



"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."  
 Luke 2:10

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."  
 Luke 2:11

# The Christmas Story

## No Room

"No room for Him," the keeper said  
 That night so long ago.  
 "My inn is crowded, don't you see,  
 The rooms now overflow."  
 "It's just a Child," he must have thought,  
 "A family, poor and plain;  
 My inn is full of paying guests,  
 How could I dare explain?"

And thus, he turned aside from One  
 Who chose a humble birth  
 To enter into human form  
 And save all men on earth.  
 But lo, the shepherds in the hills  
 Were called, The Babe to greet;  
 They followed then the brilliant star  
 And worshiped at His feet!

"No room for Him," cry men today  
 As through the world they plod;  
 "My life is crowded, don't you see?  
 I have no room for God.

How could I dare explain to all  
 My friends who question me,  
 That Jesus came to save my soul,  
 From sin, to set me free?"

O God, forbid that we become  
 As keeper of the inn,  
 And have our lives so crowded  
 That we have no room for Him.  
 But now may we, Thy children dear,  
 Unworthy though we are,  
 Become as shepherds long ago  
 And follow now His star!

*Kathryn Slasor*



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

*St. Luke 2:7*

## MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

**EAST AND WEST GERMANY  
1989**

**Report by Bro. Gene Lehman  
Wolcott, IN**

(Continued from November issue)

Berlin is a beautiful city in the east, and we saw all the sights it has to offer. We watched the changing of the guard, as they goose-stepped at the German War Memorial, we saw the Brandenburg Gate, ancient entry to the city, the Berlin wall, government buildings, and much besides. We ate a delicious lunch in the shadow of the parliament buildings, and the cost was quite reasonable. We went to the top of the 800-foot television tower which overlooks the entire city, and we also visited the Soviet War Memorial, remembering the thousands of Russian soldiers who gave their lives in the liberation of the city of Berlin. However, nothing was said of the lack of freedom which now exists. The Word says that God creates kings and governments.

By this time it was late afternoon, and all had a ways to travel, so we bid a fond and emotional farewell to Paul and Elke, and Suzanne, whom we had only known for such a short time, yet had felt the tie of love which flows from heart to heart. It is our desire and prayer that we can meet again.

Leaving the city of Berlin, we reached Markert's once again in the late evening, which by this time was already Monday. Seigfried and Elisabeth had been there during the day to see us once again, but of course, we were not there, and regretted not having seen them. Weary, yet grateful for the experiences of another day, we soon retired for the night.

When Tuesday dawned, we shared another good German breakfast which Traudel had prepared in the coal range, and afterwards had a short service based upon II Corinthians 5, as suggested by Hans. Gene spoke of the fact that all that exists on earth is but for a short season, and although there may be important people in castles and on the streets of Berlin, we are children of the King, and there is no higher standing on earth or in heaven. It is evident that Hans and others for that matter, feel that the dear "Vater" Arno Markert could soon pass into eternity, we must encourage each other that there awaits a rest for the children of God. It was just one more moving and memorable event in this trip upon which the Lord had opened the way. These dear souls need our prayers that they, as well as we, can retain faith.

Traudel then showed us the tun-

nels under this old house that were dug during the 30-year war in the 1600's, and also were used to hide in during wars and plagues. It is most interesting, and to put it mildly, a little "eerie." Another experience that we have never made before. As we came out of this tunnel, a coal man was delivering briquettes, and Pete and Gene talked to him and took his picture. Never had we seen quite the like, except in picture books.

The time came again, when we bid farewell, with tears, and embraces, to these dear souls in Liechtenstein. God alone knows the depth of emotion we all felt. As we headed for the border once again, our hearts were filled with many deep memories.

We reached the border just at noon, as is nearly always true in Commu-

(Continued on Page 4)

## TRANSITIONAL LIVING COORDINATOR

### AT GATEWAY WOODS

There is an immediate opening at Gateway Woods (Apostolic Christian Children's Home) for a sister to serve full-time as Coordinator of the Transitional Living Program. This recently developed program attempts to meet the numerous needs of young people who are moving from the Children's Home to independent living.

The Coordinator will live in an off-campus house (in Fort Wayne) with 2 - 4 young women (ages 17 - 19) and provide guidance and training with independent living skills, as well as emotional support. In addition, the Coordinator will work with youth still at the Children's Home main campus, to help prepare them for independent living.

If you have experience working with teens, please pray about applying for this position. It's an exciting and challenging opportunity to work with teens and Christian staff members.

Compensation includes salary and living expenses, plus fringe benefits. For more information, call or write one of the brothers listed below.

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

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

### THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

#### EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch  
Uriel Gehring  
Lester Stoller

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).*

Perhaps the most basic temptation faced by man is that of yielding to self-will rather than to the Spirit of God. This had its origin in the downfall of Lucifer, when he became obsessed with himself and said: *"I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God . . . I will be like the most High"* (Is. 14:13-15). The Apostle Paul warned that this affliction of man's spirit would intensify: *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves . . ."* (2 Tim. 3:1-2).

We see a complete contrast in the attitude of the Lord Jesus Christ, who *"made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men"* (Phil. 2:7). Jesus taught that those who would become His true disciples would have to crucify their own wills, *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Matt. 16:24). When self is in control, the influence of the Spirit is greatly hindered: *"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble"* (Jam. 4:6).

The craving to elevate self was evident in the fall of Eve. Satan approached her with the enticing proposition: *"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"* (Gen. 3:5). She could not resist this intriguing temptation.

Today in our society there is much evidence of growing reliance upon human strength. The belief that man is able to control his destiny and determine truth by his intellectual powers is known as secular humanism. Many of the founders of our nation believed that God is sovereign. Many people today believe man is supreme, which is perhaps a fulfillment of the warning that people will become "lovers of their own selves." Such beliefs result in a distorted value system. For example, vast sums of money are spent to protect

### SERVING SELF OR OTHERS

endangered species of animals, but it is considered acceptable to destroy unborn babies. In the current abortion controversy, the very name of the movement called "pro-choice" betrays the worship of self and the insistence upon the right to have one's own way. Humanistic philosophy maintains that inconvenience is something humans should not have to endure. Little wonder that we are consumed with litigation over numerous aspects of daily life and the family unit is under siege!

An attitude sometimes surfaces in the corporate world that if an employee's career is hindered because of dedication to meeting family needs, the family should be sacrificed in the name of personal fulfillment and achievement. Life-long commitment of spouses to each other and a willingness to sacrifice for their children are values which are clearly on the decline. Christianity teaches, "give of yourself to others," but humanism says, "take care of number one."

Excessive emphasis on self often manifests itself in materialism and greed. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"They that will be rich fall into a temptation and a snare"* (1 Tim. 6:9). This speaks directly to those whose goal is becoming wealthy, an all too common aspiration in our nation. The advertising field nurtures this by bombarding us with slogans which appeal to emotions and pride. There is little emphasis on the practical value of a particular item or service. Rather the claim is that it will make you feel good about yourself, look attractive, bring recognition, wealth, etc. In reality, trying to fulfill these desires with material things only leads to a self-indulgence which can never be satisfied. Jesus said, *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal"* (Matt. 6:19).

Sometimes our struggles with self are manifested in subtle habits which are not even recognized as selfish.

Being habitually late is an example of this. When we frequently make others wait on us, we are subconsciously determining that our time is worth more than that of others. Those with a hasty tongue who readily interrupt others may not truly *"esteem others better than themselves"* (Phil. 2:3). When a believer succumbs to the temptation of elevating his opinion above the collective judgments of the church, and then ignores accepted patterns of godliness, this too is a form of self-exaltation. Reluctant service is another example of unwillingness to deny ourselves. We may actually do a favor or carry out a good deed, but we let it be known that we have inconvenienced ourselves. If we would first overcome the struggle with self in our hearts and fully yield to the Spirit, then we would be able to render cheerful service and receive a much greater blessing.

There are abundant blessings promised by God to those who truly put Him first in their lives and seek to follow the selfless example of Christ. *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"* (Matt. 6:33). God permits us to enjoy the fruits of our labors, but we must not set our hearts upon them (Psa. 62:10). *"Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands"* (Is. 65:22). *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth"* (Col. 3:2).

The greatest joy comes with willing service given for others, motivated by true Christ-like love. The Apostle Paul refers appreciatively to an example of humble service rendered to him while suffering as a prisoner. He writes *"The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain"* (2 Tim. 1:16). How wonderful to someday be able to hear those beautiful words of the Saviour, *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"* (Matt. 25:40).

nist countries, everything runs just by the book. If it is time to begin, one begins; if it is time to quit, one quits; if it is time to eat lunch, one eats lunch. Therefore, we sat there about an hour, but when an officer once got to us, we were cleared in about ten minutes. The money we had exchanged when we went into the DDR, we had either spent there, or left with the dear ones we visited, and we had to declare all we took out. Once more, the Almighty went before us, and all was well. It did feel good, we confessed, to be on free soil once again. The first thing Hans did when he had the chance, was to call Dinah, and all was well.

Dinah had supper for us when we returned home on Tuesday night, and all of us being weary from the journey, we retired early. The warm showers and comfortable beds erased the cares of the day, and as we knelt by our beds, as we do each night, all of us thanked our God for His watchful care and mercies shown to us.

The next day, Wednesday, Hans drove us to the southern Schwarzwald (Black Forest), where the Lehman ancestors originated. We drove on the autobahn past the city of Stuttgart, where we saw what appeared to be a mountain, but was really an immense pile of the war rubble from the city, now overgrown, and beautiful. Although silent, it still speaks of the horrors of war.

We drove into the village of Weiler, and stopping at the Evangelical Parish Office, soon found the records of our family. The lady secretary was most kind to us, and went beyond the call of duty to serve us. We expressed our gratitude to her as best we could.

Then we drove to the small village called Burgberg, where Grandfather Lehmann was born, in search of the house, of which we had a photo. We parked our car, and across the street, there stood a lady with a small girl. Gene walked across the street, and asked the lady in German if she knew where the house in the picture was.

To his utter astonishment, she replied, "Das ist mein Haus." -- "This is my house." After all we had experienced in the past week, it was almost too much to believe at that point. As tears flooded his eyes, Gene called to Hans to come and listen to make certain that what he heard was indeed true, but it was. The kind lady directed us to the house, showed us inside and out, and gave us the utmost in hospitality. We took photos, and Pete and Gene searched through the area across a small stream for the ruins of the bone mill which Great-grandpa Friedrich Lehmann, an elder in the early church in Germany had operated. Finding only a stone wall, we assumed that after 150 years we were in the right place, and headed back through the underbrush to the little town. Gene picked up a handful of small stones along the path which his ancestors had walked, thinking, as he did so, of the peace and tranquility of the place. He reflected that perhaps they, like he, had found the presence of God in nature, and in their time were comforted as he was. Words cannot describe the feelings of heart at that time.

We ate a delicious and more than ample lunch in a Gasthof in that little town, and as we were leaving, a car drew up. Here was the lady of the house with her husband one more time, a relationship developed. We have their address, and they wish to correspond with those in America who have roots in their home.

We left Burgberg, going to Villin-

## KINDERGARTEN TEACHER NEEDED IN JAPAN

Our church in Japan has a kindergarten where Sis. Renee Baurer and Sis. Terri Gramm are now teaching. There will be a need for a sister to teach for two years, through March of 1992. A sister who has the faith and conviction to apply for this position should speak to 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 sister is asked to give two or more years of 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.

There may be a former teaching brother or sister who had served in Japan and was acquainted with the language, or a retired teacher who would be willing to give of himself or herself. A brother or sister without a teaching certificate would be considered. Even one year would be appreciated. Anyone touched in heart should most prayerfully commit it to our gracious God, talk to his or her family and then to their local shepherd. May God provide for our need and may His will be done.

Anyone interested should contact his or her local elder, any of the brothers on the mission committee, including myself, or former teachers to Japan, including Bro. Willis Ehnle. Please note my new address and phone number are: 34050 Ramble Hills Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48331; phone 313/478-3771; or Bro. Willis Ehnle, 692-2 Shioda, Ichinomiya-Cho, Higashi Yatsushiro-Gun, Yamanashi-Ken, Japan.

Your needy servant,  
Ben Maibach, Jr.

## GATEWAY WOODS

*Apostolic Christian Children's Home*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1990  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 18, 1990

gen, a larger town in the southern Schwarzdald, where we spent some time shopping and buying a few tokens of memories of the Black Forest. We returned to Adolzfurt to Hans' son, Gerhardt's, for supper.

In the morning, we bid a fond farewell to Dinah, and the four of us who had shared so much together set out for the Frankfurt airport for our flight home. Pete left first, and there was a bit of a crash program putting it all together, but all went well.

When Peter had left, Hans found Verna and Gene, and the time of parting came. As we kissed and embraced, the love flowed from heart to heart, as we knew for certain that we had found a kindred spirit many miles distant. Seldom in life have emotions gone so deep in such a short time. All of us agreed, that no matter how long life lasts for any of us, we will never, never forget the experiences we had made together, and it is our hope, trust and prayer, that we can meet again.

In a brief summation, Gene reflects that he is 53 years old, and life for him up tot his time has been full. Yet, putting all together, never has he made an experience so moving and memorable. To God alone belong all praise, honor and glory.

"Ihm Allein gebuerhet alle Liebe, Preis, und Anbetung von nun bis in Ewigkeit, Amen."

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

**PROGRAM  
 COORDINATOR**

**Pre-School, Athens, AL**

Sis. Julie Bauer, who is currently serving as program coordinator and teacher, is engaged to be married and will be leaving about March 1, 1990. If you have a B. A. Degree in Child Development, Elementary Education or related field, and have an interest in this position, please call or write to Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore, Route 5, Box 75A, Athens, AL 35611, phone 205-232-2035 or 205-233-0591.

**WORK PROJECTS  
 COMMITTEE**

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men . . ." Galatians 6:10

**Approved Projects - 1989-90**

The following work projects have been approved for 1989-90 by the Work Projects Committee. Any members or friends interested in volunteering for these or future projects should contact the committee secretary and/or submit a volunteer information form available from their local elder. The completed form should be sent to: Apostolic Christian Works Projects, Arnold Gerst, Committee Secretary, 1107 Madonna Dr., Quincy, IL 62301, or phone (217) 223-8424.

**Foreign Work Projects  
 Haiti Work Teams (Building  
 Projects)**

(To be staffed by volunteers grouped by World Relief Geographical Areas [see map on back cover of World Relief Policy Booklet].

NOTE: Need a minister to accompany teams -- Call Elder Bro. David Bertach, (219) 627-2923.

TEAMS	DATES	CHURCH/AREAS	PROJECT LEADER
1	11/3 - 11/11	#8 Western Illinois	Mike Finley (309) 376-7301
2	12/1 - 12/9	#5 Bluffton & Indianapolis	Carl Hackenjos (219) 692-6311
3	1/5 - 1/13	#4 & #6 Nothern Indiana, Michigan & Western Ohio	Phil Isabel (219) 261-3541 Kurt Bahler (219) 261-2877 (H) (219) 261-2157 (O)
4	1/19 - 1/27	#11 & #12 California, Oregon, Arizona & Colorado	Glen Hackenjos (818) 422-4957
5	2/2 - 2/10	#1, #2 & #3 Connecticut, Eastern Ohio, Alabama, Georgia & Florida	Leonard Dolce (419) 589-6285 Craig Emch (216) 939-4591
6	2/9 - 2/17	Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, Texas & Canada	Richard Schmidgall (612) 392-5241
7	2/16 - 2/24	#7 Eastern Illinois	Jim Walter (815) 635-3158

**Apostolic Water Aid  
 Water Wells**

This is a waterwell drilling project in Haiti, with equipment owned by Apostolics. Volunteers welcome. Those with rotary drill operating experience would be most appreciated.

interested party should contact Bro. Bob Beebe, (219) 291-2158.

**Vocational Schools**

Work Projects has funded several Vocational Schools to help instruct the Haitian nationals in the building trades. Current plans are to sent two volunteers in the early part of September to help instruct the students the use of hand tools.

(Contact your local elder and/or Bro. Bob Sutter (219) 334-5552.)

**Juarez Project**

In 1987-89, the Christian charitable organization, AMMAR, was the recipient of material and labor assistance from the Work Projects, which provided a building for them. The community center at Granjas do Chapultepec is now completed, with a free medical clinic, space for feeding the children of the area, and room for holding Bible classes and Sunday School.

Phase 1 of the building project, Kilometro #20, the 2nd project has been approved and funds have been allocated. Construction began the 3rd week in August.

**Veterinarian Assistance Project**

Bro. Bob Beebe, the coordinator for the Veterinarian Assistance Project is scheduling field teams for the 1989-90 season, in Haiti, in cooperation with the Christian Vet Mission, headquartered in Seattle, WA. Any

**DOMESTIC WORK PROJECTS**

**Church Addition - Junction, OH.** September volunteer needs include roofers and brick layers. The brick

laying will require the greater number of volunteers during this phase of the construction. Finishing skills will be required for the interior of the structure.

Please contact: Bro. Elias Manz, Route 1, Box 489, Paulding, OH 45879, (419) 399-5848, for details.

#### **Church Addition - Tucson, AZ.**

Construction of church addition is now in progress. The exterior is now being stuccoed and drywall is being installed. Volunteers are needed in September and October to complete the interior finishing and floor covering. Contact Bro. Jay Knapp, 8812 East Palisade Terrace, Tucson, AZ 85749, (602) 749-8509, home phone: 790-5413, business phone.

**Respite Care Project** - A long term project to provide "respite" care for the handicapped, near the church in Lexington, KY. This will give a couple or two sisters the opportunity to serve, and also the help the brethren in the Lexington congregation. Contact Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman, Route 1, Box 4, Francesville, IN 47946, (219) 567-2798.

#### **SPECIAL ON-GOING WORK PROJECTS**

#### **European Relief Food Packages, Bluffton Distribution Center**

Activated in December, 1985. On-going. Individuals or groups. Currently on hold as the Romanian Government will not permit the importation of the food parcels. (Contact Bro. Gerald Fiechter 219/597-7494.

#### **Assisting Smaller Congregations To Grow**

To aid and encourage internal, external and migratory growth of smaller Apostolic Christian Congregations. On-going. (Contact your elder for details.)

#### **Gateway Woods, Apostolic Christian Children's Home, Leo, IN**

There is a continuing need for couples for the Houseparents' Staff. If there are any that feel led to consider this opportunity to work in the Lord's vineyard, please contact your local elder and Bro. Tim Sauder, Home Administrator. (219) 627-2159.

Additional volunteers are needed for maintenance projects throughout the year at the home. The following tasks are over and above that which is possible for the children to accomplish. It is hoped that these tasks can be completed this fall and winter.

Administration Building: a) Paint offices; b) Install attic fan; c) Paint exterior doors; d) Insulate classroom ceiling.

Houses: a) Reinsulate east house and west house; b) Refinish concrete stairwells; c) Caulk around windows; d) Wallpapering

Woods: a) Build footbridges; b) Cut, split and stack firewood; c) Cut down dead trees; d) Clear foot path;

Out Buildings: a) Replace metal siding on shed; b) Install lighting under loft.

Grounds: a) Landscaping; b) Install driveway lights; c) Grade and sow grass; d) Move pasture fence; e) Repair tile in pastures.

#### **Jamaica**

The following is a list of items needed for the 1990 shipment to Jamaica. Should you have any of these items available, please contact; Bro. Kurt Munsel (517) 686-6634, Bro. Roger Sauder (305) 584-0947, or Elder Bro. David Bertsch (219) 627-2923.

#### **Communities:**

Mattresses (twin); cloth for school uniforms (brown, blue, khaki, and white for blouses); crayons.

#### **Granville Place of Safety:**

Typewriter; file cabinet (locking type); calculator with tape; baking mixer; baking tins; mattresses 30x72; crafts; clothes patterns; 1/2" pipe thread shower head (four); hardware; measuring cups and spoons; rubber spatulas; cookie sheets; cake pans; toasters; Pyrex dishes.

#### **Waldensia All Age School:**

Crayons; typewriter; file cabinet (locking type).

#### **Infirmary Falmouth:**

Dressings; bandages; utensils - forks, spoons, dishes.

#### **FUTURE WORK PROJECTS - IN PLANNING STAGES**

#### **Church Building Project - Silver- ton, OR**

#### **Fellowship Center Project - Lafay- ette, IN**

#### **Remodeling Project - Kitchner, Ontario**

#### **Mexican Children's Home**

#### **Hospital Aide Project - Haiti**

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## **ON-GOING NEED FOR HOUSEPARENTS AT GATEWAY WOODS**

At Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home, we periodically have openings for couples to serve as houseparents for troubled children. Often when these openings occur, we maintain for extended periods understaffed as we wait and pray for couples to respond to the Spirit and to the needs of these kids. It is our hope that a list of qualified couples could be developed in order that these positions could be filled quickly with minimum disruption to children's lives.

Houseparenting is challenging, rewarding, spiritually stimulating, and reasonably compensated with salary and benefits. If you or someone you know is interested in the residential child care field, we encourage you to explore the possibilities further by contacting Bro. Tim Sauder at P. O. Box 151, Leo, IN 46765, (219) 627-2159 or 627-2606, or Elder Bro. David Bertsch (219) 627-2923.

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## **NOTICE**

A special thanks to Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola Leman. As of December 31, 1989, Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), Treasurer of the Apostolic Christian World Relief Committee, will retire. Since 1973, Bro. Vernon has faithfully served as our World Relief Treasurer. With grateful thanks, love and appreciation for his dedication of compassionate service; an inspiration and example for us all, we wish him and his beloved wife, Sis. Viola, God's richest blessings.

Bro. Leon Graf (Akron, OH) will assume the duties of World Relief Treasurer as successor to Bro. Vernon. The World Relief Committee unanimously supports this change and asks your continued prayerful support of our World Relief programs. God bless you all.

Send all World Relief contributions to:

Leon Graf, Treasurer  
3382 Brenner Road  
Barberton, OH 44203  
Phone (216) 666-1390  
Your World Relief Committee

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### CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD Elder Bro. John Klotzle

“. . . to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . .”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

It appears that the time and the season has come and the course has been run for our beloved church at Maywood. For just about 60 years this haven for souls has provided a beacon of light and truth in the midst of a vast metropolitan area. With the passing of years and the transition of the neighborhood into a predominately Hispanic culture, the small flock has dwindled to 4 elderly members and a few friends.

The congregation was established in 1929 with several members who had moved from the midwest to Los Angeles who met in homes. In 1934 Bro. John Dapper was appointed as the first minister. A small bungalow-type church building was erected in 1938. During World War II many servicemen found warm hospitality among the Maywood families and fed on God's Holy Word and basked in the warmth of the fellowship of the brethren in this small church.

After the war, a number of families moved to the area and just prior to the establishment of the Altadena congregation, the Maywood church had grown to a peak of 52 members. The church building was expanded in 1952. The church flourished for a number of years. However, with the passing of time, the decease of a number of the older members and the gradual emigration of a number of families to churches in the midwest, the size of the congregation diminished. Since the late 1970's the Altadena ministers have been serving Maywood.

As reluctant as we have been to consider concluding holding services in Maywood, the emotional and sentimental attachments have had to give way to facing the practical realities of having to maintain a building with the seating capacity of over 100 for the use of so very few.

After counseling with the elder body and much prayerful consideration, we have felt led to combine the two congregations, Maywood with Altadena, and sell the Maywood

## --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 Huetter (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  
Sixth Year -- August 1988 thru July 1989 -- 25,509

#### Bibles Distributed -- Seventh Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1989 --	2210	2210
September 1989 --	1627	3837
October 1989 --	2102	5939
November 1989 --	2338	8277

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.

church building. A willing buyer (a Spanish-speaking Apostolic Church) was found rather quickly and the property is presently in escrow.

December 10 marks the final commemorative service at the Maywood church. It is with saddened hearts that we bid farewell to Maywood but we rejoice in the many blessed memories of the Christian love that so many have experienced there. We thank God for the many souls who were baptized in Maywood and for the good seed that has been planted in the hearts of many brethren, children and friends who we know will long cherish these precious memories.

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### **GATEWAY WOODS**

#### **Apostolic Christian**

#### **Children's Home**

#### **John and Patsy Stoller**

As we approach the Christmas season our thoughts turn first to God and then to our families. It's then we wonder what it would be like not to have a family to share the holidays with. We, at Gateway Woods, are surrounded by children that have no families to visit. For some of them, we are the only families they have. We hear the question many times, "Where can I go for Christmas?" We want to thank all of you who open your hearts and homes to our children who don't have families.

Also at the end of 1989, we want to thank all of you for supporting us in our work here. We feel we have had a successful year and have felt God's blessings throughout the past year. As we look ahead into 1990, we know there will be many challenges and frustrations but, through it all we know God's blessings will be there. We thank you all for your prayer support that makes it all possible. As a staff, we encourage you all to continue to pray for us and our children daily. Without you, this work would cease.

As evidence that God answers prayers, we rejoice to share with you that our daughter, Candi, answered the Lord's call to repentance October 31. Praise God for His abundant grace.

We are ever thankful for new staff members who come to fill the vacancies left by those who move on. We welcome Sis. Rhonda Stoller (Latty,

OH) who has joined our office staff; we are already enjoying her pleasant presence. We appreciate the part-time help over the past months from Sis. Carla Fritz and Sis. Marie Hersey. Marie is now attending college and working at Scott's Food Stores. In early January we anticipate the arrival of Bro. Jeff Schumacher and his wife, Sis. Tina (Chicago, IL). Jeff will be filling the Counselor position left when Bro. Jeff Thames became a Houseparent.

We, at the new house, are excited that Danny (LaGrange County) has come to live with us. Danny is 13 years old and fits in very well with the other 9 children in our house. We welcome him with open arms and are excited about growing together.

Every six months our two dentists, Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and Eric Zeller (Indianapolis, IN), along with their staff volunteer a Saturday to attend to the dental needs of our kids and staff. May God bless them for their sacrifice and generosity this past month and over the past years.

Presentations, including slices about our program, were given this past month in Bradford, IL, Milford, IN and at the eastern states World Relief meeting. If your church would like to learn more about Gateway Woods, please contact your Local Church Representative or the Home at (219) 627-2159.

May God bless you with an inspiring Christmas season and a wonderful New Year.

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### **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

With the Christmas season, God is reminding us to make room in our hearts and home for Jesus. We need to slow down and celebrate the meaning of Christmas. But just like at your house, we are in the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, baking, decorating our homes in celebration of Jesus' birth, and listening to Christmas carolers. All the people at our homes continue to enjoy many outings with the local Special Recreation Association, Central Illinois Horse Riding Therapy, Special Olympics, swimming at Eureka College Pool,

out to supper with friends, travelogues and mini-vacations.

Our January birthdays are: Edith Wagenbach (8), Mary Schramm (13), Karen Blunier (14), Brian Birkeland (19), Bruce Steffen (19), Jackie Willett (19), Max Honegger (22), Laverna Zobrist (25), Becky Huber (26), John Eddy (27) and Tom Sides (31). At Oakwood Estate, Sis. Rhonda Gerst will be celebrating her birthday January 12.

In closing we would like to thank our many volunteers who drive the bus to church, teach Sunday school for us, play Bingo, help with the outings, host Sunshine Club, help with the A.C. Handicap Times, take us to travelogues, help on our mini-vacations and those who continue to support our Friday evening services. Your willingness to volunteer is one way to show that you have room for Jesus. Please continue to pray for the work at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped and at Oakwood Estate.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish each of you a blessed holiday season.

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### **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Julie Bauer**

This is the season to count our blessings -- to sit back and reflect on all of the gifts God has given us that get taken for granted so much of the time. We overflow with these small gifts here at the preschool -- in the form of hugs, smiles, silly laughter or an "I love you." During this Thanksgiving season, we have encouraged the children to think about the blessings they have been given and reminded them that all good gifts come from God and we need to thank Him for them -- not just during this season but every day.

Our theme this month is Health and Nutrition. We've been learning about the four food groups and how to keep our bodies healthy. We took a trip to a dentist's office to see first hand how to take care of our teeth. The children need to learn how to take good care of the bodies God has given them!

November 4 was our semi-annual board meeting. We really appreciate the effort these brothers put forth to



keep our school running smoothly and efficiently.

Another exciting event this month occurred October 22 when Miss Julie surprised everyone at the preschool by announcing her engagement to Bro. Doug Walder (Cissna Park, IL).

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX**  
**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

On Saturday, October 21, our Lord gave us much needed rain, just in time to freshen the park for the Sunday school picnic. The sun came up bright, the children, parents and grandparents headed for the park, not too long after church. Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders and Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer reserved Mt. View Park facilities for this happy occasion. After a supper fun time on the playgrounds, the food and drink on tables was enjoyed by our largest crowd ever.

Before the group singing, our Sunday school pleased us very much with different classes singing "I Love You," "When He Comes," and "Where He Leads I'll Follow." Our special "thank you" to all those involved.

Many gathered on a Sunday evening to hear the reading of the memorandum. We are thankful our elders are concerned for their flocks and sort things out to help us readily relate the Bible with our lives. Elder Bro. Ben Maibach came to help Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and Deacon Bro. Jon Kokanovich share the wonderful Scriptures to help us keep our lives on a "closer walk with Thee."

Bro. Jeff Gramm (Sis. LuAnn) remains hospitalized. How grateful we are they know the Lord doesn't give us more than we can endure. Hospital surgical patients since our last visit were Bro. George Schuester, Floran Klopfenstein and Sharon Anliker; outpatient surgery, Sis. Madeline Knochel. Star Esslinger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy) had an injured elbow. Philip and Sammy Kaufman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Carol) were hospitalized. Little Kelsy Cooke (Danny and Beth) had pneumonia. Sis. Connie Frautschi, Bro. Manuel Stetzler, Sis. Martha DeMille, Sis. Esther Harmon, Rachel Roth, Carol Doolittle and Ed (Ella) Harmon welcome your prayers and cards, too.

Our sympathy is extended to the loved ones which have experienced

the loss of a family member. Our prayers and thoughts are with Bro. Ervan and Sis. Ione in the passing of her brother. They traveled to the Morton, IL, area for Bro. Hartter's funeral. Our hearts also go out to Bro. Clarence and Sis. Geraldine Beyers in the loss of her brother.

The announcement of Sis. Stephanie Frautschi's engagement to Bro. John Schlatter (Alto, MI) was made known October 28. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi and Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter. Sis. Stephanie just recently moved to Illinois. May the happy couple feel a special closeness to the Lord as they plan their wedding and life together.

Congratulations to Bro. Glen and Sis. Alice Baumgartner on their 40th wedding anniversary. May the Lord continue to guide them on His path.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1) Erica Roth (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill) has received this peace since she started to repent just before her dear Grandma Roth (Sis. Lorene) went to heaven.

Our desert climate, dates, figs, nuts, olives, pomegranates, grapes, berries, melons and tress such as fig, palm, mulberry, willow, ash, myrtle, olive, and many birds truly give us here, in Arizona, lots to identify with as we sit down and read our Bible.

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

Bro. Jay Bertsch underwent exploratory surgery recently. We pray this will prove helpful in bringing Bro. Jay to a speedy recovery.

We have some newly-elected officers in the church as a result of our November business meeting. Bro. Steve Bauer is our new trustee; Sis. Heidi Sinn replaces Sis. Liz Martin in teaching our grade school children; and Sis. LouAnn Funk is our new kitchen chairman replacing Sis. Gloria Bauer. We want to thank those brethren who have served faithfully in their offices and, of course, we ask a blessing on the brethren who are starting their term in office.

We are anticipating the installation of the carpeting in our building addition and also in our sanctuary sometime this week. We also anticipate final inspection of our addition

by the city of Tucson this week, Lord willing. Work has already begun on our remodeling phase to the existing church building which will give us up-to-date restrooms, baby room and office facilities. We still need your prayerful support.

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**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**  
**Lisa Steiner**

On November 13, Bro. Mike Dreeste and Sis. Kathy Kieser were united in marriage. Several from our congregation attended the ceremony in Bradford, IL. A reception was held November 26 in their honor. We are so thankful to have them with us in Altadena. May God bless their new life together.

We are also thankful that God has provided smooth recoveries for three members of our congregation who were hospitalized in October. Bro. Bill Witzig underwent heart bypass surgery. Bro. Clarence Graf underwent gall bladder surgery and Danny Luthi (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley), age 4, had a minor operation.

Our dear Bro. Ed Ruehle (Maywood, CA) passed away November 6. Surviving him are his wife, Esther; daughter, Gail; sons, Ed, Roger and Dennis; and several grandchildren. Bro. Andy Locher, a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha, KS, was laid to rest October 14 in Inglewood, CA. Bro. Andy is the father of Bro. Leonard Locher (Sis. Christine) and the grandfather of Sis. Sherise Varga (Bro. Alex, San Diego, CA).

We are again thankful to have had visitors with us this past month, including Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) who brought us God's Word.

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

Services were held October 14, 1989 at the Inglewood Mortuary for our dear departed Bro. Andrew F. Locher. In memory of his love, his family will miss him greatly. Our condolences extend out to you, Bro. Leonard, and Sis. Chris and all the Locher family.

Visiting ministers in San Diego are always a special blessing. Bro. Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City,

MI) shared God's truth with us. Thank you Bro. Jim and Bro. Brian and may God bless you richly!

Sometimes it takes God's actions, not only words, for us to listen to Him, such as the earthquake we experienced this week. Wouldn't it be wonderful for us to wait upon the Lord, listen to His still small voice and obey His commandments? Unfortunately, it's those times when we continue to ignore God's words that He needs to speak so loud (the earthquake) before we can hear Him. Why is that? It is evident, His presence is always here and all around us. Let us fear God and keep His commandments.

Rory Strawn has found grace to repent. How wonderful to have a newborn convert with his heart prepared, ready to serve his God, taking in God's Word zealously with every sermon. Is it time to count the cost, brothers and sisters? Is it time to think back on our first love, and try to grasp that feeling again? Rory is a brother to Sherise and Alex Varga, also the nephew of Bro. Leonard and Christine Locher. May grace and peace stay with you, Rory. May your joy be full.

“. . . But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance . . .”

Galatians 5:22, 23

long suffering: adj. -- Patiently enduring wrongs or difficulties.

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Sis. Lorene visited our church here in San Diego this past month. Thank you Bro. Ben for all your love and kindness. Expounding upon the Word, teaching and showing us God's truth. You are a very dear brother to us all.

Bro. Ben also assisted our Elder Bro. John Klotzle in sharing the memorandum. It truly was a full day of worship. God was with us.

I can't be any happier, to announce the fourth soul in our church who is repenting. Turning her back on sin, changing her life is Lydia Palesol. She is the daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Joanne Varga. We wish you much grace Lydia. May God bless your life and lead you to everlasting happiness.

Two sets of parents will enjoy

watching their children enjoy their first Christmas. They are Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy Fulop, whose beautiful dark-haired daughter is Linda Michelle. Linda has two older brothers, Bobby and Denny. Also, Bro. Alex and Sis. Sherise's daughter with beautiful blue eyes is Brittany Nicole Varga. To share her fun is big sister, Sherise Alexandria.

“. . . But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance . . .”

Galatians 5:22, 23

Gentleness: Considerate or kindly in disposition; amiable; patient.

During this holiday season, I reflect upon all my loved ones, family and friends. But I think most of all about those dear friends that I counted so true at one time in my life, but as time went on, so did our lives, separately. I always think of you even if we don't keep in touch as often as we want to or had promised once. My heart still loves you, too.

May all reading this be blessed by God's love and grace. Remember Jesus. May happiness and joy fill each household.

#### PRAY FOR ME

Here is where the road divides  
Here is where we realize  
The sculpting of the Father's great design

Thru time you've been a friend to me

But time is now the enemy  
I wish we didn't have to say goodbye

But I know the road He chose for me

Is not the road He chose for you  
So as we chase the dreams we're after

Pray for me and I'll pray for you  
Pray that we will keep the common ground

. . . And one day love will bring us back around, again!

Michael W. Smith

#### COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

While traveling to Kansas to spend

the weekend, we were listening to the tapes of the brotherhood conference. One brother spoke of the mansions being prepared for us in heaven. He told us that he believed that the actual preparation is being done here as God is shaping us, trimming a little here or there, smoothing the rough edges, etc. that we fit in the place He has for us in heaven.

As we were driving through eastern Colorado and western Kansas we noticed many, many tumbleweeds blowing across the road and catching in the fences, on weeds or anything sticking up. Then we'd come to places where the ditches had been mowed, or a field that had been disked and new wheat was growing -- no tumbleweeds. It struck me; the likeness to what the brother was saying. Where the ditches and fields had been cared for and the dead, unneeded growth taken away, there the tumbleweeds could not attach themselves. How important it is that we allow God to trim and cut off the parts that allow the "weeds" of this world to attach themselves and prevent us from fitting into the place God has for us in His mansions above.

The weekend of November 11 and 12 our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin) came to be with us. Saturday evening we were blessed as he and Bro. Tom read the conference memorandum and exhorted us to live an ever more faithful life. Then on Sunday we were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and his wife. The Spirit could truly be felt as both Bro. Nate and Bro. Greg spoke. We are so thankful that brothers are submissively willing to be "just an instrument" through which God brings His Word. May they be blessed!

#### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Martha Hany

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

Isaiah 9:6

The prophet Isaiah gave many names to Jesus as he foresaw and prophesied the birth of one who could

forgive sins and convert the heart of man. As we rejoice and celebrate His birth, may we always remember our salvation was made possible only by our Lord and Saviour's willingness to suffer in obedience to the Father's will.

Tuesday, October 31, was the birthday of "Bradley Edwin," son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori (Gerber) Bahler. Joshua must be delighted to have a baby brother with whom to share his toys. Happy grandparents are Bro. Lee, Sis. Maxine and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Beverly Gerber.

Death is so final and even though we know our loved one is safely at home, our hearts grieve that we no longer can be with them in the flesh. Our sympathy is with Sis. Barb Reutter in the loss of her sister, Sis. Linda Moser (Lester, IA) and Sis. Joyce Schneider in the recent passing of her mother, Sis. Louise Wagenbach (Tremont, IL).

Oftentimes, many of us take our good health too much for granted until we hear of loved ones who must be hospitalized and/or under a doctor's care. Recently, Sis. Rose Zahner, Sis. Fannie Lanz, Sis. Huldah Luginbuhl, Del (Lanz) Starke and Alice (Klee) Kalas were in the hospital. Our prayer is that the Lord will grant them moderate health once again. Also, those who may be carrying heavy burdens unbeknown to us. May we continue to support and love one another as we journey on.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

##### Catherine Klopfenstein

Visiting ministers in November were Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). Attendance was very good on both occasions, and the instructive, inspiring messages brought to us from the Word of God by these brothers was sincerely appreciated.

On Sunday, November 5, we had several administrators of church affiliated homes visit us, along with their wives, who were attending an administrator's conference in Baltimore, MD. Visiting administrators were from Bern, KS; Morton, IL (2); Elgin, IL; and Eureka, IL. That evening our good friends, Jim and Miriam (Aberle) Southerland entertained the

entire group with a buffet dinner and fellowship. May God bless them and their family for this deed of kindness and hospitality.

Other recent visitors have been from Rockville, CT; Princeville, IL; Smithville, OH; Rittman, OH; Philadelphia, PA; and Gridley, IL. Visitors are always welcome.

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month at the Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located on U.S. Route 7, 1 mile west of I-495, beginning at 10:30 a.m., EST. For information or assistance, call Ralph Klopfenstein, 703-979-3476.

#### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

The Sunday school sponsored a hayride and picnic in November. The little children really enjoyed riding in a wagon filled with straw and hay.

Church cleaning/yard work was scheduled for one Saturday, but we were having so much fun they extended it to two days! Actually, there was quite a bit more to do since we had skipped last year!

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Helen Luginbuhl and Josephine Gudeman. God bless each with a speedy recovery.

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

Once again it is the time of the year that we celebrate the birth of our Saviour with thankful hearts for all He has done for such as we. May we all try to show the joy of serving our loving Lord.

On the sick list at this time, Bro. Art Keller is back with us after his surgery, also, Sis. Goldie Kipfer after her surgery, is still at home. They both want to thank everyone who remembered them with gifts of love and prayers.

Also at this writing, Dathan is in need of all your loving prayers! We all know that through prayer, God's mind can be changed.

Our winter brethren are returning and are most welcome. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN). We are ever thankful for their message of love. It is so

very uplifting to the whole church when we have visiting ministers and their families. We welcome all who find time to spend in our little church.

#### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Suellen Ott - Kristine Price

Build a little fence of trust  
Around today;  
Fill the space with loving work  
And there in stay.  
Look not through sheltering oars  
Upon tomorrow;  
God will help thee bear what comes  
Of joy or sorrow.

Mary Butts

We have missed several of our dear sisters this past month due to hospitalization. Sis. Viola Leman and Sis. Berzika Krystic are both able to again assemble with us. We continue to pray for Sis. Julie Kittle as she is recovering at home and is still unable to attend church. Young Dathan Eisenmann is under close care with the doctors at this time and we want to continue to pray for Dathan and his family. May God grant Bro. Dave and Sis. Sue an extra portion of grace at this time.

We are instructed in God's Word to forsake not the assembly of the brethren. We have been privileged to have the following visiting ministers and their families. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL) and Bro. Dave Eisenmann, Sr. (Fort Myers, FL). Also with us for the winter months is retired minister Bro. Joe Schrock (Congerville, IL).

Our congregation extends our sincere sympathy to Bro. Gene and Sis. Evelyn Bruellman in the loss of Gene's mother, Sis. Clara Bruellman. Sis. Clara spent many winters at her home here in Sarasota. We will miss her smiling face but again must realize she will not have to suffer afflictions here any more.

. . . Your loving Mother,  
gone to rest,  
Has served the risen Lord;  
She loved the precepts and the truth  
As found in His good Word.  
At last her wished-for day has come,  
To lay her armor by --

No tears, no grief, no sickness more  
In the beyond sky.

Henry Beer

## GEORGIA, ATLANTA

John Brewer

It is amazing to see in the past year how much God has watched over this little gathering. In the past year one couple's house was barely missed by a tornado, knocking down some trees and causing a little damage to their house. Another couple was twirled around by another tornado while in their van. Another brother missed the same tornado by seconds, but no one was hurt. Two brothers and a sister from the sister church going to school in Atlanta came close to having a navy jet plane crash in their apartment complex. Unfortunately it did crash into another one not too far away. A sister also had to go into the hospital for cancer surgery. Other events have taken place this year, some bad, most of it good though, including two babies born this year. We have all grown over the past year from these different events and look forward to what God has in store for us in the next year. It is good to take time to reflect and give God the glory and praise for all that He has given to us and experienced, including the bad, which helps us grow spiritually.

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

Psalms 46:1

This past month Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) were here to minister to us. We appreciate the time they took to come down and visit us.

It is winter time and that usually means people are heading to Florida for winter vacations. We really do appreciate the visitors that stop in the area this time of year. If you do have time, please stop in and see us. There is a special joy to meet new brethren or see acquaintances we haven't seen in a while. The church holds services every Sunday at the Ramada Renaissance. It is located off I-85 on the Riverdale Road Exit, right next to the Atlanta Airport. Services start approximately at 10:30. For more

information, call either Bro. Linn or Sis. Brenda Stoller 404-631-2554, Bro. Don Sellers 404-923-0721, or myself 404-254-2664.

## ILLINOIS,

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL  
De Anderson - Marcia Bauer

Wonderful story of love;  
Tell it to me again;  
Wonderful story of love;  
Wake the immortal strain!  
Angels with rapture announce it,  
Shepherds with wonder receive it,  
Sinner, O won't you believe it?  
Wonderful story of love.

(J. M. Driver)

As we recall the wonderful story of the Christ Child's birth this holiday season, let us be especially thankful for the blessings we have received and especially mindful of sharing our blessings with others.

Our fall Sunday school picnic was held this month at Miller Park. The Lord provided a beautiful afternoon in which was shared a bounty of good food and fellowship.

The annual "Day of Devotion" was held October 28. We appreciate Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) for sharing their time with us on that day. Also, we once again thank our Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) for being with us on the 12th. We truly appreciate his love and concern for our congregation.

Our loved ones hospitalized this month include Sis. Loretta Kauffman and Bro. Al Stoller. We continue to pray for Chris Huetter (Sis. Hazel) who continues his recuperation through therapy.

## ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Karen Ringger

Our congregation was blessed with several ministers this past month. Those who shared God's precious Word with us were Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bros. Gary Tonner (Bluffton), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park), Wayne Banwart (Champaign), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Marshall Heinold and Don Wagenbach (Wash-

ington). We always appreciate the efforts of our visiting ministers and pray God will bless them and their families.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Barbara Klumpp in the passing of her father, Bro. Leonard Hartter (Morton).

On November 12, Sis. Kathy Kieser and Bro. Mike Drete (Altadena, CA) were united in marriage. May God bless them as they seek to establish their Christian home.

Sis. Vonnie Kieser (Bro. Verle) was a surgery patient this month. We are thankful she is at home again and doing well.

## ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

LaRae Dill

Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel have been blessed with a daughter, Hannah Marie. Hannah, born November 5, is lovingly welcomed by her grandparents, Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores Zehr (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge Waibel (Forrest, IL).

The University of Illinois and Parkland College students treated our congregation to a spaghetti supper November 17. Along with the delicious meal, everyone enjoyed the evening of fellowship and singing.

As the holiday season approaches, children and teenagers are surrounded by messages giving ideas of "things to hope for." When so much emphasis is placed on receiving gifts, we're thankful our Sunday school students had the opportunity to experience the joy that comes in giving. On Saturday, November 18, our students delivered food boxes to five needy families in the Champaign-Urbana area. Kids of various ages help out in a variety of ways; buying groceries, decorating and packing food boxes, and making the deliveries.

Our thanks and appreciation to these ministers for visiting our congregation recently: Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Virg Metzger (Chicago, IL).

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO****Kathy Schlatter**

At Katrina's oboe lesson, her teacher pointed out a characteristic of reeds during the winter. The reed was strong when it was completely wet and even when it was completely dry. However, when the reed was in-between damp, it became very fragile. We, too, are reeds. Christ drew us to Him when we were dry and thirsty, knowing how much we needed His living water. And immersed in His salvation and in the full knowledge of His love, we stand strong by His power. Yet, if we become "luke-wet," we are in grave danger. Like the reed, we are easily cracked and broken. But what if we are unaware of our condition? May we more closely cling to the Lord all the days of our lives.

We rejoice because of our many visitors. Elder Bro. Ed Ringger and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) were with us communion weekend. Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville), Curt Rassi (Tremont) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) have filled our cups to overflowing as well. We, of all people, can have "Thanksgiving" every day of our lives, surely including our worship with the brethren.

Remembering our Lord's Supper, His agony endured for us, is such a precious time. Our Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann and Ed Ringger served us this solemn feast last month on Saturday evening. In keeping with our custom, we had a church supper together Sunday afternoon. We were also privileged to hear several brothers blend their voices in song.

Our hearts are joyous, yet they are sorrowful. We exult in prayer as our friend, Julie Johnson, has turned her life over to the Lord. When one comes in repentance, heaven delights, and we do as well. May we, as her church family, be true supporters and encouragers in deed, in word, and always in prayer. We welcome Bro. Larry Gramm (Gridley, IL, congregation) who is now working in Wauconda. We look forward to fellowship with him.

Sis. Esther Hay has been hospitalized. We missed her but appreciate her presence once again in our worship services.

Nevertheless, into our lives come partings. Sis. Alma Cordill has lived

and worked in the Chicago area for almost sixty years. She worked in Evanston Hospital well past retirement age, and she has not tried to leave us quickly. But the time has come that she has felt led to move to an apartment beside the Eureka Home. We will miss her spirit, combined with a keen wit and sense of humor. She has been an example for us of the energy possible, even as the body ages. We love her and we will miss her. Thanks, Alma, for being you in the Lord. Our prayers go with her.

Sis. Jackie Leman has lost her brother, Bro. Jeff Gramm (Taylor, MO). We cannot understand the whole of the Lord's plan, to take such a young man, but we trust Him and extend to Sis. Jackie our rich love and sympathy in Christ Jesus. In sorrow, only the Lord can reap spiritual increase.

On my way to work, the last half mile I go straight east toward Chicago. I can see the outline of the Sears Tower most of the time. It is quite a marvel, as far as I know, still the tallest building in the world. Nevertheless, as I see it on the horizon, it is dwarfed by the magnificent sky, the ever-changing clouds, the colors of the rising sun, and I think of the difference between what man has created and what our God has done. I am truly thankful for the reminders of the Lord, of His majesty and power, of His beauty and benevolence, of His compassion and intercession for each of us -- in years past and in this new one to come.

As I was driving home from work, the car in front of me had its blinker on, not an unusual occurrence. This time, though, the blinker was indicating a left turn and the car turned right. In approaching this new year of 1990, I hope that my "indicators" and my actions are synchronized, so that others would see Christ clearly shown, not that I would give "mixed signals" and put Christ to shame.

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**  
**Mary Knapp - Karol Stock**

**PRAYER OF THANKS**

Thank You, God, for everything  
 I've experienced here on earth --

Thank You for protecting me  
 from the moment of my birth --  
 And thank You for the beauty  
 around me everywhere,  
 The gentle rain and glistening dew,  
 the sunshine and the air,  
 The joyous gift of "feeling"  
 the soul's soft, whispering voice  
 That speaks to me from deep within  
 and makes my heart rejoice --  
 Oh, God, no words are great enough  
 to thank You for just living,  
 And that is why every day  
 is a day for real Thanksgiving.  
 Helen Steiner Rice

I Thessalonians 5:18 reads, "In every thing give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." During this Thanksgiving season it seems we have so much to be thankful for. We have been so blest by God in so many ways, not only in the present time, but also in days gone by.

In remembering the less fortunate during Thanksgiving, our third through eighth grade Sunday school classes delivered food baskets to several families in our area on Sunday morning, November 19. The Bible class also traveled to Gridley November 12 in the evening for ACYF.

On October 22, the engagement of Bro. Doug Walder and Sis. Julie Bauer was announced. His parents are Bro. Les and Sis. Dorothy Walder (East Lynn) and her parents are Sis. Joyce Bauer and the late Bro. Jon Bauer (Cissna Park). A March 11 wedding is being planned.

Also, we missed reporting the wedding of Lyle Rudin and Lisa Kiesling on June 24. His parents are Alvin and Dorothy Rudin (Hoopeston) and her parents are Nelson and Lela Kiesling (Mason City, IL). They have made their home in Palatine, IL.

Greg Rudin and Celena Carr were joined in marriage August 12 and are making their home in Rantoul, IL. Their parents are Gary and Elizabeth Rudin (Cissna Park) and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carr (Rantoul, IL). We apologize for the delay in writing this and certainly extend our very best of wishes to both of these couples.

We are thankful for two couples in our congregation as they have found salvation and were able to give their testimonies November 4. We witnessed their baptisms November 5 and were

glad to welcome our new brothers and sisters-in-faith, Stan and Debbie Gudeman and Charles and Mary Ann Mann. May God continue to direct and bless them. Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) were here for the weekend to assist our Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL). We thank them for coming and sharing the weekend with us.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN).

Sis. Deloris Knapp (Bro. Wayne) and Jeanne Knapp (Charles) were both surgical patients and Lawrence Kuebler (Doris) was a hospital patient. Sis. Margaret Rudin was also confined to her home this past month.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Phil Sauder (Sis. Anna) in the loss of his brother, Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Jewel, Tremont, IL). May God be their comfort at this time of sorrow.

During the Christmas season, may we each pause to consider the true meaning of this most precious gift that was given to all mankind. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11. "Be not content this babe to know, nor stay at Bethlehem. But go with Christ to Calvary's brow, beyond Jerusalem. 'Tis there men learn to know the Christ, For there He bore man's sin. Then open wide the door of heart. And let the Saviour in." Hymns of Zion #36.

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### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Sandy Knapp - Deb Dietrich

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

Hymns of Zion #36

As Christmas approaches, may we be ever thankful that we are given the opportunity to know Jesus not only as a child, but as our Lord and Saviour.

Once again we were blessed to

partake of holy communion. How humbling it was to obey the Lord's commandments that He gave at the Lord's Supper. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) who assisted in this most solemn occasion.

We are thankful to the ministering brethren who so willingly feed us God's Word. Visiting us this month was Bro. Kurt Frank (LaCrosse, IN).

In the hospital this month was Clarence Schlipf. He was involved in a farming accident and is now recovering at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home. We wish him God's healing hand.

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### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Elizabeth Schambach Betty Bachtold

#### "THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS"

The miracle of Christmas  
Brings heaven close to earth  
That we might share the wonder  
Of our blessed Savior's birth.  
The miracle of Christmas  
Inspires us from afar  
And gives us faith to follow  
One bright and shining star.  
The miracle of Christmas  
Brings friends and loved ones near,  
Reminding us how dear they are  
At Christmas and all year.  
The miracle of Christmas  
Is a blessing that imparts  
A joy that's meant to linger  
Forever in our hearts.

By Amanda Bradley

On November 9, our "Over 70" dinner was served in the church dining room to many brethren and friends. It is always heart-warming when we can enjoy blessed fellowship and singing.

Sisters Emily Preiss, Jeanette Schmidt (Bro. Delbert) and Kay Steffen (Bro. Earl) were our hospital patients this month. How merciful is our great God who can restore to health, according to His will.

We are always thankful for faithful brethren who minister the Word and pray God's blessings upon them. Bros. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Bruce Leman (Roanoke, IL) worshipped with us recently.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

#### Kathy Leman

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." St. Luke 2:14. We are in the most beautiful season of the year when we celebrate our Lord and Saviour's birth. May we not let the material things of the season rob us of the blessings of His birth and the hope and promise of our salvation.

Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa Gerber and children, Joshua, Andrew, Matthew, Alex and Emily, have moved to Latty, OH. We miss them in our congregation here, but know they will be appreciated in Latty. May God bless them.

We always seem to have those with afflictions of this mortal body. Our prayers go out to Sis. Lydia Rocke (Bro. Harry), Sis. Madalyn Hartter and Tarla Martin, and Bros. Bob Wettstein (Sis. Verna), Dave Leman (Sis. Ann), Melvin Stoller (Sis. Margorie), Leroy Huber (Sis. Clara) and Ed Kupferschmid (Sis. Donna). May we remember them in prayer and may God heal and strengthen as He sees best.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Karen Huber (Bro. Gary) in the recent passing of her father, Bro. Leonard Hartter (Morton). May God comfort her and her family.

We are thankful for the many visiting brethren who came and ministered the Word unto us. May God bless Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont), Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville), Ed Fritz (Washington), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Jaye Rinkenger and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) and may He grant the increase.

On October 29, we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Vicky Knecht (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judith) and Bro. Andy Wiegand (Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen). May God bless their lives together.

We heard two wedding engagements this month. November 5 Sis. Becky Knecht (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judith) and Bro. Tim Martin (Sis. Edna, Princeville) made their engagement known.

Bro. Daniel Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene) and Sis. Heidi Knapp (Bro. George and Sis. Fern, Goodfield) announced their engagement November 12. We wish both of

these couples God's nearness and direction as they plan for their lives together here upon earth.

Feeling the Lord's direction and guidance, and according to His will, Bro. Ervin Knecht was placed into the ministry November 15. We remember Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy in prayer as this duty has been laid upon them.

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### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

#### Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

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

Isaiah 9:6

We are thankful that Jesus was born in a lowly state and grew to manhood. He bore the sins of all mankind and shed His blood that we could go free. What a precious gift He gave to us all, if we but accept it! Let's follow Him from the cradle to the grave.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol Kafer are the parents of a girl, Bethann Rose, born October 24. She has two brothers, Christopher and Brad. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Sharon Kelson and Duane and Pat Kafer.

Our congregation is rejoicing with our new converts, Mark Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary) and Paul and Carmen Kilgus (Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus and Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman), as they have chosen to take advantage of God's wonderful plan of salvation. May God grant them abundant grace to surrender all.

Our hospital patients this month were Sisters Lydia Eisenmann, Carolyn Fehr, Colleen Walter, Emily Miller and Rose Fehr. Our ministering Bro. Duane Kilgus met with a farm accident. We pray that God will be with him and his family at this difficult time. May God's healing powers be with each one as they lean upon Him for strength.

Bringing us God's Word have been Bros. Ralph Garber (Morton), Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) and Jim Byrd (Roanoke). May God bless them and

their families as they continue their service to the Lord.

October 29 was a beautiful wedding day for Bro. Ryan Steidinger (Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice) and Lori Fehr (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Linda). May God's blessings rest on this new couple.

Also on October 29, we rejoiced to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Keith Schieler and Sis. Jodi Schmidgall (Peoria). Their parents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler and Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila Schmidgall (Morris, MN). May God be in their midst as they plan a February wedding and live here upon earth together.

Along with the Forrest brethren, we were privileged to hear the memorandum from the brotherhood conference. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), along with our elders, brought kind exhortations to us. With God's grace, let's try to walk closer to the Lord instead of the "world."

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### ILLINOIS, FORREST

#### Sherri Kelson

#### Sandra Schneider

#### GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE

Our Father up in heaven  
 long, long years ago,  
 Looked down in His great mercy  
 on this restless world below,  
 And He saw that folks were lonely  
 and lost in deep despair,  
 And so He said, "I'll send my Son  
 to walk among them there,  
 So they can hear Him speaking  
 and feel His nearness, too,  
 And see the many miracles  
 that faith alone can do . . ."  
 And so, though centuries have  
 passed  
 since Jesus walked on earth,  
 Time has not dimmed the wonder  
 of the Holy Christ Child's birth.

Helen Steiner Rice

May this Christmas season fill our lives with peace, joy and thankful hearts as we remember the birth of our Saviour.

Paul Honegger and Amy Short were married October 21. Their parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Eleanor Honegger and Mr. and Mrs. Gene

Short (Forrest). We wish them much happiness.

We rejoice with Bro. Phil, Sis. Charlotte, Kirk and Kay Leman as they welcome Gary Wayne into their family circle. Bro. Glen and Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Fairbury) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna Leman are his grandparents.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Leona Wallace, Sis. Leah Honegger (Bro. Sam), and Sis. Marian Rieger (Bro. Rich). May God grant them returning health and strength.

We appreciated the visits of Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Jim Plattner (Princeville) and Steve Martin and Jim Vierling (both of Eureka). We thank them for being willing to minister to us.

We are thankful for each soul that can forsake the world and make God's way their choice. Brian Mueller (Bob and Sis. Elaine), Chris Hamilton (Tom and Sis. Earlene) and Tommy Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy) have made known this desire and we wish them an abundant measure of God's grace.

Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) assisted our Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman in reading the memorandum to us. We received many helpful exhortations to keep our ship of faith on course.

Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schmidgall want to sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts while Scott was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless each one for their kindness.

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### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

#### Trish Gerber

Have you ever wondered why God announced the greatest birth in human history to a handful of shepherds on a hillside and a few wise men from the East? Perhaps it was because they were quiet enough to listen . . . eager enough to know . . . available enough to follow! What a lesson to us all during the busy Christmas season. It really takes an effort as a Christian to get the real meaning of Christmas to be the focal point of all of our celebration! May God be ever honored and glorified for His perfect plan that had its beginning in that

humble stable on a "Silent Night" so long ago.

We are looking forward to the marriage of Bro. Dan Bauman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty) to Sis. Holly Hohulin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene). It is so encouraging when God draws two souls together and they trust Him entirely.

The engagement of Sis. Heidi Knapp (Bro. George and Sis. Fern) to Bro. Dan Schumaker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene, Eureka) was announced and we rejoice with them. In this day and age it is so important to turn to God for all of our decisions and with His guidance we cannot go wrong.

Many thanks to our visiting ministers and their wives for worshipping with us this month. Those visiting us were Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN).

It's good to know Bro. Eli Hohulin is doing better after his emergency hospital call. Our thoughts and prayers are with Eli and his family as he recuperates.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Christmas is a wonderful season for believers in the dear Lord Jesus. Far more enduring than the tinsel and snowflakes is the birth of the Lord. As we exchange gifts, the Lord's teaching, that is more blessed to give than to receive again, rings true. Indeed, all year long, as we give of ourselves, as we live in deference to others, and as we humbly submit one to another, we will feel a deep sense of Christ's Spirit within us.

On November 12 and 19, our Sunday school hosted the fall ACYF singings. Our program verse was, "Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing." (Psalms 100:2) Bros. Wayne Lobscher (Cissna Park) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign) were our guest speakers. May God draw our dear teenagers toward His marvelous plan.

Our congregation was saddened by the passing of Bro. Henry Gramm, 85, who died October 24. He is survived by his dear wife of 57 years, Sis. Ruth; a son, Bro. Jack (Bloomington); and a daughter, Jane Cloat (Peoria);

also two sisters, Sis. Anna Klopfenstein and Florence Krones (Gridley); and a brother, Frank Gramm (Huntington Park, CA).

Bro. Henry loved to visit and his presence will be sorely missed by his family, church and community. He told an interesting story about an experience earlier in his life. While living in Phoenix, with his wife he had little interest in the church and viewed it from a negative perspective. One Sunday afternoon, he and his wife attended a church potluck attended by Elder Bro. Ernest Graf, Sr. (Akron, OH), who had the oversight of the Phoenix congregation. Bro. Henry had a chance to visit with Bro. Graf and Christian warmth and kindness won the friendship of Bro. Henry, who was still a friend of the truth. His spiritual attitude began to soften. Later, when witnessing the baptism of his sister-in-law, his heart felt the tug of conviction, and he heard the call of God. In time, he and his wife sought the Lord in repentance.

We were also deeply saddened at the passing of Bro. Jeff Gramm (Taylor, MO), formerly of Gridley. Our church's deep sympathies were extended to his beloved wife, Sis. Luanne, and to the Bro. Bob and Sis. Nola Gramm family. Many from Gridley traveled to Taylor for the visitation and funeral November 19 and 20. Bro. Jeff had a special, gentle quality when he was in our midst here in Gridley.

Sis. Cassie Ringger was announced November 5 to be married to Bro. Curt Meiss. She is the daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger, and he is the son of Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss.

We were blessed during the month with several visiting ministers to whom we are very grateful. Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) spoke to us Wednesday evening, November 1. Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont) was here November 5; and Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) November 12 and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington) November 19.

Thank You: "The Henry Gramm family wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to all who so graciously supported us during our loved one's illness and death. We felt the spirit of Christ. May God bless each one of you."

### ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

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

Isaiah 9:6

Praise our Almighty God for the gift of His Son!!!

We rejoiced with our new sister-in-faith, Irene Ogg, as she gave her testimony and was baptized October 25. It was good to sit in the audience and be renewed as she radiated love and thankfulness.

Bro. Leonard Hartter was called home after a lengthy illness. His funeral was held November 7. May God comfort his wife, Sis. Anna; his daughters, Marlene Loiacono, Sis. Karen Huber, Shirlee Zimmerman, Sis. Barbara Klumpp and Bonnie Foust; his sons, Leonard Jr., Gary and Bill; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his brothers, Harvey, Arthur and Eli; and his sisters, Sis. Ione Rocke, Sis. Elda Mae Craig, Sis. Velma Leman and Sis. Louella Zimmerman.

Bro. Dan, Sis. Mary and Brian Farney welcome into their hearts and home, Laura Mae. Laura was born November 4. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Laverne Kaiser and Bro. Earl and Sis. Irene Farney.

Bro. Jacob and Sis. Bernice (Getz) Plattner recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Their children, Karen Sagell, Bro. Jake and Bro. Paul hosted a family dinner in their honor.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL).

Our Bible class also hosted visitors this month, October 22. They had the Bible classes from the Washington and Peoria, IL, congregations. May we all be especially prayerful for our high school students across the land.



Our Bro. George Rein died November 12 at the age of 103 at Apostolic Christian Restmor. He was, of course, our oldest member and will be greatly missed. Until the last few months, he was able to attend church regularly and took a daily walk downtown. May God send a special measure of comfort and grace to his son, Melvin, who is in serious condition in the hospital following an auto accident.

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**  
**Joe and Jackie Herman**

God sends us many precious gifts  
 But none that can compare  
 With the wonder of a baby  
 Who's so tiny and so fair . . .  
 A baby with a smile as warm  
 As sunshine's golden light  
 And eyes as bright and merry  
 As the twinkling stars at night.  
 An angel child with velvet lips,  
 A tiny button nose,  
 And skin as soft and perfect  
 As the petals of a rose . . .  
 No miracle's as wondrous --  
 Not the sun, nor sky, nor trees --  
 As this little bit of heaven  
 That you hold upon your knees!  
 Author Unknown

Zachary David Nelson is the precious new son of Bro. Breck and Sis. Janie. He was born November 10. Sis. Sandy and Darryl Nelson (Morton) and Sis. Dorothy and Bro. John Hoerr are Zachary's grandparents.

A son was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Brenda Hoerr. Alec Edward is welcomed home by his sister, Amanda, and brother, Scott. Grandparents are Sis. Darlene and Bro. Ken Hoerr and Sandy and Larry Guingrich.

Sis. Rachel Meister (Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda) and Bro. David Sauder, Jr. (Sis. Rita and Bro. David) were united in holy matrimony November 12. We wish them God's richest blessings in their new life together.

Hospital patients this month were Dan Kellenberger, Sis. Velma Hancher, Sis. Maria Graham, Art Hermann, Sis. Vera Irions.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL). We thank them for sharing with us the Word of God.

We were remiss in announcing the retirement of two of our ministering brothers, Elder Bro. Roy Sauder and Bro. Leroy Hartman. We will miss their kind words of wisdom from the Peoria pulpit, but we realize they have passed the mantle to other capable brothers. God bless you and your wives for your years of service!

Silver Lining dues will be collected in January.

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Marjean Lehman**

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

Hebrews 11:1-3

Visiting ministers this month have been: Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford), Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont), Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka). May God's blessings be upon them.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Hebrews 11:6

On November 5, Elder Bro. Joe Stoller announced four converts who have repented of their sins, permitted God to convert them, have found peace with God and wish to give their testimony-of-faith and be baptized into the death of our Lord. They are Jill Bauer (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol), Linda Martin (Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther), Mike Martin (the late Bro. Elmer and Sis. Janet) and Kara Menold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon). May they continue to feel God's blessings and nearness.

"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;"

Hebrews 11:25

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

The Union of Hearts

On November 5, we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Tim Martin and Sis. Becky Knecht (Eureka). Parents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Judy Knecht (Eureka) and the late Bro. Ray Martin and Sis. Edna Martin. May God bless them in their plans.

"This union of our hearts shall stand through grace in Jesus;  
 We walk the path of live, 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."

The Union of Hearts

On November 12, Bro. Kevin Wagenbach and Sis. Sara Feuchtenberger were united in holy matrimony in Morris, MN. Parents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN) and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach. May God's blessings be felt in their pathway as they walk in His love.

Sis. Anna Streitmatter has been a hospital patient. May God bless her with His healing blessings.

"But now they desire a better country, that is, and heavenly; wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Hebrews 11:16

On November 10, funeral services were held for Sis. Marie Farney who passed away November 8 at the Peoria Home where she had been a resident. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) assisted the Princeville ministers in the funeral services. We extend sincere sympathy to the family members: Otto and Eleanor Baer, Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baer, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Esther Schafer. Also all the relatives have our sympathy and we pray God to provide in the

loss of their dear loved one with comfort from above.

Thank You Note: The family of Marie (Baer) Farney wishes to thank everyone for their kind expression of sympathy shown to them, the cards, calls, food, memorial contributions and many visits to Marie during her illness and passing away at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Hebrews 12:1-3

#### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

##### Patsy Kaeb - Sandy Leman

Amid all the hustle and bustle of this busy holiday season, may we take some time to reflect on God's gift to us -- His only-begotten Son, who came to dwell among us, "full of truth and grace." It has been said that, "He became like us, that we might become like Him." When we think of the cost of God's gift to us, our hearts are filled with gratitude and recognition of our unworthiness.

We enjoyed hearing from several visiting ministers this month: Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington), Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Ben Maibach and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI). May God bless them and their families and continue to guide their lives.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni Stoller have a new baby boy, David Benjamin. He was born October 28. Michael, Kristi and Jared are David's older brothers and sister. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Babs Stoller and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel.

The Roanoke congregation extends a warm welcome to Sis. Donna Teubel, who has moved here from Pu-

laski. Sis. Donna is our new Quality of Life Coordinator at our Home in Roanoke.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Cindy Leman (Bro. Sam and Sis. Anna), Bro. Stan Hodel (Sis. Verna), Sis. Pat Sauder (Bro. Curt and Sis. Edna), Alex Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet), Fred Fischer (Sis. Wilma), Sis. Margaret Leman and Bro. Ira Farney (Sis. Doris). We wish each one of them God's help and strength as they recover.

Our annual bazaar to benefit the nursing home was held November 11. We thank all those who donated items and worked at the bazaar. May God richly reward each one of you for your efforts.

#### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

##### Carolyn Bolliger Marsha Koch

We sincerely thank our visiting ministers for their labors on our behalf. This month they were Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Thomas Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke) and Mike Rieker (Peoria). May God bless and reward each one.

November 11 was the wedding day of Nancy Koch (Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence) and Ed King (Pekin). We wish them much happiness as well as God's guidance in their lives together.

Those in the hospital this month include Sis. Debbie (Bro. Pete) Aberle, Sis. Royaldine (Bro. Robert) Hodel, and Bro. Ron Wagenbach. We're thankful each one is recovering and assembling with us again. Also, Bro. Herman Laidig was in the hospital and is now at Restmor Nursing Home recuperating.

The engagement of Patricia Wagenbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy) to Danny Davis (Ben and Diana) is to be made known. A May 19 wedding is being planned. We wish them God's nearness.

Dear Bro. Ed Sauder passed away November 16. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Sis. Julia, and their son, Bro. Merle, and family. Also, our sympathy goes to his brother, Bro. Willis and his wife. May each one feel God's comfort and strength.

As we near the day our Saviour was born so many years ago, may each of us be truly thankful that He

was willing to come down from the Ivory Palaces into this world of woe.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Royaldine Hodel wish to thank all who sent cards, flowers, food, gifts and who visited her while in the hospital. May God bless you all.

Bro. John Huette wishes to thank everyone who sent him cards while in the hospital as well as in the Eureka Home where he is now residing.

#### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

##### Carol Schick

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

May everyone share the joy of the true meaning of Christmas and accept the gift that God has so freely given. We here at Washington wish everyone a blessed Christmas.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) for visiting with us and lending himself as God's servant on the pulpit. We also thank Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber (Bluffton, IN) for traveling so far to be with us for our monthly Bible study. Bro. Carroll spoke on the topic of end time prophecy.

When we hear the news of the world and compare it to the warnings in Scripture, it is clear we are near the end times. Recently the news told of a man acquitted on a rape charge because of the way the woman was dressed. It was encouraging to see a judge put the blame on the woman for her attire. It would be interesting to know how God will judge such cases. Maybe He would have put the blame on both parties equally. Scripture tells us if a man lusts after a woman in his mind, he has committed the sin in his heart and it tells women to dress in modest apparel. We can be thankful to our church for its guidance in this manner. A woman in a loose fitting, knee length skirt isn't likely to cause a brother or friend to sin in his mind and therefore need not fear the judgment of our Father when He does decide to call an end to this world of sin. May we all pray for the grace to heed God's warnings and prepare our lives for the end times.

Our hospital patients this month

were Sis. Julia Wyss and Sis. Martha McGough. May God be with them as they recover at home.

The wedding of Sis. Kathy Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Shirley, Bradford) and Bro. Mike Dreeste (Bro. Rich and Sis. Millie, Washington) took place this past month in Bradford. We wish them God's blessings in their new life together.

The engagement of Sis. Stephanie Frautschi (Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie, Phoenix, AZ) to Bro. John Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat, Alto, MI) was announced. We are happy for them but we will be sad to see Sis. Stephanie leave our congregation. May God bless them as they plan their lives together.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jean Moser - Shari Fiechter

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

Psalms 71:9

How exciting it has been to watch the progress as our new retirement home has become a reality. Christian Care Retirement Community is now open with the first residents already settled in. Open house was enjoyed by many of our church family and our community November 18-19 with the dedication service held Sunday, November 19. We pray that this beautiful new home will be a glory unto God and a blessing to our community.

We joyfully welcomed five young people into the body of Christ as they testified of their repentance, conversion and then were baptized. Our hearts rejoice with Bro. John Beeks (Mr. and Mrs. Tom Beeks) and Sisters LaNae Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda), Krista and Kara Rager (Bro. Bill and Sis. LouAnn), and LaNae Reinhard (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann). We thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner, Bro. Bob Meyer and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North) for sharing this special occasion with us.

We rejoice also with Jason Johnson, Ted Liechty and Kristi Schwartz as they have given their lives to the Lord in repentance and are now walking with Him. May they feel our prayers of support.

We wish to thank Bro. Uriel

Gehring (Leo, IN) and his family for sharing a recent Sunday with us and for Bro. Uriel's inspiring message. We always enjoy your time spent with us.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny Fiechter welcomed a sweet little girl named Jamy Kay into their lives October 22. Jamy is also appreciated by Klint, Quinn and Stacy and grandparents, Bro. Les and Sis. Rose Gerber and Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter. Bro. Terry and Sis. Twila Longenberger rejoiced over the arrival of Shawn Lee October 24. Jonathon is happy to have a little brother. Shawn's grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline Gerber and Bro. Harry and Sis. Devona Longenberger. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler (Bluffton North) were blessed with a little girl named Rebekah Jo and we congratulate grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander and Bro. Truman and Sis. Marcella Yergler of our congregation. Also, congratulations to Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister on the arrival of another grandson, Brett Thomas, born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry Pfister (Bluffton North).

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Sis. Marlene Steffen (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda) and Bro. Dean VanHorn (Mr. and Mrs. David VanHorn) as they were united as one in the Lord October 29. Also, Shawna Lantz (Bro. John and Sis. Sue) and Steve Betz (Mr. and Mrs. Ron Betz) became one flesh through marriage November 17. May these young couples feel God's richest blessings as they share their lives together.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Angie Yergler (Bro. Claire and Sis. Mary Jane) to Bro. Dean (Chip) Topp (Milford, IN). We wish them much happiness as they begin to plan their lives together.

Hospitalized this month have been Kristi Schwartz (Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane), Sis. Sarah (Bro. Don) Reinhard, Bro. Phil Kaehr (Sis. Gloria), Sis. Mary Ann Fiechter, Sis. Marie Sprunger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila), and little Hannah Kaehr (1-year-old daughter of Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli).

Let us pray often for those who have illnesses that don't go away quickly. May God's healing balm be felt by all those who are ill and may the joy that they carry in their soul never falter.

The Christmas season is here already and we look forward to being with family and friends from far and near to celebrate the birth of our Savior. It's the time of year that many think of the less fortunate and give of themselves to make Christmas enjoyable to all. May the joy that we feel in our hearts at Christmas time flow over into the new year and continue with us all year long.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Lois Drayer  
Debbie Aeschliman

#### MY GIFT

What can I give Him  
Poor as I am:  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would give Him a lamb.  
If I were a wise man,  
I would do my part.  
But what can I give Him?  
I will give Him my heart.

Christina Rossetti

We have been blessed this past month with two visiting ministers, Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) and Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS). We are so thankful when ministers come and visit us and we appreciate their time and effort.

Christmas will be extra special this year for three families who have recently welcomed new little babies. On October 27, Rebekah Jo was welcomed by Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler, along with big brother, Shawn, and big sister, Jessica. Grandparents are Bro. Truman and Sis. Marcella Yergler (Bluffton) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander (Bluffton). Bro. Tim and Sis. Rowena Franklin became first-time parents October 28 with the birth of Joshua Wayne. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Bertiline Reinhard (Bluffton). Bro. Dan, Sis. Sherry and Tony Pfister were blessed with the arrival of Brett Thomas November 16. Brett's grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller (Latty, OH)

and Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister (Bluffton).

Bro. Matt Markley and Sis. Lisa Schladenhauffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) have announced their engagement and are planning a March wedding.

Several loved ones from our congregation have been hospitalized this past month. Our prayers go with Sis. Wanda Gerber (Bro. Wendell), Gyrkin Schwartz (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Robin), Bro. James Geisel (Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Mick Culp (Sis. Coleen). Sis. Goldie Kipfer (Bro. Art) was hospitalized at Fort Myers, FL.

Bro. Dan Steffen (Sis. Priscilla) passed away November 14 at the age of 86. After an illness of one year, his death was due to a heart condition. Surviving, in addition to Sis. Priscilla, are two sons, Bro. Max Steffen (Sis. Eunice) and Bro. Sherman Steffen (Sis. Lucille); one daughter, Bernadine Nahrwold (Robert); 9 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Priscilla and all members of the family.

Open House for the new Christian Care Retirement Community was held Saturday, November 18 and dedication took place Sunday, November 19. As we all stood together in prayer, it was uplifting to dedicate this structure to God.

We wish God's blessings to each one in the coming new year.

A thought to ponder: Patience is the ability to count down before blasting off.

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

#### Lynne Wuethrich

Francesville had the privilege of helping the Purdue students host College Weekend October 21 and 22. Many enjoyed the topics that were discussed and hearts were lifted up in Christ. A special thank you is in order to all who helped make the weekend a success. We especially want to thank Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL), Bro. James Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) who ministered unto us Sunday.

Our congregation wishes to thank Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) for traveling on a Wednesday evening to share in the reading of the memorandum.

Our dear friend, Jason Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev), has found peace with God and man and is anxiously awaiting baptism. We truly rejoice with Jason and his dear family. May he continually feel God's grace.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Madeleine Gutwein have announced the engagement of their daughter, Suzanne, to Phillip Lowery (Schaumburg, IL). Phillip's parents are Nancy Lancaster (Tucson, AZ) and William Lowery (Plainfield, IN). We pray God will bless this dear couple with His nearness. They are planning a March 10 wedding.

On November 15, our congregation gathered together in the evening for our Thanksgiving program. Many poems and songs were very thought provoking as to our being more thankful to live in America. Many thanks go to the program committee and to Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for their labors of love.

On November 19, Bro. Brian Putt and Sis. Tami Gudeman had their engagement announced. We pray God will be near to this dear couple as they begin a precious new relationship. Parents of this happy couple are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette Putt and Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Gudeman.

We want to extend a thank you to Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) for ministering unto us November 19.

Little Nicholas Wuethrich was hospitalized but is home now and doing fine. His parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne.

NOTE: We want to say many, many thanks to all you dear people who sent us lovely cards and gifts for our 50th anniversary. We have many precious memories of the day. God bless you one and all.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Priscilla Anliker

### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

#### Miriam Gudeman

#### Lyn Wuethrich

Out of all the seasons of the year, Christmas is the most recognized and celebrated throughout the world. It is indeed a joyous occasion, yet some may have forgotten or never heard that Jesus is the reason for the season. When we spread a little Christmas cheer, let's share the REAL reason why it's here!

### THIS LITTLE CHILD

Who would have thought that long ago so very far away,  
A little child would be born and in a manger lay.

And who would have thought this little child was born the King of kings.

And who would have thought that as He grew and with other children played,  
This child with whom they laughed and sang, would die for them some day.

And who would have thought this little child could make a blind man see,

Feed the hungry, make rich the poor, and set the sinner free.

Oh, who would have thought this little child was who the prophets said,

Would take away the sins of man and rise up from the dead.

Oh, I believe!

And I will always sing.

This little child, He is the King of kings.

Many years have come and gone, yet this world remains the same.  
Empires have been built and fallen, only time has made a change.

Nation against nation, brother against brother.

Men so filled with hatred, killing one another.

And over half the world is starving, while our banner of decency is torn,

Debating over disarmament, killing children before they're born.

And those who march to win the right to justify their sins,

Every nation that has fallen, has fallen from within.

Yet in the mist of this darkness, there is a hope, a light that burns.

This little child, the King of kings, some day will return.

Oh, can't you see that long ago, so very far away.

This little child, our only hope, was born a King that day.

Scott Wesley Brown

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this past month, Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger and retiring Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). A special thanks to Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) who shared the memorandum with us November 19, and to Bro. John Bollier who shared Thanksgiving with us. May God richly bless them for their loving efforts.

We want to warmly welcome into our midst our dear friends, Dale and Kathy Lehman, as they make Indy their home, and to congratulate them on their marriage, October 14. At the same time, we must bid a sad farewell to Bro. Dave and Sis. Betty Smeltzer with daughter, Tami, as they will now be residing in Buchanan, MI. Their daughter, Wendy, will be staying with friends, Ray and Carol Fiechter, as she finishes her schooling at I.U.P.U.-Indy. Also, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Robin Steffen, with son, Clayton, will be leaving us shortly as they make their home in St. Louise, MO. We pray that God will provide for both families and protect them as they leave us, and bring them back to visit us soon. We will always treasure their friendship and miss them sorely for "Friends are friends forever, if the Lord is Lord of them . . ."

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE**

Mary Lynn Massner

**WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?**

"What is Christmas?" I asked the child.  
 It's the happiest day of the year!  
 When Jesus was born, when bells are rung,  
 When Santa Claus comes, and carols are sung."  
 The child replied.

"What is Christmas?" I asked a mother.  
 It's the tenderest day of the year!  
 When homefolk and friends seem somehow dearer,  
 When hearts grow closer, when Heaven comes nearer."  
 The mother said.

"What is Christmas?" I asked an old man.

It's the holiest day of the year!  
 When men forget self and think of others,  
 When love's deep bond makes all men brothers."

The old man said.

Emily Carey Alleman

This poem reflects the truth that as we get older, Christmas becomes a holier and dearer holiday. As a child we think of presents, trees, Santa, and goodies, knowing that it is also Jesus' birthday, but not realizing what an enormous miracle that was!

The other day my daughter asked, "Mom, do you know why some people spell Christmas, X-mas?" I wanted to hear her explanation so I said, "No, tell me," and she said, "Because some people aren't religious and they don't like to be reminded of Christ." I was always told it was a shortened version for convenience, but I think she's definitely right. Let's all keep the "Christ in Christmas."

On November 12, we had our Thanksgiving program. We enjoyed a wonderful day with many visitors including ministering Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). The program was followed with a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. It was a blessed day, and we want to thank everyone who participated. Each one of us has so much to be thankful for.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Thelma Schlatter**

**CHRISTMAS JOY**

Somehow, not only for Christmas,  
 But all the year through,  
 The joy that you give to others  
 Is the joy that comes back to you.

And the more you spend in blessing  
 The poor and lonely and sad,  
 The more of your heart's possessing  
 Returns to make you glad.

(John Greenleaf Whittier)

More of Christmas joy is to be expressed and shared in the program scheduled for December 17.

Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville) and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) are thanked for sharing the Word with our congregation recently.

Congratulations to the Terrills, Raymond and Sis. Hazel, who were honored on their Golden Wedding day with a reception hosted by their family.

Sis. Elaine Norr (Leo) and Bro. Willis Stoller (Latty, OH) are engaged and making plans for their January 14 wedding. May they be blessed abundantly as together they share their joy in Him.

Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier welcomed a new granddaughter, Kristen Nicole, born to Dr. James and Rhonda Bollier (Indianapolis).

The annual World Relief meeting was hosted by Leo. We were again made aware of the many work projects in progress to help the poor in near and far away places. How gratifying that material goods can be proved to make this life more comfortable, but more importantly, we also have the Truth to share with the many who are also spiritually destitute. Witnessing can point the way to eternal life. What a loss if only the physical needs were met!

You've probably had a list and you've checked it twice. You are not very interested in another list. Please check this one out anyway. It won't take you into one more crowded store or cost more money, but it may be just what someone needed:

It's titled, "What To Do This Christmas"

Mend a quarrel.  
 Seek out a forgotten friend.  
 Share some treasure.  
 Give a soft answer.  
 Encourage youth.  
 Keep a promise.  
 Find the time.  
 Listen.  
 Apologize if you were wrong.  
 Be gentle.  
 Cheer a lonely person.  
 Express your gratitude.  
 Welcome a stranger.  
 Gladden the heart of a child.  
 Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.  
 Speak of His love.  
 Speak it again!

To all readers at this Christmas season:

May you be blessed in the fullness of His peace, the joy of His presence and the beauty of His love!

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

We were privileged to welcome five new members into our Milford congregation this month. Realizing the need for Christ in their lives, and pledging to live with Him and for Him were: Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Bowerman, Bro. Brian Wuthrich and Sisters Marlen Price and Renee Beer. Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen and Ed Schwartz assisted our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer with the testimonies and baptismal rites. Hearing testimonies always gives us the opportunity to re-live ones own experiences and to renew our oneness with the Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Nile Bucher visited our congregation and shared the Word with us on a Sunday when three of our own ministers were visiting elsewhere. Also coming to visit this month were: Bro. Glen Price, Jr., Bro. Pete Baltic, Bro. Bob Beebe, Bro. Len Meier and Bro. Don Gudeman.

Sis. Mary Gerber has been released from the hospital, following hip surgery, and has moved to Green-craft Home where she and her sister, Edna Graff, share a room. Our love and prayers go with her, as they also do for her sister, Tillie, who faithfully looks to their needs.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer welcomed a grandson into their family November 16. His name is Mark Philip Beer and his parents are Phil and Kathy Beer (Indianapolis). We ask God's blessings on these first-time parents and their little son.

Listening to the Hungarian/Heft tapes has inspired some of us to reacquaint ourselves with the songs of our heritage.

The Milford Choir sang two of the songs at our Thanksgiving program and asked the older members to sing along with us in German.

Bro. Jesse Beer recently returned from a trip to Jamaica where brothers addressed the needs of the people there and sought ways that our churches could best meet those needs.

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

On October 22, Clint became a big brother and Jenny, Andria and Ashton became big sisters to Kaitlin Ann.

Also welcoming her home are parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler, along with grandparents, Lenny and Mella Mathew and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Bahler (all of Remington).

Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) conveyed the loyalty of Jesus Christ toward the brethren via the memorandum letter. It is always heart-warming to me when I ponder the hours of prayer and preparation, the days of travel and the weeks of sacrifice that our watchmen spend in counsel with one another to fulfill their duty of leadership in these perilous times.

Several work teams composed of brethren from Illinois and Indiana flew down to South Carolina this month to fulfill the love of Christ by physically helping with the clean-up from the massive destruction of Hurricane Hugo. What a tremendous opportunity for believers to be a part of another citizen's need and to have one's horizons stretched by learning more about God's dealings with mankind. This particular project is also an excellent opportunity for brethren who desire the experience of a work team yet choose not to travel abroad for reasons of change in culture and diet.

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

Let us never become so busy celebrating the Christmas season that we lose track of the reason for celebrating. For it is --

Not a lofty  
evergreen  
bejewelled with lights  
costly gifts beneath;  
but a tree  
stripped of its branches  
made into a cross  
stark, ugly  
makes known God's love.  
Gifts beneath:  
joy, peace, forgiveness  
Life eternal.  
Come . . . Receive . . .

L. Campbell

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

II Corinthians 9:15

Bringing joy into the home of Mike

and Sis. Renee Mangold, Matt, Josh, Nathan, Heather and Joseph is dear little David Theodore. David was born October 24. His grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Helen Mangold (Roanoke, IL) and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cole (Mishawaka, IN).

We are thankful for several ministers and their families who travelled to be with us and so freely shared the Word and the blessings of fellowship. Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington) and Lennie Meyer (Chicago, IL) were with us November 5, and Bro. Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) November 12.

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO****Beth Heinold - Anjie Heinold**

This last month we enjoyed the fellowship of the many visitors we had for our annual harvest supper. We were blessed by the beautiful singing and poems. Special thanks to Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) who shared God's Word with us that day.

Congratulations to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha (Bucher) Weis who have experienced the miracle of giving birth to their daughter, Natasia Marie Weis. We rejoice with them as a child is added to our congregation.

We would like to thank Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis) for visiting our congregation and willingly teaching the Scripture unto us.

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most high:"

Psalms 50:14

During this time of Thanksgiving, we realize that we have so many blessings. But we are most thankful for the Father and His Son, our Saviour; and for our faith through which we learned of them and found our salvation.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT****Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume**

On November 12, we were edified and strengthened by the reading of the memorandum. We thank Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) for sharing this work with our Elder Bro. Alfred. May we ever be thankful for and willingly obey the warnings of those who watch for our souls, that

they may do it with joy and not a heavy heart.

We will surely miss our dear Bro. Ted Hofstetter who has moved to Maple Lawn Health Center in Eureka, IL. We pray God's nearness and blessings on him always.

To say goodbye to dear friends  
Some think would be quite sad.  
But we can keep in touch by prayer  
And thus our hearts are glad.

Yes, we can span the many miles  
With mem'ries held so dear,  
Of times we shared together  
That will keep you lingering near.

Those who know that special love  
That Christians understand,  
Are closely held together  
In the hollow of God's hand.

So say goodbye . . . we need not  
For we're never far apart,  
With love between our pathway  
And Christ within our heart.  
Author Unknown

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Deyona Massner - Karen Schulz**

We were so happy to hear that our dear friend, Maye Heiniger, has found peace with God and is desiring baptism in the near future. What a blessing it is to see God working in the hearts of man today.

This past month Bro. Dale Frank and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) brought to us the Word of Life along with our home ministers. We are so thankful they are willing to be used in the service of the Lord.

#### IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming  
bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to Thee.

Hymns of Zion #14

How quickly another year has passed and left its trail of disappointments and joys, sorrows, blessings and trials. May our faith be increased

as we remember our Lord was with us through them all. May it give us courage to face another year.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Ruth Metzger and her children, Sis. Mary Plattner (Bro. Lee, Zapata, TX); Sis. Jean Meyer (Bro. Jim, Bern, KS), David (LaCrescent, MN) Phillip (Elgin) and Sis. Eunice Fehr (Bro. Dan, West Bend) at the passing of their husband and father.

Jesus knows thy sorrow, knows thine  
every care  
Knows thy deep contrition, hears thy  
feeblest prayers  
Do not fear to trust Him, Tell Him all  
thy grief  
Cast on Him thy burden, He will  
bring relief.

Hymns of Zion #74

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend), Bro. Lee Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). May God reward them richly for their faithfulness in serving Him.

#### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Dawn Moser

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel;  
for he hath visited and redeemed his  
people,"

Luke 1:68

As we give and receive gifts this Christmas, we should not forget the greatest gift of all - Jesus Christ. In fact, it would be best if we would even do as the shepherds and wise men did -- to "go see," to bow down and worship and to give Him our whole body, mind and soul.

A special thanks to our many visitors, especially Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) for sharing the Word with us.

"It has been so precious during my hospital stay and since returning home to know there is a large support group of brothers, sisters and friends out there. Your prayers, gifts and every expression of love and concern are precious to me. Thank you so much. I thank my God in every remembrance of you."

Sis. Verle Funk

#### IOWA, IOWA CITY

**Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all. We extend our thanks to Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), our visiting minister this month, for his efforts of love, our welcome to Julie Joos (Goodfield, IL) who, attending the University, and has been assembling with us, and our best wishes and fond farewell to Sis. Donna Teubel, who has found employment in the Roanoke, IL, area and Sis. Denise Duckworth, who is now working in the Bloomington, IL, vicinity.

Our congregation recently finished listening to the conference tapes. How thankful we are that we have the means to share this precious day with those who were unable to attend in August. May we all search our hearts and strive to apply the divinely inspired exhortations to our daily lives.

As we approach the Christmas season, with its commercialization and "wish lists," let us look to Christ for an example of detachment from earthly possessions. Helen Weshimer, as quoted in "Springs in the Valley", December 19, describes Jesus' lack of material possessions in the following poem.

He did not have a house where He  
could go  
When it was night -- when other men  
went down  
Small streets where children watched  
with eager eyes,  
Each one assured of shelter in the  
town,  
The Christ sought refuge anywhere  
at all:  
A house, an inn, the roadside, or a  
stall!

He borrowed the boat in which He  
rode that day,  
He talked to throngs along the  
Eastern Lake;  
It was a rented room to which He  
called  
The chosen twelve the night He bade  
them break  
The loaf with Him, and He rode,  
unafraid,  
Another's colt in that triumph  
parade.

A man from Arimathea had a tomb  
Where Christ was placed when nails  
had done their deed.

Not ever in the crowded days He  
knew,  
Did He have coins to satisfy a need.  
They should not matter, these small  
things I crave.  
Make me forget them, Father, and be  
brave!

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**IOWA, LESTER**

**Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch**  
A betrothal was recently announced to our congregation. Bro. Duane Metzger (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice, West Bend) and Sis. Ruth Fehr (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda) have felt God's direction in their lives. May God bless them richly as they make plans for their life together.

On October 29, Sis. Betty Knobloch and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) were united in holy matrimony. May the blessings of the Lord be upon this union and bind them strongly together as they wend their way heavenward.

On Saturday, November 4, Stuart Leuthold (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle) and Rochelle Bosch exchanged marriage vows. May God bless them as they establish a home together.

God has again fulfilled our spiritual needs by direction of the hearts of ministering brethren. Those proclaiming God's Word were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend), Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Bro. William Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin), Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend) and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

We are thankful that Otto Knobloch has recovered from surgery and Sis. Rose Moser is able to be home and doing fairly well once again.

We are approaching the season of the year when we observe the birth of the Christ Child. Let us never lose sight of the real reason for the holiday season but always give thanks to God for His wondrous gift.

**WE'VE COME A LONG WAY  
SINCE THAT FIRST  
CHRISTMAS DAY**

We've come a long way since that first  
Christmas Night  
When led by a star so wondrously  
bright

The Wise Men journeyed to find the  
place  
That cradled the Christ Child's  
beautiful face --  
But like "lost sheep" we have  
wandered away  
From God and His Son who was born  
Christmas Day,  
And instead of depending on God's  
guiding hand  
Ingenious man has assumed full  
command  
Like the "Prodigal Son" who seeks to  
be free  
From the heavenly Father and His  
holy decree --  
But life without God is corroding man's  
soul,  
Weakening his spirit and distorting  
his goal,  
And unless we return to Our Father  
again  
We will never have Peace and Good  
Will among men --  
And the freedom man sought will  
make him a slave  
For only through God is man strong,  
free and brave,  
So let us return to our Father and  
pray  
That Christ is reborn in our hearts  
Christmas Day.

Helen Steiner Rice

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

Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Wayne Grimm and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) have recently been in our Oakville congregation.

Little Nathan William has brought joy into the lives and home of Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Schrock. Bro. Bob and Sis. Edith Schrock and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie Menold are the happy grandparents of little Nathan. Gary and Tammy Sharp (Oklahoma City, OK) are thankful for a new little girl. Sara Jean has big brother, Nathan, to welcome her home. Bro. Jerry, Sr. and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach and Dorothy Sharp (Oklahoma City, OK) are Sara's grandparents.

As we once again ponder the season of Christmas, let us always remember that if it weren't for Christ, there wouldn't be a Christmas. More importantly, we would not have eternal hope. Let's keep Christ in Christmas and lay aside the worldly tinsel of the holiday season.

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

Seasons Greetings to all!

On the weekend of October 28-29, our Sunday school hosted the Elgin, IL, and Garden Grove, IA, Sunday schools. Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) willingly accepted a request to minister to our young people, and we thank him.

Hospital patients this past month were Lana Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn), Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich (Bro. Albert), and Sis. Leah Schaer (Bro. Bernard). Sis. Leah still remains hospitalized at this time from another operation, and we pray God be with her.

We are listening to the brotherhood conference tapes this month. When we pause and consider the time, effort and examples brought forth by our elder brothers, truly we would do well to give earnest heed to their words, beginning in our very own hearts and homes.

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**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Phyliss Banwart - Mary Gerber**

We were richly blest this past month with visits and messages from Bros. John Schmidgall (Oakville), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

Recent hospital patients have been Reuben and Louisa Anliker and Sis. Kathrine Fisher. We are thankful they can be in their homes again. May we remember them in our prayers as well as those who recently submitted to minor eye surgery.

Our dear Sis. Clara Bruellman closed her eyes in sleep November 9. May hear dear family find comfort to know she is asleep in Jesus. Her children, Bros. Harley, Don, Eugene and Elaine Wichtendahl, as well as 22 grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren will miss her, but oh, what joy to know we can prepare ourselves to meet our loved ones who have gone on before.

**A LITTLE STEP AWAY**

To close the eye to fall asleep, to  
draw a labored breath,



To find release from daily cares in  
 what we know as death.  
 Is this the crowning of a life, the  
 aim or end thereof?  
 The total sum of consciousness the  
 ripened fruit of love?  
 It cannot be, for works of God, are  
 wrought for nobler end.  
 And those away continue on in the  
 hearts of kin and friends.  
 It cannot be, for they live on, A  
 little step away.  
 The soul the everlasting life, has  
 found a better day.

O. J. Hanson

Heartfelt sympathy and prayers  
 have been extended to Bro. Dan and  
 Sis. Eunice Fehr and family in the  
 passing of Sis. Eunice's father, Ervin  
 Metzger (Elgin, IA). We wish to  
 remember Bro. Edwin and Lucille  
 Wirtz, as well, in the loss of their  
 granddaughter, Jeana Wirtz.

We want to wish the blessings of  
 the Lord on our Bro. Duane Metzger  
 (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice) and Sis.  
 Ruth Fehr (Bro. Elmer and Sis.  
 Matilda) as they make plans to be  
 married on the third of December.  
 May God be with them each step of  
 the way.

God has blessed Brent and Tammy  
 Metzger with a precious baby girl,  
 Ashley Elizabeth November 1. Grand-  
 parents of Ashley are Bro. Duane  
 Metzger and (the late Sis. Elizabeth)  
 and Don and Judy Hurn (Algona).

Marvin and Jeana Anliker have  
 moved to our area and have been  
 assembling with us. We want to wel-  
 come them and hope they feel at  
 home in our midst.

### THE GREATEST BIRTH

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

May we have these virtues to keep  
 this Christmas message in our hearts.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues are  
 due in December.

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**Have a Blessed Christmas!**

### JAPAN, TOKYO Frank and Kathy Sauder

"For unto us a child is born, unto  
 us a son is given: and the government  
 shall be upon his shoulder: and his  
 name shall be called Wonderful,  
 Counselor, The mighty God, The  
 everlasting Father, The Prince of  
 Peace. Of the increase of his govern-  
 ment and peace there shall be no end  
 . . ."

Isaiah 9:6-7

Recently there have been many  
 miraculous changes in the govern-  
 ments of world, especially in the  
 countries of Hungary, Poland and  
 East Germany. We are thankful to  
 God for the peace on earth that exists  
 now, but we know that this is not the  
 peace where "there shall be no end."  
 True peace can only be found in God's  
 gift to us -- His only Son, Jesus Christ,  
 The Prince of Peace.

We are always thankful for visi-  
 tors and for the Christian fellowship  
 that they bring with them. Sis. Mel-  
 ody Klaus (Washington, IL) came back  
 to Japan to visit her family. We know  
 that it had to be a special time for her  
 to be with her parents and younger  
 brothers and sisters again. We pray  
 that God will bless her as she travels  
 back to America. We are thankful  
 that those of us who are separated  
 from our families and loved ones have  
 the avenue of prayer to commune  
 with God for one another. Prayer --  
 what a wonderful way to transcend  
 time and distance.

This year, a national holiday in  
 Japan happened to fall on the same  
 day as Thanksgiving, so many of us  
 gathered together at church for a  
 special meal and fellowship.

Give me a grateful heart, Lord;  
 Let me be satisfied  
 When days are less than sunny  
 And plans lie at low tide.  
 Life is a sweet adventure  
 That will lead to who knows where,  
 So, give me a grateful heart, Lord,  
 That I may always care.

Grace E. Easley

### KANSAS, BERN Lori Baumgartner Kathy Strahm

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 Visiting ministers this past month

were Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO),  
 Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA) and  
 Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha). We thank  
 these brothers and their wives and  
 families for their ministry and their  
 time spent among us.

Our hospital patients have been  
 Sis. Mamie Strahm (Bro. Alpha), who  
 is home and doing quite nicely again;  
 and Bro. Roy Meyer who has suffered  
 a stroke just this past week. We're  
 thankful for Sis. Mamie's recovery,  
 and pray God will keep His healing  
 hand over Bro. Roy and make His  
 presence felt in troubled times.

We welcome Bro. Matthew Edel-  
 man back to our Bern congregation.  
 Bro. Matt had been living in Oregon,  
 attending church at Silverton, but  
 has now returned home and has  
 employment in Sabetha.

We have begun Wednesday eve-  
 ning services again this fall, assem-  
 bling with the Sabetha brethren,  
 alternating our meeting place every-  
 other week at Bern and Sabetha  
 churches.

Our sincere sympathy is extended  
 to Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Meyer at  
 the passing of Sis. Jeanne's father,  
 Erwin Metzger (Elgin, IA); also to  
 Bro. Paul and Sis. Katie Grimm as  
 Sis. Katie is Erwin's sister.

Announced recently was the en-  
 gagement of Jim Meyer and Kristen  
 Mars. Parents of Jim and Kristen are  
 Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer  
 (Bern), and Dave and Virginia Mars  
 (Sabetha). Our wish is for them to  
 feel the blessings of God as they make  
 their plans.

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Karen Sinn

God has blessed the home of Bro.  
 Jerry and Sis. Maria Bahr. Adrienne  
 Leigh was born November 21. "Big"  
 sister, Anna Marie, welcomes her  
 home. Happy grandparents are Bro.  
 Steve and Sis. Dorothy Schrader  
 (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Jim and Sis.  
 Ruth Bahr.

A large number from the Lamar  
 congregation joined us for our monthly  
 hymn singing. It certainly was a  
 beautiful evening as many voices  
 blended together in singing praises  
 to God. We thank them for visiting  
 us. The fellowship we have is so pre-  
 cious.

Reminder: January is the month for Silver Lining dues.

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

As Christmas draws nigh;  
 Let us consider God's gift He sent  
 from on high.  
 The One who was willing to become  
 the supreme sacrifice.  
 Suffering there on the cross, dying  
 for you and I, He paid the price.  
 Arising victor over death and grave;  
 He endured all, so that the debt was  
 finally paid.  
 It's no wonder we celebrate the birth  
 of Christ.  
 For through Him we have the hope  
 and promise of eternal life.  
 So today, tomorrow and always let's  
 celebrate this precious gift of life  
 given to us in love;  
 By God the Father above.

Our prayers and thoughts are with  
 Bro. Joe Somerhalder who continues  
 to be hospitalized.

We rejoice with Bro. Richard and  
 Sis. Marianne Kraft (Salem, OR), who  
 are first-time parents. Austin Wayne  
 was born October 25. Grandparents  
 are Lee Kuenzi (Salem) and Bro. Lloyd  
 and Sis. Nadine Kraft (Gridley).

Ministering Bro. Darrel Stoller  
 and family (Bern, KS), were with us  
 October 29.

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

In times of trouble, sorrow and care,  
 Be still and listen, know that He's  
 there,  
 To comfort and give you, the strength  
 that you need,  
 Whatever the problem, your prayers,  
 He will heed,  
 Protecting and guiding, each soul be  
 it's plight,  
 In the dark hours, He is the Light.  
 Colette Fedor

Just a few words of prayerful  
 comfort to our various loved ones who  
 are facing problems right now: Vanda  
 Dommick is facing a long stay in the  
 hospital due to injuries suffered in a  
 car accident. We are thankful she

wasn't killed, but know she is in a lot  
 of pain and shock; Sis. Laverne Roth  
 underwent shoulder surgery and Sis.  
 Sophia Kircher underwent surgery  
 also; Konnie Ott, daughter-in-law of  
 Bro. Marvin Ott, lost her brother,  
 Kerry McCurry, in a truck-train  
 accident, and we know their grief is  
 great as there are four small children  
 left without their daddy. Yes, we have  
 many prayers in our hearts for our  
 loved ones, that the God of all love  
 and comfort will be with each one in  
 their trials.

We enjoyed the blessed privilege  
 of having Elder Bro. Eugene Marti  
 and his dear wife, Mary, in our midst  
 one weekend this past month. Bro.  
 Eugene and Elder Bro. Ronald Nel-  
 son read the letter of the conference  
 for us Saturday evening and shared  
 the concerns of the elders for their  
 precious flock. We are so thankful for  
 their efforts on our behalf and pray  
 that we may ever be an obedient flock  
 instead of a troublesome one.

On Sunday, Bro. Eugene lent  
 himself to bring us the Word and  
 later we enjoyed more fellowship with  
 a church supper. It was a truly blessed  
 weekend for all of us.

As the beautiful, though busy,  
 Christmas season is upon us again,  
 let us take a little time in our rushing  
 hither and yon to remember what  
 Christmas really is! Helen Steiner  
 Rice says it much more meaningfully  
 than I ever could as I'll share her  
 lovely poem with heartfelt agreement:

**WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?**

Is it just a day at the end of the year  
 A gay holiday filled with merry good  
 cheer  
 A season of presents - both taking and  
 giving  
 A time to indulge in the pleasure of  
 living  
 Are we lost in a meaningless, much-  
 huddled daze  
 That covers our minds like a gray  
 autumn haze?  
 Have we closed our hearts to God and  
 His love  
 And turned our eyes from "the bright  
 star above?"  
 Oh, Father in heaven, renew and  
 restore  
 The real, true meaning of Christmas  
 once more,  
 So we can feel in our hearts again

That "Peace on Earth, Good Will to  
 Men"

Is still a promise that man can claim  
 If "he but seeks it in Thy name."

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

We enjoyed our annual Sunday  
 school get together on the first Sun-  
 day in November. It was an outdoor  
 wiener roast in the timber at the Tom  
 Knoblock home.

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

Let us be glad and rejoice today,  
 because He has come. And let us  
 remember the annunciation by the  
 angel, "Behold I bring you good tid-  
 ings of great joy, which shall be to all  
 people, for unto you is born this day  
 in the City of David a Saviour, which  
 is Christ the Lord." "He comes to  
 make His blessing flow, Far as the  
 curse is found."

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

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

Nehemiah 8:10

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
**Beth Hartter - Sharon Strahm**

Sunday evening singings have  
 been discontinued and we are again  
 assembling, alternately, with the Bern  
 congregation for Wednesday evening  
 services.

Our thoughts and prayers are with  
 our sick. Hospitalized this past month  
 were little Darin Hartter (Bro. Den-  
 nis and Sis. Beth) for surgery, Sis.  
 Lena Steiner and Ben Rokey. Sis.  
 Esther Grimm has started her series  
 of treatments. May God provide for  
 each of these and also for those in  
 their own homes suffering bodily  
 afflictions.

We extend our sympathy to Sis.  
 Helen Strahm in the loss of her sister,  
 Sis. Clara Bruellman (West Bend,  
 IA).

As this Christmas season draws

near, let us rejoice with hearts full of thanksgiving for God's love toward us and the precious gift of His Son.

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

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

Another baby has been born to one whose roots are in our Wichita congregation. Steve and Jane Dodson are the parents of Blain Steven, born October 19. Bro. Godfrey and Sis. Emma Miller are the maternal grandparents and Sis. Ada Hartman (Fairbury, IL) is the great-grandmother. Our prayer for this family is found in Colossians 1:10, that they "may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

We have completed a study of the two epistles of Peter in our fall Bible study. Peter warns us to day as he did in the first century to know the Scriptures and to grow in the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ our Lord. Our next Bible study series will resume in January.

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**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**

**Lester and Glendoris Huber**

"The Burden of the Word of the Lord," to Israel by Malachi;" (Malachi 1:1). This phrase was used over and over as an introduction to a "Prophet's message," Major Prophets, like Isaiah 13:1, Minor Prophets like Malachi, Habakkuk, Nahum, etc. "Burden" in Hebrew meant, heavy, or a weighty message because the "wrath of God is in it."

Should we not all share the Burden of the Word of the Lord in the New Testament Apostolic Faith of the Word of God in our most precious faith and fellowship? Especially from the incomparable and most beloved and precious example of our Lord and "Saviour Jesus Christ," the Apostles, and beloved Paul to the Gentiles. So often contention and discord is blamed on the church, however, if we share the Burden of the Word of the Lord, does not this relieve the church of this sorrow and heartache? Should

we not share this Burden with our faithful and beloved shepherds of the flock? Paul warned the believers, the churches, that to covet the world, its practices, is "idolatry" for which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience. Colossians 3:6. Are not the faithful shepherds and servants who bear the Burden for the "Word of the Lord" in the church or abroad fulfilling the greatest or one of the greatest missions of our last century? Luke 35:42. Is not this the preaching of the Cross of Christ, according to the Apostle Paul. Acts 26:20-23.

We, of the Lexington Church, appreciate this support month by month the faithful ministry and Burden for the Word of the Lord. Our most recent visit by our Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) who came to share holy communion, the sacred memory of the broken body and shed blood of our Saviour and Lord Jesus. Also meditations of the memorandum of our annual conference, we are thankful for the exhortation of the Holy Spirit and may we ever and always seek a closer walk with our Lord and Saviour.

Other ministering brethren who came in the past two months were Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL). May God bless each one, their wives and those who came with them. We are thankful for all who are traveling through who come and worship with us.

One Wednesday evening we had with us Bro. Tim Sauder, his wife, Sis. Jenny, and their family who showed slides of the Children's Home in Leo. They shared the many interesting times, responsibilities and experiences there.

"Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift."

II Corinthians 9:15

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**

**Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch**

We recently had our Sunday school picnic October 28. It was a special day for the children and they all enjoyed the activities their teachers planned for them. Our children look so for-

ward to the picnic every year and we appreciate all the work and time that the teachers and many others put forth to make it an extra-special time for all. It was held at Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough's home and we just pray for the Lord's blessing on them, also, for their effort and kindness. It brings to mind the "activities" our teacher had planned for us as brothers and sisters-in-Christ and how we daily need His instruction to keep us walking the narrow way, so we may look forward to living in His heavenly kingdom someday.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Delila Schrenk along with their family wish to thank each one for the cards they sent, the many phone calls from far and near and the prayers of others as Elmer went through heart surgery and is recovering now at home. Whatever your kindness, it was so appreciated.

Our prayers were with Bro. Kurt Heimer (Sis. Sue) also as he battled against pneumonia and was hospitalized. It is so good to have our prayers heard and answered as he is now back on his feet and we are so thankful. Bro. Ferd Grawburg (Sis. Jane) was in the hospital recently and our prayers continue to be with him also.

We recently heard the engagement announcement of Bro. John Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. Patricia) and Sis. Stephanie Frautschi (Bro. Edward and Sis. Connie). May the Lord bless their planning of their life together.

**LET US BRING HIM  
A GIFT OF JOY  
AS DID THE LITTLE  
DRUMMER BOY**

As once more we approach the birth day of our King -  
Do we search our hearts for a gift we can bring,  
Do we stand by in awe like the small Drummer Boy  
Who had no rare jewels, not even a toy,  
To lay at Christ's crib like the Wise Men of old  
Who brought precious gifts of silver and gold -  
But the Drummer Boy played for the infant child  
And the Baby Jesus looked up and smiled,

For the boy had given the best that he had  
 And his gift from the heart made the Saviour glad -  
 And today He still smiles on all those who bring  
 Their hearts to lay at the feet of the king.

As we prepare for the busy season ahead, let us all remember the "reason for the season" and that Jesus was born in a lowly manger in a stable, but God sent Him to be our Saviour and to die for all our sins. May we come to Him with humble and thankful hearts this Christmas and may we always keep Christ in Christmas.

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Petty Waibel**

This month has been a very blessed month here at Bay City. We've shared in the testimonies and baptisms of Lisa Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel) and Tessa Schamback (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn Schamback). We are very happy for them and pray that they will let God use them. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) labored with our Elder Bro. Andy Virkler in the baptisms and also in the following communion service. We were very happy to have him with us.

We have been blessed with three very special converts. Maryann Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon Ramseyer), Tom Knochel (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marian Knochel) and Kori Andrewjeski (Norm and Sis. Linda Andrewjeski). We pray that in the months that follow, that God will give them His peace.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

Visiting us this month was Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Morton, IL). We were very thankful for the lovely time that we were able to share with him.

With the happiness and the excitement of new converts and members, there is also the grief in the loss of a loved one. Sis. Elsie Pashak, mother of Bro. Dean Pashak, Sis. Myrna Steffen, Aaron Pashak and Joe Pashak, passed away after a continuing illness and old

age. We are also grieved at the loss of Don LaCrosse. We suffer with his wife, Dorothy (Lambert), and hope that in due time the grief-stricken hearts of those left to carry on will be filled with gladness.

Bro. Sam Wackerle, Sis. Pam Schlatter and Sis. Helen Meylan have been hospitalized in the past few weeks. We pray that the good Lord will heal them in His own time.

**REST**

Rest, the Lord is near, refuse to fear, enjoy His love.  
 Trust, His mighty power fills every hour of all your days.

Rest, the Lord is there, lift up your prayer, for He is strong.  
 Trust, He'll bring release and perfect peace, will calm your soul.

Call Him if you grow frightened,  
 Call Him with loving care, He'll lift your burden and you'll rest.  
 Rest, the Lord is near refuse to fear, enjoy His love.

Greg Nelson and Phil McHugh

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Sue Gasser**

The Lord periodically gives us times of spiritual refreshing; times when we fill our minds with things we will need to draw from when we're struggling with the problems of life that press us down. We experienced one of these uplifting weekends October 28 and 29. Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) came to share in the reading of the memorandum and the testimony and baptism of our Sis. Lydia Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret, Kitchener, Ontario). We rejoice with Sis. Lydia and thank the brothers who so willingly served us.

We also enjoyed a midweek visit from Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francisville, IN). Thank you for sharing His Word.

Our congratulations are extended to Bro. George and Sis. Helen Popp on their 50th anniversary. God bless you!

We want to welcome Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard and their family to our Detroit congregation. We're thankful to have them here with us.

Our prayers are with Jason Allen who was in a car accident. We're thankful to see him able to be back in church again. Amanda Belsley (Steve and Patti) was also a hospital patient this month, but is home again. We want to remember Sis. Mary Pentek who was recently moved from the hospital to a nursing home. We're so grateful we serve such a great God Who can be with all who need Him at all times.

Our congratulations to Sis. Joanne Kaisner, Sis. Holly Barton and Dee Oliver who are college graduates in December. You'll find that your way will prosper if you let Him lead you. he has a special purpose and place for each one of us! Alto, MI, will host services at Woodhaven of Livonia January 9, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

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

May the true spirit of Christmas bring you peace and joy as you celebrate the birth of Jesus this year.

We always appreciate the message that visiting ministers bring. We thank Bro. Myron Knoblock (Lester, IA), Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Harold Messner (Winthrop) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL). Bro. Wayne plans to spend more time with us as he assists Bro. Harold in shepherding our flock.

We rejoice when we see those in our congregation turning to the Lord in repentance. Our new converts are Dwight Mogler, Ted Schmidt, Wendell Schmidt and Dick Metzger. We pray they will truly believe and walk hand in hand with God and trust Him to lead their lives.

We sang a farewell song to Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn, Sarah and Philip as they are moving to Morris for a job. They have been a blessing to us and have touched our lives in the short time they have been here. It is with sadness we see them move on as we will miss their encouraging words and smiles.

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**Have A Nice Day!**

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

**MAKE EVERY DAY**  
**THANKSGIVING**

Thank you, God, for everything --  
 the big things and the small,  
 For every good gift comes from  
 God --  
 the Giver of them all.  
 Too often we accept,  
 without any thanks of praise;  
 The gifts God sends as blessings,  
 each day in many ways.  
 Oh make us more aware, dear God,  
 of little daily graces  
 That come to us with sweet  
 surprise,  
 from never dreamed of places.  
 And help us to remember,  
 that key to life and living;  
 Is to make each prayer a prayer of  
 thanks,  
 and every day Thanksgiving!  
 Helen Steiner Rice

With Thanksgiving Day approach-  
 ing, we have so many things to be  
 thankful for, God's plan of salvation,  
 and the blessings bestowed upon us  
 daily through our Lord and our Sav-  
 ior, Jesus Christ. We can be so thank-  
 ful for living in a country which gives  
 us the freedom to worship as we please.  
 Let us not only thank God for the  
 blessings on Thanksgiving but every  
 day anew.

Emil Schaefer passed away Octo-  
 ber 21. He is survived by his daugh-  
 ter, Marilyn and Robert Nohl, and a  
 grandson, Corbin. Also surviving are  
 four brothers, Bro. Otto, Bro. Anton,  
 Bro. John and Bro. Herman (all of  
 Morris); and two sisters, Sis. Martha  
 and Sis. Lydia Herman (Joe, Peoria,  
 IL). Our deepest sympathy goes out  
 to the family. May God comfort them  
 in their time of sorrow.

November 12 was the wedding  
 day for Sis. Sara Feuchtenberger and  
 Bro. Kevin Wagenbach. Their par-  
 ents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane  
 and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine.  
 May God bless them as they start  
 their new life together.

We are always glad to have visit-  
 ing ministers in our midst, as we  
 were privileged to have with us Elder  
 Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bro.  
 Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL),  
 Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL)

and Bro. William Hodel (Roanoke,  
 IL). May God bless them for coming.

We continue to have those who  
 are ill, shut-in or in the hospital. May  
 they continue to feel our prayers.  
 Bro. Jake Koehl and Bro. Orville Nohl  
 have been in the hospital.

On November 13, Daniel William  
 was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill  
 Furrer. He is welcomed home by a  
 sister and brother. Grandparents are  
 Bro. Glen and Sis. Eileen Furrer.

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

On a recent Sunday evening, our  
 Sunday School children (Jr. and Sr.  
 Bible class) made and served a deli-  
 cious supper for all who are 55 and  
 over, their spouse was included. It  
 was certainly enjoyed by all. Thank  
 you, young people and your teachers.

Our hospital patients were Lind-  
 say Schmidt (Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie)  
 and Bro. Roland Messner (Sis. Melva).  
 Lindsay is home and doing fine. Bro.  
 Roland will have a recovery period  
 from his hip surgery. We pray that he  
 will feel God's healing power.

Our friend, Archie Lienemann (Sis.  
 Pearl), has been announced as hav-  
 ing receive the precious gift of peace.  
 God continues to call even in the  
 twilight hours of our life. We cer-  
 tainly rejoice with Sis. Pearl and her  
 family.

As the Christmas season ap-  
 proaches, let us remember that we  
 are rejoicing over the birth of God's  
 "Son, Jesus Christ," our Saviour. With  
 each present that we give, let us  
 remember the greatest gift ever given,  
 God's Son.

We had our annual meeting No-  
 vember 5. Sis. Joyce Messner reporter,  
 Sis. Delores Messerli as secretary  
 with Sis. Lois Messner as assistant.  
 We want to thank Sis. Delores for her  
 years of service.

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Becky Marti - Carol Braker**

Greetings of love across the miles!  
 We are anticipating a Christmas  
 season with joy in our hearts, brought  
 about by the birth of our Lord and  
 Saviour. May each of you feel His  
 nearness during this special season.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris Luthi are

the happy parents of a healthy boy,  
 Aaron Duane. Aaron's grandparents  
 are Bro. Rich and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi  
 (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Ray and Sis.  
 Marilyn Luthi (Lamar). May the new  
 parents find grace and wisdom to  
 raise their family to the honor of the  
 Lord.

We appreciate the efforts of our  
 visiting elders. Bro. Bob Walder  
 (Congerville, IL) spent a Sunday with  
 us; and Bro. Raymond Banwart (Fort  
 Scott, KS) and our Elder Bro. Gene  
 Marti labored in love to provide us  
 with services and the reading of the  
 memorandum. May God reward them  
 for their love and concern.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Kathy Knapp**

We are thankful for all the visi-  
 tors we had over the past month,  
 especially our ministering brothers,  
 Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington,  
 IA), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL),  
 Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Kent  
 Heimer (Taylor, MO). As always, we  
 appreciate visitors and invite all to  
 come worship with our small congre-  
 gation.

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**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Loida Hodel - Lori Marquart**

**THANKSGIVING**

"Enter into His gates with thanks-  
 giving, and unto His courts with praise;  
 be thankful unto Him and praise His  
 name."

Psalms 100:4

We thank our visiting ministers,  
 Bros. Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and  
 Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS). May  
 God bless them for their efforts in our  
 behalf.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb Sutter,  
 along with Angie and Clinton, an-  
 nounce the arrival of Craig Austin  
 November 7. Happy grandparents are  
 Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge Sutter  
 (Taylor) and Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn  
 Ott (Congerville, IL).

We extend our sympathy to Bro.  
 William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell and  
 their family in the death of Bro. Wil-  
 liam's mother, Bessie Cottrell, 90, of  
 LaGrange, MO. "The clock of life is  
 wound but once, and no man has the

power to tell just where the hands may stop . . . at late or early hour."

Bro. Jeff Gramm was brought home by air ambulance from Phoenix, AZ, Sunday, November 12 and is receiving T. L.C. from family and friends and kind and sympathetic services of the "Hospice" program. Our love and prayers are directed toward him as well as Sis. Louanne who stands faithfully by. "Not my will but thine be done."

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust . . ."  
Psalms 18:2

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**NEW YORK,  
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG  
Alice Virkler**

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
'Round yon virgin mother and  
Child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born,  
Christ, the Savior, is born.  
Hymns of Zion #42

As I write the news this morning, a beautiful snow is falling. It is white, clean, bright and beautiful. This beautiful Christmas song came to mind as such a peaceful hymn to be sung at the birth of our Lord and Savior. May we not only remember the birth of the Savior but also His mission on earth. He came to earth to live among man and to show us an example of what our lives should be like. He sacrificed His life for each of us that we may have a hope of life everlasting if we are true and faithful to Him. As we celebrate His birth at this season of the year, may we always remember the true meaning of the Christmas season and not let the cares and concerns of the holiday overshadow the real meaning.

On Sunday, November 5, we all assembled in the Naumburg Church for a commemorative service.

Our midweek services will be discontinued until the spring season.

We are happy to report that Ethel Karcher has been able to return to her home after being hospitalized for several weeks. Our sympathy is extended to Ethel and her family at the time of the passing from this life of her sister, Wilma Whiting (Syracuse).

Bro. Ted Herzig was hospitalized a few days for surgery and has been able to return home. We are glad to have Bro. John and Sis. Berdena Widrick assemble with us again.

At this time of the year we have a prayer on our hearts for those who can no longer go in and out as we can. May God's presence be felt by each of them whether they are in their homes, hospitals or extended care and nursing homes.

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**OHIO, AKRON  
Joyce Gasser**

"I set my face unto the Lord God to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes."  
Daniel 9:3

Daniel was seeking the Lord's guidance, and with sackcloth and ashes he humbled himself. In Solomon's temple was a brazen altar. One could bring a lamb for a sacrifice and cut its throat, and the blood of the lamb was shed for his sins. The priest burned the lamb on the brazen altar with the ashes falling through the grate. The one that brought the lamb could take those ashes, put on sackcloth, and sprinkle those ashes on himself, meaning he had repented and the ashes showed he made the sacrifice and was forgiven. Daniel did that and God answered his prayer. We are thankful for Daniel's example as we seek God's guidance for the new year.

Sis. Gail Spangler received facial injuries in an unfortunate accident. Sis. Kathryn Novotny fell in her home, breaking her vertebrae. Sis. Dora Smith had a cataract removed. We pray for these sisters to have speedy and complete recoveries.

Mrs. Robert Campbell (Connie Gramm, formerly of Gridley), has turned to the Lord in repentance. We know the Lord will be with her as she seeks Him for grace and guidance.

Gary Graf (son of Bro. Carl and

Sis. Kathy Graf) and Tammy Mitchell are planning a December 16 wedding. May God bless their plans and their marriage.

We were blessed with visiting ministers Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville).

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**OHIO, COLUMBUS  
John Grimm**

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH). May God richly bless them and their families.

The Columbus church welcomes two new families: Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks and their children, Jenny, Emily, Travis and Casey; and Bro. Stan and Sis. Judy Sauder and their children, Katie and Joseph. May God continue to bless these families and our small congregation.

On November 17, Calla Lynn Steiner was born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn Steiner. She is welcomed home by her two brothers, Nathaniel and Isaac.

On November 19, the Columbus church heard its first engagement announcement; Bro. John Grimm (Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou Grimm, Princeville, IL) to Sis. Julie Sauder (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder, Mansfield). I'm most humbled by how the Lord has worked in our lives and would appreciate any prayers on our behalf.

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**OHIO, JUNCTION  
Laurie Schlatter**

We rejoice with Bro. Ed and Sis. Cheryl Schlatter as they welcome home Caleb Andrew. Big brother, Evan, will certainly be happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger (Latty) and Sis. Joliet Schlatter.

Mike Manz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Caroline) is recovering from recent foot surgery. We wish him a most speedy recovery.

Our congregation welcomed Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and ministering Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss and Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL). We do appreciate these brothers and the Word they bring to us.

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

"Thus united and in one concord, let us walk the path of life; Hand in hand, O' may love bind us. for each others welfare strive.

Unity - Zion's Harp #237

Our congregation witnessed the working of God in the lives of Bro. Paul Rywalski (Peter and Virginia, Toledo) and Sis. Teresa Stoller (Bro. Jud and Sis. Ruby) as they were united in marriage November 5. We extend congratulations and God's richest blessings as they start their lives together. Visiting ministers for this special occasion were: Bro. Mark Ramseyer (Sardis), Bros. Doug Harmon and Walter Rager (Toledo), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction). Other visiting minister this month were Bros. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL). We want to extend a heartfelt thanks for sharing their time with us and welcome them back anytime. May God richly bless these brothers for their labors of love.

We were saddened by the passing away of our Bro. Eli Rager, and yet at the same time glad that he could be relieved of his bodily affliction where he was a patient at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, IN. Those surviving are Bros. Carl Rager (Sis. Louise), Roy Rager (Sis. June), William Rager (Sis. Elsie), and Sisters Caroline Zeltwanger (Bro. Fred), Frieda Reklau (Bro. Walter, Toledo), Lillian Schlatter (late John), Elsi Schlatter (Bro. Joe) and Marie Steffen (late Harold, Bluffton, IN). May God comfort the hearts of those who loved him.

Hospitalized this month was Rustin Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth). We are glad Rustin is home and healing remarkably well.

May God's protecting and guiding hand go with Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores and family as they prepare to attend the Detroit, MI, congregation. Our loss at Latty will be Detroit's gain. May God bless them with His love.

As the holidays draw nearer, let us reflect back to the true reason for this season and thank God for the birth of His Son. It is truly amazing

how soon the new year of 1990 is approaching. Let us search our hearts, open any locked doors in our hearts and let the Saviour have complete control over our every motive. May we wake up each morning with a smile on our face, a song on our lips and a prayer on our hearts knowing we have the promise that God will go with us through the garden of life and His will can be done for us.

**OHIO, MANSFIELD**

**Linda Morrison**

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) brought words of comfort to the family of our dear beloved Bro. Dave Beer Wednesday, November 22. Bro. Dave had assembled with us on Sunday and when he got home he said he felt a little weary . . . We have fond memories of a warm handshake and a bright smile and the chair near the front door of the church now stands empty. Sis. Lena joins the ranks of widows and her children, Bro. Joel, Clara, Marge and Fran, are now fatherless. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction . . ." (James 1:27). Bro. Dave was blessed to see a number of his grandchildren turn their hearts to the Lord.

" . . . whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:" (Ruth 1:16). Sis. Julie Sauder (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue) and Bro. John Grimm of Columbus (son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou, Princeville, IL) have announced their engagement. May God bless them as they make their plans to walk life's pathway together.

Hospitalized have been Bro. Harry Bocka (Sis. Mary Mae), Sis. Bev Washington (Bro. Barney), Sis. Ruth Weiss and Sis. Katie Armstrong. "The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him." (Lamentations 3:24).

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for His mercy endureth ever" (Psalms 107:1). We have so much to be thankful for. We are thankful Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and his family could be with us for Thanksgiving Day services. May God bless those who are willing to be used

in His service; whatever that service may be.

**OHIO, RITTMAN**

**Diane Gasser - Lois Stoller**

An appreciation singing for recently retired Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier was held Sunday evening, October 29, at our Rittman church. Many from our home congregation, along with those from the Akron, Smithville, Mansfield and Sardis congregations, gathered together to sing songs of praise and honor to our Heavenly Father. Words of appreciation were spoken that evening by Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH).

Needing hospitalization this past month were Kesia Hartzler (Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda), Corban Riggensbach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita) and Rex Young (Carol). May God bestow His healing touch on each one. We are always thankful when health is again restored.

Our hearts go out in sympathy to Carolyn Shook and her family in the death of her brother, Jay, and his infant son who were involved in a tragic car accident. May God be their source of comfort and strength.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Rupp are the parents of a new little daughter, Naomi Lynn. Her sisters, welcoming her home, are Anna, Esther and Rachel. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder and Ralph and Arlene Rupp.

Crystal Irene is the first child born to John and Judy Wachtel. Happy grandparents are Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener and Mr. and Mrs Bob Wachtel.

Welcoming their second daughter, Katie Jo, is Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier. Kelly will be happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramsier (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

May God's blessings rest upon each of these families as they now have a new little soul to love and care for.

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers among us from time to time. Inspiring words were given to us by Elder Bros. Andy Stoller

(Smithville, OH), Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Glenn Riggenschach (Smithville, OH). May God bless them for their love spent on us.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, may we all stop and consider how blest we really are. We often take so many of our blessings for granted.

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

Zion's Harp #236

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Paula Figel**

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

We need to remember the proclamation of the angel that glorious night. "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11.

Jason, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake, is improving and is receiving treatment as an outpatient at the Children's Hospital in Columbus. Our dear friend, Virginia Riggenschach, has been hospitalized this month. We wish her much patience and hope she will soon be home again.

January is the month for Sardis subscribers to submit their Silver Lining dues. Please see your reporter.

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
**Stephanie Luginbuhl**  
**Kim Stoller**

We rejoice with the angels in heaven over those who are repenting. Rudy and Barb Maibach (Bro. Art and Sis. Janet, Rittman) have chosen to follow the Saviour. We wish them much grace to continue in this walk of life.

We also rejoice with Bro. Myron Weber as he gave his testimony November 11 and was baptized the following day. We welcome him as a brother-in-Christ. Bro. Myron is the son of Sis. Marge Weber (Rittman).

This past month, we have had several visiting ministers and we are truly thankful for each one. Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman) and Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) faithfully served us on the pulpit. We pray that God will bless each minister for his willing service.

We have also had occasion to weep with those who weep. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Carolyn Gasser in the death of her son, David.

Others in need of our prayers are Bro. Gaylord Beery (Sis. Cheryl) and Bro. Lloyd Indermuhle (Sis. Vera) who have spent time in the hospital. What a wonderful privilege it is to have a Saviour who is ready and willing to give us His comfort and peace in times of need.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Frances Laidig**  
**Josephine Rehklau**

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We thank them for bringing to us the gospel message of salvation. May God's rich blessings be with them, their wives and children.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Freda Rehklau (Bro. Walter). Freda's brother, Bro. Eli Rager, has gone to his eternal rest in Christ Jesus - no more to suffer the pain of illness in this world.

We are happy to have Sis. Teresa Rywalski in our midst.

For all the blessings of the year  
For all the friends we hold so dear  
For peace on earth, both far and near,  
We thank Thee, Lord.

Early 17th century hymn

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

October 29 was the wedding date for ministering Bro. Clarence Diet-

rich and Sis. Betty Knobloch (Lester, IA). An Oregon reception was held for them November 4. May God richly bless their marriage.

First-time parents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Marianne Kraft, welcomed little Austin Wayne into their hearts and home November 1. Austin's grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft (Gridley, KS) and Lee and Janet Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Also enjoying being grandparents again are Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi, as Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris Luthi (Lamar, MO) welcomed home their first child, Aaron Duane, born November 8. May these new parents continue to look to their Lord for guidance in raising these precious little miracles.

It seems "welcomes and farewells" could be a regular part of our monthly news. This fall we have some of each. We welcome Bro. Brian Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean, Forrest, IL) and Laurie Virkler (Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol, Minneapolis, MN). Both have found employment in the area and are a welcome addition to our congregation and community. That was the easy part. Not so easy are the farewells, especially when they have been a part of our church community and our hearts for a long time. The good news is that we will always keep them a part of our hearts. Farewells were said this fall to Bro. Matthew Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn, Bern, KS), Todd Kaeb (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marylou) and John Maul (Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda) all of Cissna Park, IL. All three young men have returned to their family's home churches. May God be with us all until we meet again.

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**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE**  
**Bro. Herbert Gerst**

Church services were held in Nashville, TN, November 5. Twenty-four members and friends were in attendance. Services were held in the home of Bro. Don and Faye Sauder. Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) conducted both morning and afternoon services.

Anyone visiting, traveling or possibly planning to work in this large metropolitan area, feel free to contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder, 2059 Timberwood Drive, Nashville, TN, phone 1-615-373-8928.



# Silver Threads

## CLING TO THE BIBLE

Cling to the Bible, tho' all else be taken;  
Lose not its promises precious and sure;  
Souls that are sleeping its echoes awaken,  
Drink from the fountain, so peaceful, so pure.

Cling to the Bible, this jewel, this treasure  
Brings to us honor and saves fallen man;  
Pearl whose great value no mortal can measure,  
Seek and secure it, O soul, while you can.

Lamp for the feet that in by-ways have wander'd,  
Guide for the youth that would otherwise fall;  
Hope for the sinner whose best days are squander'd,  
Staff for the aged, and best book of all.

Cling to the Bible!  
Cling to the Bible!  
Cling to the Bible,  
Our Lamp and Guide.

Gospel Hymns #392

## INDIA LEADS IN SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION

Why is Scripture translation so important in India? The American Bible Society officials have discovered that among the Indians there is an increased desire for Scriptures to help guide them, especially in evangelistic outreach. They need brief portions or selections of passages which are complete messages. These are needed in large quantities.

The Society is able to furnish many of these items which has helped accelerate the growth of Christianity in India. An authority has predicted that Christianity will be the faith of about 40 million Indians by the turn of the century.

America Bible Society

## BIBLES IN HIGH DEMAND IN GHANA

In the African Nation of Ghana, a Bible is high on the shopping list, the American Bible Society reports. This means many of the people must go without some essentials, as most African's money is limited to the basic needs.

American Bible Society

the knowledge of the Word of God and they don't have the peace and they don't have the grace. Therefore, how else could they be? What else would we expect of the world?

But, for us today, we need to grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. He tells us this. It says that we can do it through the knowledge. Also It says through the Lord Jesus Christ, not only can we have this peace and this grace, but we can have these great promises. (See II Peter 1:3, 4).

The Bible tells us that God, who cannot lie, (think about that!), God who cannot lie by an oath promised us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these we can be partakers of the divine nature! (See II Peter 1:4). That is the nature of God!

Isn't that what the Bible teaches us as we think about conversion? What happens in a person's life when they become converted? Isn't the old man dead? Isn't the new man supposed to be after Christ? Aren't we supposed to have the mind of Christ? Doesn't the Bible say to renew your mind?

This is the thing that can be ours by the divine promises and the power of God. It is possible. We can be above the things of this world. We don't have to be entangled in the things of this world. We don't have to be trapped in their snare and be under their influence. We don't have to be shackled with sin. We don't have to be in bondage again.

We can be really liberated . . . really free! When we think about the divine power that is in the Lord Jesus Christ, remember that He was resurrected from the grave. Death had no more victory over Him. The grave couldn't hold Him, but that power was there to bring Him out of the grave and set Him at the Father's right hand.

Now, as a part of the believing family that we sang about, we are also heirs and we have the inheritance. We have the promise that we, too, will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. All we have to do is, what? Remain faithful. That is all God asks of us. Just be faithful in God's Word and in following after His Son and the promise is yours!

As we think about having faith, we also have to grow. Remember we

## REPORT OF NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION

The total American Bible Society distribution throughout the United States in 1988:

Bibles .....	1,658,769
New Testaments .....	1,656,978
Portions (usually one Book of the Bible) .....	2,892,476
New Reader Portions .....	4,971
Records.....	24,404
Braille Scriptures .....	2,005
Selections (less than one Book of the Bible) .....	85,945,877
New Reader Selections .....	1,114,471
Total* .....	93,299,951

\*Includes Scriptures in five English versions and in 83 additional languages.

### REMINDER

All Silver Lining Correspondents, remember that your articles for the Silver Lining are due in on or before the 20th of the month.



### Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)  
lent today because people do not have

need to grow! There is a Scripture that says there were those people that when it was time that they should have been well on their way . . . well grounded . . . well with the knowledge of the Lord . . . enough time had passed that they should have had a full understanding and a pretty good foundation of what Christian living was all about, yet, we find that the Word tells us they were still like little babes. They were surviving on the milk. Why? Probably because they didn't put too much effort into it. They probably didn't take much time to read the Word of God.

They were just living for themselves. They were probably people who had made a beginning and just kind of quit right there. They realized they needed Christ as their Saviour and to be forgiven of their sins and so they probably repented and they probably asked the Lord into their lives and to forgive them.

But when they became baptized, they probably just kind of quit and just thought, "I'm safe. I'm inside the fold and secure. I really don't have to put forth any effort or be diligent any more. I am just going to kind of coast through my Christian life." They never really had a good understanding. They didn't search the Scriptures. They didn't really look to see what was the exceeding great promises and the power they had in Christ Jesus. They were just babes.

But then there were those people, the Bible says, who fed on the meat of the Word. They really were hungry and they thirsted for righteousness. Jesus said, "Those are the people that will be filled. Those are the ones that will be satisfied." Oh, those are the people that will have a precious, precious faith because they are really sincere and looking into the Word of God.

That's what the Bible always encourages. It always prods us, doesn't it, to understand, to do right, to do better, to gain that higher ground, and to walk close with the Lord? Doesn't the Word always encourage us to do this? We can find that it is easy for us to get kind of mediocre and just kind of lax and lazy and just go from day to day. Next thing you know, the week is gone by and we go on to the next week.

I heard it said one time that, Seven

days without prayer makes one weak. It sure does, doesn't it?

Peter says here, ". . . if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." II Peter 1:10. There is not one of us that wants to miss the saint's reward, is there? None of us want to miss heaven, do we? If we didn't really care about heaven, we wouldn't really care about being here again. But there is not one of us in this room here that if we were given the chance right now to make a decision whether we want to go to heaven or not, everyone of us would choose heaven.

Yet, the Bible tells us how it is, that ". . . many are called, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:14. Also the one way is broad and how wide it is and how the gate is wide and how many people are on that road that leads to destruction. Very few people are on the narrow way that leads to eternal life. (See Matthew 7:13 - 14).

There is a lot of people that would love to go to heaven, but there is a lot of people that don't care much about looking into God's Word to see how to get to heaven.

Peter tell us here that we can do these things, and It says, "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." II Peter 1:8. I was reading in chapter 15 in John yesterday about being part of the vine . . . being the branches and bearing fruit. (See John 15:5). You know, it is the Lord's will that we bear much fruit.

The branches that are unfruitful, the Word tells us that God is the Husbandman and He is the One that comes by and prunes and trims back and makes it so we can bear fruit. But those branches that never give fruit, He cuts off and He casts them away and they are not even good for anything but to be burned. (See John 15:6).

We try to exhort on these things. The Bible tells us, we shall ". . . suffer the word of exhortation." Hebrews 13:22. Many times it is not so easy, is it? We don't like to be exhorted, many times, In other words, we don't like people telling us what we have to do. That takes humility, doesn't it? It really take humility, because we like to be able to think we can do things on our own, understand our own, and

we can figure out our own way.

He says here if we add to our faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity, he tells us how those things will help us to abound and be fruitful. (See II Peter 1:5-8).

This is what he is saying here, "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." II Peter 1:9. Do you see what is happening to this person here? This is one that will not listen. It is one that has just kind of neglected to hear the Word . . . neglected to come to church . . . neglected prayer . . . neglected reading . . . probably has gotten more involved with the world again after he was washed and was separated from the world . . . probably one that has gone back again to the old life that he once lived.

We see that this type of person wouldn't hear. He wouldn't give much concern for the things that were being preached. He probably was a person that wasn't concerned with the brotherhood. He probably wouldn't take correction. He probably wouldn't take admonishment. He probably wouldn't look at others as examples. He probably was kind of a rebel or something like that. He had to do it his own way or be his own man. That's a pretty big philosophy today. You can see what can happen to a person in that situation. The thing that he forgot was that he was purged from his old sins!

I think if we are ever going to acquire a close walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, there is one thing that we always need to remember: That we are sinners saved by grace. That is it! By the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are in the family of God. Only by His grace can we even think about this eternity or this promise He has given us of life eternal in heaven.

If ever the time comes in our hearts and we forget about the cost of sin and the price that cost our Saviour, the Bible says that it was not with silver and gold or things like that that we were purchased. But it was with the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. A Sinless Man shed His blood for you and me.

Whenever we forget that cost, I think we are in trouble. Because then we will go back in the world and say, "What is so bad about this? This doesn't

matter much and it is not a big deal. Why should people be concerned about what I do and my life? They should just leave me alone." Live and let live, and that sort of attitude and it can be very detrimental to a person's spiritual life.

He says here, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure." II Peter 1:10. Make it sure!

There are people that want to talk about eternal security and there are people who want to talk about once saved, always saved. There are a lot of different doctrines floating around in the world today. But when we come to the Word of God and have a clear understanding of what God's Word says, we know there is a calling, don't we? We know that there is a calling! God calls us, and we have an opportunity to answer that calling.

There are going to be testimonies today of people who answered that call. Because they heard God call them to Himself and say, "Repent before it is too late. Repent and come to Me and I'll cleanse you from all unrighteousness."

There is a calling and there is an election, isn't there? Who is the One that has to be satisfied with us when we talk about having peace and about having that assurance?

I can tell you today that I have assurance that if I died today at this very moment, if I died right this moment, I assure you that by the grace of God, I would go to heaven. But let me tell you this, that election, that assurance that I have is not the fact that I am an Apostolic Christian. It's not based on the fact that I'm a minister. It's not based on the fact of anything that I have accomplished or done in life.

But my assurance is based in my heart by the fact that I have peace with God. That is it! I know that God has accepted me!

I know that He has accepted each one of you that walk according to this Word by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and are serving God.

There is such a thing that we can know that we are of the family of God. There is such a thing to know that we can have assurance that our names are written in the Book of Life. It can be assured! These are the exceeding

great promises! This is part of it, that we can know that we are saved!

We don't ever take that salvation for granted, do we? We don't ever just say, "Well, I know I am saved, so it doesn't matter what type of lifestyle I lead, or which way the pathway goes for me from now on because I know that when the times comes, I am going to heaven." That would be foolish, wouldn't it? Because God still has to be the One that is satisfied with us. God has to be the One that is satisfied and that is why it is so important we search our hearts and find out if there is any unclean thing within us because God knows our hearts.

It is important that God is the One that says whether or not because Jesus is the One Who is going to say, "Welcome into My kingdom." Or, "Depart from Me." Do you see? It is going to be up to Him. He is the One who is going to have the final authority. So it doesn't matter what people think of me; it matters what God thinks of me. That is why I have to look into the Word, too, to find out whether or not I have peace with God or whether or not I have peace with God or whether I'm doing the Lord's will or not.

This isn't something new, is it? I am not telling you anything new today. You've heard this before. Peter said the same thing, "You know all this." But it is for remembrance . . . it is bringing it to your remembrance. It is being told over and over again.

What are the things in life that you are most assured of? Isn't it the things that you know beyond a shadow of a doubt? Isn't it the things that you know to be true that you are really assured of? That you can say "yes" to and "no" to, and you know that it will be like this, or it won't be like that and this is the way it will go?

The things that we have knowledge in are the things that we can really be assured of. The Bible tells us that we can really be assured in the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ by the knowledge of Him in the Word.

Do you think that someone could sing the Twenty-Third Psalm without really having confidence or assurance? Do you think that someone could come right to the brink of death and say that they know that it is well with their soul if they didn't have the

knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ or faith in Him? It would be impossible, wouldn't it?

But, we know it, and that is why we are putting ourselves in remembrance of it today. I think it was Paul who said this thing wasn't done in a corner. This thing wasn't something that was done in secret but this was out in the open. The Lord Jesus Christ manifested Himself unto the world and right there in the Roman Empire, right in the midst of all modern civilization, the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world, and by many infallible proofs.

He did everything and the Bible tells us that if all the things were written about the Lord . . . if it was all put into books, the world itself could not contain the books necessary to write down all the things He did. (See John 21:25).

But these things are written, and they are written, why? So that we might believe. Believe in what? You might have life! You might have life and that you might not be blind and not see far off, but you might have life.

When you go to the hospital and see people with death so close, or people that are just eaten up with cancer, or so old that their bodies are just decaying and there is not much life left in them, somehow you wish they could have a couple more years, and they could get well again, get out of the hospital and get out of that condition. You just wish that for them because we like to see people enjoy life.

We like to see people have life. But what is life? What is life without Jesus Christ? What is life if we don't have the hope of salvation? What do people have to look forward to if they don't have a Saviour? What is it all about?

There is a song -- a secular song -- that had that title, "What Is It All About?" Why are we here? What is the purpose of our being born and living in this world? What is it all about?

It is all about Jesus Christ and His love that He has for mankind, and not wishing that anyone would perish, but that all would come to the knowledge of His Son and be saved. (See John 3:16). This is the fullness of life and it is in Christ.

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## SERMON BY BRO. MICHAEL THOMAS OF VALPARAISO, IN "You Can Know You Have Salvation" II Peter 1

When we read these Epistles of Peter, somehow we get a different picture of him than he was during the time when he was following the Lord with the other disciples. Because we see here that Peter has a more clear picture, doesn't he, than he had then? He understood more about what the Lord had taught them.

Remember when they were with the Lord Jesus Christ that He told them some of the things they didn't quite understand at that moment, but that there would be a time when the Holy Ghost would come and He would reveal unto them whatsoever things Jesus had been trying to explain to them. Then they would come and be clear in their minds.

So we see as Peter writes these Epistles today, he has a very good understanding of salvation . . . of the work of Christ . . . and of being a follower or a disciple of the Lord.

Now the question today is, can we give a good answer if we were called upon today? Remember the Word tells us that we should be ready always to give an answer to someone that might ask us of the hope that lies within us. Do we have enough knowledge of the Word of God to be able to tell somebody else about salvation?

I think a lot of times we get a little fearful and a little afraid because we think we have to be able to explain all the Bible in all aspects of it. But that is not really what the Lord wants us to be able to do. But be able to have faith, first of all, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

As Peter told it here, it becomes precious faith. (See II Peter 1:1). Have

you ever thought about that? Is your faith precious to you today? Or is it taken for granted? Is it something we just kind of expect to be with us day after day as we go through life?

You know, all men do not have faith. Everybody doesn't believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. There was a time when we didn't have the faith. Remember what it was like for us outside the faith? We found ourselves awoken by the Word of God and we found ourselves lost and without hope in the world. Think about that.

Let's go back to the time when we were lost and without hope because we didn't have the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. But today, by the grace of God we are able to believe in Him and receive Him as our Saviour. Now as we think about our position in Christ now, the Word tells us that we should go on. There are things that accompany salvation, isn't there?

The Bible doesn't just stop with the believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, but it goes on unto perfection. (See Hebrews 6:1). That's the Word. It tells us. It seems like this is what happened to Peter, didn't it? He had knowledge. Remember when the Lord asked Peter, "Whom do the men say I am?" He said, "Some say a prophet, this one and that one." The Lord asked Peter, "But whom do you say I am?" He said, "Thou are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16. That was the basis the Lord was going to build His church upon.

We could see that Peter believed that, but yet there were times that Peter didn't quite have it all together. I would dare to say, that as Peter was

writing this Epistle here, he had a pretty good understanding, didn't he? He had a pretty good understanding and it came from the knowledge of the Word of God.

Is there any time that you can spend in the Word of God that is not beneficial for you? Every opportunity that you have to gather around the Word . . . to pick up the Bible at home . . . to somehow hear the Word of God, it is always a benefit to your soul. Because it can help you faithfully serving the Lord and following after Him.

It says this is the precious faith (II Peter 1:1) and I think we need to realize how precious it is. Don't take it for granted.

He says, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord." II Peter 1:2. Look in the world today and you see a lot of people that are just frustrated . . . just mentally disturbed. People just don't know how to cope with life hardly anymore. They really have a hard time of being able to go through life.

We see here that we can have, "According to his divine power hath given unto us all things . . ." II Peter 1:3. It is the power of God that can give us a sound mind! That is so important today, isn't it, when you think about it?

Because we see today a lot of people just throw up their hands and quit. That's why probably suicide and it's probably why drugs and probably why every other thing that is so contrary to the Word of God is so prevalent.

(Continued on Page 33)