



"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

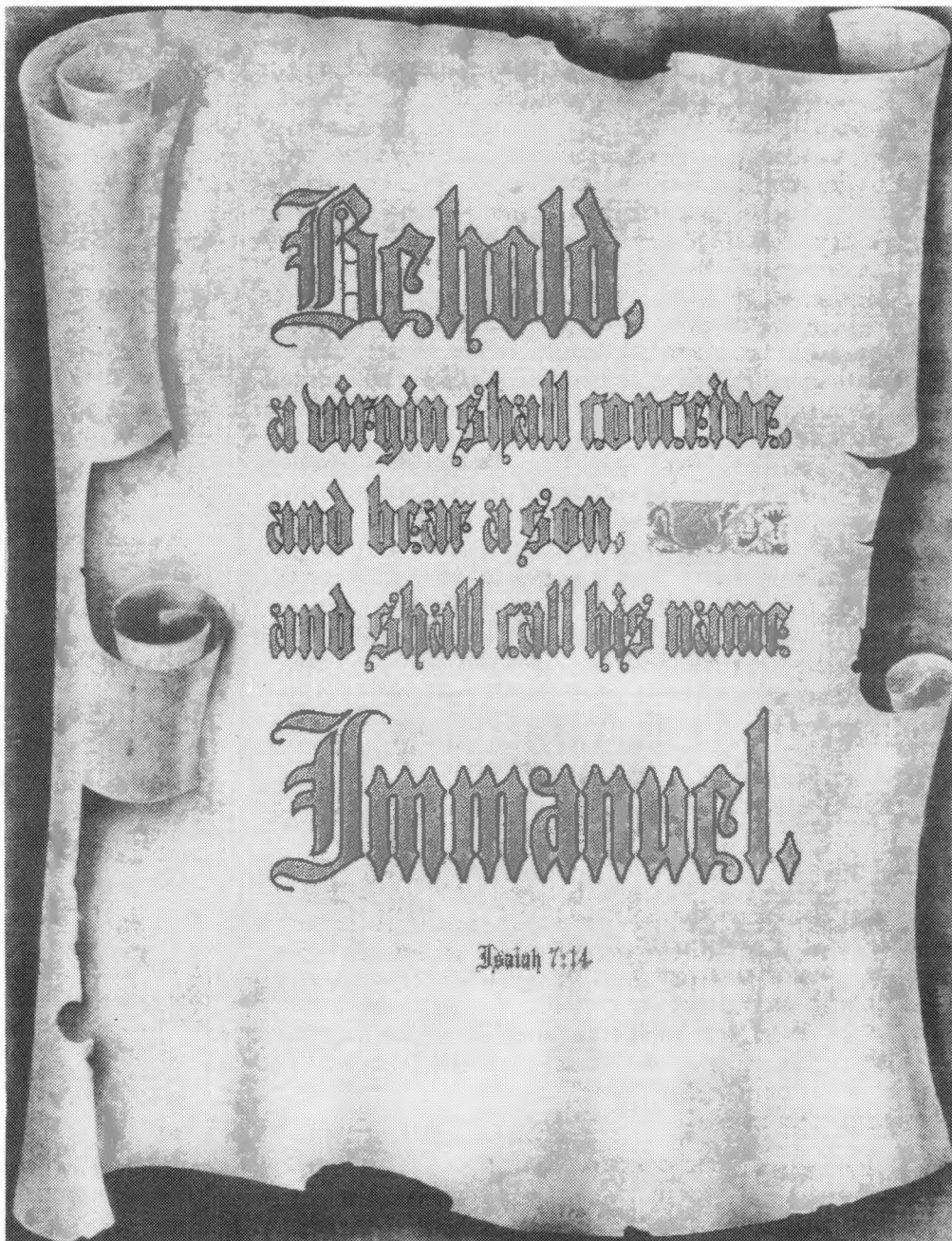
"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is CHRIST the Lord."

Luke 2:11

VOLUME 40

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MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS CHRISTMAS

By Elder Bro. Ernest Graf Sr., Akron, Ohio, who is now resting with the Lord.

Christmas is the festival on which we celebrate the birth of Christ. It is of all birthdays the most important, because it means that a Saviour and Redeemer was born unto mankind. Sin had entered the world when our first parents were induced by the craftiness and deception of Satan to disregard the commandment of God . . . It is written that to be carnally minded is enmity toward God, yet God wished to befriend man again and restore him unto harmony with Him. He told Adam and Eve that from their seed He would raise up One who would crush the head of this serpent. Moses also said to Israel, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken". David also and many of the prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah. Thus He was expected by the people of Israel; and kings and prophets had hoped to see His day, but died without seeing it . . .

. . . now the fullness of time had arrived in which God fulfilled His promises. First we read how unto Zacharias and Elizabeth was born a son, John the Baptist, who was to prepare the way of the Lord. Before John was born, an angel appeared unto a virgin, Mary, of the house of David, announcing to her that she

was chosen of God to become the mother of His only begotten Son. Although Christ had been with His Father in heaven as the Son of God, He was also to put on flesh and blood and become the Son of man, thus uniting the two natures in one body, so that He might be able in the body to suffer and atone for the sin of mankind. Luke tells us that in the reign of Caesar Augustus a decree went out that all the world should be taxed or registered. Instead of the census-taker going from house to house as is the case today, everyone was summoned to the city of their birth. So Mary and Joseph, her espoused husband, went up from Galilee to the city of David which is called Bethlehem. Having no room in the inn, they had to be content to rest in a stable. There in poverty and lowliness Jesus was born, and Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. Had it been God's will, He could have caused His Son to be born in a palace in grandeur, with angels to wait upon Him. But in the humble surroundings of Jesus' birth we have a lesson in lowliness and humility: that we should not strive after high things, but condescend to men of low estate.

And who was first to be apprised of the Saviour's birth? The lowly

shepherds, keeping guard over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared unto them and brought the good tidings of great joy, that on that day a Saviour was born, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." They went and found it even as the angel had told them . . .

. . . now, how shall we receive Him, and how shall we celebrate this day? By dedicating to Him our soul and body, and proving our love by obeying Him who gave His life

(Continued on Page 4)

THE SILVER LINING

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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

NOW IS THE TIME HOUSEPARENT COUPLE NEEDED AT GATEWAY WOODS

For the past several months, we have had a general notice about the need for Houseparents that comes up from time to time. Now is that time.

Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller, who have served so faithfully for the past 2½ years, will be leaving soon. We are trusting that a mature couple will respond to the Lord's leading to be parents to a household of teens who need Godly love and guidance.

Please contact of the brothers listed below to learn more about qualifications, training, competitive salaries and excellent benefits.

Bro. Tim Sauder, Administrator
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159, office
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11502 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
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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).

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

Serving others makes for a much happier, more fulfilling life. Therefore, if a believer really wants to be happy, he should forget "self" completely and focus on praising God and trying to help others. There is sacrifice in helping others, and there is no guarantee our efforts will bear fruit. Yet we should be ready to lend a hand to those who feel a need and desire help (Gal. 6:10). Our responsibility is to be willing to serve; the results belong to God.

When the Lord Jesus Christ spoke to His disciples in Acts 1:8, He said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." In this exhortation the Lord begins at home (Jerusalem) and works His way to the uttermost part of the earth. Following this principle, we must begin at home if we hope to serve, to be a witness and example of true faith.

Do we practice true brotherly love within our church family? "Be kindly affectioned one to another in brotherly love; in honor preferring one another" (Rom. 12:10). How do we interact with our classmates in school, and with our teachers? Can they feel that we love and respect them as human beings and that we have the peace of God in our hearts? How do we treat those with whom we share an apartment? Do we portray a humble Christ-like example? What about our spouse? Do we let him or her know that as far as we are concerned, he or she is the most precious person on earth? Do we show love and respect to our children while trying to guide them in the ways of the Lord Jesus Christ?

In all of the above situations we have the opportunity to serve the Lord—and that is only the beginning. The world is full of need for people who are really willing to serve. The Lord Jesus gave us the perfect example of humble servanthood. He performed the lowly task of washing

others' feet (John 13:1-17) and later He gave the ultimate sacrifice, becoming sin and dying for us, that we might live with Him eternally (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:21).

If we are to serve effectively in our brotherhood, we must be willing to bend, to reason together, to submit to one another, "with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:2-3). We must not insist on our own way as if we have a monopoly on wisdom and truth. "Be not wise in your own conceits" (Rom. 12:16). If we have Christ-like love for all the people in our church, and if we sincerely embrace the biblically-based doctrines and practices of our church, we will greatly enhance our chances of being effective servants of the Lord. The Word teaches us to "covet earnestly the best gifts" (1 Cor. 12:31). God will reveal to the humble heart what are the "best gifts" for the edification of the church.

Whether called to a specific duty or not, each member (motivated by Christ's love) can make diligent effort to greet people in church with an encouraging word and with great respect, always putting others above self. Take time to pray for one another. Visit the sick, care for the dying, and lend a helping hand to those who are in need as the opportunities arise.

Our World Relief program offers numerous opportunities to help needy individuals in many nations, including our own. These activities are covered in detail in other written materials. Likewise the Work Projects program offers many opportunities for service to our fellow human beings. As mentioned earlier, our service begins at home, but it does not end there.

The Mission Committee of our church provides direction and over-

sight for another type of service. It assists in establishing churches in new locations within the United States and has also provided assistance for establishing Apostolic Christian churches in other countries, as was the case in Japan. Anything we undertake in the direction of founding new Apostolic Christian churches must be done with a complete blending together of convictions and goals with those who have the oversight of our existing churches. Then and then only can harmony prevail and the entire Apostolic Christian Church support the effort wholeheartedly, with prayer and offerings. We believe that for anyone who is commissioned to spiritual service in any capacity, he must have the prayers, approval and support of his church.

There are a number of small churches within the United States which the Mission Committee would like to strengthen by encouraging brothers and sisters from larger congregations to move to those areas. Those who feel so called should consult with their local elder and contact the Mission Committee for appropriate guidance.

Encouragement is also given by our church to participate in the distribution of Scriptures. Small Bibles or Gospel portions can be carried on one's person and given to anyone who asks a reason for the hope that is within us (1 Pet. 3:15). This in turn opens the way to invite others to visit our church, which is always a good thing. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Someone may be waiting for an invitation. The recently printed "Welcome" booklet and a copy of the Statement of Faith can be shared with those who show more interest.

Opportunities to serve the Lord abound. Let us all serve diligently and humbly in some appropriate capacity, and truly the Lord will be honored.

and shed His blood on Calvary, that we might have life, and have it more abundantly . . . let us remember that Jesus came to bring the heavenly bread to the hungry, living water to the thirsty, and light to those who dwelt in darkness. He became poor that we might become rich in God.

The peace on earth which the angels proclaimed is not an outward peace, as there has been much strife and many bloody wars since then, for the prince of darkness still has his work in the children of unbelief. But to the true believer the inward peace has come. Through repentance, faith, baptism and new birth has transformed us from sinners to children of God, and being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's children also love their enemies, and being endowed with the spirit of Christ, they strive to be at peace with all men. The good-will of God toward man was manifested in sending His Son upon earth to seek and save that which was lost. And we can manifest our good-will by accepting this precious gift unto our soul's salvation.

To me Christmas will always be a day of blessed memory, because on Christmas day in the year 1889, I was baptized into Christ. After a period of sorrow and contrition, I was permitted to enter into the covenant of grace and peace with God. Now we cannot all be baptized on Christmas day, but no matter at

what time of the year it may be, every child of God can on this day renew the promises that he will be faithful unto death, even as He was faithful unto the death on the cross. And those who are yet unreconciled should remember the debt of love which they owe unto Him, and say, "Here, Lord, is my heart."

Although the birth of Christ was cause for great rejoicing, let us remember that His death and resurrection is our hope of eternal life.

EUROPEAN UPDATE Elder Bro. Ben Maibach Mission Committee

Recognizing the keen interest our brotherhood has regarding the situation in Eastern Europe, I will endeavor to give a brief report.

In our Detroit congregation the weekend of October 20 we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of four dear souls, including Hajnalka Pallag who was formerly from Hungary. Several of her family were present for this blessed event, including two ministering brethren from Hungary, Bro. Szilveszter Kis and Bro. Dezso Marton. I have known Bro. Kis and his wife, Sis. Olga, who are from Szeged, for several years, and when we last visited Hungary, Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman and my wife, Lorene, and I had the privilege of staying in their home. His father is an elder in the Szeged church. Bro. Marton is from Bekescsaba which

is about 15 kilometers from the Romanian border in southern Hungary. He related to us some of the conditions in Romania, as well as among the brethren in Russia.

Also, I recently received letters from Elder Bros. Petre Carcea from Bucovina, USSR, and Albert Szabo from Mures, Romania. Bro. Szabo and Virtaci arrived safely home from their trip to the States after a blessed and fruitful journey. They stopped in route to spend some time with Bro. Heinrich Schmidt, Sr. in Oggersheim and to pick up medical supplies which are not available but in great demand in Romania. Before proceeding home, they spent one day with the brethren in Budapest.

Bro. Szabo wanted to express thanks to our heavenly Father and to our brethren for the love and hospitality they experienced during their stay in America and expressed appreciation for the advice and enlightenment, and sent love and greetings to all. He apologized for his letter, which was in English, but it was actually written very well. While he was in our home, at the breakfast table, he read in English from the Bible and said it was a first-time experience for him.

The Romanian brethren cannot be thankful enough for the continuing help they receive. The Bluffton brethren have recently forwarded another 8 x 8 x 40 foot container which was filled with 708 food and supply packages for distribution among the needy in Romania. It is

ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANT OPENING AT GATEWAY WOODS

There is an immediate opening for an Administrative Technical Assistant at Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.

This position offers the opportunity to work in a Christian environment with responsibility including financial management, employee benefits, and insurance. Financial, analytical, organizational and communication skills are necessary. There is also the opportunity to serve on a part-time basis as an Alternate Assistant Houseparent.

Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact either of the brothers listed below.

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GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1991
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 10, 1991

being shipped by truck to Ottawa, Canada, then loaded on a container ship to Rotterdam, Holland. From there it will be sent by truck directly to our brethren for distribution in Romania.

The "A" package for immediate distribution contains 5# of wheat, 5# sugar, cocoa, black pepper, cinnamon, milk powder, yeast, cough syrup, 6 rolls Tums, ointment, bay leaves, and farina (a ground gritty breakfast cereal that surprisingly

is used as a dessert in Romania and is particularly popular at weddings).

The "B" package, which is generally distributed about one month later as these containers are shipped bimonthly, has 2½ liters of cooking oil, macaroni, 5# rice, 2 cans of chicken, 6 cans of pork, 10 packs of coffee, one box of laundry detergent, 2 bars of facial soap, 200 vitamin capsules, and 16 granola bars. The total of these two packages varies from 65 to 70 pounds. Many of these

items are extremely difficult to obtain and when available are very expensive. They are distributed very cautiously by a committee closely monitored by the elder brethren.

Accompanying the food and supply packages are several boxes of winter clothing, blankets, etc. and Holy Scriptures in the Romanian language. This is the first time since the liberation of Romania that we are able to openly share the Holy Scriptures. One test to determine the right translation of the Holy Bible is St. Matthew 2:23, "And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, he shall be called a Nazarene". As many of you know, the church in that part of Europe is identified as Apostolic Christian (Nazarene). Also, the text must include the virgin birth of Christ, as unfortunately later translations either change or omit that important text.

The large containers provide a wonderful opportunity to ship food, clothing, medicine and Scriptures at a very reasonable cost, without the fear of being lost or damaged, as ordinary postage is almost prohibitive and sea mail is extremely slow. So the Lord provides.

There are approximately 40 groups with a total of about 1,300 believers in Romania. We recently located 40 large-print pulpit Bibles which are very much needed because of inadequate lighting and the availability of only poor-quality eyeglasses. These Scriptures, which cost us \$45 each, will be included in the next container shipped.

In Romania, to date none of the buildings confiscated 50 years ago have been returned. Some have been identified. Unfortunately several were demolished and it is questionable whether many would have value if the government would relinquish control of them. The greatest need in Romania will be to rebuild or rehabilitate these churches.

The church has received a license to function legally, and they are able to worship unhindered, but many will be surprised to know that the church had to agree to not baptize anyone under the age of 19. So there are some problems, including the censoring of incoming mail and

-- NOTICE --

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

Our work in sending Bibles, hymnals and Bible story books overseas has increased. Since 1984, we have sent over 5,000 books. At the World Relief meeting in Leo, November 1989, a plea was made that someone would start in this work in the Eastern States. We're thankful Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant (Latty, OH) volunteered.

You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers. We have far more requests for Bibles and Bible story books and Sunday school material, than hymnals.

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

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 132, 307 West First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
Phone (309) 448-2416

or

Phil and Gloria Grant
R.R. #2, Box 95A
Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone (419) 258-2197

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
Seventh Year -- August 1989 thru July 1990 -- 25,501

Bibles Distributed -- Eighth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1990 --	3024	3024
September 1990 --	1270	4294
October 1990 --	2847	7141*
November 1990 --	3155	10,296*

*Note — 792 Romanian Bibles and Testaments shipped
770 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 2nd shipment

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.

a lot of confusion. The government is very unorganized, and it is extremely difficult to get decisions. They desperately need our prayerful and financial support.

Elder Bro. Petre Carcea from Russia writes that he is feeling much better after surgery for cancer. He states, "Now, thanks to God, I am well." You will recall the Chernobyl nuclear generating plant explosion which is in the Kiev area where most of our 500 plus brethren dwell. The fallout of nuclear material drifted over the Bukovine district and seriously contaminated the grass the cattle fed on, the fruit trees, gardens, and on individuals, causing serious problems.

They refer to converts as friends, taking this word from St. John 15:14, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." On August 12, 1990, 12 dear souls took their pledges to live in Christ. He mentioned that all of them are young, and at that time there were still 60 friends awaiting the blessings of baptism. Bro. Petre closes his letter by sending love and greetings from him and his wife to our beloved brethren everywhere.

Bro. Marton shared with us that in some instances the assemblies are so large, consisting of friends and neighbors young and old, that they have had to use tents to accom-

modate between five and six hundred people. There are nine congregations, two with over 100 members each. Until recently churches were not permitted to assemble freely without persecution from the government. Now they assemble in home-type structures. Those who assemble are asked to bring food and utensils when they worship in order to accommodate the crowds. It is gratifying to hear that there appears to be a tremendous awakening. Visitors from Romania and Hungary assist the Russian brethren regularly, particularly the elders, because there are not enough shepherds in Russia to accommodate the need.

Currently the Mission Committee has allocated \$10,000 for the purchase of Bibles and hymnals for shipment to the Soviet bloc nations. In the last container shipped, 384 Bibles were included as well as 408 New Testaments including Psalms. There has been a plea for children's books such as Egermier's or Hurlbut's which we have located and are ascertaining if they are acceptable by the brethren. We have committed to supply these countries with whatever Scriptures we can within our means.

"In talking to Brother Andy Hunyady for the latest available facts, he informed me that Sister

Gail Isch Szabo, wife of Brother Frank, was to depart for Hungary to pick up her children who were visiting with Bro. Franks family to better learn the Hungarian language. She was scheduled to fly to Vienna, Austria, to be met there by relatives from Hungary and were to continue on to Budapest by car. But on the day of her departure, Bro. Andy received a phone call from a relative of the Szabo's in Budapest, asking him to contact Sister Gail and tell her that they cannot meet her at the Vienna airport, as the entire transportation system in Hungary is paralyzed to a general strike by drivers; and that she will have to take the train into Hungary. By last minute arrangements, Sister Gail was met at the airport by a friend of the Szabo family who now lives in Vienna and took her to the railway station and she continued on to Budapest.

The strike was called by transportation drivers in protest of the 100% price increase of fuel and other inflationary costs of many items there. After 3 days strike, government officials reduced the price increase by 50% and things began to return to normal.

In Yugoslavia, for the first time in many years there are no brethren in prison. World Relief recently forwarded the last funds of \$3,000 to each of 12 young members who were released from prison. These funds are to help them become self-employed. Brethren of draft age are now allowed alternative work in lieu of army service, but must serve double time or 24 months instead of the normal 12.

Inflation in Yugoslavia continues at an extremely high rate, with some scarce items. Many churches are closed and for sale because the older brethren have passed on and the youth have moved to either the USA or Canada where they have found freedom of religion.

The collection of the Zion's Harp hymnals in the German language has been very gratifying. We have made our first shipment. Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville, IL) congregation has very kindly offered to take over the binding, packing and shipping of these hymnals. We are grateful for the re-

BIBLES NEEDED NOW

In November of 1989 we began our work in sending used Bibles to foreign countries where the Word of God is very scarce. We have received used and worn Bibles and Bible Story Books in the past, but not near enough. After making the needed repairs, we then package and send them by surface mail to Africa and the Philippines.

The response so far has been somewhat discouraging. If we consider the number of churches we have in our faith and all of the homes and families involved, there surely has to be a lot of used or worn Bibles that could be donated to this work. Right now we need over three hundred Bibles and have less than twenty.

We have been getting letters from individuals from these countries very often. Sometimes three a day which say, "Please send us a Bible." We have already bought "new" Bibles from the Leo, IN, Bible Distribution Center. But that is far more expensive than donated ones.

Hopefully, all of us will take this seriously and help send the Word of God to these needy people. We look forward to hearing from anyone in helping in this work. We do want to thank everyone that has already helped in some way.

Phil & Gloria Grant
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Antwerp, OH 45813
(Latty) 419-258-2197

sponse of those who assisted in donating these song books. Upon examination it is obvious many of these were heirlooms and precious family mementos. However, I'm sure all will agree that it's better they be put to use than just gather dust.

As we stated previously, the current Zion's Harp hymnal is no longer being printed or available in Germany; in the sister church Nazarene they apparently have a new hymnal that was printed in Switzerland. It would appear at this time that we have enough German books to accommodate our needs. We have made inquiry as to the need for the German language books in other countries such as Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Romania where there are many German brethren, and we will endeavor to keep you informed.

Many of you kindly sent the "heft" or long book in the German language. This book is currently available in Germany at \$15 per copy, but contains about 225 hymns.

We know that many individual churches and people have a burden for sharing the Word and material goods with brethren and friends in Europe, but we encourage you as much as possible to work through the proper channels so we do not duplicate; and also to ascertain that the Scriptures or whatever we send is put to its proper use. Monies for food, clothing and medicine should be forwarded to Bro. Leon Graf, Treasurer of World Relief. To help supply Bibles, song books, Sunday school material, etc. funds may be sent to Bro. Gene Marti, Treasurer of the Mission Fund.

My report has been lengthy for which I apologize, and there is much more we could say. Any of the European Board members consisting of Bros. Wendell Gudeman, Gary Ifft, Andy Hunyady, Leon Graf, Bill Baumgartner and myself would be happy to try to answer any questions regarding this endeavor.

Gratefully,
your very weakest brother,
Ben Maibach

Address Changed. . .

Give old & new addresses
to your reporter.

TO GIVE LIGHT Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle Shioda, Japan

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." In this way the prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of Christ in chapter 9, verse 2. He followed in verse 6 with this statement, "For unto us a child is born," which associates the great light with the child, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In II Corinthians 4:6 we read, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

In the first chapter of Luke, Zacharias prophesied in verses 78 and 79, "Whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death." Zacharias had been speaking about John the Baptist and then he mentioned the dayspring, which evidently refers to the Lord Jesus Christ. Dayspring is a word that is out of use in today's English but one translation renders it, "The rising sun shall come to us from heaven." The sun is a bright light indeed, and the inference is there that the Lord Jesus Christ gives light, and that He is the light.

The Apostle John writes concerning John, the Baptist, chapter 1, verse 8, "He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light."

At this Christmas season we can think of the Lord Jesus Christ, not only as the Light of God but also as the one who gives us that light. Light illuminates and penetrates. We may as well forget about pretending -- the light is too strong and bright to permit us to fake anything. It is best to surrender and relax during this Christmas season and always. In this way we can do a better job of sharing the light with others.

----- APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one

comes to the Father except through me."

St. John 14:6

We believe that all people have the opportunity to know Jesus as their friend; therefore, we offer a variety of options for structured spiritual lessons at our facilities. At Oakwood and Community Homes, people are able to participate in weekly Bible studies on the Old and New Testament and monthly hymn sings with various churches participating. At ACHH, the people have the monthly small group Bible studies and monthly Friday evening church service with various local churches hosting the service. At Morton Apostolic Christian Church, we have volunteers to teach Sunday school for a large group of our people. On Sunday mornings, ACHH has two Sunday School classes for people who are unable to attend church services. It is exciting to have several options for people to be involved in a variety of spiritual growth opportunities.

Each new resident adds to the activity of our ACHH family. In recent months, we have welcomed Daniel Zimmerman (Edelstein, IL); Rodney Blaum (Delavan, IL); and Barbara Perkins (Marquette Heights, IL).

Some highlights of our community activities were Christmas shopping, Christmas caroling, and baking, which keeps us busy.

January birthdays at ACHH are: Edith Wagenbach (8), Mary Schramm (13), Karen Blunier (14), Brian Birkeland, Bruce Steffen and Jackie Willett (19), LaVerna Zobrist (25), John Eddy (27) and Tom Sides (31); at Oakwood Estate: Max Honegger (22) and Becky Huber (26); at 540 N. Main: Rhonda Gerst (12).

----- APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Joan Meister

"There's no room for y'all here," was the expression of the innkeeper as the Christmas play was being acted out. Each year at Christmas time, the children work very hard memorizing their parts and practicing for the night of their perform-

ance. They then present their Christmas play for their parents, grandparents, big brothers and sisters, and friends, and show them the true meaning of Christmas. What a privilege it is to be able to help them memorize the story of Jesus' birth and to realize that they will probably remember it all their lives.

The preschool will be closed for two weeks over the holidays as it always is. We will close on December 19, and come back on January 3, 1991.

In this new year that lies ahead we pray that God will continue to bless our school and each child that attends.

GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home
Carol Kieser

It's time for the holidays. I am grateful for the fact that God not only knows and cares, but fully understands the feelings of our children here according to Hebrews 4:15-16.

"For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities: but was in all parts tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

During the holiday season when many families get together, many of our children deal with different situations. Perhaps there is no family or the family doesn't desire to be together. Not that family is the focus of the celebration, but it is a time to rejoice together.

The song "O Come O Come Emmanuel" can offer such hope to the hurting during the holiday season. Emmanuel, "God with us" and as Hebrews expresses, God Himself not only is with us, but "feels it" with us. In fact, He invites us to share with Him to "Come boldly . . . and find grace to help in time of need." May we all be encouraged to seek Him and find that He is able to do more abundantly what we are even able to imagine. Ephesians 3:20.

Corrie ten Boom said, "I've learned that we must hold everything loosely, because when I grip it tightly, it hurts when the Father pries my fingers loose and takes it from me!" We are learning right along with her the importance of holding loosely and claiming no rights to anyone or anything! "The Lord gives and He takes. Blessed be the name of the Lord!" Job 1:21. With mixed emotions and perhaps a little pain from holding on too tightly we are praying the Lord's richest blessings on Bro. John and Sis. Patsy, Candi, Sis. Sandi, and Kevin Stoller as they seek the Lord's continued guidance and direction to His next place of service for them. After 2½ years of houseparenting, here at Gateway Woods, they believe the Lord desires of them to be elsewhere.

Cindy Baurer will also be changing her hours and position in the coming New Year as she begins an internship for her Master's degree in Social Work. So there is an opening for an Administrative Technical Assistant starting in January. (See ads in this issue).

They have indeed enriched our lives and we are excited to believe that, though they may not be an active part of the team, they will be in the cheering section! We need our fans and support! Thanks to everyone who prays and believes in a God who makes the impossible possible; the lowly great; the simple wise.

Recently our front sign shared a message, "We don't just believe in miracles, we depend on miracles!" The God we serve delights in caring for His creation and desires to do only the very best for us! It is our prayer that if God is calling and convicting your heart for service, here or anywhere, you would find grace to trust - this is His Best for you!

We thank our volunteer dentists, Bro. Alan Stoller and Eric Zeller, for the time and help they offered us. It takes a full afternoon - plus - to keep our "pearly whites" just so!

We thank Indianapolis couples for coming and spending a weekend with our children. Staff members enjoyed the time away with family, friends or each other. Again thanks

for a loving spirit of concern and generosity for us and our work. We feel it coming in from all directions and in many ways. God bless you all with a meaningful Christmas and a victorious New Year!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it", and the day was perfect for our Sunday school picnic. Lots of children, grown-ups, fun, food, and singing!! Asked what the "best part" was of the picnic, Kristi Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne) said "the fun and singing." Michelle Roth (Bro. Harry's granddaughter) said, "the food", Crystal Beery (granddaughter Bro. Dick and Sis. Marie) was waiting for the singing, though did enjoy the games and food. Sorry, the boys didn't come into the dining area until Bro. Herb Knochel had a prayer of thanks, hence no comments. The children's singing was beautiful and uplifting. All present want to thank Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders, Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer, the Sunday school teachers and mates for another wonderful time of Christian fellowship.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." (John 3:36). Beth Dotterer (Bro. William and Sis. Sharon) has the peace one must receive before everlasting life. Beth, we look forward to your testimony and baptism and are thankful to have you as our sister-in-faith. You will never have a better friend than Jesus our Lord.

Attending church services is a real blessing. When loved ones we haven't seen for weeks, months, or many months are in our midst, we give thanks and rejoice. Here, from the Persian Gulf October 21, was Mark Anliker, the Marine son of Jim and Sharon Anliker. How great to see our loved one we are praying for. We were glad to see Sis. Ora Schrenk is back since knee surgery. Bro. Dan and Sis. Doris Kokanovich, Richard and Sis. Dorothy Kraft are back with us again. Bro. Earl and Sis. Emma Sanders, Sis. Esther Harmon, Carol Doolittle, and Ed and Jane Kilgus are among the "not yet able to be up to coming." Sis.

Martha De Mille and Sis. Margaret Bradford are in nursing homes.

Floren and Mary Ella Klopfenstein made a trip to Toledo, OH, especially for his mother's 103rd birthday. Sis. Emma received a phone call and cards from the grandson and great-grandchildren too. Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein and Jeff, Sis. Wendy, Scott, Todd, and Angie rejoiced here at home.

A Thank You - Many thanks to all you dear ones for your prayers, cards, and gifts of love during my stay in the hospital and since returning home.

Sis. Ora Schrenk

Our sympathy to Sis. Ora Schrenk on the death of her brother in Illinois, while she was hospitalized.

A nice day was spent cleaning God's house for another season of worship, and fellowship worthy of Him.

"Except a man be born of water and of spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." John 3:5. November 10 and 11 was a very special weekend, when Willow Beres, Connie Massner, Sandy Yackley, Debbie Yackley, and Beth Dotterer gave their testimonies and were baptized. It truly was "an evening to remember." To hear how Jesus came into their hearts assured us again, the way to eternal life is through repentance.

Elder Bro. John Klotzle came from Altadena to assist Bros. Richard Schupbach and Jon Kokanovich. Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Tucson) had the morning service.

An evening meal and singing were enjoyed by a large crowd. Relatives came to be with each new sister and their families.

Parents of our new sisters-in-faith are: Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beres, Ray and Ilse Massner, Bro. Al and Sis. Joyce Yackley, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer.

Welcome back to Bro. Paul and Sis. Anne Rumbold (Portland, OR) and Martha Elsasser (Peoria, IL).

Hospital patients were Bro. Earl Sanders and Carol Doolittle.

Many of you will be glad to know Bro. John Kaufmann got safely back to Phoenix after 5600 bicycle miles.

Our sympathy to Bro. Glen and

Sis. Alice Baumgartner on the passing of her sister in Bluffton.

The sun shining on a Gila Woodpecker's red cap is a beautiful way to start the day; soon two sapsuckers with their black bibs were scampering about. Red finches among the green leaves of the bird tree is reason enough to know how God loves you, by sending such beautiful visitors. Seeing Inca doves, hummingbirds, sparrows and mockingbirds daily are reason enough to have a great day. The "tweets and chirps" are most welcome.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our friend, Loyal Enz, is in the hospital in Chandler, AZ. He had a heart attack and may possibly have surgery. Our prayers are with "Greek" that the Lord will give strength, both physical and spiritual, during this time.

Our deacon Bro. Noah Herman, is still hospitalized in Peoria, IL. We continue to pray that the Lord will be both a healer and a comforter to our dear brother. We miss his presence and hope to greet him again soon.

We have been listening to the tapes of the conference. We appreciate the time and effort our elder brothers put into giving the church in these important issues.

Congratulations to Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas on the birth of their grandson, Weston Robert Haas, born to Brent and Kim Haas. God's richest blessings go to this precious baby.

We are enjoying Bro. Scott Baum's (Phoenix) extended visit to Tucson. His work has brought him here to us for a few months. Welcome Bro. Scott!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Lisa Steiner

We are so thankful that Bro. Ted Klotzle (Hildegard) can be with us again after undergoing bypass surgery in October.

Our prayers are extended in behalf of Bro. Bill Minger (Frieda), who has suffered a stroke resulting in paralysis. May God grant strength

and comfort to Bro. Bill and his family.

Even in California, we feel that winter has finally come upon us, as our weather has been cold and windy lately. When I feel like complaining about what I believe to be extreme temperatures, I am reminded that God has used such weather to make our air fresh and clean. Our mountains show up clearly and beautifully, and I find myself appreciating them more than ever. As Christmas approaches, let us see more clearly what Christ means for us and appreciate His coming more than ever.

Note: Bro. Ted Klotzle and family wish to thank all for their loving prayers, wishes, cards and letters during his recent illness. May God bless you all for your love and kindness.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

LaNae Meyer - Cindy Schmidt

We welcome Steve Banwart (Sis. Patti Banwart, West Bend, IA) to our congregation. Steve is currently stationed at the Naval Hospital in San Diego. We also are privileged to have Sis. Viola Vidakovic (Ached Chanak, Hungry) attending with us. She is residing with Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov.

The Middle East crisis has touched our congregation, as Stacy Smith, who has been worshipping with us, has been relocated to Saudi Arabia. Please pray for him as he fulfills his military obligations.

It is a pleasure to have visiting ministers who are willing to share God's Word with us. Thanks to Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Julius Kovacs (Dunavecse, Hungary).

As the time approaches to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, may we take the time to pause and reflect on Christ's life. What beautiful teachings we have for every season of our life because Christ came to live on earth. So let us not forget the annunciation of the angel, in Luke 2:10,11, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

COLORADO, DENVER **Marlene Leman**

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Joe Wagler since he had to bid that last farewell to his wife of over 50 years. Evelyn had been in a nursing home for about 10 years and Bro. Joe visited her faithfully, every day. We know he has many lonely hours now but pray that he can feel God's nearness and comfort.

Dee Elhabassi had the misfortune of breaking her shoulder and collarbone. We are thankful that it is healing and she can again assemble with us.

Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT) spent a weekend with us. He and those with him were much appreciated visitors. We thank God for the Word brought to us through Bro. Al.

As our country seems to be gearing up for a major war in the Middle East, we think of the troops and pray for their well-being. As always, it is brought much closer when we know someone involved. Bro. Don and Sis. Becky Carpenter's son, Robbie, is stationed over there on the carrier Okinawa. May we indeed remember our loved ones especially as we pray for our country and those who defend it.

This past weekend we enjoyed a visit from our elder, Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin). He shared with us some of their experiences as they visited many of the brethren in Europe this summer. Hearing of the trials and hard times they have suffered makes one realize how very, very much we have in this life. God has been so good to us!

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, **WASHINGTON D.C.**

Visiting ministers in November were Bro. Roy Ehnle with his wife, Sis. Donna (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Mark Bahr with his wife, Sis. Beverly (Detroit, MI). We sincerely appreciated their visits and their labors in the ministry.

Other visitors in November were from Sabetha, KS, and Gridley, IL. We are a small congregation and visitors are very much appreciated.

We are experiencing a very long Autumn here in the D.C. area. Some

trees are still green and fully leafed, others have dropped all their leaves, and there are some in all stages in between. Some colors are still brilliant. The grass is still green.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month, beginning at 10:30 a.m., eastern time at the Westpark Hotel (Best Western) located on U.S. Rte. 1, about 1 mile west of I-495. For information or assistance, please call Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein at 703-979-3476. Visitors welcome.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE **Terri Huber**

Bro. Duanne and Sis. LaRae Dill (Champaign, IL) were in Fort Lauderdale in November. Bro. Duanne ministered to us and the Lord met many needs through those sermons! Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT) was also a visiting minister, and we are thankful for his time.

We had the annual church cleaning. Almost everyone showed up and the bulk of the work was done by noon. It is true: "many hands make light the work." It is our privilege to tend to the physical maintenance of the sanctuary and grounds that the Lord has blessed for our use in worshipping Him.

Bible study has resumed with a slight schedule change -- we are now meeting every other Tuesday evening at the fellowship at 7:30 p.m. What a blessing to study the Word of God and to share with our brothers and sisters. The more time we spend in the Word, the better God can communicate His will for our lives.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS **Jeanette Yergler**

Dorothy Beer

Our November weather has been beautiful, and especially welcome after a hot and humid summer and fall.

On November 4, we had a church picnic at the Victor Beer home. The delicious food and fellowship, were enjoyed by all.

We rejoice with Marvin and Rae Steffen as they have heeded, by God's grace, His call to repentance,

and submitting their lives to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our thanks to Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing God's Word with us this month.

We welcome all our winter residents and visitors.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Suellen Ott**

Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on his gentle breast . . .

God has again spoken to our congregation on the uncertainty of life and how quickly our life can change in the twinkling of an eye. Our dear Sis. Krista Price was in a terrible auto accident and was airlifted to Tampa General Hospital. She is still in serious condition and covets our prayers. May we also remember the Price family during this difficult time.

Each week we welcome back new winter residents to the sunny south. We are also thankful for ministering brethren that have been here. Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann and Ben Maibach, and Bros. Carroll Gerber and Marvin Stieglitz.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA **Peggi Camp**

We give our thanks to Bro. Vic Beer (Fort Myers, FL), Bro. Wesley Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) for visiting us and bringing us the wonderful Word of Life.

Our congratulations go to Bro. Don Sellers on the birth of his granddaughter, Kyla Donine St. Mary. Her parents are Bob and Charmin (West Palm Beach, FL).

This past month, Bro. Dave Huber assembled with us as his job brought him to Atlanta. We certainly enjoyed our time of fellowship with him and pray that the Lord will be with him as he returns to his family in Bloomington, IL.

Our congregation meets every Sunday at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Road Exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554) or Bro. John Brewer (404-378-5918) for further information.

**ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL**
Marcia Bauer - Carolyn Fischer

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

Isaiah 55:8-9

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Proverbs 3:5

My thoughts constantly go back to the verses above when it seems like this world is falling apart. With war on our minds, sin so prevalent in this world, our children exposed to so much at such a young age, we just have to be put our trust in the Lord. God's ways are so much higher than ours, and we need to cling to His ways. We all need to pray for each other, for our children, and for our unconverted friends and family. It is so wonderful to belong to a church family and to have such loving Christian friends.

Our fall picnic was held October 21. The junior choir and a special girl's group sang to us in the evening.

Our Bible class hosted Morton Bible Class for the day. We thank Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) for speaking to the students.

We thank Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke) for lending themselves to be with us October 27 for our annual Day of Devotion.

What a blessed day we had Sunday, November 11 when Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Koch were with us. We had a farewell potluck supper and a singing in the evening. We all wanted to show our love and appreciation to Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol.

First-time parents, Randy and Dora Farney, welcome little Nathaniel Scott. Happy grandparents are Bro. Gerry and Sis. Geraldine Farney (Cissna Park) and James and Patricia Mulligan (Heyworth)

We thank Elder Bro. Bob Grimm for ministering to us this past month.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Karen Ringger

November 4 was the wedding day for Sis. Mary Ann Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma) and Bro. Craig Wettstein (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda of Gridley). May God bless them as they make their home together in Chicago.

The engagement of Bro. Barry Dietz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell) and Sis. Rachel Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon, Elgin, IL) was announced to our congregation November 4. We wish this couple God's blessings in their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

We rejoice with Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser as their son, Robert, and his wife, Kelly, have made a beginning in repentance. We pray they can lay a firm foundation that will be strong throughout the rest of their lives.

We thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley), Bro. Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN), and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) who came to be with us this month. We enjoyed having them worship with us and ask God to bless them.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ed Gunrich (Sis. Doris) on the death of his eldest brother, Chester. May they feel God's comforting power in their time of sorrow.

Bro. John Tanner (Sis. Margaret) underwent surgery on both of his knees. May God be with him and grant to him a complete recovery.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
LaRae Dill

We have enjoyed seeing the changes take place in Krista Banwart's life as she has begun a new walk with the Lord. Krista is a student at Illinois State University. Her parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlene Banwart.

The Fall 1990 College Weekend was held the weekend of October 27 and 28 in Champaign. The topic for the weekend, The Army of the Lord, was presented by a number of ministers, two of whom stayed for Sunday services, Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). We appreci-

ated the group effort put forth by the U. of I. students to organize the event. It was a blessing for our entire congregation.

Many of us enjoyed an evening at the home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr and family. A housewarming was held for them November 4. May the Saviour's love continue to warm the hearts and home of this family in the coming years.

The weekend of November 10 and 11 was special for Stephany Moser. We were blessed to hear her testimony, witness her baptism, and fellowship with her family and friends who came for the event. Stephany is a student at the University of Illinois. Her parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Moser (Rockville, CT).

We're thankful Ed Scott is home from the hospital following several surgeries. He is weak, but we're looking forward to his fellowship soon. Our prayers continue to be with him and Jane.

Saturday, November 17 was an experience in giving for our Sunday school students. They, along with their teachers, spent the morning purchasing food items, decorating and packing food boxes, and making deliveries to four needy Champaign-Urbana families. When we gather together this Thanksgiving, let's consider the bounty we've received from the Father and how we might be used to share with others.

We're thankful for the visits of these ministers: Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Virg Metzger (Chicago, IL).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter

Do I have extra time this year? Sometimes I'm aware I do, but there are so many people to remember besides my three classes. I like what a minister said on Sunday about his prayer upon waking: "Lord, I have 1440 minutes to spend between now and this time tomorrow. What is it Thou wouldst have me do?" May we take Him as our guide minute by minute in this new year. Then our time will be spent but spent wisely. Truly we cannot hoard it. He will

help us keep track of our time - His time - better than any clock. "The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." Psalm 121:7, 8.

We treasure the ministers of our own congregation. Nevertheless, we are blessed so much by those who come from other congregations and share their ministering with us. There is no lack of variety from our pulpit yet no difference in the messages the Lord gives to those from far and near. Our thanks to the Lord and to visiting ministers Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley).

The Lord gave us so much to think about, to pray about, and to rejoice about the weekend of November 17-18. Saturday evening, Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger and our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann were given the Spirit to draw out the testimony of three young converts. They were given the Spirit to respond in honesty, simplicity and joy. On Sunday the 18th, Roze Bozzay, Deana Lewis and Terisa Meyer were baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost, and became our sisters. As a church, we shared a supper afterwards. We are humbled and privileged to have these beloved sisters as part of our body. We thank God for them and pray for ever-increasing fruits of their walk, that they might stay so close to Him.

Howard Houk is still hospitalized after surgery. His road has been difficult and marked by physical thorns. We pray for his full recovery and for he and his wife, Bernice's spiritual support now and always. However, he has begun the road of repentance and conversion. We are joyful and prayerful, believing the Lord Who has called him out, will sustain him in his search for peace.

Since we are fallible human beings, we have a "justice" system, wherein people do the best they can in deciding whether a person is guilty or not guilty, according to the evidence given. That, however, is not

the way God decides. If a person has committed an act, sin or crime, that person is absolutely guilty and only Christ's blood, claimed by the sinner, can cleanse him. On the other hand, if a person has not committed an act, sin or crime, that he may be accused of, he is innocent before God, regardless of man's decisions. Even when we read the paper, I think we find that we jump to conclusions. Perhaps we should rather, knowing of God's absolute judgment and His mercy, pray for those who are accused. We know that, even though by His blood and/or submission Christ imputed righteousness unto us, we still need the prayers of His church. May we pass them on.

There are balance sheets at the end of the year. Each of us may do our own measure of balancing. But let us remember that all the good is from God and is only our reasonable service. What is not good we need to have burned off. "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" I Peter 4:17.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Bev Knapp - Karol Stock

The weekend of October 20 was a joyful and uplifting one for us as our congregation heard the testimonies of three dear souls and could witness their baptisms Sunday, October 21. We welcome Bro. Tim and Sis. Jill Kaufmann (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean) and Sis. Ila June Hari (Jerry) into our "family" of believers. It was encouraging to once again hear of the miracle God can work in the hearts of men. Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign), along with ministering Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) were here for the weekend and we thank them for their willingness to share this special weekend with us.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Glenn Dill (Tremont), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Steve Martin (Eureka), Curt Frank (LaCrosse,

IN) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN). We thank them all for coming and appreciate their many good teachings.

We are happy for Bob and Julie Knapp as they welcome their first child, a baby boy, born October 13. Little Joshua Robert had open heart surgery shortly after birth and is now recuperating at home. We pray for his continued progress. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Knapp and Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson (Clinton, IL).

The Bible class students and teachers enjoyed a wiener roast hosted by Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Kaeb October 28. they also traveled to Congerville the evening of November 11 for ACYF.

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 18. The Bible class also visited with several of our shut-ins that evening.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Clara Hofer in the loss of her sister, Erna Steiner, (Buckley, IL).

Those who have spent some time in the hospital are Sis. Ester Vogel, Sis. Lydia Moser and Jennifer Knapp. Sis. Elsie Ehman also had surgery. May God bless each one with renewed health.

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

Gospel Hymns #844

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Deb Dietrich - Becky Ott

"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

As Christmas approaches, may

we be reminded that Christ's birth is the true meaning of this special season.

Our congregation has also been reminded of Christ's death and resurrection as we partook of holy communion. We thank Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) for assisting in this solemn occasion.

Another engagement has been made known unto us. We wish many blessings for Bro. Dave Huette and Sis. Melanie Wettstein (Eureka) as they plan for their lives together. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hurt (Fairbury) and Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eureka).

May God's healing hand be upon Art Miller (Lena) and Bro. Orville Zimmerman (Sis. Lula) as they have been recently hospitalized.

We want to thank our visiting ministers who preached to us God's Holy Word. We are thankful to have had Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), and Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bruce Leman (Roanoke) and Jim Vierling (Eureka).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

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

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

Stella C. Tremble

On November 5, our dear Sis. Esther Wewetzer, 85, was beckoned by the hand of God and fell asleep in Jesus. "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." I Thessalonians 4:13. Sis. Esther was the last surviving daughter of the late William and Rose Stecher Wewetzer. Bros. Walter

Steffen (Milford, IN) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) shared in the funeral services.

Other ministers who came to serve us this past month were: Bros. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). We thank each one of you.

Little Kurt Wewetzer is delighted to have a new baby brother, Kyle Jon, born November 7 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Nancy Wewetzer. Grandparents include Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Wewetzer, and Bro. Gene and Sis. Libby Ann Moser.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen have been blessed with the addition of a little girl, Darcy Pearl, born November 15. She has four big brothers, Jordan, Joshua, Trent, and Troy, to help care for her. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller (Fort Scott, KS), and Bro. Earl and Sis. Kay Steffen.

Sis. Rachel Kellenberger and Bro. Barry Dietz have sought the Lord's will in their lives and have announced their engagement to be married. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon Kellenberger of here.

We extend congratulations and best wishes to Sherri Spohr, daughter of Leslie and Janet Spohr (Elgin), and Jeff Luscher, who have spoken wedding vows November 17. He is the son of David and Lonnie Luscher, also of Elgin.

Sisters Millie Jepson (Bro. Dave) and Wava Steffen (Bro. John) and Bro. Don Schambach (Sis. Leann) were surgical patients, and we are most grateful to God for His healing mercies. We are also thankful Ed Schifferer (Sis. Dorothy), who has spent extended time in the hospital, has been able to return to his home. We implore God's continued grace within his heart.

My sincere appreciation for all the kindness, prayers, gifts and cards extended to me during my illness.

With love,
 Sis. Katherine Kachelmuss

 Give old and new addresses
 to your reporter.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy Leman

The blessed, holy season of our Lord and Saviour's birth is upon us. What a precious time. Let us not get caught up in the commercialism that the world puts on this time of year, but remember the lowly birth of our precious Lord. He was the perfect gift.

We have two soldiers of the cross who have laid down their cross in exchange for that beautiful crown. Sis. Nettie Rocke, 94, passed away October 21 at the Home where she had resided for 20 years. Her husband, Bro. Joseph W. Rocke, preceded her in death (1961). Surviving are two daughters, Sis. Mildred Schlipft (Gridley) and Sis. Arlene Huette (Tremont) and three sons, Bros. Norman, Richard and Eldon, all from Eureka. Three brothers and two sisters also survive her.

The family of Sis. Nettie Rocke wished to thank everyone for their many prayers and other expressions of love during the passing of their beloved mother. May God bless each of you for your deeds of kindness.

Bro. Gottfried "Fred" Knecht, 95, passed away November 6. His wife, Sis. Emma, passed away in 1989. Surviving are two daughters, Sis. Helen (Eureka), and Thelma Hofmann of Iowa; five sons, Bro. Edward (Silverton, OR), Bro. Ernie and Bro. Ervin (both of Eureka), Richard (Washburn), and Bro. Wally (Roanoke).

We want to express our sincere "thanks" to everyone who extended their love and kindness with cards, gifts, food and prayers in the loss of our dear father and grandfather. It was greatly appreciated. May God bless you all.

Fred Knecht family

May God comfort the hearts of each of these dear families in their loss. What a wonderful reunion there will be someday in those mansions He has gone on to prepare.

The family of Bro. Dan Wiegand, Sr., would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all those who remembered them with prayers, cards, flowers, food or any other expressions of love and concern during the illness and death of their dear father and grandfather. May

God bless each and every one for your kindness.

Sis. Melanie Wettstein and Bro. David Huette (Congerville) announced their wedding engagement October 28. Their parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eureka) and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hurt (Fairbury). Plans are being made for a December 23 wedding. May God bless them in this second most important step in life.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Kris Schmidgall (Bro. Paul), Ira Grusy (Rudy), Bros. Tim Carr (Sis. Donna) and Walter Schumacher (Sis. Salome). May God bless them and grant renewed health to them.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Bros. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) came and ministered the Word unto us. May God bless the words that were spoken and may they bring forth the pleasing fruit.

Reminder: January is collection for the Silver Lining in Eureka. Also, please give your reporter any address changes.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

"... Unto us ..." (Isaiah 9:6)

The wonder of Christmas is its simplicity. There is Mary, the mother, and there is Joseph to whom she was betrothed. Plain and simple folk. There are shepherds - the first Christmas congregation. Humble folk, these, folk who lived close to the things God made - the earth, the carpet for their feet; the sun and stars, their covering.

Yes, and the Child, too, only the simplicity of the divine. It is this simplicity which makes Christmas wonderful.

We come - the young, the old; the rich, the poor; the mighty, the servant - worshipping in the beauty of divine simplicity, marvelling at its simple love. This is the wonder of Christmas!

Mrs. Charles E. Cowman

We rejoice that seven souls have

turned their back on the world and are seeking the Lord in repentance. They are Julia, Helen, Elizabeth, John, Martha, Sally and Anna Fehr. Parents are William and Helen Fehr. It is marvelous that all the children in that family can walk together down life's narrow pathway.

Hospital patients this month include Sis. Dorothy Steffen, Bro. Alf Steffen, Rachel Broquard and Bro. Nathan Fehr. We pray that the Lord will manifest His healing powers on these dear ones.

We were thankful for many faithful ministers who fed us the Living Word. Visiting us this month were Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), Alpha Strahm, Jr. (Bern, KS), Bruce Leman (Roanoke) and Duane Dill (Champaign).

On October 28, our Bible class Sunday school hosted Remington, IN, Elgin and Eureka, IL. We want to thank Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville) and Rick Plattner (Peoria) who came to share the day and speak the Truth to the young adults.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sherri Kelson

Sandra Schneider

We are looking forward to hearing our Sunday school children tell us of Christ's birth at our annual program December 19. May we all let the true Christmas spirit fill our hearts and minds as we think of God giving His most precious gift, His only begotten Son, as a babe in a manger.

Visiting ministers, Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Victor Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) Carl Wyss and Don Wagenbach (both of Washington) have brought us encouraging words of faith. We are grateful to these brothers who have traveled over the miles to share God's Word with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Kathryn Steidinger and Sis. Nathalia Wenger in the loss of their sister, Anna Reber (East Peoria). We also extend our sympathy to Marge Stephens in the death of her

brother, Maurice Nussbaum (Chatsworth). May the Lord comfort and strengthen them in this time of grief.

Several loved ones of our congregation have suffered affliction this month. Sis. Ruth Roth (Bro. Les), Sis. Emma Ifft (Bro. Elmer), Sis. Marian Rieger (Bro. Rich), Sis. Louise Honegger (Bro. Perry), Bro. Joe Wiegand (Sis. Pauline) and Bro. Paul Schrof (Sis. Marie) have spent time in the hospital. Sis. Louise is now residing at our church home in Roanoke. We trust she feels the Lord's nearness. Our sincere thoughts and prayers have also been with Sis. Josephine Schlatter (Bro. Dan) who has been confined to her home. We pray the Lord will be very near each of these dear ones and their helpmates and give strength and healing as He sees best.

Bro. Elmer Lanz has served 10 years in Sunday school including three years as superintendent. We thank him for his labors of love. We do support Bro. Rod Zimmerman as he has been called to teach Sunday school and Bro. Greg Stoller who will be our new superintendent.

This past month we were happy to hear of two engagements. Sis. Julie Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean) is engaged to Bro. Greg Blunier (Wayne and Marjorie, Roanoke). Sis. Kathy Schneider (Bro. Duane and Sis. Juanita) and Bro. Charles Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma, Fairbury) also have faith and believe it is God's will that they be joined in holy matrimony. May His blessings be with these dear couples.

"... and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word." Acts 4:29. Even as this was the apostles' prayer, we pray that Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy) will speak boldly the Word of God as he has been called to minister.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Trish Gerber

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7. It is such an awesome fact each time a person ponders the way the Prince

of Peace made His humble appearance into this sin-filled world. It is impossible to comprehend the love our Lord has for us, to have lived, suffered and died the way He did on our behalf. What a joyous season this is, and how fortunate we are to be able to remember Jesus' birth and to worship our great God in total freedom!

It was so refreshing to listen to the testimony and witness the baptism of our new Bro. George Knapp Sr. How comforting to know that souls are still listening to God's call, even in the latter years of their lives.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Wiegand welcome their first baby, Scott Alan, into their home. Scott was born October 28 and his grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand and Bro. Mel and Sis. Marilyn Blunier.

Michelle and Megan Musselman have a precious baby sister to cuddle. Little Molly Mae was born November 16 to Bro. Greg and Sis. Laura. Molly's grandparents are Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen Musselman and George and Darlene Schultz.

Thank you, Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) for visiting us and bringing the Word of God across the pulpit.

We're thankful that Sis. Persida Wiegand and Bro. Ira Rokey are home after their stay in the hospital. May God be with them and continue to heal.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

The month of October was a special time of drawing more closely to God in our Gridley congregation. It was during this time we were all asked to beseech God to reveal His will for a new minister.

On Wednesday evening, October 24, it was announced the Lord's choice was Bro. Steve Baner who had sufficient support and no further ballot was needed. Bro. Steve and his dear wife, Sis. Donna Lou, were thence given the official encouragement of the church.

God works in wondrous ways. Having grown up in another reli-

gious denomination, Bro. Steve eventually attended our church and became interested. After his marriage, both he and his wife sought the Lord and were baptized at Goodfield.

His new duties make him the 20th preacher to minister in our Gridley congregation since its beginning in 1870. His coming from another religious tradition is similar to an earlier Gridley minister, Bro. Engelbert Grusy, who was instated into the ministry in the late 1800's.

May our Gridley congregation build an ongoing foundation of prayer and support for Bro. Steve to stand on so the Spirit's message can provide an inspiration for all who will hear.

Bro. Steve's first sermon was October 31. He referred to God's place of worship as a "miracle house." Indeed, it is! Here is where inspired spiritual messages sound forth to the saving of souls, a miracle.

The miracle of birth took place November 20 when Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (my wife) gave birth to a son, Preston Alexander. He is the new grandson of Sis. Anna Klopfenstein (Peoria), and Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller (Portland, OR). Preston had three sisters and one brother anxiously awaiting his arrival at home: Sis. Elizabeth, 17, Sis. Charity, 16, Perry, II, 13, and Maria, 9.

The miracle of birth underscores the magnificence of God, the Creator. The reality of a newborn child arouses a profound sense of God's presence and power. In this, the meticulous and well-designed characteristics of human composition -- which is such a mystery to mortal man -- creates a sense of glory and highness toward God, of which we as mortals must truly accord to Him.

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are God's ways above ours. May we as His followers ever realize this on a daily basis. "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

On Thanksgiving morning, November 22, Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, I), was our visiting minister.

ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Kelly Meece

Once again, we would like to extend our thanks to those brothers who shared with us God's Word. Ministering unto us this past semester were Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Joe Braker (Morton), Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park), Wes Knapp (Goodfield), Jim Plattner (Princeville), Curt Rassi (Tremont), Rick Plattner (Peoria), Jon Zeller (Morton), Ralph Garber (Morton), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), Earl Ringger (Gridley), Carl Wyss (Washington) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). May they all be richly blessed for their efforts.

As this fall semester comes to a close, we, as students, find ourselves busily preparing for our final exams. Likewise, as believers, we should always be preparing for that most final of exams when we shall meet our Saviour face to face.

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus".

Philippians 3:14

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney - Cheryl Wuthrich

We rejoice with Dennis, Sis. Ginger, Adam, and Aric Hermann as they welcome Anika Joy into their hearts and home. She was born November 12. Her grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Frank and Bro. Robert and Sis. Helen Hermann.

Rose Yentes was called into all eternity. Her funeral was November 15. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her sisters, Emma Messer, Bertha Linsley, Freda Courtney; her brother, Paul Messer and her many nieces, nephews and friends.

We have those who are in the hospital, sick and/or shut-in at home and those who have lost loved ones. May God comfort and bless those who have lost loved ones and heal and bless those who are ill/shut-in.

Our Morton Bible class hosted the Bible classes of Bluffton and Bluffton North, IN, for a weekend. It was wonderful to see our young

people become acquainted and to learn more about Jesus. May God bless all who participated in the weekend.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Jim David

"Now it is accomplished! With heart and with mind To Thee, my dear Saviour, I now am resigned! I'll ever be faithful in life and in death, Abide in Jesus unto my last breath."
 Zion's Harp #209

The Peoria church is rejoicing over three dear souls who have found peace with God. On October 28, we witnessed the baptism of Henrietta Meyer, and on November 11, Marshall and Genanne Witzig (son and daughter of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Leila Witzig) were also baptized. We welcome our new brother and sisters-in-faith.

On October 26, Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) conducted a Bible study on "contentment." We learned how true contentment can only be found by turning to God, and any contentment the world offers will only be temporary. We thank Bro. Jaye for sharing his insights with us.

We also thank the Detroit choir for visiting us the weekend of November 3 and 4. The choir presented a program of inspirational hymns Saturday evening at our fellowship hall, and also sang a few selections immediately following our Sunday afternoon service. It was wonderful to hear such talented voices sing praises to the glory of God, and everyone present surely received a blessing.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Peter Weber, Sis. Judy Woerner, Sis. Mary Lawless, Sis. Clara Metz, Bro. Reuben Herman, Bro. Walter Hess, and Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson, AR). Let us remember to pray for them all.

We have been saddened by the death of two souls who assembled with the Peoria congregation. We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of Sis. Alma Rocke and Ted Shipman.

We were blessed by the visits of several ministers this month. We thank Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL) for bringing us the Word of God.

Two business executives were walking home from their downtown office on a December evening, several days before Christmas. As they walked, their attention was drawn to the brilliant Christmas displays throughout the city. Colored lights and ornaments were suspended from nearly every lamppost. Signs and banners proclaimed "Season's Greetings" or "Happy Holidays." Pictures of Santa Claus waved cheerfully to the holiday shoppers. Decorated Christmas trees brightened the display windows of all the downtown department stores. As the two men continued their journey homeward, they were increasingly impressed with the magnitude and extravagance of the holiday festivities. Suddenly, the businessmen paused before a small shop which presented a much different Christmas message. In the shop's window was a single lighted star, a picture of Jesus Christ, and the words, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." One man pointed to the scene in the window, turned to his friend, and said, "Some people just don't understand the true meaning of Christmas."

The world has a mistaken idea of the true meaning of Christmas. The glitter of lights and tinsel is beautiful, to be sure; however, its apparent intent is not to glorify God or Jesus Christ, but to entice people into the stores. This is evident when we begin to see Christmas decorations as early as July and August. The Christmas message sent out by some business people of the world is not, "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people," but instead, "We want your money." Articles in the newspaper state that this will not be a "successful" Christmas because retail sales are down, as if Christmas can be measured in terms of sales dollars! All this is not to suggest that there is anything

wrong with Christmas traditions in themselves. By all means, let us enjoy the sights and sounds of the holiday season. However, we should not let the traditions overshadow the person of Jesus Christ. The most important message of Christmas is, and has always been, "For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Martha Jane Siebenthal

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka), Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka), Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington) for ministering God's Word this past month. May God bless them for their efforts and be their rewarder.

On November 10 and 11, our Bible class was host to Tremont, Pulaski, IA, and Burlington, IA, Bible classes. May these young people have made some friendships that may last a lifetime and may they remember the important teachings given to them.

Happy and thankful first-time parents are Bro. Kyle and Sis. Jane School, a precious baby boy, Quintin Kyle, was born October 17. Happy and rejoicing grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Arlene Scholl and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Betty Herrmann. May God bless them and grant the guidance to rear this dear child. Happy and thankful first-time great-grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Ruth Kieser as Ty David was born to their grandson, Bro. Wes and Sis. Lena Kieser.

Loved ones that have been in the hospital this month are Sis. Elizabeth Kieser and Sis. Esther Kieser (Bro. George) both submitted to surgery. We are sorry to hear Sis. Marlene Plattner (Bro. Jim) broke a bone in her other foot. May God bless them with His healing powers and grant them a speedy and complete recovery.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Janet Martin in the death of her sister-in-law. She has lost three sisters-in-law this past year. It has been two years November 18 that she lost her dear husband, Bro. Elmer.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the many blessings God has shared so abundantly this year. Our prayer is that each will glorify God's name with the fruit of the Spirit.

As we celebrate the Christmas season, may we all remember that it is not the Babe in Bethlehem, but Christ, the Man, that sets us free from sin and gives us the promise of eternal life. A special Christmas prayer, that God above will bless you Christmas day and every day with peace and happiness.

THIS CHRISTMAS . . .

GIVE TIME:

Remember an old friend.
Share a meal with someone
lonely.

GIVE HOPE:

Live joyfully.
Raise the spirits of a child.

GIVE PEACE:

Forgive an enemy.
Set difference aside.

GIVE OF YOURSELF:

Perform acts of kindness
Give love, and Christmas will
be forever!

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Sandy Leman

What a wonderful time of year, with all our preparations for holiday celebrations! So many gifts to buy, get-togethers to plan, and anticipations of being together with our families! In all the hustle and bustle, let us remember to worship and praise our heavenly Father, whose Gift to us made it possible for us to become His spiritual children and some day spend all eternity together with Him.

We rejoice that two more souls are turning to the Lord in repentance. They are Scott Luginbuhl (Bev) and Kathy Luginbuhl (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol). We wish them God's grace and blessings.

It was a thrill to hear the testimonies of our four new sisters-in-the-faith, Sisters Diane Brown, Helen Brown, Susan Rocke and Marsha Durand. They gave their testimonies November 10 and were baptized November 11. What a blessing for a mother, and four of her

daughters, to become sisters-in-the-Lord!

We appreciate the ministry of visiting Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville) and Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville) last month. May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve us.

Hospital patients last month were Bro. Walt Blunier (Sis. Marian) and Bro. Wilmer Blunier (Sis. Sylvia). Our prayers for a speedy recovery for each of them.

Last month I was privileged to be a part of a medical work team that went to Juarez, Mexico. We set up temporary clinics to serve the very poor in several different neighborhoods in that city. It was a real blessing to be able to help people who don't have even enough money to pay for medical services. We saw over 620 patients whose ailments ranged from vitamin deficiencies to strept infections. It is hard to describe the conditions these people have to live under because of their extreme poverty. They were so thankful to us for the little bit we could do for them. I know I speak for all of us who went when I say, "thank you!" to all whose contributions to World Relief helped to pay for the vitamins and medications we gave to these people. Surely the One who said that even a cup of cold water given in His name would not go unrewarded, has a special blessing for those who provide for health and healing to be administered to His "little ones."

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Carolyn Bolliger Marsha Koch

May God richly bless Bros. Kenneth Weerts and Kenneth Eisenmann for preaching God's Word to us. We deeply appreciate the effort our brothers put forth for us.

Sis. Elsie Sinn was in the hospital and has been absent from our assembly for awhile. May God grant her health to be with us again soon.

Our deepest sympathy to Sis. Arlene (Bro. Kenneth) Huette on the passing of her mother, Sis. Nettie Rocke (Eureka). Also sympathy goes to Sis. Ruth (Chris) Pflederer on the passing of her sister-in-law, Sis. Clara Frank (Bro. Robert,

Oakville, IA). May God's Spirit be their comforter.

On November 3, Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley) came and spoke to us on the new Sunday school material and our church history. We wish to thank him for his efforts. It sure makes us appreciate what our forefathers went through and by showing our appreciation may we all strive to keep the faith.

Our Sunday school children, grades nursery through eighth, surely enjoyed the Play Day planned and provided for them by our Tremont young group on Saturday, October 20. There were various activities for the different age groups in the afternoon, then everyone returned to the fellowship hall for a pizza supper and singing. Thanks again to all who were involved!

My very deepest thanks and appreciation to my family and friends for the prayers, cards, gifts and food brought in to us while I have recuperating from my broken ankle. May God bless all of you for your love.

Sis. Florence (Bro. Paul) Koch
May each of you have a blessed Christmas.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Carol Schick

Our deepest appreciation is extended to three visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke), and Dave Wiegand (Champaign) and Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont). May God grant each of our ministering brothers a special place in heaven for all they do so selflessly here on earth.

We have had several people on our prayer list asking God for healing this past month. Sis. Sue Ruppert, Sis. Martha McGough and Sis. Ida Pfaffman have all been in need of God's healing touch. We thank Him for His promise to see to our needs, even if our requests are not always met, as He knows our needs better than we.

God has blessed Bro. Wes and Sis. Lena Kieser with a beautiful little boy which they have named Ty David. His grandparents are Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie Kieser (Bradford) and Bro. Roy and Sis.

Norma Hangartner (Eureka). May God continue to bless their little family and grant them grace to raise their child to His honor and glory.

The month of December is truly a magical time for everyone in America. Even those who do not know our Lord as their Savior seem to be touched by His special love and feelings of kindness during this special season. The following poem is so fitting for Christmas - it say's it all.

**GOD'S ALL-TIME
CHRISTMAS GIFT**

If our greatest need had been
information
God would have sent us an
educator.
If our greatest need had been
technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an
economist.
If our greatest need had been
pleasure,
God would have sent us an
entertainer.
But our greatest need was
forgiveness,
So God sent us a Saviour!
Author Unknown

Merry Christmas to everyone
from the Washington congregation.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Shari Fiechter - Gwen Kipfer

As the holiday season is approaching let's keep in mind the real meaning of Christmas. So often it's easy to get caught up in all the glitter and excitement that seems to replace the original purpose, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let's continue to keep this holiday a "holy day" as it was meant to be.

We rejoice with Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Isch at the coming of James Michael born November 1. Big sisters, Vanessa and Amanda, welcome him with open arms. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn Isch and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Dorothy Gerber (Bluffton North). Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda Gerber have been blessed with a precious daughter, Autumn Rose,

born October 23. Autumn joins an older brother, Jacob. We're happy for grandparents, Bro. Leon and Sis. Mary Kay Gerber, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane Nuest (Francesville). Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen Kaehr are thrilled with the arrival of a granddaughter Stacey Jo. Bro. John and Sis. Sandy Lichte (Indianapolis) are proud parents. Brent and Sharlene Byerly welcome a daughter, Haley Mae, born November 9. We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. Marv and Sis. Della Steffen.

Seven souls have chosen to accept the gift of God's only begotten Son and His shed blood. Bro. Shane Houser, Bro. Nathan Isch, Bro. Marvin Isch, Bro. Greg Isch, Bro. Eric Gerber, Bro. Ked Gerber, and Bro. Nick Baumgartner shared their testimony and were baptized November 11. Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North) and Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) helped with the weekend's events. We also want to thank Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) for sharing God's Word with us.

Celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary were Bro. Ervin and Sis. Estella Aeschliman. May God continue to be the center of their marriage and bless them in days to come.

We ask a heavenly blessing for a special couple. United in marriage October 21 were Linc Rinkenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne) and Catrina Westfall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie, Francesville).

The high school Sunday school classes of Bluffton and Bluffton North were able to travel to Morton, IL, to share in an edifying weekend. These are special times when we can feel the love and hospitality of our churches. We thank all who put forth a special effort to make this a successful weekend.

There are many people to remember in our prayers. Hospitalized this month were Bro. Tom Pfister (Sis. Barbara), Sis. Sylvia Isch (Bro. Joe), Bro. Alphonse Reinhard (Sis. Lucille), Jeffrey Geisel (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Luella), Jeffrey Frauhiger (Leon and Susie) and Clarke Giltner (Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda).

Our hearts were deeply touched at the passing away of Sis. Eliza-

beth Bertsch. Elizabeth died November 8 at the age of 82. Surviving are Sis. Nina Aschliman (Bro. Herman), Sis. Clara Fiechter, Sis. Alice Baumgartner (Bro. Glen), and Samuel, Ervin and Harry Krummen. Elizabeth also had one son, Bro. Alan Bertsch (Sis. Terri) and two daughters, Dorothy Keys and Lanetta Christner.

We also want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Fred Moser at the passing away of his brother, Bro. William Moser (Bluffton North).

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser**

May you find many blessings, and dreams coming true, in this precious new life God has given to you! We wish to extend congratulations to Bro. Vernon and Sis. Dorothy Gerber on the birth of their grandson, James Michael, born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Isch (Bluffton).

Our congregation will greatly miss our dear Bro. Bill Moser who passed away October 28. Our sympathy is given to his wife, Emma, and their son, Bro. William Gene (Sis. Edna).

Going to rest and his reward,
Faithful servant of the Lord.
Weary pilgrim of earth's shore,
Now at rest for evermore.

Bro. Henry Beer

"God knows all our needs and He hears every prayer and He keeps all His children always safe in His care."

Helen Steiner Rice

Bro. Denny Drayer (Sis. Jan) was hospitalized this month and is home and well on the road to recovery.

Seen in passing: The Ten Commandments are not multiple choices!

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Bev Huber**

October 21 was the wedding day for Catrina Westphal (Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie) and Linc Rinkenberger (Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN). We wish them God's richest blessings as they share life together.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne

Wuethrich are rejoicing with a precious daughter, Annie Lauren. She has two older brothers, Caleb and Nicholas, to help care for her. Grandparents are Sis. Barb Wuethrich and Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher (LaCrosse, IN).

On November 14, we gathered together for our Thanksgiving program and enjoyed a blessed evening counting our blessings.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz, Bro. James Rinkenberger and Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN). Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

Sis. Verna Stedman (Morris, MN) underwent surgery and our prayers are with her for a speedy recovery.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Mary Lynn Massner

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are
home,
When the shepherds are back with
their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

When Jesus was born and the angels sang, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men," the shepherds knew something wonderful had happened, but they probably didn't really understand the mission of that newborn baby. The peace Jesus brought was for the heart, only a cleansed, pure heart. We can spread that peace to others by sharing the christmas spirit all year long. It only takes a moment to listen to a burdened heart, lend a helping hand, or give to a needy soul, but, oh what a difference those small gestures can make in another's life. Let's all try to make Christmas last 365 days a year. "For Christ is born and born again, when His love lives in the hearts of men." W. D. Dorrity.

On November 10 and 11, the Bible classes from Sardis, OH, and West Bend, IA, visited our congregation. It was a pleasure to see so many young people at our church along with several Sunday school teachers and their wives. We enjoyed the services of ministering Bros. Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). Special thanks to them and their wives for spending the day with us.

INDIANA, LEO Doug Kellenberger

"When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is with thee . . ." (Deuteronomy 20:1).

"Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear:" (Psalm 27:3).

Even with all his power and technology, man could be "wiped out" in a second. Our country is in that precarious position right now in Saudi Arabia. We've got all the latest and greatest in equipment and manpower. But we're right in the middle of enemy territory, surrounded by people who could turn against us. If that happened, the United States could be brought to nothing within as little as a month's time. Our visiting minister, Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), brought that to our attention.

Who do you think we should set our heart upon for deliverance?

Humanly thinking, we look for success through power. However, success from God is accomplished through weakness and death (II Corinthians 12:9; Romans 6:4-5).

Christmas reminds us of that all over again. The greatest, strongest and most eternal One that lives, had His earthly beginning and existence in the weakest condition possible.

There is a new beginning in the Blunier home. A boy, William Benjamin, was born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier. They are really happy! Bro. Les Stoller was announced

for engagement to Sis. Judy Luginbuhl. Les's parents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Dean. Sis. Judy was originally from Rockville, CT. Her parents there are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Evelyn Luginbuhl. They are looking forward to their December 30 wedding.

Sis. Anna Steiner fell recently, but with no broken bones. She was taken to the hospital and is soon to be coming home. Sis. Anna is 101 years old and still faithful to the Lord.

INDIANA, MILFORD Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

When the Christ Child was born, many beautiful gifts were brought to the manger, gifts of great beauty and splendor. But there is a story about one small boy who was very poor and had nothing to offer the Lord, so he was very sad. Then he thought, I can play my drum for Him. And so he did. Pa-rum-pum-pum, pa-rum-pam-pum! He played his drum with love in his heart. And as he played, the Baby Jesus smiled, showing that at Christmas, the gift of love is the best gift of all.

Author Unknown

Christmas truly is a time for love -- love not only for our family and friends, but most of all for God's precious gift of Jesus. Surely God gave to us His very best. We should not hesitate in return to offer Him a thankful heart, pumped full of love not only at this season, but every season of our life.

We rejoice with Lee Price (son of Stan and Sis. Ginger) and Jamie Bryan (daughter of Joan) for on October 20 they were united in marriage. May God continue to bless them as they begin their life together.

Even during the busy harvest time, our elders are willing to give of themselves. Sharing the exhortations of the memorandum with us was Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler. On Sunday, Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo) came to spend the day with Bro. Alfred and with us. We appre-

ciate the love they have for our church.

Our love and sympathy reaches out to the family of Mrs. Herb (Edith) Baumgartner who passed away October 28. May God comfort her brother-in-law, Bro. Ted, and her sister-in-law, Sis. Edith.

We were sorry to hear Chad Beer (son of Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy) met with an accident at school and broke his ankle, but are thankful for the healing touch of the Master.

On November 11, little Jessey Donald was born to Jeff and Shannon Haab. Happy first-time grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Haab and Charlotte Haines. May the Lord bless this new baby He has entrusted into their care.

We all share in the joy and thanksgiving with the family of Todd Beer who recently returned home after serving in the Middle East. Todd's return makes us more aware of the need to continually lift up in prayer those young men serving our country.

Thank you for your love and good wishes for our 65th wedding anniversary. We appreciated hearing from so many of you and wish you the blessings of our heavenly Father.

Bro. Theo and Sis. Naoma Beer

A PRAYER FOR THE YEAR THAT IS NEAR

Dear Master, for this coming year,
Just one request I bring.
I do not pray for happiness
Or any earthly thing;
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou leadest me;
But this I ask - Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.
I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master, make me swift to
hear
And ready to obey;
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be,
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.
Author Unknown

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Amelia Schini
The first weekend in November

our Bible class accompanied the Bible classes from Francesville and Wolcott to Roanoke, IL. A nice time was had by all. We surely do appreciate the efforts and work of our Sunday school teachers and wives to bring our young people together. May there be many blessings for all.

Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler to bring the minutes of the memorandum to us Sunday, November 11. We surely thank them for their visit and their concerns.

Sunday, November 18, we enjoyed a Sunday visit from Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). A potluck supper was held that evening. We also had other visitors from various places. We enjoyed all of you and welcome you back anytime.

A few weeks ago I heard a little rumble of thunder in the distance. It brought back memories to my mind. As a child when we'd hear thunder and possible rain approaching, we'd have to run out and see that the mother hens got all their chickens in the coop. Other times, especially wash days, Mother's voice would ring through the house, "Everyone come help bring in the wash." I had to think how we have been hearing spiritual thunder and rumble in the distance. Each year it seems to get closer. Now with conditions in the Persian Gulf as they are, it makes us feel the "thunder" and Jesus' return is very near. Oh, it frightens us for all our loved ones who are still "outside the gate." How we wish we could help them even as we did the little chicks, or to bring them in as we all helped get the clothes off the line. But it seems we can't do that and it gives us a very helpless feeling. What can we do? We can do even as a visiting brother prayed in our church recently, "Lord let there be a great gathering before Thy return." So pray we can and we must! Let us join forces against the enemy and pray fervently for the unsaved.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Anna Marie Stoller
Deeply grateful is Sis. Emma

Lou Gerber who continues to convalesce at home after heart failure and stroke. She expresses her heartfelt thanks to those who offered prayer, sent cards and notes, visits and gifts of love during this illness. Our congregation anticipates the day she can assemble with us again.

Sis. Helen Eisenmann is recovering from the terror of a fire in her home. She escaped injury from the fire, but needs our prayers as she copes with the effects of the fire and her other health problems.

In addition to the partial blindness that Bro. Wayne Lehman must cope with, he now suffers with the burden of a painful back ailment. We trust God will be with him moment by moment.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." Dale and Kathy Lehman, children of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley, have received the blessing of baby Jacob into their lives.

Serving us from the Lord's table of spiritual manna the past month have been Bros. Nelson Beer and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). Among the many beautiful teachings was the exhortation from II Chronicles 20:17, "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you." We were reminded to have faith and let the Lord go before us, but also be willing to go to the battlefield and stand.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

I wash the dirt from little feet,
And as I wash I pray,
"Lord, keep them ever pure and true
To walk the narrow way."
I wash the dirt from little hands,
And earnestly I ask,
"Lord, may they ever yielded be
To do the humblest task."
I scrub the clothes that soil so soon,
And pray, "Lord, may his dress
Throughout the ages be Thy robe
Of perfect righteousness!"
E're many hours shall pass away,
I'll wash those hands again;

And there'll be dirt upon his
clothes
Before the day shall end.
But as he journeys on through life
And learns of want and pain,
"Lord, keep his precious little
heart
Clean from sin and stain.
For soap and water cannot reach
Where Thou alone canst see.
His hands and feet, these I can
wash;
I trust his heart to Thee!"

The above poem impressed me as it adequately expresses how a God-fearing mother feels as she accomplishes the menial tasks associated with child raising. Each small effort is accompanied with a prayer for that precious soul.

Reading these verses caused me to ponder what the prayer of our deceased Sis. Marge Mangold must have been for her precious little children as she lay terminally ill. Was her heart torn between yearning to ascend unto her heavenly Father, yet carrying the earthly concerns of a mother for her young boys? She had, no doubt, cared for the day to day tasks of her family with similar prayers on her heart, but how earnest those prayers must have become as she realized her time of life was to be short, and she must leave them behind. Can she see? Does she know? The angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repents, and those angels are surely singing at the conversion and baptism just accomplished of our new brother-in-Christ, Bro. Joshua Mangold. As Joshua's mother held his small hand in her last days, do you suppose she prayed that his heart would remain tender; that her children would find the path to heaven?

Thankfulness fills our hearts as we see the answer to those prayers being fulfilled. Prayers answered to the degree that Joshua has been provided with another believing mother, Sis. Renee, to love, care and pray for him. Joshua revealed in his testimony that seeing Sis. Renee turn to God in repentance, reversing her life to follow God, made a deep impression on him. Every heart rejoices with the family of Sis. Renee and Mike Mangold,

that prayers are still rising heavenward and being heard. May it be that all six of their precious children spend their lives serving our loving Father in heaven.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

"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.

Our congregation once again enjoyed our annual Harvest Dinner. We were blessed with poems and songs. We were also blessed with many visitors for the weekend. Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher opened their home to have a bonfire and singing to finish our blessed weekend.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia Thomas have had the opportunity to take two of God's precious lambs into their home to share of God's love with them. May God's grace be with them as they strive to nurture these precious souls.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Roy and Sis. Aldene Frieden in the loss of his brother, Virgil Frieden.

May the Lord grant grace to the new Sunday school teachers. They are Sis. Cheryl Bucher, Sis. Julie Bucher, Sis. Trish Bucher, Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger, Bro. Mike Heinold and Bro. Ken Susdorf. We thank all those brothers and sisters whose term has finished.

We received much encouragement as we listened to the conference tapes. May these instructions help us walk closer to Christ.

We are thankful that God's healing hand was on little Heather, daughter of Marsha Schmeckpepper and granddaughter of Sis. Lavina Schmeckpepper) and Andy Bucher (Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie) who were hospitalized this past

month. They are now back with us in church.

We have been blessed this past month with visiting ministers. They include Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. John Reinhard (Bluffton), Todd Feller (La-Crosse), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Nile Bucher (Bluffton) and John Zeller (Morton, IL). May God bless them and their families for the service they are giving us.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Camille Vogt

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

Matthew 1:23

One of our greatest joys as Christians is knowing that God is with us. God has made this possible by sending His Son Jesus to live on earth. The world may think Jesus is no longer among us because He died on the cross. However, it is because of his death and resurrection that the Holy Spirit was given unto us. Since that time when we became Christians, we have had God within us in the form of the Holy Spirit. It's with joy that we remember the time when Christ was born and praise God for linking our hearts to Him through His Son. The Purdue group observed this Christmas season at their annual Christmas program held December 6.

We would like to express our appreciation to Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Edwin Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) for lending themselves to share God's Word with us.

Upcoming services will be held January 10 and 24. We invite everyone to come to worship with us. Our new Lafayette fellowship center is located north of Lafayette, off of State Road 43, just west of the State Police Post.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume
On November 10, we were privi-

leged to have Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) assist our Elder Bro. Alfred in sharing the memorandum with us. We are thankful for the watchmen on the wall and appreciate them sounding the warnings for us. May we be not hearers only but doers also, that it may be well with our souls.

We also appreciated Elder Bro. Henry remaining with us Sunday, November 11 and bringing us the Word of Life. God bless these brothers for being willing servants on our behalf.

We are thankful that Sis. Laurel Widmer was not seriously injured when she experienced a car accident. Sis. Marilyn Schieler remains in our thoughts and prayers as she is still in the hospital in Indianapolis. Sis. Frances Bahler (Elder Bro. Alfred) is also currently hospitalized in Indianapolis and is scheduled to undergo surgery this week. We pray for these dear ones.

We have been blessed with two new baby boys recently. Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri Schieler, Alex, Clinton and Daveana welcome dear little Jesse Alan. Grandparents are Sis. Marilyn Schieler and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Armstrong. Wyatt Justin is welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp and children Jordan, Kyle, Trevor, Krystal and Derek. He is also very much loved by grandparents Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz (Oakville, IA). Little Wyatt had to return to the hospital for a couple of days at one week old, but we are very thankful that he is now back home thriving on ample doses of love and attention.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Deyona Massner
Carolyn Wulf**

We rejoice with Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen Schulz in the birth of their son, Jacob Dwayne. The happy grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz (Oakville).

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) share

God's Word with us this past month. May God bless their labors of love.

We are thankful that our friend Ivy Buster has found peace and is awaiting baptism.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

"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

Amid all the unrest and turmoil about us we still rejoice as we, again, remember the birth of our Savior, The Prince of Peace, who brought peace that can exist even in the midst of disturbance, when tranquility is shattered. This prince showed power over the turbulence of a storm. As Jesus spoke, "Peace, be still," the waves were calmed. We may find our circumstances unchanged, but we can change as we focus on Jesus, not the waves about us.

This past month we have been blessed with two visiting ministers, Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR). May God richly bless them as they boldly preach the Gospel in season and out of season.

Sis. Laverne Butikofer (Bro. Albert) recently spent a few days in the hospital (surgical). We are thankful she can be home while the healing and mending take place.

Bros. Tim Butikofer (Sis. Kathy) and Lon Butikofer (Sis. Sandy) recently returned from spending a few days in Haiti. We are anxious to hear the reports of their trip.

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.

Holy Jesus, every day,
Keep us in the narrow way,
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last,

Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
Hymns of Zion #14

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Dawn Moser

"Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man confess before the angels of God:" (Luke 12:8). What a reassuring promise this is to the believer that April Parmer has confessed before men her faith in Jesus as Savior and we welcome her as our sister-in-faith. We thank Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) for being with us on this day. We also want to thank all of you that came to share this day with April in expression of your love and support.

The weekend of October 21, the Princeville/Bradford, IL, young group was with us. On Saturday evening we had a singing. The young children from our church commented on how loud the singing was. It had been several months since we had such a large group in one of our homes and it just astounded them. On Sunday, Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) ministered to us. That evening we had a potluck supper for them before they had to leave. Thank you each one. You made memories for all of us.

Our other visiting ministers during the month were: Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA). We thank you for being willing to share God's Word with us.

"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." (Isaiah 9:6). As we celebrate and rejoice in the love that God has for us and not to put that "X" in Christmas.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We give our heartfelt thanks to all who visited our church this month. We appreciated all who traveled to share our

joy when we welcomed two "new-born" children of God into our fold. A special "thank-you" to Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS), and ministering Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) who shared the day with us. We also thank our other visitors who swelled our ranks on some very slim Sundays since then.

We lovingly welcome our new brother and sister-in-Christ, Christopher and Lisa Eland (Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce). They will continue to be in our prayers as they grow in the love and grace of God.

We also join Bro. Roger, Sis. Rhonda and Stephanie and Rachel Reker in welcoming their precious newborn, Celeste Marie, born October 20. May God bless the whole family, including the new soul entrusted to them.

As we rejoice with those who have overcome Satan and placed their lives in Jesus' hands, we continue to pray for those who still stand outside of the fold. May they feel our love and concern for them, as expressed in this poem recently quoted by a ministering brother during a sermon:

Have you ever stopped to wonder
what life is all about?
Why you're here, and where you're
going
when your lease on time runs
out?
Maybe you've been far too busy,
trying hard to reach your goal.
Would you let me ask you kindly,
"Have you thought about your
soul?"

You may reach the highest portals,
and all your dreams come true;
Wealth and fame may be your
portion,
and success may shine on you.
All your friends may sing your
praises,
and not a care on you may roll;
But what about the gray tomorrow?
Have you thought about your
soul?

Don't forget your days are
numbered,
though you may be riding high;

But just like all of us poor mortals,
someday you'll just up and die.
All your wealth and fame and glory
won't be worth the bell they toll.
Let me ask you just one question,
"Have you thought about your
soul?"

If you haven't thought it over,
take some time to think today;
Because there's nothing more im-
portant
that will ever come your way
Than the joys of sin forgiven
and to know you've been made
whole
Through faith in Jesus Christ's
blood --
Please, please, think about your
soul!

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch

With thankful hearts, we rejoice that Gary TeSlaa (Sis. Rhonda) is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God's blessings be upon him and may his "new" life be full of joy in the Lord. ". . . The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye; and believe the gospel." Mark 1:15.

Many inspirational messages have been forthcoming this past month. Those visiting ministers among us were Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL). May each one continue to feel the Lord's blessings and promptings as they preach the Word of Life.

On October 17, Cody Lawrence came to join the family circle of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marlys Doorneweerd. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann Metzger and a paternal grandmother is Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd. October 23 was a special day as Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie Metzger welcomed their first child, a daughter, Whitney Lea. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane Fehr (Morris, MN) and paternal grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Dolores Metzger. Also welcoming their first child are Ladell and Shelly Kellenberger. A daughter, Ashley Linn, was born November 4. A maternal grandmother is Sis. Elaine Kellenberger.

May God bless these precious families with His love.

As we rejoice with loved ones at happy times, we weep with those who bear the cross of sorrow. Our hearts were saddened to hear of the passing of dear Viola Moser. Her quiet, loving and gentle ways were a great inspiration to all who knew her. Those who mourn her passing are two sons, William and Howard, along with a great host of relatives and friends. May God comfort them as they sever earthly ties with one who was so dear to them.

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Mary Knobloch (Bro. Dale) in the recent death of her mother, Sis. Bertha Metzger (Sabetha, KS). May God be near the family and provide comfort to their saddened hearts.

Hospitalized for surgery were Leah Doorneweerd, Sis. Emma Meyer and Bro. Paul Leuthold. Those in for medical reasons were John Giesel and Sis. Charlene Messner (Bro. Henry). Our prayers are often with all our loved ones who endure pain and physical anguish. God knows what is best and is always there to lift our cares and burdens!

As the Christmas season draws near, our thoughts travel once again to the lowly manger where our Saviour was born so many years ago. Our hearts should be filled with joy and thankfulness for this great gift of love God gave to each of us. Do we in turn share our love as God has shared with us?

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach Melody Steiner

We truly want to thank our visiting ministers this month Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Kurt Rassi (Tremont, IL) for allowing the Spirit to work through them by sharing with us.

JEWELS

Little children, little children,
Who love their Redeemer,
Are the jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own.

Like the stars of the morning,
His bright crown adorning.

They shall shine in their beauty,
His loved and His own.
George F. Root
Melodies of Praise #340

A third little "jewel" has arrived into the hearts and home of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach. Kory Dean is welcomed also by his big brothers, Kyle and Clinton. Also rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach.

November 18 was the wedding date of Donnie Wagenbach (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie) and Kris Licko (Tim and Candace Licko). We wish this dear couple the Lord's strength and guidance as they are joined in marriage.

Our prayers are surely with the family of our dear Sis. Clara Frank. We pray that the Lord will ever keep her dear husband, Bro. Bob, ever close during the days to come. We also think of her dear children, Sis. Joyce Eland (Bro. Brad), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina), Lynn Frank (Priscilia), Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita) and all the support and care they showed to her in these last few months. We just rejoice that her suffering is over and she has found her reward. Thank you.

From the bottom of our hearts we want to say thank you for all the long distance calls we received and the endless cards. We also want to sincerely thank the Neunschwanders in Bluffton, IN, whom we can never repay for all their love and kindness. Their hearts are pure gold. God bless you all.

Bro. George and
Sis. Hazel Kuntz

Thanks so much to all those who remembered me with cards, gifts, food and most of all your prayers on my behalf while I was in the hospital and while recuperating at home. It was all greatly appreciated.

Your least sister-in-faith,
Sis. Leah Schaer

Sis. Leah is now residing with her daughter, Sis. Janet Schaer, at Route 1, Box 172, Mediapolis, IA 52637.

IOWA, PULASKI Teresa Schock Carol Wettstein

As the hymn says, truly, "Time flies on;" for here it is Christmas time once again. Yet, it does help us to once again dwell more fully on our Lord's birth and its great meaning and impact upon our lives.

We were blessed with a couple visiting ministers this last month.

Bro. Dean Steffen (Elgin, IL) humbly brought forth God's Word to us. On November 11, Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) likewise ministered to us. He and his family traveled to Pulaski on a bus with a Morton choir group. Following a Saturday evening supper and fellowship at church, they sang for us. Also a few songs were sung in Sunday afternoon services. We thank our visiting ministering brothers for their labor and likewise the Morton choir for their efforts and even their desire to come to Pulaski.

Just recently, Jon Dean Wells (Georgia) has been hospitalized. We pray God will be with him and restore him to good health.

IOWA, WEST BEND Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

We were thankful upon arriving at mid-week church, to be served so well by Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO).

We extend best wishes to Bro. Mark Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Janet Schafer (Maurice and Sis. Marjorie, Tremont, IL) on their recent engagement. A December 30 wedding is being planned. We likewise extend congratulations to Mike Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb, Champaign, IL) and Patty Kloster (Tim and Judy, Nebraska) who have announced their engagement. May God be with both of these couples as they prepare for this important step in life.

Darin Kent came to bless the home of Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth November 6. To help care for him are Kyle and Jason and grandparents, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt. May they feel the Lord's leading as they train their children in His ways.

The loss of a loved one from this life is never easy but what a blessing when the dear one is prepared and ready for their reward. Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart and family. Sis. Phyllis recently lost her mother, Sis. Bertha Metzger (Bro. Phil, Sabetha, KS).

Let us remember as we look forward to the Christmas season that:

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

God sent the little Christ Child
long centuries ago
To walk with mortal men on this
sinful earth below.
And remember that God's purpose
in sending us His Son
Was to purchase our salvation
when our life on earth was done.
So let us try to follow in His
footsteps day by day.
By loving more and hating less all
men who pass our way.

Helen Steiner Rice

JAPAN, SHIODA Renee Bauer

In the last month we have had opportunity to gather together for several meetings. One was our annual business meeting. The others were held to discuss ways that we can reach out more effectively to friends who come to church.

In our discussions, several challenging thoughts were expressed. "Upon coming to church what is my thought -- Is it, 'what can the church do for me?' or, 'what can I do for the church?' Do friends see Christ's joy and peace in my life? Whether it be a word of encouragement or a smile, am I using the talents God has given me to reach out to others?"

We're thankful for what the Spirit is teaching us as we share together. We pray that we can work together in peace and unity as we apply what we are learning.

We appreciate the efforts Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle put into hosting our Thanksgiving dinner this year. We were happy to have approximately 40 friends and believers from Tokyo and Shioda gather together. Through singing and God's Word, we were reminded to continue to be thankful for the

many blessings God gives us.

Jewel Maeda (daughter of Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois) was recently in Japan to attend an international midwifery convention that was held in Kobe. It's been a couple of years since many of us have seen Jewel. We were delighted that she was also able to spend some time with us in Shioda.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

In November, several of us journeyed to Shioda for an American-style Thanksgiving dinner and singing hosted by Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle. It was a blessing to once again gather with the believers and friends and left our voices in praise to our heavenly Father.

In Japan, because of school activities, it is difficult to keep children coming to Sunday school after they are in upper elementary school. To encourage the neighborhood children's attendance, a new program has been started patterned after Shioda's program which has significantly increased the number of older children coming to their Sunday school.

KANSAS, BERN

Lori Baumgartner Kathy Strahm

Our congregation was saddened by the death of our dear Sis. Esther Moser who died November 1 at the Home in Sabetha. Services were held November 3 as Sis. Esther's mortal body was carried to its final resting place. Sympathy is extended to Sis. Esther's brother, Bro. Reuben (Sis. Stella), along with other relatives and loved ones.

We appreciate that Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and his wife, Sis. Emily, could assemble with us on a Sunday evening as Bro. Bill brought us the welcome Word of God.

Katrina Walter has made the decision to return to her home with her parents, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter, and brothers and sisters in Silverton, OR. Katrina was with us here at Bern for several months and it was here that she made a beginning in her repentance

and conversion. We will miss Katrina and wish her God's continued blessings and guidance.

Saturday, November 10, was the day for the Benefit Sale and Dinner held for Lakeside Terrace. The sale and dinner were well attended; many nice items were available for sale and the evening's dinner was delicious.

Thank You -- The Administration and Boards of Trustees of the Apostolic Home and the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped want to thank everyone who so generously contributed items or donations for the Benefit Day for Lakeside Terrace, the 12-bed home being built in Sabetha. Many items received from congregations across the land which made the day a success. May God bless each one of you for sharing.

Lakeside Terrace is scheduled to open in March 1991.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

We joyfully celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior, for His redeeming love and propitiating mercy. We rejoice that the immortal Christ was born, so that mortal man might live eternally. Surely the gift of salvation, through Christ, should evoke man's deepest gratitude.

We're thankful to our ministering brethren for their faithful, dedicated service in bringing forth the Word of Life. Recent visiting ministers were Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY).

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." (John 11:25-26). What comfort a believer in Christ can find in the promises of the Word! Sympathy is extended to Bro. Eldon Metzger and family over the recent death of his mother, Sis. Bertha Metzger (Bro. Phillip, Sabetha).

KANSAS,

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Michelle Braker

This semester we have been

blessed with many visitors. We are grateful for each one's effort to make our Wednesday night worship services. Also we would especially like to extend our appreciation to the ministers who have willingly lent themselves to us. They would include Bros. Alpha Strahm (Bern), Harvey Grimm (Bern), Bill Emch (Lamont), Ben Wysong (Sabetha), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, IL) and Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, IL).

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

UNCLE HENRY

He walked amongst us quietly
He didn't want a fuss
But every day he showed how
much
He loved each one of us!
He never missed a birthday,
All children were his own,
And when it came to faith in God,
His light as a candle shone!
For 40 years plus he led us all
In singing praises to our Lord
But when he felt his voice was gone,
We still looked to him for more.
And he gave us more without
complaint,
His voice to God he raised.
Oh, how we will miss his dear,
kind smile
And his holy quiet ways!
But he fell asleep in his dear Lord
The way he lived his life:
Quietly, without a fuss,
But still there are tears in our eyes.
And it's only because we will miss
him so
Each Sunday when we meet,
But through our tears we will
smile, too,
For he walks that golden street.

Bro. Henry Hodel was almost 89 years old when the Lord called him Home this past month, and we pray a special measure of comfort from God for all the family, friends and brothers and sisters-in-faith who will miss him so much.

Elder Bros. Ronald Nelson and Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AR) and ministering Bro. Ronald Allenbach, officiated at services held here.

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

Genesis 2:24

It is our fervent prayer that God will richly bless the marriage of Brian and Cammi Hostetler, children of Bro. Larry and Sis. Milicent Frieden and Mr. and Mrs. Delbert L. Hostetler (Harper, KS), Sis. Dorothy Brown and Sis. Myrtle Rathgeber are maternal grandparents. May God ever be the head of Brian and Cammi's home as He has been for Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie Frieden, who celebrated 25 years of marriage together this past month. Their children and family honored them with a reception at the fellowship hall here, and it was blessed and joyous occasion for everyone.

What a wonderful turnout we had when we held services at the rest home one Sunday this month. The singing was beautiful and uplifting for everyone.

We are so thankful John Farney is back in our midst again after spending some time in the hospital this month. May God bless those who are sick at home and give each a measure of strength in suffering.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern) and his dear wife, Sis. Connie, for spending a blessed weekend with us recently, to help Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson share the memorandum with us. We are so thankful for God-given brethren who care enough about this precious faith to try to retain the truths of the Gospel that we may hand them down to our children -- the future church -- should God delay Christ's coming. May God grant us the strength to remain steadfast through the trying times we each must face.

C - is for the Christ-Child, born upon this day
H - for herald angels in the night
R - means our Redeemer
I - means Israel
S - is for the star that shown so bright
T - is for three wise men, they who traveled far
M - is for the manger where He lay
A - is all He stands for

S - means shepherds came
And that's why there's a Christmas Day.

Let's keep Christ in it.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Mary Isch

CHRISTMAS AND
THE CHRIST CHILD

Is our Christmas celebrations
Of merriment and mirth
Let's not forget the miracle of the Holy Christ Child's birth --
For in our gay festivities
It is easy to lose sight of the Baby in the Manger
And that Holy Silent Night --
And we miss the mighty meaning
And we lost the greater glory of The Holy Little Christ Child
And the blessed Christmas story
If we don't keep Christ in

Christmas

And make His love a part
Of all the joy and happiness
That fill our homes and heart.

Helen Steiner Rice

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever."

Hebrews 13:8

Gene and Cheri Reed are the parents of Amanda Noel born November 8. Ryan and Natalie welcome her home. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie Frieden are the maternal grandparents.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Sharon Strahm - Beth Hartter

As Christmas approaches, for many of us the days are filled with various activities and excitement in anticipation of family gatherings, programs, gift giving and other events of the season. We sing about baby Jesus, the Shepherds, and the Wise Men of long ago. It is reassuring to know that the joys of Christmas were not limited to the time of Christ's birth but are a privilege we have in the present time. Let us be reminded that we each one have the opportunity to be a "wise" man or woman -- instead of drawing near to the manger, we can draw near to

the heart of God -- a place of quiet rest; away from the many times overdone festivities of the world. May Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, be the focus of our attention during this Christmas holiday.

Ethan Scott Young will celebrate his first Christmas with his parents, Roger and Janice Young, and his sister, Miranda, and brother, Trevor. Ethan was born October 21. Welcoming their tenth grandchild are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) visited our congregation recently. He shared with those teaching Sunday school, words of encouragement and direction in the instruction for our children and young adults who gather with us. We thank Bro. Bill for his ministry and helpful advice.

Also visiting us in the ministry were Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Bill Emch (Lamont, KS) and Darrell Stoller (Bern, KS). May God bless these brothers for their efforts and may He help us to absorb and understand the many good teachings that come our way.

The death angel has recently visited our congregation and claimed the lives of three loved ones. We are confident and thankful that as these dear ones departed this life, they had a hope of a better home.

Sis. Lena Wenger (late Bro. Will) passed away October 18, at the age of 89. Survivors include her son, Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger and their family. (Bro. Will passed away ten months previous). The family of Bro. Will and Sis. Lena Wenger wish to express their heartfelt thanks for the kind expressions of sympathy shown to them since the passing of their dear ones. May God richly bless you.

Sis. Hulda Bieri passed from this life October 28. Among those who will miss Hulda's kindness and loving nearness are a sister and nephew of Sabetha.

Bro. Phil Metzger said a final farewell to his dear wife, Sis. Bertha, November 8. The many fond memories we have of Sis. Bertha will continue to live on in our hearts. Our sympathy is extended not only to Bro. Phil, but to all the children, grandchildren and great-grandchild-

dren. Two daughters, Sis. Barb Edelman (Clifford) and Sis. Cheryl Metzger of our congregation are part of the family of ten children who will miss their mother.

Our Elder Bro. Sam Huber was in need of more surgery and had this done in Rochester, MN. We trust the doctors have found the cause of his discomfort and he will soon be feeling much better.

Thank You -- The administration and Board of Trustees of the Apostolic Christian Home and the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped want to thank everyone who so generously contributed items or donations for the Benefit Day for Lakeside Terrace, the twelve-bed home being built in Sabetha. Many items were received from congregations across the land which made the day a success. May God bless each one of you for sharing. Lakeside Terrace is scheduled to open in March, 1991.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Joe Gallatin has not been well. We miss his friendly participation in our Sunday morning worship and pray that he will be restored to a reasonable measure of good health.

I recently read this anonymous quote, "He who has no fire in himself cannot warm others." This has implications for us as Christians. If our enthusiasm for the Lord cannot be felt by others, our witness certainly cannot draw them into His service.

After such an adverse summer, autumn in our area has been mild and colorful. The chrysanthemums (at this date, 11/13) are still in their vibrant glory -- an indication of how moderate our few frosty mornings have been.

One of our Bible verses is Nahum 1:7. "The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him." What a comfort! Trust in Him.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch
 The weekend of October 20 was full of blessings for us here in Alto. We heard the memorandum on

Saturday evening and enjoyed a potluck dinner Sunday afternoon after being spiritually fed. We are truly thankful for Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for lending himself in this work.

Elder Bro. Gene talked of the time he was able to spend over in Eastern Europe with our brethren from there. He said they didn't have much, but shared what they had. Most of all though, they are so thankful for the little they have and to now be able to worship the Lord more freely without fear of persecution. We pray for them so they might have more, yet they pray for us because of the wealth of our material things and how they come between us in our life for our Saviour.

The question Bro. Gene then asked is: should we pray for persecution that we might better appreciate and know our Lord and Saviour?

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Oh, Father up in heaven,
 We have wandered far away,
 From the Holy little Christ Child,
 Who was born on Christmas Day.
 And the peace on earth you
 promised,
 We have been unmindful of,
 Not believing we could find it
 In a simple thing called love.
 We've forgotten why You sent us
 Jesus Christ, Your only Son,
 And in arrogance and ignorance
 It's our will not thine be done.
 Oh, forgive us, heavenly Father,
 Teach us how to be more kind,
 So that we may judge all people
 With our heart and not our mind.
 And, oh God, in Thy great goodness,
 May our guidance Christmas night
 Be the star the Wise Men
 followed --
 Not a man-made satellite.

Helen Steiner Rice

May we each carry our love for the Lord in our hearts and let it shine in our lives so others might better see the Light in us. And may we have thankful hearts this special holiday season of Christ's birth for all that the Lord hath done for us.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Peggy Waibel

"Christmas is a time to love . . . we often start to worry and people get upset, if things don't all go right on Christmas Day. What we should remember in all the push and shove, is Christmas is a time to love. Maybe things don't sound right, or look the way they should, and maybe they're not perfectly in tune. It really doesn't matter. Let's keep our eyes above, cause Christmas is a time to love."

Ernie Rettino and Debbie Rettino

With Christmas right around the corner we find that we are almost too busy to remember what Christmas is really all about. How many of us do Christmas baking and shopping with the Christ Child on our minds? Very few, I'm sure. This Christmas let's remember the Christ Child and all the love He bought to us on that first Christmas Day so long ago. Let's make it a point to spread that love to others.

Lori Schamback (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn) and Kery Andrzejewski (Norm and Sis. Linda) have been announced for peace. We pray that God will be with them as they patiently await baptism. Isn't it wonderful, the peace that God can put in a very troubled heart? We can only pray that more souls will want the peace that Lori and Kery have found.

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: This do in Remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new Testament in my blood which is shed for you."

Luke 22:19-20

We had the blessed privilege of receiving holy communion. Elder Bro. Ken Sauder served with Elder Bro. Andy Virkler in the serving of this great feast. We thank Bro. Ken for his act of service.

As 1990 comes to a close, let's take Jesus with us into 1991. Let's walk through every new day with Him as our guide and stay. May God bless and keep each one of you.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Sue Gasser

Isn't it nice to have a national day of Thanksgiving before Christmas? It prepares our hearts to enter the Christmas season with a thankful spirit. We're not only thankful for the abundance with which God has blessed us, but most of all for the gift of His Son. With all the joy and goodwill that fills our communities at this time of year, doesn't it seem right that the prevalent attitude should be thankfulness?

We appreciated hearing the Word spoken through our visiting ministers Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN). God bless your for sharing with us.

We've had two hospital patients this month. Dorothy Leman (Charles) was a surgical patient and Sis. Minnie Freidinger is a medical patient. Our prayers are with both of your for God's healing and strength.

Alto, MI, will host services at Woodhaven January 8, 1991, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Kathryn Schmidgall Marcy Schmidgall

We have enjoyed several visits from Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princetonville, IL) this fall. May God continue to bless him for his efforts.

On Saturday evening, November 3, we were privileged to hear the memorandum. Elder Bros. Joe Stoller, Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN) willingly shared with us the conclusion of the conference tapes.

Sunday afternoon it was made known to the congregation that Elder Bro. Harold Messner would no longer have the oversight of the Minneapolis congregation. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr is to assume his duties and responsibilities as our shepherd. We give Bro. Wayne our sincere prayers and support. Also, we would like to thank Bro. Harold for his many years of guidance and encouragement. May God bless these brothers for their endless "labors of love" for us all.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

With joyful and thankful hearts, Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner welcomed little Luke Douglas into their home. Julie, Heidi, Katie, Nick and Annie think he's a very special blessing. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Gladys Messner and Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia Mogler (Lester, IA).

Our hospital patients this month have been Sis. Minnie Nohl (Bro. Alvin), Bro. Frank Messner (Sis. Gladys), Sis. Kathy Nohl and Bro. Lloyd Fehr (Sis. Diane). May each suffering soul feel a special measure of God's comforting presence and be blessed with His healing powers if it is His will.

Again the special season of Christmas is here. May we solemnly remember the reason for His first coming and consider how we may thank Him for His great love.

Forsake this world of vanity
And all its lewd deception!
Invite the Prince of Peace to thee,
Give Him a true reception.
Approach Him humbly, low and meek.
Childlike, His grace and mercy seek,
For surely He first loved thee.

He came in humble modesty
And brought to us all blessings.
There in a manger slumbered He,
Eternal gifts possessing.
Arrayed in feeble flesh and blood
Appeared the gracious Son of God
To bring us all redemption.

In servant form the Saviour came,
From bonds of sin releasing.
His loving face upon us shone
With comfort, peace and blessing.
Removes all judgement and
suspense,
Shows us the Father's countenance
With love and grace surrounded.

His star lights up the darkest night
And He is ever near us;
Protects and shields us with all
might,
Shares us His help so gracious.
He seeks the missing lamb that
strays,
And with His life the ransom pays
For our sins and transgressions.

"Christ In The Flesh"
Zion's Harp #107, vs. 1-4

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Georgia Messner - Kim Messner

We want to thank Bro. Jim Knoblock (Elgin, IA) and his family for spending the weekend and bringing forth God's precious Word.

On Sunday evening, November 11, the Jr. and Sr. Bible classes invited everyone over 55, and their spouses, to supper and fellowship. A very enjoyable and blessed time was had by all.

Hospital patients for the month were Bro. George Messner and Sis. Jeanine Messner (Bro. Stan). We pray that God's healing hand will be upon them.

As much of our World Relief projects were delivered this past month, we want to thank everyone for their part and encourage others to come. We not only enjoy the fellowship but receive a blessing from doing things for others.

As the Christmas season approaches, let us not get so wrapped up in the material aspect that we forget the real reason for this precious holiday and the birth of our Christ.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Don Wales

The Kansas City Metropolitan area is host to the Annual FFA Convention, The American Royal Horse and Livestock Show as well as many other agriculture related meetings and conventions. These shows and meetings often bring welcome visitors from our other congregations to our Kansas City Church and we rejoice each time we have visitors.

Recent visiting ministers include Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We appreciate each of these brothers for lending themselves to share God's Word with us.

Our Kansas City congregation rejoices that another young friend has chosen to follow the path of God's plan of salvation. Kacie Thompson, daughter of Sis. Thirza Thompson started her repentance on Labor Day weekend. We are confident that God will find a way for Kacie to be a light unto the many

people she meets in school and work.

Our congregation bids a fond farewell to Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger and their children who have moved back to their former home at Metamora, IL. Bro. Ron came to Kansas City in 1981 to help finish the building of our church and moved his family here shortly after. In a nine-year period, Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole served in many capacities as our congregation grew in size. Among those were Sunday school teachers, superintendent, trustee, correspondent, Silver Lining reporter, food committee and song leaders. We wish this fine family God's richest blessings as they again assemble at Washington, IL.

As we again entered the holiday season let us not forget the hundreds of thousands of Americans who serve in foreign lands in countries with climates, customs and laws totally foreign to what we are blessed with at home. May we remember to support them with our prayers and our gifts.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Janel Kellenberger
Becky Marti

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with you, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Hebrews 13:17

Surely we do believe that our dear elder brothers do watch for our souls and seek to warn us of the dangers they see. Then it is up to each one of us to heed these warnings. We appreciate Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and our Elder Bro. Gene Marti in being willing to share the memorandum from the recent brotherhood conference with us this past month.

We wish to express our sympathy to Bro. Art Banwart in the loss of his sister, Sis. Clara Frank (Oakville, IA). We feel that her family and loved ones can find comfort in knowing that she has won her race.

The family of Virgil Frieden wishes to thank all for the prayers,

love, food, cards and everything anyone did for us during his stay in the hospital, at his funeral and since. May God bless each one as we can surely never repay them.

Bernice Frieden
 and all the families

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Mark Leman

"I have a question for you, Darin."

"Jesus is the answer. Now what was the question?" my brother replied.

It didn't hit me right away but after a moment of contemplation it occurred to me he was right. Whatever our problem, whatever is making us lose sleep at night, whatever is causing bad feelings or unwanted emotions to well up inside of us, Jesus has the answer and indeed is the answer. All we need to do is ask for the answer through fervent prayer and careful searching of the Scriptures. In this season of Thanksgiving and celebrating the birth of Christ, let's seek the Lord's face.

We greatly appreciate Bro. Ken Heimer's (Taylor, MO) help in spreading the Word in St. Louis this past month. Being a small church, we are always appreciative of visitors and we extend our invitation to all who would like to come and worship with us.

Progress in building our church has moved steadily along due in part to the blessing of warm weather even in the middle of November. The basic structure of the church was completed in mid-November when the roof was put on.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Ruthie Hoerr

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy . . ."

St. Luke 2:10

BEHOLD I BRING YOU
GOOD TIDINGS

What does this mean to us today . . .

Just a season that is bright and gay . . .

A gift . . . a greeting of good cheer . . .

The ending of another year?
 How little we have understood
 The meaning as we really should . . .

Our minds and hearts have been so small

We never got the real meaning at all!

For in these "Tidings" all men received

Much more than they have ever conceived.

For in these words beyond all seeing

"We live and move and have our being."

Helen Steiner Rice

Several in our community had misfortunes or were hospitalized this month. Bro. Brent Hoerr (Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma) suffered a broken wrist and John Hoerr (Bro. Donald and Sis. Elaine) suffered a broken leg. Nikke Hoerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) was hospitalized at Children's Hospital (St. Louis, MO) with a lung condition. All are recuperating nicely.

Becky Huber (Vernon and Sis. Judy, Morton, IL) had a special day, November 4, when she was baptized; a first in our new church. We rejoice with her and her family. Elder Bro. Joe Braker was here to assist our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm with her baptism.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Bros. Walt Hermann and Art Bauer (Princeville, IL) and Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN). We really appreciate our visiting ministers and pray God will continue to bless them abundantly.

A year ago our loved one went home to God. We have not forgotten; he lives in our memory. Others too have lost loved ones. We share in their sorrow but rejoice in the hope that Jesus gave us; that we can one day meet in heaven.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

On October 6, Lori Schneider and Todd Simser were united in marriage. Lori's parents are Bruce

and Betty Richie and the late Emerson Schneider. Todd's parents are Rhoda Simser and Sherman Babcock (Carthage). May God be a partner with them as they begin this new step of their lives.

We were permitted to partake of holy communion Sunday, October 21. Our thanks go to the visiting elder brothers who were with us to assist Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and Bro. Duane Farney. We are thankful for the messages brought to us from God's Word by Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH). May the meaning of holy communion remain with us throughout the coming days as we think of the love of God who sent His Son to live on earth and die for each of us. As we go forth each day to school, work or whatever our daily duties may be, may we walk close to God with the hope of meeting Him in heaven after this lifetime is past for us.

The time of year is fast approaching when we commemorate the birth of the Savior. What a humble beginning of a life which was to be given as such a great sacrifice for the world. Let us remember the true meaning of the Christmas holiday and not busy ourselves too much in the preparation for the days ahead.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

"As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters." Proverbs 25:13. We would like to have all our harvest done as the season is here that we may have snow; so we ponder on this verse how snow is good in harvest. As we toured the northern part of the Holy Land, we understood the contrast. Mt. Hermon has snow on it, and nearby below is a hot, productive area. In Bible days with out ice machines, and when the laborers were hot in harvest, a faithful messenger would quickly run to the top of the mountain to get snow to bring down, and it would refresh the souls of his masters. We're thankful for God's wisdom that when we are hot in our labors, if we take

God's Word, it is the cool refreshment to our souls.

Our congratulations to Mike Jarrett for receiving his Master's Degree in Business Administration in Marketing at Akron University. May the Lord direct Mike and Sis. Diane as he accepts a work position.

Joy Bako, daughter of Gene and Sis. Dianna Bako, has turned to the Lord in repentance. May the Lord help her in all areas of her life.

We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Robert Grimm and Joe Braker minister to us. We also appreciated Bros. Gary Maibach and Ron Steiner. Sis. Janet Graf was hospitalized, and we trust she will have a good recovery.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Julie Grimm

On November 4, we began assembling at our new church building. Present for this special occasion were Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL). Also ministering God's Word to us this past month were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). May God richly bless their labors of love.

It truly has been a blessing to have our own place of worship and we greatly appreciate those who make the effort to visit our small congregation. Our new address is 7860 Sawmill Road (located approximately one mile north of 270).

OHIO, JUNCTION Laurie Schlatter

Our congregation recently hosted the annual World Relief meeting. We wish to thank everyone who contributed in any way. Also, special thanks to all those who visited, including Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin) and Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA).

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

II Timothy 3:16

Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) shared with us the weekend of

November 17-18 as we heard the memorandum. We wish to thank Bro. Eugene for his encouragement on our behalf.

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy Williamson were blessed with a baby girl, Chelsea Rose. Grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Christine Locher and Robert and Sis. Janet Williamson. Older brother, Broc, welcomed a new playmate.

Audrey Marie was born to Mike and Valeria Klima. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Marge Laukhuf and Norbert and Lucille Klima. Audra is welcomed home by older sister, Sarah.

Those loved ones who were hospitalized during the past month are Bro. Roy Klopfenstein (Deborah) and Teresa Kuhn (Matt) and Gabe Stoller (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shirley). We pray for God's healing hand for these souls.

We want to welcome Bob and Sis. Joan Graf and family back to the Latty area. We are very glad that they are again worshipping with us.

We have many loved ones who have traveled to the south for the winter months. We pray for their safety during the journey. May the Lord keep them in His care.

As we gather during the Christmas season, let us remember the Gift given by our heavenly Father. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.

While commemorating the Christmas season with our families, let us remember those who are unable to gather with their loved ones.

We pray the Lord will greatly bless Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) for ministering unto us.

During the following month, we prayerfully gathered together for the reading of the memorandum. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that

must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Hebrews 13:17.

Reminder: December is collection month for Silver Lining dues for Latty subscribers. Please pay dues to your reporters.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments; For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee." (Proverbs 3:1, 2). Sis. Millie Matthes, age 101, and Sis. Katie Deturk, age 95, both passed away this past month. Our prayers and sympathies are with their families but we rejoice to know they are "safe in the arms of Jesus."

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." (Proverbs 18:22). We rejoice with Bro. Chuck Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Tammy Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane, Smithville) as their engagement was announced. May God bless them as they make their plans to walk together in the Lord.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (II Timothy 4:2). We are thankful Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen was willing to preach the Word of God to us. May God bless Bro. Aaron and his family for their willingness to be used in His service on our behalf.

"O, come, little children, O come one and all; To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small. God's Son for a gift has been sent to you this night To be your redeemer, your joy and delight . . . Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today; Lift up little hands, now and praise Him as they. Rejoice that a Savior is living today And join in the praise, in the heavenly ray. (C. von Schmidt). May we rejoice and enjoy the Christmas season with pure childlike hearts and spirits.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser - Lois Maibach

We were saddened to hear of the

death of Bro. Emmet Gasser who was killed in an auto accident October 27. Bro. Emmet served as a Sunday school teacher, a treasurer, and most importantly was a faithful example. We appreciate memories of his contented attitude. We pray God's grace will fill the emptiness felt by his wife, Sis. Marie, and children, Bro. Greg (Sis. Sue Ellen), Jonathan (Diane), Sis. Amy Cannon (Joe) and Sis. Ann (Philadelphia, PA). His brothers and sisters are Bro. Harry (Sis. Marguerite), Bro. Albert (Sis. Lucille), Lester (Lucille), Sis. Leora Backa (Mansfield, OH), Sis. Wilma Ramsier (Bro. Kenneth) and Sis. Aldine Ramsier (Bro. Nelson). We are comforted knowing Bro. Emmet was "carried by the angels to the land of rest" and "gathered with the loved in Paradise" (Gospel Hymns #389).

Among those sick and enduring a hospital stay recently have been: Bro. Alan Blough (Joe and Sis. Lucille), John Marty, Alicia Murray (Gary and Sis. Susan), Sis. Eleanor Ramsier, Sis. Lillian Rupp (Ken) and Bro. Don Walder (Sis. Martha).

October 20 Dale Steiner (Bro. Robert and Sis. Betty) and Beth Bickel (Mr. and Mrs. Guy Holland) were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Laura Gerber and their two children, Jeffrey and Melissa, welcome Amy Jo to their family. Happy grandparents are Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber and Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole Widmer.

Blessed with their first child, Paige Marie, are Bro. Heinz and Tanya Zierau. Loving grandparents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Zierau.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Janet Maibach (Bro. Art), whose brother, Gene Schorle; niece, Audrey Sigmon; and great-niece, Lacey Sigmon, were killed in a tragic car accident. Certainly God can comfort in sorrow.

The weekend of November 17 and 18 we gladly received a brother and two sisters to our believing body. Giving their testimony and accepting baptism were Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill Gasser and Sis. Jan Miller. We rejoice with Sis. Jan's and Sis. Jill's parents, Bro. Mike and Sis.

Norene Miller and with Bro. Mark's mother, Sis. Doris Gasser. We appreciate visiting elders, Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for assisting with this work. Visiting also were ministers, Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH).

With joyful hearts we encourage two young friends, Amy Hartzler (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce) and Tim Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie), as they have begun their repentance. May their hope be as the author of hymn #32 in the Hymns of Zion: "Let me never from Thee stray, Keep me in the narrow way; Fill my soul with joy divine, Keep me, Lord, forever Thine."

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

"Farewell dear brother" were the words said many times over as Bro. Tim Reinhard prepared to leave our area. Bro. Tim has been the World Relief labor coordinator for the Shadyside flood area these past few months. His presence in our area was a blessing to those he helped and a joy to our congregation. His enthusiasm in singing and pleasant personality were an encouragement to us all. He will be leaving for Haiti soon after Thanksgiving. May our great God richly reward him for his unselfish labor.

Our high school age Sunday school class visited LaCrosse, IN, November 11 and 12. They like us appreciated the fellowship and the close ties that remain.

We extend our sympathy to Janet Indermuhle (Allen) at the passing away of her grandfather. May God comfort them at this time.

Lisa Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) has made known that she has found peace with God and man. We look forward to her testimony and baptism in the future. May grace abide with you, Lisa.

As we approach this Christmas season, may there be a thankfulness in our hearts to know that the plan of salvation did not stop with the birth of our Lord and Saviour,

and may the true meaning of Christmas fill our hearts and lives.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Stephanie Luginbuhl
Kim Stoller

"In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

We are thankful that Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) visited us and preached to us the message of salvation. We are also thankful to our home ministers who faithfully minister to us each Sunday and Wednesday night.

We are thankful for the recovery of those who have been hospitalized this month. Sis. Shelly Rigenbach (Bro. Glen and Sis. Lou), Bro. John Rufener (Sis. Emily), Sis. Alma Maibach (Tug) and Sis. Luanna Dotterer (Bro. Dave) have felt affliction of the body but are now back to church.

We are rejoicing at the two new additions to our congregation. On October 11, Peter Fetzer was born to Andy and Elizabeth. Katie and Andy are Peter's brother and sister. On November 11, Kylee Jo joined the family of Bro. Larry, Sis. LuAnn and Jed Hartzler. Grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler and Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) also are thankful for Kylee.

We extend best wishes to Sis. Tammy Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Chuck Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue, Mansfield, OH) as their engagement was made known to us.

We truly have many reasons to thank God as we celebrate Thanksgiving Day.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehklau
Frances Laidig

On the weekend of October 28, we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Sis. Joy Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee). This precious soul has now become a child of the King, heir of His eternal kingdom and has her name written in

the "Book of life" which is in heaven. Our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Walter Rager carried out the work of the Lord.

Our other guest ministers were Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH).

The Christmas season will soon be here and we will be celebrating the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ to the earth as a babe. We cherish the words in the Bible which tells us:

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came down upon them, and the glory of the Lord shown around about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." St. Luke 2:8-11.

May Christmas bring great joy into our lives as we still live in the day of grace when salvation is made available for all men everywhere.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

"There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying."

Revelation 21:4

This can be said of our dear Bro. Fred Knecht (Eureka, IL), who has fallen asleep in Jesus at age 95. Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht (Silverton) as their dear father will be missed. Many precious memories linger on as I reminisce his visit with his dear wife, Sis. Emma and family as a young girl living in Roanoke, IL.

On November 4, Bro. Clarence and Sis. Bess Dietrich visited us from Silverton. We thank them for coming and ministering the precious Word to us! We were reminded, as the full moon sends forth its light from the sun, so may we reflect the beauty of the Son of God.

As we approach the Christmas time of year, may we center our thoughts on the miracle of God's unspeakable gift to mankind.

"We have come to worship Him, worship Christ our King. All glory, laud, and honor to Him we gladly bring.

'Tis now the blessed season, all hearts are full of mirth.

Ring glad tidings of goodwill to men, proclaim Messiah's birth.

As we gather in this hour, may we humbly see there's born Within the Christ Child a light to set -- men free.

The fairest of ten thousand, a bright and morning star,
 Comes our Savior given from above,
 salvation to impart.

Carols of Christmas

We appreciate the many visitors this past year and always welcome each one that comes.

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni

There with the angels singing,
 In heaven we shall roam,
 With gratitude proclaiming:
 We've reached the soul's bright home.

Zion's Harp #139, vs. 10

Our small congregation was saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Ann Gasser's father, Bro. Emmet Gasser October 27. Bro. Emmet was a kind and gentle brother who blessed our congregation when he visited. Bro. Emmet is survived by his wife, Sis. Marie; two sons and one other daughter.

Our church was blessed the weekend of October 27 and 28 when we hosted a group of young people from Rittman and Smithville, OH. It is a blessing when we can share precious moments with loved ones who love our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 10:32

We rejoice with Gabriel Clough (John and Sis. Kathy) who has

confessed Jesus Christ as his Saviour. May he feel God's grace as he begins his new walk of life.

We thank Bro. Douglas Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Michael Thomas (Valparaiso, IN) for bringing us God's Word. May God richly reward them for their efforts.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Don Sauder

Proverbs 3:5-7 reminds us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts: and lean not unto our own understanding. In all our ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct our paths. Be not wise in our own eyes, fear the Lord, and depart from evil. Yes, only if... we had the faith to live the 100 percent how much this world and our life would improve.

As this is the holiday season, we wish you God's love and blessing.

Service are held in Nashville the second Sunday of the month with the first service starting at 10:00 a.m. We welcome you to come visit us.

TEXAS,
DALLAS, HOUSTON
Brad and Cindy Eisenmann

Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary Metzger (Chicago, IL) were with us for our October services in Houston. We enjoyed a special time of fellowship with these loved ones who willingly shared with us their love and humble service.

Services are held in Houston on the last Sunday of each month beginning at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Southwest Freeway. We have changed the time for our afternoon service from 12:30 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. due to the fact that we are unable to have a noon lunch in the facility we occupy. Many of us often eat out together following our second service. We welcome anyone to contact Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann at (713) 265-2216 regarding Houston services. We have really enjoyed hearing from individuals who have called us during the week while in town here in Houston.

Ministering Bro. Dale Wulf and his wife, Sis. Becky (Lester, IA) were with us in Dallas November 4. On

November 18, we were privileged to have two ministering brothers in our midst. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Lemman (Bradford, IL) were here for our rotation and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) surprised us with his business-related visit to Dallas. Truly the Lord magnified the efforts of the brothers who brought the Word to us this month.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp are the local area contact for Dallas at (214) 867-4074. We welcome all to worship with us at the Holiday Inn-DeSoto, TX at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

Andy Plattner, Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary's son, has accepted a teaching position at Zapata High School.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein (Latty, OH church) have purchased a home in Zapata. We are happy to have them as regular winter residents.

A number of our winter residents are here now and we are looking forward to greeting more each Sunday.

SILVER THREADS

SILENT NIGHT

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,
Heav'nly hosts bring Alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth!

Gospel Hymns #474

O HOLY NIGHT
(Cantique De Noel)

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand;
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The king of kings lay once in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, To our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love, and His gospel is peace;
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name;
Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Hymns of Zion #757

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Hark, how the angel hosts
On Judah's meadows sing.
Where flocks and shepherds had
their post,
The joyful tidings bring!

For you is born today
The Lord at Bethlehem!
O gladsome message, full of grace,
How worthy of esteem!

Bring glory now to God
Whose throne is built on high!
The realm of darkness comes to
naught
The reign of peace is nigh!

Ye ransomed souls, rejoice
And your redemption praise!
With angel hosts lift up your voice
Whoe'er believes is saved!

Glory to God on high,
On earth His peace retell!
The Father's will shall now be done
Who maketh all things well!

Accept this song, oh God,
Which I in weakness bring,
Until released from all distress
Thy praise in heav'n I'll sing!

Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise the Lord! Halleluhan!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah, Praise the Lord!
Hymns of Zion #243

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and
nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour
reigns,
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, Repeat the sounding joy.
Gospel Hymns #606, vs. 1, 2

Sermon . . .

(Continued From Page 36)

Then he gave an example. He said, "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience." James 5:10. Let us go back and think of the prophets and think of what all they suffered.

Think of Elijah, perhaps. He is one we all remember from our Sunday school days and the things that happened to him. Remember, he had that contest with the prophets of Baal and he had them erect an altar and put their offerings on it to their idols and call upon their gods to accept it. But they couldn't. Remember then he did and he called to God and God sent fire down and burned up that offering and even the altar that he had placed it upon. (See I Kings 18:21-40).

Right after that he had to flee for his life. He fled and fled and finally he reached safety in a cave many miles away.

There are many examples we can use of how the prophets of old were persecuted. They did not have an easy life. They suffered, and yet they remained faithful, didn't they? They had a message and they brought that message forth when the time was right . . . when God's timetable called for it, and that is the key! So that is why he uses them as an example here, ". . . of suffering affliction, and of patience." James 5:10.

How many times have we read that word "patience" in this chapter already? It is several, isn't it? At least four times here. Perhaps we need it four times worse than we need any of the other characteristics that we are talking about here. We need it four times as bad. Let us try to think about this virtue then.

"Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11. We know what happened, don't we? Job lost everything, basically, except his life, didn't he? He lost everything except his life. He wife was faithful to him, but yet, even was discouraged and willing to give up. He lost his health and his

friends turned against him, but he was faithful through it. He had patience and he trusted God. He know that in the end things would work out right. Isn't that what we have to do?

Job didn't know what had happened in heaven. He didn't know about the meeting between God and Satan. Likewise, we don't know what is happening in heaven. We don't know the meaning behind what we have to go through, what we have to endure, or what we have to be patient about. But we know that if we can be faithful, that it will be well with us in the end.

"But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." James 5:12. Here we have just a very elementary teaching that we want to follow, don't we? In this life, how often we find and have to work with people who use the Lord's name in vain, who swear and use God's name in vain, or Christ's name in vain. It hurts us, and it should hurt us, shouldn't it, when we hear it? We need to be careful if we have to work in those kinds of environments that we don't let it become a part of our thinking even at all.

Then if we are called upon to sign a document or to appear before a judge, appear in court for any reason, or for anything, that we don't swear, but that we affirm. How thankful we can be that in this land that we are given that privilege that we can affirm and we can say, "Yes" or "No, I will affirm." We do not have to swear, so we have something to be very thankful for there.

Then he talks about people who are sick. "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray." James 5:13. What do we do when we are sick? Perhaps for most of us, the first thing we do is complain, isn't it? That is the human thing . . . to complain . . . wish we were better, and that is natural. But what does James say here? Let us pray.

Let us use it for an opportunity to draw near to God. To realize how frail we are, and to draw near to God again. When we are sick, that virtue of patience comes right in, doesn't

it, and we can see how important it is?

Then on the other hand, "Is any merry? let him sing psalms." James 5:13. We go through those times in life, don't we, when things seem to go very good, when everything is just really going smooth? When the weather is nice like it is today and we can feel the blessings of God, we can feel the blessings and enjoy them, what does Satan try to do? Sometimes he tries to make us feel like we have done it all and we have earned and accomplished it and he would like to make us forget God, forget Christ, forget what He has done for us and forget the reason for our real joy and for our real peace.

So he gives us some good advice here. When things go good and when we feel the blessings of God, let us sing. Sing in our heart if we are in a place where we can't sing. Sing in our heart. It is a beautiful, beautiful past time when we feel the joy of our salvation.

Then he talks again about being sick, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church: and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up . . ." James 5:14, 15.

I think if we would look at other places in the Scripture, we would find that when we pray because we are sick, there is another phrase that we need to add, isn't there? That is to pray according to God's will, that we be healed if it be the Lord's will. We don't want to demand of God anything. We want to say, "Lord, help me, but if it is Thy will." That is really what we want, isn't it?

We want God's will to be done, and yet, we know that He answers prayer. We have heard often and have experienced it where souls have prayed and where many people have prayed for one individual and miraculous things have happened! That gives us faith, and we know that God is powerful and almighty!

But yet it is just good exercise for us to always to remember to say, "Lord, if it be Thy will, let Thy will be done."

Then he said, ". . . the Lord shall rise him up; and if he have commit-

ted sins, they shall be forgiven him." James 5:15. We know Christ can forgive our sins. God can forgive our sins if we live in Him. Sometimes souls are brought back from a very dire illness or accident. If they haven't been converted, they can realize how much power God has and that they are given another opportunity. Then if they repent, yes, they can have their sins forgiven. That is the bottom line, isn't it?

Sometimes there are people who say, "Well, we believe that there is no need to be sick in this life. If you have enough faith, you will never be sick." We have to be careful that we don't think that way because there seems to be a purpose sometimes when sickness brings us to the point we realize our frailty and that we need to depend upon God and to realize really what we are and how we stand before God and to trust in Him more and more.

"Confess your faults one to another." James 5:16. Confessions is really a necessary thing, isn't it? If we have a fault and if we have something that burdens us that we are convicted about and we keep it, what happens? Satan uses it to torment us, doesn't he, to really create havoc in our life and in our spiritual mind?

Confession, on the other hand, will bring peace when we can confess and make things right. It just makes our life right again if we can do that.

". . . pray one for another, that ye may be healed." James 5:16. Pray for one another. In talking with a convert about prayer, the thought comes, why should we pray? God knows everything. But isn't it good spiritual exercise to pray for one another and to pray for someone else, to pray for others' needs, rather than to think about ourselves so often? Let us do that.

We need to pray to God for our own needs and for wisdom to know how to walk and to correct our errors and failings. But then we need to pray for others, that God can help others, God can convict the sinners, and God can help the souls that are turning to Him. Pray for one another.

"The effectual fervent prayer of

a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16. The effectual fervent prayer. Think about those words! Are our prayers effectual and fervent? Effectual and fervent! Fervent means zealous, I think. Are your prayers zealous? Are they fervent? When we do that and when we are His children, it availeth much. We can touch the heart of God when we approach Him this way.

He gives us an example here. "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." James 5:17, 18. Think about the power of prayer! Think about it.

God answered it here, and He will answer your prayers and mine when we come to Him with the right attitude and in a fervent way seeking His will.

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." James 5:19, 20. I don't think James here means that any of us can convert anyone. We can't, can we?

But we can be a light and an example and draw souls by the power of Christ in us. That is what we have to ask ourselves, isn't it? Is Christ really evident in our life? Often this convicts us because we know perhaps we are not being the light that we should be, and we need to do better with God's help.

We need to let the light of Christ be evident in our lives so that souls can see that there is a better way to live.

There is a better way to live than to have the things of this world first. There is a better way to live than to follow the lusts and passions and the strife of this world.

It is to live faithfully. It is to live patiently. It is to live in the Lord. Then really, that is the bottom line, isn't it? If we live in the Lord as we go through this life, we can live with Him in life eternal. What more can we ask for?

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SERMON BY BRO. CHARLES W. SAUDER OF TREMONT, IL

Patience and Prayer Brings Victory James 5

Starting in the seventh verse, James gives some warnings here about the fact that the Lord is going to come again. We all know that . . . it is just a matter that we have to be reminded. It helps us to keep that in the frame of our mind the realization that, yes, we really don't know when the Lord is going to come.

He says, "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord." James 5:7. When we think of it, that is really very, very good advice, isn't it, to be patient in the way we live here in this life? Who of us doesn't need that?

So often we become impatient and we wish that things would go faster than they seem to for us from time to time, and we need patience. Particularly when things don't go the way we would like them to go. We know one of the fruits of the Spirit is longsuffering and that deals with patience over a long, long time.

If that is one of the fruits of the Spirit, then it is one that we really need to think about and often need to realize that the Lord is working in our lives when we have something to be patient about for a long, long time. Can we find the grace to be patient?

Here he is using it in the matter of the coming of the Lord. Sometimes when we get frustrated with this life, we just wish the Lord would come, except that we wish some souls would repent yet. We find souls who come to the end of life and have to suffer and reach a high age, we would just love to have the Lord come and take them home. But we don't set that timetable, do we? None

of us do. We don't know that the Lord has in store for us or what work we have to do. So we have to be patient until the time when His timetable is finished.

We look at the Mid-East today and we see all the turmoil there. We see the problems in Israel and the strife there between the different factions, and then in Iraq, too. We could become very disturbed about it all, couldn't we? But we don't know what the Lord's timetable is, so we have to be patient.

In one place it says to be patient in well-doing so that we are ready . . . patient unto the coming of the Lord.

It gives the example of the husbandman here. He is talking that ". . . the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he received the early and latter rain." James 5:7. Last Spring many of us planted things and tilled them all summer long until we could get some fruit out of our gardens and fields. We had faith, didn't we, that harvest would come? Yes, it did and we have been blessed by it!

In a spiritual sense, today is just a matter of planting and then tilling, isn't it? For those who are His children, it is a matter of tilling. It is a matter of nurturing. It is a matter of taking care of our spiritual life, isn't it, as we go through this life? Do we nurture our spiritual life? Do we take care of it and tend to it so that it can flourish? That is really what we want, isn't it?

We want our spiritual life to flourish . . .

to be tended like a beautiful garden is tended. When it is tended, the weeds are taken care of. A field is a good example, too. When the weeds are taken care of, it is tilled and cultivated. Then it flourishes and it is evident.

Let us look at our lives. Is there evidence in our lives that our spiritual life is well tended and nurtured? There can be, can't there, if we apply the Word to it? We need to apply the Word to our life and be patient until the end.

He said, "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth night." James 5:8. He goes around this subject a couple of times here. Whenever that happens in Scripture, we know it is for emphasis. For that emphasis, we have to just think that it means it is extra important.

"Be ye also patient." "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door." James 5:8, 9. How easy it is to hold a grudge? To look at our neighbor or someone we work with and feel like they got the better end of the deal, or wish we would have received what they received, or we were in the position that they received, how easy it is to become bitter and hold a grudge.

When really, we just have to look at our life and look at things in this life and realize that they really are just temporary. Perhaps this is just something for us to learn patience through. Let us try to do that, brothers and sisters, as we go through this life.

(Continued on Page 34)