

# The Silver Lining

"Hereby perceive we the love of God,  
because he laid down his life for us . . ."  
I John 3:16

**A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS**

"Herein is love . . . that he loved us and  
sent his Son . . ."

I John 4:10

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NUMBER 12

## *Christmas . . . The Day the Creator Took the Form of the Creation*

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

John 1:1, 14

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . . and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

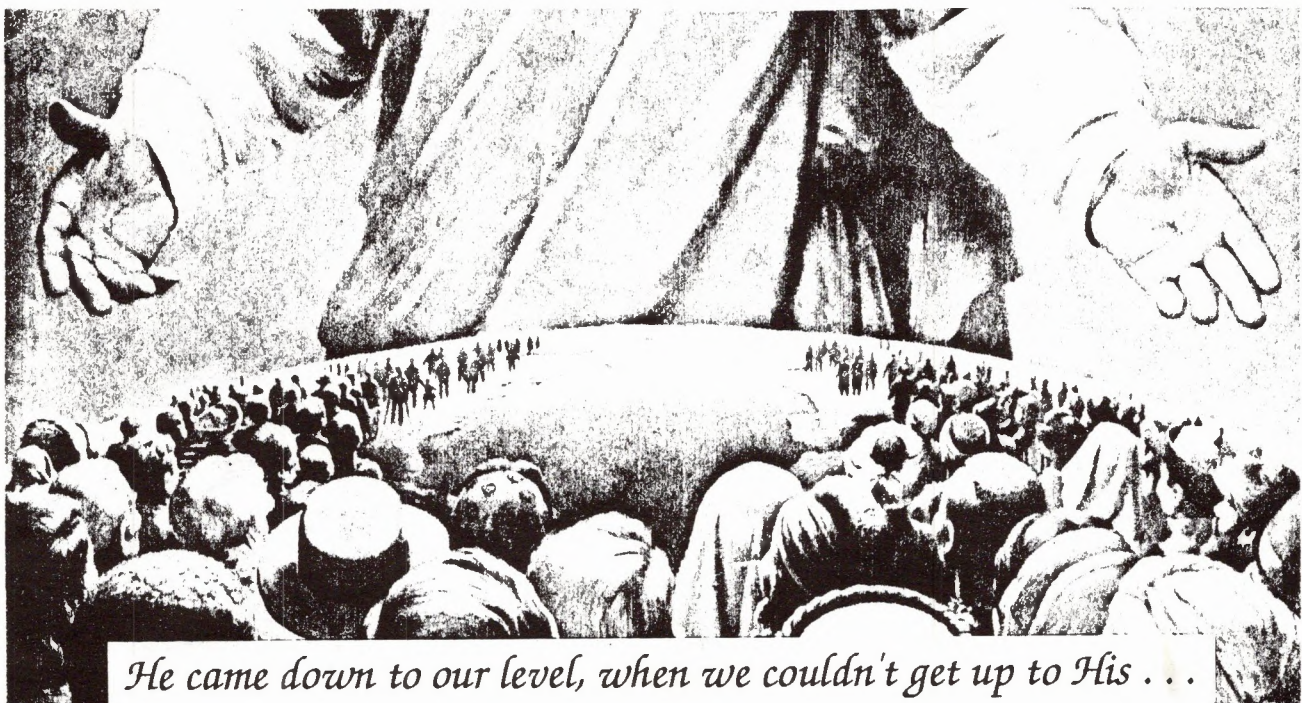
Philippians 2:7

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."

Romans 8:3

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself . . . For he hath made him to be sin for us . . . that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

II Corinthians 5:18, 19, 21



*He came down to our level, when we couldn't get up to His . . .*



## VISITING THE BELIEVERS IN HUNGARY, ROMANIA, RUSSIA AND YUGOSLAVIA

**Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman**  
Francesville, IN, congregation

(Continued from the November  
issue of the Silver Lining)

As we approached the church in Budapest, I did not recognize the building as a church because of "the wall" along the street. But once inside "the wall" we were met by thirty to forty workmen and sisters who were waiting to serve us a meal. It was about 2:00 p.m. when we sat down to a delicious meal that consisted of many courses. Their food and generous hospitality were a special love gift to us.

The workmen were believers and friends who were constructing the

new church across the street for which we, in America, have had the opportunity to lend financial assistance. We observed the hand of God as a united team of dedicated workers and church shepherds work together in love. They are building a beautiful edifice where the Word of God may be preached for the edification of the church, bringing glory to God and awakening many to the need of a Saviour.

As we worshipped together in Budapest, tears flooded our eyes when the church raised their voices in singing "Christian Greetings" to us. We started our service at 9:00 a.m. and

left the church at 8:30 p.m. with hearts filled with love and minds filled with memories.

At a special meeting in Budapest with the man in charge of the "Ministry of Religious Affairs," he commended the orderliness of the building project. For this we are thankful. Many times the believers in Budapest expressed their thanks to us for the love and assistance from America.

The opportunity was granted us to meet with thirteen elders and ministers of Hungary, in Szeged, another beautiful city. An elder from Russia also met with us. Our day together found us discussing the same concerns and dangers that confront our churches in America. We were comforted by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit that led, guided and dwelled among us.

Pages could be written about the hospitality of each of the homes we visited, but we know the Lord will be their rewarder. As we spent nights in  
(Continued on Page 32)

## THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

The elder body has approved the formation of The Endowment Fund of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. This fund has been created for better stewardship of assets given to the church for the Lord's work.

In addition to outright gifts, the Endowment Fund would receive gifts from donors who want their gifts used over a period of years rather than immediately. The donor may designate how the gift should be used, or the use can be left to the discretion of the Endowment Fund management committee.

The Endowment Fund can also accept non-cash gifts and can provide advice on compliance with tax laws to provide more funds for the Lord's work than would be possible without following the tax guidelines. An example is a gift of real estate, securities or other properties on which the donor can receive all or part of the income during the donor's lifetime.

The Endowment Fund would use its assets in the following ways:

1. To assist existing church funds such as local and national charity, World Relief, Mission and Bible funds.
2. To provide a source of funds for ongoing projects, unusual or unexpected needs as deemed fit and proper by the Elder-supervised Endowment Fund Committee.
3. To provide emergency loans and grants for other funds or projects within the church.

Questions about the Endowment Fund or contributions to the fund can be directed to any brother on the committee (listed here with their home church) or by contacting the secretary at the address or phone numbers listed below:

James J. Stoller, Chairman -- Eureka, IL  
Jerry Banwart, Secretary-Treasurer -- Congerville, IL  
Ben Maibach -- Detroit, MI  
Bob Walder -- Congerville, IL  
Bob Grimm -- Goodfield, IL  
Roy Grim -- Taylor, MO  
Jim Hoerr -- Peoria, IL

Jerry Banwart, 2400 N. Main, East Peoria, IL 61611  
Office: (309) 694-4251 Home: (309) 448-2416

## THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

### EDITORIAL STAFF:

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

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

### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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c/o David Bertsch  
11520 Grabill Road  
Grabill, IN 46741

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### IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER





Writings based  
on God's Word

# Light From The Word

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

## Secular Humanism

In recent years secular humanism has become one of the most influential false beliefs in our land. Today it is Christianity's greatest rival! This article is intended to expose the fallacy of humanism and describe how it may influence individual believers and ultimately the church.

Humanism is a system of beliefs which essentially becomes a secular (worldly, temporal) "religion" to those who espouse it. However, true followers of God would not think of it as a religion. Humanism is a philosophical view which emphasizes the centrality of man, his dignity and worth, his capacity for self-realization through reason, his autonomy (complete freedom from restraint), control of his own destiny, his capacity to solve the world's and society's problems without any external help (such as God), and his capabilities as a rational being, possessing the source of truth and right. Secular humanists go so far as to declare that man cannot rely on some deity to save him; they claim that man must save himself. Man exalts himself above God!

Secular humanists believe that man is basically good, not evil as stated in the Bible (Matt. 19:16-17; Rom. 3:23). Most deny faith in God as Creator of the universe and Revealer of all truth; whereas the Bible teaches that man must have faith to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

Secular humanists believe that the universe is self-existent and that man is the product of evolution rather than divine Creation. Because they discount life after death, they believe that self-satisfaction and the pursuit of happiness are the only realistic and meaningful goals of mankind. Having rejected the Bible, secular humanists believe that ethics and morality come from human experience and ideas, not from God. As a result, they recognize and accept variant sexual activities and immoral lifestyles as being valid even though condemned by the Bible. In addition to this, some of them even

accept abortion, euthanasia (mercy-killing) and suicide as being legitimate alternatives for mankind.

With the eye of faith, one can easily discern how these beliefs conflict with God's Word. One can also recognize the effect they have had on our society, particularly on such matters as public school prayer, abortion, and pornography.

It is well to consider some of the areas in which this philosophy may influence our children and even the brotherhood. The educational system today is heavily tainted with humanistic ideas. Thus, children are exposed in varying degrees to these unbiblical viewpoints, including the false teachings of evolution and situation ethics (the belief that the particular situation one finds himself in determines the appropriate response rather than application of the absolutes of God's Word).

Educators today often place primary emphasis on human reasoning, which sometimes erodes a simple faith in the Bible and in God. Schools are simply a reflection of society; if distortions of the truth are taught there, it is because society has allowed and willed it to happen. Television programming has also had a major role in fostering humanistic lifestyles and attitudes through its emphasis on and portrayal of immorality, violence and other evils. When man, rather than God, becomes the measure of all things, man deteriorates to a lower and lower estate because there are no absolute standards to uphold. Perhaps more importantly than ever before, every effort must be made by parents, Sunday School teachers and ministers to counteract these evil influences with scriptural truth. Jesus said, *"I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil"* (John 17:15).

Humanism has precipitated a general decline in respect for authority. This too has made its presence

felt in the church. Humanistic thinking challenges all authority—including God, the church, and its leadership. Biblical references to the importance of submission to spiritual authority are abundant (Eph. 5:21; Heb. 13:17; Rev. 22:14). The humanist considers such submission as degrading. He also views the biblical description of the role of the godly woman to be demeaning, since she is taught to be subject to her husband and a keeper of the home (Col. 3:18, Eph. 5:22, Tit. 2:5). It is no coincidence that the advancement of the women's rights movement has paralleled the increasing impact of humanistic thinking on society.

Humanistic influence has insidiously caused some believers to follow their own personal preferences with regard to observance of doctrinal teachings and church traditions. Humanistic influence has resulted in some believers exalting their own views above the consensus of church leadership. Further, humanistic inclinations have undermined a healthy sensitivity toward the weaker brother's conscience. The Bible teaches that man should not rely on his own understanding (Prov. 3:5), because he can sometimes deceive himself (Prov. 14:12). The believer should hold fast to scripturally-based conclusions drawn by the church leadership (Acts 15, 2 Thes. 2:15). Humanistic attitudes can mislead one to conclude that if he prays about something and feels no conviction about doing it, he has the liberty to ignore church counsel; when in fact the matter in question may be a doctrinal precept or church tradition. *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit . . ."* (Col. 2:8).

We must stand firmly on the truth of the Word of God. The Lord Jesus said, *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:31-32).



**HUNGARIAN TAPES**

Two cassette tapes are now available of the singing and playing of the Hungarian churches. The music, performed by choir and orchestra, and "Blest Be The Tie," which has both orchestra and singing, are available at \$6.75 for each tape. For shipping cost on orders of 1-5 tapes, add .75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only .30 extra for each tape. All proceeds from these tapes is being donated to the distressed church members in the poor country of Romania.

Tapes may be ordered from:

Al Betz  
455 Logan Road, Apt. A-2  
Mansfield, OH 44907  
(419) 756-2756

or

Dennis & Beth Feucht  
317 N. Third Avenue  
Morton, IL 61550  
(309) 266-9498

Make checks payable to the person you order from, either Dennis Feucht or Al Betz.

**HEFT (LONG BOOK) TAPES**

All three volumes of the Long Book Tapes are now available. Bro. Josef

Farkasch, of Salzburg, Austria, has made tapes from the old "Long Book" beginning at number one and going straight through the book. He plays the classical guitar and other instruments. There is also singing on a few songs. All proceeds go to our needy brethren living behind the Iron Curtain in Eastern Europe.

Vol. I includes songs 1-11, 13-18

Vol. II includes songs 12, 19-31

Vol. III includes songs 33-48

Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add .75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only .30 extra for each tape. Make checks payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

For the complete story about these tapes, refer to the May 1987 and the September 1988 Silver Lining issues.

These tapes may be ordered from either:

Don & Lorna Schrock  
100 Forest View Road  
Morton, IL 61550  
(309) 266-6810

or

Dennis & Beth Feucht  
317 N. Third Street  
Morton, IL 61550  
(309) 266-9498

**-- NOTICE --****Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books**

In 1984 we read in the Guideposts concerning the unfilled need for 10,000 Bibles. We wrote to the organization and started sending some repaired and some new Bibles. Since that time, we have sent over 500 Bibles, much Sunday school materials and song books.

During this past year, Sisters Becky Knapp (Dave) and Jane Huette (Curtis) from Goodfield, IL, have been helping in this work.

If our churches or individual members have Bibles, Bible story books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymns that are worn and in need of repair, please let us know or send them to us. We tape and repair the books and obtain names and addresses of people in foreign countries who want and need them, package and mail them in large canvas mailing bags. It costs 55 cents a pound to send books or \$1.10 for printed material of less than 30 pages. On a recent shipment to Africa, the cost to send a Bible was 72 cents.

If you have any questions or wish to send material for repair, please call or write:

Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
Box 132  
Congerville, IL 61729  
Phone (309) 448-2416

**SINGLE SISTERS  
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:**

- Serving the Lord and needy children on a full-time basis?
- Learning more about yourself and others?
- Learning about God's daily provision of grace and strength?
- Learning a Biblical definition of success?


If your heart responded "yes" to the above questions, you may be someone God wants to use, to help meet our need. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. We presently have an opening for a single sister to serve as a Houseparent in an all-girl house. This is a challenging and rewarding opportunity to work with a dedicated and unified staff of brothers and sisters as they strive to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of troubled children.

Compensation includes a cash salary and living expenses, plus fringe benefits. For more information, please contact either of the brothers listed below.

Your servants in Christ,  
The Children's Home  
Board of Directors

Bro. Tim Sauder  
P. O. Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
219/627-2159, office  
219/627-2606, home

Elder Bro. David Bertsch  
11502 Souder Road  
Grabill, IN 46741  
219/627-2923



Apostolic Christian Children's Home  
• P.O. BOX 151, LEO, INDIANA 46765 •

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 1989

## CHILDREN'S HOME AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 19, 1989

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
LEO, INDIANA



## WORLD RELIEF/WORK PROJECTS REPORT

AWA (Apostolic Water Aid)

Reported by Bro. Robert Sutter, Bluffton, IN

Unknown to anyone in the Apostolic Christian Church, a conservative evangelical Baptist Church in South Haiti was praying that God would motivate some Christian group to help them provide safe, clean drinking water for their people. As little as 15% of the people of Haiti have a safe,

sanitary source of drinking water.

God chose the Apostolic Christian Church as the group to answer the prayers of these Christian people of a different culture and color. A small rotary drill rig and various supplies were purchased in September of 1986 and sent to Haiti in December of

1986. Five brothers from the Bluffton, IN, congregation traveled to Haiti in February of 1987 on a mission of faith, to help drill water wells in an area of South Haiti that had seen only a few precious water wells. Though there were many obstacles, it was the Father's will that these Haitian Christians were to have the clean water they were praying for. A well was successfully drilled and a heavy duty Smits hand pump installed in the city of Simon. This well was used constantly, except for a few hours after midnight, and there is still a constant line of people waiting to fill their buckets to this day.

From this humble beginning the Haitians now have several systems that provide a safe, sanitary method of digging water wells by hand to depths of up to 100 feet. Our work teams have also trained the Haitian drilling group to use the rotary drill rig originally sent to Haiti. Their ability to utilize this equipment is amazing, considering their cultural disadvantages. To date, there have been 27 wells drilled and the pace is rapidly increasing. It is estimated that at least 56,000 people now have clean water who were drinking diseased and parasitic ridden surface water. If we apply the infant mortality rate, in rural Haiti, due to bad water, of 11% to 50%, we begin to appreciate the number of just children, the Father has seen fit to save. Sometimes it's difficult to relate to other people so far away, but what if large numbers of our children or grandchildren were dying in this way? If we had to watch them suffer and waste away, this is not a pleasant way to die. What form would our prayers take? What would our feelings be if we saw these prayers being answered?

If the Lord wills, there will be additional work teams sent to Haiti this winter to help train the Haitian drilling group in the use of a new rotary rig that has cleared customs this summer. We would also like to send at least one team to help develop a spring for use as a drinking water source for a village. We are also involved in creating vocational (trade) schools, in conjunction with the MEBSH Church, to help the Haitian Christian to earn a living, and also to help combat the 60% unemployment

### 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  
 Fifth Year -- August 1987 thru July 1988 -- 25,969

Bibles Distributed -- Sixth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1988 --	3486	3486
September 1988 --	1365	4851
October 1988 --	1762	6613
November 1988 --	2655	9268

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

## KINDERGARTEN TEACHER NEEDED IN JAPAN

Our church in Japan has a kindergarten where Sis. Kathy Jo Kieser and Sis. Renee Baurer are now teaching. Sis. Kathy Jo will be leaving the kindergarten next July and a brother or a sister who is qualified to teach kindergarten is needed to replace her. Anyone who has the faith and conviction to apply for this position should speak to his or her elder and if he approves, apply to the missionary committee for consideration.

All expenses involved in the two-year stay in Japan are paid by the church. The brother or sister is asked to give two or more years of his or her life in Japan at some sacrifice of compensation, although we do pay, in addition to expenses, a small monthly salary.

Bible stories are taught every day in the kindergarten. English is the language of instruction, but incoming teachers are encouraged to begin studying the Japanese language before coming to Japan. This is helpful in communicating with the Japanese people and in singing the hymns in Japanese.

The teachers are presently living in a new, modern apartment about a 10-minute walk from the church.

Anyone having any questions may inquire of any of the teachers who have been to Japan, may contact Bro. Ben Maibach, 34050 Ramble Hills Drive, Farmington Hills, MI (phone 313/478-3771); or Bro. Willis Ehnle, 692-2 Shioda, Ichinomiya-Cho, Higashi Yatsushiro-Gun, Yamanashi-Ken, Japan 409-14.



rate in South Haiti. Many small farmers raise sugar cane on the flat lands near the coast, and we have been involved in a surveying project that would allow the farmers to irrigate their land and raise a much more profitable rice crop. With the help of many Apostolic Christians, the Lord allowed us to furnish a much needed semi tractor and trailer for these people to help transport animal feed, agricultural products to market, and a variety of other functions.

Drilling wells in Haiti is only part of the struggle to provide the people of Haiti with good water. There are only several pumps in the world that will withstand the grueling, constant use experienced by pumps in Haiti. We were privileged to meet the originator of one of these pumps, and he graciously permitted us the manufacturing rights to his pump. These pumps, named Smits after their originator, are currently being built in the Bluffton area with volunteer labor and funds provided by World Relief.

These accomplishments are the fruits of many individuals in the Apostolic Christian Church, especially World Relief, and several other concerned groups. But far and above all of us mortals, the praise and real credit goes to our mighty, loving Father. It's amazing and stimulating to see His love and concern for His creation, even in a poor little island in the Caribbean. It's really refreshing to be a part of a church that God is using to answer fervent prayer, on the part of His children, in other parts of His world. We ask that you will pray that God will bless all of the efforts of the Apostolic Christian World Relief as we struggle to be sensitive to His will and call to service. Perhaps the Lord will have a direct part for you in this work someday, but being a member of the Apostolic Christian Church, your prayers and support, makes you a partner in this effort. If you feel a desire to help in any way, contact your local elder or local World Relief representative.

**NEEDED:**

Lard and tallow for the soap-making process at the Bluffton World Relief Center.

Call 219-565-3257

Stan Isch

**WORKS PROJECTS  
NEEDS FOR HAITI**

**Items For The Hospitals**

If you have:

Wheelchairs, crutches, canes or walkers.

Needed are large serving spoons, blank cassette tapes, 35mm film - black & white - slide film, either 24 or 36 exposure.

Fans - floor or ceiling.

Gift wrap paper (birthday and Christmas), desk calendars 1989, calculators, water filters, incubator, variety of construction tools.

Two scales for hospital, tissue paper, 8 1/2 x 11, typewriter - manual or electric, air conditioner for operating room, sewing machines - can be small cabinet, electric or portable in good operating condition.

Please take to Material Aid Center at Wing, Bluffton or Leo.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
Sis. Judy Luginbuhl**

It is that time of year when people around the world return to families and close friendships; to those people who share treasured memories of the past and help tell the story of who we are, what we're made of, and where we came from. It is a time when much of the past is stirred; the joys and sorrows, the pleasures and pains, the times of contentment or loneliness -- a myriad of emotions and experiences that we hold in our heart.

We at ACCH are especially reminded of the importance of supporting, listening, encouraging and sharing ourselves with those placed in our care. Though we often cannot resolve others' past traumas or change their family constellations, we can make a difference in an individual's life. We can be ever mindful to open our hearts and give our time, allowing Christ's nurturing love to minister to those

we love. As we approach this Christmas season wherever we are, may we each seek opportunities to reach out as a vessel in Christ's hand, ready and able by His grace to touch a life.

Many of our children will be spending this Thanksgiving and Christmas with their biological families, as well as with other families in our fellowship who have welcomed them into their homes. We thank you for your support and prayers.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
HOME FOR  
THE HANDICAPPED**

Have you ever read the poem "God Don't Make No Junk"? It was the theme for our annual resident talent show, "A Harvest of Talent," held Thursday, November 10.

This is a message for everyone, not only our developmentally disabled friends!

**GOD DON'T MAKE NO JUNK**

I may not be so quick to learn,  
"Retarded" I may be,  
I may not hear a sound at all,  
I may not even see.  
I may be crippled from my birth  
And cannot leave my bunk,  
But I know that I'm someone  
'Cause God don't make no junk.

I may not know my name at all,  
It may be I'm not sane;  
I may have trouble in my head  
From pressure on the brain.  
A bunch of bones, a hunk of flesh,  
My body may be shrunk,  
But I know that I'm someone  
'Cause God don't make no junk.

I may be tot'ly paralyzed  
From toes up to my chin  
And breathing with an iron lung  
That I'm confined within.  
I may not have my arms and legs,  
My hope may all be sunk,  
But I know that I'm someone  
'Cause God don't make no junk.

What all this means is, I believe,  
That God wants me this way;  
He has His reasons for it all,  
He'll let us know some day.  
When Jesus comes to take me  
home,  
I know He'll make me whole;



I'll know His love eternal  
And joy will fill my soul.

Joseph F. Wallo

Many who attended the "Harvest of Talent" production left confirmed that God's strength is made perfect in weakness. Of course our program reminded us that whenever there are 98 individuals living in one location there will be a wide variety of interests and abilities represented. We continue to attempt to provide optional activities for our friends at ACHH. Here's a glimpse of some of those offered within the past month: Central Illinois Riding Therapy occurs on Saturday morning for eight residents. Formal horseback riding skills were addressed, including grooming and care of the horses. On Monday evenings a cooking class is offered through the Peoria Park District.

On Friday evening, November 11, brethren from the Congerville, IL, church held services here. Small group shopping trips to Morton and Peoria, IL, were scheduled on Wednesday afternoons and Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Our gymnastics team (Free Spirit) practiced every Friday evening at Gym Corner in Washington, IL. (They brought home five gold medals from state competition this year). Swimming was offered for the warm-blooded and energetic Saturday morning, November 19, at Eureka College pool. A hymn sing was held Sunday, November 20, for a group of residents at Sis. Ida Belsley's home in Morton, IL. Other classes and activities offered at ACHH included: Aerobics Class, Bible Study, Reading Circle Club, Monday Evening Bingo, Music Appreciation Club, Indoor Gardening, Cooking Class, Ceramics, Sensory Stimulation Class, Art Class, Math Class and Money Awareness Class.

Other highlights this month at ACHH include: Judy Grimm, from Peoria, IL, moved to our home November 15. Many residents will be involved in Thanksgiving holiday festivities.

Our birthdays for January are: Edith Wagenbach (8), Mary Schramm (13), Karen Blunier (14), Mary Jo Rowles (15), Brian Birkeland (19), Bruce Steffen (19), Jackie Willett (19), Max Honegger (22), Laverna Zobrist

(25), Becky Huber (26), John Eddy (27) and Tom Sides (31).

Several exciting things happened at our neighbor's home, Oakwood Estate. Probably the most significant is that Oakwood is now fully licensed and approved for operation by the state of Illinois. We have been operating at full capacity since Sis. Rhonda Gerst (Oakville, IA) moved in October 31. Activities and events at Oakwood are geared toward meeting individual interests and abilities. In addition to holiday festivities, the Oakwood people are planning an appreciation Thanksgiving dinner for Bro. Bob and Sis. Marvel. Teaching independent living skills is a priority, and one new aspect of this curriculum is delving into money management abilities, including depositing paychecks and writing checks for bills. We are thankful to the Lord for providing the opportunities available through living at Oakwood.

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**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL  
Marilyn Walder**

We are busy practicing for our Christmas play which we will present to the parents December 12. Each child has a part and several of them have lines to memorize. They are doing such a good job. It's amazing how quickly children can learn. God made them with sharp minds, eager and willing to learn.

Our semi-annual board meeting was held November 12. We had a good meeting and feel that God helped us to make wise decisions. We are so thankful for our board members who are Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen, chairman, Bros. Ted Witzig, Jim Schlatter, Tom Schrenk, Ed Haggemmaker and our administrator, Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore.

Our school will be closed for two weeks over the holidays. This is always a welcome break. The children will be eager to be back for more learning in 1989.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Marilyn Walder**

We want to welcome Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon Harris and their children, Robert, Samantha, Jacob, Lance and Jeffrey, who recently moved from

the Alto, MI, church. They are a willing and enthusiastic addition to our congregation. We are looking forward to getting to know them better as we spend more time together. We wish them God's blessings as they adjust to a new community.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Tom Schrenk (Alto, MI). We had other visitors from Sabetha, KS; Morton, Princeville, Cissna Park, Fairbury and Chicago, IL; and Alto, MI. We enjoyed the Morton choir that was here October 29-30. We had a supper together, a singing with many special numbers, and a potluck dinner on Sunday.

Bro. Mike Moore has been elected as the new adult Sunday school teacher.

We have talked about witnessing recently during our adult Sunday school. We have opportunities probably every day and just don't use them. Do we care about others? Do we want the people around us to love the Lord and have a home in heaven? Let's listen to the Spirit of God that is within each of us and discern what God wants us to do. Be a blessing for someone today!

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX  
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

Our Lord provided a beautiful 93 degree day while the Sunday school and parents provided the food for our annual picnic. Fun, food and fellowship were enjoyed before singing praises unto the Lord. The enthusiasm of our tots, the intermediate, junior and senior high classes as they sang of their love for Jesus was a joy to behold. Our chorus gave us a lovely message in song before Bro. Clarence Yackley had a closing prayer. Surely our Saviour loves singing; there are many, many references in the Bible. He created all things; yet only birds and man are blessed with the ability to sing. A message in song is soothing and comforting.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer on the death of her father, Bro. John Schick. The family went to Illinois for his funeral.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Al Langhofer.

Many prayers have been answered



that Bro. Eryan (Sis. Ione) Rokey and Bro. John (Sis. Wilma) Pulfer can be back in church. Bro. Al Frautschi was a surgical patient and Scott Zollinger had seven stitches in his injured foot.

A special thanks goes to everyone for their part in tidying up our church and grounds. There are ever so many ways to serve the Lord -- just so we serve Him!

Have a joyful day in the Lord!

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**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**  
**Harvey Smith**

The deer season just ended and it was interesting to note how much effort was put forth by the hunters in preparation for opening day. They gathered together their food, camping supplies, weapons and ammunition for the trip into the wilderness. Most were only going to be gone three days to a week. It made one think of how little effort is put forth in preparing for eternity which will be forever.

Our friend, John Schaffler, passed away November 6. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have attended our services here regularly. We will miss him in our assembly.

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**ARIZONA, TUCSON**  
**Lisa Knapp**

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and his wife, Sis. Barbara, recently spent the day with us. As it was the day for our monthly fellowship supper, they stayed to have dinner with us. We are thankful for their visit and that the Lord returned them safely home.

We were also privileged this month to have the Phoenix choir travel to Tucson to sing beautiful hymns of praise for us. Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix) was also here that day and opened the Word with us for church services. There was a meal served in the afternoon and we were able to fellowship with the choir members and their families, which we all enjoyed so much. We want to thank the Phoenix choir for thinking of us and making the trip to Tucson. We were all blessed by their efforts.

Summer is lingering on, it's mid-November and still in the 80's. However, we have 3 converts and that is more refreshing than even the most beautiful snowfall could ever be! Our

little church won't have to look any further than our front benches to find something for which to be thankful at Thanksgiving.

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**CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**  
**Nella Varga**

We offer Christmas greetings to one and all. How happy the holidays are when we rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ. Celebrating Christmas with us for the first time is Sherise Alexandria and Brian Jay. Sherise is the first child born to Bro. Alex and Sis. Sherise Varga. Bro. Doug and Sis. Lilian Wagenbach are the parents of Brian Jay. Brent is very happy to have a little brother to play with.

Sis. Anna Jevremov was hospitalized for surgery. We thank the Lord for healing mercies; she is now able to attend church on Sundays. Bro. Doug Wagenbach, also, underwent minor surgery and has recuperated very well.

Sis. Helen Varga and Bro. Roy Metzger have made San Diego their new home. We welcome them to our congregation with great joy.

On the other hand, we were very sad to have Doug and Sis. Lisa Vant Hof move away from us. They now reside in Fargo, ND. We will miss them greatly.

It is so wonderful to announce the engagement of Sis. Rose Jevremov (Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna) to Bro. Mike Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce) of Peoria, IL. They plan a January 1, 1989, wedding. May God bless their marriage and strengthen their love as they begin a new life together.

We are always thankful for visitors to San Diego. May God bless each and every one who have visited and fellowshiped with us.

It is my sincere desire to remind the members and friends how precious our faith really is. God in His great mercy has chosen us to be born or brought into this Apostolic Christian Church. May striving for courageous witnessing animate us also to be steadfast and true in following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Remember to be thankful always.

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**COLORADO, DENVER**  
**Mike Martin - Marlene Leman**  
We rejoice with Bro. Charlie Sinn

and family that they have been able to take their son, Chuck, home again. Chuck has been a patient at the asthma center here in Denver for several months. We feel a strong bond with the family as they were so faithful in visiting us when they visited him. May God be with them all.

We read in Romans 6:5, "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection:" We sorrow in the loss of our dear Sis. Elizabeth Jivan, but the memory of her faithfulness to the Lord warms our hearts even now. It is a glorious thought that she shall be raised in the likeness of His resurrection. Her family wishes to thank all for the much needed support and help during this time of need.

We are thankful that we could hear the memorandum from the brotherhood conference and again be reminded of our spiritual mind and what it takes to maintain it. The distractions of the world and pride of life are very detrimental while things such as singings, Bible studies, praying and fellowshiping can generate the atmosphere that our spiritual mind needs to grow. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and Bro. Tom for the encouragement given.

New parents at this writing are Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn Hohulin. Autumn Alice was born November 15. We pray that God will be at their side as they guide this little life He has entrusted into their care. Grandparents of the babe are Bro. Mel and Sis. Shirley Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger (West Bend, IA).

Bro. Tom Leman was a surgical patient this month. May God give him a speedy and complete recovery.

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**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**  
**Martha Hany**

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . . and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

We have again come to the season of the year when we celebrate Christ's birth. How many know the Saviour only as a child lying in a manger



rather than a Saviour who was crucified on the cross?

Our sympathy is extended to the families of dear ones who recently died. On October 20, Otto Hany, 84, passed away, leaving his widow, Freida (Schori); a daughter, Leona Lindley; two grandchildren; and two brothers in Switzerland. The funeral of "Dolf" Kalas, 88, husband of Alice (Klee), was held October 29. He leaves a stepson and two daughters. Also, our thoughts of understanding and love are with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl (Gerber) Ryan in the loss of his father, John Ryan, 65, who died November 7 after a lengthy illness. His wife, Margaret (McBrierty), a son, John, and five granddaughters survive. May God sustain and comfort each one in their sorrow with loving memories of their departed one.

We will miss Bro. Dale and Sis. Ruth (Ludwig) Dapper as they have moved to the Philadelphia, PA, area. While we wish them well in their new endeavors and life experiences, we do hope they will visit us often.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynn Beutel became happy, first-time parents when "David Gene" arrived October 19 to make his home with them! Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Everett and Sis. Phyllis Gerber.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord."

Amos 8:11

How fortunate we are to be able to feast upon the Word and find nourishment therein for our inner man whenever we take time out of our busy lives. We rejoice and pray for precious souls who have taken the opportunity to read, hear and give serious thought to the meaning of the Holy Scriptures. Ernest and Lucy Buser, Brenda Rady, Kevin Kloter and Philip Bahler (Bro. Lee and Sis. Maxine) are seeking to change their lives through repentance to comply with God's Word. May the Lord continue to increase their faith and understanding of His Word which is so freely available to all who will but seek and ask.

Loved ones hospitalized for the

month were Sisters Ginny Bahler, Lavina Kloter, Evelyn Lanz and Bro. Werner Kupferschmid. Also, while travelling in Florida, Bro. Dave Galat had to spend time in a hospital. Fortunately, they are all now able to be out and home again.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
WASHINGTON**

**Catherine Klopfenstein  
Doug Germann**

We were privileged to enjoy God's blessings once again as we had many visitors the weekend of November 5 and 6. We sincerely thank the brothers and sisters of the Rittman, OH, congregation who supported our little congregation here in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. Saturday evening, we enjoyed a singing which was a beautiful way to prepare our hearts for Sunday services. On Sunday we heard messages from Bro. Ron Steiner and Bro. Art Ingold. Our heartfelt thanks goes to these brothers, wives, families and many others who travelled to be with us. Our meeting room was full with nearly forty in attendance.

We welcome all to come and visit our small congregation as we meet the first and third Sundays of each month. For information, please contact Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein (703) 979-3476 or Bro. Doug Germann (703) 481-5163.

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**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE**  
**Terri Huber**

We are enjoying the "cooler" weather (70's and 80's) as well as the reappearance of our winter visitors. Church has been full the past few Sundays and we look forward to more of the same as the holidays approach.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT). We are always glad to welcome Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys back.

Our dear Bro. Richard Bounassi was hospitalized last month. He is home recuperating and needs our prayers, visits and support.

The Sunday school has started practicing their songs and pieces for the Christmas program. This can be a lesson in itself as they repeat the verses that tell about Jesus' birth and God's love.

**FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS**  
**Kay Eisenmann**

When Jesus came down from heaven to become a man, He left the very best for the love of mankind. That is truly the meaning of giving your all! May we try in the coming year to truly give more of ourselves to His service, for then we can find true contentment. Not only do we find peace and contentment for our lives and those around us, but it also gives strength to our never-dying soul. A kind word is well remembered when one is down-trodden. We don't need to tell someone their faults, for when they are trying to turn around, they are living with regrets.

Soon our new president will take over his office. May we all remember to pray for him and our country to look to God for wisdom in the decision-making process for the good of all men. If we, as a nation, no longer trust in God, but honor money more than Him, He will not continue to bless and give direction to this country.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA**  
**Suellen Ott**

Out of water and of spirit thou, o child art born today; You've escaped the old oppressor, In God's covenant you'll stay, of one vine we all are branches; of Christ's body members we; and for Satan's gall so bitter, Streams of life our drink shall be.

Zion's Harp #34

Arising to a new birth from above is our dear Sis. Katrine Streitmatter (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth). As a family of God we welcome her into our church circle while we rejoice with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth as they now can say they and their house are prepared. We pray for Katrine as she continues to work in the Chicago area.

We are glad to see Damien Eisenmann (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sue) back in church with us after having outpatient surgery.

To our teacher, oh be near . . . We wish to remember the dear ministering brothers and their families who have brought the Word of Life to us in the past month. They were Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Bro. Gene



Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and our dear Elder Bro. Ben Maibach.

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**ILLINOIS,  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**De Anderson - Karen Brummitt**

Day of Devotion was held October 29, with a topic of "Tell Us When Shall These Things Be." Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) were here for this occasion. They also stayed over for Sunday services. We sincerely express our appreciation for the thoughtful giving of their time.

How happy we are that three more souls have committed their lives to the Lord. Angela Knobloch (Mrs. Brett) and Mike and Liz Robinson (Leonard and Pat Hursh, Heyworth; and Bro. Ken and Sis. Phyllis Rokey, Goodfield) have felt the need of repentance and wish to live for Jesus. It is our prayer for the Lord to lead them gently on.

God has once again blessed the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Nancy Kaufmann with the birth of their second child, Mitchell David, who joins Brant Christopher. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufmann (Cissna Park) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall (Morris, MN).

The engagement and approaching marriage of Patti Vogel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Nate) to Steve Young of Champaign (Jack and Phyllis, Wayne, IL) has been announced recently. May God bless them as they plan and begin their future together.

Lyle Stoller has spent time in the hospital this month. May God grant him a speedy recovery.

We continue to remember Sis. Lu Miller in our prayers and hope she can find strength to daily bear her cross.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD  
Karen Ringger**

In this season of the year, when we all become so busy, do we take the time to grasp the real spirit of giving and receiving? Let us not get so busy that we forget the true meaning of Christmas.

We were so blessed with the precious words spoken by our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign),

Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and John Hartman (Fairbury). We thank them for serving us from God's Word and invite them back.

Our prayers have surely been with Sis. Emma Knobloch (Bro. Clarence) as she was hospitalized this past month. We are so thankful that God has restored her health so she can worship with us again.

The Bradford congregation extends their sympathy to Sis. Diane Knobloch (Bro. Marvin) and Sis. Vonnie Kieser (Bro. Verle) in the passing of their father, Bro. Eli Grimm (West Bend, IA). May God comfort their hearts.

Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch were overjoyed with a recent telephone call from their daughter, Rachel, telling them of her desire to repent. Rachel is away at college and attends the Morris church. May God give her the needed grace to establish a firm foundation.

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**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN  
LaRae Dill**

"We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing. He chastens and hastens His will to make known. The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own."

Netherlands Folk Hymn

The Thanksgiving season brings to mind this Early American Thanksgiving hymn. We reflect back with thanks to the Father for the bounty He has shared with us in this past year. More specifically, our congregation here in Champaign can look back on this month of November with many reasons to thank Him. We ask the Lord's blessing . . .

. . . on Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) who visited our congregation for Wednesday evening services.

. . . on our Sunday school students and teachers who shared their time and energy preparing and delivering food boxes to needy families.

. . . on Sis. Wendy Zehr and Bro. Brian Waibel as they celebrated their wedding day November 20. Also rejoicing are their parents Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores Zehr (Fairbury, IL)

and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge Waibel (Forrest, IL).

. . . on Ethan Hanson as he has moved from Urbana to Phoenix, AZ. Ethan's parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan Hanson.

. . . on Sis. Dorothy Fischer who has returned home after a brief stay in the hospital. She has expressed the following note of thanks, "I wish to thank everyone for the concern and love shown when I fell and during my recovery."

"Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own!"

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**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO  
Kathy Schlatter**

Fear not. Come and see; go and tell. Is this not the message we hear from the Lord and by His messengers? Many years ago when our Lord first came to earth, the angel spoke to the shepherds saying, Do not be afraid but behold. This is the sign. And together the host sang: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." Luke 2:14. The shepherds accepted the invitation to "see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." Luke 2:15. Afterwards the shepherds told everyone they saw all that they had seen and heard about Jesus. Not only did those whom they told ponder what the shepherds said; the shepherds themselves spent their time now "glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen . . ." Luke 2:20. There were others who were humble who were given the same exhortation. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went on the first day of the week to see Christ's grave. The angel had even more glorious news for them. First he said they should not fear, for He is risen. They were invited to come and see the empty tomb. Then they were encouraged: ". . . go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and behold he goeth before you . . .; there shall ye see him . . ." Matthew 28:7. And the two indeed went quickly, with great joy and reverence. We, even though we live in a high-tech society, with many who are jaded and cynical, irreverent and blasphemous, are always invited to



fear not, to come and see, to go and tell -- with great joy. Though we have not seen Him in a stable, we can know the wonder of His birth. Though we have not seen the empty tomb, we can believe His resurrection. We have seen His wonder and majesty in His creation, the mountains and lakes, the sunrises and sunsets, the seasons; but more so we have seen Him through His Word, its changelessness, its infinite application, its living growth and teachings within us. His seed is ever planted anew and nurtured in all who would come and in us, His brothers and sisters, and we marvel at its fruit and His grace. May we joyfully all our days remember His mighty injunction to be of good courage because of His care. May we come to His table and always look for His thoughts and guidance, and go and tell -- by our thoughts, our words and our deeds, of "Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Matthew 1:23b.

Let us pray more for our brothers who minister to us from the pulpit. They are given to us, but we must never take the Word proclaimed by them for granted. They would freely be used, but they need our ongoing prayers to hold up their arms, to empty themselves of self, and to fill themselves with Himself. Too, they need our verbal support rather than our sometimes well-meant but too-impetuous criticism. We were overwhelmed by the Lord's instructions through our visiting brothers. Bros. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) poured out His Word Sunday, November 6. Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) was inspired to give us a topical Bible study Wednesday, November 9, on "Financial Stewardship." Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) lent himself to serve communion with our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann Saturday evening, November 12. That time of reexamination and recommitment is so precious to us, for our Lord needs us to be humble vessels which He can fill, that we might be and do what He has planned for our lives. Bro. Ed was also with us on Sunday, after which many prepared a dinner for us to enjoy together as a church family. The Sunday school children also sang songs of thanksgiving. Thus were we filled to overflowing, spiritually most

importantly, but in all ways. We are so grateful to all of our visiting ministers, to our Chicago church family and children, but most of all to God.

The Lord has taken our Sis. Theresa Stammer home to be with Him. Her last days were physically painful, so neither we nor her family can wish her back; yet we miss her. Theresa Fetzer Stammer, born in Hungary in February 1902, died November 4 at the age of 86. She had come to America in 1921 and married Louie Stammer in 1922. She was the oldest of six children, but her husband, two brothers and a sister preceded her in death. Her surviving family all live in the Chicago area. She loved them all so much and prayed for them hourly. They are her daughter and her husband, Natalie and Bill Art; her two granddaughters, Sandra and Susan; her sister, Christine Eckel, all of Chicago; and her brother, Jacob Fetzer of Skokie. Though Sis. Theresa is gone, we remember her love and her faithfulness. Truly I would hope to be thought of in those terms when my own life's work is finished. We would reach out to the family in sympathy. May the Lord be their consoler in their grief and their rewarder for the devotion, kindness and love they gave to Sis. Theresa.

I was recently listening to a sermon tape. For some reason there was an echo, so that after something was said, I would hear it again. Especially at this particular time, I think there is a message to me in that. One can really be strongly affected by the "echoes" in one's life, and I, for one, certainly "play back" thoughts, my own or those of others' in my head. Right now, after an evaluation that I disagree with, I am trying to choose the Lord's "echoes" to replay, rather than those of my evaluator's and rather than those of my own anger and disappointment. The Lord alone can build me up rather than puff me up, and He has instructed me to obey and respect those who are my superiors even when I feel unjustly used. I also feel the need to pay more attention to the words I relisten to. What one of us has not listened again to a sermon or been to the conference and then heard the tapes and received totally new insights from the Lord. My mother spoke recently of listening in the same week to the same sermons three or four

times and hearing new thoughts each time, even though she listened intently each time. Since we are evidently not able, as human beings, to "get it all the first time," we will be instructed again if we choose, either through relistening in our heads (is that another name for meditation on the Word?) or listening again to sermon or conference tapes -- and preferably both. Another way to have "echoes" that build up is to memorize scriptures. I know what I need to do more of in the coming year to improve the "echoes" in my head. How about you? "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 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 those things." Philippians 4:6.

#### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Mary Knapp - Elaine Sauder

We welcome Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Anne Young into the fold. They gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of October 22-23. How thankful we are that even those who put repentance off for so many years can still find sufficient grace to seek and serve the Lord. Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) were here to assist. We thank these brothers for coming, along with Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke) who also ministered to us this past month.

We're so thankful for our converts and pray they will be granted the much needed grace, understanding, humility and peace in their new beautiful walk in life.

Francesville invited our Bible class to spend a Sunday with them in October. Our Sunday school also attended ACYF in Forrest November 13. Last Thursday, November 20, they delivered food baskets to shut-ins and on Sunday, the Sunday school stu-



dents will take food baskets to the needy. May all involved experience many blessings through giving and receiving.

How precious and welcome are the two new baby girls in our congregation. Bro. Eric and Sis. Lou Ann Kaeb, Chad, 3, and Trent, 2, are overjoyed with little Teresa Ann born November 1. Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda Maul welcome another daughter. Heidi Lee Ann was born November 18 and has a brother, John; a sister, Jeannie; and a little sister, Sara.

We're thankful all who have been hospitalized are able to be home again. They are Gregg Martin (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Rosie), Sis. Martha Brenner, Gladys Winger (George) and Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger. Bro. Steve's condition remains serious and he is awaiting a heart transplant.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalms 46:1

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**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Sandy Knapp - Susan Zobrist**

Throughout the holiday season, May we remember the true reason, Which is Christ's plan of salvation, Not the world's way of celebration.

We are thankful for those who, following Christ's example, minister the Word in truth to us. May God richly bless Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), Bro. Glen Dill (Tremont) and Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest).

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."  
Revelation 21:4

Isn't it wonderful that God Himself will wipe away our tears? May this be a comfort to all who are suffering, in the hospital or at home, known or unknown.

"Be not content this babe to know,  
Nor stay at Bethlehem,  
But go with Christ to Calvary's  
brow,  
Beyond Jerusalem."

We were again reminded of Christ's suffering and His shed blood when we partook of holy communion. We pray that we will never take the seriousness of Christ's suffering for granted. May we always remember our duty to Him and our brothers and sisters.

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**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**  
**Elizabeth Schambach**  
**Betty Bachtold**

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Let us rejoice with thankful hearts. Together as a congregation, we besought the Lord's blessing and protection for Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn Moser and daughter, Britany, as they leave our community and move to the Garden Grove, IA, area.

Bro. John and Florence Feucht were privileged to experience the blessing of fifty years of married life. They are most grateful for all the greetings and good wishes extended to them.

We are rejoicing in God's boundless mercy as He has awakened our dear Florence unto repentance. May we uphold her in prayer as she yields her heart in submission to His will.

We want to share sympathy to Bro. John Feucht in the passing of his brother-in-law, Bro. John Schick (Sis. Dolly) of Washington, IL.

Psalms 71:18, "Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not; . . ." Many of our older friends and brethren gathered November 3 for a church dinner and enjoyed precious fellowship.

Recently our Sunday school, as well as our congregation, was uplifted as they hosted the West Bend, IA, young people. We appreciate the inspired Word by Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL). Others who served us this month are Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest, IL) and Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR).

Joy has been multiplied at the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene Jepson as Emily Mae was added to the family circle October 30. Eric is also delighted to have a little sister. Grandparents include Bro. Dave and Sis. Millie Jepson, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Carol Fehr (West Bend, IA).

Also rejoicing in the birth of a little sister is Daniel Steffen, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda. Newborn Maria Lynn arrived November 8 and is happily welcomed by grandparents, Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen, and Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

Bro. Dave Jepson and Gary Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon) recently had surgery and have been able to return home. Bro. Freeman Kellenberger also spent time in the hospital. May God strengthen and uplift many of our loved ones who suffer as He alone can do.

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**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
**Kathy Leman**

Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp welcomed Colin Heath into their hearts and home October 11. Tyler and Chance are Colin's brothers. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Wanda Leman (Eureka) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp (Taylor, MO). May God bless this family circle.

We have been blessed with many brethren who were willing to spread the gospel message. They were Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS), Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), Jim Byrd and Tom Hoffman (both of Roanoke) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield). May God bless the words that were spoken and may He grant the increase.

On November 6 we rejoiced to hear the engagement announcement of Sis. Ruth Zimmerman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie) and Bro. Ed Leman (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma). May God be in their midst as they plan a February wedding and live here upon earth together.

Bro. Vernon Blunier and Sis. Kathryn Olson (Minneapolis, MN) exchanged wedding vows October 30. We welcome Sis. Kathryn to our congregation and hope she will soon feel at home with us.

On November 13, Sis. Tina Martin (Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta) and



Bro. Brian Wiegand (Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta) were united as one in holy matrimony. We wish God's richest blessings on both these unions.

We have had many of our congregation in the hospital or confined to their homes. Our prayers go out to Elder Bro. Leroy Huber, Bros. George Stoller, Andy Wiegand, John Hartter and Fred Meyer.

Sis. Anna Baer wishes to thank everyone for their love, prayers and cards received while she was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you for your many deeds of kindness.

Sis. Emma (Klaus) Somerhalder passed from this life into eternity November 12. Her husband, Bro. Elias Somerhalder, passed away in 1980. Surviving are two brothers, Benjamin Klaus (Eureka) and Bro. Joseph Klaus (Morton); three sisters, Sis. Elizabeth Herbst (Washington), Kathryn Weyneth and Lillian Frerichs (both of Eureka); and seven stepchildren. We pray God will comfort each one who has suffered the loss of a loved one.

The family of Sis. Emma Somerhalder wishes to thank everyone who showed their love by donating food, money and their time. To those who cared for her at the Home, the hospital, visited and helped at the funeral, the family says thank you. May God bless you all.

The blessed, holy season of Christ's birth is upon us and we rejoice that our Lord came upon this earth as a babe, and as He grew, He was obedient to His Father's will. He paid the supreme sacrifice for us when He died on the cross and shed His innocent blood for us. What a precious gift He gave us! May God's love and peace dwell in your hearts not only at this time of year, but all year long.

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**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**  
**Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr**

**THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM**

The blessed story of the Christ,  
The babe of Bethlehem,  
Is worthy of our song and praise,  
And stirs the hearts of men.  
The fullness of God's love divine,  
Surrounds the Christ so mild

Alas how many only know  
The Saviour as a child.

Our saving hope is all in vain,  
If here our love should cease,  
For in the man of Galilee,  
We find the gift of peace.  
'Tis not the babe', but Christ,  
The man Who walked in Galilee;  
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,  
That sets the spirit free.

Henry Beer, vs. 1, 2

As we remember that Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season, these words take on real meaning in our hearts.

On October 26, we partook of holy communion. Once again it was inspiring and strengthening to experience this holy sacrament. May we go forward serving Him more faithfully. We are grateful for our elders, Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) who assisted Bro. Art Bahler in serving us.

We wish God's guidance and blessings on the engagement of Bro. Neil Bahler and Sis. Tami Steffen which was made known October 30. Their parents are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler and Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola Steffen.

On October 17, a son, Brent Lyle, was born to Dale and Sis. Elaine Mowery. His brother, Lance, is excited about the new addition. The grandparents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger and Russell and Rosie Mowery.

A daughter, Leann Marie, was born to Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger November 15. Her three brothers, Alex, Wesley and Kent, welcome her along with her grandparents, Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger and Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest).

Our hearts are thankful that God has called Daren Kaisner (Robert and Cheri) unto repentance. We can rejoice that he is seeking the Lord in the days of his youth. May God grant him grace to build a firm foundation.

Fairbury hosted Bradford and Gridley Bible classes October 30. We thank Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Bro. Jim Plattner (Princetonville) for their inspirational messages.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Ben Steffen, Sis. Lena Zehr, Sis. Bertha Moser and Sis. Elsie Denick.

We ask that God will grant a good measure of added strength to these loved ones.

Bro. George Zimmerman, 91, passed away November 9. Our sympathy and love are extended to his daughters, Sis. Thelma Slagel, Sis. Anna Lou VanAntwerp, Eldora Steinle and Sis. Florence Koch and his son, Donald. Also we remember his sisters, Sis. Margaret Zimmerman and Kathryn Nussbaum over the loss of their loved one.

God's servants who shared His Word with us this month were Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bruce Leman (Roanoke) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). May God bless them for their efforts.

October 22 was a special day for Greg Bazzell and Julie Farley. They were united in holy matrimony. Happy parents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Charles and Arlene Farley. We wish the new couple God's richest blessings.

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**ILLINOIS, FORREST**  
**Sherri Kelson**  
**Sandra Schneider**

**THE CHRIST**

When the Holy Child  
In Bethlehem lay,  
There were doubters  
E'en as they kneeled to pray --  
That Jesus was the Christ!

As He in all wisdom  
And stature grew,  
In His following throng  
Were doubters, too --  
That Jesus was the Christ!

When He died for us  
And for us arose,  
Disciples were there  
And doubt among those --  
That Jesus was the Christ!

Today, on this Christmas  
We claim His birth.  
Still many the doubters  
Throughout the earth --  
That Jesus is the Christ!

Yet faith, not doubt,  
Is God's gift to relieve  
The World's stress and strain



For those who believe --  
That Jesus is the Christ!

Helen Crawford

There is wonderful meaning in Christmas if we only believe. Let's dwell on the true meaning of Christmas and all Christ has done for us as this Christmas season draws near.

We are happy that we haven't had a lot of sick ones this month. However, our thoughts and prayers are with Scott Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) as he had corrective surgery. We hope his recovery will go well.

Also, our prayers have often been with our Bro. Dave Metz as he had to spend time in the hospital again. May he continue to feel God's overcoming power as he goes through these hard times. Also, he is now residing at Restmor Nursing Home instead of the Home for the Handicapped. His address is:

David Metz  
Restmor Nursing Home  
935 E. Jefferson  
Morton, IL 61550

We welcome John and Alma Boliger as our brother and sister-in-faith as they gave their testimonies Wednesday, November 9. We want to thank Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury) for being willing to help in this work.

We also appreciate Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) for coming and lending themselves in God's service. May God reward them for this.

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**  
**Trish Gerber**

**SOME THOUGHTS AT**  
**CHRISTMAS TIME**

I wonder as she held her babe  
And kissed His precious face  
If Mary wondered why God's Son  
Was born in this lowly place.

And when Jesus was old enough  
To run with boys his size  
She found him in the temple  
Teaching men she knew were  
wise.

I wonder if she marveled  
As she watched God's Son at  
play.

And did she question how He'd be  
Our Savior some great day?

When Jesus grew into a man  
A carpenter was His trade  
But teaching people of God's love  
Was the message He portrayed.

So when the angry, boisterous  
crowd  
Cried, "Crucify this man!"  
Did Mary ask in agony,  
"Dear God, is this your plan?"

Then three days later, Christ arose,  
A miracle . . . so sweet!  
And Mary saw -- like all of us  
God's plan was now complete.

I wonder if at Christmas time  
When I think of that humble  
birth  
If I can begin to appreciate  
God's love for man on earth!

Our congregation is rejoicing with each of our new converts, as they have chosen to take advantage of God's glorious plan of salvation. It's a wonderful life with God on our side.

We appreciate Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke) spending a Sunday with us and sharing the Word.

Our Bible class students enjoyed a Sunday with students from Oakville, IA, at Oakville. It's always fun and interesting to meet new friends and hopefully form lifelong relationships.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Ernie Diggleman, Bro. Edmund Kloter and Sis. Frieda Grusy.

Bro. Greg Wagner and his wife, Jill, welcome into their family little Kathryn Ruth. Her big sister, Ellie, is glad for a playmate and her grandparents, Ray and Sis. Vi Wagner and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Myrna Koch (Tremont) welcome Kathryn into their families.

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**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**  
**Perry Klopfenstein**

During National Bible Week (November 20-27), President Reagan said the Bible, "is the most precious treasure yet entrusted to man." Abraham Lincoln once said, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

As we completed the Thanksgiv-

ing season, a sense of high gratitude existed, especially when considering that our beloved land is still "one nation under God," and that our benevolent government protects the right of assembly.

Christmas arouses in all of us a deeper sense of appreciation for our Saviour. The great gift of salvation was ushered in with the lowly birth of Jesus. The giving of gifts and the warmth of Christmas get-togethers truly makes this season a special observance. But, as written in song by Bro. Henry Beer many years ago, "It is not the manger, but the cross that sets the spirit free."

Bro. Richard, Jr., and Sis. Gale Kiefer are the parents of a girl, Brittany Nicole, born October 30. She has a sister, Ashley, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Richard, Sr., and Sis. Louise May Kiefer (Gridley) and Bro. Everett and Sis. Beverly Hari (Normal).

Bro. Scott and Sis. Rebecca Ringger became the parents of their first child, Keith Allan, November 7. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ringger, and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ellis (all of Gridley).

John Yoder, one of our seventeen converts, suffered serious leg injuries in a recent fall at work. Others who have been in the hospital were Sis. Gale Kiefer, Sis. Vyra Stoller, Chester Stortz, Jeffrey Romersberger and Bro. Edward Witzig.

Our congregation has been deeply appreciative of visits by visiting ministers. They include Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago), Marvin Leman (Bradford), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield), Ted Witzig (Morton), Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

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**ILLINOIS,**  
**ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Brenda Huber**

When our blessed Saviour was born so many centuries ago, his birth was not proclaimed across the land. Rather, God sent His messengers to humble shepherds faithfully "keeping watch over their flocks by night" (Luke 2:8). The miracle was revealed to a "just and devout" (Luke 2:25) man who, with the Holy Spirit, waited for the fulfillment of the Lord's promise. Also, an aged prophetess named



Anna "served God with fastings and prayers night and day" (Luke 2:37). The Word records that when God revealed to her the birth of her Saviour, she came "in that instant" (Luke 2:38) and gave thanks. If we had been living in Jerusalem two thousand years ago, would our hearts have been so pure and our lives so holy that almighty God would have counted us worthy to share His "good tidings of great joy" (Luke 2:10)?

We humbly thank God for His faithfulness in sending Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and ministering Bros. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Ed Fritz and Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) to speak at our weekly Bible studies.

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### ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney  
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Sis. Hilda Yentes has informed us of the passing of her brother, Benjamin Yentes. We trust that his wife, Emma; his brother, Oscar; and his other relatives and his friends have felt the comfort of our heavenly Father and prayers on their behalf.

Sis. Nettie Pflederer has been called home after a lengthy illness. Her funeral was October 26. May God comfort and bless her husband, Bro. Samuel; her son, Bro. Robert; her daughter, Sis. Janet Meiss; her brother, Jesse Yoder; her sisters, Sis. Emma Seidel and Sis. Eula Grimm; her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren and her other relatives and friends. May the family continue to feel our prayers on their behalf.

We are thankful that our heavenly Father is still calling souls into His vineyard. We welcome Erma Hirstein into the family of God as our dear sister-in-faith. We heard her testimony and witnessed her baptism November 2. May our heavenly Father continue to lead, guide and direct Sis. Erma as she walks the narrow pathway of life.

We have two dear couples who have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries. Bro. Samuel and Sis. Helen (Krantz) Ackerman were married October 22, 1938. They have two children, Mrs. Cindy Ingold (Morton) and Thomas (Temple, TX). They have two grandchildren. John

and Alice (Pflederer) Hirstein were married November 9, 1938. They have two sons, Roger (Morton) and Dr. James (Grove City, PA). They have four grandchildren. May our heavenly Father continue to richly bless both dear couples as they continue to walk life's pathway together.

We wish to thank Bros. Glenn Hackenjoes (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

Gary Roecker was called suddenly into eternity. His funeral was November 12. May God comfort and bless his five brothers, Glenn, Robert, James, Frederick and Samuel; his three sisters, Ruth Ann Hodel, Dorothy Martin and Sis. Mildred Beer; and his other relatives and friends.

Henry Beyer passed into all eternity. His funeral was November 13. May God comfort and bless his two daughters, Mrs. Don (Sharlene) Frintz and Sis. Delores (Bro. Howard) Rapp; his grandchildren; great-grandchildren and other friends and relatives.

The Lord has drawn Sis. Becky Isbell (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn) and Bro. Larry Gramm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille, Gridley, IL) together. May He bless them as they prepare for their wedding.

Christmas will soon be here. Many of us will be preparing for Christmas many days ahead of time -- addressing Christmas cards, baking, shopping, preparing special dishes, and gathering with friends. Are we preparing ourselves ahead of time for the Judgment Day? May God richly bless each one with a spirit-filled, holy holiday season in the Lord. May God continue to lead each of us through 1989. May we be watchful at our post.

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### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Joe and Jackie Herman**

#### THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Keep Thou our hearts, we humbly pray,  
Free from all greed this Christmas Day:  
Fill us with love, and grant that we  
Be clad with Christ's humility.

Place in the manger of the mind  
The gift of love for all mankind  
Leave in the homes of every kin  
Joy -- and "Peace on earth, goodwill  
to men!"

Stella Craft Tremble

Beckie Fehr (Bro. Bud and Sis. Shari) was united in marriage to Shawn Sutton (William Sutton and Suesan Rule) October 15. We wish them God's blessing as they spend their lives together.

It was our privilege this month to welcome two visiting ministers to our congregation. We wish to thank Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for their labors of love.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Clara Metz, Sis. Lois Hamann and Sis. Marie Musselman.

On Sunday evening, October 30, 150 voices joined in singing the old familiar and treasured songs of the "Heft" for the annual German Hymn Sing at the Home on Skyline Drive. Bros. Max Hoerr, Jr., Charlie Rinkenberger and Dan Steiner led the hour-long "Singstunde," which was concluded by remarks from Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

He had sent a recording of last year's singing to the Hartmann family of East Germany. They were moved to tears by the songs and closing prayer by Bro. Walter Christ (Princeville). At a later time, Walter's brother, Karl Christ, from Neuhaetten, West Germany, visited the members in East Germany and was surprised and touched to hear the recording of his brother's prayer in Peoria.

Bro. Herman Laidig (Tremont) had the German closing prayer this year and afterwards Bro. Walter Christ spoke a few words of encouragement and sent greetings to the few believers in East Germany. Bro. Gene will again send the recording of the evening to them to let them know they are in our hearts and prayers, though separated by many miles and circumstances.

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### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Marjean Lehman**

"He who in glory there doth reign  
did dwell on earth as humble man;



That through His noble sacrifice we find the path to paradise. Hallelujah!"

"Christmas Carol"

We want to thank visiting ministers Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria), Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka) for bringing the Word of truth to us. May God bless each one.

"Love of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow." On October 29, Ross Elsasser and Natalie Wilson were united in holy matrimony in the fellowship hall. Parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Dorene Elsasser and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson. May they look unto God for all blessings as they walk life's pathway together.

"Waiting is to be our earthly schooling  
Which here with our first breath takes its start,  
Never ending till by God's own ruling  
Our faint spirit shall in peace depart.  
God oft gave beyond all expectation  
More than heart had wished for to behold;  
Should not this give us new inspiration  
To await what His word has foretold."

"The Time of Waiting"

Bro. Dave Kieser underwent hand surgery. Sis. Beulah Ehnle was a surgical patient. Sis. Marie Musselman suffered a broken hip and underwent surgery. Sis. Shirley Feucht suffered a broken foot. Bro. Ezra Rumbold was a hospital patient. May each one find a blessing in the time of waiting until they are restored to better health according to God's healing hand.

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

Luke 2:11



## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Patsy Kaeb - Judy Luginbuhl

### SERMONS WE SEE

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day,  
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way.  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear.  
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.  
I can soon learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done,  
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.  
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true;  
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.  
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

Edgar A. Guest

As I ponder this poem, I can't help but relate it to the life of Jesus Christ, our Savior, whose birth we celebrate Christmas day. We have many beautiful teachings in the Bible about Christ walking with and showing His followers how to walk a Godly life. May we be wise enough to learn from Christ's example and humble enough to be that sermon that others can see.

Our congregation is rejoicing to have four new sisters-in-faith. Baptized this past month were Sis. Anna Hangartner, Sis. Susan Bradle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary), Sis. Kim Hoffman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jean) and Sis. Tina Leman (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rachael).

Bro. Harold and Sis. Judy Sauder are the happy parents of Kristen Lynn, born October 16. Katy and Kim are Kristen's big sisters. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Kathryn Hodel and Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith Sauder.

Seth Bradley is the new son of Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel. He was born October 24. Angie, Dustin and Erin are happy with their little brother. Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell

Aeschleman and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel are his grandparents.

Bro. Jack and Sis. Marlis Sauder have a new granddaughter, Kirsten Marie Sauder (Leo, IN). Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny are her parents and Erica is her big sister.

Janice Rodgers and Kevin Braker (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Michaleen) have announced their engagement.

Lloyd and Sis. Cynthia Aeschleman observed their 50th wedding anniversary October 2. Their children hosted an open house in their honor.

Sam and Jane Martin have felt the need of a Savior in their lives and have made a beginning in repentance.

The Bloomington choir and the Roanoke Bible class were with us for our monthly hymn sing. We thank both groups for their beautiful songs of worship.

We pray God's special blessing on Elder Bro. David Bertsch and Bro. Kent Heimer who so willingly ministered His Word to us.

Sis. Irma Moser (Bro. Dick), Mary Beth Rebbec (Bro. Marty and Sis. Patty), Joshua Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie), Bro. Wilmer Blunier (Sis. Sylvia), Amy Hohulin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Jim Hodel (Sis. Doris) have been hospital patients. Some are home and recovering and some are still in need of the Great Physician's healing. We pray all of these dear ones can have a complete recovery if God so wills.

We truly extend our sympathy to Sis. Marge and Bro. Jerry Fischer in the passing of her mother, Sis. Alice Stoller (Latty, OH) October 8.

Our sympathy also goes to Bro. Rich and Sis. Madelyn Fehr whose brother, Bro. John Schick (Washington) died October 18.

We sympathize also with Bro. Clarence, Ray and Lloyd Aeschleman at the passing of their sister, Leta Aeschleman (Eureka).

It is our sincere prayer that God would comfort all of these loved ones who have experienced the loss of a dear family member.

November 12 was our annual benefit bazaar for our nursing home. The response from the congregation, the community and many surrounding churches and communities was overwhelming. We humbly thank all who supported this effort by work-



ing, donating or in whatever capacity. It is truly and sincerely appreciated.

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**  
**Carolyn Bolliger**  
**Marsha Koch**

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."  
 Isaiah 55:8, 9

Bro. Curt Rassi and Bro. Steve Sauder have been led by the Lord to minister in our congregation. May Bro. Curt, Sis. Kathy, Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary and their families feel our support, love and prayers as they begin their new duties in the Lord.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. This month Elder Bros. Donald Sauder (Roanoke) and Robert Walder (Congerville) and Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) visited our congregation. May God bless them and their families as they continue their service in the Lord.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Herman Laidig and Bro. John Huette. We are thankful they have recovered and are assembling with us again.

We have concluded the conference tapes this month. We certainly are thankful first of all to our heavenly Father who inspires and directs our elder brothers and also our elder brothers who so willingly labor for us. May each of us change our lives where change is needed and serve our Father with more diligence toward a closer walk with Him.

We are now approaching the time when so many years ago our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was born. May we be thankful and not forget the real reason for Christmas, as it seems so many have in these latter times.

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
**Carol Schick**

We are very grateful for our visiting ministers this past month. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder

Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) minister God's Word to us. Our prayers are with them as they labor in God's vineyard.

Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka) led our monthly Bible study. The topic was "Our Need For The Church" and provided much food for thought. We appreciate the effort that Bro. Leroy put forth in preparing for this Bible study and the time he gave to us that evening. May our Father in Heaven be his rewarder.

A farewell was given for Chiyoko Seki who returned to Japan in October after being with our congregation for several months. We enjoyed having Chiyoko with us and hope that she will visit us again if she is ever in America.

The John Schick family wishes to thank everyone for their love, prayers and gifts that they received during his illness and death. May God bless each and every one.

Sis. Martha McGough wishes to express her thanks and appreciation for all the acts of love shown to her during her last hospital stay. May God richly reward everyone.

Washington congregation wishes everyone a very blessed Christmas and may we all remember to make room for Jesus in our homes and hearts.

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Jean Moser - Becky Isch**

We are happy to report the birth of two new babies this month. A son, Seth William, was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda Kipfer October 21. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Sue Kipfer and Howard and Judy Hess (Wilshire, OH).

Bro. John and Sis. Julie Kaehr welcome a little daughter, Hannah Wynne, born October 26. She joins a sister, Sarah, and brother, Jesse. Grandparents are Sis. Pat Kaehr and Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyne Isch.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord."

On November 6, Bro. Jim Waldburn and Sis. Lora Kipfer were united in holy matrimony. Parents are Bob and Martha Waldburn and Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipfer. We wish them

God's richest blessings as they walk the path of life together.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Romans 8:18

Bro. Noah Aschliman passed away November 5. He reached the age of 91 years. He had been seriously ill for two weeks. Surviving are four sons, Bro. Kenneth, Bro. Harold (Sis. Luella), Bro. Robert (Sis. Ida) and Glen (Shirley); and five daughters, Sis. Dorothy Moser (Bro. Russell), Sis. Mahilda Dubach, Sis. Sarah Jane Meyer (Bro. Paul), Sis. Evelyn Ely (John) and Delores King. Two sisters, Sis. Mary Fiechter and Sis. Sylvia Isch (Bro. Joe) and 31 grandchildren also survive.

Our prayers and sympathy go to the family of Sis. Ellen (Fiechter) Stoller (Latty, OH); especially her husband, Bro. Willis and their children, Monica, Marlise and Brent. May God comfort her dear mother, Sis. Lucinda Fiechter, and brothers, Bro. Melvin (Sis. Doris), Bro. Homer (Sis. Clara), Bro. Alvin (Sis. Bernice), Bro. Wayne (Sis. Dorothy); and sisters, Sis. Gladys Maller (Bro. Bob), Sis. Devona Gerber (Bro. Ralph) and Sis. Justine Gerber (Bro. Don) all of Bluffton.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Sylvia Hackenjos, Bro. Ed Moser, Bro. Ervine Isch, Don Campbell and Regan Leigh Reimschisel (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori). We pray that God will be near to each one.

On October 23, Bluffton and Bluffton North churches held a ground blessing ceremony for their retirement and health care facility. A short message was given by Bro. Phil Stettner and a prayer was offered by Bro. Ed Schwartz. The facility is scheduled to be completed by late 1989.

As the Christmas season is upon us, let us worship and praise the gift God gave to us and not get caught up in the commercialization of the season.

**THE PRICELESS GIFT  
 OF CHRISTMAS**

Now Christmas is a season for joy and merrymaking,



A time for gifts and presents, for  
giving and for taking . . .  
A festive, friendly, happy time  
when everyone is gay --  
But have we ever really felt the  
greatness of the day . . .  
For through the centuries the  
world has wandered far away  
From the beauty and the meaning  
of the Holy Christmas Day . . .  
For Christmas is a heavenly gift  
that only God can give,  
It's ours just for the asking, for as  
long as we shall live . . .  
It can't be bought or bartered, it  
can't be won or sold,  
It doesn't cost a penny and it's  
worth far more than gold . . .  
It isn't bright and gleaming for  
eager eyes to see,  
It can't be wrapped in tinsel or  
placed beneath a tree . . .  
It isn't soft and shimmering for  
reaching hands to touch,  
Or some expensive luxury you've  
wanted very much . . .  
For the priceless Gift of Christmas  
is meant just for the heart  
And we received it only when we  
become a part  
Of the kingdom and the glory  
which is ours to freely take,  
For God sent the Holy Christ Child  
at Christmas for our sake,  
So man might come to know Him  
and feel His Presence near  
And see the many miracles per-  
formed while He was here . . .  
And this priceless Gift of Christmas  
is within the reach of all,  
The rich, the poor, the young and  
old, the greatest and the small...  
Take His Priceless Gift of Love,  
reach out and you receive,  
And the only payment that God  
asks is just that you believe.

Helen Steiner Rice

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH**  
**Lois Drayer**  
**Debbie Aeschliman**

Christmas season is approaching. As people bustle around to shop for Christmas presents and food for family gatherings, we hope we can all remember what Christmas really means. Our children get so excited for their own birthdays, so let's help them remember that Christmas is Christ's birthday.

The blessed story of the Christ,  
The Babe of Bethlehem,  
Is worthy of our song and praise,  
And stirs the hearts of men.

'Tis not the babe, but Christ, the  
man

Who walked in Galilee;  
'Tis not the manger, but the cross  
That sets the spirit free.

Be not content this babe to know,  
Nor stay at Bethlehem,  
But go with Christ to Calvary's  
brow  
Beyond Jerusalem.

'Tis there men learn to know the  
Christ,  
For there He bore man's sin.  
Then open wide the door of heart,  
And let the Savior in.

Bro. Henry Beer

We are thankful for Bro. Glen Hackenjos and his family who worshipped with us on a midweek service.

On October 23, Bluffton and Bluffton North came together after afternoon services for the groundbreaking ceremony of the new Care Center. We are thankful for God's guidance in this major undertaking, and appreciate everyone who came and showed their support.

On October 30, our church was a little fuller as Bluffton North's 7th & 8th graders were host to Leo and Indianapolis Sunday school students. We hope many new friendships were formed.

Our hearts were filled with gladness as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four precious souls October 12 - 13. Our new sisters-in-Christ are Sis. Trina Bucher (Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis), Sis. Rachelle Funk (Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber), Sis. Maura Stettner (Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen) and Sis. Lisa Schladenhaffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy). The ministers who came to share their time with us for this special occasion were Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo), Elder Bro. Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend). We are so thankful for all the ministers and their families who worship with us and hope they feel welcome to come back anytime.

We rejoice with Brad Zimmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl) as he has turned his back on the world and is repenting. May God give him much grace and strength.

A sincere apology is extended to Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy Tonner for neglecting to report their wedding. They were married August 28. Bro. Brian's parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann (Bluffton) and Sis. Joy is the daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner. May God richly bless their lives together.

Bro. Noah Aschliman, 91, (Bluffton) passed from this life to go to his heavenly home. He will be missed by his family and our sympathy is extended to them. Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Alvin and Sis. Bernice Fiechter in the loss of his sister, Sis. Ellen Stoller (Bro. Willis, Latty, OH).

Sis. Fern Leman spent time in the hospital and we are thankful that she is back home. Sis. Helen Smekens was hospitalized after suffering a stroke and has returned to the Muncie Health Care Center. Let us prayerfully remember her.

Several brothers and sisters have traveled to Juarez, Mexico, to give of their time and talents. We are sure there will be a special blessing for them.

As the year 1988 comes to a close and 1989 is just around the corner, let's count all the blessings God has given us.

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**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**  
**Lynne Wuethrich**

Our congregation is rejoicing over four dear friends who are seeking the Lord. Kathy Lee (Joe), Benjie Masten (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola Van Tobel), Barb Putt (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette) and Brad Neihouser (Bro. Andre and Sis. Lois) have all found peace with God and are looking forward to baptism. May our heavenly Father grant them grace to turn their backs on the world and face the Lord always.

Recently we experienced two very sobering services as we heard the memorandum and a special service in preparation for communion. We look forward to taking part in communion November 30. We want to thank Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler



(Wolcott) for helping our Elder Bro. Wendell read the memorandum.

On November 12, 250 people gathered at our fellowship center to take part in the Eastern United States World Relief Sewing group meeting. With the opportunity for Francesville to host this meeting, we learned the many ways in which the World Relief group helps those in need.

Our Bible class enjoyed having three other Bible classes the last Sunday in October. Cissna Park and Roanoke, IL, and Latty, OH, were all here and the students seemed to really enjoy making new friends.

On November 16, we enjoyed our Thanksgiving program. It's so very good for us to be reminded of the many blessings God has given us.

We've had several in the hospital this month. Bro. Eli Anliker (Sis. Priscilla), Bro. Glen Gutwein (Sis. Mary Ann), Bro. Leon Wuethrich (Sis. Mabel) and Chariti Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy). We pray that each one will continue to recover.

We extend a special thank you to our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis).

#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Kathy Freed - Gail Bradford

Our visiting ministers these past two months include Bros. Rod Huber (Valparaiso), Steve Gutwein (Francesville), Nelson Beer (Milford), Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) and Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL).

Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) shared the reading of the conference report. We appreciate the continuing service of our lay church leadership whom we ourselves select with God's guidance.

As we observe the bright celebrations of the Christmas season, we are encouraged by the displays of charity and good will. We join in the gift-giving and get-togethers, write cards of greetings and remembrance, but we also notice that the adoration of Jesus as a baby often goes no further. The Christ Child is the focus of attention and after the holiday, the babe is put away for another year, scarcely remembered in the daily walk of life.

We must not leave the baby in the manger. Jesus became a man, living

and then dying for us on the cross. We need to love him for His finished work, accomplished at the end of His earthly life. Many people only know the Savior as a child, never gaining the joy and peace of repenting, becoming converted and living a changed life in Him. They leave the baby Jesus laying in the manger, instead of choosing Jesus the Man as Lord of their lives.

Imagine the joy and peace of the Christmas season in our hearts all year! Such happiness can only be achieved by letting the Lord Jesus grow up in our lives.

"Tis not the babe, but Christ, the man who walked in Galilee; 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, That sets the spirit free."

The Babe of Bethlehem  
Hymns of Zion #36

#### INDIANA, LACROSSE Sandy Heinold

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."  
Luke 2:14

We give God all praise, honor and glory for sending His Son to earth that mankind can know true peace. As a minister recently reminded us, this peace is not of this world, for in the world we find war and strife. It is a peace and joy within for which we can thank God as we celebrate this Christmas season.

Two visiting ministers shared the Word of God with our congregation. We feel that God spoke to us through Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and we thank them for being used in His service.

We're happy to report that our Elder Bro. Edward Frank is recovering well after undergoing surgery once again on his hip. Although he has suffered much pain and discomfort, we're hopeful that he can now find a measure of relief as God's healing hand rests upon him. Sis. Lydia Heininger was hospitalized for a short time, but is again able to assemble with us.

Believing God has brought them together in His love, the engagement of Sis. Sandy Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet) and Bro. Dave Stieglitz

(Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan, Leo) was announced. We rejoice with them and pray that God will continue to guide them as they plan their life together.

#### INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

Some Christmas reminders: May the Christmas gifts remind you of God's greatest gifts.

May the Christmas candles remind you of Him who is the "Light of the World."

May the Christmas tree remind you of another tree upon which He died for you.

May the Christmas carols remind you of the song the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest."

May the Christmas season remind you in every way of Jesus Christ, your King.

(copied)

A program to honor His birth and to remind us again of the true meaning of Christmas is planned for the 18th of December.

This will be the first Christmas for baby, Kirsten Marie, born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder. Others of her family to enjoy her are her sister, Erica Rose, and grandparents, Bro. Jack and Sis. Marlise Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm (Leo).

This will be the first Christmas for Sis. Helen Norr, 84, to be "with the Lord." Services were conducted November 7 by Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Bro. Uriel Gehring. Surviving are her devoted daughter, Sis. Elaine; two sisters, Sis. Mildred Schlatter and Sis. Evelyn Wysong (Sabetha, KS); two brothers, Steve Stuart (Elkhart) and Bro. Ben Stavenik (Rittman, OH). Helen will be remembered as a caring, loving Christian.

Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) is thanked for ministering to the congregation during his stay here to attend his aunt's funeral.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri Mueller and children, Nathan, Jenna and Kyle, came from Bluffton North. We welcome them and trust they will feel at home in our church family.

May you be joyful at Christmas, remembering you are celebrating the



greatest event in the history of the world, and it changed your life -- or it can! This writer wishes you Christmas blessings.

To all of my sisters, brothers and friends,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, memorials, flowers and kind words of expression during the loss of my dear mother, Helen Norr. God bless each and every one.

Sincerely,  
Elaine Norr

Bits of This and That:

He came to pay a debt He didn't owe because we had a debt we couldn't pay.

Love cures people -- both the ones who receive it and the ones who give it. (Dr. Karl Menninger)

What I do today is important. I'm exchanging it for a day of my life.

Sinners going the wrong direction should be reminded that God permits U-turns.

For a smile: Sometimes my mind's on rewind, and my mouth's on fast forward.

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**  
**Sue Schieler**  
**Marguerite Hoerr**

Three members of our congregation spent time in hospitals this past month.

Sis. Flossie Hartter (Bro. Elmer) has been released to Greencroft Manor where she continues her recuperation. Our prayers are with her daily as she progresses her way back to health and home, with the help of Bro. Elmer and her family.

Sis. Rachel Beer (Bro. Sam) was hospitalized for medical treatment and is back home again, fully recovered.

Sis. Esther Getz submitted to medical tests, but was not hospitalized. We're happy to report she's feeling much better.

It was good to have Tim Troup (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne) home on leave from the U.S. Air Force for a month. His next station of duty is Hickham Field, Oahu.

Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) and his wife, Sis. Cindy, spent a Saturday evening with our congregation, with

Bro. Ted instructing us in "Preparing Our Children For The Path." May God richly bless him for the visit.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Sis. Millie Beer on the loss of her brother, Gary Lee Roecker. Gary had spent a number of summers in the Milford community and many of us were saddened to hear of his death.

Kristi Steffen and Niles Miller announced their engagement and wedding plans. Kristi is the daughter of Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy and Nile's parents are Norman and Glenda Miller (Millersburg).

As we approach the holiday season, the following poem comes to mind:

**HOLIDAY HURRY**

The hurry begins with Thanksgiving  
The flurry that follows it, too.  
The awareness of days fast  
approaching,  
The preparedness we all must do.

The scurry is part of the pattern  
The turvy how topsy it gets  
The hastening of tasks must go  
faster!  
The wasting of time we regret.

The everyday pattern keeps  
changing  
The holiday season is here  
The urging now makes us move  
faster  
The surging of tempers is near.

This hurry-up feeling at  
Christmas?  
This flurry from country to town?  
This holiday let's make it different.  
This very day, let's slow it down.

How quiet it is at the manger,  
How calm and how peaceful the  
sight.  
How free from the noise and  
disturbance  
How hushed is the stable this  
night.

How gentle is Mary, His mother  
How calm Joseph stands at her side  
How peaceful the scene here before  
us  
How placid it makes us inside.

The quiet returns to our living  
The calm and the peace are there,  
too.

The placidness lost to our nature  
Shows softly and quietly through.

What difference such peace and  
such blessing  
What hope for our hurry-up souls  
What quiet and calm such a  
reaching  
Of ultimate joy. What a goal!

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**  
**Beth Virkler**

**THE WISE MEN**

They called us "fools" to start away on such a mad adventure, led by this alone -- one brilliant Star which heralded the Christ. They said we had been studying too much astrology, we needed rest to bring us to ourselves again, instead of this mysterious quest.

The journey was both hard and long, even the beasts were glad to rest while we were in Jerusalem. We had decided it was best to make inquiry there about the Star -- the newborn King. The news would be known in this bustling town if one were born "King of the Jews."

Strange, no one seems to know about the new Star, or the newborn King! But Herod called us, secretly, after the priestly gathering, and sent us on to Bethlehem to search for Him. And . . . on our way the Star appeared again to guide us to the place where the young Child lay.

He is, in truth, the newborn King! When we beheld Him, we forgot how mean is the abode, how poor the swaddling clothes. The gifts we brought of gold and frankincense and myrrh, now seem of very little worth. Yet . . . we present them to the Babe, and fall in homage of His Birth!

Warned in a dream that Herod plans death for the Child instead of praise, we plan to make the journey back to our far home by devious ways. There, surely, we face ridicule and jeers at the tale we will tell. But . . . we have found the Infant King, and knelt before Him! All is well!

Olive Weaver Ridenour

“. . . And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greetings unto the brethren . . .” Acts



15:23. Elder Bros. Darrel Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) visited us sharing the exhortations of the memorandum letter. We were reminded that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work." (II Timothy 3:16-17). Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) also ministered to us November 13.

Sis. Norma Wasner spent some time in the hospital this month.

On November 19, Stan Schneider (Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta) took Patty Harner (Richard Harner, Monticello, IN) to be his wife. Their first home address is:

1010 Steeplechase Court  
Apt. 3D  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

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**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**  
**Sue Beebe**

"This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ."

F. McKibben

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus."

II Corinthians 4:6

May our hearts see beyond the false brightness of the tinsel to the only true light, Christ Jesus.

On October 23, our Bible class enjoyed a day of fellowship with some from the Wolcott, IN, Sunday school.

Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) ministered the Word to us October 23 as did Bro. Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL) November 6. We thank these brothers for reflecting His light to us.

On November 5 - 6, we enjoyed a "Fellowship Weekend" with each of us inviting loved ones to come and spend the weekend together with us.

On November 12, some of us attended the Eastern United States World Relief meeting held in Franciscusville, IN. As we consider the many

needs of those around us, may we unhesitatingly "let our lights shine."

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**INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE**  
**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

**Lynn Martin**

Christmas. Christmas is a time in our lives when we can sit back and think about the wonder of the Christ Child lying in a lowly manger in the little town of Bethlehem. The little Babe was God's great and perfect gift to us, His frail and imperfect children. As the world rushes on with its merrymaking, we Christians are celebrating Christ's birthday. Let us never forget what that one, solitary life did for each one of us.

Paul and Barnabas went unto the "cities of Lycaonia and unto the regions that lieth round about: And there they preached the gospel." Acts 14:6-7. We, at Purdue, would like to thank Bro. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott) for sharing God's precious Word with us at our Thursday evening services.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

Every other Thursday evening we gather together to worship and praise our wonderful Lord. Services for the new year are January 12 and 26, February 13 and 23, March 2, 16 and 30, and April 13 and 27. Services are held at the Nazarene Church on Soldier's Home Road at 7:30 E.S.T.

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**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**

**Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume**

We were blessed to be able to listen to the memorandum November 5. Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) were here to assist our Elder Bro. Alfred. We thank these brothers for their loving service. May we heed each and every warning that it can be well with our souls.

Bro. Vernon Furrer suffered second degree burns in a farm accident and spent one night in the hospital. We are thankful that it was not worse, and pray God's healing hand upon him and an abundant measure of

grace and patience in the days ahead.

On November 15, Bro. Bob Pflerger (Morton, IL) spoke to us on Christian Parenting. May we all recognize the seriousness of this responsibility and that it is a full-time job, not something to do in our spare time. We thank Bro. Bob for so willingly giving of himself. May God give us grace to fulfill this great responsibility as pleasing in His sight.

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**IOWA, AMES/DES MOINES**

**Barb Fehr**

November 13 was the third Sunday for services in the Ames/Des Moines area. We were thankful Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and his family were able to gather with us along with many other visitors from West Bend, Lester, Pulaski and Oakville. Bro. Wayne ministered to us from Ecclesiastes, chapter 12 ("Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth . . .") and St. John, chapter 8.

We want to thank all who attended our services and for the help and support we receive to make our gathering possible. For all those planning to attend in January, please remember we will meet the third Sunday, January 22.

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON**

**Deyona Massner - Karen Schulz**

Our hearts are full of joy and thankfulness at this season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. May we not only rejoice at his birth but follow Him to the cross where He shed His precious blood for the sins of all mankind.

Inspire O Lord, each servant  
With love and ardor fervent  
Thy gospel to proclaim;  
That prompted by Thy Spirit  
They work and toil with merit  
Unto the glory of Thy name.

Zion's Harp #207, vs. 6

We want to thank Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) for bringing us the Word of Life this past month.

We are sorry to have to say farewell to Sis. Clara Frank. She will be moving to Fairbury where she will be closer to some of her family. We wish



her God's nearness and blessings in her new home.

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**

What a special time of the year is the Christmas season. With the spirit of giving in the air, may we ever be mindful of God's precious gift to us, His Son; Our Savior! If this gift had not been given we would live without a hope of eternal life, but because of God's love for us, we can find forgiveness and embrace this hope. As we give our gifts to each other this year, may it also be in the spirit of love.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." I Corinthians 13:13. When we reach heaven's portals there will be no more need for hope, our faith will become reality, but charity alone will enter in.

Parents' Weekend (November 19-20) was a real blessing for us. Our parents coming from a distance were Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart, Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart, Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler (all of West Bend), Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester), Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner (Oakville), Bro. Eli and Helen Fisher (Eureka, IL) and Gene and Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt (Winthrop, MN). Home parents attending were Bro. Paul and Sis. Milly Butikofer, Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah Butikofer, Sis. Marie Butikofer, Sis. Elizabeth Moore, George and Mildred Schupbach, LaVerne and Kathryn Schneider and Edwin and Sis. Joy Frieden. We are all very thankful for the parents God has given us and are thankful we could share this special time together.

We also extend a special thanks to Elder Bro. LeRoy Huber (Eureka, IL) for his two recent visits here and to Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester) for sharing Parents' Weekend with us. We are always thankful for visiting ministers who come and lend themselves in God's service in our behalf.

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Glen and Sally Funk**

We had a wonderful fellowship on a recent Sunday when Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) came and

ministered to our congregation. We offer many thanks to him and all who came with him.

Our family (Bro. Glen Funk) is in the middle of a move. We sold our floral shop and home, but we are not leaving Leon, IA, where we have resided for the past seven years. We bought another home in Leon. Our new address will be 1101 N.E. Poplar, Leon, IA 50144.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn are moved in and Sis. Dawn has consented to write the Silver Lining for our congregation. We appreciate their willingness to take on responsibilities and help out. May God bless them for their efforts.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Bonita Frank**

As Christmas approaches, may we appreciate the real reason for it, as our little children so ably tell us every year in song. His birth and reason for coming to earth should be foremost in our minds during this busy season. May we feel more of that and less time pressure as events crowd our days.

Our congregation has enjoyed hearing the brotherhood conference tapes. May His Spirit guide each of us as we try to be more obedient and listen to less of "self."

Ministering Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) were able to be with us this past month. We feel truly blessed to have these brethren come and visit us.

We will miss Sis. Tillie Frank who has moved to Burlington. We pray for God's nearness to her and look forward to her returning to visit us on occasion.

We will also miss, to a lesser degree, each of our students and members as they go home for their Christmas break or holidays. We hope each one has safe travel and returns refreshed.

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
**Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch**

Christmas time is fast approaching and our thoughts go back to that lonely manger so many years ago. Have our individual hearts been fit habitats in which the Christ Child

could live, be fed, and grow? As we ponder Christ's birth, let us prayerfully consider how we are allowing Him to rule daily in our lives!

We are thankful when we are privileged to see God's children fulfilling His will. On October 30, Bro. Rodney Metzger (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Ella) and Sis. Polly Moser (Lou and Tina) were united in marriage. May God continue to bless their lives as they now walk together in this life.

On November 12, Ladell Kellenberger (Sis. Elaine) and Michelle Heerde were united in marriage. May God bless this union of hearts as they, too, walk together down life's pathway.

God has enriched our lives by sending messengers to share His good and Holy Word. On October 30, Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski) were with us to share in the joy of uniting Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly. On November 13, Bro. Russell Wuthrich so willingly broke the pages of scripture and preached the Word to us. May God continue to provide brethren to speak as they feel moved by the Holy Spirit.

Our prayers have been with our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital. They included Bro. David Teubel, Bro. Ernst Metzger, Lance Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie) and Julie Leuthold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy). May God's healing powers be with each one as they lean upon Him for strength in their times of physical weakness.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Elaine Kellenberger and family in the death of her father, Bro. Eli Grimm, Sr. May God comfort each heart as they suffer a great loss.

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

Let us all remember  
 When our faith is running low,  
 Christ is more than just a figure  
 Wrapped in an ethereal glow --  
 For He came and dwelt among us  
 And He knows our every need  
 And He loves and understands us  
 And forgives each sinful deed --  
 He was crucified and buried  
 And rose again in glory  
 And His promise of salvation  
 Makes the wondrous Christmas  
 story



An abiding reassurance  
That the little Christ Child's birth  
Was the beautiful beginning  
Of God's plan for peace on earth.  
Helen Steiner Rice

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Debbie Wagenbach**

Little Deanna Mae Lanz is the newest addition to Bro. Kenny and Sis. Janet Lanz's growing family. David, Denise and Danny complete their family circle. Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Marian Schmidgall once again have received the title of Grandpa and Grandma.

We rejoice with Bro. Kurt and Sis. Karen Grimm and Bro. Steve Stoller (Paula). They each gave their testimony of faith and were baptized at the end of October. We pray that the Lord will bless them and direct them throughout their new walk of life in faith. Blessed occasions such as this encourage each one of us who have begun this pilgrim way, to hearken unto the Spirit's voice that one day we can be in heaven with Him. Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer assisted Elder Bro. Ed with the duties of the weekend. Other visiting ministers included Bro. Lee Bahler (Rockville, CT), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Harvey Heiniger (Burlington, IA), Bro. Danny Stoller (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL).

Our dear Sis. Rhonda Gerst has moved from our community and will now be residing at Oakwood Estates in Morton, IL. Sis. Rhonda certainly had a special place in our hearts here and we will miss her, but we know that she will soon make new friends in Morton who will love and appreciate her as much as we have.

As the Christmas season will soon be upon us, let us once again remember to keep Christ in Christmas and not get caught up in the worldly customs that are so prevalent during the holiday season.

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**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**Teresa Schock**  
**Ginny Wuthrich**

Ministering God's Word unto us this past month was Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL). We thank him for coming to be with us.

As the Christmas season approaches, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas. Let us reflect on the Babe of Bethlehem. And as the song writer states, "Be not content this babe to know, Nor stay at Bethlehem, But go with Christ to Calvary's brow . . . Then open wide the door of heart. And let the Saviour in." The Babe of Bethlehem, Hymns of Zion #36

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

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

I John 4:9

Christmas . . .

is when the carol sings in my heart, when the candlelight glows within me, when the star shines from my own eyes is most of all when Love of the Child is part of every card I send, every gift I give, and . . . every prayer.

Elizabeth Searle Lamb

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern). May God bless them for their efforts.

We want to welcome Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Leman, Steven, Jeremy, Cory, Missy and Jesse, originally from the Eureka congregation. May they feel God's blessings as they assemble with our congregation.

We have several hospital patients to report and we pray for strength and grace for them. Those who needed hospitalization were Joel Mogler (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth), Darrell Zaugg (Julie), Sis. Tillie Mogler (Sam), Sis. Clara Bruellman, Natasha Jordon (Kevin and Julie) and Sis. Anna Schmidt.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Kyle Schafer, 18, whose funeral was November 4.

May God richly bless Doug and Angie Wirtz as they begin their lives together November 12. Parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sue Schneider and Bro. Verner (the late Sis. Beverly) and Sis. Betty Wirtz.

A reminder: December is collection month for the Silver Lining.

**JAPAN, SHIODA**

**Kathy Kieser**

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalms 46:10). These were the words that inspired and comforted Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle as he lay in the hospital recovering from surgery this past October. He had heard that an acute headache sometimes accompanies a spinal anesthetic so he determined to lay very still and meditate on God's Word to ward off pain. He felt no pain during his recovery and he, his wife, Sis. Lois, and family and many friends are very thankful to God for His mercy and healing power.

Our annual church business meeting is scheduled to be held in November. Also, we are looking forward to gathering together for a Thanksgiving meal and worship service to thank our God for His goodness to us.

Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and gifts given during and after Bro. Willis' time of surgery. They can feel and do appreciate your love and prayers.

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**JAPAN, TOKYO**

**Frank and Kathy Sauder**

"I have Jesus in my heart, so I couldn't hit them." This was the end of Shiori Yukita's explanation to her mother one day about some girls who had been teasing her at school. Having had successful brain surgery this past summer, Shiori now wears a wig to replace her hair that was shaved off. This was the reason for the teasing. Shiori and her mother have been attending church for over a year now. We thank the Lord and our Sunday school teachers for their teachings that are alive in Shiori's heart. She will have the second half of her surgery in December. Please pray with us for its success, and for the work of the Lord in the Yukitas' lives.

In Japan there are not as many opportunities to do volunteer work as there are in the U.S. We have appreciated having a couple World Relief projects to participate in at our monthly ladies' meetings recently. Although our group is small and our facilities are limited, if anyone is ever aware of a project we could participate in, we'd be thankful if you let us know.

We welcome Sis. Kathie Inoue,



Rebekah, Heidi and Tami back to Japan after spending some time in America with her family. We're glad for the time they were able to spend there, but are also enjoying their fellowship once again.

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**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Lori Baumgartner**  
**Kathy Strahm**

What can I give Him,  
 Poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd  
 I would bring a lamb  
 If I were a wise man,  
 I would do my part --  
 Yet what can I give Him,  
 Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti

This being the season of Christmas, we can be so thankful that our Lord does not expect material gifts from us. Rather, he expects us to give Him our hearts. He wants us to do nothing more than to live our lives totally for Him.

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

Mark 12:30

May we all have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

We, of our congregation, were able to enjoy a very blessed weekend October 22 and 23, as we witnessed the ordination of our new elder, Bro. John Lehman, and the retiring of our former elder, Bro. Lester Hartter. Assisting Bro. Lester Hartter in the ordination service were Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Lamar, MO) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA). We hope that Bro. Lester can feel the love and appreciation from our congregation for his many years of service as a faithful shepherd and may Elder Bro. John, Sis. Connie, and their family feel our prayers of support as he takes on his new duties as an elder.

Recently the engagement of Michael Rokey (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila, Bern) to Susan Fehr (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sharollette, West Bend, IA) was made known.

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**

**Karen Sinn**

We are happy that Chuck Sinn was able to return home after spending 16 weeks at National Jewish Hospital in Denver, CO. His asthma is under much better control and he is excited to be home again.

God has sent a bundle of joy to the home of Bro. David and Sis. Joleen Sinn. Breona Renae was born November 9. Joel and Amy welcome her home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn and Bro. Carl and Sis. Nova Kipfer (Bluffton, IN).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Kathryn Banwart in the loss of her stepmother, Sis. Emma Somerhalder (Eureka, IL). What a glorious reunion it will be when we meet our loved ones again.

On November 19, Diana Kraft and Roger Davis were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings in their new life together. Their parents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda Kraft and Ralph and Peg Davis.

Many from our congregation traveled to Kansas city with the Wichita/Kiowa/Fort Scott choir. We thank them for their labors and a blessed weekend of fellowship.

Note of Thanks:

We want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone for all the love and concern shown to us during Chuck's hospitalization. Your prayers, cards, gifts and visits were greatly appreciated. May God bless each of you for your deeds of kindness.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn

Reminder: January is the month for the collection of Silver Lining dues.

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**KANSAS, GRIDLEY**

**Vola Young - Judy Kraft**

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

We can clearly find scriptural support for marriage and the lifetime commitment that should be established through this union. Love for each other has brought the lives of

Rhonda and Danny Redding together as one. Parents of the groom are Johnnie and Pat Redding. Parents of the bride are Steve and Sis. Marilyn Owens.

So... as Christians, if we consider marriage as the second most important step in our lives, then we must continually be perfecting, and working towards, that first step priority of salvation. As Christmas approaches, we're mindful of the most precious gift given to man, a Savior! Let us love and follow the ways of the one who first loved us. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6.

We're thankful for the shepherds of our flock, who we feel are divinely guided to direct and govern over the needs of our body of believers. We thank visiting Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Arthur Bahler for being in our midst the weekend of November 12 - 13.

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**KANSAS,**  
**KANSAS STATE UNIV.**

**Camille Strahm**

We are rejoicing that God continues to call and that souls continue to heed the call to repentance. Karen Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene, Sabetha) has turned her back to self, sin and Satan. Our hearts are thrilled to see the change that God is working in her life.

Bringing us God's Word have been Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha), Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont), Bros. Lloyd Kraft and Tim Zimmerman (Gridley) and Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita). May our heavenly Father richly reward them for their labors.

The small chapel in which we worship on alternate Wednesday evenings has been nearly filled at each service this semester. We always thank our families, friends and brethren for taking time to assemble with us, but it is doubtful that they can ever fully know how much their support and presence means to us. We only trust that the One who knows and sees all will bless them, now and much more in that eternal life to come.

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Have a Blessed Christmas!



**KANSAS, KIOWA**  
**Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling**

Another day to know the love  
 Of family and friends,  
 Another day to make amends  
 Before life's journey ends,  
 Another day to realize  
 The joy that life can be,  
 Another day to thank the Lord  
 For blessings given me.  
 Catherine Janssen Irwin

And oh, how many blessings we have been showered with again this month! I don't think one "Thanksgiving Day" holds enough hours for us to give God "thanks" for all He does for us each day. Let's make every day a "Thanksgiving Day" by keeping our hearts and minds full of thanks, love and praise to God our Father and our blessed Lord Jesus.

Words can't express the feeling of love and Christian fellowship we experienced this past month when the Kansas city church hosted the Kansas choir (of which our Kiowa church is a part) for a weekend. One dear sister made the statement that it was like a great big family reunion. We know Kansas City went to a lot of work to have us and we rejoice that we are one big family in Christ, thanking them deeply for bringing us all together. May God richly bless them for their efforts of love.

Thanks to everyone for the support given when we hold Services at Lifecare, Sunday services, Wednesday night services, Bible study, singing, and even church cleaning when it comes around. This is our church, and to help it grow and flourish it has to have our love and support. May God bless and keep this precious fellowship a loving and growing light until He calls us home.

The family of the late Bro. Jeff and Sis. Frieda Frieden would like to thank everyone for the expressions of love they received when their son, Harold (Kearney, NE), passed away this past month after a long struggle with cancer. Such expressions of love and friendship were deeply appreciated.

Thought -- With Christmas just around the corner, let's not forget Jesus Is The Reason For The Season!

**KANSAS, LAMONT**  
**Mary Isch**

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

Matthew 1:23

"O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
 O Come ye, O Come ye to Bethlehem;  
 Come and behold Him, born the King of angels,  
 O Come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Trad. by Frederick Oakeley

Let us be glad and rejoice today, because, "He has come." And let us remember the ammunition of the angel, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11.

May our hearts go out to the people in heathen lands who have no blessed Christmas day.

"Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to them for whom nothing is prepared."

Nehemiah 8:10

**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
**Nita Grimm - Charleen Hartter**

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

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward."

Hebrews 10:23, 35

Let us look to the strength of Christ and his promises to see us through.

Ministering Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), along with our home ministers, brought us the message of faith and hope this month. We thank them and were happy to have their families gather with us.

Maggi Eisenbise is happy for a baby sister. Maria arrived October 16 to bless the home of David and Shari

Eisenbise. LaVon and Erma Wenger welcome their fourth granddaughter.

Bro. Will Wenger (Sis. Lena) broke a leg in an unfortunate fall. He is hospitalized at this writing. We trust God's nearness is felt during his recuperation. Our Elder Bro. Sam Huber was hospitalized with surgery. He is now home and we pray for God's gift of healing and renewed strength.

We are most happy to report that Jana Gruber (Todd) and Karen Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) are seeking a new life in the Lord. Our sincere prayers are with them in their repentance.

"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

Psalms 103:11, 12

**KANSAS, WICHITA**  
**Emma Miller**

Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart and his wife, Sis. Kathryn (Fort Scott), assembled with us November 6. We thank him for his labor of love in sharing the Word with us. Also, choir members from Fort Scott and Kiowa joined us for an afternoon of practice that day. What a pleasant way to spend time in His praise!

We are sorry to learn that Sharon Strahm has transferred from Wichita to Kansas City. We treasured having her in our congregation and our loss will be Kansas City's gain.

"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:" Ecclesiastes 3:1, therefore when the season deviates from the norm as it has this year, we marvel at the exception. I am still picking tomatoes from my garden on November 14. True, the plot is protected by nearby buildings, but to date, we have not had a killing freeze.

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**  
**Lester and Glendoris Huber**

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

"He maketh the barren woman to



keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalms 113:3, 9

This being the Thanksgiving season and sacred time of the year for Christmas, how the above scripture should inspire our souls to praise. "Joyful mothers keeping house seems to have lost its inspiration." And yet this is what the Christmas story and message is all about, isn't it? "Mary the virgin" who knew not a man became with child of the Holy Spirit," and became a joyful mother and kept house. Through this divine love and providence, the love of God was made manifest as God's last test toward lost humanity. Herein is manifest the landmarks of our most precious Apostolic faith of our forefathers who kept house and reared families in the fear of God. How we ought not to set aside these precious memories. In the stress and strain of this commercialized Christmas society, let us by faith preserve the true spirit of worship and peace of our loving Saviour at birth and at His rapture, sought to present as the "unspeakable gift of God." II Corinthians 9:15.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to our ministering brothers who so faithfully come and share God's living Word with us. May God bless each one and their families and all who come from time to time. The Christian fellowship is always an inspiration.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Juanita Gerst**

"Blest be the tie that binds" John Fawcett. Our prayers are with Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon Harris as they have moved their family to Alabama. We'll miss them here in our church.

Babies are a special gift from God. Welcomed into the home of Jack, Sis. Lauri and Chad is little Megan. May God extend His guiding hand as they raise Megan.

Our prayers are with Bro. Lloyd Blough (Sis. Eloise) as he recovers from surgery. We pray for God's healing powers.

Visiting ministers are always a blessing and we appreciate and encourage them to come. This month we want to thank Bro. Will Scheiler (Milford, IN) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa

City, IA) for their labors of love through the Holy Spirit.

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Pam Schlatter**

Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue Steffen have good news in their household. Their daughter, Christy, has begun a conversion experience. We wish Christy the guiding hand of God as she turns her back to the world.

Little Amy Jo Jackson has kindled much happiness in the lives of her parents, Bro. Don and Sis. Tina Jackson. Amy's grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson and Sis. Delores Marti (Gridley, IL).

Visiting ministers who have scattered the seed in our congregation this past month have been Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Elmer Schrenk and Tom Schrenk (Alto, MI). We pray for the increase both among the brethren and those who have not yet surrendered to the Saviour.

What a marvelous network of assistance God has provided in prayer! Sis. Vinie Wackerle (Bro. Wallace) wishes to thank everyone for the prayers and thoughts that strengthened her during her recent surgery. May God bless her with health and happiness.

As the shepherds took time off from tending their flocks to see the Baby Jesus, so may we in this holiday season allot time to spend with our Saviour.

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Donna Hartzler**

In Ecclesiastes 3 we read: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born . . ."

Born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz November 8 was a daughter, Kristen Mae. She is welcomed into the family by sisters, Heather and Trisha, and a brother, Thomas II. Grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Audrey Hitz and Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach. May God richly bless their lives.

". . . and a time to die." We have had two funerals within a month in our congregation. On October 22, Bro. Louis Varga passed away. He was 84 years old and had been in poor health

for some time. Bro. Louis' wife and son preceded him in death.

On November 11 we laid to rest Sis. Katharina Bartolf who passed away November 8. Many will remember "Kotie" as the dear sister who walked with crutches. Her fortitude was an inspiration to all.

(John 3:7) ". . . Ye must be born again." On November 5 and 6 we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new sisters-in-Christ, Dorine Kurkowski and Ingrid and Joanne Fortenbacher, daughters of Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher. May the Lord ever walk closely by their side and lead them in paths of righteousness. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach in this work. We offer our sincere thanks to Bro. Wendell and to Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) for their service, and for all who put forth the effort to be with us for a blessed weekend.

Our thanks and sincere appreciation is extended to the Washington, IL, choir and ministering Bro. Marshall Heinold for their visit the weekend of November 13. We trust the message they brought in song and word was an inspiration to all to more faithfully serve our Lord.

We bid farewell to Bro. Dean Feucht who has decided to return to Lester, IA. We appreciated his efforts in his work at Woodhaven. May God's blessings go with him.

Bro. Randy Gasser, Administrator of Apostolic Christian Woodhaven reports: The Home is currently 95% occupied. We are grateful to God for moving the hearts of so many of our brethren and friends from the Alto, Bay City and Detroit, MI, and Toledo, OH, congregations to share their time, talents and other resources with the residents. Volunteers come from Toledo every Tuesday and from Bay City every other Monday. The warmth, enthusiasm and the joy shared with our residents is greatly appreciated. We can't begin to repay the kindness but we know God can. May we never grow weary in well doing. Resident family members and visitors, as well as staff, often comment about the unselfish efforts of the many volunteers (especially those who regularly travel many miles from neighboring congregations) to conduct activities



for the residents. We welcome anyone visiting in the area to stop at the Home for a tour.

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**MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**  
**Carol Strassheim**

On October 30, our church was filled to overflowing as we shared in the wedding of Sis. Kathryn Olson to Bro. Vernon Blunier (Eureka, IL). It is wonderful to see the joy and happiness they show forth and how the Lord has worked it all out for them. Visiting ministers who came to be with us were Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop), Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

Our hearts were touched again November 12 by the singing and fellowship as we came together as a church on behalf of our newlyweds, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Kathryn.

We are thankful to have Bro. Gus and Sis. Alma Baum come to church again. Sis. Alma has just spent time in the hospital but is doing much better now.

Bro. Don Esterling would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards and gifts of love while he was in the hospital and since he is home. May God bless you all for your kindness.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Christa Sauder - Ruth Nohl**

Our hearts rejoice, as do the angels in heaven, whenever a soul turns to the Lord in repentance. We are happy to report that Rachel Knobloch (Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy, Bradford, IL), has found that peace. May we cherish the peace of God and walk closely with Him to maintain that peace.

What a comfort to know when death comes that a dear one was at peace with God and ready to meet his Maker. So suddenly the death angel came, and Bro. Lawrence (Bud) Nohl was called to his rest. We express our sympathy to his family: Sis. Sophie, Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl, Kenny and Jackie Nohl, Sis. Ruth Nohl, and Sis. Lynda Nohl; and to the

brothers and sisters, Bro. Noah Nohl, Bro. Orville Nohl, Sis. Edith Joos (Bro. Gottlieb), Laverna Heil and Corneila "Neil" Joos. May they feel God's comforting nearness in this time of sorrow.

We want to thank those visiting brethren who ministered the Word to us. They were Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS).

We welcome Doug and Sis. Lisa Van't Hof to our congregation. We are glad to have them worship with us while they are enrolled in school in Fargo.

We have two births to report this month. Little Denise Emma was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen Feuchtenberger. Michelle, Lanette, Barbara and Bradley are happy to help care for their new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger.

Dan and Lynette Eystad are the happy parents of their first child, Hayley. Emil and Arlene Greiner are Hayley's grandparents.

Bro. Gerald Feuchtenberger was a hospital patient recently. We hope he will soon be feeling better.

As the Christmas season approaches, may we humbly thank God for the greatest gift ever given.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."  
John 3:16

**Note of Thanks:**

It is with grateful hearts, the family of Bro. Lawrence (Bud) Nohl wishes to express their sincere thanks for the love and kindness shown to them during the sudden loss of their loved one. Thank you all for your prayers, cards, flowers, food and memorials. May God bless you all.

Sis. Sophie Nohl  
Bro. Larry & Sis. Bonnie Nohl  
& family  
Kenny & Jackie Nohl  
& family  
Sis. Ruth Nohl  
Sis. Lynda Nohl

I wish to thank everyone for their visits, and prayers while I was in the hospital and at home. Also for gifts,

flowers and food brought into our home. May God bless you all.

In Christian Love,  
Sis. Anna Nohl (Henry)

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

Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) performed the wedding ceremony of Wesley Schmidt (Gene and Sis. Ella Mae) and Rhonda Hartman October 29. May they enjoy many blessings as they share their lives together.

We were privileged to have Bro. Wayne and his wife stay and share a blessed Sunday together. May God bless their efforts.

Bro. Alphi Moser (Morris) and his wife visited and we appreciate the inspiring words of wisdom he had for all.

On Sunday evening, November 13, the Junior and Senior Bible classes invited everyone over 55 and their spouses to supper and fellowship. A very enjoyable and blessed time was had by all as they discussed old times and sang a few songs.

We are thankful prayers were heard for Millie, daughter of Sis. Celina Schmidt, who is recovering from a heart attack.

Christmas is a time to remember the greatest gift and greatest giver.

For God (the greatest giver) so loved (the greatest motive) the world (the greatest recipient) that he gave (the greatest act) His only Begotten Son (the greatest gift) that whosoever (the greatest invitation) believeth (the greatest opportunity) in Him (the greatest attraction) should not perish (the greatest tragedy) but have (the greatest certainty) everlasting life (the greatest possession).

January is Silver Lining collection month for Winthrop.

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Linda Ziegenhorn**

"If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared."

Psalms 130:3, 4

The Lord will forgive me when I



sin because He knows how imperfect I am, and still, He loves me. Where, but from a loving God, can we find such a perfect love, loving us even when we fail?

We thank Ron and Sis. Diane Smith for hosting the annual Sunday school picnic. Ron took us "over hill and over dale" on a hayrack ride, and then we enjoyed a wiener roast.

We always appreciate visitors and want to remind you our services start at 11:00 a.m. so our visitors have plenty of time to get here.

God has blessed our little, but growing, church. We now have two new ministers. Bro. Don Braker and Bro. Randy Kellenberger will be serving us as ministers. We thank God for giving us, not one, but two, shepherds. We pray that God will bless their endeavors.

Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) were with us this past weekend and helped our Elder Bro. Gene Marti with the reading of the memorandum.

Our numbers were swelled greatly when the choir composed of people from Fort Scott, Kiowa and Wichita, KS, came to visit and presented a wonderful blessing in song. They were all so gracious in thanking us for all the meals and all we did, but I feel we should be thanking them for the fellowship and blessing they provided. Even the little ones sang with the choir, adding their youthful voices to praise God.

We welcome Sharon Strahm who has moved here from Wichita, KS.

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR

##### Becky Marti - Carol Braker

With joy we look forward to the Christmas season. May we all remember the true purpose of Christmas and may your hearts be filled with love and peace.

Bro. Noah Schlupp has been a hospital patient and would certainly appreciate your prayers.

It is such a pleasure to have visiting brethren in our congregation. We are grateful for Bro. Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS) who brought us the Word, and also for Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) who spent an evening with us for the reading of the memorandum. May we all strive toward heaven together.

#### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

##### Jerry and Doreen Leuthold

We want to extend a special thanks to the ministers who have so faithfully brought us God's Word. They were Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

On November 20, Sis. Elisabet Schleiter and Bro. Kevin Lemman vowed their lives to each other in marriage. We wish them God's blessings as they walk through life together. We are grateful that they plan to stay in St. Louis.

We are very thankful that our congregation is still growing. Bro. Norm and Sis. Kathy (Rocke) Knapp are moving to St. Louis. Bro. Norm has accepted employment here. We welcome them with open arms and pray they will feel God's love here and enjoy our small fellowship. They are from the Washington church.

#### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

##### Loida Hodel - Lori Marquart

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Timothy 3:16. We give thanks to Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) for their visits and may God continue to inspire our ministering brothers to relate His teachings according to His will.

May God continue to extend His healing power to those who have spent time in the hospital this month. Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris) was in an accident and Sis. Cheryl Stratton (Bro. Mike) had surgery. "The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him." Psalms 145:18.

"There is a sunrise for each soul, For life -- not death -- is God's promised goal, So trust God's promise and doubt him never, For only through death can we live forever." Helen Steiner Rice. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton at the death of Mike's sister, Marjorie Funkenbusch.

"A gentle word of compliment falls lightly, but it carries great weight."

Give Your Address Changes  
To Your Reporter

#### NEW YORK, CROGHAN

##### Alice Virkler

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine,  
For Thee all the pleasures of sin I resign;  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior 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 deathdew 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

This beautiful hymn was chosen by our dear Sis. Katie Farney to be sung at her funeral services. The words are very appropriate as a token of her life here on earth. According to our church records, Sis. Katie served the Lord faithfully for about 75 years, as a dear Sunday school teacher to many children and a faithful example to all of us during her many years. She was granted a life of ninety-nine years, ten months and a few days, and would have attained one hundred years of age January 28, 1989. We enjoyed many times of visiting and singing for her in her home as she has not been able to assemble with us for several years. My last visit with her will long be remembered -- on Sunday, November 6, I stopped after church. She wasn't feeling her usual 99%, but her mind was 100%, and, as always, she asked "what is the news from church today?" Sis. Katie was a caring, loving sister who always could give us good advice and sometimes chastisement, when needed. All of us who were privileged to know her, from the youngest child to the oldest member, have many fond memories and examples



to follow. Her funeral services were held November 9 by Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner and Bro. Duane Farney. A meal was served for family and friends after the services. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her sister-in-law, Sis. Lovina Farney; her niece; and many other grand-nieces and nephews. May each of them hold the loving thoughts and deeds of their loved aunt in their hearts for the remaining years of their lives.

Our dear Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Joseph Ramsier (Rittman, OH) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) were with us the weekend of November 12 - 13. We thank them and pray for God's richest blessings for them in their services to us. We gathered together in the Croghan church on Sunday for services.

Sis. Amelia Belle Virkler was a hospital patient again this month and we are thankful that a sufficient measure of health was granted her to assemble with us again last Sunday. Sis. Katie Farney was also a hospital patient last month for a few days.

We were happy to see Sis. Mabel Ebersol in our midst one Sunday this month. It has been many months since she could assemble with us and we are glad that she was able to enjoy the fellowship again. We pray each day for her and the many others who cannot assemble from week to week.

As we approach the Christmas season of the year, may we always hold dear in our thoughts the love shown by our heavenly Father in sending His only Son to earth as a Babe in the manger. May we look to His example each day of our lives as a constant guide for our footsteps and deeds.

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### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH). We wish to thank them and may God's blessings rest upon them.

We are mindful of Sis. Minnie Taube and Sis. Naoma Clare who have not been able to assemble with us for quite some time. We ask the Lord to be ever by their side and be a

great comfort to them. May they feel His divine nearness.

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### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

The New Year will soon be here, and we make a resolution, or purpose something in our heart. "Daniel purposed in his heart . . .", Daniel 1:8, and Daniel prayed. God rewarded him with perception to tell King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and meaning, and the king gave him power as he had Daniel sit in the gate. The king had another dream recorded in chapter 4, which is also found in Persian documents, written by the king, about the tree cut down, and he should repent. The watchers of heaven gave him one year, and since he did not repent, he became like an animal. When he lifted his eyes to heaven he was restored. After his death, and his grandson, as king, was praising the gods of gold, handwriting appeared on the wall, and his kingdom was to be divided. Babylon was fortified for 13 chariots to ride abreast on the wall, but the Medes and Persians diverted the river that went under the wall, and the river went down, so the medes and Persians came in under the gate where the water came in, and killed Belshazzar. The new rulers heard about Daniel's perception and power from his purpose and prayers, and asked Daniel to be their counsellor. So, Persia held Babylon with Cyrus as king, and history states that Daniel brought the book of Isaiah showing Cyrus that in Isaiah 45 his name was prophesied 150 years before, that God would open the two leaved gates and bars of iron, which was the description of Babylon, and since Cyrus had the city now, would he let the people go back. Cyrus agreed to Daniel. Daniel's "purpose in his heart" and his prayers brought him perception and power, making an example for us to make our resolution to purpose and pray.

Mrs. Eugene (Dianna) Bako gave her testimony of her conversion and peace with God, and we welcomed her into the fold of God.

Sis. Elizabeth Heib had one-day surgery, and we are thankful she can assemble again with us.

### OHIO, COLUMBUS John Grimm

"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."

Proverbs 3:5-6

We are grateful to God for ministering brothers who have shared God's Word with us. They were Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). May God bless them and their families.

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### OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

We felt the concern and love of our elder body as Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Loren Stoller (Latty) and Bro. Bill Schlatter read us the conference conclusions, a "refresher course" in Christian living. "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" This scripture passage from Hebrews 12:7 reminds us that the Lord and our shepherds still love us as they sound the warnings to live our lives as the Lord wants us to. As they read the warnings to us, we were encouraged to open our Bibles to the various passages, reminding us these were not just the warnings from man's wisdom but that they were coming from our spiritual road map (the Bible).

Other visiting ministers who were Spirit-inspired to bring us God's teachings this month were Bro. Roy Ehle (Bradford, IL), Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL).

As we come into the season where billions of dollars are spent on millions of Christmas presents, will there be mere thousands who focus some attention on Christ, the "reason for the season?"

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### OHIO, LATTY Rhonda Stoller Marlene Reinhard

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!"



of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His  
blood."

"Blessed Assurance"  
Tabernacle Hymns

Our hearts and minds were directed heavenward to the cross of Calvary as we partook of holy communion October 22. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Loren Stoller with this most important event.

We rejoice with several families this month as they are enjoying the blessings of a little child in their households. First-time parents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest as they welcome Andrea Lynn. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma Nuest (LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Rick and Denise Plummer are happy to have a little girl, Ashley Elaine. She has a brother, Curt, as a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann Plummer. Janae Marie is welcomed home by Joshua, Jessica, Johanna, Jacob and Janna. Parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn Sinn. Grandparents are Sis. Tootie Sinn and Sis. Lillian Schlatter.

We wish to welcome home Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy Williamson and Brock to our congregation. They have moved from the Indianapolis assembly.

Our desire to serve the Lord was strengthened and we were encouraged onward as we listened to the conference conclusions November 5. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) assist our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller in this duty. May our Lord find us working in the vineyard and worthy of dwelling in those mansions in heaven when He comes to claim His own.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN) and Doug Harmon (Toledo). May God's blessings be upon these brethren as they labor for the Lord.

We express our sympathy to Bro. Willis Stoller and family, Monica (Fort Wayne, IN), Brent (Judy, Paulding) and Marlise (home) in the passing away of their mother and wife, Sis. Ellen. Also surviving are three sisters, Sis. Gladys (Robert) Maller, Sis. Justine (Don) Gerber and Sis. Devona (Ralph) Gerber; and four brothers, Bros. Homer (Clara) Fiechter,

Alvin (Bernice) Fiechter, Melvin (Doris) Fiechter and Wayne (Dorothy) Fiechter, all of Bluffton, IN. We will miss our dear sister and may God comfort the hearts of her dear family with the assurance that someday they will meet again.

As we are approaching this holiday season, let us remember the song, "O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord," O Come All Ye Faithful, and let us keep our mind in perspective to the real reason of Christmas. May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed and happy New Year.

Just a reminder: December is the month to collect dues. Please pay one of your reporters. Thank you.

#### OHIO, MANSFIELD Linda Morrison

"The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation." (Psalms 118:14). The peace of salvation is known to our dear friends, Carl Weiss, Julie Sauder, Wilma McCutchen and Joe and LaVersa Sabo. They now await the blessing of baptism. May we encourage each one. "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." (Malachi 3:16).

The Sunday school children enjoyed the annual fall outing. God provided a beautiful fall day and the fellowship was a blessing to each one who attended.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Byran (Sis. Sarah) Rice, Bro. Dave (Sis. Shirley) Roberts, and Joe (LaVersa) Sabo. We offer our prayer support to them and their families. "Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak: O Lord, heal me; for my bones are vexed." (Psalms 6:2).

"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn . . ." (Isaiah 51:1). Bringing the Word of encouragement was Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty). We appreciate his visit and his willingness to serve us. May God continue to bless him.

"And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He

shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David (Luke 1:31, 32). May we be reminded of the true reason for the busy season in which we find ourselves. May we not allow the events of the season to overshadow the reason for the season. "Our song of praise to God ascend, And there with angels' voices blend. The day of gladness now is here; Sing hallelujah with good cheer. Hallelujah!" Zion's Harp #7.

#### OHIO, RITTMAN Stephanie Baltic - Diane Gasser

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

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

Luke 2:10-11

With the Christmas season approaching, let us rejoice that God sent His Son who would die on our behalf so that we might have eternal life.

We were blessed to have Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) minister unto us. We are thankful for the brothers who teach us from the Word of Life.

October 8 was the wedding day of Tom Flynn and Sandi Jenkins (Sis. Clara).

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5). We are thankful for those who can assemble with us again after a period of sickness. Those hospitalized this month were Bro. Stanley Beery (Sis. Karen) and Sis. Ellen Weber (Bro. Ralph).

Joe and Ann Gerber are the happy first-time parents of a precious girl, Roxanne Leigh. Grandparents are Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber and Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Zollinger (Smithville, OH).

Luke David is the name of Bro. Dave and Sis. LeAnn Rufener's bundle of joy. Luke's grandparents are Bro. Elton and Sis. Velma Rufener and Bro. Roland and Sis. Melva Messner (Winthrop, MN). May the Lord help



these new parents teach and guide these precious children.

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Linda Indermuhle**

We appreciate the ministers who bring us the inspired Word of God. Visiting us was Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). How well do we remember the teachings we hear? On that Sunday we learned a lot about "accountability."

Many loved ones visited us during the summer and fall months. We were glad for each one who put forth effort to be with us. Visitors are always welcome.

Sisters Karen Indermuhle, Rosella Figel and Almeda Brake attended the World Relief meeting at Franceseville, IN. Our sewing group and children's world relief meetings are now beginning for another season. We feel more inspired to work and give after hearing about the needs of loved ones. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (St. Matthew 25:40).

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
**Gwen Stoller - Kim Stoller**

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

Four souls have found peace with God and are awaiting baptism. They are Bob Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane), Terri Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose) and Don and Gail Riggerbach.

Two new babies arrived this month bringing joy to their families. On October 30, Jed Austin was born to Bro. Larry and Sis. LuAnn Hartzler. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler (Rittman) and Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). Alissa Joy was born to Bro. Jay and Sis. Marsha Maibach November 6. Grandparents welcoming her are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach (Rittman) and Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf (Akron).

Hospitalized this month were Kurt Ramsier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dot) and

Sis. Mildred Hartzler. We are thankful that they are home and feeling better now.

On October 31, God called His faithful servant, Sis. Mary Stoller, 84, home to rest. We extend our sympathy to her children, Sisters Carolyn, Elma and Lucy Gasser; and Bros. Don, Harold, Everett, Bob, Dale, Andy and Fred; and her sisters, Sis. Rhoda Riggerbach and Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Josephine Rehlau**  
**Frances Laidig**

I wonder if we'll ever hear again  
Such lovely song on earth,  
As that which once the angels sang,  
Of Jesus' wondrous birth.

O rapturous, holy, blissful scene  
Above Judea's plain,  
As there the humble shepherds  
stood  
And heard that sweet refrain!

The echoes of the heavenly song  
Did fill the earth that night.  
For in the town of Bethlehem  
Was born the Prince of Light.

The angels sang their praise to  
God,  
Of peace, good will to men.  
Such words as sung by angels  
host --  
Shall they be heard again?

Perhaps when Christ shall claim  
His own,  
As angels 'round Him throng,  
We'll hear the blessed notes again  
Of that celestial song.  
Bro. Henry Beer

Our Sunday school Christmas program will be given December 18. May the Word of the Lord bring peace, happiness and joy.

Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Sis. Ann, his wife, were very thoughtful to spend a Sunday with us. May God bless Bro. Ray for bringing to us the gospel of salvation.

Michael Jackson and Laurie Fetter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betty) have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they walk the pathway of life together.

May a blessed New Year be the lot of all our fellow workers who contribute to the publication of the Silver Lining.

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**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Jane Rocke - Brenda Knobloch**

As we begin to make preparations for the coming holidays, are we also making preparation for the commemoration of Jesus' birth in our hearts? It is so easy to be involved in the external festivities and forget the real meanings of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We are thankful for visitors any time of the year, especially ministering brethren. We thank our Silverton brothers who faithfully come to share the Word with us. We also enjoyed very much our annual Sunday school children's weekend in Silverton. The Sunday school kids in Silverton earn money through various projects, and purchase plane tickets for a minister and his wife to come to Oregon. The kids plan the weekend, but several events are planned for all of us in both churches. Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler came this year, and we appreciated his efforts very much.

Reminder to the Portland congregation: Silver Lining dues are due in January. Please pay \$7.00 to your reporters.

Reminder to all of us: Let us learn a lesson from the whale . . . the only time he gets harpooned is when he comes up to spout.

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**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

On Sunday evening, October 29, an all-church soup supper and shower was held at the Silverton Grange for Sis. Kris Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee) who is engaged to Bro. Bill Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn, Lamar, MO). A large group of families from both the Silverton and Portland churches gathered to enjoy the good homemade potato soup, chicken noodle soup, chili and sandwich supper and to generously share their blessings and well-wishes. Following the supper a singing was enjoyed. The event was planned and the soups were made by Sis. Judie Knecht (Bro. Ed) and Diane Kuenzi (Urban), but



as usual everyone brought food, helped serve and helped with the clean-up, once again proving how the task can be light when the hands are many and willing. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity." Hymns of Zion #188.

Last weekend the Sunday school held their "Fall 1988 Sunday School Weekend" with special guests, Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler (Wolcott, IN). The Sunday school teachers and the students themselves did a wonderful job, first, in raising the money for the project, and in planning and carrying out their plans. Certainly everyone involved received abundant blessings throughout the weekend. Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances spent Thursday afternoon and Friday morning enjoying the varied sights of the Oregon Coast. Then Friday afternoon the students and their parents began arriving at Restless Surf. A chili and cornbread supper was served to the approximately forty guests on the main floor with the teen girls doing most of the work. After supper, despite a cool coastal "mist" the majority of the group went down to the beach for a bonfire. Evening snack was served and cleaned up by the teen boys. The three floors of Restless Surf were at near capacity as the group settled down for the peaceful night's rest, not to be broken until dawn when the early shift breakfast crew of teenage girls hit the showers. By 8:00 a.m. the main floor, which housed fourteen girls and five mother/counselors was in pretty good shape. All bedrolls were stowed, most luggage was cleared and the breakfast was nearly ready to serve. In fact, it looked quite organized by the time the guests came down and the fathers and boys came in for the morning meal. The high light of breakfast was the fresh cinnamon rolls made by the girls themselves. Everyone helped with clean-up and then headed north for sightseeing on the coast, followed by lunch at Mo's.

A supper held at the church Saturday evening, plus the refreshment time after Bro. Alfred's talk, allowed for further fellowship for the students, young adults and young group that attended. Bro. Alfred spoke to the group informally, relating some of his own experiences and sharing some inspiring thoughts to ponder.

This was Bro. Alfred's fifth trip to Oregon with us. He has been here for joyous occasions and in times of sorrow and certainly has a warm place in our hearts. That gives his words of encouragement and instruction an extra measure of love and understanding.

The Portland congregation joined us for our Sunday afternoon worship service and shared the evening meal with us at the Silverton Grange. Again the Sunday school students helped serve, this time with the two youngest classes passing out the dessert to each person. After supper there was a farewell singing for Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances.

In addition to Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler, our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro. Robert Miller and Bro. Garth Steffen (both of Portland, OR). May God richly bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

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**PENNSYLVANIA,  
 PHILADELPHIA**  
**Jerry Isch**

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Psalms 122:1

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for taking the time to share God's precious Word with us. It is always a blessing when we can be instructed by faithful brethren in the ways of the one and only true God. We count it a precious privilege to be able to gather together in God's house, and sit under the sound of His almighty Word.

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**TEXAS, DALLAS**  
**Sara Getz**

Once again we thank the ministers and many visitors who took the time to be with our gathering in Dallas, TX.

"Souls may be lost in good works, as surely as in evil ways. The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs

at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."

S. Chadwick

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**Trip To Eastern Europe . . .**

(Continued from Page 2)

many of the believers' homes, we could observe their children and family lifestyle. In almost every home, the children were learned in music and would gather around the piano or organ and sing beautiful Christian hymns. Love and respect in the home, for parents and guests, is a reflection of consistent Biblical training. Our love for the youth, the teenagers of Germany, Hungary and Yugoslavia, compels us to remember them in prayer. Memories of them linger in our hearts.

As we left Hungary, we left a people we had come to love, with a desire in our hearts to return. We crossed the border to Yugoslavia, our passports were stamped, and we were courteously granted passage. It is the practice in Yugoslavia, that when you enter the city where you intend to lodge, to report to the police station within twenty-four hours. We were permitted freedom and traveling privileges throughout the country.

At Nodi Sad, a large congregation was gathered for Sunday services which started at 8:00 a.m. and lasted till 12:45 p.m.; then after a lunch break, gathered together again for worship service which lasted until evening. We had the privilege of hearing several converts share their testimonies with the church. Our hearts were moved when one young lady conveyed to us, through an interpreter, that God is now her heavenly Father and the church gives her motherly love and care, providing a spiritual family environment. The true church is a pure virgin espoused to Christ. II Corinthians 11:2. The dear young lady testified of three baptisms:

1. The baptism of water, the symbol of her death with Christ.
2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit, which she received in her heart.
3. The baptism of Fire -- the trials that will come to purify her.

Each of the three souls were baptized and added to the flock of God. We then had song service, which was a great blessing. It is very common for them to gather together several



times a week to sing.

What the majestic view of the Swiss Alps with the Matterhorn mountain did to stir our hearts, the majestic sound of the believers' hymns did to stir our inner spiritual being. Both are to exemplify God's glory and praise.

At the close of one song service, I noticed eyes fill with tears and heard the soft sobs of a family. By interpretation through Bro. Andy, I learned that a dear young man would leave very soon to fulfill his term in "special" military service. Twenty-nine young men are now serving in some type of "special" service and their faith is often tested. But the Word is still true, "God will not suffer us to be tempted more than we are able to bear -- but will with the temptation make a way to bear it." I Corinthians 10:13.

They are comforted by our prayers and the financial aid we send as "proof of our love." Continue to pray for their governmental leaders to be merciful, and for the young men to have courage, faith and grace to be faithful.

Sitting near the young believer who was to leave for service, was a man who was middle aged, strong bodied, but blind. We were told that one day he noticed his four children playing with a grenade, left from the war, which they had found in the soil of their yard. Quickly the father took the old grenade from his children, but it was too late to save himself. As the result of the explosion, he became permanently blinded. He had seen his children for the last time.

Our Saviour took the deadly grenade of sin from us and paid the penalty of our sin with His life and blood that we might see spiritually. Are we thankful?

They lead this blind father to an area of the city where someone reads the Word, and then he preaches from the Word. Let this be an encouragement to us.

In Yugoslavia, as in Hungary, we had the opportunity to meet with seventeen elders and ministers and spent many hours discussing the spiritual lives of the believers in these end times. Our general topics were:

1. The gradual departure from the Christlike fellowship.

2. Drifting toward the ways of the world.

3. Departure from the true foundation.

4. The effect of ecumenicity.

They told us, "What is good for the body is often bad for the soul spiritually."

With hearts of compassion, they yearn for a united elder body as we enjoy in America. We have fifty-one elders seated together twice a year to steady the ship of faith on the stormy sea of life, with God's Word as our compass and the Holy Spirit as our guide.

After a very lengthy discussion, we left with the conviction that, as the prophet Ezekiel wrote in 37:16-28, the "two sticks" are in the hand of the Lord. We have a comfort and confidence, that they of Europe and we of America, who remain faithful, are sticks (people) in the hand of the Lord. There only, we find refuge and safety.

The hour had come to bid our fellow believers in Christ Jesus, farewell. In the two weeks of fellowship together we all grew in the grace and strength of our Lord Jesus. Our eyes did see, our ears did hear and our hearts did burn within us as we blended our voices in the song, "Fellowship Of Kindred Minds Is Like To That Above."

The embrace from our beloved brother from Russia will long be remembered. He left us to travel twenty hours by train back to Russia, to feed the flock of God entrusted to him by the Holy Spirit. Our fellowship with our Russian co-laborer was blessed by the many things we learned from him, who in obedience to the Word of God, respects his God and government's authority. The parting gesture was to press the hand to the heart -- then to each other -- then raise the hand toward heaven. This meant, if we never meet again on earth, we shall by God's grace, meet again in heaven. We parted, and only our heavenly Father knows the day and hour we shall meet again. Are we ready?

Before we left Yugoslavia, we went to Cervenca, the home of the Gutwein family, the birthplace of Marcella's father. Several others accompanied us, including an older elder. Under their excellent direction, we drove to the old mill, where grandfather Philip Gutwein, Sr., the elder in

Cervenca, had his milling business. We saw where he reared six sons and one daughter. By faith and with conviction, they came to America in 1905 for the purpose of freedom of worship. He started the Milling Company in Francesville and was elder of the new church here.

The mill in Cervenca still stands, but is abandoned. The old well, where grandfather Gutwein drank, still pumps water. The older elder traveling with us related that he personally was present in 1929, when four souls were baptized inside the old mill.

Today, where the church once stood, stands a police station, and the way of life in Cervenca is changed. As we drove away, we had taken many pictures of the old mill, the well, the canal, and the town where grandfather lived. Pictures may fade, but our eyes did see, our ears did hear, and our hearts did receive a message that we want to tell for God's glory.

At this time on our trip, our beloved Bro. Andy Hunyady and his brother, George, who served the Lord so faithfully in translation for us all, were able to visit their relatives in Romania. We were not permitted to go, so we bid them farewell as they went as faithful ambassadors of good will.

Please pray for the people of Romania. We were told of an account of three aged sisters who ran very low of food. One, because of love for the other two, refused to eat. Just as death was imminent, a food package arrived, sent through our World Relief, and grateful thanks were given to God. Many accounts and stories of God's special grace in time of great need were confirmed to us by many believers.

Bro. Andrew confirms that the hand of God prospered their trip and mission to Romania, which we feel was another example of the results of a praying home church.

Before our plane departed from Rome, Italy, at the end of June, Bro. Ben, Sis. Lorene, Sis. Marcella and I had drawn very close in spirit and kinship. We had the opportunity to visit the Catacombs and spent a length of time in the prison in Rome where the Apostle Paul was imprisoned. Here, while in prison for his faith and love for his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit inspired him



to write to his loved brethren for whom he prayed daily.

The prison was below ground level with stone walls and a damp floor. Here, in a very subdued light, he wrote to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and a loving letter to Philemon. Why? Because his eyes had seen, his ears had heard, and his heart did believe that the preaching of the cross is foolishness to them that perish, but it is the power of God unto salvation to them that believe.

God gave him grace to tell the story. Grace is still sufficient for every believer to live for the Lord Jesus, love the church and tell the story with a sanctified life.

Thanks, dear church, for the prayers that made this trip a blessing.

Today the call from our Lord Jesus still goes out to our friends, come unto me, I will give you rest for your soul.

## SILVER THREADS

### *What Is The Meaning Of Christmas To You?*

#### THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

What does Christmas mean, I ask myself today.

A few more hours at home for you and me;

A wreath upon the door, a bit of tinsel

And colored lights upon a tall, green tree.

This day is one to hold in sacred reverence,

To lift our eyes above and view the light

Of Bethlehem and follow in the footsteps

Of those who came to seek their Lord that night.

So let us kneel today in adoration,  
Forgetting all the glitter and the gloss;

With penitent and humble hearts  
be willing

To walk with Him from Manger  
to the Cross.

Reginald Vincent Holmes

#### Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

Jesus did not hurry to that place.

You know, if we get in a hurry with God, He will find a way to slow us down. Take my word for it. If you haven't experienced it, you will. That's the way God works. But His work is perfect. God doesn't do anything unless it is right. Here the Lord took His time. "My daughter is at the point of death. Would You please hurry?" Can't you imagine that father saying to himself. . . "She is going to die, Lord, if You don't get there!"

But, the Lord took His time. On the way He even had time to help somebody else. He always has time to be available when someone has a problem.

This woman had a physical affliction, an issue of blood. She went to all kinds of doctors. Does that "ring a bell" with anybody? Today you have a problem and this doctor can't help, so you go to that one. You go and try everything. She tried everything without any results. She finally came to the point, as she watched Jesus, to have that faith to believe that if she could just get close enough to touch the hem of His garment, she would be healed.

Do you get the message? Do you see what it requires? She had it! And when she touched that garment, what happened to the Lord? He stopped in all the multitude!

Do you begin to see how God works? Can we see how He works in the world today? There's more than three billion people -- going to be four billion before too long -- in the world today; And . . . God can see one person!

Here is a typical example for any person. Satan likes to tell us, "God won't listen to you. Look, there is almost 4,000,000,000 people in this world; how in the world is He going to find you?" Here is an example of the proof. Jesus is going through the multitude of people. Nobody said a word to Him, but . . . she touched His garment and Jesus felt virtue going out of Him. Jesus turned to His disciples and said, "Who touched My clothes? And his disciples said unto Him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched Me?" Mark 5:30, 31. Just like human beings, they said, "Why everybody's been touching You!" But Jesus felt virtue go out of Himself, and that explained it.

"And He looked around about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before Him, and told Him all the truth." Mark 5:32, 33.

You know, my friends, let me tell you something: You've got to touch Jesus . . . You have to come to Him . . . That's a prerequisite . . . There's no forcing . . . And when you touch Him, He will know you, He will turn to you and recognize you!

It is a beautiful story. Somebody like you and me had simple faith to believe when she had reached the end of her rope. She couldn't go any further. She tried everything man had to offer. She knew that this was her last chance. She recognized the fact that it was not only her last chance, but it has the only chance that she had.

Now we've talked about physical things, but there is also the spiritual. We all know that this old body is going to die, don't we? That's no secret. I don't care who you are or what kind of faith you have, everybody dies sometime. But there is an undying soul in each one of us; it is going to live forever somewhere. Here we have a perfect story . . . a perfect analogy from the spiritual sense of the way Christ works. We ought to learn that lesson. When we reach the end of the rope, there is no place else to go. Men go to the highest places of learning in the land and come away disappointed. We can go to the most intelligent government in the world and come away disappointed.

It is mankind's natural inclination to look to men or to governments to help them out of their problems or to assist them. It is sad, isn't it, when we see what men are trying to do. It is through Jesus Christ, the One and the Only Perfect Individual who ever walked on this earth, the Son of God, that we find what we need.

When we recognize where we can get our health in a spiritual sense, when we are ready to give up everything and say, "Lord, there is nothing that can help me except You," He will turn and He will help us.

"He looked round about to see her that had done this thing." Mark 5:32. All we have to do in a spiritual sense is touch the hem of Jesus' garment. That is what He wants. "I'm done



with everything else, Lord, help me." That's my simple way of putting it.

My prayer when I repented was three words: "Lord, help me." If it is uttered in the context and manner where our heart yields our all to Him, He will help. Believe me, Jesus will help you.

"But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before Him . . . (That isn't the end!) . . . came and fell down before Him, and told Him . . . (What?) . . . all the truth!" Mark 5:33.

Here is another key to getting into the kingdom of God; telling it just the way it is! She told all the truth and did not hide anything from God. The Almighty God, the Lord Jesus, knows everything that we do and every thought; good, bad, or indifferent. He knows it! But she came and was willing to tell Him all that ever she did! What a purging that was!

Do you begin to see the parallels and the doctrine of true faith? Do you see why it is so necessary for each step in order for a person to really get right with God? I think you do.

"And He said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." Mark 5:34.

Let's talk about the rest of this story and then sum up with the one thought here that keeps coming back over and over again.

"While He yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house . . ." Mark 5:35. Jesus didn't make it to the house! Remember, they were going toward the house and this man said, "Lord, come; my daughter is going to die." We tried to relate how anxious he would be for Jesus to get there.

Finally some messengers came and said, "Thy daughter is dead: (so don't) trouble . . . the master any further." Mark 5:35.

Jesus Christ, in this particular instance, had a calling to prove to them that His power was power over death and the grave. That's the final key!

God used Jesus at this particular time to show those people that His power was beyond death and the grave. Man's thinking was, "No use bothering Him now; She was sick, but now she is dead. He probably could have healed that disease; but there is noth-

ing He can do now because she is dead. There's not a thing that the Lord can do any more."

But Jesus said, "Be not afraid, only believe." Mark 5:36.

Now what does He mean? "Be not afraid, only believe?" In the agony of his soul, the father's daughter was dead. And, now the Lord said, "Be not afraid, only believe." What does He mean? We know the rest of the story. Jesus said, "Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth." Mark 5:39. "And they laughed Him to scorn . . ." Mark 5:40. They knew that she was dead. But, that little girl, 12 years old, was brought back to life. It wasn't that she was in a coma. This is one of man's first reasonings: "Well, she was in a coma; she really wasn't dead." Oh, yes, she was!

Remember the story about Lazarus and the tomb; he was dead for four days! "Lord, don't go near it! Don't roll that stone away!" They didn't have embalming fluid in those days. "The body's decomposition is taking place and you're going to get an odor that is terrible."

What is the Lord trying to tell us? He is trying to tell us that . . . if we trust in Him: we have power over death and the grave; we can win the victory over death. That's what He is trying to tell us! Jesus said, "I have power over death." The final proof of that came at His resurrection . . . !

Why do we have to repeat these things? Why is it necessary for us to talk about these things that are so common and that we have heard over and over again? I'll tell you why: Because, for myself first of all, and for most every human being that ever walked, our faith is not strong enough.

We need to . . . be reminded that we should trust in the Lord, be reminded of what Jesus had done for us, to be reminded of these stories and miracles that took place, review them in our own mind and digest them again in a spiritual sense. Then our faith can again be reestablished and renewed so that we can trust Him completely in everything!

If we get serious enough, we can go to the Lord and ask Him for help, saying, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Mark 9:24.

What was it that solved the problem in both of these cases? What was

it that those individuals had to enable them to accomplish what they wanted? Faith. Faith!

Read Hebrews, chapter 11. Faith. Read the review of all those men who had faith in the past. Review, if you will, on a more current basis, those among you in your own community, who, not of their own selves, not because of their own ability, but by faith they walked this life and they concluded their life with hope of everlasting life and eternity.

Have you ever had the experience, the wonderful experience, to be close enough to somebody that when they died you saw them smile? They were ready to go to meet the Lord! Have you ever had that wonderful experience? That will open your eyes.

One that I will never forget was a paraplegic, now gone for many, many years. All his life, this young man was a wheelchair patient and very seldom got to church. I will never forget the story my mother told me because she was a good friend to his mother. This young man repented. On his death bed, he opened his eyes, a smile came across his lips and he said words to this affect, "Oh, Mother, I see the beautiful green trees and the beautiful green fields." And he died. You know, this is what we are talking about. He was looking forward to something better; and in the vision that he was given, there was something more beautiful than he had seen on earth. He knew what his reward was. He knew what was beyond the grave for him. You can cut the strings to this old life. You can clip off the humanity within us . . . and look for something ahead.

You know, that's why we are here again this morning; so that when the time comes . . . whether it is an automobile accident, cancer, heart attack or just laying down our head on a pillow and going to sleep, we are ready to go. We can see something that God has in store for us that is so much better than what we have here.

This is the answer! . . . This is the key! . . . Faith. Faith in Jesus Christ and in the fact that He is the Son of God!

By following His teachings and by believing Him, we humans can have hope of eternal life for that undying soul within us! Isn't it wonderful? Isn't God good to us?



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## SERMON BY ELDER BRO. ROBERT N. GRIMM OF GOODFIELD, IL

Text: Mark 5:21-43

We have read these words that are very familiar. The story is familiar. I wonder if the impact of the events that took place, really make the impression upon our hearts that they ought to. Do we really believe that these events took place here on earth among men? Can we testify without questions in our minds and accept without reservation the fact that this Man, Jesus Christ, had the ability to perform miracles to the extent of bringing someone back to life?

We hear of miracles happening here and there. We hear that something took place that we don't have any answers for! We see things take place in hospitals with those who have many kinds of afflictions, both physical and mental. Sometimes when the doctors are finished and say, "It is out of my hands!", we see something happen and we do not know the answers. We say, "Here a miracle was performed."

In technical terms from a human standpoint, we might try to explain what happened in a particular instance. Nevertheless, we just don't have the answers and so we say, "It was a miracle."

Every individual, every person here, every person in the world has seen that happen sometime or other. Now the thing that we need to emphasize this morning is that when Jesus Christ walked on the earth (as we read this Scripture) these miracles followed Him.

It was His presence that made the miracles possible. People didn't have to say, "Why did it happen?" or "Something took place!" or "I don't know what happened, but it happened!" They could relate it directly and particularly to Jesus Christ's presence. It was His words and His

efforts that performed the miracles and healed the people.

Now the question each of us needs to ask ourselves this morning is: Do we really believe it? Do we really believe that the miracles and the powers that Jesus Christ has, no one else has ever had? It is vital. Do you know why it is so vital? It is vital because our very faith is based on the fact that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Now that doesn't sound strange or like something different from what you have ever heard here before. But if we believe it to the extent that God wants us to believe, it is going to shape and determine the very way that we live. It has to! That is the key! That is the secret!

That is also the problem that every man struggles with the first time he learns of Jesus Christ. What are you going to do with Christ? Are you going to acknowledge that He was an intelligent person, somebody special, or just some great prophet? Or, are you going to acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God? What are you going to acknowledge?

When you begin to make your mind up, and say to yourself that you think you know who He is, then read about His experiences. Go ahead, read them all, put it all together and find out if there has ever been an individual who lived on earth before that ever lived like Jesus and did the things that He did. Is there anyone who had power over death as He did? When you finally get to the conclusion of who Jesus Christ is, I'll guarantee you one thing, you won't need me to tell you what has to be done in your life. That's the whole purpose of the gospel of Jesus Christ today, in the past, or in the future!

When we begin to see and under-

stand who Jesus Christ is, we won't have to have somebody else telling us what we need to do. We'll automatically know in our own heart what needs to be done, as far as our relationship with our God is concerned.

Now let's review some of the things that took place. There was sorrow among a family like we experience today. I know you have seen it in this community as we have in ours. Nobody has heaven on earth.

This father was a ruler in the synagogue. As far as mankind is concerned, he had position, power and prestige. He was looked up to and respected, but his daughter was dying. Oh, how death neutralizes us! I don't care who you are. The biggest land owner in the community, the biggest businessman in the community, or the poorest person are all in the same boat when death strikes.

This Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, knew about Jesus Christ and that He performed wonderful miracles, so he came to the Lord for help.

When another father came to Jesus for help, the Lord said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Mark 9:23. The man broke down and cried and said: "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Mark 9:24. There lies the key to our problems . . . "I believe, help thou mine unbelief."

Jairus came to Jesus at that particular time because he knew that Jesus performed miracles. He fell at His feet and said, "My little daughter lieth at the point of death." Mark 5:23. In other words, he said, "Come and help her. I know You can do it; I've seen You do it before." "Jesus went with him; and much people followed Him . . ." Mark 5:24 . . . and He just sort of took His time.

(Continued on Page 34)