



"I will LOVE thee, O Lord,
my strength."
Psalms 18:1

"PEACE be to the brethren,
and LOVE with FAITH,
from God the FATHER and
the LORD JESUS CHRIST."
Ephesians 6:23

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A NEW YEAR 1991

"Every matter has its time and way, although man's trouble lies heavy upon him. For he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will be?"

Ecclesiastes 8:6, 7

"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; ..."

Psalms 65:11

FAITH

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not
seen."*

Hebrews 11:1

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

I Corinthians 13:13

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

PLEASE AND THANK YOU IN 1991

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The year was 1960 -- Lois and I were on our first trip back to the States after a six-year stretch in Japan. We were staying at someone's home and I made a telephone call to the station to check on the schedule to go cross country. When I hung up the telephone our hostess said to me, "Now what's the matter with you?" I asked the reason for her question and she told me that I had said "thank you," or "please," about every other word. Obviously, I was suffering from "culture shock" in reverse. On that first trip with our two older children, we couldn't handle our own culture very well. It was too impolite. Trying to fit in, I inadvertently went overboard with politeness, at least in my telephone conversation.

Come to think of it, what's wrong with "please," and "thank you"? In I Peter 3:8, we find the words, "Be courteous," at the end of the verse. I notice that the translators of The New International Version render that Greek word, "Be humble." In our brotherhood, being humble is emphasized more than being courteous. Yet to be sincerely courteous is an indication of humility. It shows that you value the other person and feel that he or she deserves your respect. Many years ago Elder Bro. Dave Mangold (Roanoke, IL) told us here in Japan that he believes all the problems in the church come

from a lack of respect. I think he was referring to human relations problems. The matter of more courtesy deserves consideration.

The words we use and the tone of the voice have a great effect on the other person. Husbands and wives should be extremely courteous with each other. It makes life so much more pleasant and productive. Besides, the Lord Jesus Christ said in Luke 6:31, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." I personally prefer for others to speak courteously to me so I'm going to try to use "please" and "thank you" a great deal in 1991. Will you join me?

THANK YOU

Some months ago we put in the Silver Lining a request for used Bibles. You have responded very well! We are so thankful for the Bibles and donations we have received. At this time we have received enough financial contributions to last for quite awhile. You may, however, continue to send us your used Bibles. Now we say thank you and may God be your rich rewarder. "Let us not be weary in well doing."

In Christian love,
Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant
Latty, Ohio

SHADYSIDE WORK PROJECT COMPLETED

June 14 - December 15 (6 months)

Following the tragic flood in Shadyside, OH, the Work Project Committee approved the building of two new homes for young families who had lost everything but their lives.

Bro. Tim Reinhard (Detroit, MI) was hired to coordinate the work of excavation, block laying, framing, drywalling, trimming, etc. -- everything to build two beautiful new homes.

Brethren from Illinois, Indiana and Ohio volunteered stage after stage until the last of the paint was rolled, the carpet laid and both families were able to move into their
(Continued on Page 4)

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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David Bertsch
Uriel Gehring
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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

CONSIDER THIS SINGLE SISTER AND HOUSEPARENT COUPLE NEEDED AT GATEWAY WOODS

Sis. Carol Kieser, who has served in the All-Girls East House and Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller, who have served in the New House will be leaving soon. We are trusting that mature individuals will respond to the Lord's leading to be parents to teens who need Godly love and guidance. The work is challenging, rewarding and inspiring.

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

Bro. Tim Sauder, Administrator
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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).

UNCONDITIONAL ETERNAL SECURITY

God offers the wonderful promise of the assurance of salvation to all His children who remain true and faithful. The Lord will present true believers to God as "holy and unblameable and unproveable" (Col. 1:22), if they "continue in the faith, grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel" (Col. 1:23). Indeed, "He that shall endure until the end, the same shall be saved" (Mark 13:13).

The entire concept of assurance of salvation must be seen in light of 1 Timothy 4:1: "Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." The potential for deception is real, and we must always be on guard.

Unconditional eternal security or "once saved, always saved," is a false doctrine. This viewpoint holds that even if a believer falls into gross, willful sin and persists in a state of apostasy, he will nonetheless retain his salvation and spend eternity in Heaven. Inevitably, it fosters a careless lifestyle which brings great shame to the cause of Christ. Such misinterpretations result when persons dwell only on certain of God's promises and fail to see them in the context of "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

Proponents of unconditional security emphasize several New Testament texts. If taken out of context from other pertinent Scriptures, these verses seem to lend some validity to this viewpoint. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39). "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John

10:28). "... for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12). None of these verses excludes the fact that any individual can himself choose to no longer abide in Christ and thus reject Him. "... if thou seek Him, He will be found of thee; but if thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off for ever: (1 Chron. 28:9). It is a fallacy to presume that human beings would lose this freedom of choice by becoming Christians.

There are many examples in the Word which affirm the need for the believer to be faithful. The Lord's parable of the vine and the branches concludes that if one does not remain in the vine, "... he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6). Similarly, the parable of the ten virgins indicates that those whose lamps were without oil heard distressing words from the Bridegroom, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not" (Matt. 25:12). The Lord Jesus reiterated, "Ye are the salt of the earth: But if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (Matt. 5:13).

While the promises of assurance abound (John 1:12-13; 2:17,24; Rom. 8:16; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 3:2, 20-21; 5:13; Jude 24), there are many "ifs" that indicate security in Christ is conditional, not unconditional. Assurance in Christ is predicated on faithfulness. God does not reward disobedience, rebellion, or wanton sin. Rather, he abhors sin, and if unrectified, its wages are death (Rom. 6:23).

The Word cautions the believer: "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence (assurance) steadfast unto the end" (Heb. 3:14); "Wherefore the rather, brethren,

give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (2 Peter 1:10).

The Apostle Peter's exhortation regarding faithfulness is one of the Word's strongest. "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them" (2 Peter 2:20-21). This clearly refutes the argument that those who fall back were never truly saved. Peter refers to believers who had escaped the world through Christ.

God's Word is clear in describing a condition of hopeless "falling away" and makes a sobering declaration that in such cases it is "impossible" to renew "them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Heb. 6:4-6). Those who deny this truth and give a false hope to lukewarm, backsliding Christians will bear a heavy responsibility on judgment day.

The entire outlook of professed believers is influenced by their position on eternal security. Belief in its unconditional form minimizes the importance of church discipline, holy living and perseverance. It creates an obsessive concern for getting people to make a "decision for Christ" without an accompanying sense of responsibility for their spiritual maintenance.

The subject of eternal security is best understood if we simply recognize that just as we are saved by grace through faith, we remain saved by retaining that living faith unto the end. And true faith will be manifested by continued obedience to the Word of God.

new homes before Christmas. Many other homes are under construction by other volunteer groups. The Sardis Church provided housing for our volunteers.

A heartfelt thanks to each of you who gave of yourselves from the homeowners, Bros. Tim Reinhard and Bob Indermuhle.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

We would like to take this time to give you our Christmas sentiments. First of all, we need to thank the many people who have supported this Home with their love: parents of residents, staff members, board members, many, many volunteers, and many, many financial contributors. We know the Lord will reward each of you. We humbly ask for the prayers of all of you. Please request that the Lord's will be done at this Home.

Christmas is a time of reflection on past times and is also a hopeful time dreaming of bright futures. We, at the Home, look at past years fondly, remembering "the way it was." We remember residents who are no longer here for one reason or another. We also remember staff members who worked so hard here. We think of volunteers and board members who were very active and now have aged. We appreciated them all so much.

As we think of the future here, although there have been changes

in people and in the addition of satellite homes, we are optimistic because we have committed these homes and residents to the Lord -- knowing He takes us through change for our own good.

Now we wish you each a most blessed Christmas (don't be too busy to reflect) and a wonderful New Year (wait on the Lord's leading).

February birthdays at ACHH are: John Kamm (18), Lee Anne McKay (19), Virginia Reece (27) and Guy Masinelli (28). No birthdays at Oakwood, 540 N. Main or Hazelwood.

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home

Ida Metzger - Shay Nelson

At this time of year, many people start traveling for the holidays. Many different modes of transportation are used. My favorite has to be the airplane. I like feeling the anticipation of a new adventure and the joy of being home again that seems to accompany the start of every flight. At the beginning of the ride, many things are always the same. Finding your seat, buckling up and half-listening/half-reciting to yourself the stewardess' speech. Everything has the familiar routine quality about it. No real surprises. Then the engines come to life, and the plane lurches into motion as it takes its place in line for the runway. About that time, things inside the plane start to change. Some people get

more excited and start looking all around, out every window at once. Others grip the armrest for dear life, while squeezing their eyes shut, while still others don't even seem to be aware of what's going on. Then all at once the plane is moving faster and faster and with a feeling of pressure on your body and a sudden swoop -- you're in the air, and off for your destination! Will your ride be smooth or rough, long and tiring, or quick and exciting?

In many ways, one experiences the same feelings at the start of a new year. You know the routine of the coming months and what each month means to you. Sometimes it's exciting because of the coming events, such as birthdays, weddings and vacations. Sometimes, you're left holding onto God's promises for dear life because of the mountains and valleys that need to be climbed.

With all the changes and new faces coming and going on campus, many of us are in the "holding on for dear life" state. We really ask for your prayers in the following months as we go through a number of staff changes. After serving nearly three years, Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller will be leaving their houseparenting position in late January. We're thankful Sis. Patsy plans to remain as our part-time "Office Assistant" and Bro. John will be working in the area. Also, Sis. Carol Kieser (houseparent in the all-girls house) was recently announced to be married to Bro. Todd Schrock.

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

We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings. We continue to seek God's direction and help to fill these houseparent openings.

We welcome Wendy E. into our Transitional Living Program. We are thankful to Sis. Amy Unsicker (TLP Coordinator) for all of her efforts as she works with our young people on campus and at her house in Fort Wayne.

Many thanks to all who came and helped during the time of the

construction of the apartment added to the West House. Houseparents Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames (and their three children) moved in and are very thankful for the added space.

People have been so thoughtful this holiday season and have shared with us so generously. Thanks to all who remembered us and our children with gifts, money and prayers. May each of you have a joyous, peace-filled new year!

ALABAMA, ATHENS Pamela Moore

November 17 was the Apostolic Christian Preschool Board Meeting, and we thank Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Bill Hart (Goodfield, IL) and their wives for traveling to Athens for the weekend. The Preschool needs their support, suggestions and guidance in order to be pleasing to God and function as smoothly as possible.

Wednesday night, November 21, we were privileged to have Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and his family share the evening with us at church, as they traveled through on their way to Florida. We appreciated the message brought to us that evening by Bro. Stieglitz, reminding us that not only at Thanksgiving, but at all times, we should be thankful!

December was filled with Christmas meals and get-togethers. December 14, Athens Church held their annual Christmas dinner. We gathered in the fellowship hall to share in a potluck Christmas dinner, and the sharing of gifts, love and joy.

December 15 was the children's annual Christmas program at church. It's always a special way to be retold the Christmas story, through innocent children recounting the birth of the innocent Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Wednesday night, December 19, we gathered to sing Christmas carols to those who are a special part of us. We enjoy carrying Christmas baskets and visiting the homes of those we love to share the joy of Christmas with them.

Many who have been a part of Athens, or have come to visit us, know O. C. and Amanda Haggemaker. Their infant son, Chase, has been hospitalized twice in the past month, with an unsuccessful surgery, and must return again for surgery soon. They seek the prayers of everyone for their precious child, that surgery will be successful, and he can return home with them soon.

Christmas is a time of joy for many, but it is also a time of sorrow and sadness for those who are without families, those who have lost a loved one, those separated from their families, for whatever reason it may

-- 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*
December 1990 —	3319	13,615*

*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.

be. These people need our prayers, love and friendship, not only at Christmas time but all through the year. If you know someone in this situation, send them a letter, give them a phone call, invite them to your home, or go and visit. May this be a New Year goal for each of us.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

On November 25 many relatives and friends came for the wedding of Sis. Erica Roth and Bro. Todd Baum. It was a fine 81 degree day as the groom's grandfather, Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, and the bride's uncle, Bro. Nile Bucher, solemnized the wedding ceremony. The buffet reception was held at Westcourt in the Buttes. Their parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Roth and Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum.

We are grateful for inspiring messages from our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Croghan, NY), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN) and the afore mentioned Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN).

November 18 was our special privilege of taking communion. We were served by Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and Bro. Jon Kokanovich. We are thankful that Bro. Bill Dotterer and Bro. Greg Gramm brought the sacraments so we could break the bread and take the cup.

Our sympathy to Bro. Herb and Sis. JoAnne Knochel on the death of her sister, Lois. They flew to Michigan for funeral services.

Hospital patients were Bro. Dan Kokanovich and Bro. Ervan Rokey (car accident).

A well attended chili supper preceded caroling. Three large groups of joyful singers covered Glendale, Sun City, Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe. Our grandson, Franz, told us "It was very pretty when our church sang."

Our Sunday school Christmas program is always a joy and delight. Parents, grandparents and friends enjoyed the songs and recitations. Decorated tables with goodies and punch for everyone made us, once again, rejoice our Saviour was born in a manger in Bethlehem.

There is always much to be grateful for -- the busy times of December with holiday meals and baking for family gatherings, etc. There are some of us who must ask our heavenly Father for much patience, "To be content in whatever state we are in." At one such time a hummingbird (green jacket), a finch (red head and chest) and a ladder backed woodpecker chased away a red-headed woodpecker while two big sapsuckers were scampering on the ground. What a reward to see! What contentment! Yes, He lives within my heart!

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Don Emch was chosen for trustee-treasurer; Bro. Bob Farney for trustee-interior maintenance; Bro. Jim Zollinger for usher; Bro. James Emch and Bro. John Dotterer for Sunday school.

Thanks to a group who went to Juarez, Mexico, on work projects. Seeing how thankful our Mexican neighbors are, makes doing the Lord's work even more of a blessing.

We leave you with Luke 11:2-4 and God's love til next month.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our deacon, Bro. Noah Herman, is now at the Restmor Nursing Home in Morton, IL, after a lengthy stay at Methodist Hospital in Peoria, IL. Believing this is the will for his life, we pray Bro. Noah, "Grandpa" to so many of us here, can be content where the Lord has placed him. We love you and miss you, Grandpa!

Bro. Ron Macklin and Bro. Vince Aeschliman, both of Indiana, have joined our congregation, for awhile anyway. We are so glad to have them! May the Lord bless their time here.

Our friend, Loyal Enz, is home following surgery. Our prayers are with him as he recovers.

Our business meeting for 1990 has resulted in the following changes: Bro. Jay Knapp replaces Bro. Dean Sinn as trustee; Bro. Don Bauer replaces Bro. Fred Funk as trustee; Bro. Brad Bauer will replace Bro. Jay Knapp as Sunday school superintendent; Bro. Rudy Bertschi replaces Bro. Dean Sinn as usher; Sis. Evelyn Knapp replaces Sis. Louann

Funk as our kitchen coordinator; Sis. Lisa Knapp will start a two-year term in Sunday school replacing Sis. Diane Funk; Sis. Yvonne also begins a two-year term in Sunday school replacing Sis. Heidi Sinn. Our prayers should be with the brothers and sisters who hold these jobs, along with our cooperation and help. Our gratitude goes with the brothers and sisters vacating their jobs. Special thanks to Sis. Sandy Bauer and Bros. Steve Bauer and Fred Funk for filling in for Sis. Heidi and Bro. Dean when they moved to Oregon. Many thanks, too, to Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi! Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach presided over our meeting which we appreciate so much!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Cindy Schmidt - LaNae Meyer

Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Sis. Lois were able to spend a Sunday with us, as both our ministers were out of town. We are thankful for the time he took to be with us during a month full of events. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Wilma spent a Saturday night with us in worship service. Sunday was a full and blessed day, with Bro. Curt Heimer (Alto, MI) and his wife, Sis. Sue, sharing God's Word with us. God can use any of us to proclaim His Word, if we submit to Him and let His Spirit dwell in us.

Our small Sunday school shared the truth with us at the Christmas program. The younger children recited from memory the Ten Commandments (the old law), and the older children read Scripture about how Jesus came to give the new Law -- the law of love. St. Luke 10:27 was read, "... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." We are thankful for Bro. Roy Metzger and Sis. Helen Varga for the time they spend teaching our children. We finished this day by singing Christmas carols at the Regency Nursing Center. The elderly folks really appreciated it, especially seeing the children.

The month ended with the beauty

of it all. We heard the testimony of Rory Strahm and witnessed his baptism. We praise the Lord as we greet him as a brother-in-Christ. We had visitors here from Phoenix, AZ, Altadena, CA, Oregon, Sabetha and Bern, KS. We were thankful for the love and teachings from Elder Bro. John Leman (Bern, KS) and his wife, Sis. Connie. We can only imagine how the Lord rejoices when a sinner comes home, as it was such an uplifting weekend for us all.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:10, 11. May this be encouragement for us all, to fight against the enemy and be fully clothed in God's armour throughout the New Year.

COLORADO, DENVER

Marlene Leman

Bro. Bill Geyer had to have more surgery on his leg this month. We are thankful that all went well. He has been through much in these two years since his auto accident and his patience and uncomplaining attitude have been an inspiration to us all. We look forward to the time when his body can be healed sufficiently for him to assemble with us on a regular basis. We continue to remember him in our prayers.

This is the time of year when we choose a new trustee. Bro. Doug Hohulin has finished his term and we thank him and pray God will bless his labors. Bro. Joe Hohulin was chosen to replace him. We are so thankful that in our very young church God has given brothers willing and knowledgeable in the many things needed to maintain our building. God truly sees our needs and provides.

Our Sunday school children again brought to us the Christmas story in verse and song. They also brought forth the stirring thought of "Do we really keep Christ in Christmas?" Often we hear people complain about "over commercialization of Christmas" or schools not allowing carols to be sung or not teaching about the birth of Christ or other things the "world" is doing to cut Christ out of

Christmas. But we need to look carefully at our lives and see how much support we are giving to these ideas by our actions or attitudes. Do we give gifts because we "owe" someone or we feel we "have" to? Or do we want to share the blessings we've been given with those we love and those in need? The children brought out many thoughts that made me take a fresh look at myself. I just hope I can keep it in my mind each day as life goes on. At this time we also want to ask a special blessing upon the dear brothers and sisters who teach the children in Sunday school. Their words and their lifestyle have a big impact on each child that attends.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Martha Luginbuhl

"With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; With an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright . . . With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure . . . For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks."

Psalms 18:25, 26, 27

So quickly we are once again beginning a new year and we welcome into the fold with love Kathy (Niemann) Luginbuhl (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alma) and Skip Gerber (Bro. Mannie and Faith). May God grant them much insight and understanding during their time of repentance and conversion from the world to become a separated people. Only then has He promised sufficient grace to resist the seemingly, ever-increasing deception of Satan to which we all yielded in our former lives.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy Viens are the happy parents of Rebekah Mae born November 9. She will be a good companion to Anne. Grandparents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold. Also, Bro. Vern and Sis. Jean Bahler became first-time parents November 21 when Carly Jean came into their lives. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Aline Bahler and Bro. Joe and Sis. Alma Skipper. Our best wishes to these couples with their new bundles of love and responsibility.

We rejoice with Stephanie Moser

who was baptized in Champaign, IL, November 11. Stephanie is attending the University of Illinois and her parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol.

Many visitors were with us November 2 to witness the marriage vows of Sis. Donna Ballasy and Bro. Dwight Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). Parents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina Ballasy and Bro. Harold and Lollie Mogler. May the Lord be the focal point of marriage. Also our thanks to ministering Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) for giving of themselves in bringing us the Word of God.

On December 9, we were pleased to hear of the faith of Bro. Scott Zahner and Sis. Nancy Mangold to become engaged and wish them God's blessings. Parents are Bro. Mannie and Sis. Clara Zahner and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold. Last, but not least, we were happy to hear that Bro. Rudy and Sis. Evelyn Luginbuhl's daughter, Sis. Judy, and Bro. Lester Stoller, both of Leo, have faith to announce their engagement and intention to marry in the Lord December 30. May the Lord bless their union.

Sis. Mary Diggelman (85) has been called to her sweet rest November 14. She leaves her husband, John; and a son, Richard (Rochester, NY); three grandchildren and two sisters, Sisters Esther Isch and Alice Honnegger (Bluffton, IN). A special thanks from her family for all the kind deeds rendered at the time.

Sunday evening, December 16, we all enjoyed the innocence and simplicity so evident on the faces of our children as they presented a program of hymns commemorating Jesus' birth. We want to thank the children, teachers and others who worked so diligently to make this program possible.

Our thoughts and prayers are often with those confined to their homes because of sickness; namely, Bro. Mannie Luginbuhl and Ray Hartmann as well as their companions who so lovingly and faithfully care for them. Also, those in nursing homes, in our own Longview Village, as well as those who may be under a doctor's care. We do not

know why but let us have courage as the Lord said: "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)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Visiting ministers during December were Bro. Jerry Isch with his wife, Sis. Linda (Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Bob Walder with his wife, Sis. Gloria (Congerville, IL). May God bless them for their faithful service in the ministry. Services were conducted 24 times during 1990 and we are thankful that the Lord has been faithful in sending us a minister each time, and blessing us richly from His Word.

Our little assembly here in Washington, D.C. has prospered in every way during the past year, and especially that four souls turned to the Lord in repentance of which three are awaiting baptism.

Other visitors during December were from Peoria, IL and Rittman, OH.

The Stolls travelled to Corpus Christi, TX, over the holidays to be with his family on Christmas, the Klopfensteins to Illinois, Matthew Aeschleman to Wilmington, DE, Matthew Mangold to South Bend, IN, Sharon Ramsier to Ohio, and the Belsleys, Henrietta Meyer and Robert Welk all spent Christmas at home with family and relatives.

A few of us travelled to Rockville, CT, the weekend of December 9 to hear the reading of the memorandum, along with the appropriate exhortations and admonitions. It was a blessed, inspiring weekend.

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month at the Tysms West Park Hotel located on U.S. Route 7, about 1 mile west of I-495, beginning at 10:30 a.m., eastern time. For information or assistance, please call Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein at 703-979-3476 or Bro. Matthew Aeschleman at 301-863-9624. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to come and worship with us.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri K. Huber

We were privileged to host the winter World Relief Conference. We haven't had so many visitors in a long time and are thankful we were able to fellowship with old friends and new acquaintances. The elders and ministers who visited (and we had the opportunity to listen to most of them preach the Word) are: Elder Bros. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), David Bertsch (Leo, IN); ministering Bros. Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

As usual, the holiday season snuck up on us. I am so glad that our focus is not on the decorations, parties and gifts, but rather on the remembrance of Christ's birth and of God's love. I'm always thankful for this annual reminder to show other people the love of God through my actions in any way I can. Some of the ways we celebrate God's love in Fort Lauderdale are by participating in the Salvation Army bell ringing. Contrary to what I would expect when the experts have predicted a recession, people at the shopping malls seemed extra friendly and generous this year. We also go Christmas carolling for the elderly church members and at a local nursing home. The words, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come" truly represent the meaning of the season.

And finally, there is the Sunday school Christmas program. I realized the importance of this when I saw in attendance various neighbors and family members who we don't normally see in church. What an opportunity to greet them and show them God's love!

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Dorothy Beer Jeanette Yergler

This past month we have had three from our church family in the hospital. Mrs. Marvin (Rae) Steffen had knee surgery and is recovering

nicely. Sis. Jeanette Yergler is home and doing well after minor surgery. We thank the Lord for His healing power.

It's always a blessing to have visiting ministers. Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL), Elder Bros. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) shared God's Word with us this month.

We were saddened and our sympathy goes to Bro. Les and Sis. Edna Miester. Their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bob Miester, died suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart attack. They resided in Nashville, IN.

Bro. Ivan Stoller's Sunday school class blessed us with a Christmas program Sunday, December 16.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Suellen Ott

Our Sarasota congregation has had the opportunity to witness the loving call of our heavenly Father as we have several converts that have decided to leave the way of the world and start anew in a Christian life. They are Jeff Sabo, Kelly Price, Matt Koehl, Shane Alexander and Dathan Eisenmann. We pray that they each one can establish a firm foundation in the Lord.

Prayers have been answered as well as reasonable health restored as our dear Sis. Krista Price continues to make good progress in her recovery from her auto accident. We are also grateful to see Bros. Ervin Martin and Emanuel Kloter again in church after both being hospitalized. Bro. Doug Sabo broke his ankle and is now in a cast. We pray God's healing balm be applied to all those who may be in need.

The Holy Word has been brought forth by several visiting ministers in the past month. They are Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand and Jesse Beer and Bros. Ed Alt and Chris Huber. May God bless each of these servants for their efforts.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

Visiting ministers in December were Bros. Marvin and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Ervin Knecht

(Eureka, IL). We thank them for being so willing to serve us.

We welcome Julie Ashley and her son, Skyler, to our congregation. Her work has brought her to Atlanta, for which we are thankful.

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 Carolyn Fischer - Marcia Bauer

On November 20, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp were blessed with a gift from God, Spencer James. To welcome him home are Alesa, Lucas and Dustin. Grandparents are Sis. Ella Cargill (Gridley) and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Verena Knapp (Cissna Park).

John 3:3, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." We rejoiced with Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty Steffen December 9. Their son, Bro. Sam Steffen, was added to God's family through baptism. It gives us such joy to see God's Spirit and power continuing to call dear soul's one by one into His family. We thank Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Robert Grimm (Goodfield) for sharing God's Word with us this day.

On December 15 we went Christmas caroling among the different nursing and retirement homes in Bloomington/Normal. It was a blessed evening singing those familiar carols to those dear ones. It was very touching to see those dear ones sing along with us and the smiles it brought to their faces and the many thanks we received for sharing in song our time with them.

We once again heard that precious old familiar story of Christ's birth that refreshed our hearts and minds as our dear Sunday school children told us that story on December 16 at our Christmas program. We all need to pause and remember the real reason for the Christmas season -- Christ our Saviour.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Karen Ringger

Away in a manger, No crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head; The stars in the sky Looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, Asleep on the hay. (Hymns of Zion #38)

After hearing their pieces and listening to the different grades sing praises to God of Jesus' birth at our annual Christmas program, the whole Sunday school stood before the congregation and sang the above song. The children touched many a heart as they joined their voices together for this song of praise that even the youngest child could sing, telling of our Lord's birth. May God bless every child and Sunday school teacher for their efforts to make the program an honor to our Lord.

On November 28, David and Joni Rumbold became the parents of a son. Ryan David was welcomed home by a sister, Whitney Marie. Happy grandparents are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold and Dean and Veronica Heinz.

Two visiting ministers were among us this past month. We certainly thank Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Jim Plattner (Princeville) for coming and preaching God's Word to our congregation.

December 9 was a special day for Sis. Carol Kieser as her engagement to Bro. Todd Schrock (Congerville) was announced. Their parents are Bro. David and Sis. Shirl Kieser and Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock (Congerville). We wish Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol the Lord's rich blessings.

Bro. John Tanner wants to express his gratitude for those who remembered him during his time in the hospital and since returning home. We are very thankful that he is regaining strength and is again able to assemble with us.

Someone has left a Ladies size 14, jade colored, three-quarter length, Mackintosh winter coat with a jade and fuschia plaid scarf at our church many months ago. Please call (309) 895-6741 if you know whose coat this could be.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Kim Walder

On November 14, our dear Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand and Wayne Anliker (Fairbury) shared the reading of the memorandum of the elder conference with us. The words of exhortation and encouragement surely stirred our hearts to press onward to our heavenly home.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr are welcoming a new member into their family circle as their son, Mike, has announced his engagement to Patty Kloster. Mike and Patty are planning an early spring wedding and will reside in Ames, IA. We wish them God's richest blessings as they start their life together.

Our thanks to Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) for visiting and ministering to us this month.

On December 16, the Sunday school performed their annual Christmas program. The theme was "The Christmas Story as Prophe-sied and Fulfilled." The junior high and high school students have been studying the minor prophets and did much of the concordance searching, etc. to prepare the content of the program. Bro. Wayne Banwart gave an inspirational message highlighting the prophesy of the Lord's return and reminded us of the words of Christ through John in Revelation 22:7. "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophesy of this book."

We have several students who have completed their studies at the University of Illinois this semester and will be moving on to where the Lord has directed them. They are as follows: Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner (Champaign), Bro. Barry Dietz (Bradford), Bro. Greg Blunier (Roanoke), Bro. Ron Streitmatter (Princeville) and Steve Kaisner (Peoria). We certainly will miss these young people and wish them God-speed in their new endeavors.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

It was a foggy day, and some of the moisture was gathering on the windshield, too. I had on the intermittent wipers, but somehow my windshield wasn't very clear. Sometimes life is a lot of fog and rain.

How many people only use intermittent contact with the Lord, Sunday after Sunday, but never in between! I found out I couldn't see without constant wiper action -- and that's also true in my life. I need constant contact with my Lord, better than any wiper that clears my vision. Even in fog, then, I can see at least one step in front -- the only one I really need to see -- and I can trust the Lord for the rest.

Once again we were blessed by visiting ministers Bros. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO).

We don't know what we have -- that several of our Christmas "traditions" point toward the Christ in Christmas, Who puts the real meaning into life itself. Our Sunday school Christmas program and Christmas caroling bring joys and provoke thought that commercialism cannot touch. The theme for our Christmas program was "Jesus Is The Light." We are grateful that His light cannot be turned off no matter how upset adversaries might be that it symbolizes "religion." Our children taught us eloquently through pieces and songs of Jesus' birth and purpose, beginning with a celebration of the Child Who is the Light but continuing on to sing of the Lord and Savior Who is the Light. Christmas caroling is a blessing also, we believe, perhaps more for the carolers than for those we carol for. Regardless, we were so thankful to carol for our loved ones, at nursing homes, and at hospitals.

We are glad to have several new people worshipping with us. Dan and Polly Leman are newly married and living in the city. Paul Aeschleman, originally from the Philadelphia, PA, church, is living in Elmhurst and working as an engineer on waste management. We have room in our hearts and in our church for them. May the know how welcome we wish them to feel, and may the Lord give them blessings as they dwell among us.

My heart flinches at writing the next news. Yes, we are saying farewell again. Jerry and Sis. Debbie Grieco, Jerry, Jonathan, Nicholas and Daniel have moved to Bloomington, IL. Jerry is now a surgeon on staff at St. Joseph/Brokaw Hos-

pitals. Though their leaving is a blow to us, we are grateful for our time together. They are a gracious and energetic family and will be a special addition to Bloomington Church. We hurt because we love them dearly and feel as though they take part of us with them. We are blessed by our memories of time spent together, and we entrust them to the Lord and the fellowship of the Bloomington congregation, knowing that as they have followed the Lord's direction, He will grant them smooth adjustment.

And besides saying farewell to the Griecos, we must wish God-speed to a retiree too young to leave. Ruth Schumacher came to Chicago in 1968 to work for Standard Oil, now Amoco. Now she believes it is time for her to return to Central Illinois, to Morton. We have been blessed by her work in Sunday school and on the kitchen committee. She has a smile and a delight in the Lord's gifts that are contagious. Ah, how we will miss her! We are thankful that she has enriched our church and lives. We pray the Lord will hold her in His arms while we are apart from each other and give her the strength to continue giving. Only her paycheck is stopping -- not her work for the Lord. Our love for Ruth and Jerry and Sis. Debbie and family will continue. May the Lord grant us grace to fellowship yet together.

Every ending has a beginning -- what comes after it. After December comes January. After a year of school is finished, another one soon begins. After one graduates, there is work. On job or project ends and another begins. The routine of working ends in retirement. There is, however, only one beginning which has no ending. That is eternity, the beginning that comes after death. To us, being human, death is so final. Yet Christ conquered sin first and then its consequences, death. Death cannot hold His saints for He conquered that dread foe. Risen With Christ: A beginning without an ending! "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9.

Have A Blessed New Year!

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Bev Knapp - Karol Stock

On November 24, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Marguerite Bauer observed their 50th wedding anniversary at the fellowship hall with 76 members of their family in attendance. They were married November 21, 1940.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Evelyn Rudin also observed their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at the fellowship hall November 25. They were married November 28, 1940.

The annual all-church caroling was held December 16. It was an enjoyable evening as all ages joined together to sing at several area nursing homes and the homes of some of our local members and friends. Everyone returned to the fellowship hall for refreshments and fellowship.

We are happy for Mark and Sherri Sauder as they welcome another boy into their family. Joshua Alan was born December 18 and has a brother, Nicholas. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Elaine Sauder (Cissna Park) and Ed and Michele Bush (Watska, IL).

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) and Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN). We appreciate them coming and worshipping with us.

Sis. Mabel Vogel spent some time in the hospital and Sis. Kathryn Farney also had surgery. May God bless them both with renewed health and strength.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Deb Dietrich - Becky Ott

As the new year unfolds, may we be thankful for another year to serve God and obey His Word. We know not what lies ahead but we can rest assured knowing that all is in the Master's hands.

On November 25 we welcomed four precious sheep into the fold. We rejoice with Sis. Amy and Bro. Dale Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene), Bro. Jon Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Brad Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria), as they have become God's children. May the Lord continue to

grant each one grace to always follow in His ways. We thank Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) for ministering to us that weekend.

God's call continues to reach out to tender hearts. We wish much grace to Jeremy Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn) as he has turned to the Lord in repentance. How encouraging it is to see souls still seeking the Lord in these evil days.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh . . ." (St. Mark 10:7-8) We wish God's blessings and grace to Bro. James Knapp and Sis. Lisa Bauman (Goodfield) as they were united in holy matrimony December 2. Parents of the couple are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield).

The Lord has also called two more souls unto marriage. We wish many blessings upon Bro. Todd Schrock and Sis. Carol Kieser (Leo, IN) as they have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock and Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Bradford). May God continue to lead these two couples as they walk life's path serving Him.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

God favored us with a blessed evening as we gathered with our Sunday school children for our annual Christmas program. We were reminded in song and verse of His love in sending His only begotten Son, our Saviour.

Our best wishes to Rodney Schifferer and Michelle Desbles who have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Schifferer and John and Charlotte Desbles.

God's blessings were entreated upon Becky Klopfenstein and Randy Pfaff as they spoke their wedding vows December 8. Parents of the couple are Bro. Richard and Sis. Judy Klopfenstein and Ralph and Caren Pfaff.

The weekend of November 24, Stacey Martin, daughter of John and Ella, brought forth her testimony of forsaking the world and after repentance toward God, could experience His mercy and peace. It was our privilege to meet her the following day as a new sister-in-faith. Stacey is attending college at Macomb, IL, and we pray God's love will surround her.

"I give my heart alone to Thee;
 Use it for Thy design!
 This vain world's I would never be,
 Dear Lord, but wholly Thine."

Zion's Harp #163

Visitors for this blessed occasion were Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL). We appreciate their services.

The hand of time is wound but once for each of us. Three dear ones from our vicinity were taken from time into eternity. Mary Mueller, 86, passed away December 1. She was the daughter of Charles and Minnie Reutter Mueller, and is survived by a brother, Otto; sister-in-law, Lillian Mueller, and several nieces and nephews.

Rose Wascher, 94, a daughter of John and Rose Merz Nesler, died December 7. Surviving are four sisters, Pauline Traub, Anna Grote, Mary Christenson and Gertrude Barringer; and one brother, David (Marion) Nesler.

Following a long illness and patiently enduring much pain, Nan Stettner, 64, beloved wife of Bro. Don Stettner, suffered a stroke and could be relieved December 15. Besides her husband, she leaves two daughters, Linda Stettner (Pittsburgh, PA) and Donna Young (Craig); one son, David Stettner (Kathy, Gibson City, IL); six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and one sister, June Hansen.

May God comfort the hearts of those who cared for them and mourn their loss.

Sis. Sarah Kellenberger also mourns the loss of her brother, Bro. George Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Many prayers have been offered this past month in behalf of loved ones who required surgery or were

hospitalized. Our surgical patients have been Bros. Don Stettner (Nan), Gene Moser (Sis. Libbie), Wilmer Troike (Sis. Esther) and Sis. Katherine Kachelmuss. Others who required hospital care are Sisters Leola Schambach (Bro. Charles), Cecelia Braun and Bros. Herman Haas and Les Heiniger (Sis. Emma).

A thank you note to all the dear ministers, brethren and friends: Words fail to express my heartfelt thanks for all your prayers, visits and gifts of love and charity during my surgery and convalescing. May God richly bless you all.

A least sister-in-faith,
 Frances Kaptain

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy Leman

How swiftly the time does fly! Here we are on the threshold of a new year -- what will it contain for each of us? May it be a year of God's nearness and a more earnest striving to do His good and perfect will in our lives that we can reach those heavenly portholes.

We have had brethren that have met with accident, those that had a short stay in the hospital and those who are still confined. Our prayers go out to Bro. Larry Leman (Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Anna Baer and Sis. Wilma Stoller (Bro. Willis).

We appreciated Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest) who brought forth the Holy Word to us one Sunday. May God bless him for giving of himself on our behalf.

Sis. Ida Wenger (Bro. Clarence) has our sympathy in the passing of her brother, John Schlupp.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna Hangartner welcomed Joy Danielle into their hearts and home December 3. Michael is Joy's brother and grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Jeanette Knapp (Congerville) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma Hangartner (Eureka).

January is Silver Lining collection. Also, please submit any address changes to your reporter.

Address Changed . . .

Give Your Old and New Address
 To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

The new year lies before me,
 A spotless, shining thing,
 Bright as the promises of God,
 Fresh as the breath of spring.

A year to fill with lovely thoughts,
 And kindly, helpful deeds,
 Losing all consciousness of self,
 In prayer for others' needs.
 Sybil Leonard Armes

As we stand on the threshold of
 a new year, we trust that in each
 new day we can live in fulfillment of
 God's will, sharing with others the
 blessings of His grace.

We congratulate Bro. Keith and
 Sis. Kristine Steidinger on the arrival
 of their second child and first
 son, Kaleb Samuel, born November
 5. Little Amber will be an eager
 helper. Grandparents are Bro. Walt
 and Sis. Esther Bahler (Remington,
 IN) and Bro. Maurice and Sis.
 Alma Steidinger. May God bless
 this family and direct them in bring-
 ing up their children in the fear and
 nurture of the Lord.

The engagement of Bro. Charles
 Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma)
 and Sis. Kathy Schneider (Bro.
 Duane and Sis. Juanita, Forrest)
 was announced. They are planning
 a February wedding.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Steid-
 inger announce the engagement of
 their daughter, Elizabeth to George
 Campbell (Destal and Diane Dumm,
 formerly of Pontiac). An April wed-
 ding is planned. May the Lord richly
 bless these two couples as they plan
 for their future together.

Our thoughts and prayers are
 with those who were hospitalized
 this past month. Willard Walter
 (Arlene), Sis. Perseda Moser and
 Sis. Joann Zehr. It is at times such
 as these that we feel hearts fer-
 vently joined together in prayer.

We extend our sympathy to Ron
 and Sis. June Slagel in the loss of
 his father, Ray Slagel, Sr. May the
 Lord be the family's comforter dur-
 ing their loss.

We were saddened December 6
 by the passing of our dear Sis.
 Dorothy Steffen, but can find com-

fort and rejoice that she has fin-
 ished life's course and has gone to
 be with our Lord. We extend sym-
 pathy to her family and may the Lord
 comfort them in times when her
 absence is felt. Surviving are two
 brothers, Bro. Manny Steffen and
 Robert Steffen (Peoria).

We thank Bros. Gary Brown and
 Earl Gerber (Forrest), Harold
 Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) and Ralph
 Garber (Morton) for lending them-
 selves in God's service to minister
 His Word to us. What precious bless-
 ings are ours when we sit under the
 sound of the Gospel.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider

A New Year! It lies before us like
 a blank sheet of paper. What will be
 written on our page when the year
 is over? Will it be pleasing to God?
 We need to strive to do that which is
 according to His Holy Word every
 day of the new year.

We appreciate Bro. Merrill
 Laukhuf (Latty, OH) lending him-
 self in God's service as he was here
 visiting family.

The weekend of December 8 and
 9 was a special one as we head the
 testimony and witnessed the bap-
 tism of Chad Kupferschmid (Bro.
 Alf and Sis. Wanda). We welcome
 him as our brother-in-faith! We were
 happy to have Elder Bro. Walt
 Anliker (Eureka), and Bros. Jim
 Byrd and Bill Hodel (Roanoke) with
 us to share in this joyful occasion.

Even as one convert could be-
 come a full part of our fellowship,
 we are rejoicing that Sheila Stoller
 (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) has made
 known her desire to turn her life
 over to the Lord! May she find the
 grace to give up the temporal things
 of this life and submit completely to
 Him.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda Le-
 man have been blessed with a healthy
 boy, Reuben Michael. He joins his
 brothers, Caleb and Seth. Grand-
 parents are Bro. Leland and Sis.
 Laurene Zimmerman (Eureka) and
 Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna Leman.

Blake Thomas Lee Hall is the
 first child born to Don and Barb
 Hall. Grandparents are Sharon Hall
 (Fairbury), Leo Hall (Urbana) and

Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupfer-
 schmid. May these families find
 much joy in raising these little bless-
 ings from God.

Sis. Emma Ifft (Bro. Elmer), Bro.
 Joe Wiegand (Sis. Pauline), Sis.
 Matilda Johnson (Bro. Harry) and
 Edith Honegger (Bro. Ed) have suf-
 fered the afflictions of the body.
 May they feel God's nearness and
 may He bless them with renewed
 health where it can be His will.

We rejoiced to hear the engage-
 ment of Sis. Marie Steffen (Bro.
 Ken and Sis. Janice) to Bro. Brian
 Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean).
 We wish them the blessings of the
 Lord as they plan for their wedding
 and future.

Sis. Ruth Roth would like to ex-
 press her thanks and appreciation
 for the cards, gifts, prayers and con-
 cerns on her behalf during her re-
 cent hospitalization. May God bless
 each one of you.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our congregation rejoiced in
 November over the marriage of Bro.
 Craig Wettstein (Bro. Lyle and Sis.
 Linda) to Sis. Mary Ann Kieser (Bro.
 Jerry and Sis. Wilma, Bradford).
 Truly, we wish them much happi-
 ness.

On November 25, four more souls
 were added to the fold: Eric Knobloch
 (Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy), Eliza-
 beth Yoder (Devon and Sis. Lavielle),
 Stacey Ringger (Bro. Earl and Sis.
 Dixie) and Jill Gramm (Bro. Don
 and Sis. Rosie). As they take on the
 responsibilities of God's children may
 they always realize the Saviour's
 words, "For my yoke is easy and my
 burden is light." Here for the occa-
 sion were Elder Bro. Dale Eisen-
 mann (Chicago) and ministering
 Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapo-
 lis, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloom-
 ington) and Jaye Rinkenberger
 (Goodfield).

The conference report was read
 to our congregation Wednesday eve-
 ning, November 28. Visitors help-
 ing with this work were Elder Bros.
 Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Wal-
 ter Anliker (Eureka). It was en-
 couraging to listen to the Spirit's
 exhortation as God's earthly ser-
 vants try to bolster the foundations

and fortify the lines of devotion. Life's highest calling is to serve the Lord -- and may He give each of us the needed grace to shine as lights in an increasingly darkening world.

Amid all of life's many activities there are always those who fall prey to illness. Hospitalized during the past reporting period were Bros. John Gramm and Keith Zimmerman. Both have since recovered and are back to their normal health.

On Sunday, December 16, our Sunday school children presented their annual Christmas program. May God bless their efforts in delivering the wonderful message of Christmas to us!

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney - Cheryl Wuthrich

We wish to thank our visiting ministers and their families for serving us this month. They were Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL).

There were several funerals from our congregation this month. May God comfort and bless the loved ones left behind. Sis. Ricka Waldber was called home and her funeral was November 24. Her sons are Howard and Clifford, and her daughter is LaRae Minger. Philip Kaufman's funeral was held November 30. His daughters are Crystal Foust and Evelyn Cherrie; his brothers are Elmer and Benjamin; and his sisters are Esther Frank and Sis. Anna Kaiser. Sis. Margaret Rassi's funeral was held December 12. Her children are Dorothy Weinstein and Keith. Her sisters are Agnes Fehr and Sylvia Legel, and her brothers are Clarence and Arthur Mischler.

We wish God's richest blessings on Sis. Marlene Milazzo and Bro. Richard Seidel as they were united in holy matrimony November 28.

Our church's traditional Christmas activities were held in December, helping us to focus on Christ's birth. The annual Sunday school program was held December 9 and our annual caroling was held December 16. Persons of all ages joined in both events.

We rejoiced with the angels in heaven as we heard the testimonies

and witnessed the baptisms of Junelle Strunk and Jeff Stoller. Junelle is the daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce and Jeff is the son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Barb.

Chris Frank wishes to express his heartfelt thanks to the Morton congregation for their thoughtfulness in sending so many cards on his 83rd birthday.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Jim David

Our Sunday school children presented their annual Christmas program December 9. It was such a joy to hear our young people sing the familiar Christmas hymns and recite their memory verses. Our Lord Himself certainly must have been pleased at the efforts of our little ones, as they celebrated the birth of His Son Jesus Christ. We hope everyone has had a most blessed holiday season.

We are thankful for the recovery of two former hospital patients, Sis. Ellen Siebenthal and Bro. Peter Weber. Sis. Ellen writes, "A special 'Thank You' to you all for your prayers, your visits and many tokens of love, and also for the get well and Christmas cards while in the hospital and since I am home. All is so much appreciated, and God bless you all and keep you in His loving care. A blessed New Year to all." Bro. Peter says, "Most heartfelt thanks for your support during a recent hospitalization. At times like this, we realize even more the special kinship we enjoy with each other through the bond of Christ, Who extends His healing powers through His brethren."

Others who remain hospitalized include Bro. Walter Plattner and Bill Aeschleman. May God comfort them while in the hospital, and grant them a complete recovery.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Dave Aeschleman, who passed away recently. Dave assembled with the Peoria congregation.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for meeting with us November 28 to discuss the conclusions of the brotherhood conference.

Tim and Toni Hoerr (Champaign,

IL) are rejoicing over the birth of their third little girl, Kaley, who was born October 26. Happy grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr (Peoria).

A NEW YEAR PRAYER

As long as mortals have the nerve
To pray for things they don't
deserve

As long as conscience has a stain,
The prayers of men will be in
vain.

So, humbly, Lord, we ask of Thee
That princely gift, Sincerity,
That we may use it through life's
span

To build on earth a better man;
And should we crave for gifts
more royal,

Please make us, God, a bit more
loyal,
That we may give to those we
serve

A measure full as they deserve.
And make us rich with eager zest
To give our work our very best.
To know the wheat, reject the
chaff --

To have the strength to stand the
gaff.

O Lord, in mercy intervene
To keep our hearts both young
and clean,

The will to give a man a lift --
Make this, O Lord, Thy New Year
Gift.

Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We thank our visiting ministers this month, Bros. Clifford and Wayne Grimm (both of West Bend, IA), Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS), Bro. Kenneth Hoerr (Peoria) and Elder Bro. Arthur Bahler (Fairbury). We appreciate their visit and sharing God's Word with us.

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ." (Acts 2;38). Two precious souls gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of December 1 and 2. We welcome Sis. Sara Feucht (Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret) and Bro. Russ Rumbold (Russell and Sis. Roma) into our precious fellowship. May the Lord give them the needed grace and

help to walk the narrow path that leads to heaven. We thank Elder Bro. Arthur Bahler who came to help in this important work.

November 28 was the wedding of Bro. Richard Seidel and Sis. Marlene Milazzo (Morton). We share in their joy and warmly wish them much happiness and many blessings together.

Larry Martin (Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Donna) and Tiffany Kerns announced their engagement on Thanksgiving. We wish them much happiness and God's blessings.

Bro. David and Sis. Crystal Streitmatter are thankful for their second daughter, Brooke Anna, born November 26. Little Brittany is happy to have a sister. Thankful and happy grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Joyce Streitmatter and Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann. First-time and happy parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara Wagenbach. Keith Jay was born December 6. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN). We trust their parents will train them up in the way they should go. May God grant them the help and grace in this great responsibility.

Our thoughts of sympathy goes to Sis. Cathy Stahl (Bro. Rod) in the loss of her brother. God alone is our true source of comfort. We also extend sympathy to the family and relatives of John Hager.

Loved ones who have been in the hospital this month were Sis. Doris Christ (surgery), Sis. Martha Stahl, Bro. John Joos, Bro. Ervin Martin (surgery) and Herbert Schick. Bro. Ervin is in Florida for the winter. Also on our sick list is our dear Sis. Elizabeth Stoller (age 99) which has been feeling the afflictions of the body. We pray God will be near them in their time of affliction and heal and bless as He sees best.

Our retired Elder Bro. David and Sis. Ruth Kieser have moved to town and we wish them much happiness in their duplex next to their daughter and family. We wish them well and may God bless them in their retirement years.

On Sunday, December 16, the Sunday school presented their an-

nual Christmas program. It is a joy to hear the children sing and recite poems about the true meaning of Christmas. We thank the children, teachers and parents for the time they take to give us this nice program.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Cathy Hohulin - Annie Hoffman

JANUARY

When January days being,
 The New Year season enters in.
 The New Year comes with hope
 and cheer,
 With needed blessings for the
 year.
 We trust in providential hand
 To bless our hearts and home and
 land.
 It is the all-important year --
 And will be well if He is near.
 Come, join the song of months and
 see
 The loveliness of field and tree.
 There's ice and snow and storm
 and sleet,
 And frozen ponds where skaters
 meet.
 The barren trees bend to and fro
 While stormy winds and tempests
 blow.

Then children find a keen delight
 In popping corn on wintry nights;
 This urge to pop, the aged say,
 Predicts a snowstorm on the way.
 And, while the wintry winds
 prevail,
 We love to tell some favored tale
 To children pressing very near,
 Impressed, to give a listening ear.
 This is the month to all the year,
 When home ties are to us most
 dear;
 Peace and contentment here
 abide,
 While January days subside.
 Bro. Henry Beer

On December 16, our congregation was privileged to hear our Sunday school students present the annual Christmas program. What a blessing to hear approximately 250 young voices honor the birth of our Savior. Our greatest desire is that each of these precious souls will be ready for His second coming and in

the future we will all be participants in the heavenly choir, singing praises around God's throne. We thank our Sunday school teachers for their dedication in helping to "train up our children in the way they should go."

We rejoice in the engagement of two young couples. Bro. Greg Blunier (Wayne and Sis. Marge) is engaged to Sis. Julie Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean, Forrest, IL). Also, Bro. Nathan Hoffman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jean) and Sis. Karel Braker (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Michaelen) planned to be married in May.

Nathan Fehr and Christine Herbst were married September 1. Their parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr and Roger and Sandra Herbst, all of Roanoke. We wish all of these couples God's nearness and guidance for their future lives.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorene Hodel are the happy grandparents of little Jenna Marie, the new daughter of Neil and Lelia Hodel. Her two big sisters, Lindsay and Calla, and grandparents, Lee and Marlene Mellin all welcome her.

We extend sincere sympathies to the loved ones and friends of several souls that have recently passed away: Sis. Margaret Rassi (Morton), Bro. Gottfried Knecht (Eureka), Elmer Beer and John Schlupp (Roanoke). May God's peace fill the void that they leave behind.

How happy we are to hear that Jamie Rumbold, daughter of Bro. Roland and Sis. Carol has surrendered her life in repentance. We wish her God's grace as she begins her new life.

We were thankful to have Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka) visit our congregation and preach God's Word. May the Lord bless their labor of love.

We extend prayers of healing to Bro. Bob Hohulin, Bro. Rich Zimmerman and Bro. Walt Leman, who have all been hospitalized this past month.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Carolyn Bolliger - Marsha Koch

We had a blessed weekend December 8 and 9 when four dear

souls gave their testimonies, were baptized and gathered into the fold. We welcome our new brothers and sisters, Margaret Burleson (Edna Bicknell), Andrea Kaufmann (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane), Kevin Dill and Kyle and Tanya Dill (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sandy). Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) assisted our Elder Bro. Dan Koch in this joyous occasion. We also want to thank Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) for sharing God's Word with us that weekend.

We also appreciate the visits this month of Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA).

We rejoice with Nathan Zuercher (Bro. Curtis and Sis. June) and Nicole DeMarini (Santi J. "Nick" DeMarini and Mary Maguire) on their marriage which took place November 24. May God bless them as they begin a new life together.

We are thankful little Mary Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) is well again after having spent a few days in the hospital earlier this month.

We are sorry to hear that Bro. George Lang (Sis. Phyllis) had surgery and is in the hospital at this time. Also, Aaron Gschwind (Iris) has been hospitalized having suffered a stroke. Our prayers are for a fast recovery for both these dear ones.

Sis. Minnie Sauder is rejoicing in the birth of a new great-grandson, little Andrew Walter, who was born December 4 to her granddaughter and husband, Janet and Walter Jancarie (Valparaiso, IN). Janet is the daughter of LeRoy and Jackie Sauder (Clifton, IL and formerly of Tremont).

Our Sunday school children presented their annual Christmas program last Sunday evening. This is always an inspiring occasion.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Carol Schick

We were blessed this past month with hearing the testimony of how the Lord has worked in the life of Sis. Denise Fritz (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally). We welcomed her as a sister-in-faith after witnessing her baptism the following day. May she continue to grow and mature in the

Lord as the years go by.

May God richly reward each and every minister that labors over the pulpit on every Wednesday and Sunday, especially our ministers in Washington and the following brothers who visited us this past month: Bros. Chuck Sauder (Tremont), Elmer Witzig (Gridley), Earl Ringger (Gridley) and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke).

We want to thank the Gridley choir and their families for spending the day with us one Sunday and joining us for our monthly hymn sing and a potluck supper afterwards. Days such as that are so precious, may we never miss the opportunity when one is presented.

December is such a special time of the year. It gives us an opportunity to express our love and kindness to people we seldom see the rest of the year, and those we see every day but don't take the time to show that we care. Our congregation sang Christmas carols to area shut-ins in December, and I think the singers always receive more of a blessing from the carols than do the shut-ins. It is so touching to see the tears in the eyes of the people as they listen to the songs about our Saviour. May we all try to reach out to people around us on a daily basis this coming New Year and not just at the holidays.

MY FRIEND

My friend, I stand in judgment
now,
And feel that you're to blame
somehow.
On earth I walked with you day
by day,
And never did you point the way.

You knew the Lord in truth and
glory,
But never did you tell the story,
My knowledge then was very dim;
You could have led me safe to
Him.

Though we lived together here on
earth,
You never told me of the second
birth,
And now I stand this day condemned
Because you failed to mention
Him.

You taught me many things,
that's true,
I called you friend and trusted
you,
But I learn now, that it's too late,
And you could have kept me from
this fate.

We walked by day and talked by
night,
And yet you showed me not the
light;
You let me live and love and die,
You knew I'd never live on high.

Yes, I called you "friend" in life,
And trusted you through fun and
strife.
And yet, on coming to this
dreadful end,
I cannot, now, call you "my
friend."

(Author Unknown)

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Shari Fiechter - Gwen Kipfer

WALK NOT IN FEAR

Today you do not walk alone
So do not walk in fear;
The Lord, your God, is everywhere,
In fact He's very near.
Although a door should open now
Presenting to your view
A scene unknown to human eyes,
Know this, God walks with you.
Let faith fill every waking breath —
To God each child is dear;
Today you do not walk alone
So do not walk in fear.

Phyllis C. Michael

1991 has arrived! What will you do for Jesus this year? Will you walk with Him wherever He leads you?

Our Sunday school students honored Jesus recently as they sang about His humble birth in Bethlehem. Our annual Christmas program was enjoyed by all attending on Sunday evening, December 16. How precious it is to hear Christ's message proclaimed by our youth! We thank our young people.

Tricia Baumgartner, Mike Snider, Charles Hill and Linc and Catrina Rinkenberger gave their lives to Jesus and are repenting for

their past sins. We rejoice as do the angels because of their decisions.

Sis. Shelly Tonner (Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann) and Bro. Todd Baller (Bro. Steve and Sue) became one flesh in the Lord December 9. Congratulations Todd and Shelly, and may you grow even closer to Jesus as you walk together.

Precious babies have once again blessed the homes of several young couples. Vincent Gary is the little blessing born to Bro. Stan and Sis. Janice Ringger December 5. Anthony and Jessica are happy to have a little brother, and Vincent's proud grandparents are Sis. Irene Steffen and Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Lora Walburn became first-time parents December 9. Little Holly Anne will add much excitement and joy to their home. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipfer and Robert and Martha Walburn. Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipfer rejoiced again December 20 as they welcomed another granddaughter into their family circle. Chelsea Layne is the precious bundle entrusted to Bro. Craig and Sis. Beth Baumgartner (Bluffton North).

We wish to thank Bro. Ken Wuthrich (Indianapolis) who talked to us about "Priorities in the New Year" on a recent Tuesday evening. We also thank Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) and Elder Bro. Phil Stetner (Bluffton North) for bringing forth the Word by the Holy Spirit's guidance. Come again, please.

If being in the hospital gives us some "quiet" time with Jesus, then we've had some who have had this experience. Many prayers have been uttered on behalf of those in the hospital which include: Sis. Min Isch (Bro. Elmer), Bro. Joe Isch (Sis. Sylvia), Bro. Ezra Kaehr, Brian Steffen (Bro. Allen and Sis. Arlene), Sis. Teresa Earney (Bro. Todd) and little Trent Earney (Bro. Todd and Sis. Teresa). Many on this list continue to need our prayer support.

Note: The First One Hundred Years (Second Edition), a book about the Bluffton congregation's history, is now available to anyone wishing to purchase one. The price for each book is \$10 plus postage. If you are

interested, please contact: Bro. Gene Baumgartner, R. R. #4, Box 218, Bluffton, IN 46714, (219) 565-3642 (after 7:00 p.m.) or Bro. Jerome Reinhard, 3550N 800 E., Craigville, IN 46731, (219) 565-3470.

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

There is a story of a man who was shipwrecked. He managed to swim to the shore of a small, deserted island with only a few of his precious possessions. He proceeded to build himself a shelter to be sure that his only remaining possessions in life were safe. When this was done, he went off in search of food. Later that night he returned to his campsite to see that all that was left of his belongings was a pile of ashes. Somehow a fire had started and his shelter and everything in it had been destroyed. Totally bereaved, the man lay in the sand and cried himself to sleep. Hours later, he awoke to hear voices! Yes! Someone was calling to him! "We saw the smoke from your signal fire. We are here to save you!"

Just as the man in the story learned, there is nothing so near and dear to us that we wouldn't give up so that we might be rescued from our sins. Jesus can see the smoke if only we will light that "signal" fire.

We have been blessed with the messages from visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Marvin Lehman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) and Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton). We wish to thank them for the efforts they put forth.

Oh! do not let the Word depart, And close thine eyes against the light; Poor sinner, harden not thy heart; Thou would'st be saved -- Why not tonight? (Gospel Hymns #656). We were so happy to hear that Jodi Frauhiger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene) has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. We wish her much grace in her new walk.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Essie Isch and Sis. Alice (Bro. Alvin) Honegger of our congregation, whose sister, Sis. Mary Diggelman (Rockville, CT) had passed away. We were

also saddened by the sudden passing of Bro. Floyd Groh. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Virginia; and one daughter, Sis. Sandra (Bro. Aaron) Kipfer.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients this month -- Bro. John Baumgartner, Bro. Jay Rauch and Bro. Dan Kieser.

A harvest buffet celebration was held November 17 to commemorate the opening of our Christian Care Retirement Community one year ago. It was attended by many and enjoyed by all. We thank God that we are able to provide loving, quality care to our many older residents.

The Sunday school made a wonderful and blessed trip to Morton, IL, this past month.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber

One day I as in a store, trying to find a few things I needed, when I noticed a stack of containers on sale, and knew I could use a few of them. I started looking for the right sizes and colors, but there were so many that it took awhile, and I had a list of things to get, so decided to look another time. Just as I was leaving, a woman pointed to another stack and said, "Are you looking for this kind?" She started to look around for the size and color I was needing. As small as it seems, I felt warm inside to think that someone else, probably just as busy as I was, would take time to help me. (And she wasn't a salesclerk!). It made me wonder if she was a child of God. I'll probably never see her again, and if I would, I wouldn't even recognize her, it happened so fast, but it made me think "Do I show enough kindness and love so that people wonder if I am God's child?"

In this new year, may we all strive to show love and kindness wherever we are and in whatever we do, so that God will be glorified through our lives.

We're happy to welcome three baby girls and a baby boy into our congregation. On November 23, Cecelia Marie was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Barb Neihouser. Her grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis.

Paulette Putt and Bro. Andre and Sis. Lois Neihouser. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette were first-time grandparents when Cecelia was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami Putt. Joel Brian Putt was born December 7. Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Ann Gudeman were first-time grandparents when Joel was born!

Joe and Sis. Kathy Lee are happy to have a new addition to their family. A baby girl, Martha Rose, was born November 28 and was welcomed home by Aaron, Hannah, Nathan and Adam. Grandparents are Dave and Joyce Stanton (DeMotte, IN) and Jim and Colleen Lee (Fort Wayne, IN).

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein are the happy parents of a baby girl born December 14. Amy Dawn has three brothers and three sisters; Ryan, Alyssa, Shawna, Brett, Brooke and Joshua. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Nate Gutwein (Francesville).

May God be with each of these families as they strive to bring their children up as God directs them, in His love.

Nicholas Wuethrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne was a hospital patient this past month. We're glad to see his precious smiling face back among us.

We've enjoyed visits from the following ministers this past month. On Thanksgiving Day, Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) shared God's Word with us, and December 16, the Sunday of our Sunday school Christmas program, Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) visited us. Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona were here to visit their new granddaughter!

We wish to express our sincere thanks to each and every one who remembered us while Verna was in the hospital for surgery and also since she has returned to our apartment. Your cards and visits, and especially your prayers, were very much appreciated. May God bless and reward each of you!

Morris and Verna Stedman

Address Changed . . .

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Miriam Gudeman

'Twas the night before Jesus came
and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one
in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf
without care,
In hopes that Jesus would not come
there.

The children were dressing to crawl
into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a
head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on
her lap
Was watching the Late Show while
I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose
such a clatter.
I sprang to my feet to see what was
the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a
flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up
the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes
should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus
was here.
With a light like the sun sending
forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be
THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover
my head.
It was Jesus! returning just like He
had said.
An though I possessed worldly
wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of
myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in
His hand,
Was written the name of every saved
man.
He spoke not a word as He searched
for my name;
When He said, "It's not here" my
head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been
written with love
He gathered to take His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose
without sound

While all of the rest were left
standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too
late;
I had waited too long and thus
sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out
of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready
tonight.

In the words of this poem the
meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing
near.
There's only one life and when comes
the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true
after all!

Lou Pinter

A few couples from Indy went to Gateway Woods again this month to act as temporary houseparents for a weekend. Much love and fellowship were shared by all. We encourage others to participate in this promising program. It gives one such joy, knowing that by helping the "least of these" we are helping to further Christ's work.

Our prayers have been answered, and the Lord has been good to us. On November 7, Bro. Ron Bollier was voted in as a new minister. We prayerfully support and encourage him in his new "teaching" role. For even though his "students" may be older, we still have much to learn and to grow in the Word.

We have some special additions this month to our congregation. They are little Stacy Jo Lichtle (new daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Sandy) born November 15, little Jacob Lehman (new son of our dear friends, Dale and Kathy) born November 18, and little Nichole Wuethrich (new daughter of Bro. Blake and Sis. Kim) born November 27. We wish the families well with their little "blessings" from heaven.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers. They were Bros. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), John Bollier (Leo), Wayne Lehman (South Bend) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott).

May everyone enjoy a blessed

Christmas and Lord willing, another New Year!

INDIANA, LACROSSE Mary Lynn Massner

The greetings and carols have ended,
The glad celebrations have ceased
With the angels ascended to heaven,
The Wise Men returned to the East.
But the light that once shone on a manger
Still brightens the world from afar,
And listening hearts still hear angels,
And wise men still follow a star.

Ellis Rowsey

It seems just yesterday I sent in the January article for 1990 and now it is 1991! The year has flown by. Can we look back on the past year as one given to the Lord, or are we disappointed in ourselves? It's a new year, a fresh beginning. We can start it out right with the Lord by our side.

On Sunday, December 16, we had our annual Christmas caroling. The weather was unusually mild for December, but we all seemed to get right into the Christmas spirit, and a wonderful time was had by all.

Sis. Lena Hitz suffered a bad fall and is recuperating at Whispering Pines Nursing Home. Paul Heiniger had another surgery but has recovered well and is taking it easy yet at home. Bro. Virgil Heinold is facing serious decisions with his health and needs our prayers. We wish all these loved ones God's special grace and nearness and pray for full recoveries.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). Also Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), whom I neglected to thank last month but whose presence was greatly appreciated.

Prayer Changes Things

INDIANA, LEO Doug Kellenberger

It's a new year -- a time when many of us resolve to do better. The only problem with New Year's resolutions, however, is that the source of strength we draw upon to carry out the resolution is from the same faltering source we're trying to change. Somehow we have to choose a different source of strength.

Jesus is aware of our needs. Jesus knows we can't overcome of our own strength, that's why Jesus is there to help us, by His grace we are saved.

A number from church went caroling last week. We had three different groups covering the local community and Fort Wayne. The kids sang their songs for a number of appreciative people. One group visited the Steiner sisters. Sis. Anna was there -- home from the hospital. She is now 101 years old. Someone asked one of the young boys how much older he would have to get in order to catch up with her. He thought for awhile, chose what he thought was a huge number, and said, "40." We all chuckled.

Bro. Glenn Rigggenbach and his wife visited us on a recent Wednesday night. His message captured my son's attention. He later told me the story, about some parents who earnestly prayed for their unconverted son's protection one night. Later that evening he was prevented from an evil involvement by a visible angel standing at his side. Those are the kind of accounts that encourage our faith and encourage us to make use of intercessory prayer.

By now, the Rigggenbach's daughter, Sis. Shelly, has returned to her home in Smithville, OH. Those of us who worked closer with her will miss her even more. We love you Shelly. Thanks for what you did for us at Leo.

We're still thrilled to see souls, here, give over their will to the Spirit of our Lord.

Sis. Carol Kieser was announced for engagement to Bro. Todd Schrock (Congerville, IL). She is very happy. We're happy for her.

Give Your Address Changes
To Your Reporter

INDIANA, MILFORD Gwen Steffen - Paula Haab

It has been a busy but blessed month. Some of us have been caroling or have been caroled to which makes a wonderful time of fellowship. We had our Christmas program December 9. It set the mood for the season as the young and old sang to us or told us about the Christ Child. We were also reminded how important it is to remember what our departed Bro. Henry Beer penned years ago -- 'Tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free.

Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) took time December 9 to come minister to us. The following weekend, Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker came to assist with testimonies and baptisms. It is a miracle how God can feed us spiritually through visiting brothers who don't know us or our needs. May God bless them for their labors.

December 15 and 16 brought added blessings as three young ladies became our sisters-in-faith. They were Jenny Price (Bro. Tom and Becky), and Heidi and Michelle Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Pam). We wish them God's further guidance at home, school and college. It made an especially nice Sunday when so many of these girls' family and friends from the community worshipped with us.

Tim Troup (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne) was able to help his mother celebrate her birthday as he came home that day after being gone for 13 months in the Air Force. We are happy to have him in church for a short time and happy that his family can be together for Christmas. He has been sent many places this past year including the Mid-East, but has always been fortunate to get to return to his base in Hawaii. May God watch over him as he leaves home again in these uncertain times.

May God richly bless our capable brethren and friends who spent a few days in the Purdue area helping with the building project there. Those of us who have family or students there or have had in the past, know how much this building is needed. We pray that it will be used to God's glory for the saving of souls.

Bro. Noah Clauss (June) is seeing better after cataract surgery. His surgery may mean that they will spend the winter in their retirement home in Goshen, and we will be lucky enough to have them continue assembling with us.

We give our sympathy to the Frank Beer family in the passing of their sister-in-law and aunt, Sis. Hermine Beer (Mansfield, OH).

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

We are thankful to have Lynette Bahler (Tim) back in church after gall bladder surgery.

Family Altar and Home Worship was the topic for our topical Bible study on Wednesday evening, November 28. A very timely subject very ably handled by Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL). We can agree with him when he said, "The world doesn't understand love at home." He stated that it is God's purpose for us to teach our children.

By the time you read this we will be well into the new year. May God grant us grace to daily look to Him for guidance. Those of you who are parents of young children, may you make it your purpose to teach your children of God's love. Those of us who are grandparents should also realize that we can be a good influence to our grandchildren. So may we all rejoice in our Lord that we have work to do and keep our eyes on our heavenly goal.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Anna Marie Stoller

Winter Midweek Service Schedule: Services will not be held January 16 and 30 or February 13 and 27.

Mourning the loss of relatives have been Sisters Ernestine and Mildred Meister, whose niece died suddenly in her sleep. Sis. Nerys and Peter Lightner experienced the loss of Peter's mother.

The responsibility of Sunday school teacher for the newly formed nursery class has been accepted by Sis. Lucy Kalwitz.

Brothers and sisters who received new duties at the annual business meeting are: Tom Frank, trustee;

Scott Schafer, secretary-treasurer; Dean Lehman, Don Lehman, Josh Mangold, ushers; Rich Gramm, song leader; Mike Mangold, sound system; Dean Lehman, Gateway Woods representative; Rich Gramm, World Relief; Tom Frank, personal property; Renee Mangold, Silver Lining reporter; Carolyn Frank, assistant food chairman; Mary Lehman, assistant VBS director.

A Sunday school program was held to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus. Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) were our visiting ministers for that day. All church caroling took place after the program, and then a chili supper was served by the Sunday school staff.

Five years ago the Lord granted our family, the Stollers, faith to move to Indiana and worship with the South Bend congregation. Trusting in God, we have this same faith to believe He will provide as we move to the LaCrosse congregation. "Oh, watch ye faithful brothers mine, while in this pilgrim's dale; The mighty Word of God divine, Your compass will not fail." Zion's Harp #143.

Our congregation has been reminded of the necessity to serve God unashamedly and willingly. One of our visiting brothers recalled the faith of those who have endured imprisonment for righteousness sake, and how many times these souls would sing and pray aloud in spite of terrifying conditions. The following poem was found among the writings of one of our brothers:

SUNDAY IN A CELL

If someone spent Sunday in a cell,
Shut up for his faith in Thee,
Whose fellowship was a sentry's
command;

Whose hymn was a soldier's pace;
Stained glass a barred aperture;
Whose sermon, "There is no God.";
Whose "light on a hill" was hid in
a den

Where it spent Saturday
Where it will spend Monday;
Whose Bible, a scrap of thought
He remembers from Mother;
Whose admonishment, the boot of
a guard;

Whose communion, black bread
and water . . .

. . . Then tonight in his sleep
Let his hymn be a prelude
To the new song in glory;
Let his fellowship be with angels
And saints gone before.

Give him a glittering vision of
heaven

Where Thou art the "light on a
hill."

Inscribe on the tables of his heart,
"Fear not, I am with thee."

Do this so that he too will be
ready

To meet the world on Monday
After a blessed Sunday.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

Let us keep Christ
As the heart of our Christmas,
The reason for all of our joy,
Let us reflect

On the season's true meaning . . .
The birth of a dear little boy.

Whenever we see
Decorations that sparkle
And tree lights that glimmer and
glow,

Let us remember
The star that shone brightly
And lit up that night long ago.

Whenever we wrap up
Our presents to others
And dream of the gifts we'd like
best,

Let us remember
God's gift of a Savior . . .
The gift that outshines all the rest.
Let us keep Christ

As the heart of our Christmas
And take time to think of His love
The secret to feeling
The true Christmas spirit
And knowing His peace from above.

Diana Manning

This past Sunday our precious Sunday school children presented their annual program and our dear Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and family shared the day with us. The following Wednesday evening Christmas caroling for the young and old was enjoyed along with some good old fashioned fellowship with one another afterwards. Thank God He has given us one another in this world we now live in. The Lord also

blessed us at our annual Christmas dinner.

At this time of year, we also remember those who are much less fortunate than us. For many, this can be a lonely time of year and we pray God will comfort them with His Spirit and by our remembering to visit or call those we know. We look forward to the time when there will be no more pain, sorrow or suffering or whatever might beset us here on earth. God, please give us the needed grace while we await that time.

Our Sunday school children have been collecting food so some unfortunate families can be given food baskets and Bibles. "For I was ahungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." (Matthew 25:35-36) We've been trying to encourage our children to pray for Sunday school even before they get to church. We all need to ask for a blessed day to get one. God needs to hear from us individually that we need His blessings. Please let's remember at all times to pray for our ministers, Sunday school teachers, and office holders. It doesn't just happen; it takes plenty of encouragement and prayers on everyone's behalf. Also encourage your children!

We haven't had any visiting ministers in this past month, which we surely missed. Brothers and sisters, if you're in the Valparaiso area or you would like a place to visit, please come and worship with us. We'd just love to fellowship with you all and we'd even be happy to provide a place for you to stay.

We pray you will all have a joyous season ahead of you. With Jesus Christ on our side, we can be overcomers and we can be fruitful and help others become overcomers also. God bless you all.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Camille Vogt

"Let us come before his presence

with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods."

Psalms 95:2-3

At our Christmas program December 6, as we sang praises in worship to our King, we were thanking Him for many blessings of the past year. In our hearts, each of us were thanking Him for the blessings, big and small, that He had given us. However, jointly we all had a special desire to thank God: we were able to meet in our new Apostolic Christian Lafayette Fellowship Center for the first time! As 275 members and friends assembled that Thursday evening, most were aware of the miraculous work of the Lord. On the afternoon of December 6, the last building inspectors gave their approval for a one-night lease. We just want to thank God for always providing. Without the dedication of the committee and the hard work of the many volunteers, our fellowship center would not be a reality. We wish to thank everyone who supported this project by lending themselves in the service of the Lord.

Our upcoming worship services will be held January 10 and 24 and February 7 and 21. The location of our new Lafayette fellowship center is close to the junction of I-65 and State Road 43, off of 43, just west of the State Police Post. We wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone to come and worship our Savior with us!

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

"Family Worship and the Family Altar" was the title of our Bible

study conducted by Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) November 28. If someone was to ask Christian parents what they would like to take to heaven with them, the parents would quickly reply, "our children!" What an important responsibility it is to make heaven our goal and to teach our children how to worship. We must instill in them in their youth the importance of praying to God, praising God and studying His Word.

Even though the air was chilly December 14, a group of all ages from our congregation caroled to the elderly and shut-ins. Our hearts were truly warmed to sing about the birth of Jesus and to fellowship with one another.

On December 19, we enjoyed a blessed evening when many brethren and friends gathered together for our annual Christmas program. What a joy it was to see and hear the children tell of the true meaning of Christmas in Word and in song! How important it is that as they grow older, they will accept the crucified Lord as their Savior as they have the Babe of Bethlehem.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Carolyn Wulf - Deyona Massner

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new."

Zion's Harp #209

Our hearts were filled with joy and thankfulness as we witnessed a baptism December 16, and welcomed Sis. Ivy Buster (Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster) into our small flock at Burlington. What an encouragement it is to see souls forsake the world while they are yet in their youth, and begin upon the pathway that leads to everlasting life.

We are thankful to have Sis. Tillie Frank assembling with us again after a short stay in the hospital.

On December 9, we once again

heard the youth bring forth the story of the birth of God's only beloved Son. Some memorized verses and Scripture. Many of the children sang songs proclaiming His birth; it's encouraging to hear young voices and see their desire to sing. Others began reading about our Savior's birth and followed through to the crucifixion, ending with the important message that speaks through a hymn:

When Jesus comes to reward His
servants,
Whether it be noon or night,
Faithful to Him will He find us
watching,
With our lamps all trimmed and
bright?

Chorus:

Oh, can we say we are ready, brother?
Ready for the soul's bright home?
Say, will He find you and me still
watching,
Waiting, waiting when the Lord shall
come?

That evening our congregation caroled at care centers and homes to many who are no longer able to enjoy the strength and health they once felt in their youth. I heard a dear elder once say that if we have sufficient strength to arise out of our beds each morning, we need not ask for a better Christmas gift. Our prayers also go to the many deprived and forsaken children who will not gather with their families or enjoy the abundance of gifts many children will receive. May we always keep the desire to give foremost in our hearts and minds.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

Once again we are in the beginning of a new year, and as always, we are blind as to what this year will hold for us. Even though we continually make plans for our tomorrows, we know how quickly those plans can change. God has a plan and purpose for each of us each day of our lives, so may we daily seek His grace and guidance to know His will and be submissive to His plan.

Within a week the remaining

two of Rudolph and Anna Pulfer's 13 children were called from this life. Sis. Lena was 94 and George was 90. Neither ever married, but our sympathy is extended to their many nieces and nephews.

The Christmas story was once again told to us through readings, poems and songs by our Sunday school children. May we adults also so boldly and lovingly share the true meaning of Christmas with others.

We rejoice with Betty Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne) who was recently announced for peace and is looking forward to giving her testimony of faith and her baptism.

A GLAD NEW YEAR

To dare to go forth with a purpose
true
To the unknown task of the year
that's new;
To help your brother along the
road
To do his work, and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's
good cheer
Is to have and to give a glad New
Year.

Sunshine Magazine

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our visitors this month. It has been a time of great sadness and of joy for all in our congregation.

We all shared in the sorrow of Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce Eland and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank and their families as they bade their last farewells to their beloved mother and grandmother, Sis. Clara Frank (Bro. Bob, Oakville, IA). Sis. Clara was always such a faithful and cheerful supporter of our congregation. Our prayers are with Bro. Bob and the rest of their family during this time.

We greatly enjoyed our Christmas activities this month -- caroling and the Christmas program. "It's not the tinsel, nor the tree that makes men come on bended knee" May the true meaning of Christmas as told by the children give us joy

and peace during the holiday season.

While we celebrate Christ's birth, the call continues to go forth to those who have visited the stable but not the Cross. A ministering brother in encouraging those who don't feel they "have what it takes" to be true and faithful until death, shared this analogy: Just as a car would not have enough gas to go on a long journey, so we do not have enough spiritual strength to last a lifetime. We need "refills" along the way -- and God knows that and provides for our every need. May those of us who are converted remember to take the time to "fill our tanks" on a regular basis.

IOWA, LESTER Kathy Metzger Mary Knobloch

Every Sunday that we assemble we are thankful God has given to us a new Sabbath day and that brethren are inspired to preach the Word of Life. We are also thankful that from time to time visiting ministers visit our congregation. Those with us this past month were Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) and Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend). May the ministers continue to gather strength from God through our prayers.

On November 12, Doug and Sis. Lisa Van't Hof welcomed their first child, Wil Douglas. Maternal grandparents are Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch. May this dear family be blessed from our heavenly Father as they strive to rear their new son.

Many a prayer ascends to our Father's throne in behalf of those who are in need. We are thankful for His healing power on some and continued comfort to those who remain hospitalized, those in nursing homes, or for those recuperating at home. Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Doug Leuthold, Denis Meyer, John DeHaan, Bro. Alvin Leuthold, Sis. Salome Kellenberger (Bro. Albert), Bro. August Feucht, Amy Moser (Jim) and Kristy Metzger (Bro. Ray and Kathy).

WHAT WILL YOU DO
WITH THIS YEAR
THAT'S SO NEW?

As we start a new year untouched
and unmarred,
Unblemished and flawless, un-
scratched and unscarred,
May we try to do better and
accomplish much more
And be kinder and wiser than in
the year gone before --
Let us wipe our slates clean and
start over again,
For God gives this privilege to all
sincere men
Who will humbly admit they have
failed many ways
But are willing to try and improve
these "new days"
By asking God's help in all that
they do
And counting on Him to refresh
and renew
Their courage and faith when
things go wrong
And the way seems dark and the
road rough and long --
What will you do with this year
that's so new?
The choice is yours -- God leaves
that to you!

Helen Steiner Rice

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

"Now it is accomplished, I'm no longer mine. Lord I will forever and always be thine." Zion's Harp #209. As we gathered in the Lord's house and heard the testimonies of six dear souls, we were so overwhelmed with the great love and price that was paid for our redemption. As each dear soul related their experience, it took us back to the day that we sat before a cloud of witnesses and gave our testimony. May we ever strive to regain and maintain our first love. We welcome our new brothers, Aaron Schmidgall (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane), Jason Stoecker (Sis. Jan), Dave Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty) and Michael Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie) along with our new sisters, Heidi Gerst (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Joleen) and Sis. Missy Larson (Bro. Jack and Sis. Cathy). We want to encourage them to always remember this

time in their life when they were the precious lambs in Jesus' flock. We appreciated having Elder Bros. Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) present to assist Elder Bro. Ed with these important duties. Also with us for either Saturday evening or Sunday were Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington), Harvey Heiniger (Burlington), Trent Meiss (Iowa City), John Rowell (Burlington) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL).

Bros. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) have also served us the Lord's Word during this past month.

As we gathered in God's house to hear the little children and young adults relate to us once again the old, old story of Christ's humble birth our hearts were touched by the love of God. Once again, if the Lord wills, we will be heading into a new year. Let us strive to put away the mistakes of the past year and serve God with a renewed zeal.

Special Thanks: We sincerely thank all our brethren and friends for the many cards, flowers, food and memorial donations. We especially appreciated the many prayers during our loved one's illness and at her death.

We feel the vacancy in our lives as our family circle here on earth is broken. May we strive to be true and faithful that the circle may not be broken in the better home awaiting in the sky.

May God bless you all for your love and kindness shown unto us.

The Clara Frank family

IOWA, PULASKI
Teresa Schock
Carol Wettstein

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear Lord, I stand out before a door
To a year untried and new.
But I can step through unafraid
If I may walk with you.
So walk with me and talk with me
In accents sweet and clear --
That I may live within Thy will
Throughout another year.

Bless those I meet along the way
And walk beside them, too --
That all we do and all we say
Will serve to honor You.

Ilah Schepper

Our hospital patients this month were Joe Dean Wells (Georgia), Sis. Laura Wuthrich (Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Albert Wuthrich (Sis. Elizabeth). On Sunday, December 16, we appreciated the effort our children and Sunday school teachers put forth for our Christmas program. 'Tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free." We hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season, and that God will grant you a healthy, happy new year.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

We always appreciate our visiting ministers who lend themselves in teaching us from God's Word. This past month Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA) were with us. While Elder Bro. Gene was in our midst, he showed slides of the brothers' journey to the Eastern Europe countries. Let us continue to pray for one another and trust that God will supply all our needs. Seeing the sincerity and the great hunger for God's Word in these countries, it should behoove us to appreciate the freedoms we have enjoyed. May we count our many blessings. We thank Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary for sharing the pictures and their time with us.

We're thankful to report only one hospital patient, Steve Bruellman, and he is able to be home and assembling with us again.

We welcome Bro. Wendell Schmidt (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn) and Neal Schmidt (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille) back to our community. May God guide them in their future employment.

May God bless Dave Zaugg (Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris) and Missy Banwart (Don and Jane) as they announced their engagement and future wedding plans.

As we enter the New Year, may the following words be a timely re-

minder in charting our course through another year.

I WONDER

What does the future hold for me
In the mystical long eternity?
Shall I hear the Master say, "Well
done"

When the sands of time have
finished the run?

Will I use my talents as I should
By shunning evil and seeking
good?

Will some life be better because of
me?

Will I a worthy example be?

Have I eased the burden of
someone's worry
In a world of never-ending hurry?
Have I taken the time for the
kindly deed
Or a word of courage in time of
need?

What will my portion be at the
end of strife
When the Angel opens the Book of
Life?

What does the future hold for me
In the mystical long eternity?
Elizabeth Orth

KANSAS, BERN
Kathy Strahm
Lori Baumgartner

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13-14

As we have now entered this new year of 1991, may we leave the past behind and press forward with new zeal toward our heavenly goal -- eternal life.

Our annual Sunday school Christmas program was held December 16. How touching it is to see our youth sing praises unto our Lord and Saviour. May it always be our prayer that the seeds that are planted in their tender hearts today may

some day bring forth fruit, pleasing unto Him.

Our dear Sis. Anna Ulmer is currently hospitalized after undergoing surgery. May the Lord provide healing, according to His will and lift her up in spirit.

Also suffering a mishap recently was Sis. Linda Esslinger who has involved in a car accident. We are thankful that she did not have to be hospitalized, although she did suffer some minor injuries.

We always appreciate having visiting ministers among us. Assembling with us this past month was Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO). May the Lord bless him for his efforts on our behalf.

We rejoice with Michelle Rokey (Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda) and Roger Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn) as they have recently announced their engagement to be married. Their wedding date has been set for July 20, 1991.

As of the last week in November, we have resumed our midweek services in which we assemble with our neighboring Sabetha congregation.

KANSAS,
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Michelle Braker

We are ending another semester at this busy time of the year. Once again we have been blessed with many visitors on our Wednesday night services. We would like to especially thank Bros. Bill Emch and Jay Luthi (Lamont) who preached the true and Holy Word to us.

Our annual Christmas caroling was held December 12. Following the caroling we had a delicious chili supper and enjoyed the fellowship with one another.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

A PRAYER ON
NEW YEAR'S DAY

A new beginning on this day
That starts another year.
The future holds a mystery
Of equal faith and fear.

My heart requires a steady grace
To match my every need.
My mind and spirit search, O Lord,
For You to intercede.

May healing mercies, by Thy love
Exhort the ailing state.
Let all my troubled thoughts
respond
As trusting would relate.

Be with me as I meet each day
Whatever life may hold:
"My times are in Thy hands," O
God,
Let greater self unfold.

I would not ask for strength
beyond
The good of soul and nerve.
Whatever length of hours bring --
Lord, bless me as I serve.
Roxie Lusk Smith

May the Lord bless each of you
as you serve him in this coming
year.

Our fellowship was blessed this month by visiting Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and Sis. Barbara (Phoenix, AZ). May the Lord care for them in their labors of love.

Many in our congregation need our prayers of healing. Sis. Laverne Roth and Bro. Marvin Ott had surgery. Sis. Dorothy Brown had an extended stay in Houston, TX, for new treatments. Other hospital patients were Sis. Alice Tanner, Sis. Lydia Circle and Sis. Mildred Farny. May the Lord surround each one with His everlasting love.

Our fellowship had the joy of singing Christmas carols and ministering to the residents at Life Care Nursing Home this month. We also caroled to residents in Burlington, IA, Kiowa and at the Kiowa Hospital.

The Sunday school spent much time in preparing a program to celebrate the birth of our dear Savior. It was a blessing to all.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Mary Isch

We had our annual Christmas program on the 16th of December during the noon intermission. We were reminded of our Lord's humble

birth in that lowly stable so long ago. It is so inspiring to see our Sunday school children sing and read of the Christ Child's birth. So let us again at this holy season and all through the New Year worship and praise our Father above for His wondrous gift to mankind.

We enjoyed having Bro. Charles Sinn and his family (Fort Scott) visit us this month. May God be their rich rewarder for his labor of love in the ministry.

We want to extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker and their family in the death of Sis. Lorean's brother, Phil Brown. He had worked for Bro. Glen for three and one half years as a faithful dairy hand. He will be sorely missed.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Beth Hartter - Sharon Strahm

Last evening we assembled in church and enjoyed listening as our Sunday school students brought us the blessed Christmas story in songs and verses. We thank the students and the teachers for their efforts. Our prayer is that each of these precious souls can experience in due time what many of us have found — "Tis not the babe, but Christ, the man who walked in Galilee; Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the Spirit free." Hymns of Zion #36.

We do have a dear soul who has come to that realization and is seeking the "gift of peace." She was brought to our Sunday school in her youth. We do rejoice with Kacie Thompson (Sis. Thirza) and wish her God's grace and guidance. Kacie and her mother attend church in Kansas City but do visit here frequently.

Three new babies have been entrusted to parents in our congregation. Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn Huber welcomed Brianna Rae November 26. Brooke and Tyler are delighted with their baby sister. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Sam and Sis. Jeanette Huber and Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer.

A baby sister has also been welcomed by Tiffany, Brett, Megan and Kenna Kellenberger. Abby Jo was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa. Her grandparents are Bro. Virgil

and Sis. Marie Hartter and Sis. Elaine Kellenberger (Lester, IA).

A little son, Kendal Lee, was born to Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm December 14. He remains in the hospital at this time, but hopefully can be welcomed home soon by his family which includes Wanda, Wayne, Kent, Kara, Lana, Lafe and Lyle. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Ella Metzger (Lester, IA) are grandparents.

We have been encouraged and uplifted by the visits of ministering brothers, Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN). Our thanks and God's blessings to you both.

As we embark on a New Year, let us think on this from Helen Steiner Rice.

A FAVORITE RECIPE

Take a cup of kindness, mix it well with love,
Add a lot of patience and faith in God above,
Sprinkle very generously with joy and thanks and cheer --
And you'll have lots of "Angel Food" to feast on all year.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. John Schrader, originally from the Lamont congregation, has found employment in our area. We rejoice to have him worshipping and fellowshiping with us.

The Sunday school Christmas program was presented the evening of the 16th. Our Mexican exchange student, Teresa Gallegos, shared some of her native Christmas customs with us. In spite of the differences in customs, we share the same gift of Christ's birth and the love of the Father which knows no international boundaries.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Lester and Glendoris Huber

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand forever."

Isaiah 40:8

The years have come and gone, people like grass wither, and how sobering it should be for us that the Word of our God shall stand forever. Perhaps most of us would not have thought we'd see the nineties. Surely we ought to be most grateful for our forefathers who have shared this life-giving Word with us and that we may look forward to another year and be occupied therein. Words cannot express the feeling of indebtedness toward our beloved church for sharing this Word as the "Love of the Truth" through the love of the brethren the past year of 1990. We say thank you and pray God will bless all your sacrificial efforts. We are unworthy of this kindness and only God is able to repay and reveal the feeling of our hearts.

Sis. Katherine Deak is recovering nicely from her heart surgery in June. She is now able to be in church again. We all are grateful to God for His blessing of healing.

Christmas is a time of giving, sharing and loving. Let us keep the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts and homes.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love.

Melodies of Praise #310

On December 16, the Sunday school children related this message of the birth of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, in simple verse and song.

We were blessed and thankful for our visiting ministers in the past month, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen Heiniger and family (Bloomington/Normal, IL). May God reward them for their love and effort in coming.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch
As we prepare to turn the calen-

dar to a new year of 1991, I am reminded of a Christmas card I read with a prayer on the cover.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

During this holy season, may our minds turn to a search for truth . . . Our hearts to meeting the needs of others . . . Our hands to furthering the cause of peace in our world. Amen.

May we all turn the calendar of life with new goals and pray diligently for peace in our world for we need it so badly right now; with so many innocent lives at stake.

We were able to take time out of our busy holiday season; To hear our young and older children tell us the real reason for the date of December 25. I think listening to our children puts all our minds back into perspective of our goals to live and serve God.

We are happy to announce the birth of a new grandson to Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite Blough. Michael Todd Laagman, proud parents are Joy and Ed.

We had a few hospital patients this month. Sis. Julie Blough had some surgery and is back with us. And our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Michelle and Bro. Brad Baumgartner with Sis. Michelle's emergency visit to the hospital. Praying all goes well for Michelle with her time spent at home under doctor's orders.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Peggy Waibel

With Christmas past and a new year just beginning, many of us look back on the year past and see many things in our lives that could have been different if we would have carefully considered the consequences. We also see many good things that we did, or that happened to us, and we realize just how much we have to praise God for. Through it all, we have grown, both spiritually and emotionally and our knowledge of life and its many conflicts has expanded. In this we can find God, as Solomon says in Proverbs chapter two, verses 3, 4 and 5:

"Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." So if, through our mistakes and successes, we gain knowledge and understanding, we will find the Lord working in our lives. Let's strive to make that a goal for this new year. Let's learn to know Jesus Christ, and if you already know Him, seek to understand His ways and apply them to your life.

With the new year, comes new life. Baby, Kathy Alyssa Knochel, was born to Jim and Kay in December. Little Kathy was welcomed home by her excited sisters, Sarah, Jenay, Jamie and Laura. We pray that God will continue to fill their home with love and joy.

The Sunday school program and caroling also took place this month. What a thrill it is to see small faces upturned, singing praises to the God that created them. It doesn't matter if they're slightly off tune, or forgot the words, what matters is their exuberance in praising their Maker. As Scripture says, we need to become as little children.

Sis. Lois Waibel passed away after a continuing battle against cancer. We trust that she is safely in the arms of the Almighty and we thank God for calling her home. We will miss her very much, for she was a wonderful woman. Our sympathies are extended to her family and our prayers are with them.

". . . Death is swallowed up in victory."

I Corinthians 15:54

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

Revelation 21:4

Sis. Naomi Ramseyer was hospitalized this month, and we thank God He is touching life with His healing power. We trust that His good and perfect will will be accomplished in her life, and that she will

regain her strength. Remember Sis. Naomi in your prayers.

As the old year of 1990 closes, we can be thankful that it closes with Jesus. May He touch your life in the New Year, and draw you closer to Himself. God bless each one.

Reminder: February is collection month.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Sue Gasser

We rejoice with Sis. Jane Kaisner as we heard her testimony and witnessed her baptism December 2. Her uncle, Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) was with us and shared with us from God's Word.

We also appreciated Bro. Bill Waibel's (Bay City, MI) message at Woodhaven December 4.

We were reminded of the important role of shepherds in the Christmas message at our Christmas program December 16.

We have had several hospital patients this month. Sis. Ruth Gudeman was a medical patient and Steve Hohulin and Diane Peterson were surgical patients. We are thankful they have all been able to come home again, but our prayers remain with them.

Over the past year, Detroit has had three births, six baptisms, three deaths and four of our young members were married.

Livonia, MI, will host services at Woodhaven February 5 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Kathryn Schmidgall Marcy Schmidgall

With the holiday season soon arriving, we find ourselves busy getting ready. Our congregation has been Christmas caroling for hospitalized children, mentally retarded adults, and the elderly. They all appreciate it very much, and it is a blessing for us, too.

We had our Sunday school program December 16, with a potluck meal following. Listening to the little children recite their pieces reminds us of the childlike heart we all desire to have.

Our visiting ministers this month

were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Alhai Moser (Morris, MN). God bless them for the inspired Word they brought forth.

Also, we are thankful that Sis. Arletta Bragg is able to worship with us again. God be with her as she recovers from hip surgery.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

A precious baby girl, Courtney Ann, was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Gramm November 25. Happy to have a little sister are Savannah, Taylor, Austin and Casey. Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra Nohl and Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm are thankful grandparents.

Several of our loved ones have been hospitalized this past month. Medical patients were Sis. Martha Greiner, Sis. Sophie Nohl, Sis. Julie Gramm and Alan Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda). Bro. Jake Koehl submitted to surgery. Andrew Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy) is on crutches after suffering a broken leg. We are thankful for God's healing hand on each one.

"And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." I Corinthians 11:24, 25. We were privileged and humbled to partake of holy communion December 8. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Art in this important sacrament.

Our Sunday school Christmas program was held December 16. What a joy to hear our children tell the story of the birth of our Saviour in word and song.

As we face the beginning of a New Year of uncertainty and the possibility of war looms over us, let us draw closer to God and continue to put our faith and confidence in Him. Our prayer is that God may lead us each and every day, not knowing what each day ahead may hold, but believing that whatever may come is God's will.

It may be the last of the years quickly flying;

It may be the year when the Master will come,

When the land of the holy, for which we are sighing,

Will burst into view -- the Father's glad home!

Unknown

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Georgia Messner - Kim Messner

Bro. George Messner, 90, was called to his heavenly home November 21. He had yearned for this for some time. We extend our sympathy to his family, sons, Bro. Larry (Joann) and Duane (Mona); his grandchildren and great-grandchild. He is also survived by a sister, Sis. Sarah Kellenberger (Elgin, IL).

Hospital patients for the past month were Sis. Rose Alice Howk (Bro. Roy), Sis. Joann Messner (Bro. Leroy), Sis. Brenda Messner (Rick) and Mona (Duane) Messner. All are doing well and want to thank God for His healing hand.

January is collection month for Winthrop.

Our sincere thanks to all who remembered us during the illness and death of our Dad and Grandpa.

Your acts of kindness and expression of sympathy through prayers, cards, letters, visits and memorials will never be forgotten.

The family of
George Messner

WRAPPED IN WINTER

The world was wrapped in winter
This tiny world called home,
A blanket soft as cotton
As nature's beauty shown,
A touch of magic wonder
In snowflakes as they fell,
And life held quiet beauty
That wintertime could tell.

The lane was wrapped in winter
Each tree were ermine white,
With fence posts capped in
splendor
Within the dark of night,
The pathway snug and cozy
Between the banks of snow,
And stars shone down from
heaven
Touched by the afterglow.

The earth was warm with winter
In peaceful, quiet bliss,
Beneath snow's magic blanket
A silent happiness,
Within the arms of nature
All safe and glowing there,
God wrapped His world in winter
Then left a sunbeam fair.

Garnett Ann Schultz

NEW YORK, CROGHAN/NAUMBURG

Alice Virkler

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou has created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makes me new.

Now it is accomplished! My freedom is gone,
As I am a captive of God and His Son;
What freedom! O, I was by Satan enslaved
To do his ill bidding; but now I am saved.

Zion's Harp #209

The words of this hymn were sung together after the baptism of Sis. Amber Herzig (Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor) Sunday, December 9. It was a refreshing and uplifting day for each of us as we can see that God is still calling loved ones from sin and darkness unto freedom in Him. We thank Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and our ordained deacon, Bro. Duane Farney, for their love and services to us.

Bro. Roland Geiser and Sis. Julia Karcher were both overnight hospital patients for tests and minor surgery for Sis. Julia. We miss Bro. Floyd Graves on our pulpit as he is having some problems with his hip. Our prayer is for each of these loved ones that God will restore a measure of good health to them. We also think of the many who cannot assemble each week and pray for God's added blessings to them.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

To correct a printing error in last month's article on the invasion in the Persian Gulf area, Elam's first invasion is in Genesis 14, whereas the printers miscopied it to be Genesis 15.

As the New Year begins, we resolve to do better, or we may have been broken hearted of a failure, but God sent Jesus "... to heal the broken hearted ..." Luke 4:18. A common thought is, of brothers, Moses and Aaron, that Moses was the prominent patriarch, but in Exodus 6:13, the Lord spoke to both giving each one a charge to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt. In Exodus 17, when Amalek came against them, it took Aaron's help to hold up Moses' hands for them to have the victory. Aaron and his sons were chosen to be priests and to wear garments for glory and beauty (Exodus 28:2) to represent the glory and beauty of God. Aaron had failures, but God healed his broken-heartedness, and called him "... Aaron the saint of the Lord." Psalms 106:16. While in southern Jordan, our guide pointed out the area where God had a special burial for Aaron on Mount Hor. Aaron's name means "mountaineer," to have mountain-top experiences, and God buried Aaron on the mountain top. Numbers 20:28. We're thankful Jesus heals our broken hearts and makes us mountaineers, and may our New Year bring us mountain-top experiences.

Bro. Zoltan and Sis. Bonnie Bako visited in Hungary. They had a good trip visiting Zoltan's three brothers and their families, and others, and some of the churches there. They took 28 Romanian song books for the Hungarians to get to Romania.

Sis. Janet Graf had surgery at Cleveland and is home recuperating. Sis. Olga Bahler of Connecticut is here visiting her daughter, Sis. Audrey Graf, and had the misfortune of falling and getting a broken hip. She is with Sis. Audrey and doing well.

Bro. Leo Heib wishes to thank dear ones for prayers and kindnesses to him while in the hospital and while convalescing at home.

Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer and

Andy Stoller assisted Bro. Gene Pamer in the reading of the memorandum.

We appreciated the visits of ministering Bros. Bill Brake, Art Ingold and Gary Maibach.

Missing from Akron church: Ladies' beige all-weather coat with fleece zip-out lining, either a London Fog or Misty Harbor, size 10 or 12, with rounded contour down the front. Would so appreciate its return. The one left at church is Misty Harbor, fleece lined, size 10, with diamond pattern front. Please contact Judy Kaufman, phone 794-0460.

This past year we had five baptisms, two weddings, three new babies and one funeral.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

We are always thankful to the brothers who minister God's Word unto us. Visiting us this past month were Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH).

December 9 was our Sunday school Christmas program. It brings joy to hear the beautiful Christmas story relayed in song and verse by our young people.

On December 14, we enjoyed an evening of Christmas caroling. May we be thankful not only for the birth but also for the death of our blessed Savior for as we sing in the beautiful Christmas hymn, "Tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free." (Hymns of Zion #36)

OHIO, JUNCTION

Laurie Schlatter

We rejoice with Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz as their daughter, Jenny, was recently baptized. Sis. Jenny is lovingly welcomed into the fold, and we wish her many blessings in her new life. We welcomed Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty), Bro. Eugene Fetter (Toledo) and Bro. Pete Baltic (Mansfield).

Sis. Millie Manz and Bro. Jeff Stoller (Smithville) were joined in holy matrimony December 2. Parents of the couple are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz and Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Stoller (Smithville).

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

With us for the wedding were Elder Bros. Ken Sauder (Mansfield) and Andy Stoller (Smithville) and ministering Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville).

Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser have a new addition to their family. Christa Lynne was born shortly before Christmas. She is welcomed home by Brad, Greg, Trent and Melinda. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz and Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bertha Gasser (Smithville).

Several in our congregation have met with minor injuries this past month. All seem to be mending well. We wish them continued improvement.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Rhonda Stoller

GOOD MORNING GOD

You are ushering in another day
Untoached and freshly new
So here I come to ask you, God,
If you'll renew me, too.
Forgive the many errors
That I made yesterday,
And let me try again, dear God,
To walk closer in Thy way . . .
But Father, I am well aware
I can't make it on my own
So take my hand and hold it tight
For I can't walk alone.

Helen Steiner Rice

A fresh, clean start given to us each day by God. Recently, a start of a new year was experienced by each of us. A time of reflecting on the past and planning toward the future. A time to re-evaluate where we have come spiritually and where we see needed growth. A time of hope and a breath of fresh air. But isn't this the same situation when we turn our hearts from sin and become a new individual in Christ? Leaving behind the old and living in the new. Jane Linder (Jim) had given her heart and life to God. It is our prayer, Jane, that God will mold

you into His will but more importantly, that you will be able to discover and accept His will. Our prayers are also with you, Jim.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Della Wenninger are excited and thankful for their second daughter, Kristi Jean. Big sister, Kimberly, welcomes her little sister as a new playmate. The happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger.

Jane Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) and Jim Linder were recently married. We want to congratulate this couple and welcome Him to our congregation. May the Lord bless your marriage with His great love. May your marriage reflect the beauty of the Lord. May your daily living glorify God and touch the lives of your family and friends. May love be in charge of your home and Christ your foundation. We love you both!

It was so good to have Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna Harmon (Toledo) back home with us Christmas Sunday. Bro. Doug allowed the Spirit of God to direct him in proclaiming the Word of God. The message touched our hearts and renewed our minds. Thanks, Bro. Doug, for your faithfulness and your complete willingness to serve. Please do visit us again. God's richest blessings to you and your precious family.

Bro. Roy Stoller (Sis. Helen) is thankful for the healing God has granted to him since his operation. We are also thankful that Bro. Roy is doing well. We look forward to having him with us again on Sundays. We miss his warm smile, outstretched arms and encouraging words. Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart."

Psalms 15:1-2

With those words to give comfort, the final farewell was said to Sis. Hermine Beer. Our sympathies

are extended to her brothers: Bro. Robert, Bro. Ed and Bro. Ben Beer, all of Mansfield. Our dear sister simply went to sleep "safe in the arms of Jesus." She was found dead in bed. Sis. Hermine was an example to each of us with her friendly smile and warm handshake. No matter who you might visit that had been sick, there was always a card from Sis. Hermine. She encouraged many with her cards of love.

Our prayers are with Bro. Harry Bocka (Sis. Marymae) as he recovers from an accident and Sis. Elda Rigenbach (Bro. Alvin) as she recently underwent foot surgery. "God is our refuge and our strength, our very present help in time of need."

The following was written by one of my first grade students in his daily writing journal. It seemed like a good thought to start the new year with: I have a Bible. It is fun to read (read). I love the Bible, I do. I toc (talk) to God wen (when) I reed (read) the Bible.

May God bless you through His Word throughout whatever days He chooses to extend to each one in 1991.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser - Lois Maibach

We are always so thankful when we can report of new converts in our congregation. Recently three dear souls have begun their repentance. They are Darin and Jerry Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane) and Gary Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette). May God grant each one much grace as they strive to do His will.

Those among us who have been hospitalized this past month are Sis. Donna Young (Bill), Sis. Verna Rufener (Bro. Isaac), Bro. Charles Zollinger (Sis. Lillian) and Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Erma). Our prayer is that God will strengthen and encourage each one and grant healing as He sees best.

We always appreciate the efforts of those who come and minister God's Word unto us from various of our church's other congregations. Visiting us this past month were Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Fred

Domka and Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH).

November 29 was the day Brian Maibach (Bro. Art and Sis. Janet) and Lori Shook were joined in marriage. May God be with them and bless their lives together.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Virginia Widmer are the parents of a precious little girl, Polly Anna. Robbie and Angie are happy for a new little sister. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Carole Widmer and Mr. and Mrs. Juluis Giet.

Minnie Elizabeth is the new daughter born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic. Older brothers and sisters are Sis. Stephanie Luginbuhl (Bro. Ted), Denise, Milan, Tom, Dan, Matt, Aaron, Audrey, Elaine, Rachel, Emil, Steven and Katrina. Loving grandparents are Bro. Mitchell and Sis. Violet Baltic and Bro. George and Sis. Minnie Rigenbach.

As we enter a New Year, may we ever strive to walk according to ways that would be pleasing to our heavenly Father. We pray that God would grant each of us a rich measure of His grace and blessings in the coming year.

OHIO, SARDIS

Paula Figel

With the holidays over and moving quite rapidly into the new year, are we striving fervently to be more Christlike? We always need to be reminded of our high and heavenly calling and we are thankful to have ministers who lend themselves as tools in God's hand. Our Bros. Ken Indermuhle, Mark Ramsier and Bill Blake have blessed us throughout the year with words of inspiration from Almighty God. May God continue to speak to these dear brothers and may we always give them our full support.

A most delightful evening was enjoyed by many when we gathered December 16 for our Sunday school program. How it warms our hearts to see these small children and young adults sing praises to our heavenly Father. How He must smile down on them! Great appreciation and thanks is due the teachers. May God bless each one.

The Sardis church appreciated the many volunteer laborers who

come to help build the new homes in the Shadyside area. We especially want to thank Bro. Tim Reinhard (Detroit, MI) who stayed 10 weeks while the main work was being done. Both beautiful homes are finished and our new friends are very thankful for the Apostolic Christian church work project that helped make their home on earth a reality again. We pray for a heavenly home for them, too.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Stephanie Luginbuhl
Kim Stoller

We appreciated the words of exhortation Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) brought to us from God's Holy Word. May the Lord bless him for his teachings.

Lynne Beery became the wife of Bud Kandel. Their parents are Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl Beery and Mr. and Mrs. Norm Kandel (Dalton, OH). Bro. Jeff Stoller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen) and Sis. Millie Manz (Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn, Junction, OH) were married December 2. We welcome Sis. Millie into our congregation. May God be with these two couples as they travel life's path together.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord." Proverbs 18:22. Bro. Myron Weber (Sis. Marge) felt the Lord's direction to marry Sis. Darlene Indermuhle (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet). We wish them much happiness during their engagement.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehlau
Frances Laidig

It's nearly Christmas again being time for the annual Christmas program given by the Sunday school, including the singing of beautiful Christmas carols. It is always an inspiration to know of the effort put forth by both students and teachers. The carolers also visited the nursing home and homes of our loved ones, a blessing that seems all over too soon. May these special occasions help us enter the new year with renewed courage.

Begin a new year with a new life in the service of God's direction made possible by our Lord and Saviour Jesus. We are persuaded most effectively by the truth of the Word of God when we observe the life of a Christian who sincerely lives up to that which he believes. Souls who resolve to make a change in their lives and become a child of the living God are never the same. Something has happened to them. Their desires and tastes change. They begin walking a new pathway in life and in doing so find much happiness.

January is the time for Silver Lining dues.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

"For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil, and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee."

Deuteronomy 8:7-10

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

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

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.

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

Hymns of Zion

We appreciate Mark, Louisa and two-year-old, Dana, assembling with us. They have recently moved from Altadena, CA.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht (Silverton) visited us and Bro. Ed brought many teachings from the precious Word of God to us.

We were happy to see Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Bruellman (Sarasota, FL) Sunday, December 9. We have precious memories of Bro. Gene when he was stationed out here in the service.

Joy has filled our hearts (Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller) for two grandchildren born in November. Preston Alexander (Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein, Gridley, IL) and Michelle Rose adopted by Cynthia and Ron Vandenburg (Portland).

Our prayers go out for the suffering as our dear Sis. Connie Steffen is receiving some relief, since the screws in her leg have been removed.

I meet God in the morning and go
with Him through the day
Then in the stillness of the night
before sleep comes, I pray.
That God will just "take over" all
the problems I couldn't solve
And in the peacefulness of sleep my
cares will all dissolve.

So when I open up my eyes, to greet
another day
I'll find myself renewed in strength
and there'll open up a way
To meet what seemed impossible
for me to solve alone
And once again I'll be assured I'm
never "on my own."

For if we try to stand alone, we are
weak and we will fall
For God is always greatest, when
we're helpless, lost and small
And no day is unmeetable, if on
rising, our first thought
Is to thank God for the blessings,
that His loving care has brought.

Author Unknown

OREGON, SILVERTON**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

The first year of the nineties is history and who can say what the decade as a whole will hold. For it is in looking back after the years have past that the historians and acute observers are heard to proclaim a certain style as "fifties," or an idea as something of the "sixties" or even a political movement born in the "thirties." So don't be persuaded by the world's hawkers saying "Buy this, it's the 90's style" or "Do this, it's the new 90's morality." The world doesn't know what the nineties will bring, they never did. And neither do we, but we don't need to know, if we have the Lord for our Guide to lead us through this ever-changing world with His never-changing Word. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Matthew 16:26

The church calendars for 1991 are finished and available now. This time it features Mt. Washington and Meadow Lake from January to June then you turn it over and can look at an old covered bridge over the North Fork of the Yachats River from July to December. The calendar includes the birthday, birth year and wedding anniversary of each person in the Silverton and Portland congregations. It also carries the dates of our monthly hymn sings, Sunday school programs and the annual Sunday school picnic. All work on this project is volunteered and is much appreciated.

An address update sheet has been printed for the church directory. The new calendars and the directory updates are available to be picked up in the front entry of church. Any corrections or additions to either publication can be reported to Bro. Jim Dietrich or Bro. Jack Kuenzi.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht and family at the loss of Bro. Ed's father, Bro. Gottfried "Fred" Knecht. Bro. Fred died November 6 at the age of 95. He had lived for the last several years at the Eureka, IL, Apostolic Christian Nursing Home.

Throughout the fall and winter months we have hymn singing on the first Sunday evening of each month. If you are in the area, come

join us at 6:30 p.m. for an hour of "Hymns of Zion" joyous praise.

As you perhaps know, Christmas tree farming is a big slice of Oregon's farm production, since evergreen trees grow here quite naturally almost anywhere and do quite well on hilly ground that is unsuited for much else. These trees are cut, tied and shipped by the millions all over the United States throughout November and December. In a conversation recently with a neighbor whose family has been in this business for three or four decades, we learned how they have been developing increased trade with Japan. The buyers frankly envy the success of American business during the "Christmas season" and they want a similar situation, but without any association with Christ, as that would upset the religious leaders of their country. They want to create the same atmosphere of glitzy, jolly cheer that opens the purse-strings of Americans but they want it without any reference to the Christ Child born in a lowly manger. They want Santa Claus and the glittering trees and decorations and most of all the shoppers in a spending-frenzy.

And can you blame the Japanese businessman who looks at a typical shopping mall during December? It is a sobering thought to ponder that much of another country, whose basic religion is not Christianity, without being a religious issue.

Let's have the wisdom and grace to keep what is good and holy and promotes brotherly love. And remember what the Apostle Paul told the Philippians in chapter four verse nine: "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Psalms 32:8

We will miss Bro. Brad Geyer

who has moved to Morton, IL. We enjoyed his fellowship and support the past few years. May he feel God's nearness in his new home.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE**Don Sauder**

Chapter 5 of I Thessalonians surely gives us food for thought for the day and times in which we live. Verses 2-4 say, "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." Verses 17-19 say, "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit." Verses 21-24 say, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your while spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. Brethren, pray for us.

We, in Nashville, do feel your prayers brethren. Please continue without ceasing. Being small in numbers we do not have the protection of the flock, so as individuals, we need each and every one of your prayers.

We were blessed Sunday, December 9, when a van load from Rittman, OH, came to visit us. Bro. Merle Hartzler ministered the Word to us both morning and afternoon. We pray to Lord will richly reward all as only He can, for your labor of love. Please come again.

Monthly services are held the second Sunday of the month in our home. Morning service starts at 10:00 a.m. Again Taye and my phone number is 615-373-8928, 2059 Timberwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. If unable to reach us by phone, please drop a note or call one of our elder brothers, Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) or Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH). Visit us, support us in

anyway the Lord would direct you, especially in prayer.

May God bless us and keep us under His wing in the new year.

**TEXAS,
DALLAS/HOUSTON
Brad and Cindy Eisenmann**

There were no services in Houston in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We look forward to resuming the Houston service again in December.

We pray for a speedy recovery for little Joey Darlington who fell and broke his collarbone during a recent trip to Illinois with his parents, Jerry and Sis. Sandy Darlington.

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 welcome anyone to contact Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann at (713) 265-2216 regarding Houston services.

Ministering Bro. Gene Leman, his wife, Sis. Verna (Wolcott, IN), and several brethren from Wolcott were with us in Dallas December 2. The extra support, especially with the song leading, is really appreciated. On December 16, Elder Bro. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) ministered to us. We appreciated having Bro. Ron and Sis. Shirley in our midst.

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**

Many of our brothers and sisters gathered for fellowship breakfast Thursday morning, December 13. We talked of old memories and experiences of things that were past. We did not realize that one of our brothers would leave this world that evening.

The Lord called Bro. Floyd (Sis. Virginia) Groh the evening of December 13. Bro. Floyd was 79 years

old and has been spending some time in Zapata each winter since 1976. He did his duty as a revolving usher in our church. Bro. Floyd was laid to rest at Bluffton, IN. His funeral was at Bluffton North Church.

Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Virginia; his daughter, Sis. Sandra (Bro. Aaron); his three grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

The following article was written by Bro. Paul Fehr, retired elder.

SPREAD THE GOSPEL

We hear the remarks many times among our brethren that tomorrow or Sunday we hope to visit the church at Morris or Roanoke or any other church across our land. The method of travel today has become so convenient and fast that in one day we can go to many of our churches to fellowship and worship with one another and hardly realize the long time span it has taken to establish these many churches.

We go back to the time of Christ when He Himself told His disciples to go out in all the world and preach the Word. Tell them of the work of redemption that was brought by Him through His shed blood was the atonement of sin given.

It was soon that the Apostle Paul then began to establish churches throughout Asia as directed by God. The believers could then join together to worship and fellowship together. The work of God could be manifested, so a real faith could be seen through works.

We know faith without works is dead. The Apostles made mention He would show His faith by His works. This is the beginning of spreading the Gospel. It soon spread throughout Europe. The churches had many trials, as Satan has always been and always will be till Christ will reappear. There are perhaps very few places now that the Gospel hasn't been placed, but the true church of God in the vast area of the world are few.

It was then in the trying times of the church many of our forefathers came from Europe, crossed the ocean to come to America. By this migration, our churches were established

that we have learned to know and love the welcome sign that hangs at 70 to 80 Apostolic churches throughout our country, to welcome in any who are seeking salvation, again fulfilling the Word that the Gospel should be preached everywhere. Some of our later churches were built in the deep South where many of the old can now go for the winter months to escape the harsh winters of the North country and still enjoy the fellowship and hear the Word of God preached Sunday after Sunday.

Now a few comments about Zapata. Zapata is built on the shore of Falcon Lake, along the Rio Grande River, often referred to as Mesquite Country. As far as one can see, it is all Mesquite trees.

Old Zapata is now under about 25 feet of water and had to be moved back at the time Falcon Dam was built, which now creates this large lake which is about 45 miles long. The water out of this lake is used for irrigation in the valley below where vegetables and fruit are grown the year around.

It was here at Zapata where a nice church was constructed and dedicated in 1978. Bro. Leland Plattner, who is a resident here the year around, along with his wife and three children. Bro. Leland now serves as minister, to whom we are grateful for his untiring effort to bring us the Gospel message every Sunday.

Bro. Herman Kellenberger was our first elder. After his passing, the mantel as given to Bro. Ed Hohulin. After his retirement, our acting elder is now Bro. Leo Moser.

We all would welcome anyone to come to Zapata to worship with us. We have had many visitors come, some for a short stay, others for some time. We are often blessed to have visiting ministers with which I know Bro. Leland enjoys having along with all the rest of us. So please give us a visit whenever possible. With this I will close.

Humbly submitted by
Bro. Paul Fehr,
retired elder

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

SILVER THREADS

Strength

FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Through the ages, many people have found needed strength through the reading of the Word of God. These passages have been especially chosen for those who are willing to trust in the Lord for help. Remember the words of Isaiah (40:31) "... they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

STRENGTH . . . THROUGH TRUSTING GOD

Praise For the Lord's Righteous Acts

Praise ye the Lord.
Praise the Lord, O my soul.
While I live will I praise the Lord:
I will sing praises unto my God
while I have any being.

Put not your trust in princes,
nor in the son of man,
in whom *there* is no help.
His breath goeth forth,
he returneth to his earth;
in that very day his thoughts
perish.

Happy *is he* that *hath* the God of
Jacob for his help,
whose hope *is* in the Lord his God:
which made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that therein *is*:
which keepeth truth for ever:
which executeth judgment for the
oppressed:
which giveth food to the hungry.

The Lord looseth the prisoners:
the Lord openeth *the eyes of the*
blind:
the Lord raiseth them that are bowed
down:
the Lord loveth the righteous:
the Lord preserveth the strangers;
he relieveth the fatherless and
widow:
but the way of the wicked he turneth
upside down.

The Lord shall reign for ever,
even thy God, O Zion, unto all
generations.
Praise ye the Lord.

Psalm 146

STRENGTH . . . THROUGH OUR SHEPHERD

The Lord Is My Shepherd

The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not
want.
He maketh me to lie down in green
pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still
waters.
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.

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

Thou preparast a table before me in
the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever.

Psalm 23

STRENGTH . . . THROUGH GOD'S CARE

God and Mammon

No man can serve two masters;
for either he will hate the one, and
love the other; or else he will hold to
the one, and despise the other. Ye
cannot serve God and mammon.

Therefore I say unto you, Take
no thought for your life, what ye
shall eat, or what ye shall drink; not
yet for your body, what ye shall put
on. Is not the life more than meat,
and the body than raiment? Behold
the fowls of the air: for they sow not,
neither do they reap, nor gather
into barns; yet your heavenly Fa-
ther feedeth them. Are ye not much
better than they? Which of you by
taking thought can add one cubit
unto his stature? And why take ye

thought for raiment? Consider the
lilies of the field, how they grow;
they toil not, neither do they spin:
and yet I say unto you, That even
Solomon in all his glory was not
arrayed like one of these. Where-
fore, if God so clothe the grass of the
field, which today is, and tomorrow
is cast into the oven, *shall he* not
much more clothe you, O ye of little
faith? Therefore take no thought,
saying, What shall we eat? or, What
shall we drink? or, Wherewithal
shall we be clothed? (For after all
these things do the Gentiles seek:)
for your heavenly Father knoweth
that ye have need of all these things.
But seek ye first the kingdom of
God, and his righteousness; and all
these things shall be added unto
you.

Take therefore no thought for
the morrow: for the morrow shall
take thought for the things of itself.
Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil
thereof.

Matthew 6:24-34

STRENGTH . . . THROUGH OUR UNION WITH HIM

More Than Conquerors

What shall we then say to these
things? If God *before* us, who *can* be
against us? He that spared not his
own Son, but delivered him up for
us all, how shall he not with him
also freely give us all things? Who
shall lay any thing to the charge of
God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.
Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is*
Christ that died, yea rather, that is
risen again, who is even at the right
hand of God, who also maketh inter-
cession for us. Who shall separate
us from the love of Christ? *shall*
tribulation, or distress, or persecu-
tion, or famine, or nakedness, or
peril, or sword? As it is written,

For thy sake we are killed all the
day long;

we are accounted as sheep for
the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more
than conquerors through him that
loved us. For I am persuaded, that
neither death, nor life, nor angels,
nor principalities, nor powers, nor
things present, nor things to come,
nor height, nor depth, nor any other

creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31-39

STRENGTH . . . THROUGH THE ARMOR OF GOD

The Whole Armor of God

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; and for me that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds; that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:10-20

STRENGTH . . . THROUGH GOD'S FORGIVENESS

A Prayer For Cleansing

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shall make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free Spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Psalm 51:1-13

This portion of Holy Scripture comes from the Bible in the King James Version. It is published by the American Bible Society.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

say that, when we heard it again, we can just glean something from it that we never thought about before. This is the way God works through His Holy Word and through His teachings.

I had to think here of what the wise preacher said (we read it together), "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and

the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." Proverbs 8:13. One of the first things that we needed to put off, dearly beloved ones, when we saw that we were in condemnation of sin was to get rid of that pride, that wall that Satan built up that we just couldn't get over, that hurdle of just telling someone. But that is the way it was. Pride, arrogance and the evil way is displeasing in the sight of God. The forward mouth, and those things, God hates.

"Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength." Proverbs 8:14. These are the things that we find in this Holy Word of Life. The strength, the wisdom, and the knowledge that comes from God. But we need to prayerfully seek it out.

When we think of God speaking to us, I believe we need to first speak to Him. Surely it pleases the Father's heart when He sees a soul on their knees pleading to the Almighty God to direct us through this Word, because surely there are so many things we do not understand.

What a joy it is when we consider the Word together. Often we make those experiences with our dear souls that are just making a beginning and they direct us to the Word and say, "Here is where the Lord has opened to me and I just don't quite understand that."

As we prayerfully consider it together, it is a precious time. You might say, "I just never quite thought of it that way, but, oh, this Word is so precious!" From then on, they just seem to love the Word. This then is pleasing in the sight of God.

"Riches and honor are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than find gold; and my revenue than choice silver." Proverbs 8:18, 19.

Then as we turn to the Book of Revelation, we read how the streets are of gold, and how it will be fine gold as transparent glass (See Revelation 21:21). I wonder if these teachings are for us to just consider how precious it really is. I don't think any of us can say what way we understand the size of the heavenly home is going to be. I don't believe we can comprehend what it is going to be like.

Surely as we think of the gold and silver today, I don't think that is the way it will be. But God has something very special, very precious, and this is what the foundation is built upon.

The main thing is that we then take heed to those things that will keep us from entering into this place of blessing and quietness, joy and happiness. That is the bottom line! That is why it is so necessary that we consider our salvation over and over again in our walk of life in the sight of such a great God!

He began here, as we read together, "It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely." Revelation 21:6. God wants to give to each and every one of us today, and had given us, the water of life freely . . . the fountain of the water of life. He wants to share this unto us . . . this substance . . . this heavenly manna is going to sustain and fortify us in the days ahead.

Then he says, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Revelation 21:7. Now when we stop and consider our high and heavenly calling, this is a relationship that we have. As we read here . . .

"I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Revelation 21:7. No higher calling, no higher standing than to be a child of the Living God! Brothers and sisters-in-Christ, what a high calling! What a privileged people!

That is why we should think about this place that is prepared for the righteous. We should sit down here with the guidelines of this Holy Word so that we will not miss out. He makes it very clear here, he says, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things . . ." Revelation 21:7. But we have to be the overcomer.

Then he goes on to say, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8. What a contrast! . . . to those who have not yet found the Way. That is

why we have such a great concern for dear friends who are yet without. That is why we want to make ourselves clear.

Dear brothers and sisters, that is why when we speak the Holy Word of Life, we want to warn one another. God speaks through this Word and He tells us how we need to be very fearful, how we need to be on guard . . . guard every thought that we have, every word that we say. Oh, this is so important so that we would not have to lose out again.

Because we surely don't believe in eternal security that we hear of so much today. Our names could again be blotted out of this Book of Life, for we read here that our names need to be inscribed in that Book of Life before we can enter into these wonderful mansions!

He goes on to tell us about the bride of the Lamb, "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife." Revelation 21:9. He says, "Come hither." He wants to show us the Lamb's wife.

"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain . . ." Revelation 21:10. There are some real gems in this Word, even though we don't fully understand the prophecies (as I had to confess). But here he was carried away in the spirit, and now that is important. The spirit was with him again and there he was out on the Lord's Day on this island. Surely he was longing for fellowship, longing for closeness with his God, and I believe he found it. He could not have spoken words such as these.

But he was taken up into a high place, lifted out of the turmoil and the strife and what the world has to offer. He was taken away from all that.

". . . and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." Revelation 21:10. To see that Holy Jerusalem! Oh, if we could just have a glimpse of heaven as God has prepared it.

Jesus Christ Himself said, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again . . . that where I am,

there ye may be also." John 14:3. So that is a promise to the true believer.

"Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone more precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Revelation 21:11. Again, we go through this Word, we can see that there are so many things that are necessary for us to try to comprehend and to understand, even though we cannot understand the way he explains the materials perhaps. Yet, we know what the glory of the Lord is. Surely we have experienced that as a true believer.

It says, "Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious . . ." Revelation 21:11. Not knowing what that is, but surely it is as clear as crystal. So it is an indication that our lives need to be clear and free from sin, and that burden that we once carried before we came to the foot of the cross.

"And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel." Revelation 21:12. As we read these words together, we can see that the apostle had a wonderful understanding. That is the part that always impresses me. We cannot comprehend many of these things, at least I can't, but we can see the exactness.

He speaks about the gates and the names that are going to be inscribed on the gates. Can we clearly see into heaven, dearly beloved ones? Can we plead with God for a better understanding? Do we have that longing to be in the homeland? This is what we need.

We read in the Word that we are to haste the day when the Lord returns again. If we are hastening the day and looking forward to the time when the Lord will come into the clouds of glory, descend in a moment of time and in the twinkling of an eye, what a glorious time that will be for the true believer! What a rejoicing that will be for those that are already prepared!

But how terrible it will be for the fearful, unbelieving, and those who have turned the other way. Is it any wonder that we have a concern upon our hearts, dearly beloved ones? We

should for what God has done for us.

"And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass." Revelation 21:15-18.

I believe there is some real significance in saying, "like clear glass." We think of gold today, and I don't think any of us have seen it as being clear as crystal, or clear as glass. But there is significance behind this, dearly loved one. There needs to be purity. There needs to be freedom from any sin and condemnation . . . anything that burns the soul. We need to be free to go to be with the Lord. Only those are going to inherit this city that lieth foursquare. Let us think about that city over and over again.

Then he goes on to tell of how the foundations were. We often read about the foundation and how we should build upon a True Foundation, and that Foundation is Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. We plead always with those that come in repentance that they continually build upon that Solid Foundation. Only then, can they stay true and faithful. Only then, can they find the way and find entrance into this Holy City.

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." Revelation 21:22. They didn't need any place or temple to worship there.

It is going to be a place of bliss, of joy, a constant feeling of a closeness with our great God . . . a communication in the Spirit! We cannot comprehend it, can we, dear brothers and sisters? But what a longing it will be, to be there with the Lord each and every day, and a joy to meet the brethren.

When a day comes to a close and we bid farewell, it brings a certain amount of sadness. In that city which

lieth foursquare, we will never have to bid any farewells. There won't be anymore, because we will be there together for ever and ever. It is worth the effort, then, that we put forth, isn't it? We can only do just a little part of what Jesus Christ has done for us.

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." Revelation 21:23. I often have to think how this revelation is precious to me, because the apostle must have had a depth of understanding and surely a communion with his God that you just can't hardly grasp or comprehend.

We think of a bright sunny day. Maybe after some gloomy days, how we long again to see that sun brightly shining and glistening. Even in the winter time, when it is cold, there comes a bright sunny day, it seems to really add something to the cold. Here there is no need any more for the sun, neither the moon. We look out on a moonlight night, it is a beautiful time, quiet nights many times, moon shining brightly, but there is going to be no need for either of those because ". . . the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." Revelation 21:23.

This is the glory of God, dearly beloved ones, that is going to lighten it and the Lamb is going to be the Light thereof. We are only to be the glow, as we sing in that beautiful hymn of that Light, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Oh, that this glow might shine brightly!

We appreciate each other more and more as the days go by. Surely we need everyone in the church, dearly beloved ones, and how we appreciate those prayers, those words of comfort and advice we get from time to time. Surely we are thankful for each and every one.

"And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it . . ." Revelation 21:24. Think of the nations. I believe in one place in Revelation, they will come from every tongue, clime and nation, every nationality, there is going to be those who have surely been saved through the blood of the Lamb.

He speaks of it here, "And the

nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." Revelation 24, 25. What a contrast of what we see in our day and time!

We can hardly drive through a city without having a fear today of what might happen. But there is not going to be any need, even for gates, or anything like that because there is never going to be any night, never be any time where thieves can work because they are not going to enter into this place. We can't comprehend, can we? But we are going to be spared. We can't comprehend what God has prepared for us.

The great love that God has, first of all, of giving His only Begotten Son. Then of Jesus making that complete sacrifice, of shedding His blood at Calvary, so that we might be among those that are redeemed, and those that walk in the light, and someday inherit eternal life.

"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." Revelation 21:27. Oh, to have our names inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life! What a Joy! What a comfort it is to know that there are still souls seeking out this wondrous way of truth and the grace of God is imparted unto them, and they come to the knowledge of the truth. We have to believe their names are inscribed in the Book of Life. How we pray that they then will stay true and faithful until the very time when the Lord calls them to inherit this eternal kingdom!

Should we not be thankful? Should we not be prayerful, dearly beloved ones? I believe we are. We surely rejoice in days such as this when we can be together and be an encouragement one to the other, and that we can consider this Word over and over again. God then speaks to us. May it be that He has spoken to us plainly again this afternoon. Let us apply it to our own hearts. May it be that God will divide this Word among us according to His will.

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SERMON BY ELDER BRO. WALTER ANLIKER OF EUREKA, IL

“Heaven Is A Glorious Place”

Proverbs 8 and Revelation 21:6-27

Dearly beloved ones, we often shudder as we open to the Book of Revelation. I want to be the first to confess that I understand and know so very little, but it seems as time progresses, we do see the many prophecies are being fulfilled. It seems that we have just a little greater comprehension of what God has in store for the true believer.

I often have to think of the Apostle John who was cast out on the isle on a Lord's Day, such as we have here today. We can be together with brethren and fellowship with one another. We have that opportunity to visit with one another and encourage each other.

Here the Apostle John was cast out on this island. He had no one there to talk to. He was cast out from his loved ones, but he called upon his God! Because he had this wonderful revelation given to him, it is an indication to me that he spent much time upon his knees, and there he communed with his God.

God revealed some most precious things to him! I don't think that I can understand the depths of the writing of what we read together when it speaks of the precious stones and these types of things . . . even gold as clear as crystal. It is hard for us to understand and to comprehend. We wonder how that is going to be. Perhaps it is not good for us to delve into too much of the way man would look at it.

But I believe the important thing is that we extract from these words how beautiful heaven is really going to be. What a place of bliss! What a

place of quietness! What a place of joy and comfort for the true believer!

This is what we are striving for, dearly beloved ones. I wonder if we really talk enough about our heavenly home. I wonder if we make enough plans. We build a home for ourselves upon this earth that is not for a long period of time in many cases, some longer than others, but we spend a lot of time in the blueprint. We spend a lot of time in planning and how this is going to be a little more handy where we can change this or change that. We have some anxieties and we go over it very carefully.

Yet, with our heavenly home, I wonder how many times we really stop and consider how that is really going to be, and what it is really going to be like to meet our Saviour face to face . . . One that we have never seen! It is a very humbling thought. It is a sobering thought for us as we live here upon this earth because as we look into the mirror of God's Word, we see that we come so far short. I surely take myself first. There are so many places where we can improve, isn't it, in our walk of life?

I believe this is what the Word should do for us as we look into the mirror of God's Word. We want to then be able to make those corrections that are so necessary.

We find that as we search out the Word, surely there is advice and instruction and guidance there. Those things are so helpful to the soul.

How enlivening it is to pick up

this Holy Word even in the early morning hour, or whenever the case might be. Someone just told me recently that when we pick up that Word in the morning early before we go to work, then sometime before the day is over, that very Word that we opened to, or that God opened for us, was beneficial for us to overcome that test, that trial or kept us from sin, harm and evil. I wonder if we really, first of all, appreciate this Word . . . the inspired Word of God as we really should.

This Word should really mean something to us. Suppose this Word was taken from us, what would we do? What a fortunate people we are to have Bibles in many of our rooms at home. We can go from room to room, and if a thought comes to us, we can pick up this Holy Bible and there God speaks to us. You don't have to hear it read only on Sunday, but all during the week God can speak through this Holy Word of Life.

He has given Godly wisdom, help and understanding, even as to the wise preacher. We read so many things here that time would not permit for us to really consider it as we should. I believe that often when we come to the end of the Lord's Day, it would be well for us to open the Scripture that we have read together and then glean from it those things that we, the poor and weak needy ones, have omitted.

We often hear that as the tapes are played and some of us have had the opportunity to hear it a number of times, or at the conference, we

(Continued on Page 33)