



"Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,"

Titus 3:1

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors,..."

1 Peter 2:13-14

VOLUME 38

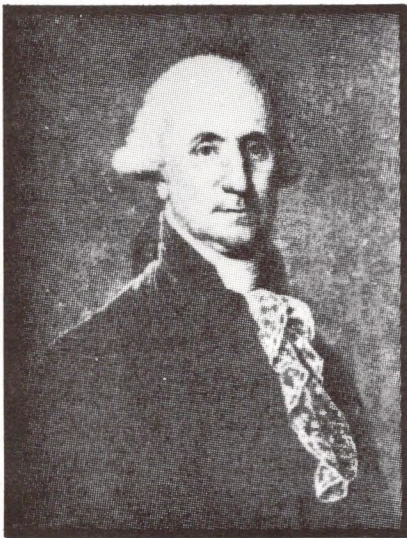
FEBRUARY 1988

NUMBER 2

A Quiet and Peaceable Life

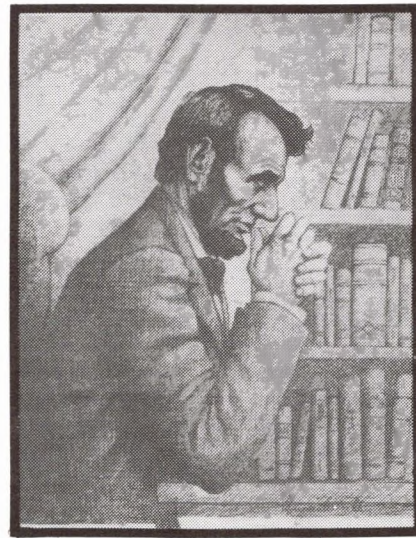
I exhort, therefore, that **first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks**, be made for all men: For kings, and for all that are in **authority**, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all **Godliness and honesty**.

1 Timothy 2:1-2



"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

George Washington



"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book. I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction I had nowhere else to go."

Abraham Lincoln

BUILDING THE NEW BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, CHURCH

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach

I have been amazed and very impressed with the support we have received from our brethren and friends throughout the land for the new church building in Budapest, Hungary. Obviously, very few have first-hand knowledge or understanding of the situation in Hungary and other countries which are a part of the communist bloc, but your charitableness will enable those dear souls to construct a much-needed edifice to serve the brethren and friends in the Budapest area.

I think it is important we recognize that, although over the years there have been several unfortunate divisions which have impacted our brotherhood, have caused a lot of confusion, and in many instances, have divided families, the congregations in Hungary, Yugoslavia, Romania and Czechoslovakia were not directly involved.

The separation around 1905 resulting in the congregation we refer to as the sister church or Apostolic Christian Nazarene primarily affected the churches in Germany and Switzerland, and did not reach to any great extent into the region known as the Austria/Hungary Empire at that time. In fact, Elder Bro. Philip Gutwein, Sr., who immigrated from Austria/Hungary, served as an elder in both Europe and Francesville, IN. Many of us who are older remember him well, and have fond memories of his stewardship.

World Wars I and II, followed by the Soviet domination of those countries, made communication for many years almost impossible, and at the very best difficult. Many years ago our elder brothers discussed the situation and agreed that brethren who left those four countries peacefully and could bring a favorable report on the basis of their testimony could be received into our fellowship and share the holy kiss and communion.

Over the years our forefathers, through Hilfe which was a joint effort between our brotherhood and the church in Europe, contributed monies, food, clothing, etc., particularly to assist in the rehabilitation of persecuted refugees who had lost all of their possessions. Some of us have visited the Old Folks Home at Neuhutten, the

church building at Pecs, Hungary, and other edifices which were built largely with these funds.

In the past years Elder Bros. Noah Schrock, David Mangold, John Bahler, Rudolph Graf and some others including myself have visited these dear brothers behind the iron curtain. We have been very hospitably entreated, and found a very conservative, dedicated and sincere brotherhood. The singing with enthusiasm, mostly from memory, of these dear brethren is something that penetrates deep into the soul. Many I am sure will agree when I state that they surely make one feel welcome.

Over the past ten years, particularly in Hungary, the government has been much more tolerant of the convictions of the brethren; and conditions exist currently that would have been thought impossible just a few years back. I am sure the presence of our brethren and the prayers of all have moved the hearts of authorities to give these considerations and recognition.

Presently our young men are given an alternate opportunity to serve their government without having to go into the military and to bear arms. Travel by brethren visiting loved ones outside of Hungary is now quite common, although until recently, a married couple was not allowed to leave at the same time for fear they would not return. In general, a more relaxed atmosphere prevails, which unfortunately is not so in Romania, probably the most hard-pressed as far as persecution and hardships of our brethren is concerned.

Recent news from Yugoslavia is that we have several brethren in prison there for their convictions; and some, unfortunately, have been convicted for the second time. Since the demise of Tito, many heavy restrictions have been placed upon the brethren in Yugoslavia.

The assistance of our brethren of financial aid, as well as food packages, through World Relief is not only graciously received but, particularly among the old and infirm in some instances, almost vital to sustain life.

The contributions by our fellowship to help construct the new church edi-

fice in Budapest have been overwhelming. Most of our congregations have taken collections, and many loving brethren and friends have sent personal donations directly to the Mission Fund to the extent that in my over 20 years as Secretary/Treasurer of the Fund, we have received the greatest amount of money ever, which approximates over \$290,000 to date. We understand the sister church has collected approximately \$100,000.

The brethren in Hungary had estimated a need of about \$400,000 from the churches in the United States and Canada. I am so gratified to see the response for this most necessary project.

Bros. Don Sauder and Joe Ramsier visited Hungary early in 1987 to meet with the brethren and government authorities. They were very graciously received, and brethren were invited to please come back, as they all realized that without the assistance of the American churches, the project will fail.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
Uriel Gehring
Lynn Stieglitz

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

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

Bro. Wendell Gudeman and his wife, Sis. Marcella, and my wife, Lorene, and I are presently planning to visit Hungary, Yugoslavia and possibly other countries where we have brethren, in June, if it can be in the Lord's will. Sis. Marcella's grandfather was Philip Gutwein, Sr. She has never had the privilege before of visiting her ancestors' homeland.

The new structure is under way. The foundations have been poured. We have forwarded \$140,000 which we were able to send directly to the bank of the brethren in Budapest. By their request, the balance is deposited in an

interest-bearing fund here in the States until they have need, as interest rates here are more favorable than there. Monies are still flowing in, and on behalf of the Mission Committee, and especially the brethren and friends in Budapest, we want to express our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation for your love offering. God bless you each and every one.

As many have requested, it is our desire to post in the Silver Lining any news worthy item.

Most gratefully,
Ben Maibach
Sec./Treas.

My husband and I used to visit the church in Budapest, Hungary, but now we can't go, can't leave the children alone.

It is God who unites us with loved ones throughout the earth, by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is He who answers our prayers and keeps us in His grace, if we remain faithful to Him! As we run our course in this life of pilgrimage, we need to be careful to reach our goal with God's help. We greet you all with much love."

— R. and O. A.

NEWS FROM EASTERN EUROPE

Andy Hunyady

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear . . ."

Psalms 41:1-2

Greetings, Beloved.

First I want to let you know that I received four small and one large parcel of food: I cannot find words to thank you and everybody for the love and kindness to me. My heartfelt thanks to God, and may He bless every one of you who have such a great concern for us, with good health and I wish you all a happy and blessed new year!"

— R. M. (widow)

"Our beloved!

With the help of our heavenly Father, I write these few lines to wish you God's grace, peace and blessings for your remembrances. We thank our great God and heavenly Father for your love toward us. We send our best wishes and heartfelt greetings to everyone."

— J. M. (mother of 9 children)

"To Bluffton:

With this I want you to know that the food package you shipped to me (about 9 kg.) arrived and made me very happy. Now I wish you peace and good health, and I thank you with greetings (salutations) to everyone. Await your reply."

— L. B.

"Beloved brethren in the Lord,

We greet you with love from a far-away land . . . and wish you the blessed peace, grace and the love of our heavenly Father, to remain with you always . . .

I just want you to know what a great help and relief these food parcels are to us in our old age (91). Unable to earn any income, we are supported by beloved brethren who are most kind and gracious to us. Again, I want to thank you for your generous love gifts, and I pray that our heavenly Father will bless you with good health and strength, and replenish you so that you can continue to help your fellow men.

We greet you and all the dear believers, with much love in the name of our Lord."

— D. and E. Gy

"Christmas 1987

On the occasion of this blessed Christmas, I pray that God will continue to bless you spiritually as well as materially and with a new year of peace! On occasions such as this, our remembrances go out to loved ones everywhere to bind our hearts in Christian love! With heartfelt love and greetings."

P. M. and daughter

"Dear Brother:

Your letter came as a pleasant surprise . . . I am 32 and am busy working at home. My husband is 35 and works in the steel factory. Both my husband and I are in the faith for just over 11 years. We have 10 children (2 boys and 8 girls). The oldest, Claudia, is 11 years old and is in the 5th grade . . . the youngest is 1 month old. My parents were in the faith also; my father died at age 44. My mother is 55. It is a joy for us when we are being visited by you. Hope you can come and visit us again.

"There are many more letters that I wish I could share with you, our brethren, friends and supporters. Each one expresses a most sincere thanks, and Christian greetings with very best wishes for the new year.

But what the new year will bring is not possible for us to know.

We are deeply saddened and concerned about the immediate future and the extent our relatives and fellow believers will be affected in Romania.

In the past two years the leaders of that country severely mistreated the Hungarian, German and other national minorities. Overall economic conditions and shortages of food, fuel and electrical energy have reached to the point that university students and factory workers had taken to the streets by the thousands, marching and chanting slogans critical of the dictatorial rule and demanding food for their families and increased wages. The West German Government, in order to help the estimated 250,000 German-speaking minorities in Romania, sent a convoy loaded with food across Austria and Hungary. At the border, Romanian President, N. Ceaucescu, ordered the border closed, and denied admission to bring the food in. The convoy returned with the food supplies to Germany. This action created a serious tension between the two countries.

On December 28, our shipping agency received information by Telex from RomTrans, the Romanian distribution agency, that its license to operate had been cancelled at the order of their own government, and after January 1, 1988, they cannot accept any food shipments from abroad. This sudden and drastic order seriously affects all food shipments by a number of world-wide church organizations and West European nations, as well as our Bluffton distribution center and the Berlin, OH-based

"Christian Aid for Romania."

The last shipment from our Bluffton distribution center, still in transit, will be returned and is expected to arrive at the eastern seaboard in March. A decision as to where and how to dispose of the parcels will be made by the responsible brethren at a meeting in the very near future, to ensure none of our shipments will be lost.

Alternate possibilities to aid these suffering brethren and relatives will also be discussed and considered at this meeting. Government officials in Romania offered several proposals, such as making up food parcels within their own country and having it delivered to families, as ordered by us. Clothing, shoes and other items (such as blankets), made in Romania for foreign export, will be available for purchase for our needy families. According to Romanian representatives, these items are of much better quality than those normally manufactured for domestic use. Sizes of food parcels, costs and other related matters will be discussed and considered at the meeting, so total help will not have to be cut off.

As always, dearly beloved, whenever or wherever the welfare of our suppressed, suffering brethren or fellow men is concerned, let us be ready and always willing to reach out with a helping hand. Let us continue as splendidly and diligently as in the past, so in the future, to pray and intercede before God, that He might bless the labor of

love done in His name, and put Satan to shame!

Also, remember and pray for brethren in prison in Yugoslavia. With the leadership changing each year in that country, and much unrest among the various ethnic groups, the military is on the alert and conscientious objectors are treated more harshly than in the past few years. Most recently several young brothers were called back to serve second terms in prison, which is considered a violation of human rights by the free world.

"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."

Psalms 46:11

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Chuck Fehr

1988 is no longer just around the corner. It is here with its challenges, frustrations, heartaches and triumphs. Once we reach a stepping stone, such as the beginning of a new year, the future quickly becomes the present and we forget the anticipation of the new year and the changes it brings. It's now reality. I hope we'll all be anxious for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ as we start this new year and encourage men and women to seek Him!

Annie and I began a major transition in our lives in January as we settled into an apartment as a family of three rather than as houseparents with a

household of eleven. Adjustments never come easy. We came from the Children's Home with its rural (and beautiful) setting to an apartment building in town . . . from a living situation where our home, health insurance and most of our food was provided to a place where we will now, with our Lord's help, seek to provide these things on our own. The most significant change will be starting over in a new neighborhood, making new friends and rebuilding relationships with friends and families we have known for many years.

It's not easy to describe the love and support of those who prayed for us and encouraged us while we were at the Home. So many from the Leo community and elsewhere reached out with loving and helping hands. We want to say, "Thank you!" The love shown to us and the prayers sent on our behalf are a great testimony to us. Many times we were ready to give up because of the pressure and stress of our job and ministry. Be assured that being a part of the staff at the Children's Home is not only a job, but also a ministry. Without seeking God's abundant grace, there would be no wisdom and no supply to help us deal with troubled children.

Annie and I have been stretched and challenged through our work, but the result has been rewarding. We've come to know each other better as a couple and learned to rely on our God more and more (a continual lesson).

We miss each one we came to know over our almost two years spent at the Children's Home in Leo. Each of the children we became acquainted with is special to us because we not only had the chance to teach them how to deal with their problems but also to share Christ's love with them and the hope of attaining eternal life through His death and resurrection. Each child, each individual is so precious in God's sight (Matthew 19:14, Luke 15:7). If you are looking for a challenge and an opportunity to serve the Lord and some needy families, the Children's Home may be the place for you.

It's exciting to see the new house taking shape as it rises up on the horizon. In the past two weeks, the exterior walls have been framed up, insulation board applied, the trusses set and sheathing and roofing begun, thanks to the volunteer crews from Bluffton, Remington and Wolcott, IN,

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 —	13,890
Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 —	10,812
Third Year — August 1985 thru July 1986 —	18,247
Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 —	23,048

Bibles Distributed — Fifth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1987 —	2358	2358
September 1987 —	1023	3561
October 1987 —	1605	5166
November 1987 —	2264	7430
December 1987 —	1029	8459
January 1988 —	0000	0000

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

Elgin, IL, and Latty, OH. Also, Bro. David Huetter of Bloomington, IL, is volunteering on an ongoing basis.

At a recent staffing meeting, Sis. LeAnn Gerber was honored for her four years of service to the Home, and a former staff member, Sis. Helen Schuon (Morton, IL) returned to present a staff training session. We thank them for their efforts.

Denise C., who has been a resident in the West House for three years, recently moved into our Independent Living Program where she will be until her return to her father this summer. Several of our older children are finding challenge and success in part-time work: John W. at Leo Super Valu, Marie H. at McDonald's, Penny G. at Burger King and Brenda W. at Wieland Furniture.

While we are short-staffed and in need of Alternate Houseparents, we appreciate the willing commitment of Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz and Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter in serving as substitute houseparents.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

It is mid-afternoon here at the Home for the Handicapped — a lull between the busy flurry of getting the residents off to school and workshop; department head meeting; a break for lunch

(we had chili today); activities and physical therapy for residents who stayed at home. Soon there will be the hurry and scurry of 77 pairs of feet as the residents return from the workshops and school. Payday is always a special day for them — you can see the proud look on their faces as they bring their paychecks to the office.

Another anticipated time of the day is mail time, especially if they have a birthday. February birthdays are (number in parenthesis is date): John Kamm (18), Rosemarie Finlay (23), Virginia Reece (27), Guy Masinelli (28), Bob Tiffan (28). March birthdays are: Bill Unsicker (2), Mike Bodtke (4), Maretta Rokey (6), Sheila Steffen (9), Margo Ebert (12), Anna Eberhard (15), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Chris Corrigan (20), Edna Haynes (23), Frank Kyburz (27), Nancy Meister (31).

Such is a typical day at the Home. To implement the many varied duties of the nursing department requires training. Our new resident aides are in the process of more than 120 hours of training in such areas as: mental retardation, behaviour management, first aid, CPR, fire safety, communication, records, body functions and body mechanics.

We hear so much of the importance of exercise — and our residents are no exception. Recently a "25-mile club" was started. When the weather is in-

clement, they walk outdoors; when it is nice, they walk outdoors. Upon completion of 25 miles, they are awarded a t-shirt with 25-mile club and a picture of a pair of feet inscribed upon them. So, when you visit the Home and you see a group of residents led by staff marching up and down the halls, you'll know it's the 25-mile club in action.

Our residents are also year-around participants in Special Olympics. Everyone is a winner!

In keeping with Psalms 66:1, "Make a joyful noise unto God," a residents' choir has been formed. They call themselves, "Sounds Alive."

A group of excited residents are looking forward to their annual two-day trips to Jumers — one for the ladies and one for the men.

Our 16-bed group home, named Oakwood Estate, is nearing completion. The plastering is finished; the doors will soon be hung and the trim installed. Next will be the installation of light fixtures, carpeting and wallpaper. We are looking forward to opening for residency in late Spring.

In anticipation of moving to this new home, residents who are eligible are attending cooking classes, laundry classes and money management.

Again, we want to thank everyone who has remembered us in prayers and given us your support through monetary gifts and of your own precious time as volunteers. In turn we can only humbly pray, "God bless you and keep you."

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?"

We need a married couple to serve as our Alternate Houseparents. (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Annie Fehr, East Houseparents, left us in December after nearly two years of service. Bro. Nate and Sis. LeAnne Gerber, our former Alternate Houseparents, are 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
11520 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
219/627-2923

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Marilyn Walder

We rejoice with Roy and Christine Barnett who brought their testimony before the church December 19. They shared how God worked in their hearts and brought them to repentance. They were baptized the following day. Bro. Tom Schrenk (Alto, MI) was here along with Sis. Joan. We wish Bro. Roy and Sis. Christine many blessings in the future and pray that God will provide for their needs.

We enjoyed the messages brought to us by Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL). We had other visitors from Goodfield, Cissna Park and Forrest, IL, Junction, OH, Leo, IN, Oakville, IA, and Morris and Minneapolis, MN.

Elaine Perry was hospitalized for surgery and is back in the hospital due

to other complications. We pray that she can feel God's nearness.

We recently experienced eight to ten inches of snow in the South. Some of us enjoyed the snow, but many were very cautious. Being from the North, the amount of snow didn't bother me because I was used to it. It reminded me that if we get used to something we become immune or nonchalant to the impact it could have on us. But when something new and different comes along that we haven't been exposed to, it has much greater impact on us. Let us not become accustomed to worldliness, sin or other influences, but may those things always make us very cautious and cheerful. Let the Spirit of God continue to dwell in you and always be accustomed to hearing that little voice guide and convict you. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalms 32:8

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Aaron Keith Funk, born to Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk January 7. Aaron is Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane's first child and is welcomed by paternal grandparents here in Tucson, Bro. Jim and Sis. LouAnn Funk, and by maternal grandparents in Morton, IL, Bro. Jim and Sis. Joanne Fischer.

After a beautiful snowfall on Christmas Day that gave us our first white Christmas in Tucson, we are now enjoying balmy days in the 70's. The sun is out once again and our winter visitors are enjoying the sunny days.

Many thanks go to Sis. Sandy Bauer for her years of work on the Silver Lining column for the Tucson congregation. This is sometimes a job that goes relatively unnoticed by most people but we all know that no task done for the Lord will go unnoticed by Him. Knowing this, the "task" then becomes yet another opportunity!!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Nella Varga

A sermon I heard recently was really a thought-provoking message. The minister was speaking about Christianity and the conduct of Christians. What is our walk and conduct as Christians? James 1:27 says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself

unspotted from the world." Surely we know how we, with the help of the Holy Spirit, should conduct ourselves towards others. In the Old Testament there were the Ten Commandments and there is further instruction in the New Testament. Does our conduct affect others, especially the unconverted? We know that they look to us and watch us closely, seeing if we have something that they don't have. If we show them a mediocre life, how will they see the fullness of God? If we show them a zealous Christian life, hopefully they'll want that special life too! If our spiritual life ever becomes hazy or lazy, let's stop and think about our witness to the unbeliever. "Unspotted from the world" are very strong words.

As always we're very thankful for visiting brothers who minister to our small flock here in San Diego, CA. May God bless Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Glen Hackenjos (Altadena, CA) for bringing us the Word.

Most of the congregation travelled to Altadena, CA, to hear the memorandum. It is always good to be encouraged in this precious faith where we found our peace!

Ann Marie Pridemore is a special person to all who know her. We're so happy that she has repented and turned her back on sin and Satan. Thanks be to God for His grace. May she always feel the Lord's closeness.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike Martin — Marlene Leman

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;" Philippians 1:21-25. Our dear Sis. Elizabeth Jivan was once again admitted to the hospital and was very, very ill, nigh unto death. But once again the Lord's desire was for her to remain and bless us with her faith, love, care and with her wisdom.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.' Amen." St. Matthew 28:18-20. The Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India has been under the care and direction of our Church for some time. Presently over there on a mission are Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and their wives. We pray that God will direct them in their ministering to the needs of others and bless them for their labor of love. May many more in India, here in the United States, and throughout the world learn of the love of Jesus Christ and come to repentance through faith in His blood.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Martha Hany

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Marilyn (Schmidgall) Lanz in the recent death of her mother, Elizzie (Metzger) Schmidgall, 94, (Morris, MN). She leaves one sister, Tillie Kellenberger (Morris, MN); one brother, Fred Metzger (Lester, IA); nine daughters and four sons.

It was with joy that Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan Hoffman welcomed Ann Marie into their life January 7. Alice and Alan are also delighted to have a baby sister and we wish them all God's blessings. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsa Hoffman and Bro. Lenny and Sis. Irma Luginbuhl.

We often think of and pray for Sis. Alice Read who has been shut-in for quite some time. During her time of illness, may the Lord grant her much patience and grace to look to Him for all her needs. Brian Luginbuhl (Bro. Mannie and Sis. Florine) had an unfortunate accident and is presently in the hospital. I'm sure many prayers have arisen on his behalf as well as for others, including Bro. Ed. Zahner, who have been under a doctor's care.

"Though in silence, God will hear thee, As a Saviour will be near thee; Have no doubt, He hears you pray! Just believe Christ intercedeth, Just believe that all He pleadeth God will grant without delay!

Zion's Harp #39, vs. 7

It encourages us when we see that God is yet softly and tenderly calling souls to repentance to forsake this

world of vanity and follow Him on the narrow way. Maxine Bahler (Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia) and Dana (Moser) Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane) have yielded to His call to seek their soul's salvation and may the Lord grant them much grace to persevere during this time.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney (Croghan, NY) visited us January 16 with their family enroute to Union City, NJ. Even though Bro. Duane could not be with us on Sunday, together we enjoyed singing praises to the Lord and fellowship on Saturday evening.

Our annual meeting was held January 10 at which time elections were held designating responsibilities to various brethren; namely, trustee: Richard Luginbuhl; Sunday school superintendent, Bro. Eric Kloter; song leader, Bro. Dave Gallat; kitchen committee, Sis. Marge Schneider; World Relief, Sis. Barb Hangartner and Longview Village trustees, Steve Hoffman and Art Foote. We wish them well as they assume their new duties and may they and we all often think upon Proverbs 3:5, 6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding, In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
 WASHINGTON**

**Catherine Klopfenstein
 Rebecca German**

We are thankful for the brothers who so faithfully come to minister to us here in the D.C. area.

Bro. Robert Pfloderer (Morton, IL) was with us December 13 and brought us many good teachings from the Word, particularly as they relate to the Christmas season and how we celebrate Christmas in our present day society. He was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Ellie, and his son and daughter-in-law, Ben and Jackie Pfloderer.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Bernice Rapp (Morton, IL) were in D.C. the same weekend visiting their daughter, Barbara Rapp. The attendance December 13 was 19.

Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) was our minister January 10. He was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Betty, his daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Betty and Bro. Norman Zollinger, their children, Tim, Sam, Cheryl and Judy, and Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller, all from the Rittman, OH, church. The

attendance January 10 was 24. We always enjoy visitors.

Sis. Lydia Meyer (Peoria, IL) spent several weeks here with her daughter, Henrietta, over the Christmas and New Year holidays. We appreciated her fellowship.

We will miss Curt Anliker (Francesville, IN) who returned to Purdue University after spending 6 months with IBM in Manassas, VA, but we look forward to his return 6 months hence.

We also miss Sis. Mary Ann Kieser (Princeville, IL) who spent some time in the D.C. area as a visiting nurse. We wish her God's blessings in her very important work.

Sharon Ramsier spent the holidays back home in Ohio, Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca German and family were in Indiana and Illinois, and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein visited in Illinois.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca German narrowly escaped serious injury as they were involved in an accident in Pennsylvania on the way home. Fortunately none of their family was injured although the car was extensively damaged. Surely the protective hand of God was over them. Many of us know, from similar experience, that incidents such as this make us all the more appreciative of our salvation — as these things usually happen so fast that there is no time to pray, or to repent.

Bill and Carol Stover and their three children left our area the week of January 20, moving to Atlanta, GA. We will miss them but feel sure they'll be welcomed by the Atlanta congregation.

We're expecting ministering Bro. Paul Gasser and Sis. Joyce (Akron, OH) along with some visitors January 24, and look forward to their being with us.

Beginning in January, 1988, we plan to assemble twice a month, the second and fourth Sundays. Visitors are always welcome. For information call Doug German, 703-481-5163 or Ralph Klopfenstein, 703-979-3476.

**FLORIDA, FORT LAUDERDALE
 Terri K. Huber**

Our congregation has had a wonderful start to the new year, with the start of a new soul's walk with the Lord. Susan Soto has made known her desire to repent and live for Jesus. We rejoice with her parents, Bro. George and Sis. Katherine Fulop, and her husband,

Hector. Welcome, Susie, to the family of God!

Another "start" this year are Sunday evening singings at 7:30 at the fellowship hall the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Bible study continues to be held the first and third Mondays every month. Our current topic is "Temptation."

Visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS). We are thankful for the visits of these brothers and their wives.

The church pews are filled and it is a delight to enter Sunday morning and find familiar faces mixed with new ones. There are people to greet as old friends and people to meet for the first time. With each we feel the "common bond" of love and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sis. Florence Sutter has been able to worship with us for the past several Sundays. It is a blessing to have her in our midst again after several months absence due to illness.

**FLORIDA, NORTH FORT MYERS
 Kay Eisenmann**

On January 10 Bro. Art Gudeman had his last service after 40 years in the ministry. We had many visitors to remember him and his family for their many years serving the Lord!

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN).

What is the best sermon you ever heard? Who preached it? We think of Bro. Art's retirement from the ministry on the pulpit, but he is still a minister in his life, as we all are! How do we judge people? After all, the minister's responsibility is to God. That is who he answers to, no matter who it affects! For "greater is He who is in you, than he that is in the world."

How are our lives in the light of God's Word? Are we letting Satan confuse us? Yesterday is gone. May we learn from it, as to what we did right, wrong or left undone! How does our account add up in the Book of Life? It is not what the I.R.S. says, but what we have done in the light of God's Word. In this day of much exercising of the body,

are we exercising "brotherly love?" Where is the shame of sin today? There is no shame, but just excuses. In the next generation will anything be considered sin? We must remember that Satan is "a fallen angel." "Jesus saves", while the devil "enslaves". "Jesus died" and the "devil lies"! Serving the Lord brings joy and peace that the world knows nothing of.

Dathan is wearing his leg braces at night. It will take awhile to see if they are helping him. He was in bed for such a long time, that his leg muscles tightened up on the back of his legs, causing him to walk with a gait, which, hopefully, can be corrected. He is still going to school half days!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Lucille Heiniger

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor, the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.

"The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth and Thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of the enemies."

Psalms 41:1, 2

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

"Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink: when saw we Thee a stranger and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and come unto Thee?"

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:34-40

We surely do not wish to be one of those who will be turned away because we did not do those things in the name of the Lord.

The World Relief of the Eastern Division of the United States was

hosted by the Sarasota congregation Saturday, January 16. It was a very informative meeting showing the needs of the needy and how we can help our poor fellow men in their needs. A blessed weekend was enjoyed by all who came to help in some way and above all the Lord's blessings made it a blessed weekend.

The ministering brethren who came and proclaimed the holy Word to us in truth and sincerity were Bros. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO), Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS). We sincerely thank each one for the messages they brought to us so willingly. May God richly bless them all.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Donna Hodel — Karen Brummitt

LOVE

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

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

Zion's Harp #37

We thank our Elder Bro. Dan Koch for ministering to us this month.

Bro. Dave Huber (Sis. Candy) spent time in the hospital this month. May God grant him a speedy recovery.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Marilyn Tanner

We rejoice with three couples who have announced their betrothal in the past months. They are Sis. Gladys Klumpp (Bro. Raymond) to Bro. Edwin Martin (Sis. Edna, Princeville);

Marina Elsasser (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon) to Kevin Endress (Jerry and Carolyn) and David Knapp (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Judy) to Missy Rush (Earl and Sandy, Geneseo). We wish them God's continued blessings and guidance in all their plans.

On January 9, Mike Lampe and Tonia Hales were united in marriage in Norwich, England. Mike is stationed in Greece, serving in the Navy. Their parents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Sharon Bruell and Stella and Anthony Hales (Norwich, England). We certainly wish them God's richest blessings in their life together.

Our Wednesday evening services have been devoted to hearing the tapes from the annual brotherhood conference. It is truly a blessing when we share these messages of truth.

Sharing the good news of God's Word with us recently were ministering Bro. Dan Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke), Bro. Walter Herrmann and Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville). May the Lord richly bless these brothers for their labors of love.

Sis. Carol Ehnle wants to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and help while in the hospital and since coming home. May God bless each one for their thoughtfulness.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
LaRae Dill

Members of our church spent Wednesday evenings during the past month listening to the conference tapes. We were thankful for this opportunity. We also enjoyed the ministry of Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) January 17.

Both adults and children in our congregation will miss the friendly smile and cheerful disposition of Bro. Greg Schumacher who has moved to his hometown of Washington, IL. Bro. Greg came here as a student in 1983 and worked at the University of Illinois following his graduation in 1987. We are thankful that Greg has followed God's direction and pray that he will be blessed.

Our prayers were with Bro. Doug and Sis. Peggy Hoerr as they spent several days in the hospital with their son, Chad. They are thankful to have Chad home and healthy once again.

We extended good wishes to Bro. Ben and Sis. Wilma Blunier as they celebrated 40 years of marriage Janu-

ary 11. Celebrating with their parents at an anniversary dinner were their six children: Bro. Bill (Leo, IN), Linda McGrath (Peoria, IL), Tom and Steve (Mahomet, IL), Ellen and Jim (Champaign, IL). Bro. Ben and Sis. Wilma have also been blessed with eight grandchildren. The Blunier's have attended the Champaign-Urbana church for 26 years and have played an integral part in the growth and development of our church. Bro. Ben has served for a number of years as church treasurer as well as on our building committee, while Sis. Wilma has been of service in church cleaning, World Relief and numerous other church projects. We are thankful for these pillars who have been examples to many students and families who pass through our church. May they be blessed with happy years ahead.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

The Eskimos teach their children dozens of names for snow, so they can identify each nuance and variation: the wet sticky flakes, that with a crust on top that breaks through to the mud beneath, the glazed and slippery surface underneath a powdery film, as well as the soft pure fluff. They must teach their children to deal with each kind, for some types of snow can be dangerous if not recognized before they travel along, unknowing. We, too, are taught by the Word so that we can identify all types of sin, whether sticky or slippery, treacherous and deep or merely soft. May we listen and study carefully and remain teachable as children.

We are grateful for the ministry of Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) in this past month. May our Lord reward Bro. Ken richly and bountifully for his service to us.

Bro. Guy and Sis. Beth Gottier and their son, Bruce, have felt led back to Rockville, CT. He will be working as a chiropractor and she as a nurse. Their families and their home church welcome them. We know they have been called back by the Lord and He will keep them busy, but in Chicago there is a spot that will never be filled in the same way. We miss their Christian walk and conversation. May the Lord fill them with His blessings, finding them willing and yielded servants as before.

The tables were set. A whole family was ready to help Bro. Sebastian Loos

with serving Sunday, December 27. (His wife died less than a year ago.) But he didn't come. He was called home to the best feast of all, Supper with the Lamb. That morning he slept away to glory. Our sympathies go to his four children who survive him, Theodore, Katharina Duch, Margareta Huber and Frank, and their families. We miss his brave smile and warm handshake, but he is so well off. We do not question the Lord's timing, but we are made more aware than ever how we need always to be ready for the Lord's final call.

We were told that the transmission was gone when our aging vehicle had to be pushed out of its parking space. Putting the lever in reverse only sent it forward. We were told reverse is the first gear to go. There is more pressure when a vehicle is put into reverse. I had never thought about the advantages of reverse before. What is a human being like who has no reverse? Hell may very well be much like a transmission shop, full of beings which can propel themselves only forward — able to crash into each other but never able to back up and say "I'm sorry" without being pushed. Going into reverse does put more pressure on us. We may have to admit we were wrong, back up and try another way of doing something, apologize for our thoughtlessness, or retrace our steps a long way. Only full-speed-ahead pride can make "reverse" so distasteful. Yet, without reverse, we cannot repent and turn around. We cannot exchange our will for His. We cannot be reconciled to God and man. Does your reverse need tuning up sometimes like mine does? Remember: R for reverse, repentance, reconciliation, rejoicing and RAPTURE!

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Elaine Sauder — Mary Knapp

The new year brought a new beginning to a dear one among us. The evening of Saturday, January 9, we heard the testimony of Dinah Wilkening, and the following day we witnessed her baptism. What a wonderful way to start the new year in her walk with the Lord. We are thankful to have her as a sister-in-faith.

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Bro. Kevin Knapp and Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington). We appreciate their coming and sharing the Word with us.

"Joy To The World" was the theme of the Christmas message presented by the Sunday school and Bible class December 23. Their reading and the joyful blend of their young voices in song told of the true meaning of Christmas.

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Myrna Weerts and Sis. Marie Laubscher (both surgical), Sis. Edna Feller and Sis. Ann Marie Young (both medical). Sis. Ann Marie will remain a patient several weeks at Chicago Lake Shore Hospital. May they each feel God's healing touch.

Wednesday evening, January 6, we held our annual business meeting. Those who are entrusted to serve in new offices are: Sunday school, Sis. Elaine Sauder and Bro. Bill Maul; Trustee, Bro. Fred Maul; Dining Room Committee, Sis. Loretta and Bro. Ken Bauer; Fellowship Hall Committee, Bro. Dan Heinold and Bro. Les Maul. May they receive the Lord's inspiration to guide them in their labors.

A reminder to our Cissna Park congregation: Silver Lining dues are payable to your reporters the month of February.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Sandy Knapp — Susan Zobrist

"I was humbly kneeling at the cross,
Fearing naught but God's angry frown;
When the Heavens opened and I saw
That my name was written down.

There's a new name written down in
glory,

And it's mine, O yes, it's mine!

And the white-robed angels sing the
story,

'A sinner has come home.'

For there's a new name written down
in glory,

And it's mine, O yes, it's mine!

With my sins forgiven I am bound for
Heaven,

Never-more to roam."

"A New Name In Glory"

Melodies of Praise

After humbly kneeling at the cross, two new souls have their names written down in heaven. We are thankful for our two new lambs in the fold, Bro. Brent Ifft (Bro. Larry and Shirley Ifft) and Bro. Chuck Zimmerman (Bro. Orville and Sis. Lula Zimmerman). We pray that by the grace of God they may remain on the path that they have chosen.

Just as the Lord brought Jacob and Rebekah together, so He has brought Bro. Lee Reugsegger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Margret Reugsegger) and Sis. Alice Schlipf (Clarence and Loreene Schlipf) together in faith. They were married December 27, 1987. May their walk together in the Lord be filled with blessings and love. We will miss our dear sister in Congerville, but we are sure she will be a blessing to Bay City, MI.

"Joyfully, joyfully onward I move,
Bound for the land of bright spirits
above!
Angelic choristers sing as I come;
Meet me with gladness and welcome
me home;
Soon with my pilgrimage ended below,
Home to the land of delight will I go;
Pilgrim and stranger no more shall I
roam,
Joyfully, joyfully resting at home!"
"Going Home"
Hymns of Zion

Our joy was mixed with sorrow as we bid our Sis. Mary Wettstein farewell. We know her pain has ceased in heaven and she is waiting for us there. We also sympathize with the family of Lyle Miller. May these deaths impress upon our hearts the seriousness of being prepared to meet our Creator.

"Thy word, O Lord, forever is
The mirror where we see
Our faults and duties as they are,
Our likeness unto Thee."
"Obedience to the Word"
Zion's Harp

We were encouraged and reminded to always use God's Word as the mirror for our lives and to be a light and example to the darkening world around us. We are thankful that our faithful Elder Bro. Bob Walder and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) were willing to serve on our behalf by bringing us the memorandum. May they be blessed now and much more in all eternity!

How thankful we are to our Lord and His faithful servants for sharing God's Word in its truth and purity. These brothers were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Bro. Noah Gerber (West

Bend, IA), Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke) and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka).

"O may I seek the souls who stray
And save them from destruction,
And through Thy holy love still lead
Them to thy congregation.
May pray'rs and pleadings penetrate
To warn them of their lost estate."
"The Ministers of the Gospel"
Zion's Harp

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

Although we've experienced frigid temperatures and wintry storms, it was a beautiful sight to behold the snow-covered trees, roads and even fences.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18. Our dear friend, Don Stettner, has felt the need of becoming reconciled to God through faith. We rejoice and pray for each penitent heart.

We wish God's blessings upon Dean and Susan Schifferer and their son, Zachariah, who recently moved to Arizona. Their new address is 245 S. 56th Street #35, Mesa, AZ 85206.

Family gatherings brought into our midst beloved ones who labored in the Lord's vineyard. We thank Bros. Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA).

Our hospital patients this month were Mary Gross, Bro. Lyle Kellenberger and Sis. Katherine Kachelmuss.

Sis. Louise Schock, 80, who was hospitalized only a few days, quietly succumbed January 5. She will be missed by all who knew her, and especially by Sis. Barbara, her only surviving sister who cared for her lovingly. "... safe into the haven guide me, O receive my soul at last!" Hymns of Zion #232.

We bid farewell to our dear shepherd, Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and Sis. Marilyn, who left January 5 for Japan and India. They were joined by other brethren, Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr (Peoria, IL). We commit them into God's care and pray for His leading and protection.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Rocke

"And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18. Believing that God has led them together, we heard the engagement of Sis. Lena Hangartner and Bro. Wesley Kieser (Bradford). Their parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma Hangartner and Bro. Verle and Sis. LaVonne Kieser.

"He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit . . ." Galatians 3:5. We thank Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and John Hartman (Fairbury) for visiting us and bringing forth the Gospel. May the words which were spoken be blessed.

Bro. Gerald Leman and Sis. Aldine Leman (Bro. Sam) were hospital patients this past month. May God's nearness be with them.

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort." II Corinthians 1:3. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Clara Kempf (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Velma Leman (Bro. Gerald) in the passing of their brother, Lyle Miller. May God comfort them.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." I Corinthians 13:13. Having faith to believe that God has directed them to walk together as one, we heard the engagement of Sis. Kathy Lou Rocke and Bro. Mike Leman. Their parents are Sis. Bena Mae Rocke (and the late Bro. Leroy) and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman (all of Eureka). We are thankful for God's leading and direction through His Holy Spirit.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold — Crystal Fehr

A HAPPY HOME

Among the most important privileges of parents is the making of a happy home — a home where children want to be, to which they will want to return: not a place of perfection, not a place of spotlessness, but a place of pleasantness, of helpfulness and hospitality, of some reasonable order and of understanding, of love and loyalty,

not marred by the tension of expecting the impossible, nor strained by constant quarreling and contention; a place where mealtime is not for scolding or for finding fault, but for good memories of getting together.

Richard L. Evans

Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda Fehr had the joy of having the New Year's baby at the Fairbury Hospital. Ryan Duane was born January 2. Shannon and Traci welcome their little brother. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr and Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman (Forrest).

January 10 was the special day for Bro. Nick Kaeb and Sis. Mattie Wenger (Forrest). They were united in holy matrimony in Forrest. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Kaeb and the late Bro. Ray and Sis. Miriam Wenger (Forrest). We wish them God's richest blessings in this undertaking.

Our congregation thanks Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for sharing the Word of Life with us. May God be the rich rewarder.

Sis. Julie Weerts (Cissna Park) has moved to this area because of employment. A warm welcome is extended to her.

Our semi-annual business meeting was held January 11. We thank the brothers and sisters who served faithfully in the past and wish God's grace for those who have taken on new responsibilities.

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the passing of our dear Sis. Lydia Zehr January 5. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores Zehr and family, Sis. Joann Zehr, and Bro. Ben and Sis. Minnie Zehr. In time of sorrow we can rejoice that our loved one was ready to go and now is beckoning on yonder shore for us to come home.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Fannie Maurer, Sis. Elsie Denick and Sis. Luella Sohn. May God be by their side in this time of sickness.

In 1987, Fairbury had nine babies, seven baptisms, seven deaths and five weddings.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Patsy Stoller — Sherri Kelson

Another year has begun bringing new opportunities to serve the Lord. God will give us grace to fulfill our

duties as we continue to strive towards the heavenly goal. Let us make extra effort this year as we continue in our various walks of life.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:18. We were thankful for such preaching from our visiting brethren: Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal), John Hartman and Merle Kaisner (Fairbury), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Merrill Laukhau (Latty, OH) and Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN).

Many brethren and friends gathered with us January 10 to witness the marriage vows of Sis. Mattie Wenger and Bro. Nick Kaeb (Fairbury). Their parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Miriam Wenger, both deceased, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Kaeb (Fairbury). We pray the blessings of God will be upon these dear ones.

Our only loved one in the hospital this month was Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith) and we're happy to report she is again able to assemble with us.

The announcement of a new birth always brings joy to our hearts. Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly Steidinger, along with Craig and Katie, welcome little Betsy Marie into their family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger and Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman. Christopher Thomas is a happy addition to the home of Tom and Margie Yoder. Betsy is happy to have a little brother to play with.

Carl and Sis. Dorothy Bachtold have reached a special milestone as they have been blessed with 50 years together. We rejoice with them.

As the year has come to a close, we report that we have had 17 births, 6 deaths, 8 baptisms and 6 weddings in 1987.

Words cannot express the deep gratitude and appreciation we have for all the many cards, prayers, gifts and deeds of love and kindness given to us in the loss of our dearly loved husband, daddy, son and brother. May God richly bless each one of you.

Sis. Sharon Adams & daughters, Shawna, Jenni, Kelli, Amber and foster daughter, Tonya Craig
Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman & family
Francis and Ruth Adams & family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Trish Gerber

Our church family at Goodfield was reminded once again of the loving grace our Lord gives so freely as we listened to the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new brother-in-faith, Warren Miller. We thank Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) for sharing the day with us through his ministry.

May God bless Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and their families for spending two inspiring Sundays with us.

It is good to know that Sis. Becky Knapp (Dave) is recuperating well after her stay in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers have been on-going for our dear Sis. Hilda Leman, who has had reoccurring visits to the hospital. May God be ever by her side to comfort and to heal if it is His will.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

As the initial phases of 1988 begin to unfold, and we place our trust in God and ask for guidance and blessings, already He has chosen to bless our congregation with two births.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Mary Stoller are the parents of a son, Joshua Carl, born January 8. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lola Schliff, Ruth Wiggins and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Stoller. Joshua has a brother, Christopher, 2.

Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Hodel were also blessed with the welcome addition to their family. Crystal Raelean was born January 6. Her grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachael Hodel (Roanoke) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Hodel (Gridley). Crystal has a brother, Douglas, 8, and a sister, Tricia, 4.

Karen Kiefer was recently hospitalized, but is again home and doing well.

In our pilgrim walk, God has surely asked us to place our trust in Him, and not to fret too much about the challenges of everyday life. We are advised to "take no thought for your life" (Matthew 6:25). The implication being that God knows all our needs, and He will provide for them. If our frustrations in life become intense, perhaps it is a suggestion that our treasure is laid up too much on earth, and not enough in heaven. Let us, then, be sure that our treasures are in heaven, and not on earth. "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Suf-

ficient unto the day is its own evil." (Matthew 6:34).

**ILLINOIS,
 ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
 Karen Unsicker**

"... In this world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

St. John 16:33

The holiday season has come to an end, and once again I.S.U. students find themselves traipsing across campus and starting new classes. I.S.U.'s Thursday night Bible studies have also resumed. This past Thursday night marked the beginning of a four-part series about end-time prophecy. Both Bro. Kevin Knapp and Dennis Kaufman are presenting this series which is based on prophecy found in Daniel and Revelation.

Although we do not know specifically when the rapture or tribulation period will come to pass, we can see the leaves upon the fig tree. Thus, the insight and knowledge gained from these Scriptures should be of great interest to the hearer. Bro. Kevin Knapp also challenged us to be overcomers until these times come to pass.

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Revelation 21:7

All of us extend a hearty welcome to anyone who would like to come and share the many blessings of these evenings with us!

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney — Marcia Kelley

Bro. Brad and Sis. Debbie Braker are the happy parents of a precious baby girl, Lacey Lynn, born December 26. She is welcomed home by an excited sister, Laura Lee. Lacey's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lee Pflederer (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker (Morton, IL).

Sis. Ruth Domnick was called home. Her funeral was December 29. Our love and prayers go to her two daughters, Sis. Ellen (Bro. Al) Koehl, Sis. Mildred (Bro. Eric) Koehl; her two brothers, Elmer and George Gleichman (both of Harper, KS); and her many other relatives and friends.

December 30 was the funeral of Lydia Mathis. May our heavenly Father comfort her husband, Henry; her sister, Mrs. Anna Hoffman; and Lydia's relatives and friends.

Also leaving the cares of this world behind was Sis. Mary Roecker, whose funeral was January 2. We pray her family will feel God's comforting power at this time. Her survivors include her three daughters, Ruth Ann Hodel, Dorothy Martin, Sis. Mildred Beer; and six sons, Glenn, Robert, James, Frederick, Samuel and Gary.

We wish to thank Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) for reminding us that "Godliness with contentment is great gain." May our heavenly Father richly bless him for his inspiring message.

Sis. Lena Aberle wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and expressions of sympathy during the passing of her sister, Margaret Bentley.

Sis. Hazel Ferguson would like to express her heartfelt thanks to everyone for the birthday cards and lovely remembrances at Christmas.

The family of Sis. Ruth Domnick would like to thank all for their kind deeds of love shown to their mother while she resided at Restmor and for the love and support extended to the family at the time of her death. God bless each and every one for their kindness.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our loved ones for their prayers, cards, visits, flowers, food and memorial contributions in the recent death of our dear husband, son and brother. May God richly bless each one of you.

The family of Bro. Mark Nelson

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Kathy Huthmann

The voice that breathed o'er Eden,
 That earliest wedding day,
 The primal marriage blessing,
 It hath not passed away:
 Still in the pure espousal
 Of Christian man and maid
 The Holy Three are with us,
 The three fold grace is said.

John Keble

January 10 was the wedding day of Bro. Jeff Ginzel and Sis. Angie Schaefer. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel and Bro. Herman and Sis. Eva Jean Schaefer (Morris, MN). May the Lord fill Jeff and Angie's new

home with His love and blessings.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord..." Jeremiah 30:17. May God strengthen those who were in the hospital recently: Sis. Louise Koehl, Sis. Wilhelmine Baurer and Bro. Herb Stoller.

Chuck Haefli and Joann Getz have recently announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli and Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret Getz. Wedding plans are being made for June 4.

"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12.

We extend our sincerest thanks to Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Eugene Marti (Lamar, MO), Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) for coming and ministering the Word of God this past month.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Marjean Lehman

"If He all your heart is filling, is the hopes of all your dreams,
 From your body will be welling of His grace the brightest beams.
 All the light of morning breaking ushers in a joyous day,
 So your lips with fervor speaking, will declare: Christ is the way!"

Sowing and Harvest

We especially thank our visiting ministers. They were Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford), Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) and Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA).

The Sunday school Christmas program was held December 20. With songs and verses, the students told us of the birth of our Saviour and Lord. We thank them for reminding us again of the wonderful story of love.

"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.

"The Union of Hearts"

On December 25, we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Ed Martin (Sis. Edna) to Sis. Gladys Klumpp (Bro. Ray, Bradford). May God's blessings be upon them as they plan their future together.

Our annual business meeting was held January 6. Several brothers received new responsibilities. They are: trustee, Bro. Ron Rumbold; fellowship hall trustee, Bro. Elmer Martin; usher, Bro. Alan Martin replaces Bro. Larry Baer; Eureka Home, Bro. Eugene Herrmann replaces Bro. Verne Berchtold; Bible committee, Bro. Stan Schick; hail aid, Bro. Dennis Herrmann. May God bless those who have willingly served and help those who begin their service.

Sis. Emma Asal passed from life into eternity December 23. Funeral services were held December 26. Surviving are three sons, Earl, Jerrold and George; four daughters, Sis. Eleanor Asal, Mrs. Aldine Salter, Mrs. Carol Fairfield and Maxine Tebben; three brothers, George Wyss, John Wyss and Edward Wyss; and one sister, Martha Perdelwitz. Our congregation expresses sincere sympathy to the family, especially our Sis. Eleanor who lovingly cared for her mother for many years.

Thank you note: The family of Sis. Emma Asal wishes to thank all the loved ones who gave of themselves and of their gifts including their prayers over the years and at the time of their mother's death. May God bless each one.

Thank you note: I want to sincerely thank everyone who remembered me with their prayers, love, visits, cards and gifts. May God bless you all.

Elizabeth Kieser

Sis. Mary Scholl and Verla Scheeler were hospital patients. Sis. Dee Baer was a surgical patient. May they be blessed with restored health.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

Psalms 55:22

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Patsy Kaeb — Judy Luginbuhl

We have been blessed with many visitors this past month. Among those visitors the Lord provided the following brethren to minister His holy Word to us through His inspiration: Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville), Bro. Mike Leman

(Denver, CO), Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger, who conducted our January Bible study. It is our sincere prayer that God will add a special blessing to the lives of these dear brothers and their families for serving us.

On January 3, Sis. Joyce Bradle and Bro. Mike Barth were united in marriage. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle and Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth.

Our congratulations are extended to Bev Aeschleman and Scott Luginbuhl who have announced their engagement. Parents of this happy couple are Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell Aeschleman and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl.

Jared Matthew Stoller was born to Sis. Boni and Bro. Ed Stoller December 17. Jared's big brother and sister are Michael and Kristi and his thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel and Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Stoller. May God bless this precious little soul.

Funeral services were held December 24 for Nila Hangartner. We extend our sincere sympathy to her dear family. Nila had resided at the "home" for several years and is certainly missed by many of us.

We also sympathize with Sis. Ruth Ann Hodel (Bro. Ben) whose mother, Sis. Mary Roecker (Morton) passed away December 29.

Our condolences go to Sis. Betty Hodel (Bro. Bill) whose brother, Henry Zimmerman (San Pierre, IN) died January 3.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Jean Luginbuhl (Bro. Bob) and Sis. Alice Kempf (Bro. Ervin) whose stepfather and brother, Lyle Miller (Danvers), died January 11.

These dear families have all lost someone very special to them and we pray the Lord will fill this vacancy in each of their lives.

Hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Marie Blunier, Sis. Carol Schwab, Sis. Martha Bowald and Bro. Happy Hodel. May God heal and restore each of these loved ones to good health again, according to His will.

January 6 was our annual church business meeting. We humbly thank all of the outgoing brethren and their wives for their unselfish service on behalf of our congregation. Their labors of love have been truly apprec-

iated.

We are so happy and so thankful to start off the new year with a new convert, Linda Hodel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris). It is such an inspiration when we see God working in a dear soul. We truly wish Linda God's abundant grace in her new walk of life.

For our Roanoke subscribers, February is collection month for the Silver Lining.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts while in the hospital and since returning home.

Elsie Beer

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach

Carolyn Bolliger

Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest) were our visiting ministers. We thank them for preaching the Word.

Sis. Emma Springer was hospitalized but is now recuperating at A. C. Restmor Nursing Home. We hope she can come back to her home soon.

Sis. Emma Greiner (Bro. John) had foot surgery and is recuperating at home.

Sis. Rose Knapp has been unable to assemble with us for some time. She wishes to express her thanks to all for prayers, gifts, cards and food given to her during the illness.

The engagement of Judy Koch and George Miller (Morton) was recently announced. Parents of the couple are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Merna Koch and Ed and Linda Miller (Morton). They are planning a July wedding.

Announcement of the engagement of Amy Parmele (Mackinaw) and Kevin Rinkenberger was made known. Parents of the couple are Jerry and Karen Parmele (Mackinaw) and Ray and Clea Rinkenberger. We wish both couples God's blessings in their marriage.

We extend our sympathy to the Jerry Hangartner family in the death of his mother, Nila Hangartner (Roanoke).

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Esther Musselman in the death of her brother, Lyle Miller (Congerville).

Bro. Roger and Sis. Joan Beutel are new parents of Dale Howard, born December 26. He has two sisters, Ann and Carrie, and a brother, Benjamin, to help take care of him. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith Sauder (Roanoke) and Bro. David and Sis.

Eunice Beutel. We wish God's blessings on this dear little baby.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Carol Schick

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

God has called Bro. Ed Fritz into service as a minister for the Washington congregation as of January 3. Our prayers are with Bro. Ed, Sis. Sally and family as they serve their Lord in a new capacity.

We rejoice with Sue Heinold (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Janet) as she turns to God in repentance. May she feel God's power, strength and love as she takes up her cross to follow Him.

Heaven has delivered a beautiful pink bundle to Dave and Sis. Linda Fehr. Katelyn Sue will receive much love and attention from her brothers, Shayne and Drew, not to mention grandparents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Madelyn Fehr and Bro. Earl and Sis. Kay Steffen.

We are grateful for the visiting ministers we've had this month. May God continue to strengthen these dear servants, Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) in the year to come.

As I listened to a child's tape recently, this phrase stood out. I think we could all benefit if we pondered it with an open mind. "Just because you're in the flock doesn't mean you're following the shepherd."

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Lucille Isch — Becky Isch

We give special thanks to Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) for ministering to us. With thankful hearts we praise God that our ministers are directed by the Holy Spirit.

We are happy to report the engagements of Bro. Dean Tonner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann) to Sis. Julie Frauhofer (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) and Bro. Greg Kaehr (Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen) to Sis. Amy Ringger (Bro. Al and Sis. Colleen, Bluffton North). May the Holy Spirit be their faithful guide as they plan for their wedding days.

A son, Spencer, their second, was born to Bro. Courtney and Sis. Jodi Pfister December 23. Grandparents

are Bro. Arlen and Susan Gerber and Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister.

On December 24, Bro. Gary and Stacey Fiechter became first-time parents with the birth of Luke William. John and Marsha Cook and Herman and Sis. Phyllis are his grandparents.

The New Year's baby in Wells County was born January 3 to Bro. Ken and Sis. Jodi Dubach. The new baby, Justin Paul, has a brother, Daniel, 5, and a sister, Kristen, 4. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn Isch and Al and Billie Dubach.

Katie Jo was born to Bro. Nick and Sis. Jeanette Ringger January 7. She will join a sister, Elizabeth, 3, and a brother, Jacob, 2, along with the grandparents, John and Roberta Eisaman and Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger.

On January 17, Sis. Jill Isch (Bro. Al and Sis. Carole) and Bro. Doug Frauhofer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose) were united in marriage. May God bless their new life together.

Those needing hospital care this month were Sis. Ida Meyer (Bro. Charlie), Bro. Joel Fiechter (Sis. Lucinda), Bro. Paul Dotterer (Sis. Phyllis), Bill Steffen (Sarah), Bro. Eli Moser, Bro. Jack Schwartz (Sis. Diann) and Bro. Alphie Reinhard (Sis. Lucille).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Jenny Gerber (Bro. Lee) in the passing of her mother, Sis. Rosella Schulz (Croghan, NY).

With thankful hearts we rejoice with those who are seeking the Lord in repentance.

Matthew 3:2 — Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mark 1:15 — Repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Luke 13:3 — Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

John 3:3 — Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Acts 2:38 — Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Lois Drayer — Debbie Aeschliman

"Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints."

Psalms 149:1

It was such a joyous occasion to come together Sunday afternoon, December 20, to hear our Sunday school children sing their Christmas songs. As we know, some children sing softly and some sing louder than others, but God hears them all.

"With my burden I begin
Lord, remove this load of sin!
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,
Set my conscience free from guilt."

As a new year is beginning, there are ten precious souls in our congregation who are repenting. They are Tony and Angie Chaney, Steve Baller (Sue), Mark Mason (Diane), Dave and Deanne Brinneman, Mary Francesi (Len), Greg and Jill Thornton, and Randy Schriver (Sis. Kathy). As these dear souls begin their walk with Christ, may they be strong and upright in faith.

We have several engagements to announce. Sis. Julie Frauhofer (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Dean Tonner (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Diann, Bluffton) are planning a March 6 wedding. Sis. Michelle Zimmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl) and Bro. Todd Gerber (Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol) are looking forward to a March 20 wedding. Sis. Amy Ringger (Bro. Al and Sis. Colleen) and Bro. Greg Kaehr (Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen, Bluffton) are planning a spring wedding April 17. Our belated congratulations go to Tony (Steve and Sue Baller) and Angie Chaney who were married November 28, 1987. As these couples start their new lives together, may they build many happy memories. We wish them all much joy and love.

Congratulations go to Bro. Walter and Sis. Imogene Aeschliman on the birth of their granddaughter, Steffanie Kay, born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Kim Bertsch (Bluffton) September 18. Our congratulations also are extended to grandparents, Bro. James and Sis. Dorothy Geisel on the birth of James Phillip, born December 20, to Steve and Donna Geisel (Ohio). Welcoming little James home is his sister, Sarah. Bro. Trent and Sis. Kelli Bucher became first-time parents with the birth of Eric Trenton, born December 20. His grandparents are Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher and Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat Moser. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Elsie Troxel became grandparents again when Alex Conrad was born December 21 to Dave and Kris Troxel.

Alex was welcomed home by brothers Clint and Blake. Bro. Eugene and Sis. Delores Maller and Wallace and Sis. Marilyn Leman are the grandparents of Corey David, born January 12 to Gary and Kari Maller. Corey has two brothers, Jeremy and Brady, and two sisters, Lindsey and Tiffany. A child brings so much joy and happiness into a home.

Glancing at the pattern
Of my life's rare tapestry
It seemed the threads of darkness
Were all that I could see,
I failed to see the glitter
Of the gold beyond the grey
The myriad lovely colours
Of life's joys along the way,
Until I saw the pattern
Formed by God's forgiving touch
That showed me, Oh so clearly
God has given me so much.

Gert Holaday

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lynne Wuethrich

During this past Christmas holiday season, the annual Christmas Sunday school program was held. We all enjoyed listening to the students relate their sincere story of why we have Christmas. The eagerness on their faces as they told about Jesus' birth truly was an inspiration. We also all gathered to go Christmas caroling that evening. Many packages were delivered to dear ones all over our community and songs were sung to lift them up and bring joy.

Our New Year's Eve program was just wonderful with many thoughts of praise and thanks going to our dear Lord. We want to thank ministering Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for sharing God's Word unto us. We also want to thank all the committee members for all they did in setting up the program. We all learned a lot about serving God better in the upcoming year.

We are happy for Tom Gutwein as he and Sally Mills have announced their engagement. They are looking forward to a June 18 wedding. Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann Gutwein and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mills (Tell City) are the happy parents.

Communion services were held at Parkview Haven Retirement Home for all those wanting to participate. Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), along

with Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman, were there to conduct this most sacred occasion.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Catherine Neihouser (Bro. Pierre) and Sis. Esther Gray (Bro. Joe). We ask God's healing hand upon them.

We want to extend our thanks to Bro. Neal Widmer as he ministered God's Word unto us this month.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Kathy Freed — Gail Bradford

The Word was shared with us the past month by visiting ministers, Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott), Dan Stoller (Remington), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), John Reinhard (Bluffton) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo).

In addition, Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) came for the testimony service and baptism of our new brother-in-Christ, Bill Bradford. We experienced a weekend of encouragement, renewal and thanksgiving, and appreciated the many visitors who came to be with us from Bluffton and Francesville, IN, Roanoke, IL, Toledo and Latty, OH, Detroit, MI, and Phoenix, AZ.

One of our most precious earthly blessings is the fellowship of believers. What a privilege it is to be a part of the body of Christ, along with His brothers and sisters, united by a common bond of hope! Are we the support to them we should be? Do we appreciate and love one another? If we cannot be Christ-like among ourselves, how shall we appear to the world?

At the time of our conversion, we were filled with dedication and enthusiasm for our new life. Whether long ago or in the recent past, the covenant we erected with God in the waters of baptism still stands. How is it going with us? Are we remembering our promises of faithfulness? Does Christ shine through the window of our lives? Or have worldly pleasures and temptations clouded the window panes? Do we need to apply a little polish on the inside and outside?

Paul wrote to the Ephesians describing the body of believers: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy

temple in the Lord." Ephesians 2:19-21.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Sandy Heinold

"... choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

Our congregation was blessed by the visits of Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) as they ministered to us. What an encouragement it was to read these words of Joshua together. Every soul today must make this choice of whom they will serve. The sobering message we heard was that the wrong choice gives the wrong destination. We're thankful there is yet opportunity to choose, with Joshua, to serve the true and living God.

We're happy to report that Carol Ailes is recovering nicely after minor surgery. As we experience times of trouble or see others with heavy burdens, let's remember to pray, for God answers prayer.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Joy in the midst of trial
Can be ours, if we stop to pray.
God listens to every plea
And gives strength for the day.
'Though we may not always receive
The things we are asking for,
In prayer there is hope and relief,
When troubles knock at the door.
Prayer, like a soothing balm,
Quiets the heart and soul,
Restoring peace and calm
And joy, to make us whole.

Elsie Natalie Brady

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Gina Huber

It was nice to see everyone again and to have the students back, as this was the first service of the new year. Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) was with us to share God's Word. The Word reminded us to let our lights shine brightly for our Saviour, Who has done so much for us. It seems that we so quickly get back into routine after the blessings of the holiday season. May we strive to draw nearer to the Lord in this coming year and seek His will in each day.

**INDIANA, LEO
Thelma Schlatter**

The 23rd Psalm has been a source of comfort to numberless people in life and death. It has comforted through generations; it continues to be a source of help when we experience trials and sorrow from which no one is exempt.

The Lord is my Shepherd — Perfect Salvation.

I shall not want — Perfect Satisfaction.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures — Perfect Rest.

He leadeth me beside the still waters — Perfect Refreshment.

He restoreth my soul — Perfect Restoration.

He leadeth me in paths of righteousness — Perfect Guidance.

I will fear no evil — Perfect Protection.

Thou art with me — Perfect Company.

Thy rod and Thy staff — Perfect Comfort.

Thou preparest a table — Perfect Provision

Thou anointest my head — Perfect Consecration.

My cup runneth over — Perfect Joy.

Goodness and mercy shall follow me — Perfect Care.

I will dwell . . . forever — Perfect Destiny.

(Copied)

The Lord called Sis. Roberta Klopfenstein to her eternal home January 8, her 48th birthday. Roberta was a registered nurse and eased the pain for many through 26 years of nursing. She will be keenly missed by her loved ones, husband, Dennis; a son, Troy; a daughter, Kelly; her parents, Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Norr; two brothers, David (Orlando, FL) and Bro. Kenneth (Fort Wayne); many other relatives and friends. Services were conducted by Bros. Uriel Gehring and Jack Bollier.

His message was delivered recently by visiting Bros. Philip Stettner (Bluffton North) and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL).

Sis. Elda Steiner has been hospitalized. We remember the sick in prayer; some are home-bound or in rest homes.

Grandparents, Sis. Irma Souder and Bro. George and Sis. Helen Zimmer, have been blessed with a new grandson, Zachary Mark, born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Diann Souder (Virginia) on

New Year's Day. He is also welcomed by a sister, Brooke, and a brother, Nathan.

Bits of This and That:

"One measure of your love for God is your love for God's Word."

The Bible will never be a dry book if you know the Author.

It doesn't take long to tell where man's treasure is. In a fifteen minute conversation with most men, you can tell whether their treasures are on earth or in heaven.

Two marks of a Christian: Giving and Forgiving.

Go to church and have your faith lifted!

INDIANA, MILFORD

Sue Schieler — Marguerite Hoerr

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Millie Beer, whose mother, Sis. Mary Roecker (Morton), went to be with the Lord. Mary was a dear friend of our family, and we were privileged to be with her often as she used to visit in Milford with Bro. Philip and Sis. Millie and their children.

We're glad to have members of our congregation return home safely after travels. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Flossie Hartter visited a daughter in Tucson, AZ, and Sis. Ruth Beer went to Florida to attend the wedding of her grandson.

Sis. Connie Beer had major surgery and following complications, is recovering nicely at her home with her family. Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie have had many trips to the hospital this past year with their youngest son, Simon. We ask God to grant them an illness-free year ahead.

At our annual business meeting, the following persons were elected to fill church offices: Sis. Linda Beer, secretary; Bro. Maurice Beer, trustee; Bro. Al Wuthrich, treasurer; Bro. Art Haab, World Relief; Sis. Sandy Beer, World Relief sewing; Bro. Dan Beer, Bible class teacher; Bros. Steve Price and Sam Beer, 3rd and 4th grades Sunday school.

My father, Bro. Theo Beer, will celebrate his 90th birthday this January, if the Lord wills it. If anyone would want to send him cards, his address is: Route 2, Box 90, Milford, IN 46542.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler — Susan Getz

The new year often brings annual church elections across many of our

congregations. Our annual meeting brought the following brethren into new duties: Sunday school, Bro. Ron Clark, Bro. Calvin Schneider and Sis. Jane Hilton; Trustee, Bro. Eldon Getz; Parkview Haven Board, Bro. Walt Bahler; Kitchen Committee, Sis. Diane Waibel; Church Secretary, Sis. Jody Waibel; Home For the Handicapped Representative, Bro. Jerry Bahler; and Speaker System, Bro. Ralph Waibel.

Sis. Loretta Schneider (Bro. Ken) was in the hospital with minor complications from foot surgery. She will be on crutches for several months.

February brings a time to pause and remember two of our nation's past leaders who sacrificed their creative ability towards maintaining freedom. Even though these two leaders are gone from this earth and others are continuing in their duties, the battle for freedom is still waging around us. In the history of world civilizations, America is one of the rare few who has maintained her freedom for two centuries. We can conclude that freedom is not guaranteed for any people . . . It has to be continually earned by applying God's Biblical principles to every area of our lives. "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34. To most of us presently living, we have experienced this freedom all of our lives. We often acknowledge, back and forth, one to another, how it's so easy to take things for granted all around us.

But should we be challenged to consider what the future holds towards the freedom for our children? Where are we in the cycle of world civilizations?

THE CYCLE OF A NATION

1. BONDAGE — captivity, slavery
2. SPIRITUAL FAITH — turning to God
3. ACTS OF GREAT COURAGE — doing what is right despite difficulty, danger and pain
4. LIBERTY AND ABUNDANCE — freedom and great blessings
5. SELFISHNESS — regard for one's own interest (at others' expense)
6. COMPLACENCY — quiet satisfaction
7. APATHY — indifference, lack of emotion
8. DEPENDENCY — control or influence by another
9. BONDAGE — captivity, slavery

Quoted in Temple Times
September, 1980

"You took the good things for granted; now you must earn them again. For every right that you cherish, you have a duty which you must fulfill. For every hope that you entertain, you have a task that you must perform. For every good that you wish to preserve, you will have to sacrifice your comfort and ease. There is nothing for nothing any longer."

— George Washington

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Sue Beebe

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my will and make it Thine,
it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart it is Thine own,
it shall be Thy royal throne.
"Take My Life, And Let It Be"
Frances Havergal

We are thankful that Terry and Christy Allen have heeded the Lord's call and desire to give their lives to Him. May they feel an abundance of grace and strength.

On January 17, we were blessed when many brethren from Milford joined us for an evening of singing and fellowship.

During the past month we have been ministered to by Bros. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). May the Lord bless them for giving of themselves on our behalf.

We always appreciate each visitor who comes to share the day with us. We invite anyone who might be traveling through our area to come and fellowship with us.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Peg Huber — Trish Bucher

As we have ended another year and begun a new one, may we reflect back on our service to the Lord and strive to serve him more fervently and completely.

Our sympathy goes to Merritt and Sis. Sherry Morrow in the loss of their dear father, Merritt Morrow, Sr. May they feel God's love and mercy in this time of sorrow.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Diana Moser have another little angel entrusted to them. Three-month-old Tina's little life was given a rough start, but God

saw fit to spare her life to fulfill His plan for her. He is all-knowing and all-powerful. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God; to them who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL). We thank God for bringing him into our assembly to share the Word of Life.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Elaine Bahler — Lorene Furrer

A new year often means new beginnings. Troy Furrer and Lisa Ponto have announced their engagement and are making plans for a March wedding. We extend our congratulations to Troy and Lisa and with them the Lord's richest blessings as they begin a new life together. Their parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ponto.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Basham and their family in the passing of Bro. Fred's father. It is our prayer that God will comfort and strengthen them in their time of sorrow.

How thankful we are for the brothers and sisters who so faithfully provide for the care of our church by serving on various committees and assuming the responsibility of teaching our children the love of God. As a result of our annual meeting, many of those duties have been fulfilled and other brothers and sisters have been elected to continue to serve in various capacities.

IOWA, AMES/DES MOINES Rhonda Reker

Another semester has begun for our area students. As they all have a pile of new books to decipher may we all keep God's Holy Word on the top in order that we have sound spiritual guidance and growth.

This past month we were also reminded just how quickly plans can get changed in this earthly life.

Inclement weather prevented our scheduled minister from bringing God's Word to us. The day was still a blessing though. We listened to a taped sermon and a brother had a prayer that made us aware also that "wherever two or more are gathered in His Holy Name, there God will be in their midst. Let us all remember that in our respective walks of life.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Deyona Massner — Karen Schulz

Again this month we were blessed with visiting ministers. Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) brought the Word of Life through the Spirit. May all of our ministering brothers feel God's strength as they stand before us willingly.

We had our annual meeting January 10. Our new trustee is Bro. Ken Scheitlin. Sis. Verna Woodward will serve on the Women's Committee. Sis. Deyona Massner is our new Silver Lining reporter. We want to thank all those who have served in the past.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Our love should be . . .
abounding . . . I Thessalonians 3:12
fervent . . . I Peter 1:22
forgiving . . . Ephesians 4:32
impartial . . . Deuteronomy 10:19
pure . . . I Peter 1:22
self sacrificing . . . John 15:13
sincere . . . Romans 12:9
unchangeable . . . John 13:1
unselfish . . . Matthew 22:39

Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider welcome with thankful hearts their first son, Bradley Charles. Also welcoming Bradley are his three sisters, Angela, Sharla and Brenda and grandparents, Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart (West Bend) and LaVerne and Kathryn Schneider.

Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer are happy to have a new granddaughter, Kara Lynn (daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy Eberhardt, Mt. Pleasant).

While we appreciate our home ministers, visiting ministers are an added blessing. A special thanks is extended to Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for serving us from the Word of God.

GOD KNOWS YOUR HEART

It does not matter very much
What other people say;
It's what you are that really counts
And how you live each day.

For others sometimes give to you
More praise than you are due.
Your motives and your secret thoughts
Are hidden from their view.

And then again, they're very apt
To criticize and blame;
And even when you're in the right,
Bring slander on your name.

So never mind what others say
To praise you or condemn,
'Tis only God who knows your heart
So be sure you're right with Him.

We offer a reminder that the Silver Lining collection is due the month of February.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Glen and Sally Funk

Since we failed to send in a report in December, we will include two months in this report.

Bro. Earl Banwart (West Bend) ministered to us in November. Thanksgiving Day brought an extra blessing with Bro. Howard Plattner being with us and helping with the services on that day. December visiting minister, Elder Bro. Lester Hartter, was also greatly appreciated. As we end the year and begin a new year, the Garden Grove congregation and Bro. Glen would like to take this time to thank every visitor and minister for coming and sharing with us. We feel so very blessed by the fellowship of believers from far and near who care for us and show their concern and love. We thank you and may God bless!

Our Sunday school children came through again with a delightful and joyful program at Christmas. If they feel even half of the joy that the parents and others did, it is worth it all.

After our services on Christmas Day, we had a surprise reception for Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen Funk and their family. On Christmas Eve Day they finalized adoption of three more children. Big brother, Joshua, is very proud to have for brothers, Niles Lee, 5, Devon Lee, 4, and a sister, Megan Eileen, 5, who is also a twin to Niles. They have been with Tony and Eileen for over three years and are already a part of our congregation. Many of you who have visited here also know them and surely share in our joy for their family. We pray and know that God will provide for and bless them.

Bro. Leo and Sis. Tami Banwart (West Bend) have been assembling with us. Bro. Leo is attending school at Ankeny. They are a joy to be with. Their new address is: 113½ SW Pleasant Street, Ankeny, IA.

We thank Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski) for coming on short notice and filling in the ministry for us and Bro. Paul Eisenmann and his family (Burlington) for coming in January to minister.

At Christmas time last month, I received a Christmas card from a sister in our church that I do not normally hear from. She wanted to share with us that she looks for our article in the Silver Lining and how something I had shared last year had encouraged her. The Lord moved her to write to us and that was so very encouraging to know that we are doing our job, even though we feel like it is not done very well. But I also had to feel so very ashamed that I have never written to a correspondent that has many times encouraged me. We all need encouragement and should just as freely give it as we like to receive it. How often have you thought of writing or calling someone to let them know that you appreciate them, love them, need them, or just think of them, but **YOU DON'T DO IT?! As you are reading now, you have a minute. Stop and do write to someone, now. You will feel better.**

IOWA, LESTER
Kathy Metzger — Mary Knobloch

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned."

Mark 16:15, 16

God's holy Word has again been shared with us as we celebrated Christ's birth and the wonderful plan of salvation it brought. Visiting ministers were Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski), Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). We thank God these brethren were among us to lovingly remind us of the certainties of life and death and the importance of preparing our soul for eternity!

First-time parents, Tim and Becky Ver Beek, were blessed with a daughter. Kendra Rose was born December 26. Bro. Robert and Sis. Rosella Metzger are maternal grandparents. May God's blessings be upon this family as they raise this precious little girl.

Illness has befallen several from our congregation. Medical patients were Sis. Martha Feucht (Bro. August), Sis. Marjean Peasley (Bro. David) and Rosalie Mogler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly). Surgical patients were Sis. June Knobloch (Bro. Delbert) and Ben Feucht. May God's healing powers be with them and restore to good health once again.

We have experienced some severe weather conditions recently in the form of sub-zero temperatures and blowing snow. What a beautiful contrast to the peace, warmth, calmness and safety we feel in our hearts, knowing that we are "safe" in Jesus' care!

Count your blessings instead of your crosses.
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes.
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears.
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean.
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth.
Count on God instead of yourself.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach

"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them" . . . (Matthew 18:1, 2). Bro. Charles and Sis. Charlene Gerst welcome their first little daughter to their family circle. Janella Louise is her given name, and her happy grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva Gerst and Sis. Della Luthi (late Bro. Don, Morris, MN). It is so encouraging to me on a Sunday when I observe all the babies and children in our Oakville congregation. It is so important that we be good lights and examples to them, because, should the Lord delay His return, they will be our church of tomorrow. Let us strive to be more perfect!

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17). Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Danny Stoller (Rockville, CT) and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) have

all recently brought forth the Word in our home congregation. We thank them for their earnest efforts and trust that God will reward them for their willing service.

"Let all things be done decently and in order." I Corinthians 14:40. January 10 we held our annual business meeting. We elected several new committee members to serve as follows: Bro. Colin Wagenbach (Cemetery committee) replacing Bro. Ken Lanz; Bro. Galen Metzger (Fellowship Center committee) replacing Bro. Kent Grimm; Bro. Ron Schmidgall (Church Trustee) replacing Bro. Eric Massner; Bro. Larry Moser (Usher) replacing Bro. Galen Metzger; and Bro. Chris Grimm (Children's Home correspondent) replacing Bro. Al Wiegand. Bro. Conrad Gerst was given the duties as head song leader replacing Bro. George Kuntz who has for many years had this responsibility. We want to extend a special thanks to Bro. George for his diligence. Sisters Luanne Beyer and Joleen Gerst were elected to the Kitchen committee replacing Sisters Dorothy Wagenbach and Mary Jo Metzger. Sis. Susan Gerst was given the responsibility of maintaining the church serving list. We are thankful for our new committee members and encourage them as they humbly accept their designated responsibilities. We appreciate the efforts put forth by our outgoing committee members and trust God will reward them for their efforts.

We are thankful to be able to host the Mid-Winter Elder conference this year. May we all have a prayer upon our hearts for our shepherds as they meet to discuss church matters. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Hebrews 13:17.

Sis. Ada Banwart wishes to thank her brothers and sisters across the land for the cards, visits, gifts, telephone calls and prayers while she was in the hospital recuperating from a broken hip. Your love and concern was a great comfort. She is now home making a satisfactory recovery.

As we ponder the events in our lives this past year, perhaps there are things that we wish were different. We may hope to change some areas of our daily

walk of life and we may also find ourselves missing the presence of dear departed loved ones. As Sis. Doris Kuntz handed this poem to me at church last Sunday, my heart went out to all our brothers, sisters and friends who have lost loved ones in recent times. We pray that God will ever be near them and continue to speak sweet peace to them. This particular poem is in memory of our departed loved ones, Terry Kuntz and Sis. Sarah Gerst. It is entitled, "To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me."

When I am gone, release me, let me go —
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be thankful for our many beautiful years.

I gave to you my love, You can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I traveled on alone.

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a time that we must part
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile, and say —
"Welcome home!"

Author Unknown

Contributed by the families of:
Terry Kuntz and Sarah Gerst

IOWA, PULASKI
Mary Jane Knapp — Sarah Teubel

"Love seems to be the theme for February. All around us we see hearts of all kinds. Yet I wonder how much concern we give to our inner and spiritual heart.

"I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:"

Ecclesiastes 7:25

We were glad that Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) could lend himself to us this past month.

Bro. Bill Wuthrich was our hospital patient. We are glad to report that he is home and seems to be doing fine.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich want to thank everyone who sent them cards, gifts and good wishes on their 65th wedding anniversary. They also thank their children for the thoughts of love and deeds of kindness shown. May God bless all of you.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Polly Zaugg — Phyllis Banwart

We were blessed by the teachings we heard from visiting ministers. We thank Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester), Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) for being with us.

We certainly pray for all these loved ones that the Lord will comfort and be near them. Those hospitalized are Harold Fisher (Marie) and Sis. Louise (Pearl) Anliker. We are glad Sis. Jesse Fehr, Sis. Lucille (Dwayne) Schmidt, Tim Mogler (Gloria), Sis. Ella Schneider (Lawrence) and Sis. Deb Bruellman (Bro. Mark) have returned home. May God's healing hand of love be over each one.

John and Cindy Bruellman are thankful and happy to have a new son, Calvin John, born December 21 to bring sunshine into their home. Michael and Jonna welcomed him home as well as grandparents, Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Bruellman (Des Moines) and Mrs. Margaret Harms (Algona).

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa, to Todd Kuenzi. Todd is the son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda (Silverton, OR). A March wedding is being planned. Also announcing their engagement are Tammy Schmidt (Jim and Sherry) and Doug Hoch (Ron and Jorjean, Algona). They are planning an April wedding. We wish both couples many blessings as they enter a new step in life.

We welcome Sis. Ella Banwart, for-

merly of Ft. Scott, KS, into our congregation. We hope she will receive many blessings as she resides here.

Walter Zaugg is now residing in the West Bend Care Center. May each one who has changed residence find happiness and contentment. Our life is determined and planned by God, who holds the world in the palm of His hand.

Our 1987 statistics are 13 births, 5 deaths, 3 baptisms and 2 weddings.

JAPAN, SHIODA **Kathy Kieser**

"The Lord hath set apart him that is Godly for Himself." Psalms 4:3. Because we are Christ's and He is ours, we were thankful that we could gather in His house of prayer for a morning worship service New Year's day. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue traveled from Toyko to be with us. May God bless him for ministering to us.

We were blessed by the visit of our brothers and their wives who stopped in Japan for a few days on their way to India. Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen (Elgin, IL) visited Tokyo church, while Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and ministering Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr (Peoria, IL) were able to be with us for holy communion. That evening after a church supper and singing, the three visiting brothers explained Global World Relief activities.

We plan to gather at Tokyo church for our annual church conference. We look forward to being together again. It is a rare occasion since some must travel quite a distance.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Frank and Kathy Sauder**

The message of Christmas was brought to us simply and purely by the Sunday school children December 20 at our annual Christmas program. The dinner and fellowship that followed gave us an opportunity to share in the love and joy that Jesus Christ brought to this earth. Again on Christmas Eve, we gathered to ponder on God's gift of His Son to all man. Throughout November and December, we see many signs that Japan has recently picked up many Western Christmas traditions. But for the most part, the remembrance of Christ is sadly absent. Man has so quickly adopted the external, eye-appealing things. If only the mes-

sage of salvation could be accepted and spread as widely.

Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen (Elgin) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr (Peoria, IL) stopped off in Japan on their way to India to carry out our church's work in helping the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions, in addition to celebrating its 50th anniversary. Bro. John and Bro. Jim and their wives journeyed to Shioda, while Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn remained in Tokyo for several days. We thank Bro. Nathan for so willingly ministering to us.

January 15 is a national holiday in Japan and also the day for our annual brotherhood conference in Japan. In the morning, in keeping with the theme from the conference in America, we were exhorted on the subject of peace by Bro. Akito Inoue and Bro. Willis Ehnle. The afternoon was devoted to a discussion of topics pertinent to our churches in Japan. By the grace of God, may He help us to find the blessing of "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Psalms 133:1.

KANSAS, BERN **Lori Baumgartner** **Shirley Strahm**

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 to good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

As the world is growing more evil around us, how much more we do need the encouragement, the chastisement and the comfort we receive from assembling ourselves together around God's Word. We enjoyed having Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) as visiting ministers this past month.

We were privileged to have the Sabetha congregation assemble with us to hear the memorandum.

"But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved."

Matt. 24:13

Let's be sure to make use of all the help God affords, that we may endure until the end.

Sis. Pearl Meyer had the misfortune of breaking her arm when she fell on the ice. Our thoughts and prayers are with her. May the Lord grant a speedy and complete recovery.

Stefany Ann has come to bring joy to the home of Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna Edelman. She was born December 30. She has an older sister, Angela, and a brother, Branden, as her playmates. Grandparents are Dan Edelman (Bern) and Al and Helen Detweiler (Silverton, OR).

Bro. Emil and Sis. Grace Strahm would like to extend a special thanks to their family and friends and all who helped them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with cards, gifts and visits. May God bless you all.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Teresa Bahr**

On January 20 we held our annual business meeting with the following brothers and sisters being elected: trustee, Wayne Miller; Sunday school, David Sinn; ushers, Jim Schrader and Don Banwart; Sabetha Home representative, Jim Bahr; food committee, Jolene Sinn; Silver Lining reporter, Karen Sinn.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY **Vola Young — Judy Kraft**

We rejoice and thank the Lord that two dear souls have been added to the fold. The weekend of January 9 and 10, we received manifold spiritual blessings. We heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Wendy Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen) and Bro. Victor Edelman (Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean). We received added spiritual manna by ministering brethren, Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson (Kiowa, KS) and Bro. Glen Funk (Garden Grove, IA). We thank our elder brothers for their untiring labors of love.

We will miss Sis. Wendy Metzger and Bro. Kip Edelman, but we know our loss will be another congregation's gain. Job employment will take Sis. Wendy to the east coast (Pennsylvania) and Bro. Kip to the west coast (Oregon).

Our annual business meeting was held recently. May we each serve our

elected offices/responsibilities willingly and to the honor and glory of the Lord.

Loren and Liseten Strahm wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone for their love and concern during Loren's illness. The prayers, cards, flowers, gifts and phone calls were all very much appreciated. They just say, "thank you Jesus for each person that has passed our way!" Happy and blessed New Year to all.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr — Darcy Kisling

Lord, the newness of this day (year)
Calls me to an untried way:
Let me gladly take the road,
Give me strength to bear my load,
Thou my guide and helper be —
I will travel through with Thee.

Henry Van Dyke

How fortunate we are not to have to walk the way through this new year alone. With God taking the lead all we have to do is follow those footsteps, and all will fall easily into place. Of course, if we take our eyes away from our Guide, and decide to travel the year on our own, then things will be a lot harder to work out. It reminds me of my 4-year-old and my 2-year-old. We've had lots of snow in our area and recently were playing outside in it. I told the girls to follow in my footsteps and I would make a trail they could easily follow without getting stranded in a deep drift. Well, after a while I looked back. My 4-year-old was right behind me following in my footsteps. My 2-year-old was completely to the side of my footsteps stuck in a snowdrift and, crying, could not move. Of course, I went back and rescued her. God will always be there to rescue us if we get in too deep, but how much easier if we just stay close to Him.

New Year's Eve services were cancelled due to the funeral services that day of our dear Sis. Jenny Schrock, who spent much of her life in the Harper, KS, area attending church there until the church grew so small. She then traveled to Burlington and then Kiowa to worship with those of like faith. For the past several months she had lived at the Life Care Home in Kiowa until she fell asleep in her Lord's loving arms. Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and ministering Bro. Ronald Allenbach officiated the services held here and at

the Harper Cemetery.

We did see the New Year in with our annual get together at the church fellowship hall. We enjoyed games, refreshment and hymn singing during a lovely evening of fellowship.

Sis. Edna Reed and Maxine Schrock were our only hospital patients this month, as they both underwent surgery. We are thankful for their return home and hold a fervent prayer in our hearts for those who are still unable to worship with us due to illness, weather, etc. We miss each and every one.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the Bahr family at the passing of their father, husband, brother and uncle, Lester Bahr (Hazelton). He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. We pray God will be a comfort in their loss. Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson officiated at graveside services.

Silver Lining dues are to be collected in February!

KANSAS, SABETHA

Nita Grimm — Charleen Hartter

"For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth.

"By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.

"Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth."

Psalms 71:5, 6 & 9

What a comfort to know that from the beginning of our life to the end the Lord was there and will be there. We are created with a purpose in the mind of God and with a mission to complete. Let us yield to our Great Creator and Lord and let Him guide us through each phase of life. There is no greater peace or joy!

We are saddened when one of our members suffers illness or loss of strength. Yet God always has a purpose for everything and He will not forsake them in their need. We pray that the mercy and comfort of God will be with Sisters Susie Brunner, Evelyn Wysong and Esther Terry (Bro. Charles) as they were hospitalized and are now recuperating at home.

Ministering Bros. Howard Plattner (Wichita, KS) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) visited our congregation. Elder Bro. Eugene Marti assisted our home

elders at the Bern congregation with the reading of the memorandum letter. We rejoice in the teachings and admonitions that are brought to us. It is so easy in this pleasure-loving, fashion-conscious society to have our vision clouded. May wisdom be given to recognize the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, and then the grace to resist it.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

We are rejoicing with Bro. Phillip Bowers. After several delays he received delivery of his new wheel chair, just before Christmas. Bro. Phil's new "wheels" allow him more mobility and will be an asset to him as he maneuvers the ramps on campus.

December 19 was the wedding day for Julie Bowers and Larry Beck. Julie is the youngest daughter of Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian. We wish Larry and Julie God's blessings on the home they are establishing.

Bro. Charlie Grimm and Bro. Max Reimschisel spent several days in Taylor, MO, helping with the building project there. Several months ago, Bro. Charlie spent a week at the Juarez, Mexico, work site. After his return from Juarez, Bro. Charlie made the statement that it is impossible for us to outgive the Lord.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Pam Schlatter

We were pleased to have many visitors with us during the holiday season. Especially welcome was Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) who shared the Word with us. May God richly reward Bro. Don and his family for laboring amongst us.

Sis. Hermine Kaeb was hospitalized this past month and is again assembling with us. Sis. Nancy Herzberg (Delor and Sis. Inez Grew) and her two children, Kay and Dale, were in an auto accident. Sis. Nancy was hospitalized several days. We wish them God's healing hand.

Two couples have exchanged marriage vows this past month. We wish them each the kind of home in which love abundantly abounds. Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice Ruegsegger (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret Ruegsegger, and Clarence and Lorene Schlipf, Congerville, IL) were married December 27. Jim and Cindy Bragiel (Frank and Sis. Irma Bragiel) were united January 2.

Kindly heaven smiles above,
When there's love at home.
All the earth is filled with love,
When there's love at home.
Sweeter sings the brooklet by,
Brighter beams the azure sky,
O there's One who smiles on high,
When there's love at home.

J. H. McNaughton

A reminder that Bay City has their Silver Lining collection the month of February. Please see your reporter.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Donna Hartzler

The weekend of January 9 and 10 was a blessed one for the Detroit congregation. Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen and Andy Virkler assisted our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach Saturday evening in reading the conference memorandum.

That evening the congregation also voted for a minister, and on Sunday, Bro. Randy Gasser was ordained into the ministry. The Scripture tells us: "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." May God bless the labors of our dear elders and ministers, and may Bro. Randy and his wife, Sis. Sue, feel the prayers and support of the congregation, that above all the Lord's name may be praised and glorified.

We continue to have those who cannot assemble with us because of illness. Although Bro. Joe Szilagyi remains in the hospital he has made progress and is now able to have visitors. It is evident the Lord yet hears and answers prayers.

Bro. Lewis Varga fell and broke his knee, and is in the hospital recovering from surgery. Sis. Mary Pentek is home from the hospital, but is unable to assemble with us. Let us remember those who are sick and pray for them.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Carol Strassheim

We have had bitter, cold, below zero weather for days, but rejoice as we feel the warmth and love on the inside as Christ's love shines through. It makes us ever so thankful to have a warm and happy home.

We finished the year together as we shared in the New Year's Eve service at church.

We extend our sympathy and love to Sis. Katie Olson, Sis. Laura Miller, Sis. Jo Esterling and Bro. Ray Schmidgall and families in the loss of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Lizzy Schmidgall (Morris, MN). God comforts and we trust in His grace to be with each one as they miss her deeply.

We are praying for Sis. Bernadine Miller (Bro. Don) as she has not always been able to attend church because of her health.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Ruth Nohl — Hildagard Koehl

We felt the love of God through the messages spoken by our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Dave Eisenmann (North Fort Myers, FL), Bro. Kent Mogler and Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN). We thank them for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

Two homes have been blessed with new arrivals. A son, Paul Edwin, was born December 17 to Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette Koehl. He is welcomed home by a sister and brother. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Koehl and Wilbert and Ruth Spohr.

Terry and Peggy Nohl welcome their second son, Jacob Lee, born December 31. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl (McAllen, TX).

Our hospital patients this month have been Carter Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen) and Martha Greiner (Bro. Ben). Sis. Helen Joos (Bro. Carl) is in the hospital at this writing. Let us continue to pray for our hospital patients, shut-ins and those on sick beds at home. There is comfort in knowing that God is always caring for us.

"Death is swallowed up in victory!" I Corinthians 15:54. On January 5, 1988, our dear Sis. Elizzie Schmidgall, 94, passed away at her home. She served her Lord many years and was known and loved by many. Surviving family are four sons, Bro. Ray (Burnsville, MN), Bro. Kenny (Phoenix, AZ), William (Hancock) and Bro. Floyd (Morris); nine daughters, Sis. Laura Miller (Bro. Noah, Bloomington, MN), Sis. Kathryn Olson (St. Paul, MN), Sis. Linda Yackley (Bro. Clarence, Glendale, AZ), Sis. Josephine Esterling (Bro. Don, Maple Grove, MN), Sis. Barbara Brown (Bro. Vernard, Morris), Sis. Nola Gramm (Bro. Bob, Gridley, IL), Sis. Norene Moser (Bro. Carl,

Morris), Sis. Marilyn Lanz (Bro. Edwin, Ellington, CT) and Marion Schmidgall (Hancock), 79 grandchildren; 107 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Bro. Fred Metzger (Rock Rapids, IA); and one sister, Sis. Tillie Kellenberger (Bro. Ernest, Morris).

One of Lizzie's favorite songs was:

MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know thou art mine,
For Thee all the pleasures of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, My Saviour art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus tis now.

I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus 'tis now.
Hymns of Zion #153

The family of Lizzie wishes to express a sincere thanks to all who remembered them with cards, prayers and expressions of sympathy at the time of the loss of their dear mother. May God bless you all.

Our sympathy also goes out to Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Judy Fehr and family on the death of Judy's mother, Lena Bolleryt. May God be near them and comfort them in their time of sorrow.

A wedding reception was held for Bro. Jeff and Sis. Angie (Shaefer) Ginzler (Peoria, IL) January 16. They were married a week earlier at Peoria, IL. May God bless them as they share their new life together. Parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzler (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Herman and Sis. Evagene Schaefer (Morris).

Card of Thanks: We wish to thank all our dear relatives and friends for their prayers, gifts of love, cards, visits, the beautiful Christmas carols that were sung and all the greetings. Everyone has given us and our families much joy, peace and love. It was greatly apprec-

iated. God's blessings to each and every one. Wishing you all a blessed New Year. We love you.

Carl and Helen Joos

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Wanda Messner
Ella Mae Schmidt

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

Frances R. Havergal

On New Year's Eve we gathered together to fellowship, sing and to hear God's precious Word. How important these things are for our spiritual body.

We thank ministering Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis) and Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA) for sharing words of wisdom with us.

This past month we have had several wedding engagements. Faye Messner (Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce) is engaged to Jim Odegaard (Arlington). Paula Dapper (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcella, Elgin, IL) is engaged to Scott Carlson (Minneapolis). Darin Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou) is engaged to Jan Pedersen (Arlington). We extend our best wishes to these couples during their engagements.

Sara Messner (Duane and Mona) was married to Keith Kuhn (Clarissa) January 2. May God be with them in their new life together.

When peace like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul.

H. G. Spafford

Rena Messner (Todd) has found that wonderful peace and can now have the assurance that it is well with her soul! We rejoice with her.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Gerry and Bro. Harold Messner for the loss of Sis. Gerry's mother.

Hospitalized for surgery this past month was Bro. Mike Messner. He is at home doing well.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Marti — Carol Braker

Another year has begun, and with it comes our annual church elections.

Our new Sunday school teachers are Bros. Roy Braker, Rex Frieden and Sis. Janese Kellenberger. Bro. Gene Banwart was elected as trustee. We wish them God's blessings in their new duties.

We each have duties to perform in our faith, whether special elected duties, or the duty of being a true brother and sister in the church. May we do them willingly and God will surely reward our efforts.

Bro. Noah Schlupp has not been feeling well and is unable to attend church services. Our thoughts and prayers have been with him.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Loren and Betsy Schrenk

January brought many blessings for the church in St. Louis. Our ministers for the first three Sundays were Bros. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and David Wiegand (Champaign/Urbana, IL).

A practical suggestion for living the sanctified life of a Christian was shared with us by a dear brother. Years ago an elder had given him this advice:

If you find your mind dwelling on some unwholesome thought, you can override it with something good. Your mind can think of only one thing at a time. Make a practice of concentrating on a thought or verse every morning when you pray and read, and take it with you throughout the day. Then if some troubling thought slips unbidden into your mind, consciously replace it with the chosen verse. While you cannot control what comes into your thoughts, you can control what you dwell upon.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Philippians 4:8

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel — Lori Marquart

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

Our thanks and appreciation go to Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) for laboring for the Lord on our behalf.

Events of 1987 in our Taylor church area were five births, one death, one baptism and one marriage. We look forward to being in our church, hopefully in 1988, and may God's blessings be enjoyed by all.

Myron and Deb Barkley (Heimer) announced the engagement of their daughter, Erin, to Andy Johnson, son of Ronald and Mary Johnson. May God bless this couple as they make plans for their wedding in March of 1989.

We offer our sympathy to the Yackley families in our area in the death of "Aunt Emma" Gerst, 89, (the late Bro. Adolph), who passed away at the home of a granddaughter in Smyrna, GA, December 14. Services and burial were conducted here at the "Little White Church on the Levee". We also extend sympathy to Dave and Sis. Marijane Foote whose grandmother, Amble Laura Foote, 84, passed away January 3 in Quincy.

"Then He shall come gently — Lead us by His hand
From our weary journey, to the Father land.
There when strife is over, Praise to God will bring,
With the righteous chorus, 'Hallelujah' sing!"

Zion's Harp #149, vs. 7

Our annual business meeting was held January 6 and conducted by Elder Bro. Roy Grimm. New officers elected were Bro. Mike Stratton, trustee, and Sis. Kay Sutter on the food committee. Beginning in September, Bros. Scott Hoerr and Rusty Adrian and Sisters Deb Sutter and Trudie Yackley will assume duties as the new Sunday school teachers. We thank those who have filled these offices and may God continue to direct and inspire those who will take their place.

Five-year-old Christina and two-year-old Elizabeth are the new little foster sisters being cared for by Bro. Kent, Sis. Jan Heimer and family. Dena, who was in their care for a short time has moved on. May God bless these families who are willing to share their love and provide care for a child, no matter what status or background, and be ready as the need arises.

Most of us spend a lot of time dream-

ing of the future, never realizing a little arrives each day.

February is Silver Lining collection month (\$7.00) for Taylor.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Our Sunday school children presented their program of song and verse Sunday afternoon, December 20. In the evening they enjoyed Christmas caroling for some of our older ones. It is our hope and prayer that each of these children will carry the teachings of their youth in their hearts throughout each day of their lives.

We are happy to have Bro. Floyd Graves, Sr., back with us and able to serve us from the pulpit. We missed him one Sunday when he had infection in his foot and had to be at home. Hope Graves (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Linda) was also missed in Sunday school one Sunday after having fallen while ice skating on Saturday. She now has a cast on her leg and we are glad she is back in Sunday school again. Also, Matthew Herzig (Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor) has a broken bone in his hand.

During the month of January, we are having some remodeling done in the basement of our church. We are happy to be able to assemble with the Naumburg congregation during this time and wish to extend our thanks for their love and hospitality.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

Sis. Corine Virkler has had heart surgery in Syracuse and is now able to be at her daughter's, Jane and Clifford Demerest, R. D. Lowville.

Sis. Ella Einbeck is in the Lowville Hospital because of an injury she received from a fall in her home.

Iva Poling is now in the extended care nursing home at Lowville.

Our thoughts go out to each one and may the dear Lord give each one strength to bear their burdens.

Sis. Rosella Schultz has gone to her peaceful rest. Her funeral was Thursday, January 14, at the Naumburg church. Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Bro. Leland Hirschey held the services with Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner participating.

Sis. Rosella has been a widow for 28 years. She has two daughters, Doris Pokorgry and Sis. Jennie Gerber; four sons, Bro. Kenneth (Rockville, CT),

Vernon (Lowville), Ralph (Black River) and Norman (Croghan). One son, Carl, preceded her in death. She has 23 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

We have been enjoying the fellowship of the Croghan congregation the last few weeks while remodeling is being done at their Croghan church.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

"... they received every man a penny." Matthew 20:10. The parable is of the householder agreeing with the first group's request to work for a penny. To the other groups that started later he offered to give them what is right. This shows two kinds of laborers. The first group requested their price, and the other groups believed the householder's word to receive what was right. We can limit God as the first group, or we can say what God says, that "He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20. In the parable when they were given their hire, the first group were watching and murmured, forgetting that they got just what they requested. It is a lesson for us not to be watching others. Many are called but few make choice decisions. One example is Reuben. He was the first born, born to be the excellency of power, the king of the tribe, get the double portion and serve as the priest. But Reuben made wrong choices and missed it. Judah got the kingship, Joseph got the double portion, and Levi got the priesthood.

With the angels in heaven, we rejoice that Carol (Pamer) Indermuhle has turned to the Lord in repentance. The Lord will grant the grace for Carol in her new life.

Sis. JoAnn Graf, daughter of Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf, and Bro. Tim Schar, son of Bro. Rowan and Sis. Judy Schar (Rittman, OH), are engaged. We wish them God's blessings as they make their plans to be united in marriage.

We welcome Sis. Laurie Schock, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Lyla Schock (Elgin). Sis. Laurie has a doctorate in chemistry and now has a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Akron, and is in polymer science. We are happy to have her with us and wish her well in her studies.

A thank you for loyalty and love, for

servicing their terms was extended to Bro. Carl Graf, past Sunday school superintendent; Bro. Irvin Walker, usher; and Sis. Eva Grawunder on the kitchen committee. Replacements for them are Bro. Glen Greenbank as Sunday school superintendent, Bro. John Graf and Bro. Richard Baumgartner as ushers, and Sis. Kathy Graf on the kitchen committee.

There will be two of our group to have a silver wedding anniversary. Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey (Bahler) Graf were married March 10, 1963. Their children are: Todd, Sis. JoAnn, Dan and Heidi. Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva (Wenhardt) Grawunder were married March 16, 1963. They have three girls: Sis. Monica Bauman, Sis. Susie and Jodi.

The Lord blessed Sis. Margaret Gruenig to have four score years, as she had her 80th birthday in January.

Earl Ritzman passed away, and surviving are his wife, Diane; a daughter, Amy Bloom; a son, Jeff; his mother, Sis. Marie Ritzman; and sisters and brothers, Sis. Mary Ann Zollinger, Sis. Martha Zollinger, Walter, Robert, Paul, Gerald and Eric.

We thank Bro. Glenn Riggenbach for visiting and ministering to us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

John Grimm

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). May God bless them and their families. We are grateful for the visitors who come and worship with us. The last two Sundays we have had services with attendance over 30 and 40.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Les Manz

At our New Year's Day meeting, the following brethren were given the described responsibilities: Ray Schlatter and Marge Schlatter, Sunday school teachers; John Rose, usher; Ken Manz, cemetery clerk; Dave Manz, secretary/treasurer. To each of our brethren who are serving us, we wish God's blessings and strength to serve willingly knowing their reward is in heaven.

God's Word was brought to us this month by Elder Bros. Ed Frank (La-Crosse, IN) and Loren Stoller. We marvel at the fact that His Word, written so many years ago, is so pertinent to today's life's cares. As often as our brothers read it and explain it to

us, or we read it to ourselves at home, there is new meaning and new instruction. Small wonder then that it is often called a Living Word.

Maude Slane (mother of Sis. Betty Manz) and Sis. Louise Manz were hospitalized this month. We wish them God's nearness as they await recovery.

OHIO, LATTY
Marlene Reinhard
Rhonda Stoller

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”
 Colossians 3:23

The following brethren were chosen to serve the church in the coming year: Sunday school, Bro. Ray Stoller (Sis. Carol), Sis. LeAnn Stoller (Bro. Rod) and Sis. Karen Steffen (Bro. Don); church trustee, Bro. Bob Stoller (Bro. Bill, Sr. and Sis. Florence); fellowship hall trustee, Bro. Ed Wenninger (Sis. Alice); World Relief, Sis. Nancy Stoller (Bro. Gary); kitchen committee, Sis. Mary Klopfenstein (Bro. Marvin).

Our Christmas service was enriched by Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). We all appreciated his service to Christ.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Roger Miller (Sis. Kay) and Sis. Melvene Stoller (Bro. Russell).

“... Welcome, welcome, All ye loved ones: Greetings in the Saviour's name.”
 Hymns of Zion #7

We wish to extend our welcome to Jim and Judy Fetzer and their children, Jacob, Joshua and Janelle. We are encouraged by the effort the Fetzers make traveling from Fort Loramie, OH, to assemble with our congregation.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Linda Morrison

Hospitalized have been John Them (Roma) for surgery and Sis. Katie Bocka. Our prayers support them in their illness and we trust their recovery to God. “When thou passest through the waters...” Deep the waves may be and cold, but Jehovah is our refuge, and His promise is our hold; for the Lord Himself hath said it, He, the faithful God and true; “When thou comest to the waters Thou shalt not go down, But through.” (Annie Johnson Flint)

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the

kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:17. We were privileged to hear the testimonies of our dear friends, Judy Beer, Carmean Gearheart and Carrie Mann. Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Elder Bro. Ken Sauder conducted the services. “And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven... Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.” Luke 7:48, 50). “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.” Zion's Harp #209. We rejoice to greet them as our dear sisters-in-faith and lift them up in our prayers. “Then as a child draw nigh; He hears your every sigh; You shall not leave His face Without His blessed grace.” Zion's Harp #156, vs. 5.

“Haste and seek your soul's salvation; heed the word of God today! Haste to flee His condemnation; seek the straight and narrow way.” Zion's Harp #52. We are thankful yet another hastes to seek salvation. Melinda Matuch has turned her life over to Jesus. “Still He offers you salvation, but the time of grace is short. Will you heed the invitation? Come, and harden not your heart.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Diane Gasser — Stephanie Baltic

Bro. Tim Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) has felt the Lord's guidance to ask for Sis. Joanne Graf (Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey, Akron, OH). May God bless and direct Bro. Tim and Sis. Joanne as they make plans for their wedding March 27.

We also heard the engagement of Rich Holcomb (Jim and Charlene) and Michelle Winkler (Glenn and Mary Jane).

Tom Flynn and Sandi Jenkins (Sis. Clara) have announced their engagement.

Jim Monahan (Blanche) has asked Sharon Jenkins (Sis. Clara) to be his lifetime helpmate.

We appreciate the visiting ministers who brought us wonderful teachings from the Word of God. Those who were willing to serve us were Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bros. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Eugene Fetter (Toledo, OH), Delbert Indermuhle (Sardis, OH)

and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). May the Lord richly bless them for their labors.

We welcome Sis. Marian Klotzle (Girard, OH) to the Rittman area as she makes her new home at the apartments near our nursing home.

Several loved ones have experienced afflictions of the body. They are Sis. Dorothy Stavenik (Bro. Ben), Bro. Steve Miracle (Bill and Loretta Clark), Sis. Joy Stoller (Bro. Greg) and Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Sis. Elizabeth). We are thankful that Elder Bro. Joe's health is slowly being restored to him. We are looking forward to his coming home from the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have been sick this past month.

With a new year upon us, we had our annual election of officers: trustee, Bro. Virgil Gasser; usher, Bro. Aaron Beery; kitchen help, Karen Ramsier; nursing home auxiliary, Sis. Marie Bauman and Sis. Mid Christian. We also wish to thank those who have served their term.

The family of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estella Winkler wants to sincerely thank all those who thought of them in love, prayers, cards and gifts during the recent death of their parents and grandparents. It was greatly appreciated.

OHIO, SARDIS
Linda Indermuhle

During the week of December 28, our brethren, with the help of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl and family (Smithville, OH), refinished and reupholstered the benches in our former church. They were then moved to our new church and placed in our Sunday school area.

New Year's Eve found many of us gathered at our fellowship center to sing hymns and see slides of the construction of our new church. It reminded us again to be thankful for all the Lord's blessings.

Bro. John and Sisters Paula and Rosella Figel attended the World Relief meeting hosted by the Sarasota, FL, congregation.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Ann Maibach — Verla Stoller

“Our love shall not diminish nor fade nor wax away; Bind us till life we finish and in the grave we lay.” Zion's Harp #137. May the lives of Michael Jarrett and Diane Indermuhle (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vera) be blessed with this love as

they have become husband and wife.

As the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repents, we also rejoice with Marvin Zollinger (Bro. John and Sis. Marge), who by the grace of God, could come out of the world of sin and darkness. May he find the peace that passes all understanding.

God has blessed the lives of Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose Dotterer with another little son, Craig Joseph. Timothy will be happy to have a new brother. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer and Sis. Ruth Hilty.

"Let us hear and give attention, God's own teaching to embrace." Zion's Harp #217. We are thankful for ministering brethren who bring the Word in its truth and sincerity. Visiting us this month was Elder Bro. Gene Pamer. We pray that God will richly bless him for all his labors of love.

Sis. Marilyn Uhler has been hospitalized and we pray that the Lord will heal and restore good health.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehlau
Frances Laidig

We are well into the new year, but there is still much time to strive to work for the Lord and our fellow men.

We are pleased that Sis. Lois Newman is recovering well from her recent back surgery. Bro. Chris Weigele (Sis. Anna) is home-bound because of a health problem. We wish them both God's blessings for a good measure of health and happiness.

Sandy Breitwieser (Bro. John and Sis. Karen) and Derrick Rawson announced their engagement Christmas Eve. We wish them God's blessings as they walk this path together.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Lynn and Polly Uhler (students at the University of Toledo) who lost their grandparents in an auto accident in the Rittman area.

A number of our congregation went to Indianapolis, IN, for the testimony and baptism of Bro. Bill Bradford (Sis. Gail). They attended our church for many years before moving there. We are especially thankful to God for His blessings. May they together walk in the pathway of the Lord, serving Him in love.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Jane Rocke — Brenda Knobloch

Special love and greetings are sent to each one! We are glad for the new

year, as that means our little congregation will be together again. We have several members who are "transplants" and have been gone over the holiday season. We appreciate each one so very much who assembles with us in our little "family". Recently we have enjoyed Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Knapp from the Cissna Park congregation, as they are visiting their daughter in Portland for several weeks. We offer special thanks to the Silverton ministers, who so willingly visit us often and share the Word with us. We enjoy being able to travel between churches.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Our annual business meeting was held recently and the following brothers and sister were elected to fill the positions indicated: Bro. Richard Kraft, a three-year term as trustee; Bro. Ben Bolliger, a two-year term as usher; and Sis. Carol Dietrich, a four-year term as Sunday school teacher. Our sincere prayer is that God will direct them in their various duties and that He will bless them and the congregation in the process. We thank Bro. Bob Kuenzi and Sis. Linda Hari whose terms of duty have been fulfilled. May God be their rich rewarder now and in all eternity.

Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Bro. Nick) and Bro. Jack Kuenzi (Sis. Janet) have again done a wonderful job of compiling, printing and assembling the 1988 calendars. These handy calendars not only contain the regular dates and holidays but also the birthdays, anniversaries and birth dates of each person in the congregation. Oh well, the mirror tells us the truth anyway, so why try to hide it. Like one Kansan said, "We're at that awkward age... too young to retire and too old to work!" One of my favorite quotes on the subject of age was from a lady high in her eighties. When asked how it felt to be that old, she replied, "It's like Saturday afternoon on the farm when I was a young girl and all the work was done and all there was to do was sit back and wait for Sunday." Now that's a wonderful attitude and we don't have to be eighty to have that same hope if all our Spiritual work is done. Seems there are always a few more cobwebs waiting or an annoying smirched-up window that still needs work when I survey my "spiritual housework" as well as my Saturday work. Guess working on our faults is really a lot like chores, just

when you think it's done, we turn around and it needs doing again. May the Lord give us grace to keep working at it and patience to those around us, who can probably see those cobwebs more clearly than we.

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Jerry Isch

With joy we welcome Sis. Wendy Metzger from Gridley, KS, to our congregation. Wendy will be working in the Philadelphia area.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. John Lanz and family in the passing of his grandmother, Sis. Elizzie Schmidgall (Morris, MN).

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 28)
 ing us than we realize. One said that many people do not read the Bible, but they read us. They see us, they see our conduct, and they know whether we are walking in the ways of God and whether we are doing His will on earth as it is done in heaven. Therefore our calling is very important. We must do our part that the will of God may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

When the Saviour said to pray, "Give us day by day our daily bread," He did not mean we should take it easy, do nothing and expect the Lord to give us our daily bread without us also doing our part. But if we are willing to labor with our hands and try to be useful in this life, seeking first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, then the Lord has promised whatever else we will need, He will supply. Then we can pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," and the Lord will bless the work of our hands. In past times we have seen the Lord give rain and sunshine and make the earth fruitful. We have not been in want. We have even had abundance that we could share unto others. That is all through the blessing of God. We should therefore honor Him. On the other hand, we should not try to lay up a great store and abundance. That was not what the Saviour taught the disciples to pray, but, "Give us this day our daily bread." They were to pray just for the needs of the day. And we read that the disciples never had a great abundance. There was even a time that they were hungry as they passed along the fields. The ripening ears tempted them and they broke off some and ate to satisfy their hunger. This was allowed

according to the law that in passing such a field they could pick what they might eat. Yet, the Saviour asked them when His end was nearing, "While I was with you did you ever want for anything?" And they said, "Nay Lord, never." They were contented with what they had. They learned to trust their Lord and Master for everything and He did not let them down. He did not forsake them. He provided day by day their daily bread. When there were only a few loaves, a few fishes and a great multitude to feed, He called upon the heavenly Father to bless that little, and there was sufficient for all. There was even much left. So we see what the blessing of God can do, and what prayer will achieve if it comes from the heart.

"And forgive us our sins as we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us." That is oft times spoken and prayed thoughtlessly by many. We were taught the Lord's prayer in our childhood, which was well and good. But many grown people repeat that, and when they say, "Forgive us our sins, they do not realize that the Saviour also included this, "As we forgive others." If we want God to forgive us we must also have a forgiving heart. In one place the Saviour gave a parable of two servants who owed their lord. One owed a great sum. He was called before his master and said, "Have patience with me; I will try to repay thee all." His master was filled with compassion and cancelled the whole debt. Then his servant had a fellowservant who owed him only a very small sum. But he did not forgive his fellow servant as his master had forgiven him but he had him cast into prison. We can read how the others were grieved and came and told the master what he had done. The master said to him, "Thou unmerciful servant, all this great sum have I forgiven thee and how cruelly didst thou use thy fellow servant (or words to that effect). This goes to show us that if we forgive one another our faults, the Heavenly Father will also forgive us. But if we refuse to forgive one another, the Heavenly Father will not forgive us. We see that as we do unto others, so will the Heavenly Father reward us. Let us remember that we are brothers and sisters and that we should have a heart for one another, to bear with each other and to bear one another's burdens in this life. Often it gives us new courage and new strength as we see how brothers and sisters also take part

and share our sorrows and our burdens. When we can feel the love, especially in days of sickness, affliction or bereavement, and we can feel that we are in reality bound together with the bonds of love, are children of one father and all eat of the same bread and drink of the same living water, then the Father loves us all and we then can love one another and take part in each other's good fortune or misfortune. That is then encouraging and pleases the heavenly Father.

We should also pray, "Suffer us not to be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Temptations will come. We often remind our friends that they should not imagine that after they have become children of God that there would be no temptations. We are all yet exposed to them, but the Lord will protect us even as the Saviour prayed for His disciples, "I pray not that thou should take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil." We will have grace that we can overcome in time of temptation and we will be kept from evil. If we can overcome in time of temptation and can win the victory, it will be as we read in a song, "Each victory will help us some other to win." It strengthens us and encourages us when we think back to when we were in need and prayed to our Saviour. When He helped us and delivered us out of our trouble, then we could trust Him again and go to Him from whence all help cometh. If we give in to the tempter, then it would be the opposite. We would be weakened instead of strengthened, and would drift away from the Lord, finally to lose ourselves in this dark world of sin and unrighteousness.

When a child of God has fallen by the wayside, it usually did not come all at once. It came gradually. We see to our sorrow that they had begun to drift and to slip, perhaps become careless and negligent in prayer and in reading the good Word in which we find strength and encouragement. Then, after they had become weakened to such an extent, the evil one could plunge them into great sin. That was what he was after. How sorrowful is such a case. We hope that everyone of us will, from time to time, take the warning and again let the Lord renew us and establish us anew on a firm foundation. If we build on solid ground then we will know that we are doing the will of God. It is not boasting if we can say, "I am trying and

doing my best that the Lord's will may be done on earth as in heaven." But if we grow weak and faint and if we allow the evil one to weaken us, we can be led so far that we do not know where we stand. I have known some who said that they had forgotten all about their repentance and conversion. It was all taken out of their heart and memory. Why was it? Because they allowed their hearts to be filled again with worldly things, things that do not pertain to the kingdom of God, that darkened and wiped out the good that had been planted in the heart. That is a sad condition. It is well if we allow ourselves to be warned. We should not think now this is good for that brother or that sister. We should take it for ourselves, realizing that everyone of us is yet in danger. When the Lord sends His Word and His warnings to us, He does it because He loves us. Even we who are parents warn our children. We seek to set it before their eyes that they should realize the folly and the vanity of this world. The Heavenly Father places it before us from time to time that we should realize that our heavenly calling is really an important calling. It is a serious matter. It is not child-play. It is not to be taken lightly, but should be taken seriously every day. If we do, then the Lord also provides joy and comfort. He provides hours and seasons of blessing that we can really rejoice in Him.

To those churches who were walking in the light of God, the apostles could write, "Rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice." There was reason there to rejoice. He found no fault with them. He could even say, "Of brotherly love, it is not needful to write unto you for ye yourselves are taught of the Lord to love one another." But there were other churches where He could not say, "Rejoice in the Lord." He had to reprove and rebuke them for drifting away from the straight and narrow way. He did not cast them aside, but He said, "You must turn back; you must go back again to where you stepped off and seek your first love and do the first work and then the Lord will again give you His grace."

May the Lord grant us grace that we may take these words to heart. They are a light in darkness. They strengthen us when we are weak. They give us new courage when we become weak. May we all allow the Lord to encourage us to become yet more true and yet more faithful.

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SERMON BY THE LATE BRO. ERNEST GRAF, SR. OF AKRON, OH

“Lord, Teach Us To Pray, As John Also Taught His Disciples”

We have been reminded of our Saviour's love for all mankind from time to time. The Lord brings that to our attention through those whom He has chosen to proclaim His word of life. It is comforting to us who have grown older in years and in faith when we see others who are younger become endowed with this Spirit of the Lord to carry on the good work. It would be sad and discouraging if there were none to take our place when we depart out of this life, but we are consoled and believe that the work of the Lord will continue. We need to encourage and support one another in prayer to the Lord for whether old or young, without Him we can do nothing. If the apostles found it necessary to ask their brethren to pray for them that utterance might be given to them to speak the Word of the Saviour, how much more is it necessary today that every brother and sister give support in prayer to those who are to speak the Word. We often feel this support and we do appreciate it.

We read here how the disciples came to the Saviour and asked Him to teach them to pray. This is so necessary. Many of us learned to pray at our mother's knees when we were young, but often when children are grown they forget and neglect their prayers. There is in many a life a period where there is no prayer offered. But later on the Lord can awaken them to realize their lost condition, and that they should turn to the Lord and repent and believe. Many have had to go to the Lord and say, “Teach me to pray.” If that prayer and desire comes from the heart, the Lord will teach them as He taught His disciples. We hear brothers say, “Oh, I have no gift to pray.” Perhaps if they would go to the Lord as the disciples did and say, “Lord teach me to pray,” they could be encouraged at least to make a beginning. Many a brother, if he would use what little faith and gift he

had, it would increase and would become useful in the house of God with prayer and in other ways. I believe there are far too many brothers who do not take part as they should in prayer in the house of God. We read of David in his psalms, “I will pray to the Lord in the presence of His congregation,” and the Apostle Paul says that a few words spoken in a manner that can be understood are edifying even if it is only a few words. Therefore, dear brothers, we should exercise ourselves and ask the Lord that He would teach us.

When His disciples asked the Lord to teach them, He did! He consented and told them how to pray. They should say, “Our Father which art in heaven hallowed be Thy Name.” That means that we might keep His Name holy, not use it in vain, but hallow it or exalt it by obeying and being submissive to the will of God. The only way we can hallow the name of God is to obey His commandments. That is an honor to Him. We should also feel in our heart that we have in reality a debt of love toward our God and Heavenly Father. We should reverence Him and thank Him daily for His great love in sending His Son into the world to save sinners and to seek that which is lost.

He said we should pray, “Thy kingdom come.” We read in the beginning of the Gospel that John the Baptist preached repentance. He said the kingdom of God has come nigh unto you. We believe it is nigh unto every one who will reach out and lay hold on it. It is not up in the heights or down in the depth. It is not necessary to go across the ocean to find it. It is here before us if we will only realize it and draw it unto ourself. The kingdom of God has come nigh unto us. We should also pray, “Oh let Thy kingdom come into many hearts that are yet hidden cold in sin.” We should do our part to bring the kingdom of God nigh unto those who are yet without

and have not tasted the love and the mercy of God and the Saviour. That concern should be in the heart of every brother and sister, for the poor souls who have never sought nor found the Saviour. they imagine the kingdom of God is in heaven and not on earth. Oh beloved, the kingdom has its beginning here on this earth. When the Saviour was asked when the Kingdom of God should appear, He said it will not come by observation (outward signs) but it is within you, within your heart. When we open our heart for the Saviour, then the kingdom of God is established within. If we walk as children of light and let our light shine among the ungodly then we are doing our part to bring the kingdom of God nigh unto them and within their reach. How sad would it be if on the day of the Lord one who had been around us and associated with us would rise up and accuse us of never telling them of the Saviour and never asking them, “Won't you come also and follow the Saviour and labor for Him in His vineyard?” Wouldn't it be sad if such accusations were brought against us? Therefore, we should do our part wherever we may be. Even our young brothers and sisters can also be useful, even if they are yet young. They can show and prove that they are no longer of the world. We no longer have any joy in those things that are displeasing to God, but we have our enjoyment in doing the will of God, serving Him and obeying His commandments.

We read further, “Thy will be done as in heaven so on earth.” Let that also be our wish and desire, that the will of God might be done on earth as in heaven. We should not only expect it of others, but realize that we must also apply ourselves to the will of God. This will do more good than talking, if we seek to do the will of God. Believe me, dear ones, there are more people watch-

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