



"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

Joel 3:14

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Psalms 23:4

VOLUME 39

FEBRUARY 1989

NUMBER 2

## The Valley



I have been through the valley of weeping,  
The valley of sorrow and pain;  
But the "God of all comfort" was with me,  
At hand to uphold and sustain.

As the earth needs the clouds and the  
sunshine,  
Our souls need both sorrow and joy;  
So He places us oft in the furnace,  
The dross from the gold to destroy.

When He leads through some valley of  
trouble,  
His powerful hand we can trace;  
For the trials and sorrows He sends us  
Are part of His lessons of grace.

Oft we shrink from the purging and pruning,  
Forgetting the Husbandman knows  
The deeper the cutting and paring,  
The richer the cluster that grows.

Well He knows that affliction is needed;  
He has a wise purpose in view,  
And in the dark valley He whispers,  
"Hereafter thou'lt know what I do."

As we travel through life's shadowed  
valley,  
Fresh springs of His love ever rise;  
And we learn that our sorrows and losses  
Are blessings just sent in disguise.

So we'll follow wherever He leadeth,  
Though pathways be dreary or bright;  
For we've proof that our God can give  
comfort,  
Our God can give songs in the night.

Author Unknown

**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

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

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 for LONG

BOOK TAPES payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

**HUNGARIAN TAPES**

Two cassette tapes are now available of the singing and playing of the Hungarian churches. The music, performed by choir and orchestra, is from the Zion's Harp and the Heft and other church books used in our church in Hungary. This music is played beautifully and reverently.

The two tapes, "Holy Love," a tape of 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 are being donated to the distressed church members in the poor country of Romania.

Make checks for HUNGARIAN TAPES payable to the person you order from -- Dennis Feucht or Don Schrock or Al Betz.

HEFT (LONG BOOK) TAPES and HUNGARIAN tapes may now be ordered from:

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

or

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

HUNGARIAN tapes only may still be ordered from:

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

## 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 Grimm -- 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  
Lynn Stieglitz

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

Published Monthly By the Apostolic  
Christian Church of America

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

#### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining  
c/o David Bertsch  
11520 Grabill Road  
Grabill, IN 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$7.00 per year. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:  
HENRY SOUDER  
EDWARD SOUDER



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).*

## ETERNITY

The most important question that any human being can ever ask is what he must do to be saved (Matt. 19:16). Although many other things often seem much more pressing, such as concern about financial disaster, loss of health or threat of war, none of these come close in significance to one's eternal destiny.

It is very difficult to comprehend eternity because we mortals are limited in our perceptions and understanding. The eye can receive certain rays of light and the ear can detect a certain range of sound waves. However, this does not mean that there is no more to reality than what can be perceived by these limited human senses. Even man is able to detect many additional signals such as radio waves, x-rays, etc. by means of instruments designed specifically for this purpose. The Word makes it very clear that the spiritual is just as real as the physical; and God has made it possible for spiritual things such as eternity to be discerned. *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God"* (1 Cor. 2:9-10).

Even with the help of the Holy Spirit, man's perspective is greatly limited in comparison with God's. *"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"* (2 Pet. 3:8).

The Bible is the greatest source of help in explaining what is truly everlasting or eternal. God is described as without beginning or ending. *"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God"* (Ps. 90:2). His Word of truth is "settled in Heaven" and "shall not pass away" (Ps. 119:89; Matt. 24:35), and His Son, *"Jesus Christ (is) the same yes-*

*terday, and to day, and for ever"* (Heb. 13:8).

The mercy, love and righteousness of God are without end. *"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children"* (Ps. 103:17). *"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee"* (Jer. 31:3).

From the beginning God has always been willing to pour out His love and mercy upon all those who seek him sincerely and serve Him faithfully. David shared words of great wisdom with his son shortly before his death: *"And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever"* (1 Chron. 28:9).

The purpose of life is to prepare for eternity by obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thes. 5:9). The opportunity for preparation ends abruptly at death, when our eternal destiny is unalterably sealed. It is clear that *"... where the tree falleth, there it shall be"* (Ecc. 11:3). When Abraham was begged by the rich man in Hell to send Lazarus with water to cool his tongue, Abraham replied that there was a great gulf between them which could be traversed by no one (Luke 16:24-26). It is an inescapable fact that there will be endless joy for the redeemed in Heaven while the lost will suffer an everlasting punishment.

The Apostle Paul often spoke longingly of his goal of being with the Lord. He said, *"For to me to live in Christ, and to die is gain"* (Phil. 1:21). Old Testament prophets spoke of the day when everlasting joy would replace the sorrows of this life. *"And the ransomed of the Lord*

*shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away"* (Is. 35:10). Jesus said, *"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in Heaven"* (Matt. 5:12). The Apostle John wrote, *"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life"* (1 John 2:25).

Many times in this life it appears that those who serve self and Satan have many successes and pleasures. This was also observed by the Psalmist, but he looked beyond life to the eternal outcome. *"When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever"* (Ps. 92:7). Too often we have excessive concern for the physical dangers and materialistic uncertainties of this life. Jesus made clear the distinction between those things which have consequence only for this life as compared to the eternal. He said, *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell"* (Matt. 10:28).

God provides opportunity for everyone to prepare for eternity. We are called upon to *"lay up... treasures in Heaven"* and *"fight the good fight of faith"* (Matt. 6:20; 1 Tim. 6:12). Eternal life is promised to those who *"... by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality"* (Rom. 2:7). All of this must be prefaced by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and is ultimately fulfilled by faithfulness to Him until life's end (Eph. 2:8; Heb. 3:14).

A believer must be prepared to die at any moment. When he is prepared to die, he is free to live and can joyfully proclaim the words of David of old: *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever"* (Ps. 23:6).



## 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.

---

## OPENING FOR HOUSEPARENT COUPLE AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

Greetings in the Lord Jesus,

There is an immediate opening at the Children's Home for a couple to replace the East Houseparents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn Gerber, who are leaving in late February.

This challenging and rewarding position offers the opportunity for a couple to work as a team with a dedicated and unified staff of fellow brothers and sisters as they strive to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of abused, neglected and disturbed children. (James 1:27)

Interested couples are encouraged to write or call either of the brothers listed below for more information concerning responsibilities, salary and benefits. Maturity and commitment are required. We provide an orientation and training program.

Bro. Tim Sauder  
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

**Ross Meyer**

The holidays were meaningful and fun, but it's been nice to get back into a regular routine again. Our children finished our the first semester of school January 13. Many of them were excited to see how their grades had improved. A number of our staff have taken vacations in January. The houseparents, especially, are involved in a profession that quickly drains

their energy, so they have to get away occasionally for rest and renewal.

There are a number of staff changes to report this month. Bro. Jeff Thames of Bloomington, IL, will take Ross Meyer's place as the male counselor. Bro. Jeff, his wife, Sis. Brenda, and their two children, David and Katelyn, moved to Indiana the first week in February. Ross is planning to attend a graduate program at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn Gerber,

### IN MEMORY OF ELDER BRO. STEVE RINKENBERGER, CISSNA PARK, IL

Written by Bro. Eugene Bertschi

His great concern was for the flock,  
That none might go astray,  
But all who entered at the door  
Might be in Heav'n some day.

He often thought of future time,  
When the Lord Himself would come -  
Would He find faith within the church?  
Would the Master say, "Well done?"

And so through life he labored on,  
Toward that bright Home so fair,  
Leading the many sheep and lambs  
Entrusted to his care.

God had a special use for him,  
And to him gave much grace  
To labor among God's people here,  
And to uphold the peace.

Then all too soon, his work was done,  
And God did bid him come  
To rest in that bright happy land,  
In God's Eternal Home.

A blessed rest for one so dear,  
Who bore the heat of day,  
Who helped us as we took each step  
Along life's pilgrim way.

Our hearts are sad and sorely grieved,  
As onward we must trod;  
Our Shepherd we so dearly loved  
Has gone to be with God.

As read by  
Elder Bro. Ed Ringger,  
Gridley, IL

-----  
Give Your Address Changes  
To Your Reporter

---

houseparents in the East House, feel led of the Lord to leave the Home in February as well. Any couple interested in houseparenting is encouraged to apply. Finally, Sis. Elaine Steffen of Bluffton, IN, was hired recently to serve as a single houseparent in the West House. We welcome her warmly to our staff.

As I look back over the eighteen months I spent here at the A.C.C.H., two principles stick out in my mind. The first is our need to encourage one

another as a staff and as Christians in general. It is so easy to criticize when we want someone to change, but so hard to compliment, because we come to expect good work from each other. The second principle is our need to look at our work, whatever it is, as the Lord's work. Working for the Lord, we aren't as quick to get puffed up; and when we make a mistake, we receive comfort from our

merciful Master. My experience at the Children's Home has been a good one, and a challenging one. I would encourage anyone feeling led in this direction to heed the Lord's call.

-----  
**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
 HOME FOR  
 THE HANDICAPPED**

As we turn the calendar to 1989, I

## --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¢ 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¢.

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

#### 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
December 1988 --	1637	10,905
January 1989 --	2070	12,975

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.

am reminded of a plaque in my home which reads, "May we always have old memories and young hopes." Yes, 1988 will hold many memories -- different to each of us -- some joyous and others sad. But as Christians, we are grateful for the guidance and love of a loving God and Savior and therefore we can look forward to 1989 with anticipation of young hopes.

Many of our residents spent the holidays with relatives and friends and because of the inclement weather, we are thankful they all returned home safely.

We had the privilege of having a visit from Renee Baurer who is presently teaching kindergarten children in Japan.

On January 3, Daniel McDonough, 26 years old, came to live with us. He makes our 100th resident here at the Home for the Handicapped. His mother is Marjorie McDonough (Brimfield, IL).

March birthdays at the Home for the Handicapped are Marion Unsicker (2), Judy Grimm (6), Maretta Rokey (6), Sheila Steffen (9), Margo Ebert (12), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Chris Corrigan (20), Edna Haynes (23), Nancy Meister (31) and at Oakwood Estate: Mike Bodtke (4), Ann Eberhard (15) and Frank Kyburz (27).

A few of January's activities were: horseback riding, shopping trips, a hockey game, gymnastics and basketball practice for our Special Olympics "Free Spirit" team, and swimming.

Lately, there has been much excited talk about the annual overnight trips to a nice motel. Small groups of four have been going out to eat with a staff person to learn social skills, ordering and paying for their meals. Many programs are being accomplished here at the Home, and it is always rewarding to see the results of more self-esteem with each accomplishment. Come visit us sometime if you can.

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

We are back after a two week break for the holidays. We are learning about Jesus' ministry to others and about the miracles He performed. The children love to hear about what

Jesus did and aren't surprised that He could do it because He had God's power.

We have learned a letter of the alphabet each week this year and will soon be finished. The children are memorizing a Bible verse that begins with each letter. They remember so well! Some of the verses have a little song to help us remember them better. Sometimes we review all of the verses. We say the first word and the children rattle them off. If we only could remember Scripture as easily! Have you really tried?

In January we learned about health and safety. God made us so wonderfully. He thought of everything when He made our bodies. The children are amazed when they learn more about the different systems within the human body.

Several weeks ago the sky was a brilliant red when the sun came up. I had the few children who were already at school go to the window to look. One of them looked and said, "We're lucky because we have a red sky." I asked, "Who made the sky red?" The little girl replied, "God. He's the goodest God in the whole world." And she's right!

---

### ALABAMA, ATHENS Marilyn Walder

We are delighted to welcome Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk and their son, Joel, back to our congregation. They moved to Alto, MI, over two years ago and we have missed them very much. We believe that God heard and answered our prayers and sent them back to help meet our needs. Elder Bro. Lavoyd has been ministering alone since Bro. Tom has been gone and has really missed him. God is faithful in answering our prayers according to His will.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN). We thank them for offering of themselves to bring messages from God's Word.

We have enjoyed many visitors from Cissna Park, Goodfield, Bradford, Elgin, Fairbury and Champaign, IL, Bern and Sabetha, KS, Lester, IA, and Mansfield, OH. We thank each one for the fellowship and the close-

ness we feel because we are united through Christ.

Recently we had an adult Sunday school class about what our duty is as Christians. Several points were brought out and discussed. First of all, we should be sure of our salvation and know we are right with God and the Bible's teachings. We should love God with all our heart and our neighbors as ourselves. Our first priority should be to Christ and then to others. We should willingly make sacrifices of self to help someone else. Another duty as Christ's disciples is to spread the Word to others. If we have a true burden for the lost and think of each person we come in contact with as a soul that will never die, we may be more bold to share the plan of salvation. If we renew the joy of our own salvation daily, we will want others to have the same joy and peace in their hearts. We are responsible to know God's Word and have it hidden in our hearts. There are many more things that Christians should be doing on a daily basis. "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." Luke 17:10.

---

### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

The birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ as told in Luke 2 was celebrated December 25. Birthday celebrations are joyous and what a happy time when family and members from ten churches were here to honor the Lord. Our ministers were Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, Bros. Jon Kokanovich, Bill Dotterer and Greg Gramm.

When January 1 falls on Sunday, it is our privilege to start the New Year in church. 'Twas special to see many loved ones so early in 1989. May we resolve to serve Him with sincere love daily.

"Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

St. John 3:3

January 8 was one of the most important days ever for four young folks. Having known them since babes and seeing the changes in their lives

was a blessing that could only be wrought by our Lord Jesus Christ. Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach was assisted by Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and deacon Bro. Jon Kokanovich as Stacey Baum, Stefanie Tooley, Chris Frautschi and Bob Dotterer were baptized after sharing their testimonies the previous Friday and Saturday evenings.

The grateful parents of Sis. Stefanie, Sis. Stacey, Bro. Bob and Bro. Chris are Jerry and Sis. June Tooley, Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi. Among the happy grandparents was our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach who baptized granddaughter, Stacey. Bro. Terry Baum flew to Morton for his baptism and was welcomed into the fold of believers along with the above newly baptized. Bro. Terry is attending A.S.U.

Getting the call to repentance comes to each of us in the Master's special way -- be assured His call is tender and ever so gentle. For some it's a touch but it might be a small voice. The more you care the more He seems to care. The closer we draw to the Saviour the less attractive are the worldly things. Our dear Shawn Maurer and Stephanie Frautschi have found the wonderful peace and now prepare themselves to be baptized. Shawn is the son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer. Stephanie's parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi.

We'd like your continued prayers for Sis. Emma Sanders and Sis. Doris Kokanovich and Ed Harmon (Ella). Our burdens are lighter when others are caring.

Bro. John Kaufman and Bro. Herb (Sis. Joanne) Knochel spent time in Haiti on a work project in January. We are thankful some are able to serve the Lord in needy places. Bro. John also stopped off in Juarez, Mexico.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. This particular tie is from Phoenix to Morris, MN. Bro. David and Sis. Kelley Zeltwanger and infant son, Nathan, will relocate when he has found employment. May the Lord bless them.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka,

IL) and Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN).

-----

### ARIZONA, TUCSON

#### Lisa Knapp

Our congregation would like to extend its congratulations to Kent and Jane Miller who were married January 1, 1989 in Tremont, IL. They will be making their home in Tucson, at least for the near future. We wish them God's blessings in their new life together.

We recently enjoyed a visit from Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) and his wife, Sis. Sharon, who spent a Sunday with us. Bro. Walter opened the Word with us and we certainly wish to thank him for his service.

We have many loved ones who have experienced health problems recently. Bro. Maynard Beery, Sis. Martha Blessman, Bro. Walter Rehklau, Dorothy Knobloch and Ruth Murphy all need our prayers for comfort and healing.

-----

### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

#### Lisa Steiner

We are thankful that God granted the safe return of several families from our congregation in the past few months. In November, Bro. Glen and Sis. Kay Hackenjos traveled to Haiti as part of the Apostolic Work Project team. Work was done on a care facility for the elderly.

On December 18, our Sunday school children presented a heart-warming Christmas program in honor of Christ's birth. The program was centered on I Corinthians 13.

January 1 marked the beginning of a new year, and a new life for Bro. Mike Waibel and Sis. Rose Jevremov, as they were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel, and Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov. Many of us from Altadena attended the ceremony in San Diego.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2. Through repentance and faith, Carol Graf has found peace with God. We

look forward to her testimony and baptism in March.

We have been blessed with many visitors this past month from Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota. We are thankful that ministering Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) could be with us and bring us God's Word.

We have also been blessed with beautiful weather lately, including warmer temperatures, and a clean, clear sky which is so welcome in our area. It is especially nice to see the mountains as we drive to church. We have God to thank for everything.

LOST & FOUND: A gold watch was left at the Altadena church some time ago. We do not know the owner.

-----

### COLORADO, DENVER

#### Marlene Leman

"Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise." St. Matthew 21:16. How beautiful that praise sounds as the young children each say a little piece and sing songs telling of our Saviour's birth. May their hearts be blessed by the words so that all through their lives it can be a reminder of God's love.

Sis. Katherine Ries fell in her room at the Myron Stratton Home. While she was fortunate to not have any broken bones she has suffered because of pinched nerves. She spent time in traction at the hospital but is now recuperating back at "the home."

Each year in January, when many people are going through the "after Christmas let down," we, here in the Denver church, experience a "lift" that comes from additional fellowship. The National Western Stock Show is held at this time and a number of our brethren from various places come to Denver for that as part of their business. We are the beneficiaries! We thank God for the blessings we reap from the love and oneness we feel with these dear ones.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Romans 13:1 As a new president has taken over the reins of government here in our country, let us be mindful of him in our prayers and realize that he is in that position as part of God's will in our lives.

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

#### Martha Hany

During the Christmas season, ministering Bros. Roy Luginbuhl and Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) were in our midst and we thank them for bringing us the Word. Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther attended the funeral of his uncle, Bro. Charles Lanz, 93, who died December 24 in the house where he was born. He leaves two sons, Bro. Edwin (New Holland, PA) and Charles, and two daughters, Gloria Schambach and Shirley Lanz.

The faith of Bro. Carl Lanz, 91, has come to fruition as he passed into eternity January 8. His sister, Sis. Helen, 87, followed him in death January 18 after a long illness. They leave a brother, Bro. Alvin; and six sisters, Sisters Huldah Luginbuhl, Olga, Gertrude, Edna, Clara and Evelyn. Our sympathy is with the families in the loss of their loved ones.

"To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them, The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all."

Psalms 103:18-19

There are those who in accordance to the Word are seeking to serve God and not mammon in repentance and conversion. We rejoice with Brian Luginbuhl (Bro. Mannie and Sis. Florine), Scott and Luanne (Luginbuhl) Hills (Bro. Robert and Sis. Pauline), Eddie Garrow (Bro. Bernie and Sis. Marie), Jennifer Kloter (Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon) and Davine "Tisha" (McMann) Luginbuhl (daughter-in-law of Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay Luginbuhl). May the Lord increase their faith and understanding during their conversion.

Our hearts were filled with happiness for Bro. David Galat, Jr. and Sis. Ellen Foote when we heard of their faith to become engaged! May God's blessings be with them in the future. Parents are Bro. Art and Emily Foote and Bro. Dave and Sis. Marlene Galat.

Hospital patients have been Sisters Olga Bahler and Evelyn Lanz. Our prayers are for their well-being and for others who may be under a physician's care and/or in nursing homes.



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
WASHINGTON  
Catherine Klopfenstein  
Douglas Germann**

"There was no time to lose, no time to waste in rest or play. The life of the earth comes up with a rush in the springtime. All the wild seeds of weed and thistle, the sprouts of vine and bush and tree, are trying to take the fields. Farmers must fight them with harrow and plow and hoe: they must plant the good seed quickly. Almanzo was a little soldier in this great battle. From dawn to dusk he worked, from dusk to dawn he slept, then he was up again and working."

As I read these words from Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Farmer Boy," to our children, one wintry evening, I paused for a moment, caught in a much deeper thought than Mrs. Wilder ever meant to portray. I began to realize how these paragraphs parallel our spiritual life and the great battle we believers are fighting against the force of darkness. We, too, are like little soldiers in this great battle for our God. In our youth the world comes at us like a rush, to fill our lives with weeds and thorns, trying to choke out the precious seed of God's Word. We, like Almanzo, must weed and hoe each day of our spiritual lives to keep our hearts pliable and fertile for God's good seed to grow. Also, just as the good seeds were sown quickly by Almanzo, we, as believing parents, must sow the good seed of God's Word early in our children's lives.

We must never give up in this spiritual battle, or sit by the sides and take a vacation from faith, for daily we must wage warfare on this enemy of our soul. How vividly we see this in the earthly sense, as we return from a weeks vacation and see the weeds in our garden.

We are thankful for those who came to be with us for our New Year's Day service. Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Stoller with their daughter, Dana, were here. Also visiting were Sis. Lydia Meyer, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramseyer. We thank Bro. Dan for sharing God's Word with us. On January 15 we were thankful to have Bro. Al Schneider share with us and appreciate him and Sis. Gladys coming to be with us. Also here visiting

were Bro. Ernie and Sis. Aline Balasy. Sunday evening, we all gathered at the home of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein for dinner. Tim and Susan Rocke showed slides of their work with the Peace Corps in Africa.

We thank all our visitors for sharing their time and talents with us and welcome all to come and visit our nation's capital. For information, please contact Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein at (703) 979-3476 or Bro. Doug Germann at (703) 481-5163. We meet the first and third Sundays at the Tyson's Westpark Hotel.

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

Early in December, Emily Lauren was born to Richard and Diane Klopfenstein. Jason and Jennifer are happy to have a little sister. Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein are the proud grandparents.

On Christmas eve, Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger were blessed with the arrival of their first child, Serenity Esther. Her grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Diane Vogt (Francesville, IN). We are happy for the new parents and warmly welcome these newest additions to the Sunday school class of '93!

On a less happy note we say farewell to Bro. Rod and Sis. Ann Anliker and Lucas, Lane and Austin. Rod has changed jobs and they will be leaving us for Illinois at the end of January. Even though they were only in our midst for seven months, we will truly miss the whole family. A beach picnic was held in their honor.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Kathy Sutter in the loss of her brother, Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL)

As we discussed at Bible study, we are fond of saying "God has been good to me" or "God has blessed us" when we have an abundance of material goods. But we should realize that God is always good to us even when our shallow, greedy, mortal selves are inclined to think otherwise. Let us look to God both in times of plenty and in times of hurt or pain. And let us look for the "good" in every situation so that we can always say "God has blessed us!"

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

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Sarasota). We are ever thankful for our visiting ministers and only wish there were more!

Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gudeman welcome a new grandson. He is welcomed home by two brothers and two sisters into the happy home of Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger! Also, Bro. Vic and Sis. Dottie Beer welcome their twelfth grandchild into the family. Benjamin is welcomed home by two sisters and one brother and his parents, Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller. Sis. Dottie spent some time with their new little bundle from heaven and we are again thankful to have her back safely. Sis. Goldie and Bro. Art Kipfer were called back to Bluffton for the passing of Sis. Goldie's 99-year-old mother, Sis. Martha Moser. We extend our deepest sympathy to all their family.

Dathan is going to school all day now. We are ever thankful for answered prayer! We had him and his brother, David, a few days while their dad (Bro. Dave) was getting over the trauma of a car accident. Once again God has stretched out His arm to spare him. Around 2:30 in the afternoon he was hit by a drunk driver. Five people were involved. While Dave's loving wife, Sis. Sue, and I were at the hospital waiting, the driver's father, who owned the car, was also there. I had a thankful heart that our son was not the one at fault. David is very sore but thankful it wasn't worse! We are thankful to all who were there in this time of need. It means so much to have the help and support of our brethren. May God bless each and everyone.

"Beware for I come quickly," says the Lord.

We had our annual meeting, and we want to thank each and every one for their support. That's what makes this little church run so smoothly. May God bless you all.

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

As a new year dawns, our congregation held its annual business meet-



ing. We wish to thank those brothers and sisters who have given of their time and talent during the past years. We also wish an extra special measure of God's grace to those who have taken on new responsibilities.

Our church is making preparation for the mid-winter elder conference to be held next month. We look forward to hosting this sacred meeting, and to have so many of our elders from across the land.

As the winter months approach we are so grateful for each visitor, especially our visiting ministers as follows: Bro. Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bros. Marvin and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach.

We extend a prayer of sympathy to our Sisters Kathryn Schroeder and Esther Getz in the loss of their sister. We also have those in our congregation who have met with illness or accident. Bro. Eli Anliker, a winter resident, had open heart surgery and is home and recovering nicely. While in Rockville for the holidays, Bro. Werner and Sis. Esther Kupferschmid met with accident. We wish them both God's healing powers and grace to meet each day. Bro. Dave Eisenmann is recovering from an auto accident. May God be ever near each of His dear children and grant His healing where it is His will.

---

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**  
**John Brewer**

"Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God."

Luke 16:18

There is probably no greater joy to parents than the birth of a new life. On January 1, Benjamin Ryan was born to Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller. His sisters and brother are Erica, Stacy and Jonathan. His grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Minerva Stoller (Leo, IN) and Bro. Vic and Sis. Dorothy Beer (North Fort Myers, FL). Our prayer is that their new son and family will be blessed by God's bountiful love and grace.

On January 15 we were blessed to have Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH) come and minister to us. We appreciate the time he and the other visitors took to worship with us.

Our congregation gathers every Sunday at the Ramada Renaissance which is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Road Exit close to the Atlanta Airport. For more information call Bro. Linn or Sis. Brenda Stoller 404-631-4554, Sis. Nancy Foltz 404-451-9191, Bro. Don Sellers 404-923-0721 or myself 404-254-1664.

---

**ILLINOIS,**  
**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**  
**Marcia Bauer - De Anderson**

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

I Timothy 3:16

He was "manifest in the flesh," giving our children cause to celebrate in song and verse the story of the Christ Child as they presented the Christmas program December 18.

We appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) who was able to be with us for our New Year's Eve service and again the following day.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Bonnie Traub in the death of her mother, F. Verrine Stine, January 2.

Sis. Lulu Miller was called from this life January 9. Her kind and gentle nature was an inspiration to all who knew her.

The weekend of January 7 - 8, our beloved friends became our sisters and brothers-in-Christ. We welcome Sarah Steffen (Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty), Herb and Georgia Steffen, Dennis Brummitt (Sis. Karen) and George and Shirley Stimeling into the family of God. Assisting our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) were Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) on Saturday evening and joining us on Sunday were Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL).

We thank each one for his part in this blessed weekend.

---

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
**Karen Ringger**

Again we find ourselves at the beginning of a new year. Time flies so swiftly, it often makes one wonder what eternity will be like, time without an end. May we all strive to do God's will, that one day we may inherit life eternal in those heavenly mansions.

Bro. Jerry Kieser (Sis. Wilma) met with misfortune, when he fell and hurt both wrists. We all take the use of our hands so much for granted until something of this nature happens. We are very thankful Bro. Jerry is worshipping with us again and may the Lord grant him patience until the time he can have full use of his wrists. Sis. Bertha Reed (mother of Sis. Audrey Ehnle) has been in the hospital this past month. We are so happy to see her back at church with us again.

Ministering the Word to us this past month were Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH). We always appreciate our visiting ministers.

Our hearts were overflowing with thankfulness when we heard the wonderful news that Fred Hausmann was seeking the Lord in repentance. Fred's thankful parents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Verla.

This is the summary for last year: there were nine souls baptized, 14 waiting to be baptized, seven weddings and two babies born.

---

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN**  
**LaRae Dill**

The Manger's family has had the experience of seeing a husband and father turn his heart to the Lord. Our church rejoices with Denny as well as his wife, Sis. Cheryl, and their children, Doug, Melissa and Scott.

We congratulate Bro. Jim and Sis. Renae Waldbeser on their marriage which took place January 1, 1989 in Fairbury, IL. They have chosen to make their home here in Champaign. Although Sis. Renae has been a student here for several years, we want to welcome them as a couple and look forward to their fellowship.

We offer our thanks to Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for ministering to our church Christmas Day. Likewise, we appreciate the ministry of Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) January 15.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Kathy Schlatter

I hope you are not like me. Whenever I feel discouraged and depressed, there are many things I am not doing. I am not praying for someone else, I am not being useful in someone else's behalf, and I am not claiming the promises of God. I am not expectantly awaiting His coming, I am not remembering all of His sacrifices for my salvation, and I am not positively believing in His will. Neither am I rejoicing, thanking and praising my Lord for all His goodness and mercy. When I am despondent and downcast, I am often offended at someone else's criticism or overwhelmed as I focus on the work I have to do. Or I may be "awfulizing," anticipating how difficult some future event is going to be. Then I may be praying in a rut: Lord, help me, help me, help me -- neglecting to step forth in faith, believing He will. I may have failed to take time for His refreshing, in prayer, in meditation, in being. I have forgotten to lean on Him and instead am lying flat under all the burdens I have taken back from Him. I have forsaken the priorities He gave me -- Himself, others, me -- and am heading down rather than looking up. If you are even a little bit like me sometimes, may He lift up our heads and refocus our attention on Himself. May He always give us His grace to catch ourselves, His mercy and forgiveness to cleanse us, and His guidance to lead us again in the paths of righteousness, of love in action towards Christ and His creation.

Our young brothers are a joy and strength to our church. We are so happy to welcome Bro. Luis Gomez (Washington, IL) to that group, to our church family. He has just graduated from Illinois State University, Normal, IL, and taken a teaching position in Joliet, working with the cerebral-palsied, physically handicapped. We would encourage him in his work of service, and we are grateful that the Lord has brought him to

our area. We wish him many blessings and extend to him the right hand of fellowship and our hearts in Christian love.

Another source of renewal in the church is a newborn child. All of us marvel at the miracle of physical birth, a new God-given creation with physical, mental, emotional and spiritual capabilities. With Bro. Tal and Sis. Heidi Kaufman, we rejoice in the birth of their first child, Daniel Reid, November 30, 1988. Daniel's loving grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Dorothy Haefli (Peoria) and Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufman (Cissna Park). May we support Tal and Heidi in their new role as Christian parents and welcome Daniel into our church. We pray that the Lord will bless this family with all wisdom, joy and love.

We want to express our love and support and sympathy to Bro. Kenny and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger and their family in the loss of his brother, Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL). Though Bro. Steve's inspiration and the love and their closeness as a family make his death harder to bear, there is gratitude for all that they shared. We pray for the Lord's divine balm for their hearts and tender warmth for their spirits on gray days.

There I was under the sink, not very happy about my position. Yet it seemed little enough to be asked to help the plumber in the family. His request was this: could I please brace the pipe here and here and hold it tightly so that as he worked on it in the basement, the pipe would move very little. I really spent very little time there, but my fingers did get tired. I certainly needed to have two places to hold fast to. I like my job better when I felt the pressure on the pipe because I could gauge the resistance and know I was holding steady. What about our faith? It is little enough that I am asked to do, is it not? First of all, am I well-braced? Do I have at least two "places" wherewith to be anchored? I do. In fact, I need three. I have His Word, I have His Spirit, and I have His church. In the agreement of all three, I am given a threefold cord. ". . . and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12. Next, does my faith "move" little? In other words, have I maintained my contacts with all three of my braces so that I may be steadfast and unmov-

able? I pray so. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil . . . walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith . . ." I Peter 5:8, 9 Thirdly, do I relish the challenges of my life, knowing that persecution and frustration and all manner of difficulties are only opportunities for the Lord to show His power through me? Oh, Lord, my God, Thou alone knowest my deepest need for Thee to teach me heartiness and joy in the face of mountains and cliffs, rocks and shoals, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen." Matthew 6:13.

## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

### Mary Knapp - Elaine Sauder

The first day of 1989 started out with joy as many attended the wedding of Bro. Jim Waldbeser (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) from here and Sis. Renae Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane, Fairbury). May they experience years of happiness serving the Lord together.

The New Year has also brought deep sorrow to our congregation and community as we grieve the loss of our beloved Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger who passed away following a heart transplant Tuesday, January 3, at Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, IN. Bro. Steve was 43 years old and leaves his wife, Sis. Velma (Steiner); along with a son, Douglas; three daughters, Anne, Karen and Denise, all at home; his parents, Bro. William and Sis. Marje Rinkenberger (Rankin); two brothers, Bro. Kenneth (Naperville) and Bro. Bob (Rankin); three sisters, Sis. Ann Steiner (Bro. Richard, Tremont), Sis. Kathy Sutter (Bro. Richard, Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Sis. Karol Stock (Bro. Tom, Cissna Park).

Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Don Koch (Tremont), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Ed Ringger (Gridley) and Bro. Ken Weerts conducted the funeral service at 10:00 a.m., January 6.

Isaiah 40:1 reads, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God." Aren't these the words Bro. Steve would pray and proclaim if he could speak with us?

We gathered again January 7 for the funeral of Bro. Jeff Young.

He was married to the former Sis. Mary Farney and leaves a son, Raymond (Cissna Park); nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The Cissna Park ministers were in charge of the funeral service.

On January 10, Nathan Alan Beer, 5-month-old son of Scott and Debora Kesler Beer (Milford, IN) lost his battle for life at St. Francis Medical Center (Peoria, IL). He was born prematurely in California while his parents were vacationing there. His broken-hearted 3-year-old brother, Jeffrey Scott, never got to bring his "little baby Nathan" home. When he was stable enough, Nathan, was flown directly to the St. Francis neo-natal center.

Besides his parents and brother, he leaves paternal grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Twylla Beer (Cissna Park); and maternal grandparents, Elmer and Ruth Kesler (Watseka).

We extend our sympathy to each soul who is left to mourn. This loss in our congregation proves the old must die and the young and the very young can die. Let this be a reminder to all that we carefully prepare ourselves for the hour when we will meet our Creator and then can look forward to meeting our dear loved ones once again on the yonder shore in eternity.

Sometimes it's hard to understand  
Why these things have to be,  
But we know that there are reasons  
We often cannot see . . .

We can only trust in God  
And know that, in some way,  
It's all a part of His great plan  
And we'll understand someday.

Author Unknown

We welcome Sis. Sylvia Martinez as our sister-in-faith. We had the opportunity to hear her testimony January 7. God is truly merciful and can change our hearts only if we become humble and submissive to His will. We wish Sylvia courage to always be steadfast in her new walk of life.

The annual meeting was held after a short service January 11. The following vacancies voted on were: Sunday school teachers: Sis. Elsie Huffman, Sis. Lanae Rudin (Arlyn) and Bro. Wes Kaufman; trustee: Bro. Lester Walder; and fellowship hall

committee member: Bro. Curt Sauder. We're thankful, too, for all others who have committed themselves to serve in various capacities. May God bless and provide for each one as it takes many submissive workers for God's house to be in order.

Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise Kaeb have a precious little boy. They named him Andrew Wayne and he was born January 4, weighing in at 6 lbs. 10 oz. Congratulations go to the new parents and grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Aldean Kaufmann and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb.

Several have been hospitalized this past month: Dave Kupferschmid, Bro. Gene Hauptli, Bro. Bob Kaufmann and Sis. Mabel Vogel. We extend greetings to our shut-ins, and may God bless them.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury).

One soweth, and another reapeth. John 4:38 We look forward to gathering around the comforting words of our ministering brethren and we encourage them to continue to sow seeds of truth so we may reap the necessary fruits for eternal life.

Thank You

We wish to extend a sincere thank you to each and every one who remembered us in sympathy with a prayer, a card, a thought or a gift since the death of our husband, dad, son and brother. May God bless each one.

The Family of

Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger  
A reminder to the Cissna Park congregation -- February is the month for Silver Lining dues to be paid. We thank you for being prompt.

How coincidental -- This is the last Silver Lining report I'll be typing and I just used my last piece of typing paper! My thanks and appreciation to Sis. Karol Stock (Bro. Tom) as she will be my replacement. Also thank you to my co-worker, Sis. Mary Knapp (Bro. Earl) and everyone who has assisted me with information these past three years. May the Lord bless the work.

## ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Sandy Knapp - Deb Dietrich

"Come ye after me and I will make you to become fishers of men."

St. Mark 1:17

We are rejoicing with the angels as Amy Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene) has answered the Lord's call to follow Him. We pray that many more will surrender their lives to Him to obtain that heavenly home.

Just as the earth has mountains and valleys, so our lives have joys and sorrows. We were saddened by the death of Sis. Lulu Miller (Bloomington) who originally attended our congregation. Our prayers and sympathy are with her family. How the death of a loved one makes our yearning for our heavenly home stronger!

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Amanda Kay was welcomed by her parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn McClure and her grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon McClure (Congerville) and Roger and Elaine Hodel (Roanoke). Just as children are precious in Jesus' sight, may Amanda grow to see Jesus precious in her sight.

Silver Lining dues for the Congerville congregation are due in the month of February. Please remit to your reporters promptly.

## ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

With grateful hearts, we are happy to receive Sis. Colleen Beutel (Tremont, IL) who recently gave her testimony and became a new sister-in-faith. May God be her constant companion. At present, Colleen is attending school at DeKalb.

Our congregation is also happy to welcome Bro. Dirk and Sis. Debbie Steffen from the Normal, IL, area. She is our new bookkeeper at Apostolic Christian Resthaven. May the love of Jesus draw us together in true fellowship.

We want to extend our sympathy to those who mourn the loss of Julia



Braun, sister of the late Bro. Herman Braun, Sr., and Sis. Ida Wahl.

“. . . Take heed to the ministry which thou has received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it.” Colossians 4:17. Those visiting recently were: Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Bros. Nathan Stoller and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA).

Surgery has been the portion of Sis. Martha Zierke and Bro. Paul Weiss. Other hospital patients include Sis. Alma Haas and Bros. Don Schambach and John Feucht. It is our prayer that the Great Healer will bless each one with renewed strength and health, according to His will.

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

God has blessed the home of Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller with a dear baby girl, Kayla Sue, born January 7. Happy to help with this addition are Ryan, Daren, Angela, Austin, Tristan, Shayna, Diedra and Christina. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park, IL) and Edna Mueller (Fairbury, IL).

Do we really appreciate the efforts of those who labor in the maintenance of our sanctuary? We trust the Lord will bless those who have shared of their time and efforts, and continue to provide willing hearts and hands. At our annual business meeting January 18, Bro. Bob Schambach was chosen to serve as our new trustee.

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

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Donna Wettstein (Bro. Art) and Bro. Bob Wettstein (Sis. Verna). May God be near them and grant healing and comfort.

Sis. Fanny Sauder passed away January 13. Surviving are three sons, Kenneth and Wayne of Florida, and Gene of Eureka. Her husband, Bro. George, preceded her in death.

Bro. George Stoller passed away January 13. Surviving are his wife,

Sis. Lorine (Schumacher); one son, Bro. Donald (Gridley); and two daughters, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Merle) Sauder of Tremont, and Sis. Elaine (Jack) Schmidgall of Morton. Services were held at our Gridley congregation.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Sandy Fehr (Bro. Ken) in the recent passing of her father, Ernst Pfaffmann (Washington). May God comfort all those who have felt the sting of death, for He alone can truly comfort.

Laurie Rocke (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Ida Mae) and Ed Dillard exchanged wedding vows January 1. May God bless their union.

We are thankful for brethren who are willing to be used in His service. May God bless Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Robert Miller (Portland, OR).

At our business meeting in December, it was made known that our mid-week services will always start at 7:30 p.m., with singing beginning at 7:15 p.m., regardless of the time change in the spring and fall.

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

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

Zion's Harp #79

On January 1 we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Renae Meiss (Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Jim Waldbeser (Bro. John and Sis. Carol, Cissna Park). May God's blessings be upon them as they walk life's pathway together.

Our dear Sis. Mary Steffen, 87, went to be with the Lord. We are in the land of the dying going to the land of the living. Those surviving include: one brother, Bro. Ben Steffen, and two sisters, Sis. Anna and Sis. Kathryn Steffen (Peoria). May God comfort her family.

Sis. Bertha Moser was called from this life January 5, at the age of 85.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to her sisters, Leona Goodart and Ruth Mendenhall (Dallas, TX); one son, Robert, and two daughters, Shirley Irion and Karen Hamlin. May the family be comforted to know that she is "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" where she is free from all earthly pain and suffering.

Sis. Dianne Steidinger (Bro. Tom) was a hospital patient this month. We pray that God's healing power will be with her.

**TODAY IS ALL THERE IS**

How should we live life? Just as the Lord gives it.  
 One day at a time -- That's how we ought to live it.  
 Yesterday is memory and yesterday is gone;  
 Today is ours to live -- Then leave the past alone.  
 For time is parceled out in a day by day measure,  
 And life, day at a time, grants purpose and pleasure.  
 The future has its gladness but also its sorrow,  
 But it hasn't arrived. Then forget about tomorrow.  
 The past is in God's care and the future is His;  
 Today is yours for living -- Today is all there is.

Perry Tanksley

For the year of 1988, we report 13 births, three baptisms, three weddings and nine deaths. We are thankful for our many blessings. Whatever our lot may be, may we trust in our heavenly Father to provide for our every need.

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

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice . . ."

We rejoice with Roger and Sheila Steidinger that they could heed the call of the Lord and repent! May they lay a firm foundation that will stand all storms and tests of life.

“. . . and weep with them that weep.  
 Romans 12:15

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger in the passing of Bro. Ivan's father. May God comfort their hearts.

Even as one life ends, another one begins. Katie Lynn Wenger was born December 20 to Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee Wenger. Sarah, Rachel, Bethany, Emily and Rebecca welcome her home. It certainly takes the Lord's help in raising a family and we wish them God's blessings. Grandparents are Sis. Nathalia Wenger and Mr. and Mrs. Claude Taylor (Fairbury).

How important it is to feed on the Word of God! We thank Bro. Gary Anliker for coming and ministering to us.

The engagement of Paul Honegger and Amy Short has been announced. They are planning an October 21 wedding. Parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Eleanor Honegger and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Short (Forrest).

Sis. Eldora Walter, Sis. Nathalia Honegger, Joe Nussbaum (Terry and Deb) and Jason Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol) all spent time in the hospital. We are happy they are all out again. It should be a reminder to us, whenever we see someone in sickness or pain, to appreciate each healthy day the Lord grants us.

In 1988, we had 13 births, seven deaths, six weddings, six baptisms and two souls brought into the fold after bringing their testimonies.

Special thanks to everyone for your thoughts, prayers and cards during my surgery and recovery.

Bro. Les Roth

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards and gifts received while I was in the hospital and since I am home. Also, the food that was brought in was greatly appreciated. A special thanks to those who came to stay with me. May God bless everyone -- it meant so much to be remembered.

Sis. Dorothy (Carl) Bachtold

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD  
Trish Gerber

IN MEMORY OF APRIL

When e'er I think of April  
I think of heaven too,  
Where I shall go to meet her  
When my life on earth is through.

I pause a moment to reflect  
On all the happy ways,  
She filled my life with sunshine  
And brightened up my days.

She was just a little angel  
From the moment of her birth,  
Just a bit of heaven  
Sent down here, to us, on earth.

She played the part God gave her  
Right from the very start,  
She planted seeds of love  
In everybody's heart.

But soon came the time of parting  
God called her back to Him,  
Where she can be with Jesus  
Where the eye will never dim.

Now I have a hope and promise  
That we shall meet again,  
When my life on earth is over  
And I walk around the bend.

Pamela L. Kyburz

Our church has experienced the joy of sharing a few sweet years with more than one of these special angels and then the sorrow of having to surrender them back to God. What a comfort to know they're in a better place and that we can be with them some day.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen were happy to add another little boy to their family. Fritz Patrick was born December 13 and became the new brother to Teri, Marti, Hans and Holly. His grandparents are Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen and Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth.

Eli Schieler welcomes his new brother, Hugh Samuel, as do his parents, Rich and Sis. Lisa. Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcie Schieler and Don and Carol McWilliams (Deer Creek, IL), are the proud grandparents. Hugh was born December 14.

Marla Sue is the name Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand gave to their little girl who was born January 18. Marla will have lots of love from Roxy, Susie, Bethy and Russell and from her grandparents, Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand and Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm.

Our thanks are extended to Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) for sharing God's Word with us.

It's good to know that Bro. Wes

Knapp is doing well after his surgery.

Bro. Ernie Diggelman would like to express his appreciation for all the prayers, cards and gifts during his hospital stay.

Sis. Ruth Hohulin wishes to thank the Goodfield church for the lovely Christmas box, cards and gifts of love and visits while she was in the home.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY  
Perry Klopfenstein

Our church is rejoicing over the baptism of several souls since late December. On December 21 Adam Schlipf and Lillian Yergler were baptized. On January 7, Charity Klopfenstein, Kelli Stoller, Joel Gramm, Mike Stoller, and Linda Krug were added to our beloved church. Elder Bro. Robert Grimm was here for the occasion.

On January 15, Lori Wade, Chad Wettstein, Mark Wettstein and Molly Witzig were taken into the fold. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) was here to help with the testimonies and baptisms. Four more souls were scheduled, Lord willing, for baptisms January 29.

Since August 2, our church has been blessed with 22 souls turning to the Lord. At the Gridley school there are now ten young adults who are professing Christ, both in word and deed. They comprise a strong values-oriented peer group in which they can stand together and uphold the Biblical distinctions of separation and nonconformity. Amid the pressures of declining peer standards and often questionable ethical standards, these precious souls -- as well as dozens of counterparts in other church localities -- are to be commended, as well as daily prayed for, as they "stand up for Jesus," and "dare to be a Daniel," and thence bring glory to their Saviour!

The funeral of Bro. George Stoller, 80, was held January 17. He has resided at Eureka for the past few years. Bro. George's wife of 51 years, Sis. Lorene, preceded him in death May 8, 1983. He then married Sis. Lorene Schumacher June 17, 1984, in Eureka, and she survives. Also surviving are Bro. Donald (Gridley), Sis. Nancy Sauder (Tremont) and Sis. Elaine Schmidgall (Morton); three brothers, Walter and Elmer (Morton) and Bro. Virgil (Gridley). The outgo-

ing and infectious personality of Bro. George will be missed.

Our congregation was further saddened by the passing of Bro. Albert Grusy, 96, whose funeral was held January 21. He was the last remaining son of Bro. Englebert Grusy, who came to America from Germany in 1880 and later served many years as a minister at Gridley. Bro. Albert was preceded in death by his dear wife of 69 years, Sis. Anna, on February 14, 1987. He is survived by three sons, Albert (Chillecothe), Norman (Portland, OR), and John (Chealis, CA); two daughters, Eleanor Baer (Edelstein) and Gloria Fox (Mt. Prospect). Bro. Albert was a kindly man and most gracious in visiting.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Marvin Schmidtgal (Eureka), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Mike Rieker (Peoria), Curt Rassi (Tremont), Robert Miller (Portland, OR), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury) and Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN).

-----

**ILLINOIS,  
ILLINOIS STATE UNIV.  
Brenda Huber**

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Romans 12:1

Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) led us in our first Bible study of the semester. Christians, he exhorted us, pray, rejoice, give thanks, and refrain from evil. He challenged us, however, to be "more honorable" (I Chronicles 4:9) by praying without ceasing, rejoicing always, giving thanks in all things, and abstaining from all appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5). We praise and thank God for renewing our zeal to do more than our reasonable service in this new semester.

-----

**ILLINOIS, MORTON  
Phyllis Fornay  
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Because of Valentine's Day, February, to some, may bring thoughts of frilly cards and chocolates. Many view

it with more seriousness and use it as a time to reaffirm their love and appreciation to their spouses and families. But this Valentine's month, let us remember the kind of love God describes in I Corinthians 13. He tells us all about love's characteristics; how we should conduct ourselves, and how His love will never fail. But sometimes we forget what an essential part of our motivation godly love is. No matter how many good works we do, how much money we give, nor what noble words come from our mouths, if we do not have love, all is utterly worthless and meaningless. Whatever we do, if it is not done in love, it is as though we have done nothing. Let us strive this month and this year to let godly love be our motivation in all that we do.

One of the easier things in life to love is a newborn baby. Two families in our congregation have been so blessed this month. Bro. Allen, Sis. Brenda and Brittany Kaiser welcomed Morgan Marie into their hearts and home December 27. Morgan's grandparents are Cliff and Marilyn Kaufman and Bro. Harry and Sis. Laverne Kaiser (all of Morton). Also welcoming a little bundle of love are Bro. Joe, Sis. Barb, Eric and Tracy Zimmerman. Grant Robert was born January 15. His grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Lillian Getz and Bro. Joe and Sis. Millie Zimmerman (all of Morton).

As we show love in times of joy, we also need to show love in times of sorrow. Sis. Mary Jacob was called home and her funeral was January 9. May God's love comfort her three daughters, Sis. Lucille Gramm, Sis. Rosemary Wegman, Elizabeth Hertenstein; her brother, Bro. Samuel Ackerman; her grandchildren; great-grandchildren and her friends. Our love and sympathy are also extended to Esther Millim's husband, John, and her many nieces and nephews and friends at her passing.

God's greatest love and mercy are shown when souls are saved because of His great sacrifice. Terry and Rob (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody) Baum gave their testimonies and were baptized December 26. We welcome them into God's family and pray the Holy Spirit will continue to guide them all of their lives.

Marriage is God's earthly example

of how the bridegroom, Jesus, loves His bride, the church. Sis. Janice (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary) Staker and Bro. Keith (Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane) Schick were married January 8. May their love for each other increase as their love for the Lord increases.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Corinthians 13:13

-----

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA  
Joe and Jackie Herman**

**FOR LIFE TO BE REWARDING**

For life to be the fullest, sweetest and most rewarding:

- Do more than move; improve.
- Do more than get; give.
- Do more than regret; repent.
- Do more than look; see.
- Do more than sympathize; help.
- Do more than attend church; worship.
- Do more than have children; raise them.
- Do more than build a house; make a home.
- Do more than breathe; live.
- Do more than live; love.

Leroy Brownlow

We have had a number of hospital patients this month and it behooves us all to be diligent in remembering them in thought, prayer and deed. Hospitalized this month were Bros. Alvin Domnick, Ray Wiegand, Lester Stoller, Sis. Bernice Hartman, LuEllen Schafer and Kevin Clatt.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Robert Miller (Portland, OR), Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ) and Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY). We appreciate these brothers for bringing us the Word of God.

Our church family is expanding again! We welcome three new couples to our congregation. On December 18, Bro. Dean Thomas and Sis. Teresa Knobloch exchanged wedding vows. Parents are Elder Bro. Robert and Sis. Lucille (Thomas) Beyer (Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch (Princeville, IL). On January 1, Bro. Mike Waibel was united in holy matrimony to Sis. Rose Jevremov. Parents are Bro. Bill



and Sis. Joyce Waibel (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov (San Diego, CA). We wish both of these couples the Lord's best always. We also welcome Bro. Tim and Sis. Diane Roecker, who moved here recently from Denver, CO.

"The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works."  
Psalms 145:9

-----

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

#### Marjean Lehman

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

John 1:1

Our thanks go to visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka). May God's blessings be added to their words and to them.

On January 1, two friends were announced for baptism. They are Rachel Feucht (Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret) and John Grassi. On January 14 we heard their testimony of faith and January 15 we witnessed their baptisms. We welcome them into the fold and wish them God's blessings of continued peace, guidance and the love of God to light their pilgrim path.

On December 18, Sis. Theresa Knobloch and Bro. Dean Thomas were united in holy matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch and Bro. Robert and Sis. Lucille Beyer (Naumburg, NY). May God's blessings be with them as they walk life's pathway together.

On December 19, little Beth Loretta Christ was born to Sis. Connie and Bro. Kurt Christ. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Loretta and Bro. Elwin Rumbold (Bradford) and Sis. Doris and Bro. Walter Christ.

On January 12, Chadwick Allen Kieser was born to Sis. Brenda and Bro. Randy Kieser. Chadwick is welcomed home also by big sister, Amanda. Grandparents welcoming their little blessing are Sis. Donna and Bro.

Ellsworth Martin and Sis. Esther and Bro. George Kieser.

On January 13, Shaela Nichole Elsasser became the firstborn of Kim and Jay Elsasser. She also is a blessing to grandparents: Sis. Dorene and Bro. Duane Elsasser and Cheryl and Henry Weller.

We welcome these little babies also and wish them God's blessings as they are nurtured and cared for by loving parents as well as their family circles.

Sis. Anna Siebenthal suffered a broken foot and Andy Martin had the misfortune of a broken arm. We hope they will be able to heal completely.

Our congregation wishes to express sincere sympathy to Sis. Helen Baer in the recent death of her sister, Lulu Miller.

Our congregation misses Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst who have moved to Oakville, IA. May God's blessings be with them as they worship there.

On December 18, Sunday evening, we were able to enjoy the Christmas program by the Sunday school students. From the youngest to the oldest, we were able to see that their efforts were sincere, and it was a blessing to think back to the birth of our Lord Jesus. May God's blessings be in each of their hearts and may they have a desire to draw closer to Him.

On January 6, John Wyss passed away. Funeral services were held here January 9. Our sincere sympathy goes to those of his relation.

Our annual business meeting was held January 11. Those whose terms have been completed are: Bro. Eugene Siebenthal and Sis. Shirley Leuthold. May God bless them for all their efforts. Those taking new duties are: Bro. Bob Scholl, trustee; Bro. Earl Grimm, fellowship hall trustee; Bro. David Streitmatter, usher and Sis. Margaret Feucht, kitchen committee. May they each accept their new responsibilities with willingness and may God bless them in their service.

"We sing our heartfelt thanks,  
Thy truth and love adoring.  
For guidance and for light  
Thy Spirit we're imploring.  
Our hearts we offer Thee  
For life and every day,  
That with Thy grace we tread  
The straight and narrow way."

### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

#### Patsy Kaeb - Sandy Leman

The annual business meeting was held January 4. We appreciate the time and efforts of those whose terms of service are over, and we ask God's blessing on those who are assuming new roles. As we are reminded in I Corinthians 12, we need to have all parts of the body working together in order for the body to function as it should.

The newest addition to our congregation is little David Benjamin Zimmerman, who was born December 15, to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Mary Beth Zimmerman. David's brothers are Jake and Caleb. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Leman and Gene Zimmerman (Eureka) and Carol Zimmerman (Peoria).

We appreciate the ministry of two visiting brothers this past month, Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville). May God bless their efforts and add the increase.

Christmas Eve was a special time for Kevin Braker and Janice Rodgers, who were married on that date. Kevin's parents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Michaleen Braker.

Recent hospital patients were Bro. Morris Knapp (Sis. Helen), Sis. Doris Hodel (Bro. Jim) and Lydia Bertschi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Beverly). We wish them continuing recovery of health and strength.

Our oldest sister in Roanoke, Sis. Emma Schumacher, 103, died January 4. Her husband, Bro. Andrew, preceded her in death.

Sis. Marie Martin died January 10. She was the mother of our Sis. Jan Getz and Marilyn Blunier (Sarasota, FL). She is also survived by three brothers, Virgil, Wilmer (Bun) and Norman (all of Roanoke); three sisters, Sis. Dorothy Meier (Peoria), Eunice Schupbach (Bloomington) and Sis. Helen Fehr (Roanoke). Sis. Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Joe Martin, who died in February, 1965; and by three brothers, Clyde, Melvin and Les Funk. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family.

On January 12, Bro. Glen Hodel died on the same place where he was born in 1910. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Margaret; two sons, Bro. Ken and Sam; three daughters, Ed-

ith Yordy, Sis. Nancy Gingrich and Lucy Koehler; two brothers, Ed and Bro. Ray; and two sisters, Sis. Lena Wiegand and Sis. Mae Rocke. He was preceded in death by two brothers. We pray that God will comfort his family in the days ahead.

We rejoice with Bro. Walter and Sis. Marian Blunier as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary February 5. May God's blessings be with them as they continue life's journey together.

A reminder to our Roanoke congregation: February is collection month for the Silver Lining.

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Carolyn Bolliger  
Marsha Koch**

We welcome five new brothers who were baptized January 15. They are Bro. David Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann), Bro. Doug Huette (Bro. William and Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Tim Kaiser (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene), Bro. Glen Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella) and Bro. Nathan Koch (Sis. Nancy). We wish them God's guidance.

The engagement of Bro. Cleo Koch to Sis. Nancy Koch was made known. We wish them a future filled with blessings.

Bro. Kent Miller (Tucson, AZ) was joined in marriage to Sis. Jane Lang. Their parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis Lang (Tremont). May God be with them as they start their lives together.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Robert Walder (Congerville), and Bros. Noah Herman (Tucson, AZ), Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA). We thank these dear brothers for bringing the Word to us so faithfully.

Our sympathy goes to the following: Steiner family on the passing of Elder Bro. Stephen Rinkenberger, Sis. Nancy Sauder on the death of her father, Bro. George Stoller, and Sis. Ida Schweigert on the passing of her sister, Sis. Lulu Miller. May each one turn to God for comfort.

Sis. Elizabeth Feldman would like to thank everyone who remembered

her for her 94th birthday and Christmas.

### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Carol Schick**

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke). May God be with His ministering servants as they share the Word.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family of Ernest Pfaffmann who passed away December 26, 1988. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Ida Pfaffmann; two sons, Bro. Robert and Bro. Max (Washington); and one daughter, Sis. Sandy Fehr (Eureka). We will all miss his perky smile and hope that God's comforting hand will be felt by all his family.

God has sent a beautiful bundle of joy to Mark and Lisa Schmidgall. Ashley Elizabeth is their first child. The proud grandparents are Stephen and Marilyn Florie (Washington) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Eureka).

Bro. Norm and Sis. Kathy Knapp have moved to the St. Louis area. We wish them God's blessings in their new jobs and hope they will visit us when they are in the Washington area.

We want to thank Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont) for leading us in a Bible study on the topic of fellowship. His discussion led us to take our spiritual fellowship with one another more seriously.

Sis. Dolly Schick would like to thank everyone for the shower of cards she received on her birthday.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Jean Moser - Shari Fiechter**

We were encouraged by the inspiring words brought to us by visiting ministers, Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH).

"Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:17-18

Elder Bro. Loren Stoller was with us for topical Bible discussion on "Prayer" January 3. May God bless the efforts of all those who are willing to teach the Word.

Two hearts that first sought the Lord Jesus for their personal salvation are now finding that the Lord has brought them together as they join hearts and hands. On January 1, Sis. Trina Bucher (Bluffton North, Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis) and Bro. Mark Holocher (Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam) announced their engagement. A June wedding is being planned.

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

Philippians 1:21

Four dear souls have been called by God to enter His eternal heavenly rest. Sis. Lydia Liechty, 102, was called home January 3. We extend our sympathy to her sons, Leonard, Norman, Charles and Lloyd; and daughter, Fannie Landfair.

Our dear retired Elder Bro. John Yergler, 89, was called to his eternal home suddenly January 11. The vacancy will be keenly felt by his family. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Ella; and four sons, Bro. Robert (Sis. Carolyn), Bro. Truman (Sis. Marcella), Bro. Richard (Sis. Lillian) and Bro. Claire (Sis. Mary Jane), all of Bluffton; three sisters, Sis. Olive Gramm (Morton), Sis. Esther Yergler (Gridley) and Verna Bolligar (Silverton, OR); 10 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Sis. Martha Moser, 99, widow of Bro. Joe, passed away at Swiss Village January 15. Surviving are a son, Bro. Ervin (Sis. Lu) Moser and a daughter, Sis. Goldie (Bro. Art) Kipfer; three brothers, Bro. John (Sis. Mary) Moser, Bro. William (Emma) Moser, and Bro. Fred (Sis. Mabel) Moser; nine grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

"Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth."

Psalms 71:20

Those who needed hospital care and our prayers this month were Bro. Tom (Sis. Barbara) Pfister, Sis. Emma Baumgartner, Sis. Dorothy (Bro.

Russell Moser, Sis. Mary Speheger, Bro. Millard (Sis. Alice) Aschliman, Sis. Minnie Isch, Bro. William (Sis. Marjorie) Ringger and Bro. Sylvan (Sis. Doris) Frauhiger.

Precious little bundles add so much joy to a home. Our congratulations go to Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger on the arrival of a new granddaughter, Serenity Esther, born to Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger (Fort Lauderdale, FL).

Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Compton welcome their first child, Kelsey Nicole, born January 15. Grandparents are Robert and Betty Steffen (Bluffton North) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Edna Leman (Eureka, IL).

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

We rejoice that five dear souls have found the Lord. "For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord." Proverbs 8:35. We were privileged to witness the testimonies and baptisms and welcome our new brother and sisters-in-faith. They are Bro. Rich and Sis. Wendy Runion (Bro. Richard and Sis. Rosie Kipfer), Sis. Brenda Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny), Sis. Trudy Steffen (Bro. Ramon and Sis. Rene), and Sis. Lisa (Doyle) Weils (Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter). We wish them God's abundant grace and richest blessings.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Lois Drayer

Debbie Aeschliman

Our congregation gathered together January 7 for the reading of the conference report. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz

(Bluffton) could be with us. Many things were discussed at the conference and we hope we can all take these things to heart. Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend). Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) was here January 3 for Bible discussion. We appreciate the sermons and fellowship of all the visiting ministers and their families. We welcome them back anytime.

Sis. Trina Bucher (Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis) and Bro. Mark Holocher (Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam, Bluffton) are planning a summer wedding, June 11. We wish them God's blessings.

We congratulate Bob and Betty Steffen on the birth of their new granddaughter, Kelsey Nichole. Kelsey was born January 15 to Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Compton (Bluffton).

Our community and our churches will feel a great loss in the passing of two dear souls. Retired Elder Bro. John Yergler (Sis. Ella, Bluffton) died January 11 at the age of 89. He served the Lord for over 40 years as minister and elder. All of us have many fond memories and happy thoughts of Bro. John. Our sympathies are extended to Sis. Ella and their four sons, Bro. Truman (Sis. Marcella, Bluffton), Bro. Bob (Sis. Carolyn), Bro. Richard (Sis. Lillian, Bluffton), and Bro. Claire (Sis. Mary Jane, Bluffton) and all the grandchildren. Widow of Bro. Joe, Sis. Martha Moser (Bluffton), 99, passed away January 15. She resided at Swiss Village for the past twelve years. Sis. Martha was the mother of Sis. Goldie Kipfer (Bro. Art) and Bro. Ervin (Sis. Lu, Bluffton). She is also survived by three brothers, Bro. John Moser (Sis. Mary), Bro. William Moser (Emma) and Bro. Fred Moser (Sis. Mabel, Bluffton). Our sympathy is extended to the family.

Our prayers are with loved ones in our congregation who were hospitalized this past month. Sis. Goldie Kipfer (Bro. Art), Sis. Becky Ringger (Bro. Sam), Bro. Jay Rauch (Sis. Mabel) and Sis. Leona Gerber (Bro. Obed). We wish them God's grace.

One Sunday we heard a minister talk about an oyster that gets a grain of sand in its shell. Although the grain is irritating, the oyster cannot remove it. Instead, it coats the grain

with a film to form a pearl. It would be just as easy for the oyster to cry "Why me?" but it tolerates the grain of sand and makes the best of it. Likewise in our lives, when we get bodily aches, sicknesses and severe illnesses, we may wonder at times, "Why us?" Are we like the oyster that bears its affliction without complaint?

#### Thank You

I want to thank each one of you from various churches who participated in a card shower for my recent birthday. I was overwhelmed and words cannot express my sincere gratitude for all the cards and words of encouragement which were sent to me. I have never known such Godly love and blessings before in my life. I thank God for leading me to the Apostolic Christian Church. May God richly bless all of you for your love and kindness.

A New Pilgrim on God's Pathway,  
Thomas Staley  
Moundsville, WV

#### Thank You

I want to thank every one from various Apostolic Christian churches who sent me birthday cards at the time of my recent birthday. I was truly overwhelmed with all the cards I received. The close-knit love and fellowship of the members and friends of the Apostolic Christian churches have not ceased to amaze me since my conversion and affiliation with this denomination in 1980. Also, I know many prayers have been said for me over the years, and I greatly appreciate this, too, and thank you for each prayer offered on my behalf. May God richly bless you for your love and kindness shown to me in so many ways over the past nine years.

In Christian love,  
Eugene Paul Clawson  
Moundsville, WV

#### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lynne Wuethrich

Our congregation had the joy of witnessing the marriage of our dear Sis. Kelly Wuethrich (Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth) to Bro. Mark Ramseyer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Dorothy, Bay City, MI). It's always such a blessing to see souls seeking out God's will in taking such an important step in their lives. Ministering unto us that spe-



cial day were Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis), Bro. Bill Waibel and Bro. James Ramseyer (both of Bay City, MI).

We've had two new babies to be thankful for. Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber have a new baby girl, Christen Leigh, born January 8. Christen has two sisters, Sharlin and Rachel, and one brother, Phillip, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Huber (Francesville) and Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna Grimm (Goodfield).

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein are rejoicing over their new baby boy, Joshua David, born January 11. Joshua has three sisters, Alysa, Shawna and Brooke, and two brothers, Ryan and Brett. Grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Ad Gutwein (Francesville) and Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm (Taylor, MO). We thank our heavenly Father for these new precious babies.

It's so true, life can be wonderful with God on our side. Three dear friends have chosen God to lead them through this mixed up world. We heard the testimonies of Sis. Kathy Lee (Joe) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Westfall January 14. On the following day they all were baptized in the Lord. Listening to their sincere testimonies inspired us all again to serve God humbly and seriously. We want to thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) for lending himself for that all important weekend.

Our congregation is going to deeply miss Sis. Mary Louise Westfall, 55, who passed away January 5. Sis. Mary had been ill for several years. We learned so much as we watched Sis. Mary remain steadfast and trust God to care for her. She always seemed so peaceful through it all. Bro. Karl survives with his seven children: Greg (Kathy, Lafayette), Bro. Dave (Sis. Julie, Francesville), Dennis (Mitzi, LaPorte), Bruce (Colleen, Stuttgart, Germany), and Sis. Karlene, Kristine and Joel (all of Francesville). All of Sis. Mary's brothers and sisters are from our Francesville congregation: Sis. Maxine Novotny (Bro. Art), Sis. Sharon Denton (Bro. Jim), Sis. Juanita Norman, Bro. Nate (Sis. Ad), Bro. Edison (Sis. Chrisann), Bro. Carl (Sis. Yvonne), Bro. Elden (Sis. Mary Lee), Bro. Rodney (Sis. Donna) and Bro. Philip (Sis. Carol). We pray that

God will comfort this dear family.

We've had two hospital patients this month. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella) and Bro. Eli Anliker (Sis. Priscilla) both underwent surgery. They are both recovering. We pray they will continue to gain good health and strength.

We want to thank our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford), Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott), Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott) and Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all you loved ones for the lovely cards and gifts sent to me, above all the many prayers that were said for my recovery. Again, I say thank you. May the Lord bless you all.

Eli Anliker

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

We again appreciate the many visiting ministers and those who accompany them. This month we heard the Word from Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North), Robert Beebe (South Bend) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH).

A recent study, summarized in the current issue of a major medical journal, reported that hospitalized patients who had other people praying for them had slightly fewer medical complications.

Christians should know about the power of prayer, because His Word promises that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Some may feel that prayer is a "last resort," a desperate plea when one has "done everything" and human action has been exhausted.

In reality, prayer should be our first activity. It is an act of bold confidence, coming before the throne of Almighty God. Prayer is not "the only thing left to do," it is the most important thing to do first.

Prayer is powerful action. In fact, an acronym could be used to describe what happens when we pray:

- A - Adoration
- C - Confession
- T - Thanksgiving
- S - Supplication

So, when a friend says, "Pray for

me," do it! When a situation arises which demands action, pray first, and your response will be God-guided!

And remember, God has promised to answer our prayers. "Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, here I am." Isaiah 58:9

#### INDIANA, LACROSSE Sandy Heinold

#### GOD CARES FOR YOU

Because Christ came to earth to live  
And share our joys and sorrows,  
He understands our dreams, our hopes,  
Our fears of sad tomorrows.  
He knows our pain, our grief, our woes;  
He knows our every care;  
And so He understands our needs  
When we come to Him in prayer.  
Nancy Miller

How thankful we are that God's Word contains the reassurance that He does care for us. This message gives us the courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him.

We appreciate the guidance and teaching given us in this past month by our ministers. We thank each of them and especially our visiting ministers, Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN).

Bro. Phil Troxel (Sis. Mary) remains hospitalized at this time due to illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

#### INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

The story is told that in a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. At last, he decided to build them a church.

No one saw the complete plans for the church until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, "But where are the lamps? How will it be lighted?"

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave to

each family a lamp which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted," the nobleman said. "Each time you are not here, that area will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark." The story serves to remind us that each has a place to fill, a corner to brighten, a work to do for Him.

Our newcomers are welcomed with joy, and we trust they will soon find their place of work and fellowship in our church family. Bro. John and Sis. Becky Maggart, and children, Adrienne and Josh, were formerly from Bluffton. Sis. Susan Getz came from Remington. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames and children, David and Katelyn, are from Bloomington, IL.

In remembrance of His sacrifice for us, holy communion was recently observed. This sacred rite was served by Elder Bros. David Bertsch and Philip Stettner (Bluffton North).

The congregation was also recently blessed through a message by Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI).

#### Bits of This and That:

"If the Lord should ask me to go  
With a loaf of bread I know  
My feet would be swift, but I blush in  
shame  
When I remember that in His name  
He has asked me to go with the Living  
Bread  
And while I have tarried, my friend is  
unfed."

The final test of a Christian is the love he shows for those who can be of no possible service to him.

Few are wise enough to judge others or have grace enough to resist doing so.

Life is like an orchestra in that we don't all play the same part, but we must play in harmony.

Do unto others as though you were the others.

Life is what happens to you while you are making other plans!

-----  
Address Changed ???  
Give Old and New Address  
To Your Reporter

### INDIANA, MILFORD

Sue Schieler

Marguerite Hoerr

Several valued members of our congregation spent time in hospitals this past month: Sis. Esther Getz has recovered from gall bladder surgery and is able to be in her home again; Bro. John Lehman underwent treatment for a heart problem and is worshipping with us again; Brian Wuthrich, son of Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda, received medical treatment for flu symptoms, and is fully recovered; Tillie Kasbaum had major surgery and, we're thankful to report, is making slow but satisfactory recovery.

We solicit additional prayers for Tillie and her sisters, Edna Graff and Sis. Mary Gerber. Tillie and Sis. Mary have been faithfully caring for Edna during a lengthy illness. A heavier than usual responsibility rests on Sis. Mary at this time, and we know the concerns these family members have for each other. Unified prayer support will be so appreciated by all three of them.

Additionally, we ask for the same support for Sis. Flossie Hartter and Bro. Elmer. Sis. Flossie is making slow but steady progress at Fountain View Place following a stroke. We know prayers from those they love will give them needed courage each day.

Mitch and Shannon Price welcomed their first child, a sweet little daughter named Kaylyn Marie, December 20. Paternal grandparents are Stan and Sis. Ginger Price. Shannon's parents are Melvin and Connie Jordan (Milford). May God bless this little family.

Our annual January business meeting resulted in the following persons elected to office: Bro. Don Haab, trustee; Bro. Fred Beer, Bible class; Bros. Alvin Haab and Bill Longcor, upper elementary and junior high classes; Sisters Deb Beer, Pat Beer, Carol Haab, Jane Price and Tonya Price, pre-school and lower elementary; Bro. Dick Steffen, building assistance and Bro. Bob Hoerr, personal property assistance. Our gratitude is expressed to those who completed their terms of office in the past year.

### INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

Our annual meeting traditionally occurs right after the holidays. Newly elected brethren are: Dan Kilgus, Stan Virkler, Ed Bahler, Jr. and Jody Waibel, Sunday school teachers; Ron Clark, trustee; Esther Bahler, hospitality; Emily Kilgus and Marilyn Bahler, Parkview Haven activities; Ray Steffen, personal property program and Gene Waibel, hail assistance program.

Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler exhorted us January 8 on some practical aspects of godly living.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Arleta Waibel (Bro. Harold) on the passing of her mother, Sis. Lena Strahm (Bern, KS).

#### "JOHN BUNYAN ON PRAYER"

John Bunyan, author of Pilgrim's Progress, the world's second best-seller (the Bible being the first), had this to say concerning prayer, "When you pray, rather let your heart be without words, than your words without heart. Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer. Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God and a scourge for Satan. Most of us could pray more than we do. Prayer is exercise for the soul and should be as normal for the spiritual man as breathing is for the physical man. Too many of us cease without praying, when we should pray without ceasing. Let us pray fervently -- with more heart than words, but with both directed by the Holy Spirit."

### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Sue Beebe

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near."  
Isaiah 55:6

With joy we report that Natalie Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie) has felt a conviction to turn to the Lord. What a blessing it is to seek the Lord in our youth!

Sis. Mae Schumacher continues to be a patient at Bremen Community Hospital and expects to be there for some time yet. Sis. Mildred Meister has been released from the hospi-

tal and is recuperating at home. Sis. Pauline Laidig has also been released and is presently staying with her daughter and son-in-law, Darrel and Karen Sommers and their family. Our thoughts are often with these three dear sisters as they recuperate from an automobile accident which occurred December 2. We especially miss them as we gather together to worship and hope it won't be long before they can meet with us once again. We are thankful that Sis. Ernestine Meister is able to fellowship with us again on Sundays.

Sharing God's Word with us Christmas Day was Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford) ministered to us New Year's Eve. We appreciate and thank these brothers and their families for their efforts put forth on our behalf.

We extend a warm welcome to all to visit and fellowship with our little congregation.

#### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Beth Heinold - Trish Bucher**

Our congregation has been blessed with a joyous Christmas season. Our Sunday school students brought forth a precious Christmas message in their program.

Let us keep Christ  
as the heart of our Christmas,  
the reason for all of our joy,  
Let us reflect  
on the season's true meaning . . .  
the birth of a dear little boy.  
Whenever we see  
decorations that sparkle  
and tree lights that glimmer and glow,  
Let us remember  
the star that shone brightly  
and lit up that night long ago.  
Whenever we wrap up  
our presents to others  
and dream of the gifts we'd like best,  
Let us remember  
God's gift of a Savior . . .  
the gift that outshines all the rest.  
Let us keep Christ  
as the heart of our Christmas  
and take time to think of His love  
The secret to feeling  
the true Christmas spirit  
and knowing His peace from above.

Diana Manning

Bro. Andy and Sis. Diane Moser

once again have the opportunity to add one more of God's precious lambs to their family. Lee is three months old. May God's grace be with them as they strive to nurture this little soul.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). May God richly bless him for his willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

#### INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

**Lynn Martin**

"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." John 15:9. As Valentine's Day, February 14, passes, we remember and think about the love we have for each other. On January 1, Sis. Trina Bucher (Bluffton North) and Bro. Mark Holocher (Bluffton North) expressed their love for each other, and believing God has brought them together, announced their engagement. Sis. Trina attends Purdue, and we wish her and Bro. Mark God's blessings in their new life together.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20. We are thankful to have visiting ministers come and share God's precious Word with us every other Thursday evening. Those who have shared with us are Elder Bro. Wendell Gude-man (Francesville) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis). We thank all of those who make the effort to come and worship with us. Services for the remainder of the year are February 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.

#### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume**

On December 21, our Sunday school children reminded us of God's love for us in the birth of His Son. May these seeds of truth remain in their hearts and minds and some day bring forth fruit.

Our annual business meeting was held January 2. We thank those who have fulfilled their responsibilities and pray an extra portion of grace

and wisdom on those who are assuming these duties.

We rejoice with Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel Schwab in the birth of their healthy baby boy, Justin Timothy, born January 10. He has sisters, Theresa, Katie and Sheila, to shower him with love, as well as grandparents, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab (Wolcott) and Sis. Elizabeth Schambach (Elgin, IL).

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Deyona Massner - Karen Schulz**

We are thankful that Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) were with us this past month and brought to us the Word of Life.

We held our annual business meeting January 8. Bro. Dale Massner is our new trustee and Sis. Gail Massner will serve on the women's committee. We want to thank those who have served in the past. Bro. Paul Wagler has served for many years as our secretary and treasurer. He asked that these duties be given to some other brothers. Bro. Leroy Wulf and Bro. Fred Eberhardt were appointed our new treasurer and secretary, respectively. We give all these brethren our prayerful support in their new duties so that our physical church can be maintained.

A reminder: February is collection month for Burlington.

#### IOWA, ELGIN

**Gloria Frieden**

Due to the icy walks and roads, we have been walking very slowly and carefully to prevent falls and injuries. It reminds me of our Christian walk, in which we also must walk carefully and prayerfully, lest we slip and fall along the way, or cause another to fall by the examples we leave. Often, without our realizing, our walk is being observed and perhaps our faith judged by the steps we take. So may God help us to take as much care in our Christian walk as we do on the icy walk.

We are thankful that our two hospital patients, Adeline Lehman and Bro. Lon Butikofer (Sis. Sandy) are able to be back home again.



## 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

Notice: Silver Lining dues are due  
 in February.

-----

**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Dawn Moser**

We would like to thank the following visiting ministers who took of their time to be with us and expound on God's Word. They were Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS).

Our sympathy, love and prayers are extended to Sis. Sally Funk and family in the loss of her father, Bro. Art Wullschlegler.

On December 18, we gathered for our monthly potluck supper and afterwards the children presented their Sunday school Christmas program. They re-enacted that precious night when Christ was born. What a joy it was for us as we listened, and even for the children as they told us again of that wonderful night.

Tom and I were recently talking about the emotions that go along with a move: the fear, anxiety and excitement. He stated that he hopes that is the way death will be -- a little fear-

ful, some anxiousness and an undercurrent of excitement because we will be meeting Jesus face to face.

-----

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

As I'm writing this, the sun is bright and clearly shining through the crisp, cold winter air. Only yesterday it was wet, dreary and gloomy. It reminded me of our spiritual life. When we are in a gloomy, dreary time, it seems as if it will be unending, but, if we are patient, God will shine his "sun" into our lives and awaken and refresh us.

We will miss Kris Licko who has transferred to a college closer to her home near Oakville, IA. We hope her studies continue to be beneficial.

We also wish Brad Gramm the best as he takes employment in the Kansas City area.

-----

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

Our spiritual cups were filled to overflowing as we listened to the testimonies of five dear souls January 14, and then witnessed their baptisms on Sunday. Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) assisted Bro. Leo in this holy work. Other visitors ministering to us Sunday were Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend). Those dedicating their lives in the service of our Lord were Kevin and Dawn (Martin) Metzger, Trent Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet), Angela Warner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther) and Neil Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie). Thanks be to God that the door of grace remains open and dear souls can be gathered in.

We are grateful for visiting ministers among us over Christmas and New Year's. Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski) and Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin) were led of His spirit to fill our spiritual needs and we pray God's blessings upon them for lending themselves on our behalf.

Believing children are a heritage of the Lord, we rejoice that God has blessed Mike and Kathy Moser with a healthy son. Paul Michael was born December 14. Paternal grandparents

are Lou and Tina Moser.

Sis. Linda Moser (Jim) and Bro. Larry Leuthold were recently hospitalized for medical reasons. Submitting to surgery was Sis. Mary Metzger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna). We pray that God will continue to meet their individual needs in restoring them to reasonable health again.

-----

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

Carly Kim is welcomed into the family circle of Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb Wagenbach. She is their second baby girl and has big brother, Reilly, and big sister, Alicen, to help take care of her. Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Sis. Hilda Gerst (late Bro. Carl) are happy to have another grandchild.

Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) have recently been visiting our Oakville congregation and brought forth to us the precious teachings of our God.

At our annual business meeting we elected several new committee members. Among those elected are: Sisters Barbara Massner and Martha Wiegand to the kitchen committee, Bro. Bill Schrock to the cemetery committee, Bro. Leon Kuntz to the fellowship hall committee, and Bro. Conrad Gerst as church trustee. Our outgoing members are Sisters Rosemary Wegman and Ada Banwart, Bro. Brian Wiegand, Bro. Paul Wagenbach and Bro. Norm Frank. We often fail to realize that the efforts put forth behind the scenes are a big part of keeping our church orderly. We trust that God will richly bless those who diligently carry out these responsibilities.

Thought: Doing what you like is freedom, liking what you do is happiness (Anonymous). Couldn't we even take this a step further and say, in a spiritual sense, that we already have the freedom to serve our God as we see fit, so doesn't it behoove each one of us to serve Him with joy and contentment which brings perfect peace to the soul?

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank each and every one

of you for your cards, letters, phone calls, gifts and most of all your prayers and kind words of encouragement during the past months of my illness. God bless you all.

Sis. Clara Frank

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

We have been blessed with many visitors this past month. Among them were Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). We thank them for bringing forth God's Word.

We also enjoyed having the Roanoke young group with us. They were here January 7 & 8. We thank all our visitors for coming.

Those spending time in the hospital were Sis. Esther Rinkenberger and Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich. We are happy that they could assemble with us again. May God continue to give grace and strength to those who suffer pain.

-----  
**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber**

God is still among us. We can feel His presence each Sunday as we gather together to hear His Word proclaimed. We have been privileged to have three young brothers minister to us: Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA). May God reward them for letting themselves be used in His service.

We are thankful to have those who were sick gathering with us again. Those hospitalized this past month were: Miriam Freiden, Diana Mogler (Eric), and Pearl Gerber (Eli).

Our annual church meeting was held December 6. The following positions were filled: ushers, Bros. Larry Bruellman and Kent Banwart; parking attendant, Bro. Merlyn Metzger; World Relief committee, Sis. Berneice Banwart; and Bro. Don Bruellman on the Retirement Village board. Sis. Mary Gerber is the new Silver Lining correspondent. We wish to express our thanks to those who just completed their terms.

Our appreciation is given to all our Sunday school teachers who labored with the children to bring us

the story of Christ at their Christmas program December 18.

We are nearing completion of our Sunday school addition to our church and thank all those who shared their time and effort to make it possible.

Statistics for 1988 were: eleven babies (eight boys and three girls), six deaths, one baptism and three marriages.

-----  
**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
**Kathy Kieser**

"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." I Chronicles 16:29. In the New Year, let's really believe that Jesus' blood has cleansed us and that we're forgiven. Let's move on with praises and thanksgiving to God as we worship Him and enjoy the abundant life promised to those who believe and obey God's Word.

Our annual church conference was held in January at Shioda church. We listened to a summary of the messages given at the August general conference in the States and discussed the issue of inviting others to church -- who, how and when.

Sis. Renee Baurer was able to be with her family and friends in the States for a few weeks during Christmas vacation this past December and January.

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

On Christmas Day, a Sunday, we appreciated having Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) minister the Word to us. Christmas is a blessed time, remembering Christ's lowly birth, and a time to be together with family members, oft times those we only see occasionally.

Time goes by so swiftly and Christmas of 1988 is history as we are a few weeks into the new year of 1989 already. We want to have another year with our Lord's nearness, as we sing in Hymns of Zion #150:

**ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING**

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

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

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

Frances R. Havergal

Shortly after the new year began, January 5, Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy Strahm welcomed little Fritz Baumgartner into their hearts and home. Fritz has two brothers, Almanzo and Hans. Grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm, and Les and Leora Baumgartner.

We miss having Sis. Esther Moser assemble with us as she has been a hospital patient. Our prayers are for her recovery as she is once again at home.

On January 10 we held our annual business meeting, electing different brothers and sisters to fill various positions and carry out duties, and addressing other matters that need attention yearly. We greatly appreciate the efforts of those brethren who faithfully executed the duties of their office, thanking them and wishing each one blessings from God, unto Whom we must needs do all things. Likewise, may God bless each brother and sister upon whom duties and responsibilities have fallen, that all be done to the glory of God.

-----  
**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**  
**Karen Sinn**

We enjoyed having Bro. Kent and Sis. Jane Miller with us the weekend of January 8. They were married January 1, at Tremont, IL. Their parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller (Fort Scott) and Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis Lang (Tremont, IL). They will make their home in Tucson, AZ.

Our hearts were saddened as we sang "God Bless You" as a farewell hymn for Bro. Jimmie and Sis. Pam Jackson and their children, Derek and Drew. They relocated near Wichita, KS, as Bro. Jimmie has accepted employment there. Our small congregation will miss them.

Our annual business meeting was held January 18. Those newly elected

are as follows: Sunday school teachers, Bro. Harold Kraft, Bro. Jerry Bahr, Sis. Carol Sinn and Sis. Teresa Bahr; trustee, Bro. Lon Banwart; ushers, Bro. John Sinn and Bro. Jerry Bahr; food committee, Sis. Lucille Schurter; song leader, Bro. Jim Bahr; brotherhood assistance, Bro. Charles Sinn. May God bless and provide for those who are willing to give of themselves for His service.

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

"... when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

Psalms 61:2

We know that being a Christian doesn't mean that we will live continually on a high plateau. We can think of the psalmist David and the Apostle Paul, who surely felt the depths of despair at times. We know that as Christians the tears of sadness will still flow, the pressures of life will still come and temptations will ever be present. But through it all, God's grace, peace and joy can sustain.

Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson conducted our annual business meeting the first Friday in January. We're thankful for each brother and sister who is willing to do their part within the church.

Bro. Sam Kraft was hospitalized for several days. He is now at home, convalescing. Sis. Esther Knapp also was hospitalized. She is now back in Yate Center Nursing Home.

-----  
**KANSAS,**  
**KANSAS STATE UNIV.**  
**Camille Strahm**

The month of January found most of us K-Staters returning to Manhattan. There were, however, a few who were conspicuously absent. Christy Meyer (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence, Sabetha) graduated in December and has accepted a position with Pizza Hut in Wichita. Karen Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene, Sabetha) feels that God has directed her to return home. And Sis. Kim Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet, Bern) has moved to Topeka where she is student teaching. We miss them all, but wish them

God's continued care and guidance.

Just as our Father has seen fit to remove a few from our group here, it has also pleased Him to add several to our fellowship. It is wonderful to have Art Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian, Sabetha) assembling with us as a new person in Christ. We certainly look forward to seeing a bit more of him now that he has yielded to God's loving guidance. I was pleasantly surprised to run into Stacy Sinn (Fort Scott) on campus. She has transferred to K-State from a community college and we extend a hearty welcome to her.

Christmas caroling went very well, thanks to the large turnout of visitors. Those beautiful hymns have such a marvelous way of touching the old and the ill. We want to extend a special thank you to Bro. Lee and Sis. Natalie Martin for hosting the supper afterwards.

We would certainly be remiss if we did not offer our sincere gratitude to Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern) for ministering God's Word to us. How we need the encouragement and chastening that springs from the holy words of God!

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

A brand new year! A new beginning! A time to put away the old and start all over again fresh and clean. With the birth of Jesus still ringing in our hearts, let's let this new year begin with Him, progress with Him, and Lord willing, end in Him. As the Hymns of Zion song #150 says, "Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be, On earth, or else in heaven, Another year for Thee. Amen."

Our hospital patients this month included Lowell Stuckey and Komari Neal. We are thankful they are home now, as are Sis. Lydia Circle, Sis. Edna Reed and Sis. Dorothy Brown. We hope they, and all those who have been gone due to illness, may soon be able to worship with us again.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott) for joining Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson one weekend this month to present the memorandum to us. It is such a joy to know that the guidelines our elders and ministering brethren have kept as close to

Scripture as possible are still here for us, and, I pray, for our children. May we, the flock, make their work easier by being faithful, not rebels, by being followers, not self-willed. Thus, maybe our precious faith may grow and flourish until we are called home.

Why don't we give Jesus a heart on Valentine's Day? Our heart!

Note: Silver Lining dues to be collected in Kiowa in February.

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

We held our annual election January 15. Those who were re-elected were: Bro. Lloyd Luthi, church board; Sis. Mary Isch, Silver Lining reporter; Bro. Glen Anliker, real estate insurance board; Bro. Roy Wernli, Morton Home representative; and Bro. Lloyd Luthi, works project committee. Those who were newly elected were: Bro. Lloyd Luthi, Bible class teacher; Bro. Jay Luthi, substitute for Bible class; Sis. Dorothy Schrader, food committee; Bro. Tom Knobloch, car parking; and Bro. John Schrader, usher.

Bro. Glen Anliker was a surgical patient this month and is home recuperating.

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

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."  
 Luke 15:10

Art Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian) has begun a new life in Christ. We pray that the Lord will give him much grace.

Bro. Willard Bahr is hospitalized at the time of this writing. May the Lord be merciful and return good health to him.

We always enjoy visitors no matter if their destination is here or if they are passing through. Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Darrell Stoller (Bern, KS) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). We thank them for their service to us.

We often find in visiting with our brethren that we are not alone in our fears and trials by which Satan, through this modern society, tempts



us. Let us not forget that the victory is already won by Christ's death and shed blood and we are part of that victory. "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: . . . Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:5, 11.

Awake, ye witnesses! Be burning  
In deepest love; inflame also our hearts;  
Let from above descend upon us  
The fiery tongues that with their  
flaming darts  
Rise up and melt together, we  
imply,  
In fervent heat the faithful evermore!

Has love's bright flame died out among  
us?  
Nay, it shall burn intensely and with  
zeal,  
Shall be the pow'r and inspiration  
That brings forth fruit of sweetness  
pure and real;  
It wafts to us the cooling heav'nly  
breeze,  
Gives us in conflict victory and peace.

Thou, Shepherd, hast each one  
entreated  
To work and do with diligence Thy  
will;  
Ne'er shall Thy love in us be waning,  
And as it bound the saints, so bind us  
still.  
It gives us hope where we in fear  
would groan,  
Leads us to trust in Thy good help  
alone.

The cross shall be our preparation,  
Our hearts as holy temples to ordain,  
Lest in eternal condemnation  
Our soul shall suffer torment, grief  
and pain,  
Sound therefore loud and clear Thy  
Shepherd's call;  
Into our hearts its echo e'er shall fall.

The heaven's gates are standing open,  
And in Thy holy covenant we stand.  
If we but honor, if we trust Thee,  
Thou wilt adorn us with Thy gracious  
hand,  
Yea, though the earth and heaven  
pass away,  
Yet in Thy covenant we'll ever stay.

We are engaged in mortal combat;  
A coward soon despairs, turns back  
and flees,  
But he whom Christ gives sword and  
armor,  
Will persevere and gain eternal peace.  
Then joyfully, O brethren, ever on;  
For after victory we'll wear the crown.  
"Awake, Ye Witnesses"  
Author Unknown

#### KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Our dear Bro. Arthur Wullschleger died Thursday, January 5. Besides his wife, Sis. Gussie, he is survived by sons, Karl (Naples, Italy), Bill and Victor (Wichita, Kermit and Bruce (Los Angeles, CA), Richard (Battle Creek, MI); and daughters, Karen Huffman (Glendale, CA), Janet Cooper, Juanita Dunlap, Emily Morris and Sis. Kristen Plattner of the Wichita area and Sis. Sally Funk (Leon, IA). In December, Bro. Art wrote the following poem and dedicated it to his wife. The poem so aptly expresses Bro. Art's great faith.

#### A SONNET OF JOY

There's many a thing tomorrow  
brings,  
But only God tomorrow holds.  
The rapture grand  
I feel God's hand.

I love to sing or pray  
When day is done,  
It frees my heart  
Of earthly things.  
The rapture grand  
I feel God's hand.

Art Wullschleger

Sis. Gussie and her family want to thank all those who have reached out to them in their time of bereavement.

Elder Bros. Ed Lanz and Don Sauder and their wives spent the weekend of January 14 & 15 with our congregation. They shared the conference memorandum with us Saturday night. Again we must praise the Lord that these dear people will spend their time and energy on our behalf.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Pam Jackson and family, formerly of Fort Scott, have moved to Augusta, which is in the Wichita area. We welcome them into our assembly. It is so good to hear

the sound of a baby among us again.

Floyd Beyer was hospitalized in early January. Bro. George Greiner has been undergoing tests. Many others in our congregation have encountered bouts with the flu.

#### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Glendoris Huber

#### HE NEVER FAILETH

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday,  
and today, and forever."  
Hebrews 13:8

O Thou of little faith,  
God has not failed thee yet;  
When all looks dark and gloomy,  
Thou dost so soon forget --  
Forget that He has led thee,  
And gently cleared thy way;  
On clouds has poured His sunshine,  
And turned thy night to day.

And if He's helped thee hitherto,  
He will not fail thee now;  
How it must wound His loving  
heart

To see thy anxious brow!  
O doubt not any longer,  
To Him commit thy way,  
Whom in the past thou trusted,  
And is "the same . . . today."

We extend our thanks to Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Washington, IL) for their kind visit. Bro. Carl shared God's living Word with us January 15. Our Zion's Harp #113, verse 7, expresses our appreciation to the faithful brethren who share in this ministry.

O, may I seek the souls who stray  
And save them from destruction,  
And through Thy holy love still lead  
Them to Thy congregation.  
May prayers and pleadings penetrate  
To warn them of their lost estate.

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO Juanita Gerst

We are grateful for visiting ministers who are willing to come and lend themselves in the Lord's service. A special thank you is given to Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer and Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA) for teaching us in the ways of God.

Babies are a special blessing that are granted from the Father above. Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie Steffen have received a little bundle to care for and to brighten their home; her name is Carrie. May God bless Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie as they raise this little bundle of joy to know God's will and way.

Along with additions there seems to be subtractions in our church. We are sorry to bid farewell to Bro. Tom, Sis. Joan, and Joel Schrenk as they feel it is God's will that they return to Alabama to make their home. We know that the congregation in Athens will be glad to have them in their midst, but they will be missed here.

"When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!" (Hymns of Zion #248). Knowing that it was her desire to be with her Lord, we bid farewell to Alto's oldest sister-in-faith, Sis. Lydia Wingeier. Sis. Lydia passed on to a new and better life with God after 93 years here on this earth, 71 of which were spent serving our God and Maker. Our prayers are with those surviving: Sis. Mary (Sis. Lydia's sister) and a niece, Joan Monsma.

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Pam Schlatter

We rejoice with Chad Wieland (Bro. Merle and Sis. Elaine) as he has recognized his need of a Saviour. May many more come to the realization of their soul's deep need and experience the way of the cross. We wish Chad an abundant supply of God's daily grace.

Our sick list is quite extensive this month. Those separated from us due to bodily ailments are Jennifer Curtis (Jim and Laurel), Kay Pashak, Sis. Elsie Pashak, Elder Bro. Andy Virkler, Sis. Eldine Wackerle, Sis. Lois Waibel and Bro. George Waibel. May each find comfort in the promise "... all things work together for good to them that love God ..." Romans 8:28.

January 8 was the wedding date of Bro. Mark Ramseyer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Kelly Wuethrich (Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth, Francerville, IN). We wish them many happy, contented years as they labor hand in hand in the Lord's vineyard.

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubt-

less come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalms 126:6. We thank visiting ministers Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) for bearing the precious seed to our congregation. May they fully experience the rejoicing they are promised.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Esther Meister and Sis. Martha Rezmer in the loss of their sister.

Reminder: February is collection month for Silver Lining dues for Bay City subscribers. Please pay dues to your reporter.

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Sue Gasser

What are you doing to make a difference in your world? Our congregation has been reminded several times recently that every one of us can make a difference. A seemingly unnoticed smile or an encouraging word can mean so much. Let's spread them freely along our pathway.

We rejoice with Dee Oliver and Lydia Fortenbacher on their decision to heed Christ's bidding and follow Him. Our prayers are with them as they ground their faith on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

We enjoyed our college students who were home for the holidays. It's always an added blessing to have them with us. As they go back to school, and we think of them studying to learn their professions, let's not forget to be diligent in furthering our knowledge of God and His Word. The textbook is easily accessible.

We had our annual business meeting January 4, and several in our congregation received new opportunities to serve. Sis. Marcia Feller will help Sis. Suzanne with church dinners. Bros. Doug Maibach, Ron Knapp, Pat Allen, and Ernie Weigele will assist Bros. Von Ringger and John Gleichman in ushering. Bros. Ben Belsley, Ernie Weigele and Jim Barton are parking lot attendants. Bros. Walt Bauer, Frank Denes, Doug Maibach, Ron Knapp and Keith Gudeman run our P.A. system. Our representative for the Home for the Handicapped is Bro. Jim Barton and for the Children's Home, Bro. Dan Knochel. We appreciate the efforts of those whose terms have expired.

Bro. Joe Szilagyi had surgery this past month and is now home from the hospital. Our prayers are with him and Sis. Martha and also Sis. Perseda Wieland and Sis. Mary Pentek who have been ill and unable to assemble with us.

We want to remember the elder brethren as they meet for the winter conference. As they seek the counsel and guidance of the Lord, may they feel His presence mightily among them.

Toledo, OH, will host services in Kitchener, Ontario, March 19. Our brethren there sure appreciate those who come to fellowship with them. If any of you would like to visit them, Walter Fortenbacher's phone number is 519-699-4133.

Detroit has experienced five births, three deaths and three baptisms in the past year. We're so thankful to see our small congregation grow.

#### MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA Carol Strassheim

There are times when we all find ourselves complaining about our busy schedules, our conflicts, our illness, tragedy, personal crisis, relational problems or just want clear direction in our lives. It is then when we need to think of the words to this song that we learned as a child and let it flood our mind.

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

Johnson Oatman, Jr.

We received many blessings when we gathered to study the Word together on a Wednesday evening this month. Winter is a time when we have fewer visitors, but we have been blessed with Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) and Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop). We praise the Lord for their willingness to minister God's Word.

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is

love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

I John 4:16

He is so faithful when we love one another, edify the body of Christ and one another.

#### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

##### Christa Sauder - Ruth Nohl

Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) was with us to assist Bro. Art as we added two souls to the flock. We rejoice with Bro. Mark Knoblock (Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel) as they began their journey as brothers-in-the-Lord. May the Holy Spirit, ever guide them as they seek to do the Lord's will.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ken Lawson and Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS). We always feel blessed when we have visiting ministers who share their time and talents in ministering God's Word.

A daughter, Elizabeth Kay, was born January 5 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer. She has two sisters and two brothers to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. John and Esther Schaefer and Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma Dogotch.

Allen and Ranaee Schreck are the parents of a new baby girl born January 6. They named her Makayla Sue. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Norene Moser.

We have the following who have recently spent some time in the hospital: Bro. Don Schmidgall, Bro. Doug Koehl and Sis. Carolyn Reuter (Bro. Jim). May we continue to remember them in our prayers and all those who are sick and shut-in.

#### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

##### Ella Mae Schmidt Georgia Messner

Events for 1988 in our Winthrop church were five marriages, two births and four baptisms. May the blessings of the Lord remain with us in 1989.

The engagement of Sandra Messner (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. JoAnn) to Tim Jacobson was announced. May God be with them as they plan their future together.

Our hospital patients this month

were Bro. Leo Messner and Sis. Rose Alice Howk. They were surgical patients and are on the way to recovery. Bro. George Messner has been in and out of the hospital. We hope he feels our prayers and the Lord's nearness.

As we remember our past-presidents on President's Day, let us give thanks for our freedom to worship and pray for our new President as he takes office.

As our mid-winter elder conference approaches, let us pray for them.

Sis. Rose Alice Howk wishes to express her thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, cards, visits and love shown her during her surgeries and stay in the hospital.

#### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

##### Linda Ziegenhorn

We have just passed the Christmas season, celebrating our Lord's birth. All the church went Christmas caroling at area nursing homes. The children all learned and retold the story of the first Christmas at the annual Christmas program. The Christmas program always brings back memories of the programs I took part in when I was in Sunday school. The story of Christmas never gets old.

Our prayers are with Jack Abshier as he recovers from major surgery. We look forward to seeing him at church again.

I've been a little slow in welcoming Jay Wiegand from Oakville, IA. He is attending school in Kansas City. We also welcome Brad Gramm from the Iowa City congregation, who is assembling with us.

A newcomer of a different sort is just as welcome. Ron and Sis. Diane Smith have a new daughter, Rebekah Diane. She is welcomed by her brothers, Matthias and Nathanael.

We are so happy to announce that Garry Rokey is seeking the Lord in repentance. We ask for your prayers for him as he begins his new way of life.

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR

##### Carol Braker - Becky Marti

Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Sandra Luthi have been blessed with a baby son by adoption. Eric Ryan was born August 24 and came to their home

December 23. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn Luthi and Bro. Charles and Sis. Alice Marti. May they always strive to raise him "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)

Our congregation recently held our annual business meeting. Bro. Virgil Frieden was selected to serve as trustee and Bro. Jerry Braker and Sis. Carolyn Banwart as our new Sunday school teachers. May all who fill the various capacities in the household of faith be blessed for their willingness to serve.

#### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

##### Jerry & Doreen Leuthold

We want to thank each minister who has so freely given of himself this past month. They were Bros. Willis Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). We thank each of them for their support to our small congregation.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to visit our small congregation. We continue to meet at the Ben Franklin Motel and services begin at 10:30 a.m.

#### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

##### Loida Hodel - Lori Marquart

"Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master, let it be,  
In working or in waiting,  
Another year with thee."

F. R. Havergal

The 1988 summary of events at the Taylor church included three births, no deaths, one marriage and four baptisms.

We're happy for Steve Wiegand (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joann) and Ann Runser (Taylor) who have announced their engagement. May God bless this couple as they make their wedding plans.

Missy Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) was a surgical patient, and Bro. Curtis Heimer (Sis. Sue) was hospitalized while visiting over the New Year holiday. Both have recovered, for which we are thankful.

Our annual business meeting was held January 4 and conducted by



Elder Bro. Roy Grimm. New officers elected were Bro. Steve Sutter, trustee, and Sis. Charlene Sutter, food committee. The following will assume Sunday school teaching roles in September: Bros. Steve Kiefaber and Jim Sutter and Sisters Linda Knapp and Lori Marquart. May God direct and inspire those who have accepted this responsibility.

Also discussed were many items regarding the new church building. Progress has been steady as we look to an early spring completion date. We thank the many churches and individuals who have contributed their help, whether physical, financial or through prayer.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

Collection for Silver Lining dues for Taylor is in February.

#### NEW YORK, CROGHAN

##### Alice Virkler

John and Matie Farney were given a new bundle from heaven to love and care for when Rebecca Mae was born November 25. Her little playmates will be Crystal and Jacob. Their grandparents are Bro. Niles and Sis. Polly Farney, and Sherwood and Joan Zehr.

Our Sunday school children presented a Christmas program Sunday afternoon, December 17. We enjoy the verses they speak and the songs they sing as a testimony of what they have been taught by their faithful teachers. May each of these teachings have a special place in their hearts and lives.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Nat and Sheila Virkler and their family. Sheila's father, Raymond Williams (South Colten) was taken from this life while blowing snow in his driveway. He is also survived by his wife, Gert; another daughter, Cheryl Harper; a son, Kevin Williams; and six grandchildren.

#### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

##### Rachel Snyder

It is good to see Bro. Raymond Stockberger assemble with us again since his surgery. May God continue

to strengthen him.

Bro. Arthur Herzig (Beaver Falls) passed away after having many years of ill health. He leaves his wife, Sis. Betty; a daughter, Sis. Bessie Farney; and a son, Bradley; as well as a brother, Bro. Theodore; nieces and nephews.

Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner and Bro. Leland Hirschey held the services. A dinner was served afterward.

#### OHIO, AKRON

##### Joyce Gasser

Paul called himself a servant of Jesus Christ, and the Greek word in Romans 1:1 is bond-slave, which was a servant for a certain number of years, and at the end of the term he could leave. If he loved his master and chose to stay, they nailed the lobe of his ear to the door of his master's house. They pulled out the nail and put a plug in the lobe, denoting that he was that master's servant for the rest of his life. We're thankful for each one who loves Jesus Christ so well they choose to be His servant for the rest of their life.

There have been four who chose to be the servant and lend their ear to hear their Master, Jesus, the Word of God, for the rest of their life, and New Year's Day they were baptized. They are: Bryon and Michael Palitto, sons of Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto; Jennifer Schamback, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback; and Susan Bako, daughter of Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako. May their joy increase in their being servants to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Visiting elders and ministers include Elder Bros. Joe Ramsier, Andy Stoller, Ken Sauder, Bros. Walt Anliker, Henry Dotterer, Duane Farney, Pete Baltic, Merle Hartzler and Bill Brake.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan Greenbank became a new dad and mother with the birth of their new baby boy, Samuel Glen. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Robert Stoller and Bro. and Sis. Gordon Greenbank.

Marvin and Sis. Carol Indermuhle were blessed with their first baby, a boy, Christopher Lee. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Eugene Pamer and Bro. and Sis. Lloyd Indermuhle.

Sis. Janet Graf was suddenly hospitalized, but we are thankful that

she is able again to assemble with us. Our prayers are with her for her to continue gaining strength.

Sis. Bethi Graf slipped and fell in her home, and her hip and shoulder were broken. May the Lord grant a speedy recovery.

Sis. Margaret Gruenig had surgery and is doing well.

Sis. Edna VonGunten will have reached four score and ten years, February 21.

Elmer Kaufman passed away at his home. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte; a daughter, Karen; sons, Edward, Jack and Richard; sisters, Sis. Ruth Taylor and Sis. Dorothy Stavenik; and a brother, Robert.

Julie Graf, daughter of Bro. and Sis. John Graf, received a bachelor's degree in mortuary science, graduating from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science.

A thank you for loyalty for serving their terms was extended to Bro. Ron Palitto who was trustee, Bro. Eric Graf who was usher, Bro. Art Graf who was trustee for the nursing home, and Sis. Jan Graf who was on the kitchen committee. Replacements are Bro. John Schamback for trustee, Bro. Tim Schar for usher, Bro. Steve Pamer for trustee for the nursing home and Sis. Carolyn Miller for the kitchen committee.

#### OHIO, COLUMBUS

##### John Grimm

We were blessed to have Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) minister God's Word to us.

On January 17, Bro. Andy Hunyady underwent heart bypass surgery and he is recovering in the hospital. May God's healing hand restore Bro. Andy to good health.

#### OHIO, JUNCTION

##### Laurie Schlatter

We rejoice with two families as little sons were added to family circles. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline Carnahan welcomed Lucas James into their home. Jason, Nathan and Liza are happy for a new little brother. Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz are happy little Andrew Steven has arrived safely. Andrew's brothers and sister are Chris, Sam, Scott, Cheryl and

Fred. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz and Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey Ehnle (Bradford).

Our congregation recently held New Year elections with results as follows: Sunday school teachers - Bro. Dave Manz (Sis. Kathy), Sis. Karen Schlatter, Sis. Corrine Schlatter (Bro. Ray); Trustee - Bro. Les Manz (Sis. Karen); World Relief sewing - Sis. Dorothy Dietrich (Bro. Gus); kitchen committee - Sis. Carolyn Spangler (Bro. Jim); and usher - Bro. John Rose (Trish). We wish each one many blessings as they serve.

-----  
**OHIO, LATTY**  
**Rhonda Stoller**  
**Marlene Reinhard**

**THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM**

The Lord is my Shepherd;  
 I shall not want.  
 He maketh me to lie down in green  
 pastures:  
 He leadeth me beside the still  
 waters.  
 He restoreth my soul:  
 He leadeth me in the paths of  
 righteousness  
 For His name's sake.  
 Yea, though I walk through the  
 valley of the shadow of death,  
 I will fear no evil: for Thou art with  
 me;  
 Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort  
 me.  
 Thou preparest a table before me  
 In the presence of mine enemies.  
 Thou anointest my head with oil;  
 My cup runneth over.  
 Surely goodness and mercy shall  
 follow me all the days of my life:  
 And I will dwell in the house  
 of the Lord forever.

May we each have this prayer  
 upon our hearts as we start another  
 new year.

The results of our annual business meeting are as follows: sister for Sunday school - Sis. Barb Stoller (Bro. Bill), brother for Sunday school - Bro. Tim Schlatter (Sis. Becky), fellowship hall trustee - Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Jody), sisters for World Relief - Sis. Josephine Wenninger (Bro. Don) and Sis. Renee Sinn (Bro. Walt), treasurer - Bro. Rod Laukhuf, cemetery records - Bro. Rex Plummer (Sis. Ann),

church trustee - Bro. Jim Stoller (Sis. Tam) and World Relief representative - Bro. Marvin Klopfenstein (Sis. Mary). May these brothers and sisters find a rich reward as they do service for the Lord.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Curtis Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). We greatly appreciate every minister who brings forth the gospel to our congregation.

Our congratulations are extended to Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger in the birth of a son, Seth LeRoy. Larisa, Erica, Doug and Chet all gladly welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger.

-----  
**OHIO, MANSFIELD**  
**Linda Morrison**

"My lifetime doth pass away;  
 Hourly to the grave I hasten,  
 And I know each fleeting day  
 My allotted span will lessen.  
 Think, man, death comes soon or  
 late.  
 Tarry not, it will not wait!"  
 Zion's Harp #253, vs.1

Funeral services were held for Carl Weiss. Sis. Ruth finds much comfort in that he had given his heart to the Lord and was awaiting baptism. "The innermost life of the true Christian shineth though outwardly darkened by trials at hand; What they have received of the kingdom of heaven no one but themselves can in truth understand. What no one perceiveth, what no one receiveth hath filled and enlightened their mind and their spirit, and led them to heavenly honor and merit." Zion's Harp #58, vs. 1. Our prayers are with their children, Mary, Ron and Jim, as well as their grandchildren in the death of Carl. Sis. Ruth would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and deeds of love during Carl's illness.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Elda Riegenbach (Bro. Alvin) and Sis. Catherine Morrison. Requiring emergency services and in need of our prayers are Bro. Jim Zimmer (Sis. Clara) who was in a farm accident and Colt Browne (Lonnie and Sis. Carol Browne). "And Jesus went

about . . . healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." Matthew 4:23

We would like to welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Jolene Sinn and family into our church community. "Greetings be to you, our brethren, To our sisters-in-the-Lord, Welcome, welcome, ye dear loved ones; Greetings in the Saviour's name." Hymns of Zion #7

We thank Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman) for sharing God's Word with us. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15. May God richly bless Bro. Henry for his efforts on our behalf.

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

Word which God has spoken,  
 Word of peaceful token,  
 Gospel of the Lord!  
 Fount of benediction,  
 Comfort in affliction,  
 Holy Spirit's sword:  
 Source of might, Of life and light!  
 Joyful message of God given,  
 Sent to us from heaven!  
 Zion's Harp #97

We were blessed with visiting ministers this past month who proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord. They were Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI).

We rejoice with Eric Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carole) as he has turned his back on the world and what it has to offer. We wish Eric much grace during his time of repentance.

Mike Miller (Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene) and Carol Christian (Bro. Ronald and Sis. Joanne) have announced their engagement. May the Lord guide them as they make their marriage plans.

Todd Jenkins (Sis. Clara) and Kelly Smith were united in holy matrimony.

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." (Isaiah 40:11) Our congregation was blessed with three new, healthy, bundles of joy.

John Gregory is the son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy Stoller. John's sister, Laura, is thankful for a playmate. His grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller and Bro. Ronald and Sis. Hope Gasser.

Twin boys arrived safely into the home of Bro. Jon and Sis. Suzanne Kipfer. David Jon and Daniel Ephraim have a brother, Brandon, at home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Marilyn Kipfer (Latty, OH) and Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener.

Those who have experienced afflictions of the flesh this month are Sis. Martha Bauman (Bro. Jerry), Sis. Debbie Steiner (Donald), Bro. Carl Ingold (Sis. Erma), Bro. Jeff Trent (Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn), Caleb Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie) and Sis. Mary Maletich (Bro. Dave). May the Lord heal these precious souls in His will.

These positions were filled from our annual election of officers: trustee, Bro. Dale Stoller; usher, Bro. Jon Hartzler; song leader, Bro. Ron Gasser; microphone, Bro. Ed Trent; fellowship hall director, Bro. Rob Stoller; and kitchen help, Sis. Joan Hartzler.

#### OHIO, SARDIS Linda Indermuhle

We appreciate that Elder Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer (Akron, OH) could come to share comforting words at the funeral of Bro. Paul Berger.

Sis. Willetta Indermuhle spent time in the hospital, but is now back at the Woodsfield Care Center.

In January we held our annual business meeting. The following brethren were chosen to serve the church in the coming year: Bro. Bob Indermuhle, Sunday school superintendent; Bro. John Figel, treasurer; Bros. Denny Miller, Gary Zollinger, Wayne Klotzle, trustees; Bro. Tom Vierheller, usher; Sisters Doris Miller, Linda Indermuhle, kitchen help. May God bless those who have willingly served and help those who begin their service.

#### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Gwen Stoller - Kim Stoller

"... and the power of the Lord was present to heal them." Luke 5:17

Darla Nieman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay), Lynn Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl), and Bro. Dean Maibach (Sis. Bonnie) all had surgery this past month and we are thankful that they are feeling better and have felt the Lord's healing power.

Wesley Scott joined the family of Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy Dotterer, Lisa, Wendy, Shara and Alex, January 4. Also welcoming him into their family are grandparents, Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger (Forrest, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer. May God grant guidance to "Train up a child in the way he should go..." Proverbs 22:6.

We also pray for God's guidance on Dave and Missy Marty as they were married. Parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou Marty and Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey Beery.

#### OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehklau Frances Laidig

"It's not the things that can be bought  
that are life's richest treasure,  
It's just the little 'heart gifts'  
that money cannot measure . . .  
A cheerful smile, a friendly word,  
a sympathetic nod,  
Are priceless little treasures from  
the storehouse of our God.

They are the things that can't be bought  
with silver or with gold,  
For thoughtfulness and kindness  
and love are never sold.  
They are the priceless things in life  
for which no one can pay.  
And the giver finds rich  
recompense  
in giving them away."

Helen Steiner Rice

We appreciated the visit of Bro. Mark Ramsier and his wife, Sis. Alice, and their family. They were with us Christmas Day. We thank Bro. Mark for the message of salvation made possible by the birth of Jesus, the Son of God.

Our hospital patients in January were Sis. Karen Breitwieser (Bro. John) and Sis. Katherine Stevens. Sis. Karen had surgery and Sis. Katherine had a medical problem.

May they feel the love and healing power of the heavenly Father in their time of illness.

Kelly Sancraint (David and Sis. Connie) and Stephen Mudrow (Mr. and Mrs. Juergen Mudrow) and Julie Wiegele (Bro. Al and Sis. MaryAnn) and Todd Schultz (Mr. and Mrs. William Schultz) have announced their engagements. We wish them God's blessings as they walk this path together.

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

New Year greetings to each of you! As we begin another year of service for our Lord, we wonder what tests and challenges lie before us. It truly is a blessing that we cannot read what the future holds, but are forced to take one day at a time, leaning on His grace.

The rainy season is upon us, and yet the rain cannot rob us of sunny blessings in our little flock. We are very excited and happy to welcome back Bro. Mark Ramseyer and his bride, Sis. Kelly (Wuethrich) Ramseyer, to Oregon. Bro. Mark has returned for another semester of work in our area at Tektronics, and we are thrilled to again fellowship with them. We want to wish them God's blessings as they start the new year and a new life together.

Our visitors recently have been the faithful Silverton brethren. We appreciate them so very much, and say thanks for helping to increase our small flock.

Thought for the New Year: If we were supposed to talk more than we listen, we would have two mouths and one ear.

Mark Twain

#### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Jerry Isch

We were blessed as our children and young adults sang and read of the Christmas story. Before the program, Bro. Ed ministered, telling us the reason Christ came into this world. He related to us Hebrews 9, pointing out that blood needed to be shed for our sins. What a blessing it is that God's only Son was willing to come into this world and eventually go to



the cross as a living sacrifice for all of our sins.

We welcome Bro. Dale and Sis. Ruth Dapper, who moved here from Rockville, CT. Dale and Ruth are now living in New Holland, PA.

### TEXAS, DALLAS

Sara Getz

Approaching the new year, folks often make "New Year's resolutions." They try to kick an old habit, with hopes of a reward of some kind or possibly just for self-gratification or fulfillment. Whenever we trust in the Lord for our problems, instead of trusting in our own strength, we find He never fails us! Consider the following verses:

Psalms 34:10b -- "They who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing."

Psalms 84:11 -- "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory. No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly."

If we seek the Lord's wisdom on any subject, we cannot go wrong in following Him!

We are once again appreciative for all our visitors and ministering brothers who took the time to be with us this past month. We look forward to another year of worship in Dallas!

January proved to be a scant month for believers in Dallas, as we only gathered once. Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) ministered to us. We enjoyed him and his wife's company!

May 1989 prove to be a year of monumental spiritual growth for all of us! Consider these timeless words of Charles Hummel. "Over the years the greatest continuing struggle in the Christian life is the effort to make adequate time for daily waiting on God. Since this time for receiving marching orders is so important, Satan will do everything he can to squeeze it out. Yet we know from experience that only by this means can we escape the tyranny of the urgent. This is how Jesus succeeded. He did not finish all the urgent tasks in Palestine or all the things He would have liked to do, but He did finish the work which God gave Him to do. The only alternative to frustration is to be sure that we are doing what God wants. Nothing substitutes for knowing that this day, this hour, in this place we

are doing the will of the Father. Then and only then can we think of all the other unfinished tasks with equanimity and leave them with God."

Lord, help me to live each day so that at the end of it there is nothing I cannot share with you, nothing for which I cannot give thanks.

Author Unknown

Submitted by Latty, OH

### Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 32)

about what they thought was so bad because they ate without washing their hands.) ". . . but," he said, "that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." Matthew 15:10.

We might, in our own way, question that because we know that things like alcohol and tobacco are harmful to our bodies. The Lord was trying to tell them that even evil desires come from the heart. He says that's really what comes out of the heart.

"Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." Matthew 15:12, 13. We are concerned for converts that they have a good root, a good foundation and that they are planted by the Lord so that they will never be rooted out.

One of our ministers recently mentioned that he was reading about the earthquake in Mexico. He said that the city was really built on sand way down underneath. Because it was built on sand, there was terrible destruction. He read that someplace not far from there the earthquake had almost the same power. But that place was built upon a rock, and there was not nearly as much destruction.

When children become children of God, they must build their house firmly upon the Rock, that when the storms of life come, they won't be destroyed. They will stand.

"Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth . . ." Matthew 15:17, 18. We know the tongue is an evil thing and it can both

praise God and curse man. This is what comes out of the heart.

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts . . ." Matthew 15:19. Sometimes we have quite a battle with evil thoughts. How can I control these thoughts that want to come into my mind? We know that it is the enemy. In the book, Pilgrim's Progress, Christian said Satan whispered something in his ear and he almost thought that he thought that.

So sometimes these evil thoughts come and it is really the enemy just talking to us. He is trying to tempt us. The enemy actually tempted the Lord to jump off the pinnacle of the temple. Christ was actually tempted to make stone into bread. He was tempted to be ruler over the earth. (See Matthew 4:3-11). So Satan sometimes tempts us. We really don't want these thoughts, and if we dwell on them, they can only bring evil for us.

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders . . ." Matthew 15:19. We know that those that take life are murderers, but Jesus said if we call our brother a fool, hate our brother and do some of those things, we are equal to a murderer. We should have a deep abiding love for every brother, every sister and all people of the world.

It is our prayer that we can love everybody; that there be no ill feelings, no grudges, no hate toward anybody in this world.

". . . adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Matthew 15:19. We know that all these things are from the devil. He puts them in our mind and heart, for some people in some way and some in another. These things proceed out of the heart of man. But, like it is written, those who do such things cannot inherit the kingdom of God. (See Galatians 5:19-21). But we are to have the fruit of the Spirit. We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (See Ephesians 5:18). When we are once cleansed, we are not to let our heart remain empty. If we do, Satan will come and fill it with evil spirits. Then the last condition will be worse than the first. (See Luke 11:26).

We are so thankful that we have the Holy Spirit. We are so blessed by what the Holy Spirit will do for us, how He will lead us and how He will guide us. We plead time and time

again that we may even have a double portion so that we can carry out our duties and our responsibilities.

Often we lay awake at night in concern for some of our responsibilities and how we can cope with them. Instead of lying there and doing nothing, we talk to the Lord. How comforting that can be to talk to the Lord sometimes at night when we lay there and cannot sleep. All at once, we fall asleep.

We are so blessed with this nearness of God that we can talk with Him through the channel of prayer. We don't need to be upon our knees, standing or in the house of God. Any place we are, we can talk to the Lord. Sometimes we have to pray about our work. We feel the pressure of the enemy, many, many times. Then we have to say, "Satan, get thee hence" or "Satan, get behind me" using the same weapon that the Lord used there when He was tempted of the devil. (See Luke 4:8). We need to use the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (see Ephesians 6:17) and say as He said, "Get thee hence."

We know that with that same power, with those same weapons, we can also defeat the enemy. It doesn't matter whether we are elders, the youngest convert, the oldest, or the minister, the enemy will seek to deceive. He does deceive, if we give him a chance. But if we have the Lord on our side, we are filled with the Holy Spirit. We can plead for the guidance of the Lord, lean and trust heavily upon the goodness of God and His Spirit, and then we can overpower the enemy. If we stay with the Lord, He will not leave us. (See Hebrews 13:5). But if we leave Him, the promise is broken for those who have tasted of God's goodness, become His children, been baptized into His death and taken those vows and promises that we would abide faithful as long as we live. The Lord through His Word promises us eternal life. (See John 3:15).

"These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man." Matthew 15:20. The enemy is so crafty, so cunning and tries to make little things, like washing hands so important. The important part is to have faith to believe and trust in God.

The scribes and Pharisees tried to

find fault with the Lord in many ways. It looked like they were jealous. Yet we know that some were sincere. Nicodemus was a Pharisee also. We can't put them all in one category. There were those who sought to do right and we are thankful that Nicodemus went to Jesus by night. We don't know why, but maybe he was somewhat embarrassed and ashamed in the presence of others. But, he really had a yearning in his heart.

It doesn't matter who we are. If we really seek the Lord, we will find Him. When Nicodemus came to the Lord, the Lord told him, "Ye must be born again." He explained how we all must be born again out of water and out of spirit. (See John 3:1-8). We have experienced this and know the blessings and joy that we can have by becoming a child of God.

We also know that by prayer, by asking, by helping and by seeking the Lord we can receive His help.

"Behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David: my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But He answered her not a word." Matthew 15:22, 23. We can almost picture this woman saying, "Please, Lord, help. Please, Lord, help." He just waited. Maybe it was for the benefit of His disciples but they told Him, "Send her away; for she crieth after us." Matthew 15:23.

Then the Lord answered, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matthew 15:24. Again he tested her, but He could see the sincerity of her heart. She said, "Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Matthew 15:27. She put herself right down to the very bottom and considered herself as a dog seeking the crumbs. But, she continued pleading and said, "Lord, help me."

We have that same privilege to cry and plead for the Lord's help, and we know He helps. There have been times of problems, cares and anxieties and we really pleaded to the Lord, "Lord, help us." Then we can just feel the help that comes. Sometimes we have to go into our closet and pray. (See Matthew 6:6). We can pray anywhere, but sometimes it is just nice to go someplace all alone and

really pour out our heart to the Lord. Then we can just feel the help and strength that comes. We have many problems and cares in life, but if we put our trust in the Lord and call upon Him, we know that He will hear and answer.

"Then Jesus answered her and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith..." Matthew 15:28. Can He talk to us that way? We just spoke with a sister this evening of how her little children have faith that there is a God in Heaven. A little child in their simple way, can trust in the Lord and know that the Lord will help. If we can have that faith, then we know the Lord will hear and answer our prayers.

These little children knew that their father was in heaven, and that God would hear and help. It is very touching. Sometimes little children have faith so strong that we wish we would have faith as they do.

"Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them." Matthew 15:29, 30. Sometimes we visit those who are sick and almost question how much we can help them. But, we can lay our hands on them, pray for them and have this faith, that if it is the Lord's will, He will help them. He will heal where it is His will. If not, it gives courage and helps them that they can be uplifted, strengthened and encouraged.

He came here to the multitude. In another place, the disciples had just about five loaves and two fishes and took up twelve baskets. (See Luke 9:13-17). Here they had seven loaves and a few fish and took up seven baskets. If we could just have this desire of our heart and plead for His blessing. We think, what can we benefit tonight or this day? But say, "Lord, You just add Your blessings." If there are just a few loaves and just a few fish, just a few words, and the Lord will add His blessing, we know that we can be blessed.

May it be that way tonight. If the Lord will take that little bit of fish, little bit of bread, and add His increase, then we can be filled.

FEB 02602 LK  
CHARLES WALDER  
EAST LYNN IL 60932

## SERMON BY ELDER BRO. JOSEPH RAMSIER OF RITTMAN, OH

### "Praying Brings Help and Strength"

#### Matthew 15

We are so thankful for stories in the Scripture of Jesus feeding thousands of people with so little. It's not so much that the people were fed and had enough to eat, but now we know that the Lord can bless anything. As we minister His Word, we often have so little to offer and see how much need there is. Then the Lord sees fit to add His blessings that all can be fed.

We all need Spiritual food. We all need help and grace from the Lord. There is not one of us who doesn't or one who needs more than the other. We are all in need of it. If we neglect the assembling of ourselves and reading the Word, then the enemy has ways to come. We get so busy sometimes that we get a little careless.

But, we know that if the Lord will bless us that we might receive His Word this evening, then we can leave this place encouraged to serve Him a little better.

It is so nice that we can assemble on Wednesday evenings. In talking to converts, they tell us that they came to church, somewhat in respect for their parents and somewhat because they knew they should. But, they look at their watch as the minister is still preaching and the service seems so long.

But after they are converted and really desire the Word, then they think, "Is he done ministering already?" They can hardly wait from Sunday until Wednesday and from Wednesday night to Sunday. This is the way it should be. We should desire to seek and hear the Word of the Lord. With just a little bit of the Word, we can be strengthened and

encouraged to go forth as a little better light to our neighbor and our fellow man.

I think we all experience how the enemy comes to make us just a little careless. We have to continually plead for the grace of God, for His Spirit and even for a double portion. Then we can just feel the help coming as we are willing to deny ourselves.

The scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus because they were somewhat jealous and said, "Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread." Matthew 15:2. The Lord was physically clean in that respect, but He wanted to impress upon them that there are things far more important than the material things of life.

They were also transgressing, and He said, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother . . ." Matthew 15:3, 4. This is one of the commandments, the first commandment with a promise.

"But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me: And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition." Matthew 15:5, 6. Jesus called them hypocrites. The Lord wanted to impress upon those at that time, that the way of the Lord was to be obedient to our Father in Heaven by honoring their fathers and mothers.

I think of the parable where He told them about the sower that went

out to sow. Whether across a pulpit or in our homes, the Word of God is sown in our hearts. It says that some of the seed "fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up." Mark 4:4.

Sometimes when we have a large assembly the Word that is spoken falls into various hearts. We know the enemy is never invited. We always invite God into our midst, which he promised to be. But Satan is always that uninvited guest that comes in. He likes to pluck up that seed, the Word of God, so that it will not bring forth fruit.

We know also that sometimes the seed falls on stony ground, has little depth of earth and doesn't bring forth fruit (See Mark 4:5). It makes me think of when we used to sow seed in a little seeder by hand. When we came to the end of the field, we would hear the seeds dropping out in the leaves under the trees or along the lane someplace. The thought came that certainly that seed will never do any good. It will not grow even though the seed was good.

When God's Word is spoken, whether on a Sunday, Wednesday night or in our homes, it is being sown. It will fall on hearts and how nice when it falls on hearts that are prepared. As mothers and fathers tell the children of the way of truth, this will be a seed that will fall into good hearts and bring forth fruit, thirty, sixty or hundredfold. (See Mark 4:8)

"He called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man . . ." (He is talking

(Continued on Page 30)