May God bless them for their labors of love to share God's Word with us.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

"Take time this Christmas to go a little way apart,
And with hands of prayer, prepare the house which is your heart;
Brush out the dusty fears, brush out the cobwebs of your care
Till in the house that is your heart,
it's Christmas everywhere.
Light every window up with love, and let your love shine through,

So those who walk outside may share that blessed light with you.

Then will the rooms with joy be bright,
with peace the heart be blessed,
And Christ Himself will enter in to be your Christmas Guest."

(Anonymous)

A program with the joyous message of our dear Savior's birth is to be given December 13.

We welcome back Bro. William and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein, Mildred (Klopfenstein) Lederman, Elder Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch and Sis. Katherine Norr from an extended visit to China and Japan. The Klopfensteins also spent some time in Europe. Elder Bro. David Bertsch was able to share in Christian ministry in Japan through an interpreter.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier have been blessed with a precious baby girl, Emily Kay. Sharing their joy with the children at the Home (Bill and Cheri are houseparents in the West House) are grandparents, Ben and Berniece Joos (Mesa, AZ) and Bro. Ben and Sis. Wilma Blunier (Champaign, IL).

Bits of This and That:

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.

"Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man.

"Selfishness makes Christmas a burden; love makes it a delight.

"Charity is preferring to store your money in the stomachs of the needy rather than hide it in your purse.

"The holiday season may be called into question if carried so far it causes indigestion!

"I expect to travel through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."
Steven Grellet

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. That was the joyous announcement when He came to earth to save us. He is coming again. Aren't you glad?

INDIANA, MILFORD

Sue Schieler — Marguerite Hoerr
We were blessed to have Bro. Glenn Price, Jr., minister to us this past month. He came "back home" to share

in the celebration of his father's birthday with other family members.

Jeremy Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane) was unpleasantly surprised with the need for an appendectomy. We're thankful to report he was soon back home and completely recovered.

Also back home and recovering nicely is Bro. Don Beer who underwent eye surgery this past month.

Bro. Jesse Haab also had eye surgery and is happily reporting a successful recovery.

Elder Bro. Jesse Beer conducted the funeral services for a neighbor, Glen Pinkerton, and sisters in our church lovingly supplied a meal following the services.

Bob and I have enjoyed the blessings of visiting children this past month in Illinois, Ohio and Alabama.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

Hollis E. May, husband of Sis. Angeline Gutwein May, died October 29 at the Jasper County Hospital. He had been a lifetime area resident of Remington. Funeral services were held Sunday, November 1 at the Apostolic Christian Church with Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville), Edwin Bahler and Ken Schneider officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Survivors include one son, H. Jeffrey (Remington); Angela Dena and Deborah Sue (California); and Stefanie Staff (Salzburg, Austria).

Hollis served in the Army Air Force in World War II and was a member of the International Flying Farmers. One of the great loves of his life was flying and he owned and operated his own plane for over 40 years.

His children submit this tribute to their father:

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silver wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung

My eager craft through footless halls
of air.
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights
with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.
And, while with silent, lifting mind
I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of
space,
Put out my hand, and touched the
face of God.
John Gillaspie Magee, Jr.

For our most beloved Daddy who
slipped the surly bonds of earth Octo-
ber 29 and went home to be with his
Lord . . . for those of us left behind we
will always miss you and always re-
member . . . Thanks Daddy . . . We love
you.

His loving wife seals his memory
with this prayer:

Oh Lord, support us all the day long
of this troublous life, until the shadows
lengthen, and the evening comes, and
the busy world is hushed, and the fever
of life is over and our work on earth is
done. Then, of Thy great mercy, grant
us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and
peace at the last, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA)
ministered to our congregation No-
vember 15 and reminded us how spirit-
ual lukewarmness and complacency in
our heavenly vision is threatening us
all in these latter days. "Let us therefore
fear, lest, a promise being left us of
entering into his rest, any of you should
seem to come short of it." Hebrews 4:1.

Sis. Marge Pitman has left her home
to spend the winter in the south. Her
address is 16 Ponce de Leon, Braden-
ton, FL 33508.

CHRISTMAS OVER THERE

Perhaps He tells them over there
About His birthday long ago,
And pictures for the children fair
The happy times He used to know.

Perhaps He takes them on His knee,
Our babies He has called away
And tells them of the days when He
With earthly children used to play.

I fancy at this Christmas time
He tells them tales to us untold,
Repeats some little nursery rhyme
He spoke when He was six years old.

There were not many then to keep
His birthday as we do today;
The shepherds, watching o'er their
sheep.
Had no such happy time of play.

They little knew or dreamed back then,
Who saw the little boy at play,
Carols of peace, good will to men,
The world would sing for Him today.

Tonight, perhaps, He calls them all,
The little children round His knee,
And tells those eager angels small
Of Christmas days that used to be.

And it may be the one we miss
So sadly at this Christmas time,
Climbs on His knee His face to kiss
And nestles in His arms sublime.
Edgar A. Guest

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Robert Beebe

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer
mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be
Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased
me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest
me new."

"Now It Is Done"
Zion's Harp #209

We are rejoicing with our new sisters-
in-faith, Renee Mangold (Mike) and
Nerys Lightner (Peter), as they each
brought a testimony of a new life in
Christ November 7, and were baptized
November 8. May their song ever be
"O may He direct me through joy and
through ill; I'll never forsake Him, but
follow Him still." Zion's Harp #209.
Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL)
and Jesse Beer (Milford) were with us
for this special occasion.

Our little congregation is rejoicing,
also, with two dear souls who have
yielded their hearts to their Saviour's
call. Debbie Lehman (Bro. Wayne and
Sis. Shirley) and Andrea Stoller (Bro.
Steve and Sis. Anna Marie) have
chosen a new path for their lives.

"Follow Me, the Saviour calleth;
Come to Me, I am the way!
What is lacking I will give you;
Trust in Me and watch and pray."
Challenge to the Nominal Christian
Zion's Harp #95

We are happy to report the birth
November 6 of sweet Amanda Joy to
Bro. Pat and Sis. Annie Meyer. Help-
ing to shower her with love and care is
Shannon. Grandparents are Bro. Verne
and Sis. Carol Meyer (Bluffton) and
Sam and Shelby Greenberg (Indiana-
polis).

Our Sunday school children pre-
sented us with an inspiring Harvest-
Thanksgiving Program, followed by a
dinner for all November 15.

Also ministering to us this month
was Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS).
We thank each visiting minister for his
labor of love, and each visitor for bles-
sing us with sweet fellowship.

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will
trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord
Jehovah is my strength and my song;
he also is become my salvation. There-
fore with joy shall ye draw water out of
the wells of salvation."

Isaiah 12:2-3

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Trish Bucher — Peg Huber

"When you can't stop crying, plant
some roses. Then one day when you
feel like laughing again, you'll have
rosebuds to give away."

Margaret of Molokai

Our sympathy is extended to Sis.
Lois Bucher (Gary) and family in the
loss of her mother, Sis. Sarah Gerst
(Oakville, IA). God comforts, but we
trust His grace in giving "rosebuds" of
consolation to those that ache. "... that
we may be able to comfort them which
are in any trouble by the comfort where-
with we ourselves are comforted of
God." II Corinthians 1:4.

We were blessed this month with the
privilege of communing with our Fa-
ther that our hearts and lives might be
in order to partake of the bread and the
fruit of the vine. "Did not our heart
burn within us, while he talked with us
by the way . . ." Luke 24:32.

Again Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane
Moser have welcomed a child into their
home. How quickly Brandon has
learned to reverence God! At a com-
munity supper recently he loudly
broadcasted to all around, "We didn't
pray yet!" "Suffer the little children to
come unto me, . . . for of such is the
kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

"Where we love is home — home

that our feet may leave, but not our hearts."

Holmes

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Dick Bucher (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Gwen) and Tracy Goodpasture (Mr. and Mrs. Dick Goodpasture, LaCrosse) as their hearts and hands establish another home of love. "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: . . ." Matthew 19:5.

"If the praise of man elates me and his blame depresses me; if I cannot rest under misunderstanding without defending myself; if I love to be loved more than to love, to be served more than to serve, then I know nothing of Calvary."

A. Carmichael

We are thankful again for ministers that know and share Calvary's love. A special thanks to our visiting ministers who shared holy communion and read the conference report on two separate evenings: Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville).

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorene Furrer — Elaine Bahler

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;"

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2

John Tyler was born to Robert and Nancy Bryant October 17. Welcoming their new brother are sister, Niki, and brothers, Austin and Landon. John's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bryant (Remington) and Jack Furrer (Fowler). Great-grandma is Sis. Viola Kyburz.

Born to Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab was Brett Matthew, November 6. Tiffany, Brandy and Lance are excited to have a new baby brother. Also sharing in the joy of his birth are grandparents, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab and Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Francesville).

May God richly bless these families with wisdom and guidance as they nurture and care for the precious children entrusted unto them.

Our hearts were saddened as we laid to rest Bro. Walter Stoller, who passed away November 2. It is our prayer that God will comfort his dear wife, Sis.

Grace. We also extend our sympathy to his three sisters, Sis. Mary Hitz (Francesville), Sis. Lillian Stahl (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Helen Knapp (Peoria, IL).

Many thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. LeRoy Kyburz as he is hospitalized in intensive care. May God provide and care for him and his family.

Thanksgiving had a special meaning this year as many of us had opportunity to view the slides of Romania shown by Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL) November 8. Bro. Carl Fiechter (Bluffton) also showed a few slides of the food packaging project for Romania. We sincerely thank these brothers for sharing these slides with us. May we strive to do our part to help those less fortunate.

We also thank Bro. Vernon Leman for sharing the Word with us.

"To everything there is a season" and once again we are approaching the season of Christ's birth. May we all "journey to Bethlehem" and humbly experience the miracle of His birth.

IOWA, AMES/DES MOINES

Our November services were well received with close to 100 in attendance. Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend) served us as minister this month. We are so thankful for these ministers who stand before us month after month and year after year.

May we all be thankful and stand firm in our faith and convictions toward our Lord and our precious Apostolic Christian Church.

As there will not be services here in December, we would like to take this opportunity to express sincere Holiday Greetings with warmest regards to all. Have a blessed season!

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karen Schulz — Dixie Messner

Once again we thank Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) for sharing God's Word with us. We are thankful Bro. Ed remembers us in his busy schedule. We trust our elder brothers will be rewarded for all they do here on earth.

Sis. Leola Heiniger underwent heart surgery. We are thankful to report that she is home and improving every day. We also want to remember Sis. Clara Frank who has been home bound for several weeks after a short hospital stay.

Our sympathy goes out to the families of Terry Kuntz and Sis. Sarah

Gerst, both of Oakville. Sometimes we can't understand why God takes our loved ones as He does, but He knows what is best for us.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Joy to the world! the Lord is come,
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found.

I. Watts

As God's people waited and waited for the coming of the promised Messiah, may we also be found in growing anticipation for His second coming.

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Luke 21:27

Our thanks go to Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer with the reading of the memorandum. How uplifting it is to be reminded of how we can more faithfully serve our Lord with a pure faith. A special thanks also goes to Bro. Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL) for serving us also.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Glen and Sally Funk

God truly blessed us with a visit from ministering Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL). Words cannot express our appreciation.

In an effort to get away from a traditional Halloween and all that is associated with it, one of our church families invited the children to their home. They were to dress as Bible characters and everyone guessed who they were. What a blessing it was to watch our children read Bible stories and talk about the Bible instead of witches and goblins.

The Gridley, IL, young group visited here on a recent Sunday. We truly thank them for their time and effort in coming to be with us. Our young Sunday school children enjoyed the attention they received from these young adults, as we all enjoyed a weekend of fellowship.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Bonita Frank

We are saddened by the losses felt by Bro. Phil and Sis. Jan Webber. Bro. Phil's mother, Sis. Emma Webber, passed away this past month. Sis. Jan's father also has passed away suddenly while being hospitalized. The Webbers' son, Jimmy, has been a medical patient in their local hospital in Pella and was transferred to a Des Moines hospital. Jim is out of the hospital now and is recuperating at home. We certainly pray for God's nearness for them during this time of intense sorrow.

Our church building has felt some "growing pains" this past month. The outer walls and roof for three Sunday school rooms and a storage room have been completed. We had hoped to have it closed in before winter, and God has mercifully granted our wish. The inside work is not going to be done immediately, pending organization of volunteers and supplies, but great strides were made in the last two weeks. We are hoping that the inside work can go well, also.

We would like to thank our visiting minister this past month. Bro. Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) brought us both messages while our Bro. Joe Gerst was absent November 7.

Thank You Note:

We, the congregation of Iowa City, would like to thank all the willing volunteers from Bradford and Princeville, IL, Oakville and here who helped with the building, donated food and made lunches, faithfully sent funds in and prayed for the safe completion of the project. May God bless each one.

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch

As Christmas approaches our thoughts turn to the gift of great love that came with Jesus birth. His love is manifested so many times and in so many ways in our lives and in the lives of loved ones from years gone by.

One way He shows us love is in the birth of innocent babies. Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori Popkes were blessed with a new baby daughter, Deann Kay, October 26. Paternal grandmother is Sis. Eleanor Popkes. On October 27, first-time parents, Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue Warner, welcomed a son, Matthew Alan, into their home. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Phoenix, AZ) and paternal

grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner. Anita Lynn was born October 30 to Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine Knobloch. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEttta Braker (Lamar, MO) and paternal grandparents are Bro. Gus and Sis. Florence Knobloch. Another set of first-time parents are Dan and Jeanne Knobloch. Their son, Nate Allen, was born November 4. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Rosella Metzger and paternal grandmother is Sis. Iola Knobloch. May God continue to bless these dear families as they rear their children and bring honor to His name.

God's great love is evident as He heals those who are ill and hospitalized. Medical patients, Bro. Ernest Metzger, Sis. Barb Metzger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna) and Mike Metzger were all hospitalized and are home again. Bro. August Knobloch has recently submitted to surgery. We are thankful for God's healing power upon their bodily afflictions.

"Is your love patient and kind? Is it able to suffer long, to endure every strain placed upon it in human relations, and still love? Is your love as steadfast in pointing to God's love as is the needle of the compass in pointing to the north? Is your love undiscouraged even by repeated ingratitude and recurrent failures on the part of others? Patience and kindness are the fruits of having Christ live in you. Are you nourishing your life upon His life by prayer and worship and studying His Word? If so, the fruit of patient and kind love will grow and will be available for the healing of other lives."

Wings of Silver

Do our lives reflect the great gift of love given to each of us so many years ago on that first Christmas morn?

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach

We have recently experienced the brevity of life in our Oakville congregation. In this past month we have laid to rest two dear loved ones. Our dear Sis. Sarah Gerst was called out of this life after suffering a massive heart attack October 24. We are thankful that she is now free from pain and suffering, but we sorrow with the family who will most certainly miss her deeply. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to her family; her husband, Bro. Leslie;

her two sons, Bro. Arnold and Bro. Conrad; her two daughters, Sis. Lois Bucher and Sis. Edra Kuntz; and her many grandchildren. On the same night of Sis. Sarah's death, Bro. Leon and Sis. Doris Kuntz heard the news that their son, Terry, had been killed in an automobile accident. Sometimes it seems that we must endure much grief, but we know that our Lord is always near and there is a definite reason for all His actions. We pray that God will be near Bro. Leon and Sis. Doris, and the grandparents, Bro. George and Sis. Hazel Kuntz and Bro. Ben and Sis. Marie Moser, and the remaining family in this time of bereavement. We will all miss our dear loved ones, but we have faith that God will comfort the hearts of all.

Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) have recently been visiting ministers in our congregation.

Card of thanks: We have no words that even begin to express our sincere heartfelt thanks for the love and kindness shown to us with prayers, cards, food, telephone calls, flowers and memorial gifts at the tragic death of our beloved son, Terry. All of your love and concerns help us to deal with the loneliness and emptiness we feel. Again, thank you ever so much for your prayers.

Bro. Leon and Sis. Doris Kuntz
Bro. George and Sis. Hazel Kuntz
and family
Bro. Ben and Sis. Marie Moser
and family

IOWA, PULASKI

Sarah Teubel — Mary Jane Knapp

Once again the Christmas season is upon us and we are so thankful that our heavenly Father loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son into this world that our sins could be washed away. May the true meaning of Christmas be foremost in our hearts and minds.

"And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

St. Luke 2:7

Dennis Teubel (Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma) and Carolyn Egbert were united in marriage October 2. We pray for God's blessings on them.

On November 1, Bros. Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) were with us to lovingly bring forth God's precious and holy Word. Our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) spent the evening of November 18 with us also to convey God's message. As was brought out by one of the brothers, it matters not whether we are young or old, if our allotted time is up, God will take us from this life. The main thing is, are we prepared to meet our Creator?

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sarah Teubel have been blest with a new little son, Kristopher Ray, born November 14. He has one sister, Katie. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma Teubel and Bro. Devon and Sis. Laveille Yoder (Gridley, IL). May God bless this little family.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

"Have you ever wondered why God announced the greatest birth in human history to a handful of shepherds on a hillside and a few wise men from the East? Perhaps it was because they were quiet enough to listen . . . eager enough to know . . . available enough to follow!"

Author Unknown

Is this our attitude as we approach the Christmas season?

Our visiting ministers, Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester) and Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) brought us many kind teachings this past month. This verse was brought to our attention by one of these brothers. We felt it had much food for thought.

"Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

Revelation 1:3

Our prayers and get-well wishes go to Bro. Silas Banwart, Bro. Silas Metzger, Louisa Anliker (Reuben), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr, Judy Gates (Don), Margaret Grimm (Eli, Jr.) and Sis. Glenna Fehr (Bro. Melvin) who have been hospitalized. May they place their trust in the Lord for their recovery.

Our birth to report this month is the

first grandchild for Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen Anliker. Born to Don and Brenda Hagen October 28 was a son, Kyle Kenneth. We wish for them God's blessings as they rear their little one.

On Saturday, November 7, Anne Banwart and David Jergens were united in marriage. Parents are Paul, Jr., and Emmy Banwart and Robert and Joan Jergens.

Our best wishes go to Patty Grimm (Eli, Jr. and Margaret) and Ed Origer (Marvin and Wilma, St. Joe) on their recent engagement.

Once again as the Christmas season approaches, we are reminded of the precious Christmas story.

Turn with me to the Bible's page,
Where we can now recall
The story of the Saviour's birth —
God's gift — the King of all.

Turn with me to Matthew, where
He tells us God's dear Son
Was born in a dreary cattle stall;
That wise men, one by one,

Came from afar to bring their gifts,
To bow before His bed,
(And even now it seems we see
The halo round His head.)

Then turn over to Mark's account,
Where shepherds viewed the star
And gathered there at Bethlehem
From near and from afar.

Oh, read the story once again,
And, in our mind's eye, we
Will gather there at Bethlehem
To worship reverently!

Georgia B. Adams

JAPAN, SHIODA

Kathy Kieser

We were blessed this month with several visitors. Elder Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch, Bro. Bill and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein, Sis. Katherine Norr and Millie Lederman, all from the Leo, IN, area, were here for about two weeks after touring China. We're thankful that they included Japan in their travel plans! May the Lord bless Elder Bro. David for allowing himself to be an instrument in the Lord's hands as he ministered to us.

Lynn and Dorette Schaal (Nova Scotia, Canada), Sis. Lois Ehnle's niece and her husband, also spent a few days with us. They had just completed some Christian work in the Philippines

and were planning to spend some time in Hawaii working for the Lord before returning to Canada.

Once again, our kindergarten children are fervently practicing for their Thanksgiving program. It thrills them to dress up like Pilgrims and Indians as they tell the American Thanksgiving story through songs and skits.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

Lest I forget Gethsemane;
Lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

J. E. Hussey

We were led again to Calvary during a Spirit-filled communion service conducted by our Elder Bros. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), Willis Ehnle and Akito Inoue. Impressed into our memories were the thoughts that when we partake of communion, each one is making the statement and commitment once again that "I believe in the shed blood of Jesus Christ". Also, these words were emphasized at the end of the service, just before partaking "... Lest we forget... Lest we forget..."

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10. This past month, we were blessed with several American guests who helped with the painting of the outside of the church. We thank Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch, Bro. Bill and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein, Sis. Katherine Norr and Millie Lederman (all of Leo, IN) for willingly giving their time and for their uplifting fellowship.

Bro. Bob Knapp (Eureka, IL) comes to Japan periodically on business, and we're thankful that we recently had the opportunity to worship with him once again.

Bro. Bruce Weiss (Goodfield, IL) has safely returned to his family, after spending ten months in Japan on business. We have many warm memories of his stay. Although we will miss his fellowship, we are happy to know that he can once again be with his family.

KANSAS, BERN

**Lori Baumgartner
Shirley Strahm**

We are happy to report the arrival of

two little bundles of joy, both to first-time parents. Darla Marie was the name chosen for Judd and Carol Meyer's little girl born October 10. Grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Mavis Meyer and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Visser (Goff). Born to Cedric and Karen Heiniger (Topeka) October 18 was little Kaylee Jo. Happy grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzell and Carolyn Geiger (Topeka).

We always enjoy visitors in our midst. Visiting ministers were Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS). How thankful we should be that God still speaks to us through His servants as we sojourn here on earth.

Bro. Ed Lehman (Sis. Leola) was a hospital patient this past month. We have missed his presence on Sunday. May God grant His healing power to Bro. Ed that he may again assemble with us.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucy Rokey would like to thank everyone who remembered them with cards and prayers at the time of their 50th wedding anniversary.

As the Christmas season draws near, our hearts are warmed when thinking of the great love God showed by sending His "only begotten Son" to this earth. Let us also remember "Our saving hope is all in vain, if here our love should cease, for in the man of Galilee, we find the gift of peace. 'Tis not the babe, but Christ, the man, who walked in Galilee; 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free." (The Babe Of Bethlehem, vs. 2 by Henry Beer).

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Teresa Bahr

We have finished listening to the conference tapes of the brotherhood meeting. Each topic was a sermon in itself. Our thanks to and may God bless Elder Bro. Leroy Huber who was here to assist Elder Bro. Ray Banwart in reading the conference conclusion.

The weekend of October 19 and 20 was the blessed event of the testimony and baptism of our special ones, Paula Read, Jimmie and Pam Jackson. Visiting elders were Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS).

Three loved ones among us are in the process of moving and our small con-

gregation will miss them. Sis. Jamie Marti has moved to Kansas City for employment. Due to her health, Sis. Ella Banwart (at 96 years "young"!) was no longer able to live by herself so she has moved to West Bend, IA, to be cared for by her family. Bro. Danny Sinn is relocating to Sabetha, KS, to live in an apartment affiliated with our Rest Home.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY Vola Young — Judy Kraft

Christmas, ah Christmas! Again that time of year is approaching when we commemorate the birth of our Saviour. There are so many memories each of us can probably reflect on of past Christmases. It's such a busy time with so many festivities and activities to prepare for and enjoy. We certainly can get caught up in the atmosphere and preparation of Christmas. Christmas should be a joyous time, when we can reflect back on the great love God had for each of us and the plan of salvation that was just beginning to unfold through the birth of Christ. With prayerful hearts, let us prepare for Christmas so that our beliefs surrounding Christmas reflect to others the true and wonderful meaning of Christmas.

Our prayers and concern are with Bro. Loren Strahm who is presently hospitalized.

It was our joy and privilege to have in our midst Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Edward Lanz (Oakville, IA), Ronald Nelson (Kiowa, KS) and Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO). We thank Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont) for assisting with services one Sunday, also.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr — Darcy Kisling

C — Is for the Christ Child, born upon this day,
H — For herald angels in the night
R — Means our Redeemer
I — Means Israel
S — Is for the star that shone so bright.
T — Is for three wise men, they who traveled far
M — Is for the manger where He lay.
A — Is for all He stands for
S — Means shepherds came
And that's why there's a Christmas Day!

It's so hard to believe that another year is almost past and Christmas is

here once again. It's such a busy time of year, but such a precious time, too, when we celebrate our Lord's birthday. We rejoice that God didn't forget His promise to a lost world, but sent His Son to ransom us from sin's clutches. We are such a blessed nation, and, as our hearts are renewed by love, peace, joy and faith, during this Christmas time let's not forget the One who brought it all about. In other words, let's keep our Christ in Christmas!

This month has seen several of our loved ones heading south for the winter, and though we miss all who are gone from our midst, we pray that God will grant their bright lights to shine for those in other congregations, and spread joy there as they do here.

We have enjoyed many blessed events this month. Though many have been absent due to illness, we are thankful no one has been hospitalized. We have also commenced Wednesday evening services, and the first three weeks we listened to the tapes of the conference. (How blessed we felt, and thankful, that our elder and ministering brethren are concerned enough to take time from their busy schedules to meet and work together to keep this precious faith till the call comes to go home. It's not an easy undertaking, for we, like sheep, tend to stray, but praise God for our shepherds who warn us and strive to bring us back safely to the fold.) We also had the joy of having ministering Bro. Noah Herman and his dear wife, Sis. Lorraine (Tucson, AZ), in our midst one Lord's day to share the Word with us. We thank them for lending themselves. It was also our appointed time to hold services at the Life Care Home. The turnout of listeners and singers was tremendous, and from expressions around the room, blessings were multiplied.

KANSAS, LAMONT Mary Isch

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

"And this shall be a sign unto you, Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and saying,

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

Luke 2:11 - 14

In the wondrous Christmas story, a troubled world can find blessed assurance and peace of mind. For when we become discouraged in the world we're living in, there is so much comfort in knowing that God triumphed over sin by sending us His only Son to live among us here and then die and shed His precious blood on that old rugged cross for you and me. Now He sits at God's right hand pleading and interceding in our behalf. May we meditate on these things as the Christmas season draws near.

This month we were supremely blessed with having four of our elder brethren visit us. They were Elder Bros. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA).

KANSAS, SABETHA

Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter

By the second week of November our small town's streets were decorated with the paraphernalia of the Christmas season. It seems every year the preparations for the holiday begin earlier. Just as sure as Christ's first coming was, so will be His second coming. Are we diligent and enthusiastic in preparing for Christ's return as we are in celebrating this season?

We have three precious souls who have experienced the rich mercy of God and now have the peace and reconciliation with God that Jesus' blood made possible. Awaiting baptism are Selena Brownlee (Steve), Larry Bailey (Sis. Linda) and Lisa Steiner. We look forward to hearing their testimony of faith and pray that God will shepherd them safely to our heavenly goal.

The engagement of Sis. Evelyn Benninger and Bro. Noah Steiner was announced November 1. They anticipate their wedding day to be this coming Sunday, November 22. May God's grace shine on them and bring a blessing to their union and to those around them.

Ministering Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS) was with us November 15. We give thanks to him for being willing to be used and to our God for sending us the truth.

Sis. Irene Lehman (Bro. Andy) and Bro. John Aberle (Sis. Cornelia) underwent surgery last week. Lord willing, they hope to be home soon. Our prayers have been with them and we

continue to intercede that God will restore their bodies to good health.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Visitors from the Sabetha and Bern congregations enriched our Wichita assembly the first weekend in November. We thank them for worshipping with us.

As the first semester draws to a close, changes will occur for our college age youth. Sis. Wendy Metzger (Gridley, KS) will complete her training in nanny school and will leave Wichita in search of employment and to continue her education in child psychology. Sis. Patty Knoblock will return to Kansas State in Manhattan, KS, to continue her studies there. Victor Wullchleger (Bro. Art and Sis. Gussie) will be leaving soon for Ocean City, NJ, for further training as an electrical engineer. May God protect and enrich these young people as they prepare to become responsible citizens in this demanding world.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Lester and Glendoris Huber

"Do you know the Christ of Christmas?"

Frequently it is expressed "Xmas" for Christmas. "X" in our present math is always an expression of an unknown number or figure. For the most part, far too many have no more of a personal understanding of Christ our Lord than the "X" which is so often used in spelling Christmas.

On this occasion, may we take the opportunity to make known the Christ of Christmas as God's expression of love toward every sinner whether he be poor or rich, intellectual or illiterate, strong or weak. On this greatest celebrated occasion we make known to all alike that the Christ of Bethlehem came to preach the gospel to the poor (or lost), to heal the broken-hearted and to preach deliverance to the captives (or those enslaved by sinful hearts). Luke 4:18.

To know Christ is to know Him beyond the tinsel and commercial display of our day and time as a personal and intimately close friend. To know Him as one who has rescued us from the lowest hell is as literally real as if we were rescued from some great pit from which it were an inevitable doom and end. The only way we can truly come to

know Him to this extent is when and if we admit we are "lost". For as He spoke, "I am come to seek and to save that which is lost." Luke 19:10.

In this Christmas season, give a repentant heart to Christ as your personal gift in response to what He has already done to save your lost soul, and through remission of sins, the true joy and peace of Christmas will overflow.

Bro. John and Sis. Brenda Klein and family have moved to Peoria, IL. Bro. John was called back to Caterpillar, where he worked before and was laid off eleven years ago. We wish them God's loving care and guidance as they relocate again. We miss their presence and fellowship here.

We thank the many visitors who have come in the past month from Morton, Peoria, Roanoke, Eureka, Goodfield and Congerville, IL, Paulding and Mansfield, OH, and LaCrosse, IN.

The Lexington church enjoyed a weekend of communion and fellowship at our home church of Francesville, IN, November 8. It was a most grateful experience of spiritual uplifting to us all.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Juanita Gerst

Once again the Christmas season is drawing near and it is time for the children to learn their verses for the Christmas program. It is so exciting to see the little ones learning their verses with such enthusiasm.

We are rejoicing with our dear friends, Ed and Julie Sanders, who have heeded God's call to repent. It is so wonderful to have friends turn to the Lord. It is strengthening to those who are already walking with the Lord.

During the Christmas season we pray that each of you will have a safe and enjoyable holiday season in our Lord and Savior. May each of us make sure that we keep Christ as the focus of the holiday and not the gift giving and receiving which is such a big part of this special holiday.

Our prayers are with Jeff Oesch who met with a serious accident to his knee. We are praying for him and his family during this time of God-given recovery.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Schlatter

The shepherds and the wise men were brought to the Christ child in diverse ways. The shepherds were in the same country as Bethlehem, and

had the birth of Jesus announced to them by an angelic chorus. On the other hand, the wise men were from afar and followed a star that led them to the house where Jesus was. Today, we have those as the shepherds who are right among us having had opportunity to hear the Gospel message through their parents and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. But contrariwise, there are those today that like the wise men, come from alien walks, having observed someone's faithfulness, and been drawn by it. Let's be faithful in preaching the Gospel message to those close by us, and faithful in living the Gospel message for those who observe us from a distance.

We are thankful that Sis. Leaf Lacey sought out her Lord while she was among the living. We laid Sis. Leaf to rest and trust she is "Safe in the Arms of Jesus".

Among those absented due to illness have been Sis. Anna Magyar, Sis. Eldine Wackerle and Sis. Maybelle Wackerle. May God encourage them during their absence and restore health as He sees fit.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6. Having diligently sought the will of God in faith, God has revealed to Bro. Lee Ruegsegger (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret) and Sis. Alice Schlipf (Clarence and Lorene, Congerville, IL) to share their lives with one another. May God bless their lives during the preparation time for their upcoming marriage.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Donna Hartzler

Bro. Joe Szilagyi remains in the hospital in serious condition. We miss Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha in our assembly. May we all feel God's nearness as we put our trust and confidence in Him who does all things well.

Sunday, November 15, was a special day as more than 200 gathered for a solemn occasion in Apostolic Christian Woodhaven to dedicate the Home and services provided to our loving heavenly Father. We were blessed to have visiting ministers for the day. Bro. Jim Ramseyer and Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City) and Aaron Steffen (Alto) fed us from God's holy Word. We pray that all who were with us received a blessing.

It brought us much joy to hear that Dorine Kurkowski is repenting and committing her life to the Lord. May she feel God's leading and direction. It should be an inspiration to all of us to renew our commitment to put God first in our lives.

Our very best wishes go to Jeff Haines and Mary Mast who plan to be united in holy matrimony Saturday, December 12. Jeff is the son of Leland and Katie Haines and Mary is the daughter of Eli and Elinor Mast (Hicksville, OH). May God's blessing be upon their marriage.

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

The star which guided the shepherds
still shines on our fellowmen,
And joy reigns again in human hearts
as it did in Bethlehem.

The Christ Child offers His blessings
onto all who dwell on earth,
And those who know and love him
share in his glorious birth.

May His love, down through the ages,
glow as the star did then,
And the spirit of peace on earth, good
will live in the hearts of men!

Marian L. Moore

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Strassheim

Early winter has just arrived as I look out over the ice-covered pond and the freshly fallen snow. It reminds us of His complete control over our world and our lives.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Christine Leman (Eureka, IL) were blessed with a baby girl, Kalsey Jo. She has a brother, Daniel. The happy grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie Schmidgall.

Beatrice Miller (Bro. Richard) had surgery and is now recovering. We pray for God's hand of love to reach down and help her during this time.

We thank our Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) for coming and sharing with us the memorandum. We had a potluck dinner together then on Sunday.

On November 16 a funeral service was held in our little congregation. Sis. Sophie Sikoparija, 85, lived a long and full life but left this life for a much better one. She came here from Yugoslavia in 1931 and was able to speak 9 languages. On her last Sunday here she

spoke of going to heaven as she pointed her hand upward. Knowing the Lord and coming to church here meant the most to her. We will all miss her.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

We are still meeting in our present church building. The new church is coming along well. We pray the weather will be in our favor for a while as we continue to look to God to see us through this project.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Ruth Nohl — Hildagard Koehl

Touching the young heart in His wonderful way, God has called Kristie Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn) unto repentance. Having heard His wonderful call, may she submit her life to God's protecting hands.

Our special prayers have gone out to several loved ones in our congregation who have been hospitalized. May God's healing hand of care be with them, comfort them and bless them according to His good will. Bro. Ernest Koehl had a farm accident and sustained a broken leg and injury to his hand. He is out of the hospital recuperating at home. Other patients were Bro. Joe Feuchtenberger, Sis. Kathy Nohl (Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra), Bro. Gene Schmidgall and Fonda Koehl (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon).

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner and their family in the loss of their precious little baby, Nathan. Nathan was born October 23 and God called him home October 30. What a precious little flower for the Master's bouquet. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Gladys Messner and Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia Mogler (Lester, IA).

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus Loves Me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so:
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak but He is strong.

Anna B. Warner

Harvey and Allison Moser have become the parents of a baby boy, Jeffrey Wade, born November 2. He has a sister, Janeen, to welcome him home. Bro. Chris and Sis. Marion are the grandparents.

As this is the time of the year we celebrate the Thanksgiving season, we really cannot begin to count all our many blessings that are sent from God. We must be thankful everyday for the freedom of God's Word and for our salvation and peace in our hearts. So in all things, let us give thanks unto the Lord. The month of December is coming upon us, and our lives will be busy with holiday activities and plans. Let us never forget the true meaning of Christmas. We should thank God that He sent His only Son as a babe to live a perfect life and then die on the cross for our sins.

Thank You Note:

We sincerely wish to thank our dear brothers, sisters and friends throughout the land who have remembered us in prayers, thought, word and deed during the illness and death of our dear baby, Nathan. God knows how much it has meant to us, and may He reward you all for it.

Beirne and Joyce Messner
Julie, Heidi, Katie & Nick

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Wanda Messner
Ella Mae Schmidt

O Father hand, that guides me so
securely,
O Father eye, that watches over me!
O Father heart, that hears my prayer so
surely,
And thinks of me in love and charity!
Conduct me further on my pilgrim
journey,
The narrow way that leads to heaven
above;
And make me worthy of that life eternal,
Alike in sore distress, in peace and love.
Zion's Harp #180

On October 24 we had the privilege to hear the testimonies of Kim (Sis. Geri and Bro. Marvin Messner) and Todd Moser (Sis. Norene and Bro. Carl, Morris), and Kelly Messner (Sis. Lois and Bro. Marlyn). May we be inspired to walk as closely with our Lord as they expressed. We rejoice with them as a new brother and sisters-in-the-Lord.

Assisting our Elder Bro. Harold Messner with the testimonies and baptisms were Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Art Nohl (Morris). Visiting ministers were Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris) and Don Miller

(Minneapolis). We thank them for their guidance in helping us seek the Lord and His wonderful peace.

November 8 was the wedding day of Sis. LeAnn Messner (Sis. Melva and Bro. Roland) and Bro. David Rufener (Sis. Velma and Bro. Elton, Rittman, OH). Among the many visitors, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and ministering Bros. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Myron Knoblock (Lester, IA) and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis). Bro. Leo brought out in the wedding ceremony, that "God leads His dear children along." God has an almighty plan and no matter how deep the chasm of life, God will lead us along!

November 14 Rachel Schmidt (Sis. MaryLou and Bro. Dick) was united in marriage to Darcy Kent (Gibbon). May these two dear couples feel God's hand gently leading them along as they establish their homes.

Cory Schmidt (Sis. MaryLou and Bro. Dick) was hospitalized with a broken ankle. May God send His healing powers, for He is the healer of the flesh, as well as the soul.

Our thanks be to God as we look forward to the holy Christmas season, for sending His Son Jesus, not only as a babe, but to be a Savior and Redeemer for all who want Him. "Our saving hope is all in vain, if here our love should cease. 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free." Henry Beer.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Linda Ziegenhorn

As I sit here looking out the window, I see that the seasons are changing. The seasons of our lives are changing, too. We go through periods of growth in our spiritual life and periods of dryness when the presence of God seems far away. But, we must remember that, even though God seems far away, He is as near as a prayer and the Bible. We must continue to serve Him, and pray to Him for He has assured us in His Word, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. Does that mean that I have moved away from Him? Maybe it's time to move back.

We welcome Sis. Beth Ringger (Gridley, IL) to our congregation. She has taken employment in the area. Once again, we thank God for adding to our numbers.

One last thought — Did you pray for the unconverted today?

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Carol Braker — Janice Stoller

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul."

Psalms 23:1, 2, part of 3

No matter on what path the Lord may lead us; through storms and sorrow or beside the still waters, let us remember and look to those times when "He restoreth my soul."

Our congregation rejoices that God has once again provided a helpmate for Bro. Alfred Banwart. The engagement of Bro. Alfred to Sis. Carolyn Gerber (West Bend, IA) was announced. Bro. Alfred is the son of Sis. Caroline Banwart and Sis. Carolyn is the daughter of ministering Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber (West Bend, IA). Bro. Alfred has three excited children who welcome Sis. Carolyn into their family circle.

We also extend our best wishes to Martin Hohulin, Jr. (Bro. Martin and Sis. Edith) and Marilyn Leonard (Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Leonard, Fort Scott, KS) upon their engagement. May God be present in the home they seek to establish together.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Leroy Huber here to assist Elder Bro. Eugene Marti in bringing us the conference report. We certainly do want to encourage our dear elder brethren as they watch for our souls. May we strive to be more humble and obedient.

We also had ministering Bro. Dale Zeltwanger in our midst to bring us God's Word. May his efforts be blessed.

Hazel Kibler has been a hospital patient recently, but we hope she will soon be feeling better. We enjoy seeing her smiling face in our midst.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Loren and Betsy Schrenk

"God isn't interested in our ability — just our availability."

A minister shared with us this thought that he had read. Do each of us make ourselves available, that God can work through us?

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Gerald Sutter (Taylor), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Ervin Knecht (Lamar) and Kenny Knapp (Taylor). We thank them all for being available to carry God's Word to a small congregation in need.

We received a special blessing November 1 when the mixed choir from Morton worshipped with us and sang for us after services. Over 90 of us were assembled here that day. To meet and greet so many brethren and friends and to hear the beautiful singing was such an encouragement.

One Sunday the love of God was stressed to us so emphatically, with the reading and meditation of I John 4 in the morning, and I Corinthians 13 in the afternoon service. We see how much God loves us, and are commanded to love God and our brothers also. Many of our problems would simply vanish if we could from our heart obey this commandment.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

A NEW DAY

This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do today is important, because I'm exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil; success, not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it.

The donated medical equipment received from a Quincy Clinic and the clothing and bedding collected locally were transported by Bro. Norman Haerr and Tim Sutter to Juarez, Mexico. They arrived as the work project team was completing the building which will be used for distribution of clothing and medical needs. We're thankful for God's care and protection, especially under these precarious circumstances. "Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off the goal."

New babies to announce are "Alan Lynn," born to Bob and Paula Heimer October 19. Adrian, Abby and Audra are happy to have a little brother. Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser (Wapello, IA) are grandparents. Also, we failed to report the birth of their fourth son, Joel William, born September 6 to Gary and Joy Butikofer (Poplar Hills, Ontario). Grandparents are Edward and Winona Butikofer and "Great Gramma" is Sis. Marie Butikofer (Quincy, IL).

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marge Gerst at the death of Bro. Arnie's mother (Sis. Marie Butikofer's sister), Sis. Sarah Gerst, 74, (Oakville, IA). May you find comfort in each loving memory and peace through your faith in God.

This mother's labors now are o'er,

Her earthly labor done;
And now she rests in peaceful sleep,
Her rich rewards are won.
Her husband sheds a silent tear,
The children, too, must mourn;
But they again will meet her,
When eternal life is born.
The silent tears that each must shed,
Like rain upon the ground,
Will nourish all the love for her,
Which did in life abound.

"But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

I Peter 1:25

We thank Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and Sis. Marilyn for spending November 8 with us. We're always happy when they include us in their visits with their daughter and family, the Hoppes.

"A mother's heart will always know, the feelings words can't always show."

H. L. Price

One week old "Katy Ann" has been welcomed into the home of Bro. Kent, Sis. Jan, Amber, Jackie and Darin Heimer while awaiting adoption.

"But ye brethren, be not weary in well doing."

II Thessalonians 3:13

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight!

For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heaven.
No ear can hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend on us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, —
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell, —
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks

The words of this beautiful Christmas carol are so meaningful for us today. Truly they echo our thoughts as the season of the year is upon us where we again celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. We pray that each one will have a prayer on their heart this season that the Lord Jesus Christ may enter into our hearts and abide with us each day throughout the coming new year.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to two families this month as God has called dear ones from this earthly life. Barb Ebersol's mother, Margaret Ransier, was taken from this life after having been a patient in the Extended Care Facility for some time. Bro. Seth Schulz's sister, Ruth Steiner, was called home suddenly. May Barb and Fred and Bro. Seth and Sis. Olivia and their families feel our love and prayers for them.

Our hospital patients this month were Eddie Virkler and Sis. Hazel Schneider. At this time they have been able to return home and our thoughts and prayers are with them, that in God's will a measure of health might be returned to them.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

It was a great pleasure to see our dear Sis. Neoma Clare in our midst a couple Sundays since her baptism. It has been a long time that she wasn't able to come because of ill health. We hope for God's blessings of continued health for her and that she will be able to assemble with us often.

It has been some time now since Sis. Minnie Taube has been able to assem-

ble with us. If it's God's will, may He grant her health that she may be able to again assemble with us.

Also, we are keeping Sis. Betty Hertz in our thoughts and prayers. Besides her general health not being very well, she has been having a spell of shingles. She had to spend time in the hospital but is now at home again. May God continue to give her courage and strength to carry her burden.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

"They shall make an ark of shittim wood . . . and overlay it with pure gold . . . and make upon it a crown of gold round about."

Exodus 25:10, 11

Shittim wood is the accacia tree, a thorn tree of beautiful and durable wood. It is believed the crown of thorns put on Jesus was made from this thorny shittim wood. This tree grows in dry places and at certain times of the year at night they cut this tree for the resinous gum that comes out of it, which is used for medicinal purposes. The Ark is a type of Jesus. Jesus was a root out of dry ground. In the night he was beaten, or cut, and out of that came medicine for sin, sickness and the atonement. The Ark was overlaid with gold, symbolizing two natures. Jesus is the son of man: He came in the flesh and wore the crown of thorns. Jesus is the Son of God: it is overlaid with pure gold with the crown of gold.

Bro. Eric Graf and Sis. Erika Bako were united in marriage in a solemn ceremony by our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer. Bro. Eric is the son of Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf, and Sis. Erika is the daughter of Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako. Eric is a pharmacist and Erika is a nurse, and after their wedding trip the newlyweds will make their home in Wadsworth.

The wedding ceremony for Mark Collins and Pamela Provence was solemnized with a reception following at the fellowship hall. Mark is the son of Bro. Duane and Sis. Marjorie Collins. We trust that they will allow the Lord to direct their steps in all their ways as they go through life together.

Sis. Emma Webber passed away. Her husband, Bro. Philip, preceded her in death. Surviving are their children, Mary and Bro. Philip.

Sis. Elizabeth Heib has been hospitalized. We wish for her a speedy recovery.

Bro. Gary Maibach was a visiting minister.

Our Sunday school classes are preparing to present a program telling the Christmas story.

OHIO, COLUMBUS John Grimm

We want to thank Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. William Waibel (Bay City, MI) and their families for visiting us in the past month. May God bless them for their efforts in ministering His Word. Also, we enjoyed the fellowship of the young brothers from Eureka, IL.

We welcome anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at the Griswold Christian Academy, 860 Griswold Street, Worthington, OH. Services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

The year is passing very swiftly for many of us and with this comes changes.

From September 30 until October 14, my husband and I vacationed in Madrid, Spain, at the invitation of our son, James, who lives there. While there we traveled to Malaga, on the south coast, and to San Sebastian, on the north coast, as well as to other locations on conducted tours.

Spain is a very beautiful country and we appreciated the opportunity to renew family love and to see much of the area.

We were then thankful to return home safely to our little group of brethren and friends.

During our absence, Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron) ministered to our church group and we thank him sincerely.

When we returned, we found that Sis. Frieda Gasser had entered the hospital October 7, and she remained there until November 6. In addition, we found that our friend, Robert Deislinger, had been hospitalized during most of our absence.

Robert passed away the evening of October 28, and his repentant feeling reminded us of the importance of saying "I'm sorry" to God and to those who are close to us. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Catherine,

and sons, John (Wilmington, MA) and William, at home; five sisters, Sis. Ella, Esther, Clara, Florence Moore, Ida Whalen, and his brother, Edward, all of Girard; and his brother, Carl (Youngstown).

On Sunday, November 8, our Sis. Frieda Gasser was taken to the Apostolic Christian Home in Rittman. Her husband, Bro. Carl, is presently in the Wadsworth Hospital, having entered November 9, for examinations and tests. We wish improvement for both of them.

Our friend, Esther Deislinger, had eye surgery recently and is doing well.

Sis. Anne Enyeart is confined to her home because of health problems. However, this morning (11-15-87) she listened to our service via telephone. We had a large group of visitors and among them were Bros. Gary Maibach (Smithville) and Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis) who brought us inspiring messages from the "Timeless Word of God". We praise Him and thank them.

"The Deislinger Family wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for the prayers, cards and expressions of love and sympathy in the loss of their brother, Robert. May God bless you."

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Bro. Alvin, Jr. (Bud) Manz recited his vows of faithfulness to God in the baptismal waters and is now, as he was warned, a soldier in the Lord's battlefield. He was warned not to take his calling lightly and was told about a young brother a few decades ago in similar circumstances who was told he was a soldier in the Lord's battlefield. To himself this young brother said it would be so easy, but the years have proved him wrong. With the Lord's grace brothers can reach heaven, but we all know from experience, heaven will not be attained without our share of trials and these trials will not be overcome without God's grace. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty Manz are Bro. Bud's parents.

Bros. Ken Sauder (Mansfield), Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) were with us on the baptismal weekend. Also visiting us and bringing us His Word this month were Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Henry Dotterer (Rittman) and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron).

Cody Len Etter is the new arrival at

Len (Chip) and Barbara Etter's home. Cody has a brother, Thor, and grandparents, Ed and Apache Etter and Bro. Elias and Sis. Evelyn Manz, to help take care of him.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Elizabeth Spangler and Pauline Carnahan. As they recover, we wish them God's blessings and only hope that His will could be done in each of their lives.

OHIO, LATTY
Marlene Reinhard
Rhonda Stoller

"When the heart would seek the Lord to enfold, O blessed hour! And how great is the reward:"

"Jesus I Will Never Leave"
 Zion's Harp #228

We are rejoicing with our new brethren in faith, Bro. Doug Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores), Sis. Amy Stoller (Bro. Millard and Sis. Irma) and Sis. Kathy Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee), as they shared with us their desire to serve the Lord and be baptized into the fold. We were thankful for the many visitors who could be with us for this special weekend. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo) and Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN).

Two families were blessed with new baby girls this month. First-time parents are Mike and Valerie Klima who welcomed Sarah Marie into their home. Grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Marge Laukhuf, are thankful for their new granddaughter.

Heidi, Ryan and Heather were excited with their new sister, Holly Marie. Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller are the happy parents. Holly's grandparents are Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber (Rittman) and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane Stoller.

We are thankful that Bro. Donn Steffen (Sis. Karen) has recuperated and is back in church with us after being hospitalized.

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

Ephesians 4:12

We appreciated visiting ministers, Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Art and Don Gudeman (La-

Crosse, IN) in their service to help the body of Christ.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Alice Stoller in the loss of her brother, Fred Ginzel, and to Bro. George Keysor (Sis. Sharon) in the loss of his father, Elmer Keysor.

With the excitement and extra activities brought about with the holiday season we hope that Jesus' birth as our Savior is the center of your celebration.

As a reminder: December is the month for Latty to renew their Silver Lining subscription. Please see your reporters.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Linda Morrison

On Sunday, October 25, Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron), Joe Ramsier (Rittman), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Loren Stoller (Latty) assembled with us for the ordination of Bro. Ken Sauder as our local elder. "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you. (I Peter 5:1-3, 5-7).

Friends of our congregation who have stepped from time to eternity are Elden Zody (Esther Gage Zody), whose sister-in-law, Sis. Martha Mayer is in Bluffton, IN, and Carlton Fernyak, whose sister, Sis. Katherine Stevens, is in Toledo. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families of these dear ones. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psalms 90:12).

Sis. Martha Cordrey died October 29. "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" (Numbers 23:10). She will be missed by her two sons, Bro. Ray (Sis. Carol, Lester, IA), and John (Carolyn, Miami, FL). Our sympathy and prayers go out to her brother and sisters, John Fuhrer,

Sis. Dorothy Durkin, Sis. Catherine Morrison, Sis. Mabel Banks, Sis. Mary Mae Bocka, Gladys Texter and Ruth Young.

Hospitalized has been Sis. Ruth Weiss. "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:3-5).

OHIO, RITTMAN
Diane Gasser — Stephanie Baltic

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10, 11

With the Christmas season approaching, may each of us thank the Lord for coming to this earth so that we might have a hope of eternal life.

When pure and upright hearts,
 By flames of love ignited,
 Are by the bond of faith
 More firmly yet united,
 The light of hope beams forth
 In radiance far and nigh,
 Invites us to partake
 The blessings from on high.

Zion's Harp #79

For the weekend of November 8, many from our congregation traveled to Winthrop, MN, to witness the marriage vows of Bro. David Rufener (Bro. Elton and Sis. Velma) and Sis. LeAnn Messner (Bro. Roland and Sis. Melva, Winthrop, MN). May the Lord ever bless them as they walk life's path together. We welcome Sis. LeAnn to our Rittman congregation.

This month we were blessed with three more bundles of joy. Jayna Beth is the new daughter of Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler. Fred, Lynn, Eldon, Eric and Shane are Jayna's brothers and sister. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Pauline Hartzler and Sis. Juliet Schlatter (Junction, OH).

Frank and Ginny Hilty welcome Amanda Elizabeth into their home. Daniel and Alicia also welcome this blessed addition. Mr. and Mrs. Dale Marty and Sis. Ruth Hilty are her grandparents.

Jamie Cannon is glad to have baby brother, John Anthony, as a playmate. John's parents are Joe and Sis. Amy Cannon. His grandparents are Bro. Emmet and Sis. Marie Gasser and Mrs. Joe Cannon, Sr.

Those that needed hospitalization this past month were Troy Stoller (Bro. Robin and Sis. Joanne), Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Irma) and Amy Young (Rex and Carol). May the Lord give them extra strength to endure their afflictions.

OHIO, SARDIS

Alice Ramsier

Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) brought us words of encouragement from the holy Bible. We thank him for serving us and pray for God's blessings upon him. Bro. Delbert and Sis. Martha Indermuhle were on a month-long vacation, so Bro. Ed's surprise visit was especially appreciated.

This past month Joey Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terri) underwent a tonsillectomy. We are thankful to God for healing Joe, and that he is with us at church.

"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

St. Luke 2:10, 11

What joy these words bring to the believer in Christ, and what comfort and hope it gives to those that are yet seeking for peace in their own lives. May we all be filled with these good tidings this Christmas season as we reflect on what Christ has done for us.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

The holy Christmas season is upon us once again. May we always remember the great gift our heavenly Father gave us when He sent His precious Son to this earth as a humble babe in a manger. Surely our hearts rejoice as we think of this wonderful plan of salvation and how much God loves and cares for us.

Joy and happiness were brought into the lives of Bro. Ron and Sis. Terri Stoller as they welcomed a new baby daughter, Cynthia Deborah, into their hearts and home. Michael is happy to have a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Stoller.

Hospitalized this past month was little Greg Landis (Bro. Harvey and Stef Landis). He is feeling much better and we are thankful to our Lord for His tender care and healing touch.

OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehkla Frances Laidig

We had a blessed Sunday, November 1, as Bro. Walter Rager was ordained deacon. Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Loren Stoller (Latty), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Philip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) were here for this occasion. Many relatives of Bro. Walter and his wife, Sis. Sharon, were here as well. We wish them God's guidance and blessings in their duties on behalf of the church of the living God.

The Christmas season is with us again.

Know ye the Son, the sacred Son of God?

The Hero great is born in Bethlehem!
He came to us from His exalted throne,
As Prince of Peace, as God's eternal Son!

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

"The Son of God,"

Hymns of Zion #249

This reminds us that we will be looking forward to our Sunday school children's Christmas program. We enjoy hearing their verses and singing Christmas carols with them.

Christmas is also a time of gift giving. Jesus was our precious gift from the Lord. Our giving to others can be a great blessing if given in the right spirit of Christmas. It may be a visit to the lonely, a gift to the needy, or to anyone who needs a gift of kindness in any form. May the joy of knowing that we have the gift of the Saviour be revealed in our deeds in this Christmas season.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

"We Have Moved!" Most have received a postcard in the mail from a loved one letting us know their new address. All we do is pull out the address book, make a quick change and that's all there is to it, right? True, unless you're the sender of that little message. Three families in our small congregation have moved (but are still unpacking) in the last three weeks. You

have probably detected by my weary attitude that our family was one of the three. All of us are very thankful to be settled into our new homes and wish to heartily thank all who so willingly gave of their time, talents and prayers. None of us have moved far, but we do have new addresses to share: Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi, 8822 Macleay Road SE, Salem, OR 97301; Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet Kuenzi, 6199 Topaz Street NE, Brooks, OR 97305, and Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi, 10570 Sunnyview Road NE, Salem, OR 97301.

We have had an unusually warm and dry fall. It was perfect weather for all those fall outside chores that often get neglected due to rainy weather. Likewise, we had a lovely day for our Fall Cleaning Day at the church. Thanks to everyone who came to help with the inside and outside cleaning.

A directory for Silverton and Portland's congregations has been compiled and produced recently. It has been carefully and attractively done and is much appreciated. Many thanks to all who donated their time and talent to the project.

We were thankful to have several visiting elders and ministers here this past month. Willing to stand before the people and bring forth the holy Word in truth and simplicity were Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and ministering Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Garth Steffen (Portland, OR).

Bro. Art and Bro. Sam were here for the special occasion of hearing the testimony of a young soul who has turned her heart to the Lord. Sunday she was welcomed into the family of God as Sis. Richelle Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee) with sincere Christian greetings and much loving encouragement as she begins her pilgrim walk.

During the weekend we were privileged to listen to the reading of the memorandum of the 1987 brotherhood conference and heard many good thoughts and teachings on the various topics included. Another special privilege was to share the Lord's Supper together.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Paul Dettwyler and Jason Snook (Vance and Sis. Liz). Thankfully, both are recovering and able to come and go about again. We were glad to see them both in church this week.

On November 22 the wedding engagement of Bro. Richard Kraft and Sis. Marianne Kuenzi was announced. Bro. Rich's parents are ministering Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft (Gridley, KS) and Sis. Marianne's are Lee and Louise Kuenzi (Silverton). We pray that they will feel God's nearness and the Holy Spirit's guidance through the weeks ahead.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
 PHILADELPHIA**
Jerry Isch

"And herein do I exercise my self, to have always a conscience void of offense toward men."

Acts 24:16

We rejoice to know that Franz Soni has found peace and is looking forward to baptism. May God grant him much grace to live this life of faith.

We welcome Doug Getz (Remington, IN) who plans to be living in our area several months. We hope the time he spends here can be a time of blessing for him.

The brethren who served us in the ministry were Bros. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT), Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Glen Riggenbach (Smithville, OH) and Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT). May the Lord be their greatest rewarder.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Mary Plattner

Our winter residents are beginning to return for the winter season, and we are always glad to see a new face in church. Among those who have returned are retired Elder Bros. Eugene Bertschi (and his wife, Sis. Dorothy, Roanoke, IL) and Paul Fehr (and his wife, Sis. Anna, Morris, MN).

Plans are being made to have our annual Thanksgiving service and dinner in church. Again at Christmas we will have services on Christmas Day followed by a dinner. Our Sunday school will be presenting a Christmas program of songs. Since we have a small Sunday school, they always look forward to having visiting children join in the program.

We certainly welcome anyone wishing to spend some time in south Texas to visit our congregation in Zapata.

 Give Your Address Changes
 To Your Reporter

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

improvement, that we might be the reflection of the Light that He was while here on the earth.

"He was despised, and we esteemed Him not." This was the case then, where not only was He not esteemed, but even His existence as the divine Son of the heavenly Father was challenged.

How closely our generation and society might fit into the very time that the man of God, the prophet was writing these words.

"Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:4, 5.

Here was His prime and supreme sacrifice. I don't think we can quite imagine the load that was on our Saviour. We think of Him taking upon Himself your sins and mine, and I think of Him on the cross feeling separated from His heavenly Father. I believe the Lord experienced for a time there what man will experience eternally if he rejects the Lord Jesus Christ and finally ends up in a terrible place of condemnation and torment. Jesus experienced, perhaps only for a moment, what separation from God is like. His time of separation was brought about by your sins and mine. Not anything that He had done, but by our sin. He experienced our chastisement! "He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him;" Our sins were upon Him there. This is, after all, what the whole plan is about. This is what He came here to do. He didn't come to be revered, revered as a baby alone. He experienced a humble beginning in life, after being conceived of the Spirit. This is all part of it, but we have to think of Jesus' life in its entirety, as the hope of our salvation.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6.

Perhaps we all ought to go back in our minds and realize that we had a part in this. It is easy as we read these Scriptures to wonder how these people could do this. How could they crucify

the Lord as they did? He who was without sin. How could they be so wrong? We have to realize that none of us are any better than the others and "all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

I think back to 1949, when I was converted, of the very first Christmas and following Easter. I can remember so well how much more Christmas meant to me. It had been a happy season, but it never quite meant to me before what it did after I was converted. We can go back in thought to that time and I'm reminded of the Apostle John writing of that first love.

I think what he meant was that when we experienced His peace and forgiveness, we realized we had gone astray also, and were also guilty of His shed blood upon the cross. "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all". Not one of us can say we didn't have a part in it. We, in a sense, helped to drive the nails in His hands. We're all guilty of His blood.

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth." Isaiah 53:7

I don't know how many have ever seen sheep shorn, but this is really the way they are. They're easily subdued, and when subdued, they're completely submissive to the shearer. This is the perfect example of Christ.

At Christmas we often think of Christ's humble birth. However, by looking at His willingness to obey His Father in death, we can see an even greater lesson in humility. "Who . . . made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:7-11.

This is the Jesus we need to remember at Christmas. May He be the object of our devotion, service and obedience.

FEB 02602 LK
CHARLES WALDER
EAST LYNN IL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. MARVIN STIEGLITZ OF LEO, IN

Text: Isaiah 53

We ought to be mindful every day of the year of God's love toward us.

I think of these words of the prophet, and then I think of the words of our Lord. He was born into the world in a manger in all lowliness. He grew up to manhood and then ministered for three short years. He spoke of how the prophets of old would have loved to have seen the salvation. I think of Simeon. In Luke 2 we read of Christ's birth with the shepherds and the wisemen seeking Him with a sincere desire to worship. Later on Simeon was in the temple when the child was brought at the age of eight days to be given to the Lord. Luke tells us that he beheld the child and he said "Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace . . . for I have seen Thy salvation." Luke 2:29-30. This was the fulfillment of life for this man. He had, through God's divine inspiration and wisdom, seen the salvation of God in the form of this child, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus later taught that the "Prophets desired to see the things that ye see." Sad to say, there were those who had salvation at hand and didn't even recognize it or avail themselves of it. Yet today people do not recognize the importance of life, the seriousness of life and the importance of availing ourselves of this great salvation.

We can't think of God's salvation as the good time of Christmas. We have to think of it in terms of Jesus' life in its entirety. His birth is the fulfillment of God coming in the flesh, in the likeness of His Son. We must see His life, His obedience as a child, and how He grew up and was subject to His parents.

His entire life was an example for us to follow. Early in life He saw the need to be about His Father's business, those things that were of eternal consequence and benefit.

We find again at the end of His life His obedience unto His heavenly Fa-

ther. He was willing, and I don't think we can minimize the great burden it was to Him. In the Garden of Gethsemane He prayed that the cross might be removed . . . however "not My will, but Thine be done." Through His faithfulness and willingness to shed His blood on the cross, we who believe in Jesus Christ can obtain the standing of righteousness in God's sight.

The life and death of Christ in its entirety is our only hope of life eternal, our only hope of salvation.

Isaiah speaks of His life in its entirety. "For He shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him." Isaiah 53:2.

That's how it was at the time of Christ's birth. There was nothing there. Perhaps they sought something majestic that they could really reverence or something that would be to their gain. When He came in meekness, humility and was born in a manger, they didn't recognize Him. There was nothing there that they would desire. The angels spoke to the shepherds and they said "let us go see this thing which has come to pass." But other than the angels, there was nothing there that they should have desired Him. In fact, rulers feared Him and even sought at that early age already to destroy Him. They wanted to get Him out of the way, because they thought He would take from them things that they desired in this life . . . the position . . . the power . . . and the glory that they had. They feared that this man might one day replace them. They sought to do away with Him, even to the point of killing all the children up to two years of age, all with the intent of stamping out the Lord Jesus Christ.

"He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no

beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not." Isaiah 53:3.

And now when we think of Jesus . . . He had a tremendous following while here. We can read about the multitudes that followed Him, especially the lower class of people. He speaks one place about the gospel being hidden from the wise and prudent and revealed unto babes and the poor.

Here's a prophet, a man of God, and in the circle of religious leaders, those who should have recognized God's working, those who should have been leading the people, rallying them around the Saviour were the ones seeking to destroy Him.

You would say He had a following, but He was despised . . . His life was a life of rejection . . . and He was "A man of sorrows, acquainted with grief". He even had to flee out of town to keep people from throwing Him over a cliff.

"We hid as it were our faces from Him." I'm sure there were people at that time doing that, and I'm sure there are people today hiding their faces from the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brother spoke here not too long ago, and he spoke about Jonah knowing what he should do, but not wanting to do it. I think a lot of people today, and even many of us who already made a profession of faith, aren't always as faithful as we ought to be. We aren't always as fervent in carrying out the guidelines of the New Testament Scriptures, the Apostle Paul, and other Apostles. Remember the words of the Apostle James when he says true religion is "to visit the fatherless and orphans and sick, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Perhaps we all have more room for
(Continued on Page 31)