



"And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing."

Ezekiel 34:26

"For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God."

Hebrews 6:7

VOLUME 41

FEBRUARY 1991

NUMBER 2

Count Your Blessings

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

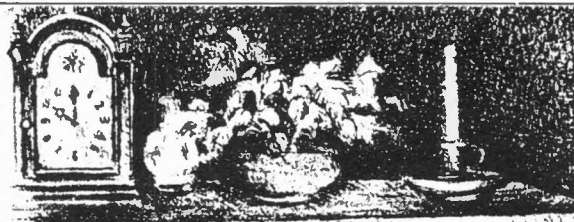
Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in Heaven, nor your home on high.

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

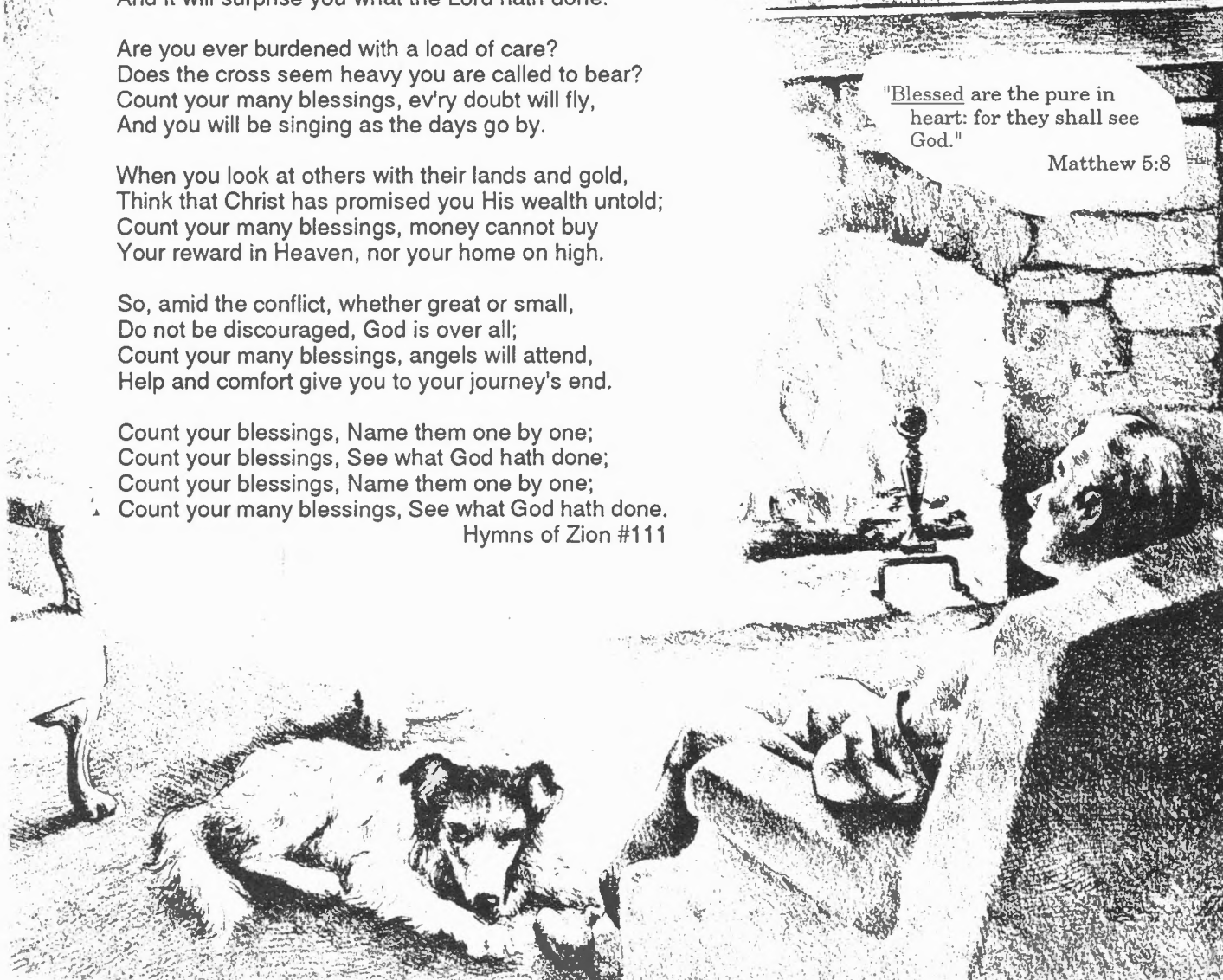
Count your blessings, Name them one by one;
Count your blessings, See what God hath done;
Count your blessings, Name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, See what God hath done.

Hymns of Zion #111



"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

Matthew 5:8



MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

WHO MADE WHO?

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle - Shioda, Japan

On December 13, 1990, I taught the Christmas story at a ladies' meeting in Tokyo. My emphasis was on, "The Living God has visited us through the Lord Jesus Christ." The scripture for this concept is found in Matthew 1:23, "And they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

In Matthew 2:2, the wisemen said, "For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." In telling the story, it was brought out that some came to worship Christ.

There were three or four ladies at the meeting who do not come to church. At the end of the meeting I asked for questions and one lady, a Mrs. Iwashita, who was attending for the first time, asked the following question, "Is it alright to worship other gods besides Christ?" If you were asked that question would you answer with a straight "No?" Would you simply answer that you must not worship any god but Christ?

I thought about the question

momentarily and answered that Christ is really the Son of God, not God the Father. I did not say anything about God the Holy Spirit as this would make the discussion more complex.

Mrs. Iwashita was in earnest as she worships other gods, although she may not know very much about the identity of those gods, who or what they are. I felt led to explain that the criteria for deciding whether or not human beings have made God or whether God has made human beings. I explained that for those of us who believe that God made human beings and not the other way around, there can be doubt but that it is wrong to worship any god except the true and living God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. "Who made Who?" is a question that must be answered.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

One day a little boy looked up in the sky and asked his mother, "Is God up there?" His mother assured him He was. The youngster replied, "Wouldn't it be nice if He would put His head out and let us see Him?"

Actually, that's just what God did. He revealed Himself to us when He sent us here at the Home for the Handicapped through the continu-

ous efforts and loving kindness of our volunteers, through your continuous, unselfish financial support to further His work for the developmentally disabled and through your continuous prayers, without which this work could not be accomplished. Yes, there are many ways God does "put His head out" to reveal Himself to us. Each day, if we look for it, God's hand is in our life. Why not meditate each day on how God has intervened in our lives. It is a real joy to remember and always know His hand is on the wheel, and we can trust Him to guide us.

March birthdays at ACHH are: Bill Unsicker (2), Judy Grimm (6), Sheila Steffen (9), Margo Ebert (12), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Edna Haynes (23), Jon Wilhelm (26) and Nancy
(Continued on Page 4)

ADDRESSES OF OUR MEN SERVING IN THE SERVICES

Please send addresses to
the Silver Lining.

Todd Beer — Saudi Arabia

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
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159, office
219/627-2606, home

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

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
Uriel Gehring
Lester Stoller

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

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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

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

PILGRIMS AND STRANGERS

The phrase "pilgrims and strangers" is a vivid description of true believers here on earth. Perhaps no other phrase so accurately symbolizes the life of those who follow Christ according to the direction of God's Word.

The Apostle Peter, addressing early believers as strangers and pilgrims, pleaded with them to "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11). Based primarily on this text and on that found in Hebrews 11:13, followers of Christ are regarded as pilgrims and strangers in this present world. How one relates to such a description can serve as a barometer of one's spiritual well-being. (Zion's Harp # 136)

If a believer sees himself both as a pilgrim and a stranger, his attitudes and behavior will focus on spiritual and eternal matters. Any preoccupation with the material things of this world should fade away. One cannot serve the prince of this world and still regard himself as a pilgrim and stranger.

A pilgrim is one who is on a journey to a special destination. His general mode of life is transitory, he is somewhat rootless, and his attention to the attractions along the way is fleeting. His primary interests pertain to his ultimate destination, and he continually refers to the map showing him the way.

A stranger is one who is not accustomed to his surroundings. Also, he is unfamiliar with most of those he may meet in the foreign territory along his journey.

The believer's citizenship is in heaven. This world is not his home. It is a temporary abode during his purposeful journey to Zion. As such, his affection is on "things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2). Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34). The material things given high esteem by worldly-minded people (fame, fortune, and worldly

pleasure) are things that hold little affection for a pilgrim. As one who is travelling on a journey, he can easily see that these are burdens that can slow down his progress, and sometimes can even tempt him to turn aside. "Friendship with the world" only curtails the pace of his journey, leaving him weary and tired. It could eventually remove his status as a stranger.

To maintain a true sense of pilgrimage, and to remain as a stranger, the believer must come out from the world and be separate (2 Cor. 6:17). Likewise, he must not conform himself to the sinful and careless patterns demonstrated by those persons who are not travelling the spiritual pathway and who are not strangers to this world (Rom. 12:2). Rather his desire is to help others to find this narrow pathway, joining hand and heart as fellow pilgrims, and bearing each others' burdens along life's journey (Gal. 6:2).

By virtue of his willingness to be a pilgrim and a stranger in this present world (with a differing value system), the true disciple of Christ will realize his unique status in society. His desire for the styles and fashions of this age will be low. This will lead him to recognize that he is different from his contemporaries, both in motive and manner.

The pilgrim will also be willing to suffer and to bear the reproach of the world for the sake of Christ. If he truly walks according to the ways of Christ and the apostles, he will in some way meet with the disapproval of unbelievers. No matter! While striving to love his neighbor as himself, and to love the Lord with all his heart, strength, and mind, the pilgrim will bear any reproach he receives from the world, and will continue on. This adversity and struggle is recognized as a part of the glorious cause of Christ and will lead to the ultimate goal of his earthly pilgrimage—the glories and

magnificence of Heaven (Rom. 8:17-18).

Cross-bearing and suffering are patterns the pilgrim and stranger must be willing to accept. Jesus said, "And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me, is not worthy of me" (Matt. 10:38). Historically, faithful believers have suffered severe torture, or even death. Their endurance created a spark that ignited the spread of the true faith. Christ and most of the apostles died a martyr's death. They were pilgrims and strangers to the ultimate extent.

Today's ease of life and the many material comforts run counter to the typical circumstances of a pilgrim and stranger. We can easily fall asleep as we become involved in the attractions of this present life. Perhaps our journey has been stalled or nearly stopped. Perhaps we have been diverted from the pathway leading to our destination. If so, we must awaken out of sleep, cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light (Rom. 13:11-12).

We must retain our vision of that glorious destination, and remain on the spiritual pathway, not becoming entrenched as "citizens" of this world who are caught up with the fleeting pleasures of this present life. This temptation is very great today. We have an endless array of opportunities for advancement in all areas of life, and we live in the freest democracy in the history of the world. Material comforts abound. This invites Satan to unleash his attack and draw those who would be pilgrims into the pitfalls of slothfulness and slumber. In light of the steadfastness of the fathers of faith in Old Testament days (Heb. 11), how much more should we in this day of grace stay on course to the end. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13).

Meister (31). At Oakwood, Maretta Rokey has a birthday on the 6th; at 540 N. Main, Anna Eberhard celebrates a birthday on the 15th and at 200 E. Hazelwood, it's Mike Bodtke on the 4th and Frank Kyburz on the 27th.

All our homes are doing nicely. Activities always slow down a bit over the coldest weather but there continues to be swimming, basketball and gymnastics for our Olympic teams. Then, our residents are no different than we are; they love to go out to eat and this they do come rain or shine or freeze.

We hope each of you enjoyed the holiday season, and we wish you many views of God putting His head out and revealing Himself to you in your life.

GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home
Jeff Schumacher

The Lord has blessed us richly with His Word and the instruction held therein. In this past year the Lord has blessed us, by allowing us to experience first hand the true power we have as His children. In Hebrews 4:16 we are instructed "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." We, as His children, can come to His throne through prayer, without fear. The Lord has promised us that He will answer our prayers in John 15:7, "If ye

abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be unto you." Another lesson we learned this past year was that we need to have patience. The Lord always knows what is best for us. We may know what we want but He knows what is best for us. We may know what we want He knows what we need. The Lord may not answer our prayer the way we expected, or even the way we wanted Him to, but He always answers our prayers.

It is interesting that we are told in Ephesians 6:12-18, first, who we are battling with, and then how to do battle. "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." He then goes on to tell us in verses 13-17, that we need to put on our spiritual armour of God before we pray. Then in verse 18, He tells us to "Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

As we look through the Bible, we see where the Lord has instructed us in I Thessalonians 5:17 to pray without ceasing. And in James 5:16 He instructs us to "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

As we look back at these commands that the Lord has given us, and how much power we are given

through prayer, I believe we begin to see how important prayer truly is to the Lord. Our prayer time at our staff meetings is probably one of the most powerful times of the week as we all meet and share our burdens. We then offer each other and our burdens up to the Lord in prayer.

We thank all of you who offered up prayers of healing for our two residents, Chad and Steve, who were injured in a sledding accident December 27. Both boys are now back home, attending school and recuperating well.

We were blessed with several volunteers over the holidays. They were Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy Wiegand (Oakville, IA), Bro. Mark Wettstein (Gridley, IL), Bros. Phil Baurer and Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL), Bros. Ross Hohulin and Josh Beer (Goodfield, IL), Chad Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Ben Masten (Francesville, IN), Bro. Doug Sauder (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Sis. Christine Price (Sarasota, FL). We want to thank them for their time and their commitment to helping us to do the Lord's work.

We are looking forward to Bro. Bill and Sis. Joani Schick who are coming the end of January to help fill in at the New House until the Lord provides us with Houseparents. Please see our ad in this issue for the positions that are available at this time. We pray that our brethren will respond to the needs of children.

We rejoiced with Bro. Les and

**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.

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

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

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

**MARK YOUR
 CALENDAR**

**1991
 CHILDREN'S HOME
 AUCTION AND SALE**

**SATURDAY,
 AUGUST 10, 1991**

Sis. Judy Stoller (Luginbuhl) one of our counselors, as we witnessed their vows of matrimony December 30. We are also very happy for houseparent Sis. Carol Kieser as she and Bro. Todd Schrock (Congerville, IL) announced their engagement in December.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Joan Meister

Now that we are back into the regular schedule of school again, the children are working hard on their lessons. Our monthly themes for January were New Years, Circus/Clowns, and Music. Now in February we are basing our lessons

around the themes of Valentine's Day and Emotions. We will be taking a field trip to a donut shop in Huntsville, AL, to see how donuts are made, and hopefully sampling a few ourselves.

As the school year continues on, it is hard to realize these are the same children that we started with in the fall. They, for the most part, catch on so quickly to their lessons, that teaching them gets easier and easier. Especially on the four and five-year-old level, they are quickly getting ready for kindergarten and are eager to learn. Some of the children will have their weekly Bible verse learned by the second day of the week and are so anxious to say it for us. Many times the thought comes, are we this eager to memorize God's Word?

-- 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

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*
January 1991 --	3751	17,366*

*Note — 792 Romanian Bibles and Testaments shipped
770 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 2nd shipment
234 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 3rd 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.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Pamela Moore

We have been very blessed this past month with visiting ministers. On December 23, we enjoyed the company of Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA) and his parents in Athens, and were refreshed by the Word of God he brought to us. Then, January 1, Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), his wife and three children stopped in Athens on their way home from Florida, and Bro. Dennis brought to us the Word of God on Sunday.

We always are thankful for those who take the time to visit us in Athens. We had visitors from: Gridley, Roanoke, Cissna Park, and Princeville, IL, Alto, MI, Mansfield, OH, and Nashville, TN, during the past month. Thank you all, and please come again soon!

A special part of Athens returned during the month of January. We were glad to have Sis. Julie (Bauer) Walder and her husband, Doug, come to visit us. It's so good to spend time with them both, it's as if she never really left. We know, however, that they are appreciated in Cissna Park, IL.

January turned out to be such a busy month! All at once, it seemed, it's over. Are we making the most of our time in serving our Lord? How many minutes, hours did you spend with the Lord in worship, prayer,

and reading His Word? Let's challenge each other to increase that time in the month ahead of us, and reap the blessings that it brings.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it" and so another Lord's birthdate has passed and a New Year has arrived.

Bro. Bill Waibel and family came from Bay City to visit family (Bro. Herb and Sis. Joanne Knockel) and also filled our spiritual needs during the holidays. Likewise did Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm, coming from Morris, MN. Bro. Greg, Sis. Denise and children were glad to share their family visitors with our congregation during the holiday season.

We have really enjoyed many family visitors and are looking forward to more dear ones to come.

The weather is God given so we need not apologize for some much needed rain while you were here. There is power in prayer and your joining in with us for Sis. Margie (Bob) Rebbec; Bro. Dan and Sis. Doris, Bro. Earl and Sis. Emma Landers, Bro. Ervan Rokey, Bro. George Schuster and Florian Klopfenstein will be appreciated. Bros. Dan, George and Ervan have all been recent hospital patients.

Our sympathy to Florian and Mary Ella Klopfenstein on the death of their brother in Ohio. Due to illness they were unable to go back.

Prayers for peace in the world are on everyone's lips and minds, bringing it close to home. Pray for Mark Anliker and Russ Nagle and parents Jim and Sharon Anliker. Oh, how we need to pray for our service people.

The foggy spell we had kept a lot of our many bird friends away; however, the many humming birds needed more feeder refills than usual. How wonderful when we know where to go for help. Yes Lord, we need Thee every hour.

Luke 11:33; Philippians 4 and Psalm 23 will keep us in touch.

We are looking forward to a reception honoring the golden wedding anniversary of Bro. Gordon

and Sis. Emily Greenbank. May the Lord bless them now and forevermore.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Harvey Smith

We are very thankful for our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach, the Phoenix ministers and those from Tucson who have so faithfully served Prescott with His Word. We also express gratitude to Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN). for visiting us.

We welcome Sis. Connie Massner into the fold. She is attending Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

We have been blessed with moisture and therefore the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Visitors are always an inspiration. For information, please call Harvey and Ethel Smith at 602-445-2164.

"Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of wait."

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix), Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bro. Fritz Knapp (Congerville, IL), and Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) all visited us. We thank them all for their effort.

Our deacon, Bro. Noah Herman, is now residing at Restmor in Morton, IL. We miss him every time we gather together and in many ways he is in our midst. We can still see the lasting effects of his efforts all around us in our church. Your brethren, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all love and miss you grandpa!

Our winter visitors have arrived and we welcome them!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Lisa Steiner

Bro. Bill Minger (Sis. Frieda) has recovered sufficiently enough to return home, and we are encouraged by his progress. The Minger family would like to thank every-

one for their love, help, and prayers during Bro. Bill's illness.

"For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear Thy name." Psalm 61:5. We do indeed have a blessed heritage in our Apostolic church. Let's be thankful to the Lord, that with His help and grace, our foundation has stood the test of time, making up but a portion of the body of Christ.

Let's also be thankful that this body continues to grow in these uncertain times, when there are so many evil influences to lure people from the Truth.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
LaNae Meyer - Cindy Schmidt

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Kalman Fulop, Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy Fulop, and their family living in Hungary on the loss of their father, Joseph Fulop, Dunaves, Hungary. Even though many of us couldn't speak the same language as he, we will all remember the love for Jesus that shown through his sparkly blue eyes and beautiful smile. It is sad to think we wouldn't see him during his yearly visits, yet we can rejoice that even in death there is victory for those who die in Christ and that we will someday see him in heaven.

Many Sundays on the way to church, the thought runs through your mind, who will be visiting and worshipping with us today? It is so wonderful to open the door and see people you grew up with or became acquainted with over the years. What wonderful privileges God has allowed in our nation to worship and travel freely. We wish to thank Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and or Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) for ministering God's Word to us.

COLORADO, DENVER
Marlene Leman

We were very pleased to have the visitors we did at Christmas time. Many of our home folks had gone "home" for the holidays and those of us left were very few in number. What a pleasant surprise to see extra cars pull in and allow us

some special fellowship that we hadn't expected.

January has been a month in which we have come to expect visitors, with the National Western Stock show being held here at that time. We appreciate the brethren who come to that each year, and have come to think of them as an extension of our church family here. We hope they keep coming!

Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) was our only visiting minister this month. He brought with him quite a few others, making another beautiful weekend for us. May God bless Bro. Kent's ministry that His word might always be spoken in truth and purity as we were able to hear.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Martha Luginbuhl

"Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him and shalt swear by his name" (Deut. 6:12-13)

Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL) visited us December 9 and along with Bro. Kevin Ryan, read the conclusions of the deliberations of our precious elder body. We thank these brethren for giving up their time and lending themselves to bring us the exhortations and encouragement we need to remain a peculiar people, unified and separated from the ungodliness which is so prevalent around us and of which we read daily in the news media.

Sis. Bert (Schneider) Treub was seriously injured in an unfortunate automobile accident on Christmas Day and is in the Hartford Hospital for an extended stay after having hip surgery. Our love and prayers are for a good recovery in the not too distant future.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Art Foote and Bro. Paul Foote in the recent loss of their brother, Wade (64).

December 23 was a happy day for Bro. Phillip Bahler (Bro. Lee and Sis. Maxine) and Sis. Michelle Behling (Richard and Lorraine) as

their engagement was made known to us! May the Lord continue to grant them much grace and direction to help one another in faith through the joys and complexities of life. Bro. Scott Zahner and Sis. Nancy Mangold became husband and wife January 6. May God be the focal point of their marriage as they now share their life together. Parents are Bro. Mannie and Sis. Clara Zahner and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold. Among the visitors on that day were ministering brethren Duane Farney and Andy Virkler and their wives from Croghan/Naumburg, NY. We thank them for their inspiring messages as revealed to them by the Holy Spirit.

Our annual business meeting was held January 13. We appreciate the willingness of brethren to assume responsibility of various functions for the physical welfare of our beloved church. Those appointed are: Trustee, Bro. Scott Hills; kitchen committee, Sis. Joyce Schneider and Sis. Karen Schamback; Sunday school superintendent, Bro. Daryl Luginbuhl; World Relief, Sis. Barbara Reutter; song leader, Bro. Kevin Ballasy; Longview Village Trustee, Bro. Daniel Bahler; and usher, Bro. Jeffrey Gerber. We thank those who are retiring as well as those who are presently serving for their efforts. Also, those brethren who give of their time and selves in teaching our children in Sunday school. May all of the above experience a blessing from the Lord.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Catherine Klopfenstein

Visiting ministers in January were Bro. Mike Rieker along with his wife, Sis. Carol, son, Bro. Michael and daughter, Sis. Amy (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall and his wife, Sis. Dorothy (Eureka, IL). We also had visitors from Gridley, IL. We deeply appreciate their visits and their ministering the Word of God with us.

On January 13, several of us drove to Philadelphia, PA, to attend services as Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Robert Beyer

(Croghan, NY) were there for the day.

This will be my last writing of The Silver Lining as my husband Ralph has resigned his position here and we are moving back to our home in Gridley, IL. We have been in Washington over 4½ years. It has been a wonderful and blessed experience for us, both in government and in the church. We leave with a great deal of emotion and love for the church here, but are anxious to get back near to our family in Illinois. There are several members here now and, Lord willing, will soon be a few more, along with many loyal and supportive friends. We feel things are in good hands. Pray, along with us, that God's hand will continue to bless this Washington assembly and that His will be done.

The Lord works in wonderful ways. As we announced our leaving, we learned that Bro. Matthew Netter (Toledo, OH) is moving to Washington and will be attending church here. He is very welcome and needed here.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at the Westpark Hotel located on U.S. Hwy. 7, about 1 mile west of I-495, beginning at 10:30 a.m., eastern time. For information or assistance please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman 301-863-9624 or Matthew Mangold 703-379-5168. Visitors are always welcome.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

We have entered our "busy season". Each weekend brings new surprises as we find out who is in town. Among the visitors, of course, are some ministers. We were blessed as Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT) preached the Lord's Word in December and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron) in January.

Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach came over from Sarasota for the weekend. After a church supper, we had the renewing experience of hearing the Memorandum as our Elder Bros. Bud Klopfenstein and Ben Maibach read it to us. We appreciate our heritage and faith that is based solely on the Word of

God. We can be so thankful that the Bible is the one source of direction studied by our elder body.

It is with excitement that Sis. Kristine Price is welcomed. She moved to Fort Lauderdale from her home in Sarasota, and their loss is certainly our gain! Kristine is attending Broward Community College.

Sis. Cindy Leman was again in Miami for surgery. We were very happy to greet her in church the weekend after she got out of the hospital.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Jeanette Yergler - Dorothy Beer

While many of our ministers are enjoying their vacation in Florida, they are not on vacation from God's Work. We thank Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), and Bro. John Zeller (Morton, IL) for giving of themselves this month.

Roger and Debbie Bachtold, and 10-month-old son, Roger Jr., have moved back to Fairbury, IL, where Roger will work at his fathers business. We have enjoyed having them a part of our fellowship, and sorry to see them leave. We wish them God's many blessings.

The many visitors who are on vacation in our lovely area, have filled our church, and are an added blessing to our Wednesday evening and Sunday worship services.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeanette Yergler both wish to thank each and every one for their kind consideration, thoughts, and prayers during their recent convalescence. May God bless each one.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Suellen Ott

The warm south brings many winter visitors to our Sarasota church. We have been specially blessed with many ministering brethren to share the Gospel message. The following elders are Bros. Walt Anliker, Jesse Beer, David Weigand, and Ben Maibach. The other ministering brothers were as follows, Bros. Harold Schmidgall,

Ed Bahler, Trent Meiss, Dennis Rassi, Ken Hoerr, Carroll Gerber, and Earl Kilgus.

God's arms of loving protection gently held our dear friend John Krstec during his recent injury. He was hit by a car as he was walking down the road. May he feel our love and prayers.

It is also good to have our Sis. Krista Price back in attendance with us.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA). May God bless them and their families.

Our congregation meets every Sunday at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Road Exit. If you are planning to be in Atlanta, please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554) or Bro. John Brewer (404-378-5918) for further information.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL
Marcia Bauer - Carolyn Fischer

Reflecting on the past year we have experienced so many changes in our world that we can hardly comprehend it. How fast prophecy is being fulfilled! Now with the war in the Persian Gulf, we feel an urgency to tell our loved ones who are not saved about the Lord. As we start this new year we need to be more fervent in prayer and more committed to presenting the Word to those we love and care for.

As Christians we look around at the signs of the Lord's return and it can cause anxiety. We do not know what the future holds or what we will go through in the coming year. Sunday afternoon we sang the song "God Is Our Refuge." It really touched me and gave me new courage. I pray that these words will strengthen you also.

God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help indeed; He in the time of trouble sends His grace to meet our every need.

Safe in His tender care, we have

no fear of what shall be, even tho' the Earth should be removed, and mountains cast into the sea.

Soon will the day of victory come, when wars shall cease in all the earth; soon shall eternal peace be ours, and new creation have her birth.

Hymns of Zion #4

Our heartfelt love and prayers go out to Sis. De Anderson as her son, Tom, is stationed in Saudi Arabia. We pray that God will put His loving arms around Tom and strengthen and protect him. We pray for Sis. De, her husband Sam, and daughter Andra during this time of separation from Tom. We pray for a quick end to this war and for peace.

We thank Elder Bro. Robert Beyer for ministering to us on Christmas Day.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Karen Ringer

As we begin a new year, and find our nation in a war in the Middle East, may we strive to live a closer life to our great God. May we always keep our government in our prayers, and all the soldier men and women who are fighting in this war that seems to be bringing the last times into fulfillment.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Don and Sis. Jenny Knobloch since we have heard the heartbreaking news that Bro. Don has leukemia. He was admitted to the hospital the last day of 1990 to start treatment for his condition. We just hope and pray that God will be with him and his dear family as they go through this trying experience. Bro. Leroy Streitmatter (Sis. Esther) has also been in the hospital this past month. We are thankful he is at home again, and look forward to his coming back to worship with us.

On January 6 many of our congregation assembled in Princeville to witness the marriage of Bro. Fred Hausmann, (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Verla) to Sis. Sue Herrmann (Bro. Noah and Sis. Evalyn, Princeville). We are thankful that we have another young couple in our church, and wish them God's blessings as they start their life together.

Special thanks goes to Bro. Don

Manz (Junction) for bringing God's Word to us this month.

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That sav'd wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Hymns of Zion #97

John Newton

Our congregation is rejoicing for the three dear friends that have found the grace from God to repent. We certainly are praying for Julie Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta), and Ralph and his wife Jenny Joos (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorene, Peoria) as they begin to live a new life for Jesus.

January 21, Nickolas Jay Martin Rumbold was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Sheila Rumbold. Little Nickolas will be welcomed home by J.R., Brooke and Erick. Happy grandparents are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold and Jean Henderson from Kewanee.

On a recent Wednesday evening our Elder Joe Stoller visited us to conduct our annual meeting. Our new trustee is Bro. Elwin Rumbold, new usher is Bro. Ed Ehnle and Bro. David Kieser will be our head song leader. May God bless Bros. Jim Knobloch, Robert Joos and Jerry Kieser whose terms expired, and may He guide the new brothers so we can keep the church in Godly order.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Kim Walder

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL). We appreciate them ministering to us and bringing their families to fellowship with us.

It has been a rather quiet month with the students on holiday break. We welcome them back along with some new faces who are beginning their college education this semester.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

We just talked in Sunday school about Nicodemus. When he came to Jesus by night, Jesus tried to give

him a perspective on the work of the Spirit by comparing it to the wind. The earthly power of the wind is phenomenal. It can drive rain and snow and run windmills to generate usable power. We see so clearly, feel so quickly its effects. But compared to the power of the wind, the power of the Spirit is infinitely superior because He is in charge of all winds at once - even those of war.

Our visitors have included Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francisville, IN), Bros. Jim Leman (Roanoke), Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). We are thankful for our brothers' work in the Spirit. Through them the Lord has exhorted, uplifted, comforted us.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven. Valerie Schambach has turned to the Lord in repentance, trusting in His shed blood for forgiveness, believing His Word of truth, and following the direction of His Spirit. We continue to offer her our love and prayers as she begins her abundant life and now lives in the anticipation of eternity.

I apologize for omitting a very important event several months ago. We are truly blessed to have Bro. Craig and Sis. Mary Ann (Kieser) Wettstein married and establishing their Christian home in our area. We appreciated their contributions to us single members in our church family; we are so happy that the Lord has made them one and allowed them to stay among us. We pray for His outpouring of joy on their union.

We are delighted along with our Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann. They have a second grandson. Ryan Dale was born January 15 to Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann (Houston, TX). Ryan is also welcomed by his brother, Greg. May the Lord grant their growing family His grace and everflowing blessings.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" Psalm 116:15. Howard Houk, awaiting baptism, won the victory December 30. His funeral was January 2 at church. He had been born 78 years before near Lafayette, IN, and had married Bernice Wuethrich May 29, 1941, in Francisville, IN. She,

his children Barbara, Peter, John and Mary, and nieces Susan and Betsy survive him. Two sisters, Hannah and Caroline, and his grandchildren also remember him so lovingly. Howard was well-educated, working in the area of agricultural economic research. He was a good listener, a gracious and gentle man. We're so thankful, however, that he was more than these. He was, ultimately, a man of faith, quietly devoted to His living God. We extend our deep love, prayers, and sympathy to our dear Bernice and his family. May the Lord apply heavenly balm to their grief and grant His presence in their lonely times.

There are others grieving. We remember them with our love and prayers as well. Helen Waibel has lost her sister. The Bro. Jim Schlatter family are bereaved because of the death of his stepmother, Katrina's grandmother. Bros. Tibor and Mikos Bozzay and their families have lost another family member in Hungary, this time an aunt. May the Lord provide for each of their needs as they mourn.

I can't imagine how I got shampoo in my mouth during that particular shower and washing of my hair. I'm grateful it's not a common occurrence! Afterwards I quickly went to the kitchen to get that terrible taste out of my mouth. I thought I would try a few strawberries. But, ugh, one after the other, each tasted rotten, so I ate less and less of each one. All of a sudden I realized way, of course, the shampoo was affecting my taste buds! It wasn't the strawberries' fault that they tasted terrible to me. It was my perception. Likewise, we must be careful when a point in a sermon or even a verse from the Word "tastes" terrible to us and we think to reject it. Perhaps we have somehow ingested a foreign substance (even accidentally), as I did the shampoo. This can warp our perspective. As those chemicals changed my reactions to the strawberries, so Satan would, by whatever means he can devise, change our spiritual "tastes." May we catch ourselves, by His grace, before rejecting the sweet wholesomeness of the whole Word.

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

As I sat down to write the Silver Lining, the news of the Persian Gulf War came to my attention. Our family has been reading of the wars during the times of the kings of Israel and it makes us realize how important prayer and obedience to God are at the time of war. By the time this gets to our readers, we have no idea what will be happening in the world. But regardless of the world situation, the most important thing is how we each individually stand before our God. May we each be ready to meet our Maker when our time comes.

This very thought was brought home to our congregation as we experienced the deaths of three souls in our midst. Our Sis. Kathryn "Kate" Enz passed away January 4. She is survived by her daughter, Evelyn Seymour of Onarga and her grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Fred. Our friend Esther Miller was taken from us suddenly December 20. It was such a comfort to know she had made a commitment to our Lord several weeks before she was called form this life. She was also preceded in death by her husband William Fred Miller. Survivors include her two daughters, Mary Lu Jaeger (Madenville, LA) and Cheryl Miller (Kankakee), a son, Stephen (Cissna Park), grandchildren and two brothers, Matthew Oberffel (Cissna Park) and John Oberffel (Claytonville). Also, Jeff Zbindon, who had assembled with us passed away December 18. He is survived by a sister, Lillian Lee (Buckley). We also extend a hand of sympathy to our Sisters Lucille Walder (Everin) and Anna Hari (Joe) on the passing of their brother Clarence Eberhardt. We pray each family will feel God's nearness as they experience life without their loved ones.

As several of our congregation have left us, we are thankful we can report we have also gained some loved ones. Bro. Dale and Sis. Lilli Koehl along with their children, Barry and Carmi have moved to Cissna Park from Washington. We are happy to welcome them and hope they can feel "at home" among us. Also, Bro. Hartzel and Sis. Denise

Kaeb and Andrew, 2, are rejoicing at the arrival of a new son, Aaron Edward, born December 30. It's a joy to have all ages be a part of our congregation.

We also extend our best wishes and God's blessings to our Bro. Doug Rinkenberger (late Bro. Steve and Sis. Velma) as his engagement to Sis. Beth Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda, Morris, MN) was announced. We will look forward to meeting and getting to know Sis. Beth.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Debbie Gudeman (Bro. Stan) Sis. Mabel Vogel and Sis. Kathryn Farney. We are glad all have been released, but know struggles with this earthly body can be difficult. We remember all in our prayers.

The beginning of the year brings our annual business meeting. We wish to give a word of encouragement and our prayerful support to our new Sunday school teachers, Bro. Bob Rinkenberger, Bro. Sid Kaufmann and Sis. Mary Anne Young; our new trustee, Bro. Earl Knapp; and our new secretary, Bro. Dan Heinhold. Each of us had a place in God's house and we are thankful each can be of service in one way or another -- if not in holding an office, then in prayer and support.

Just a reminder to our congregation -- February is the month for Silver Lining News.

Thank You - I certainly wish to thank everyone for the visits, also for the many get well cards and Christmas cards, gifts, and food I received when I was in the hospital and since I'm at home. Also thanks for the beautiful Christmas caroling.

Elsie Ehman

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**Becky Ott**

We are mindful of the activities of our nation and the world. Comfort is found through leaving all in God's hands. Let us remember the leaders of our country in our prayers.

Visiting ministers this month have sounded forth God's Word. May we remember the ministers in our prayers that the truth may con-

tinue to be spoken. We are thankful to have had Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) visit.

Rejoicing with the miracle of life are Bro. Lee, Sis. Alice Reussiger and Audrey as Jesse is welcomed to their hearts and home.

Hospitalized recently have been Kelsey Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail), John Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri) and Bro. John Ott (Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn). We are thankful each is home and doing well.

Two engagements were shared with our congregation. Shelly Wettstein (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judy) is engaged to Jason Garey (Dennis and Mary Garey, Eureka). Also, Bro. Ben Walder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) is engaged to Sis. Juanita Gerst (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy (Alto, MI).

Our love shall not diminish
Nor fade now wax away;
Bind us still life we finish
And in the grave we lay.

Zion's Harp #137, vs. 1

We rejoice with two dear couples who have shared their marriage vows in the Lord. Bro. Dave Huette (Bob and Barbara Hurt) united Sis. Melanie Wettstein (Bro. Art and Sis. Donna, Eureka). Bro. Tim Dietrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri) wed Sis. Sandy Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda).

Reminder for our congregation. March is collection month for Silver Lining.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

We offer our best wishes to Drew Kellenberger and Kathleen Klein as they were recently united in marriage. Parents of the couple are Bro. Lloyd and Carol Kellenberger, and Jerry and Lillian Klein, all of Elgin.

Many of our loved ones have had need of surgery, and thanks be to our Heavenly Father who can and does heal. Such was the portion of Bros. Charles Schambach (Sis. Leola), Lester Heiniger (Sis. Emma), Arthur Schmidt (Sis. Alma), and Sis. Millie Jepson (Bro. Dave). Bro.

Wilmer Troike (Sis. Esther) also received hospital care.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." St. Matthew 7:7 We are so thankful God is yet extending His mercy. Valerie Schambach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy) has heeded the loving invitation and is seeking her Lord in repentance.

Our condolence is offered to Sis. Cora Schambach (Bro. Bill) in the passing of her mother, Sis. Iva Poling, (Croghan-Naumburg, NY); also to Esther Koch, whose brother, John Giesel (Lester, IA), was buried recently.

Martha (Dietrich) Bauer, 93, who resided at Apostolic Christian Resthaven, passed away January 11, after a short illness. She was a graduate of the St. Francis Nursing College in Peoria, and for many years contributed her time as a private-duty nurse in Elgin. She leaves one son, Jack Bauer (Lois, Indiana), and many nieces and nephews. "There is a Home, where all the soul's deep yearnings, and silent prayers shall be at last fulfilled; Where strife and sorrow, murmurings and heart burnings at last are stilled." E. Rickman (Gospel Hymns #383).

On January 16, our annual business meeting was held. May God share His grace to the chosen ones, namely: Bro. Earl Steffen, trustee; Bro. Bill Schambach, land committee; and Bro. Charles Kellenberger, board member for Resthaven. We are grateful to Bros. Gene Moser, Lloyd Kellenberger and Paul Weiss, who have served faithfully in the past.

As always, we appreciate our ministering brothers. Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) visited our congregation and taught us through Holy inspiration.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy Leman

We welcome Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp back to our congregation. His work had sent them to Brazil for a couple years. We are thankful they could arrive home safely.

December 23 was the wedding day for Sis. Melanie Wettstein and Bro. David Huette (Congerville). Their parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein of Eureka, and Bob and Barbara Hurt of Fairbury. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings upon their marriage, and as they will be assembling with the brethren in Congerville, we hope they will come back to visit us often.

We thank our visiting ministering brothers who came and shared the Word of Life with us. Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville), Bros. Mike Rinkenberger and Vernon Wettstein (both Congerville), Ronald Heiniger (Bloomington) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO).

Our hearts are saddened by the passing of our dear Sis. Wilma Stoller who passed away January 14. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Willis (who remains in the hospital at this writing); three sons, Robert (Washington, IL), George (Minnesota), and Bro. Tom (Eureka); two daughters, Sis. Patricia Fischer (Bro. Marvin, Roanoke), and Betty Kinder (Bill, Eureka); three sisters, Charlotte O'Dell (Tennessee), Fern Mosher (Peoria, IL), and Annie Holmes (Florida); two brothers, Fred Eastman and Marion Eastman (both of Florida). May God comfort these dear ones in the days and times ahead.

Sis. Inge Zimmerman (Dean) and Bro. Willis Stoller are hospital patients this month. May God be near them.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

PRAYER

Prayer is so simple;
 It is like quietly opening a door
 And slipping into the very presence
 of God,
 There in the stillness
 To listen to His voice;
 Perhaps to petition,
 Or only to listen;
 It matters not.
 Just to be there
 In His presence
 Is Prayer

Unknown

Prayers have been answered in our congregation. Mike, Ann, and Karie Stork (Eunice and John), Kara and Daren Kaisner (Robert and Cheri Kaisner and Colleen Tholen), and Bruce Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie) have answered the call unto repentance. We wish these young souls the abundance of God's grace to become firmly grounded.

Three families are rejoicing with their new little bundles. Bro. Doug and Dixie Steidinger welcome home another daughter, Ellen Elaine, born on December 18. Rachael is excited about her new little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger and Jerry Fosdick.

On December 31, a daughter, Tess Brianne, was born to Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan Zehr. Tess has two brothers, Blake and Reid. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores Zehr and Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser (Cissna Park).

Dustin Dale is the new son of Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe. he was born on Jan. 14. Durelle, Adrian, and Julissa welcome home their new little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park) and Don Rabe (Fairbury) and Julia McDugle (Pontiac). May they raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Those that have spent time in the hospital are Sis. Lillian Zimmerman and Bro. Alf Steffen. may God be by their side to uplift and comfort them during their afflictions.

On January 14, we held our semi-annual business meeting. We appreciate all the efforts of the brothers who have spent their time in the past years to serve our congregation. May the brothers who have taken on new responsibilities feel the support from us all.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Marge and Bro. Merle Kaisner in the passing away of her sister, Sis. Josephine Schlatter (Forrest). She is safe in the arms of Jesus.

We wish to thank Bros. Ralph Garber (Morton), Earl Gerber (Forrest), Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), Bruce Leman (Roanoke), and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for ministering to us the Word of Life. May we apply these good teachings to our lives every day.

Summary of 1990: 10 births, 14 baptisms, 10 deaths and 1 wedding

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider

"Joyfully, joyfully onward I move,
 Bound for the land of bright spirits
 above!

Angelic choristers sing as I come;
 Meet me with gladness and
 welcome me home;

Soon with my pilgrimage ended
 below,

Home to the land of delight will I go;
 Pilgrim and stranger no more shall
 I roam,

Joyfully, joyfully resting at home!"
 #239 Hymns of Zion

Sis. Josephine Zimmerman Schlatter passed from this life into eternity on December 22. In time of sorrow, we can rejoice that our loved one was ready to go and now is beckoning on yonder shore for us to come home. We pray the Lord will comfort the heart of her husband, Bro. Dan, and his children: Tom: Bro. Jim (Chicago); Sis. Cheryl Mangers (Champaign); and Jean Metzger (Phoenix, AZ). We also sympathize with her brothers and sisters: Bro. Perry; Bro. Glen; Bro. Allen; Bob (Normal); Ernie (San Pierre, IN); Sis. Jean Aberle; Sis. Marge Kaisner (Fairbury); and Sis. Betty Hodel (Roanoke). Her family is so grateful for the support and prayers of so many. They trust the Lord will also remember your contributions.

Steve and Kay McBride are happy parents of a precious baby girl. Ashley Kay. She is welcomed home by her brother, Darren, and grandparents, Gene and Sis. Velma Schlaenhaffen and Dave and Mary McBride.

Greg Honegger and Michelle Miller were married December 22. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Eleanor Honegger and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Miller are their parents.

January 6 was the wedding day of Sis. Julie Ricketts and Bro. Greg Blunier of Roanoke. Their parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts and Wayne and Sis. Marjorie Blunier

(Roanoke). We wish these two couples much happiness.

We are so thankful to our Lord and His faithful servants for sharing God's Word in its truth. Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Al Longhofer (Wichita, KS), Jim Byrd (Roanoke), and Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal).

Sis. Louise Honegger (Bro. Perry) is now residing at Fairview Haven. May we keep her in our prayers and spend time with our loved ones who are at the "Home".

Sis. Aldine Wackerle, Krystle Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie), and Ray Steffen (Sis. Doris) were hospital patients. We are thankful they are all able to be home again.

Even as the angels in heaven rejoice when a sinner repents, we also rejoice with Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller as their daughter, Sara, has begun the work of repentance. May she feel the Lord's grace and guidance.

January 15 was the funeral for Bill Schmidt. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Florence, and their daughters, Kay Rinkenberg, Carol Hornickle, Barb Wenger (Bloomington), and Marilyn Todd (Pontiac). Also, we extend sympathy to his sister, Sis. Emma Ifft, and brothers, Frank and Edward, both of Fairbury.

Mark and Julie Shambrook, along with her parents, Bro. Art and Sis. Velda Huetter, would like to thank everyone who remembered Julie with cards, flowers, gifts, food and prayers while in the hospital and since returning home. The caring you have shown them during her illness the past two years and since her kidney and pancreas transplant surgery four months ago has given them encouragement through rough times. They appreciate your love, prayers and concern. Julie is home at this time and is doing as well as can be expected. Although it is still a day-to-day struggle, we are thankful that both transplants are working. For those who wish to send a card or visit by phone: Mrs. Mark Shambrook, Box 31, Roberts, IL 60962. Phone number (217) 395-2428.

In the year of 1990, our congregation reported 12 births, 3 weddings, 5 baptisms, and 6 deaths.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Trish Gerber

We all tremble with fear as we observe the war in the Middle East, but we have been reminded over the pulpit that we should have a greater fear of the inner-deterioration of America. The recklessness and sinfulness of the abortions, drunkenness, sodomy, cheating and immorality that are taking place in our country will very probably take more lives than this war that is now so evident in our minds.

Thanks be to God for souls turning their lives over to Him. We were uplifted as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Kim Steffen (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene) Sis. Dawn Plattner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Ross Hohulin (Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean).

Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL); and Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Ken Schneider (Fairbury, IL), Steph Baner (Gridley), Mike Leman (Denver, CO), and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO).

We are very thankful that Erika Hart (Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry) recovered so well from her open-heart surgery. Also hospitalized were Bro. Mark Steffen and Sis. Becky Knapp (Dave Knapp) and Sis. Marian Wiegand. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of these dear ones and also with Sis. Karen (Bro. Gary) Wiegand as they all have been battling with physical pain and disease.

Congratulations to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene Steffen on the engagement of their son, Bro. Kim to Sis. Diane Brown (Roanoke, IL).

Sis. Ruth Hohulin wishes to thank everyone for the cards and the Christmas box that she received during her illness.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry Klopfenstein

At our New Year's worship service, we were exhorted to "be about

our Father's business." All our endeavors outside the spiritual realm are fleeting, thus may we seek spiritual endeavors, for the glory God. As we sing, may we let our "whole life" be an offering - to God and to Christ, the Lord.

The winds of war, which threatened in early January, blew into friction January 16 when United Nations forces (led by the U.S.) launched a widespread attack on Iraq. Concerns for this conflict were present in our community along with the entire nation.

When one reads of the ferocity and brutality of the attack, and counter-attacks, it brings sorrow to the heart. Warfare is surely a work of the flesh. The believer's calling is to recognize the Lord's message in the Sermon on the Mount - a message of peace and love. May God bring an end to this conflict.

Already in 1991, two new babies were born to parents in our congregation. Bro. Jake and Sis. Amy Schlipf are the first-time parents of Jacob Carl, Jr., who was born January 9. His grandparents are Sis. Lola Schlipf (and the late Bro. Carl) and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig, all of Gridley.

On the same day, little Sarah Ann was born to Bro. Steven and Sis. Donna Ringger. She is their fourth daughter. Welcoming their sister were Rebecca, 8; Kate, 6; and Emily, 3. Grandparents are Howard and Loretta Zehr, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ringger, all of Gridley.

Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) were our visiting ministers during this reporting period.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

We are saddened with the loss of two dear sisters this month and our prayers are for God's rich comfort to their families and friends. Sis. Louise Moser's funeral was held December 27. She is the mother of Roy, Keith, and Nancy Cotton. Her brothers are Roy, Gurney, Clinton and John St. Clair. Her sisters are Della Hagan, Emma Pitcher, and Evelyn Hand. our Sis. Ruth Herman was

called home and her funeral was held January 15. Our prayers are with her husband Bro. Fred; her sons, Eugene and Fred; and her daughter, Sis. Sandy Nelson. Her brothers are Leonard, Wesley, and Clyde Streit. We know that God's timing is perfect. Let each of us prepare ourselves to meet him.

We welcome Sis. Ruth Shumacher to our Morton congregation. She is making Morton her home church after her move from Chicago.

Bro. Bob, Sis. Jean, and Stephanie welcome Trevor John into their hearts and home. He was born December 12. His grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lois Getz (Morton, IL) and Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth (Roanoke, IL).

We wish to thank Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), and Glenn Funk (Garden Grove, IA) for visiting us and bringing God's truth to us. May God richly bless, guide, and watch over them and their families.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Jim David

Our 3rd and 4th grade Sunday school children performed several songs at our monthly hymn sing last month. It is always so wonderful to hear the voices of our young children sing praises to God; they are so energetic! We sincerely pray that every single one of our young people will someday become converted and baptized into our precious faith. We trust that, the Lord willing, He will use our dear children to build His future church.

Speaking of children, Gary and Lesa Hohulin welcome their first baby, Alec Steffen, into their home. Alec was born December 16, and his grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Marie Hohulin, and Ronald and Janet Wright (Washington, IL).

Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth also have a new son, named Peter John. Laura and Trenton are so thrilled to have a baby brother. Sharing their excitement are Peter's grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr, and Bro. Morris and Ida Mae Barth (Roanoke, IL).

The engagement of Sis. Viola Rocke to Bro. Clarence Herman was

announced on January 20. We wish Bro. Clarence and Sis. Viola the Lord's blessings on their upcoming marriage, and we also wish them a most joyous life together.

Mary Lou Wieland has been hospitalized this month, along with Bro. Bob Waibel, who is recovering from a bad fall. We pray that God will grant them both a quick and complete recovery.

We extend our prayers to the family of Otto Roecker, who worshipped with the Peoria congregation, and who passed away within this last month.

We thank Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) for assembling with us, and for bringing to us the Word of God.

"That saith of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,' and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, 'Thou shalt be built'; and to the temple, 'Thy foundation shall be laid'" (Isaiah 44:28)

"Now is the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the Word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, 'Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.'" (Ezra 1:1-2).

These verses indicate that God used a Persian ruler to help fulfill His plan for the Jews to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem. Cyrus most likely did not even realize he was being used of God, but his proclamation was directly attributed to Divine intervention. Notice the wording of Scripture: "The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus." God's sovereignty extends over entire nations, even non-Christian nations, as well as individuals. This is significant in light of current events in the Middle East. The world's leaders may believe they are making decisions on their own, but they are actually fulfilling God's designs and plans. As believers, we can be certain that God's plans, whatever they

may be, will indeed be carried out to completion.

"Men and nations are free agents, and God permits them, within wide limits, to work out their own history, yet never so as to elude His own super-control. In this present age it is well to keep this truth in mind, that human freedom does not rule out Divine Control. It has a steadying effect when evil and exciting developments seem to run on unchecked."

J. Sidlow Baxter

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

1990 is history, may we all start this new year striving to serve our Heavenly Father more sincerely.

Our thanks and appreciation to the ministers for visiting our congregation this month. Elder Bros. Robert Beyer (New York), Dan Koch (Tremont), Bros. Nathan Stoller (Bradford), Robert Stoller (Lamar, MO), Dennis Kauffman (Bloomington) and Marvin Leman (Bradford). We thank them for their willingness to serve us.

Special thanks to Elder Bro. Dan Koch for helping Bro. Joe with reading of the memorandum. We always appreciate the Bradford brethren being with us at this time. Our dear shepherds reminded us of the importance in being obedient and submissive to God's Word and the church. We need to support our elders in these latter times to keep church unity. Our elders are the watchmen on the wall, sounding the warning to us all. At this time of war, we need to take heed and take notice what this could all mean, only God knows what is ahead of us. May we all do extra praying and grant us the grace to be true and faithful unto the end, as Heaven is our goal.

May we remember and pray for our dear elders as they meet for the mid year conference at Latty, OH.

We are thankful for each soul who can turn their back to the world in these latter times. We wish Heather Wieland (Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth) much grace and strength from the Lord to build on a firm foundation.

"Preach the Word; be instant in

season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (II Timothy 4:2) Bro. Eric Givens was chosen to minister the precious word of life. May our dear Lord provide an extra measure of his Holy Spirit in this new responsibility which has been laid upon him and also for his dear wife, Sis. Debbie.

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing". (Proverbs 18:22) On January 6, was the wedding day of Sis. Sue Herrmann and Bro. Fred Hausmann (Bradford). May they walk with their hand in the Lord's hand. We wish them much joy and happiness and many blessings.

Children are a gift from God. Bro. Brain and Sis. Mary Beth Elsasser welcome Je'an Michael into their lives. Jeremy and Jamie are happy to have a brother along with happy grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Lillian Elsasser and Bill and Lucille Menold. May God bless their family circle and may they bring this precious soul up in the ways of the Lord.

Our annual business meeting was held Wednesday evening, January 9. Our new trustee is Bro. Ellsworth Martin and usher is Bro. Marvin Herrmann. Sis. Carol Baurer is the new sister on the kitchen committee for funeral dinners. May God bless those who have completed their term and may He guide and bless the newly elected.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Sis. Helen Schick, as her dear husband, Herbert, passed away after suffering from a stroke. Also, to his son and wife, Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie, daughters, Lois and Hilda. "Jesus knows our sorrow" (Hymns of Zion #74).

May God provide the needed grace and strength to our Sis. Marie Stahl in her affliction. May God's healing hand be upon Bro. John Leuthold as he had the misfortune of slipping on the ice, also Janna Gehrig (foot surgery).

Thank You Note: Elizabeth Kieser, very humbly, wishes to express her sincere appreciation to all loved ones who remembered her, especially her family, with love and prayers, cards, gifts and visits during her surgery and convalescence. May God richly bless all.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Annie Hoffman

We rejoice that two more souls have turned their hearts to the Lord in repentance. They are Jim and Connie Hodel. May God bless and direct them.

A daughter was born to Tom and Sis. Marsha Durand. Brittney Nicole was born December 17. Grandparents are Don and Sis. Helen Brown and Don and Linda Durand.

A daughter was born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene Leman. Rebecca Sue was born December 29. She has one brother, Jarod. Grandparents are Sis. Verna and the late Bro. Bob Wettstein and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman.

On January 6 Bro. Greg Blunier and Sis. Julie Ricketts were united in holy matrimony in Forrest. May God bless them as they begin their life together. We welcome them into our congregation.

We would like to thank the Princeville choir for singing at our family hymn sing January 6. We wait with anticipation to join in that heavenly choir with all of God's children throughout eternity.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL). May God bless them and their families for their willingness to serve us.

Bro. Jay Rinkenberger spoke to us about our commitment in running the race set before us at our Bible study. We appreciate being reminded of our many opportunities to serve our great God and pray that He will bless Bro. Jay for giving of himself on our behalf.

We rejoice in the engagement of Sis. Diane Brown (Don and Sis. Helen) to Bro. Kim Steffen (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Aline) of Goodfield.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients this month. They are Sis. Cindy Leman and Sis. Sarah Diggel. May God grant them strength and grace and we pray they will soon be with us again.

January 9 was our annual business meeting. We thank all of those who have served us and we pray for God's guidance for all those who begin their new responsibilities.

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

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Dewayne Dill (Champaign), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), Greg Rassi (Chicago), Curtis Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). May God richly bless these brothers for their labors of love.

On December 30, Sis. Janet Schaefer (Maurice and Sis. Marge) was united in marriage to Bro. Mark Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Sharon, West Bend, IA). We wish this couple God's blessings in their future.

Our hospital patients this month are Paul Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Elizabeth), Bro. Walt Aberle (Sis. Vera), Sis. Ruth Frank, Sis. Doris Staker (Bro. Weldon), Sis. Rose Knapp, and Sis. Lena Sauder. Also Sis. Carol Koch (Elder Bro. Dan) broken her wrist. May God's healing hand and comforting Spirit be with each one.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**Carol Schick**

We are very grateful this month to the following visiting ministers for helping us in our quest to learn more about God's Word: Bros. Doug Waganbach (San Diego, CA), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). May every minister in our home church and across the land feel God's love and guidance as they carry out His work each day.

Our prayers are with Sis. Martha Fritz, as she is recuperating from illness in A.C. Restmor in Morton. We are thankful she is often able to join us for Sunday services and we enjoy seeing her when she comes.

In a book I recently read on child rearing, the author made the comment that children, are by nature, self-centered and selfish. He told parent that the more material things we lavish on our youth, the more restless and dissatisfied they will be. In contrast, the more love and time we give our children, the more secure and content they will be. Do we, as children of God, display this nature also? God has given us His abundant love - let us each pray for

grace to overcome the childlike ways and be content just knowing we are His child and leave the desire for more and more material wealth behind us.

"It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable."

Moliere

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Jill Frauhiger - Gwen Kipfer

"Beloved, let us love one another: For love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

1 John 4:7-8

We are happy to announce three engagements this month. Bro. Shane Houser and Sis. Kathy Baumgartner are looking forward to their wedding April 14. Their parents are Larry and Barb Houser and Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner. Bro. Scot Shady (Bud and Gwen) and Sis. Tami Frauhiger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie) have felt it is God's will that they be united in marriage. Their wedding date is set for March 10. Also, Bro. Ed Steffen (Sis. Marie) and Sis. Denise Heyerly (Bro. Ray and Sis. Amelia) are to be wed April 28.

Along with these engagements, we have also witnessed the blessings of three weddings. On December 30, Bro. Chris Frauhiger and Sis. Sara Kipfer were united as one. Parent are Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Frauhiger and Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipfer. We rejoice with Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Gerber on the wedding of their daughter, Amy, to Mike Parker (Gene and Judy) January 12. We also want to wish God's richest blessing on Pam Ringger and Jim Agler, married January 19. Their parents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger and DeWayne and Diane Agler.

We want to thank our visiting minister this month including Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), and Bro. Glenn Hackenjos (Altadena, CA). We appreciate your efforts made

and extend an invitation for future visits.

Angie Jackson and Micki Ringger have chosen to live their lives for the Lord. We welcome them into our congregation and wish them God's grace in making this change.

We rejoice with Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda Giltner on the birth of their daughter, Andrea Irene, born January 11. Andrea joins older brother, Clarke and sister, Brooke at home. Proud grandparents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Marie Drayer and Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer (Wichita, KS).

We pray for those hospitalized this month and wish them God's grace as they recover. These include: Bro. Tom Pfister (Sis. Barb), Sis. Pauline Gerber (Bro. Larry), Sandy Herman, Bro. LaVerne Ringger (Sis. Rosella), Sis. Clara Gerber (Bro. Wilmer), Tanya Frauhiger (Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann), and Curt Reinhard (Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb).

Our condolences are extended to the family of Sis. Sarah Schwartz, who passed away January 6, at the age of 90. Children include Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Elizabeth), Bro. Howard (Sis. Beulah), Bro. Lester (Sis. Sally), Sis. Mildred Schladenhauffen (Bro. Paul) and Sis. Luella Geisel (Bro. Vernon), along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. On December 25, Sis. Sylvia Hackenjos passed away at the age of 92. We sympathize with family members Bro. Glenn (Sis. Kay, Altadena, CA), Bro. Carl (Sis. Evelyn), Fern Kaehr (Ron), Sis. Dema Hackenjos, Phyllis Smith (Gene), Nilah Fisher (Bob), and Bro. Myron (Sis. Lorine, Latty, OH).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

Our congregation received many rich blessings from visiting ministers this past month. We are thankful to Bro. Ben Mantz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Nate Lehman (Tulsa, AZ).

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." I Corinthians 13:13. With love in their hearts Bro. John Beeks (Mr. and Mrs. Tom Beeks) and Sis. Laura Dubach (Bro.

Mike and Sis. Linda) announced their engagement. We are happy for them and wish them God's blessings in their lives together.

We rejoice with Bro. Craig and Sis. Beth Baumgartner at the birth of their new daughter. Chelsea Layne will join little sister, Leah, and little brother, Andrew. Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner share the joy of another grandchild with Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipfer (Bluffton).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Jim Geisel and Bro. Dan Kieser who were hospitalized this month.

An Ending Thought:
When long and steep the path
appears

Or heavy is the task,
Our Father says, "Press on, my child,
One step is all I ask."

Author Unknown

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Bev Huber

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1. Tracey Putt (daughter of Norman and Sis. Mary Putt) and Reggie and Andy Wuethrich (sons of Bro. Robert and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich) were announced to have peace, and are looking forward to baptism in the near future.

On New Year's Eve we gathered together for our annual New Year's Eve program and appreciated Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) with us to minister the Word. What better way to start a new year than to gather together in God's house!

On January 5, our local congregation gathered together to partake in holy communion. Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) came to share with us and we appreciated him coming.

We always welcome our neighboring congregations to be with us to share in the ministry. We were blessed with many visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North), Nelson Beer (Milford), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis), Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), Vernon Schwab and Neal Widmer from Wolcott.

Sis. Francis Leman fell on the ice and fractured her arm. Our

thoughts and prayers are with her for a speedy recovery.

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. Just two weeks later, their second grandchild was born December 7. Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Ann Gudeman were first-time grandparents when Joel was born.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Miriam Gudeman

"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

Congratulations and best wishes to our dear friends, Todd and Jane Geyer (Bradford, IL) as they were united in holy matrimony December 29. The happy parents of the bride, Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail, had a recent celebration of their own, celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. We wish both couples God's richest blessings as they begin, and continue their lives anew.

On December 16, we enjoyed our Christmas program. The children told us how Christmas is a time for love, and sharing God's love with others is what the season is all about. We appreciate our friends and family who come to share this time with us.

It was such a blessing to visit with our dear friends Jose and Sis. Cathy Cervantes and family from Tecate, Mexico, on Wednesday evening, December 19. We wish them God's grace and strength to continue with their work in His name. We also enjoyed being with Cathy's parents, Bro. Art and Sis. Maxine Novotny (Francesville).

Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser (Akron, OH) were with us the weekend of January 19 and 20 to share their experiences and travels on film through the Holy Land. It was

such an interesting and enlightening discussion.

A warm appreciation is extended to all our visiting ministers. They were Bro. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso), Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH).

INDIANA, LACROSSE Mary Lynn Massner

What does it take to make a day?
A lot of love along the way:
It takes a morning and a noon,
A father's voice, a mother's croon;
It takes some task to challenge all
The powers that a man may call
His own: the powers of mind and
limb;
A whispered word of love; a hymn
O hope -- a comrade's cheer --
A baby's laughter and a tear;
It takes a dream, a hope, a cry
Of need from some soul passing by;
A sense of brotherhood and love;
A purpose sent from God above;
It takes a sunset in the sky,
The stars of night, the winds that
sigh;
It takes a breath of scented air
A mother's kiss, a baby's prayer.
That is what it takes to make a day;
A lot of love along the way.

William L. Stidger

Love, the greatest of all virtues, the quality that covers a multitude of sins. It is love that makes life worth living.

Christ commanded us to love our neighbors (Matthew 22:35-40) and our enemies (Luke 6:27-35). In perfect love we fulfill the entire law, because we would do nothing to harm ourselves or others (Romans 13:8-10). Most importantly, we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind (Matthew 22:37).

In this month of February, when all are sending out their special valentines, let us remember what true love is and what a difference it can make in everyday living.

Our Christmas program was held December 23 and we enjoyed listening to the poems and songs or children performed. The story of Je-

sus's birth truly came alive for us all!!

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter, (Junction, OH), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) ministered to us this past month and we truly appreciated their sharing God's Word with us.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

Many of our congregation spent New Year's Eve in fellowship and praise. An added blessing of the evening was the message by Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). The New Year is already well on its way with February often thought of as the love month. Love seems to be in short supply in this war torn time; however, God's love is abundantly sufficient for all who will receive it. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16.

December 30 was the wedding day of Sis. Judy Luginbuhl and Bro. Lester Stoller. May their lives, now united, ever be enriched by His love and blessing. Her parents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Evelyn Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT). His parents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Dean Stoller of this congregation.

Sis. Sylvia Steiner is a hospital patient at the time of this writing. Sis. Mary Lantz was also in the hospital recently, but is in a nursing care facility at present. Both are in our prayers.

Thoughts of sympathy go to Bro. George and Sis. Helen Zimmer and family in the death of his Sister Rosena Hueni (Bremen, IN).

Appreciation is expressed for the ministry of visiting Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Glenn Price, Jr. (Sarasota, FL).

The angels must be rejoicing. "... I say unto you there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10. More of our young people have taken that step.

Bite of This and That:

"Let us not be content to pray morning in evening, but let us live in prayer all day long. All should become prayer, that is, a living con-

sciousness of God's presence." (Fenton 1651-1715)

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. Proverbs 15:17

When you get to the place where you notice your humility, you don't have it anymore. It's that strange possession which you lose the moment you've got it.

Some people will believe anything if it's whispered to them.

The trouble with half truth is that you may get hold of the wrong half.

A rumor without a leg to stand on will get around some other way.

It's important that a Christian behaves in such a way at all times and all places that his door of witness remains open." (From Various Sources)

For a smile: "The aging process has you firmly in its grasp if you never get the urge to throw a snowball." (Doug Larson)

INDIANA, MILFORD Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

With heavy hearts we report that Todd Beer (son of Bernie and Peg Beer) had to return to Saudi Arabia after being granted a short stay in the States. Just as Jesus prayed for His disciple's protection, (John 17:11, 15) we pray earnestly God will shield Todd from the danger that surrounds him.

Once again, we extend our sympathy to Sis. Edith Baumgartner and Bro. Ted and Sis. Helen Baumgartner, for another member of their family has passed away. A half-sister, Clara (Baumgartner) Ballard of Fillmore, California, died at the age of 99 $\frac{1}{2}$.

We ask God's special blessings upon a newly engaged couple. Marlene Price (daughter of Stan and Sis. Ginger Price) and Brian Stewart (son of Melvin Stewart and Arneal Dillion) have announced their engagement and are looking forward to March 23, their wedding day.

Unpleasant weather conditions happened to bring blessings to our Milford congregation. Unable to make it to Bluffton one Sunday morning, brought Bro. Wayne Lehman of South Bend to us.

Even though we marvel at the beauty and purity of the snow, it at times can be very hazardous. Bro. John Lehman had the misfortune of falling and cracking a vertebra and Marc Beer (son of Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer) took a tumble breaking his collarbone, each in separate winter outings. We are thankful their injuries were not more serious.

During our annual meeting, eight brothers and three sisters were elected into office. Serving in Sunday school are Bros. John Lehman, Bob Bowerman, Steve Beer and Sis. Pam Lehman. Our new trustee is Bro. Phil Beer, treasurer is Bro. Harold Emch and secretary is Sis. Linda Wuthrich. Taking care of the needs of the speaker system are Bros. Rich Schlipf and Clark Schieler. Sis. Martha Haab will assist in our World Relief Sewing Circle and Bro. Matt Pamer will be our new World Relief representative. Mother Theresa made the statement, "Love . . . it matters not that you are called to serve the rich or the poor - it is the love you put into doing." May each one feel the privilege of serving with love.

We have asked Bro. Matt Pamer to write out a special report on his recent trip to his homeland in Hungary and Germany. He and his daughter, Rose, spent one month with their relatives, many of whom Bro. Matt has not seen in over 40 years. What a reunion that must have been for him. Bro. Matt tells us . . .

"My daughter Rose and I were picked up at the airport in Munich, Germany, by my brother's son-in-law and daughter, whom I had never seen before. They drove us to Nuremberg, where we stayed with my brother, whom I had not seen in 40 years.

"We then rented a car and drove through Austria into Gyorkony, Hungary, where I was born and where I lived until I was eleven year old. I remembered many things, but one thing I missed was all the roads outside of town. They were all plowed under. You could not travel the countryside like you can in the United States.

"I remember very well in 1944

when the Communist took over Hungary. It was a good country where farm people worked very hard (the old-fashion way) and made a good living. Things were kept very neat and nice. After returning 44-years later, it was very sad the way things look now as compared before.

"In 1946, my family was moved to West Germany by the Communist because my ancestors on my father's side were considered Germans and the Communists needed housing at that time. We lived in Germany for 3½ years. We were sponsored and brought to the U.S. by Bro. Henry Beer (Milford, IN).

"I never thought I would return to Hungary but always wondered what it would be like. I was very happy to find my sister after 44 years. Finding seven of our dear sisters and one brother that use to worship with my dear Pamer grandparents was a special blessing. They are very old and are registered with our Nagydorog brethren in the neighboring town (that is why they were not found by our Bro. Ben Maibach sent over last year when the Budapest church was dedicated).

"I was able to worship with our brethren from Paks along with several neighboring churches that were invited to worship that Sunday. I was also able to go to Budapest one day and see the church in Budapest. It was a very beautiful building.

"Our dear Hungarian brethren are very poor now since the Communist lost power. They have no income and were left with nothing, especially those in the small farm towns. They have nothing available to start back up with after everything was destroyed by the Communists."

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Rene Mangold

The responsibility of Sunday school superintendent has been accepted by Bro. Don Lehman.

On the 16th of January, Sis. Rosena Hueni passed away. Along with the mourning, there is comfort to be found.

"Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting

joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall feel away." Isaiah 51:11

Bro. Rich Gram and Bro. Robert Beebe have postponed their plans to travel to Haiti as a result of war breaking out in the Middle East.

We are earnestly praying for the safety of the men and women in Saudi Arabia, and that God will reign in the hearts of all.

"Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The Lord reigneth."

I Chronicles 16:30, 31

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

Greeting to all. As we write this article our hearts are very heavy about the situation in the Middle East. We pray God will be merciful to all and that His Will is done.

Hospitalized this month were Irene Nuest, Joe Kimerer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Susie), Bro. Willis Feller (Sis. Eunice), and Tom Bucher (Sis. Cheryl). We are thankful that they are fellowshiping with us again.

Bro. Byron and Sis. Sue Frieden have been blessed with a little bundle of joy, Kourtney Renee. Kim and Keith welcome their sister home. Bro. Roy and Sis. Aldene Frieden and Ed and Lucille Bozell are the proud grandparents.

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Marie Heinold in the loss of her brother-in-law, Howard Houk (Chicago, IL).

We were once again blessed and happy to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and wife Sis. Judy (Chicago, IL) share another Lord's Day with us. They are such a blessing to our church family and we love them dearly.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Camille Vogt

Another semester is here; another phase of our lives is starting. We feel, as Daniel felt, that God is in

control! "Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."

Daniel 2:20-22

We welcome our new transfer student, Andy Wuethrich, to our fellowship here. Andy has recently found peace with God and man, and we wish him God's grace as he continues in his walk in faith.

On January 10, we had our first service of this semester. We wish to thank Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis) for sharing some truths in God's Word with us. Our future services will be on February 21 and 28 and March 14. Everyone is welcome to join us on these Thursday evening at the new Lafayette Apostolic Christian Fellowship Center, located close to I-65, off of State Road 43, just west of the State Police Post.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

We rejoice with Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie Lehman in the birth of their first child, born December 25. Little Benjamin Robert shares his birthday with Jesus. Loving grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman.

Also on Christmas Day, Bro. Nate Lehman (Tucson, AZ) brought us the Word of Life. Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) was our willing servant for New Year's Day services. We ask God to bless these dear brothers for giving of themselves for our edification.

On January 7, we held our annual business meeting. We thank our trustees, Sunday school teachers, and committee members whose terms have expired and prayerfully support those newly elected that all may be done to His praise, honor, and glory.

Our dear Sisters Dianne Hopkins and Grace Stoller have recently sub-

mitted to surgery. Roger and Brenda Kyburz's grandson has also been a surgical patient. We are thankful to our Great God that He has blessed these endeavors, and we continue to pray for His healing touch on our lived ones. Sis. Virginia Oberlander was confined to her home for a time, and we are so happy she is able to assemble with us once again.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Deyona Massner - Carolyn Wulf

We are thankful for Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MD) for ministering God's Word to us. May the Lord richly bless those who bring forth the trust from our pulpits.

We had our annual business meeting January 6 and those receiving new jobs were Sis. Juanita Gerst on the kitchen committee and Bro. Gary Schulz as trustee. We thank those whose term is complete and may God bless them for their service.

New Address: Leroy and Carolyn Wulf, R.R. #1, Box 101, Oakville, IA 52646.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

God has blessed us and this nation bountifully but have we neglected to give Him all praise and honor? God requires that we walk faithfully before Him and obey his commandments. That should not be too much to ask. May God grant us grace unto greater faithfulness individually, as a church and as a nation.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch welcome their new daughter, Kirstin Joan, born January 4. Kami and Caleb are willing to share mommy's lap with their new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart (West Bend) and

Gilbert and Sis. Vicky Knobloch (Lester).

With sad hearts we bid farewell to Sisters Anita and Charlotte Nester who are returning to their home in Lester. We've enjoyed and appreciated their presence here and wish them God's guidance and nearness in the future.

God bless you on your pilgrim say,
Thro' storm and sunshine guiding still;

His presence guard you day by day,
And keep you safe from every ill.
God bless you, and patience give
To walk thro' life by Jesus side;
For Him to bear, for Him to live
And then with Him be glorified.

Gospel Hymns \$514

At the time of this writing our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer is with a group of brethren in Haiti. We pray that their visit may be fruitful and that each will return home safely.

Reminder: February is Silver Lining collection month for Elgin, Iowa.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Dawn Moser

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Matthew 7:7, 8. We rejoice with the angels for Patrick Funk has asked, sought and knocked and indeed he found, received, and the door of salvation has been opened unto him. He is the son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally.

Our visiting ministers these past 2 months have been Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA); Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS); Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS). We are thankful that these brothers were willing to travel and to teach us out of God's Word.

We have had hospital patients this past month. They are Megan Funk (Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen); Don Clark (Sis. Willa) and Louis Kieser. We are thankful that each was cared for by God who gave skill to the doctors and look forward to Don and Louis returning to worship

with us again.

Our prayers and sympathy are with David and Ly-Lee Funk as there little girl was stillborn. Our hearts ache with them and we pray that God can comfort where man cannot.

As many of you know, Bro. Glen Funk has been led of God to move to Wichita, KS. We are thankful he found a good job there, but words will not be able to express how we will miss him and his family. On Sunday, January 6, we had a farewell supper for them. We are thankful that many from Pulaski, IA, were able to be here also to bid them farewell.

"Friends are friends forever,
If the Lord's the Lord of them.
And a friend will not say never,
'Cause the welcome will not end.
Though it's hard to let you go,
In the Father's hands we know,
That a lifetime's not too long,
To live as friends."

Michael W. Smith

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We again thank all of the visitors who made the effort to assemble with us this month. although or gathering is often small, we take comfort in the promise in God's Word, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" St. Matthew 18:20.

How thankful we can be for all the promises in God's Word as we face the reality of our country being at war. May we have the faith to leave it all in His hands and "be anxious for nothing".

With that same faith, Sis. Juanita Gerst (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy, Alto, MI) and Bro. Ben Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) have announced their engagement. Our prayers are with them during these important days when they plan for their wedding, and more importantly, they lay the foundation for their Christian home.

A CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE IS SPECIAL

There's something very special in a marriage built on Christ -

Something only Christian couples
know -
It's love that's never proud, but very
patient, kind, and good,
With roots that hold on firmly as
they grow.
It's faith, not just in Christ,
But in the partner that you chose,
For you know it's really He who
made the choice,
It's hope that in the darkest times
His light will still shine through
So, in good or bad, you hearts can
still rejoice . . .
It's joy in going hand in hand
Together, and with Christ, that
reminds you
He's a part of all you do,
It's assurance that throughout your
lives,
The Lord will never be
Any more than just a prayer away
from you!

Author Unknown

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch
"Ring the bells of Heaven, there
is joy today" -- We are so thankful to
report that souls here answered
God's calling and are turning their
backs to the ways of the world. Those
in repentance are Donna (Mike)
Barber, Wendy Mogler (Bro. How-
ard and Sis. Lollie); Julie Knobloch
(Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma); Marci
Warner (Elder Bro. Dennis and
Sister Esther); Penny Knobloch (Bro.
Alfred and Sis. Lucy); Sonia Feucht
(Bro. Raymond and Sis. Marge); Troy
Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet);
Thadd Knobloch (Bro. Roger and
Sis. Janet), and Brad Leuthold (Bro.
Chuck and Sis. Vicki). Our prayer
is that an abundance of God's love
and grace be showered upon the
souls in repentance.

Our cups were filled to overflowing
as we listened to the testimony
and witnessed the baptism of a dear
soul, Derek Knobloch (Bro. Melvin
and Sis. Wilma). Elder Bro. Nathan
Steffen (Elgin, IL), so ably assisted
our elder brethren in this holy work
and also in the reading of the
memorandum. We were lovingly
admonished and encouraged to do
our part in upholding our precious
faith and then by God's grace, one
day reaping the rewards of eternal
life.

As we celebrated Christ's birth,
God directed visiting ministers to
tell us the story of salvation and the
importance of preparing our indi-
vidual souls for eternity. Those bring-
ing forth God's Word were Bro. Virgil
Metzger (Chicago, IL); Bro. Kent
Mogler (Minneapolis, MN); Bro. Rex
Frieden and Bro. Lawrence Luthi
(Both of Lamar, MO). May God con-
tinue to provide blessings in their
lives as they faithfully bring forth
His Word.

Our hearts were saddened to hear
of the passing of a dear soul, John
Giesel. Although we are thankful
his suffering is over, his absence
leaves an empty spot in the home
and lives of those who loved him.
Mourning his passing are his dear
wife, Freda, and daughter Patti
Myrlie, husband Roger, and family.
May God grant comfort to each one
and may the many memories they
have linger and be rekindled for
years to come.

We are promised that God will
never leave nor forsake His chil-
dren. During times of illness and
suffering, many dear ones lean so
heavily upon this precious promise.
Orvie Knobloch (Lauretta) and Sis.
Martha Feucht have been hospital-
ized. May God continue to provide
healing mercies to these loved ones
and may they look to Him for
strength as they battle the physical
ailments that are upon them.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We are deeply grateful to Bro.
Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) for visit-
ing and ministering to us this past
month. May the Lord richly bless
him for all his efforts.

Melissa Ann Reiman is the new
little blessing welcomed into the
home of Les and Jane Rieman. Big
sister, Edith, is rejoicing along with
grandparents, Bro. Bernard and Sis.
Leah Schaer. We just pray the Lord
will be with Les and Jane as they
raise their little family.

Recently we had our annual busi-
ness meeting. We are truly thank-
ful to those who have served in
these various duties and whose terms
are now over, including: Sisters
committee, Sis. LuAnn Beyer and

Sis. Joleen Gerst; World Relief, Sis.
Edith Schrock; fellowship center
committee, Bro. Floyd Rowell;
cemetery committee, Bro. Colin
Wagenbach; and trustee, Bro. Robert
Schrock.

We also want to offer our prayer-
ful support to those who've been
elected to fill these new terms. May
they ever remember to look to the
Lord to help them carry out these
physical duties of the church. These
include: Sisters Ruby Eberhardt,
Jane Schmidgall and Lucille Rau-
haus; Bros. Sam Wegman, Steve
Stoller and Curt Grimm.

Coming upon this thought the
other day, it just really brought
thoughts of the faith we need to
uphold in these times of turmoil on
this earth.

Faith is a thread
Slender and frail,
Easy to tear;

Yet its can lift
The weight of a soul
Up from despair.

Matthew Biller

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

We were privileged to have five
visiting ministers in our midst since
our last writing. We were richly
blessed by their messages. Those
who were here were Bros. Dean
Messner (Winthrop, MN), Curt
Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Dale Moore
(Elgin, IA), Wayne Banwart (Cham-
paign, IL), and Joe Gerst (Iowa City).

Again, we have several hospital
patients to report, Sis. Lydia Wilson,
Dave Gerber (Diane), Amanda Ger-
ber (Dave and Diane), Bro. Harley
Bruellman (Adele), Larry Banwart
(Bob and Kay), and Sis. Emma Luthi
who submitted to surgery. May our
thoughts and prayers be with each
one.

We bid farewell to Manuel (Matt)
Fehr (94) January 6. He leaves two
sisters, Sis. Emma Luthi and Sis.
Ida Fehr, as well as a host of neph-
ews and nieces, who will miss him.
We often celebrated his birthday on
the day he was laid to rest. We also
extend sympathy to Eli and Pearl
Gerber and family on the death of
her sister, Evelyn (Alt) Greinert.

may God be with the dear ones who have experienced these losses.

While we pause to reflect on the year we have just completed we review the changes that have taken place in our congregation. We have laid to rest 4 loved ones, brought 5 souls into the fold, and 8 little bundles (6 boys and 2 girls) have been sent from heaven. We have had no marriages in our church and none in the fellowship center. Let us pray for God's spirit to direct our path in the year before us. May we also be a light and not a stumbling block to the many converts we are rejoicing with across the land.

JAPAN, SHIODA
Renee Baurer

New Year's time in Japan is just as special and important as Christmas is to most Americans. For example, Christmas is a regular workday in Japan, but around New Year's Day, most people have three to five days of vacation. Much time is spent cleaning and making preparation for the start of a new year. Fireworks are shot off and temple bells are rung the traditional 108 times. These bells are rung shortly before midnight on New Year's Eve. During the first few days of the new year, shrines are filled to overflowing. People go there to pray to gods for good health and prosperity for the coming year.

For us the new year began by worshipping the true and living God at church. We were touched and encouraged to see a man who recently has been attending our church, choose to come to our New Year's day service. He chose to worship God with us rather than go to the shrine with his family as was his usual custom.

This year our annual church conference was held January 15 in Shioda. We're thankful that Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue were able to come from Tokyo.

Bro. Akito spoke first on the purpose of the church. He emphasized that the church is God's family. It's purpose is to help us abide in Christ and bear fruit. Bro. Willis then spoke on the importance of confession in an unconverted as well as converted

person's life. We're always thankful for this time to learn more about God's Word as we fellowship together.

"But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

I John 1:7

Purity was the theme of our church fellowship meeting this fall. Bro. Willis Ehnle reminded us that when we are converted, Christ's blood cleanses us from sin. Therefore we are made pure. We are to walk in the light of Christ to maintain that purity.

We later had opportunity to break into small groups and share personal experiences where we have seen Christ's power manifested in our own, or someone else's life. This time of fellowship with the friends and believers from the Tokyo church is always so special.

Tom Ehnle (son of Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois) surprised church this past Sunday (December 16). Tom is presently living in California and was sent here for a short business trip. We were encouraged and thrilled to see Tom once again.

We appreciate Bro. Akito Inocie's effort in ministering to us the first Sunday in December.

JAPAN, TOKYO
Frank and Kathy Sauder

What is Christmas like in Japan? In many ways, the celebration of Christmas is very similar to that in America. The department stores' shelves are piled high with the latest toys, Christmas bargain sales are everywhere, Christmas carols are heard throughout the stores, traditional Christmas decorations are all around. But sadly, that is all there is to Christmas. Most Japanese lives have only been touched by the commercial part of Christmas. It is difficult to find signs of it's true meaning. But, on Sunday, December 23, the true meaning of Christmas was presented at our annual Christmas program. Rather than the usual Sunday school program, the entire

church was involved in the program this year. We are thankful that there were more neighborhood children who participated in the Christmas program than in the past. We pray that God will continue to bless the effort the Sunday school teachers have made in trying to expand the Sunday school.

After the Christmas program, several of us went to the hospital to visit our dear Bro. Yamazki. He had fallen several days ago and hit his head on the pavement. It will probably be awhile before he will be able to be discharged. He had been working very hard organizing the Christmas program, so it was disappointing to him and to us that he could not be with us. We ask that you remember him in your prayers.

That evening, we gathered at church again for a special Christmas dinner and fellowship. It was a blessing to have Mother Utsuki with us again.

We enjoyed having Bro. Andy Klaus (Champaign, IL) with us again, and we know it must have been a blessing to his family to have him home for the Christmas season.

KANSAS, BERN
Diane Kaeb - Kathy Strahm

As always, we appreciate our ministering brothers for lending themselves as they stand before us to bring the congregation the inspired Word of God. Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha) and family were with us in Bern and we are thankful Bro. Doug allowed the Spirit to work through him.

The engagement of Bro. Bradley Strahm and Sis. Michelle Braker was announced January 6. Parents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm, and Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO). May Bro. Bradley and Sis. Michelle feel God's presence and blessing as they plan for their future.

Thursday evening, January 10, our annual business meeting was held in the church Sunday school room. We are thankful to each brother and sister who gave of their time and God-given talent to serve in their respective positions. As each newly or re-elected member assumes duties for another year or term may

God provide that all be done in serving Him to His honor, praise and glory, while blessing each one for their efforts. Each new year, regardless of our station in life, we need God's help and guidance each day.

NEW YEAR'S WISH

Through Almighty Providence we start another year,
And bring to Thee our grateful praise for things that we hold dear.
Cheer, Almighty Providence, at the dawning of this year,
Those with crosses for a season;
bless each sorrow and each tear.

Come, Almighty Providence, and in our home abide,
That all who enter through its doors may feel Thy Love inside.

Bless, Almighty Providence, as we seek to do our part.
Weak is the flesh, but spirit willing,
we will serve Thee from our heart.

Give, Almighty Providence, the things we daily need.
For body, health, and freedom's land,
we bring Thee thanks indeed.

Remind, Almighty Providence, the sinner of the price
That Jesus paid to ransom him through willing sacrifice.

Watch, Almighty Providence, that nothing will us part.
And the end finds us nearer Thee,
than when the year did start.

From "Sacred Poems"
Bro. Henry Kipfer

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

We assembled the evening of December 16 for our annual Sunday school Christmas program.

"God bless you on your pilgrim way, through storm and sunshine guiding still; His presence guard you day by day, and keep you safe from every ill." (Gospel Hymns #514, vs. 2). We joined together in singing this hymn to Sis. Cheryl Schrader (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller) when we held a gathering to tell here goodbye. On January 6, Sis.

Cheryl moved to Bloomington, IL, where she found employment.

Prayer has been answered! We are rejoicing as Larry Bahr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth) enters into repentance and begins seeking his soul's salvation.

On January 16, we held our annual business meeting with the following election results: Trustee-Treas. Bro. Jerry Bahr; Usher, Bro. Don Banwart; Food Committee, Sis. Debbie Banwart; Song Leader and Sabetha Home Rep., Bro. Jim Bahr; Sunday school teachers, Bro. John Sinn, Bro. Lon Banwart, Sis. Aleta Banwart, Sis. Karen Sinn and Sis. Teresa Bahr.

"Nothing is opened more by mistake than the mouth." Page 82, Wings of Silver.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

Sis Hannah Grimm was hospitalized but is now home and able again to assemble at church. Due to weather conditions and infirmities of the flesh, some of our elderly have not been able to gather with us. May each individual realize their value and worth in God's sight and have sweet fellowship and communion with Him, wherever they abide.

Over the past couple of months we have had only two visiting ministers. We thank Bro. Harold Kraft (Fort Scott) and Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) for their willingness to minister the Word.

We had our annual election for various offices and duties. Let us be thankful for our small part that we can do in the Lord's service.

Uncertain times are upon us concerning the happenings in the Midwest. The song words come to mind "Troublesome times are here, filling men's hearts with fear." An individual feels they really have no control over the situation. We are constantly bombarded on all sides with false ideals and materialistic views and standards that make it easy to lose sight of the path that leads to everlasting life. Let our eyes truly be opened to the fact that God is omnipotent and in complete control. That He has an ordered plan and all will be accomplished according to His perfect will and

timing. Let the importance of individual or international crisis dim with the glorious realization of the hope that a believer in Christ can attain, through faith in the deliverance of sin and death by the shed blood of that perfect Lamb.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

With each and every fresh new day
May you guide my thoughts and deeds,
That I might be true to Your will,
Lord,
Forgetting my own selfish needs.

Then when I close my eyes in sleep
Please bid my fears depart --
And let me waken in the dawn
With a peaceful, happy heart.

Dorothy Kohlberger

As we start this fresh New Year, may we all look to God's will, forgetting self, and thinking of others, then maybe we can have a more peaceful, happy heart.

We have had a number of loved ones who have been hospital patients again this month: Sis. Laverne Roth, Sis. Lydia Circle, Sis. Dorothy Brown, Sis. Elizabeth Diel; and they have all suffered much pain and depression. Let's not forget to hold them up on wings of prayer, and, if possible, drop in to visit just to let them know we care. Satan is the author of depression, and then encouragement, prayers and love shown to each other is more uplifting than anything we can do.

We were richly blessed this past month to have ministering Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), and his dear wife join us for Sunday worship. The words of inspiration and love God sent to us were truly appreciated and uplifting to our hearts.

It was our turn for services at Lifecare to start off the new year, and though the group gathered to hear us is small sometimes, the support and beauty of the songs reach to the far ends of the Home, so all can enjoy, even in their rooms. Our Bro. George Diel was a resident of the Home until this past month, when the Lord called him home at

the age of 94 years. Bro. George and his wife, Sis. Bea, were faithful members until their health failed and they were unable to attend church any more, but were always so happy to see us when we visited. Sis. Bea is still in the Home and our prayers are with her in this loss of her dear husband. Bro. Ronald Nelson and Bro. Ronald Allenbach officiated the services held here.

Bro. John Hoffman, who is also living at the Home, celebrated his 99th birthday this past month. He's in church every Sunday and is a joy to all of us. God bless you, Bro. John.

Our annual meeting is always held in January and may God bless our church and all who lend themselves to the necessary jobs it takes to keep things running with Godly order. We sometimes don't feel we are appreciated or get discouraged with the work, but God knows, and He takes note of our faithfulness. Our work is not in vain in the Lord.

Thank You: Raymond and I wish to thank all who remembered me with prayers, cards, telephone calls and visits while in a Wichita Hospital for spinal surgery. A special thanks to the Wichita ministers for their visits and prayers, and to the Wichita Christmas carolers in coming to my room, and singing the beautiful Christmas songs and the box of goodies. It was nice to be remembered. May God bless you now, and much more in the kingdom to come.

Sis. Laverne Roth

Kiowa Silver Lining dues are due in February.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jane Isch

Our annual business meeting was held January 6. Sis. Jeri Knobloch was chosen to teach the primary class with Sis. Jody Isch as her substitute. Sis. Susan Emch was elected for the food committee. Sis. Jane Isch is Silver Lining reporter and Bro. Jeff Frieden is the new treasurer for personal property. There were several others re-elected for their duties. May each one feel God's direction as they assume their new responsibilities.

Rick Anliker has announced his engagement to Mary Jane (Kraft)

Burdick. Rick is the son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker and Mary's parents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft (Gridley). May God bless them as they look forward to being united as husband and wife.

Bro. John Schrader has moved to Wichita where he has found employment. We wish Bro. John God's blessings in whatever the future may hold for him.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Sharon Strahm - Beth Hartter

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

John 14:27

We are thankful that two more souls from our congregation are enjoying the peace of Jesus Christ and have become a part of our church. Regina Edelman (Clemens and Sis. Marjorie) and Ken Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) shared their testimonies with the church December 29. Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted Elder Bro. Sam Huber in this work.

There are many "troubled and afraid" hearts at this time when the world's problems are intense. It is so wonderful to be able to trust in God Who can ease the anxieties and lighten the burdens. Our faith is being tried and our earthly future is uncertain, but we need not fear. It is difficult to have loved ones far from home in areas of possible danger. For those who have dear ones actively serving our country now -- we wish you an extra measure of faith and trust as the days slip by. God knows all, sees all, and allows all things to develop and occur as they do. Let us continue to pray that His will be done. Each day is another opportunity to take personal inventory of our lives. We can ask ourselves, "Have we gained and maintained the peace of God in our hearts?" If we haven't, He is inviting us to accept the free gift of salvation while it is yet available.

It was a beautiful winter day, January 5, when Christy Meyer and Jerry Meeks were united in marriage at the Sabetha Fellowship

Center. Christy's parents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer. Bro. Gene Marti, Christy's uncle, performed the ceremony. We wish the newlyweds God's blessings and guidance.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Joe and Sis. Viola Traub in the loss of Viola's brother, John Giesel (Lester, IA).

There have been several hospital patients this month, with various afflictions. Medical patients include Bro. Doug Grimm, Bro. Ernest Kellenberger, Bro. John Meyer and Bro. Adrian Kellenberger, who is presently in the Phoenix, AZ, area. Sis. Ruby Grimm was a surgical patient. We wish for all, God's nearness and strength; and where possible a complete recovery.

Visitors on the pulpit who were not previously mentioned were Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS). We enjoy and appreciate your visits, and welcome your return.

It is always a thrill to report the good news of a new baby in the church. Steve and Sis. Selena Brownlee became first-time parents of a baby girl, Sophia Anne, January 14. First-time grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Linda Bailey. May Steve and Selena feel God's nearness as the joys and responsibilities of parenthood unfold.

The family of Sis. Bertha Metzger would like to express their thanks and appreciation for the many kindnesses shown after the passing of their loved one. This manifestation of love shown by the "church family" is one of God's many ways to let us know that He cares for us.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

January 12 was the wedding date for Clyde Cooper and Tracy Fitzroy. Clyde is the son of Janet Cooper and the grandson of Sis. Gussie Wullleger. We wish God's rich blessing on this new family unit.

Bro. Glen, Sis. Sally Funk and family have relocated in nearby Derby. We rejoice that they will be worshipping with us again. Surely, we know, the Garden Grove congregation feels a void created by this move, yet, we also know that they,

like we, must trust in God, not mankind.

My Sunday school class has completed a study of Esther. At the close of last week's lesson, Brett and David wrote this acrostic: (Notice that the first letter of each line forms the name, Haman.)

Hateful Haman hated
All Jews
More than ever
After
Noticing Mordecai.

Jenny penned these lines:

Handled the ring of King
Ahasuerus. Gave himself the
right to
Murder
A group of people who worshipped
God --
Not him.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

"But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by."
St. Luke 21:9

"But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."

Proverbs 1:33

Our hearts are saddened by the onset of war in the Middle East and there are times we do find ourselves terrified by the many things happening there. It is during those times though, that we realize our loving God is ever present and we know He will never forsake us. May we each find ourselves continually "instant in prayer" for the many men and women who are bravely fighting for our every day life. And may it be our heavenly Father that our country's leaders look to for guidance and the help only He can provide.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance."

St. Luke 15:7

Our hearts rejoice at the turning of another soul to Jesus. Karla Gerst

(Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy) has made the first step in giving her life to the Lord. May the Lord give her grace as only He can and may she feel our prayers as she makes this new beginning!

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

We have yet another reason to rejoice in our little church. Gary Blough (Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite) and Laurie Baker (Thane and Glenda Young) were joined together in marriage January 19. We pray for the Lord's blessings in their life together and may they enjoy much love and happiness.

As we head into this new year with all its uncertainties, may we each strive to be more prayerful, more aware of how truly blessed we are, and most of all to serve our Lord and God with all our hearts that we might be counted worthy when He comes to carry us to His heavenly home. The time is surely growing closer and may we pray that many more could accept and hear His call before it is ever too late. May God bless us all.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Peggy Waibel

A lot has happened this month, not only has the U.S. made history with its war in the gulf, but Bay City has also made a personal sort of history by having one of the most activity filled months that I remember. Even with the business, we have seen God's hand in all that has happened, touching our lives and giving us strength.

Sisters Lori Schamback (Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn) and Kery Andrzejewski (Norm and Linda) were given new life in the waters of baptism. Their testimonies touched our hearts and renewed our faith. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter, labored with Elder Bro. Andy Virkler, in this beautiful task of love. We pray that Lori and Keri's lives will continue to be the wonderful example and inspiration that they are now. Lori

and Kery, may God bless you and keep you in His love forever.

Baby Christina Marie was born to Bro. Don and Sis. Tina Jackson this month. Big sister, Amy Jo, welcomes Christina's birth, and can't wait to hold her. We thank God for Christina, and her loving, Christian parents.

"But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners unto repentance."

We rejoice that the Lord has called two souls to repentance. Marlene and Marcia McNally have heard God's call to enter their hearts, and have invited Him in. We rejoice that God is touching the lives of both mother and daughter, and that in the future, when Satan tries to tempt them, they will have each other and God for the support and strength they will need.

"Across the street or around the world, the mission is still the same, proclaim and live the truth in Jesus' name."

Steve Green

A group of young people and two couples from the Bay City congregation spent some time in Haiti in early January. Alan Schlatter, Tom Knochel, Sis. Tracy Pashak, Sis. Janel Ramseyer, Heidi Broquard, Sis. Carol and Bro. Duanne Broquard and Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak, all had the great experience of living in Haiti for about ten days. We are thankful for their safe return. Their general feeling about the trip is that after seeing what the Haitians have, little things that seemed to be so important, no longer have the same importance, and their lives have taken on new meaning. We thank God that in His mysterious ways He has touched both the lives of the Americans who spend time in Haiti, and the lives of the Haitians also.

Sisters Emily Rechsteiner and Dorothy Ramseyer have spent some time in the hospital this month, each battling illnesses. We see God's hand touching their lives with His healing power and we are thankful

for that. They solicit your prayers during their time of healing.

The Bay City congregation had the privilege of spending time in Kitchener, Ontario, with the Fortenbacher family. Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon Ramseyer, along with a few others spent a blessed weekend in Canada with the sweet fellowship of those with whom we share a common faith. We thank the Fortenbacher family for their hospitality and pray that God will bless each one.

As we look for God to take us through, yet another month, we can look back on past days and see two sets of footprints in the sand, for we have walked hand in hand with the Almighty God.

Reminder: February is collection month for Bay City.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Sue Gasser

Our hearts are warmed as the New Year begins, with two converts here in Detroit. Mike Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores) and Pat Barran (Craig; daughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Wilma, Rittman, OH) have chosen to follow God's call and seek His will for their lives.

Trudy Schmidt testifies that she has experienced that peace that passes all understanding. We are so thankful and encouraged that God's free gift is still being sought after and found. Can there be any more valuable gift?

We want to thank our visiting Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) who were here to interview the church for the purpose of finding support among the brethren for a brother to help our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach with the leadership of our Detroit congregation. Bro. Mark Bahr will be interviewed at the elder conference for an ordained deacon. God bless the elder brethren for their tireless efforts on our behalf.

We also want to thank Bro. Curt Heimer for coming to have our monthly service at Woodhaven. God bless you for your love and commitment.

We are happy to announce the

engagement of Todd Moilanen (Tom and Kay) and Jenny Andrews (Chuck and Alice, Orchard Lake). They plan a June wedding. We offer our congratulations on their engagement and also to Jenny as she just graduated from Eastern Michigan University in December. God bless you and guide your future plans.

Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnn Gudeman are the thankful first-time parents of Jacob Elias who was born January 17. Jacob's grandparents are Sis. Ruth Gudeman and Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

We offer our sympathy to Bro. John and Sis. Esther Orcsik as her brother, Bro. Jozef Fulop (Dunavecse, Hungary) passed away January 1. God be your comfort and strength.

Our prayers are with Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha Szilagyi as Bro. Joe is hospitalized with bilateral cracked pelvic bones. We thank both of you for your shining example in the midst of the many physical setbacks you have experienced in recent years. You are a testimony to all that a Christian's treasure is in heaven. May we all live each day with that in mind!

We had our annual business meeting and are always appreciative of those who have served us and those who are willing to serve. Bro. Jim Barton will continue as representative for the Home for the Handicapped with Bro. Walt Bauer as alternate. Bro. Dan Knochel will continue as representative for the Gateway Woods with Bro. John Gleichman as alternate. Sis. Suzanne Gutwein will assist Sis. Dorine Kurkowski on the kitchen committee with Sis. Marcia Feller as alternate. Bro. Dana Knochel will assist Bros. Walt Bauer, Keith Gudeman, Frank Denes and Doug Maibach in running our speaker systems. Our World Relief Committee consists of Bros. Hartzel Kaisner, Joe Szilagyi and Dan Knochel and Sisters Donna Hartzler, Joanne and Mary Kaisner. Bros. Doug Maibach and Troy Schrock will join Bros. Jim Barton, Keith Gudeman, Ernie Weigele and Pat Allen as ushers. Bro. Guy Wieland will assist Bros. Ben Bensley, Ernie Weigele and Jim Barton as parking lot attendants. Sisters Holly

Barton and Marlene Reinhard will be writing Silver Lining articles for the Detroit congregation.

Toledo, OH, will host services at Woodhaven March 5 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Toledo, OH, will host services in Kitchener, Ontario, March 17. For directions or additional information, please call Bro. Walter Fortenbacher at (519) 699-4133.

Our prayers are with Annette Peterson, who left our area to live with her father. We pray that God would keep you in His care and direct your footsteps. Our prayers are also with Diane and Michael that God would be their security and strength.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Marcy Schmidgall

Kathryn Schmidgall

As we begin a new year, let each one of us think how fortunate we are here in America. We have so much to be thankful for. May God continue to bless our country and those that serve it.

Our congratulations go to Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy Schmidgall on the birth of their daughter, Amanda Mae, born January 15. Little Isaac is so proud to have a sister to love. Her grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie Schmidgall and Gene and Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt (Winthrop). May God give them the grace to raise their children to His honor and glory.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

Although the cold of winter was very intense, we enjoyed a number of visitors over the holidays. Brethren who ministered to us were Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS).

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Sis. Beth Schmidgall and Bro. Doug Rinken-

berger (Cissna Park, IL). Their parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and the late Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL). A March 10 wedding is planned.

The engagement of Bruce Schmidgall and Penny Becker (Deer Creek, MN) has been announced. A February 9 wedding is planned. Parents of the couple are Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall and Mr. and Mrs. Bud Becker (Deer Creek, MN).

Winter time often brings more illness and bodily afflictions. Those requiring hospitalization were little Luke Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Fred Tohm and Sis. Edna Zeltwanger (Bro. Kenneth). We accidentally omitted Sis. Marjorie Koehl from our hospital notes last month. We're thankful she is doing well and is able to assemble with us again.

A new baby is a special blessing of God. Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell Koehl were blessed with a new son, Adam Jay. Lucas Kurtis and Levi are Adam's big brothers. Grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys Koehl and Bro. Jacob and Sis. Alice Wulf (Lester, IA).

Our elder brothers will soon be gathering for their winter meeting. May we support them in sincere prayer.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Georgia Messner - Kim Messner

It was a welcome surprise to see Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis) and family visit our congregation. We want to thank Bro. Don Miller for his teachings.

We want to welcome Shelly Nohl of the Morris church to our area. She has found employment in our area.

Precious baby girls have blessed two families in the past month. First-time parents are Jim and Faye Odegaard. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Messner. Their little bundle was named Catina Samona. Darcy and Sis. Rachel Kent have been blessed with Macey Lee and big sister, Brooke, welcomes her home. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Marylou Schmidt.

As we write this report we are

hearing the beginning of WAR. Missiles have hit Israel. We tremble with fear. The Bible tells us let not your heart be troubled. Our leaders certainly need our prayers plus our armed forces and families.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Nobody knows the power of prayer
But Somebody must be listening
there
With a friendly ear for the heart
that calls.
Someone Who knows when a
sparrow falls.

Miracles lie in the power of prayer;
Faith that can banish the soul's
despair!
Hope that can shine like a holy light
And brightens the spirit's darkest
night!

When earthly help is of no avail
There is one Friend Who will never
fail;
Just lift your eyes -- the answer is
there.
For nobody knows the power of
prayer!

Nick Kenny

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Don Wales

Our Kansas City congregation was blessed with the recent visits of Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) who assisted Elder Bro. Gene Marti with the reading of the conference memorandum Saturday, January 19 and then lent himself to God's service again Sunday, January 20. We were also blessed with a visit from ministering Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) January 13.

Our church held its annual business meeting January 13 and guided by the Lord we elected several of the members who, with our prayers and support, will lend themselves to His service. Bro. Kent and Sis. Jane Miller will both serve as Sunday school teachers. Bros. Jesse Delph and Don Wales will serve as trustees. Sis. Thirza Thompson and Sis. Janice Lehman were elected for the food committee and Bro. Kent Miller will assist as usher.

As we start the new year we are

happy to report that two young souls have decided to start a new life together. The engagement of our Sis. Michelle Braker, Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen to Bro. Brad Strahm, Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie (Bern, KS) was made known January 6. We rejoice at this news and wish them God's rich blessings as they establish their new family.

Mamie Abshier is spending the winter at Sabetha. We miss her at Kansas City and look forward to seeing her again in spring. While in Sabetha her address is 513 Paramount, Apt. 28, Sabetha, KS 66534.

The Kansas City congregation will now have services on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. As always, we welcome visitors who may be traveling in the area.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Martin Hohulin Janel Kellenberger

"Obey them that have rule over you . . ." Hebrews 13:17. We appreciate the messages that were brought to us by Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) in the past two months.

As Paul had written to the church at Ephesus, "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind." Ephesians 4:23. We started listening to the conference tapes this past Wednesday night.

Our congregation will miss Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris Luthi and their son, Aaron, as they have moved to Silverton, OR. Bro. Bill has found a job in that area. Though the miles are long, may our hearts ever be bound in Christian love.

Sis. Cecile Braker has returned home after much therapy and recovery since her stroke this past fall.

On January 8, we had our annual business meeting. Our new Sunday school teachers are Bros. Troy Luthi and Gene Banwart and Sis. Kristi Luthi. Elected as trustees are Bro. Leonard Braker and Ray Luthi. Also elected were Sis. Linda Banwart, food committee; Bro. Alfred Banwart, usher; Bro. Curt Kellenberger, cemetery board; Bro. Martin Hohulin, Silver Lining reporter.

We would like to thank those whose terms have expired. May God bless them for their efforts.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Mark Leman

Ministers visiting our church in St. Louis recently have been Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Dwayne Dill (Champaign, IL). Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) came to minister to us over the holiday season, but because of poor road conditions, we were not able to hold a formal church meeting. We appreciate his willingness to serve and to travel in the winter months to be with us.

Prayer was the topic of a recent Sunday school lesson in St. Louis. While discussing the subject of what is and what is not proper to pray for, I was reminded of a story of a boy and his father. The father had just put the 8-year-old to bed and they were getting ready to say their prayers together.

"Now remember, son, only pray for others, not yourself," the father said.

"But Dad," the child argued, "If we only pray for others, how do we get things for ourselves?"

"That, my son," the father replied, smiling, "is why God invented work."

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Ruthie Hoerr

Even the angels in heaven are rejoicing . . . We now have two souls committing their lives to the Lord in repentance. They are Tammy Grimm (daughter of Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona) and Jamie Knapp (daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann). We pray the Lord will guide them in building that firm foundation that is so necessary. We know many are praying that others too, might be added to the fold.

Gather them in! for yet there is room

At the feast that the King has spread:
Oh, gather them in! -- let His house be filled,

And the hungry and poor be fed.

Gather them in! for yet there is room;
But our hearts -- how they throb with pain,
To think of the many who slight the call,
That may never be heard again.

"Gather Them In"
Gospel Hymns #566
Alstyn & Stebbins

Bro. William Cottrell has been hospitalized again this month, but is at home again at this writing. He has some fairly good days, but generally needs much assistance. He has a birthday this month. Cards of encouragement would be appreciated. Address: 57 Lincoln Hill S. E., Quincy, IL 62301.

Visiting ministers bringing us God's Word this past month were Bro. Curt Heimer (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN). We thank them for sharing with us and pray they will be blessed.

We held our annual meeting in January. Those elected to new positions were Bro. Rodney Heimer, treasurer; Bro. Louis Hoerr, trustee; Sis. Joann Wiegand, food committee; Sunday school teachers; Don Grimm, Kim Sutter, Trisha Grimm, Penny Knochel, Kay Sutter and Pam Kiefaber, alternate. Many others retained their present positions. How wonderful that there are so many duties to fulfill that no one should feel not needed. We really appreciate those who so willingly give of their time. May God bless them all.

Christmas is past and all the memories of our children presenting their programs, remembrances of the Christ Child's birth, caroling with songs of God's love and promise, and sharing with those we love and remember, linger on.

Now it is time to traditionally take a new look at our lives. How does our Lord and Saviour see us? Are we ready as we are, to go to heaven? Or do we wish to change some things first? Have we been "born again" through water and His blood; and baptized to a newness of life? Have we fulfilled the fruit of the Spirit of love, peace, joy, temperance, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith and longsuffering? Most of us find, even though we have been redeemed, we still have much

work to do. Traditionally we all like to set new goals. We really need the help and counsel of our Lord and Saviour to accomplish them with satisfaction.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Peter Petrovich (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Art Bauer (Princeville, IL). May they have joy in serving the Lord.

Here at Taylor it has been a pretty healthy month except for flu and colds. Sis. Rose Hoerr was treated medically at home for pneumonia. She is improving daily.

We wish you all a blessed new year with you hearts filled with love and hope of eternal life.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY

Ed Aeschliman

Sis. Mary Diggelman died November 21 in Rockville, CT. Funeral services were held at the Rockville Apostolic Christian Church and burial was in the Ellington, CT, cemetery. She was 85 years old and leaves her husband, Bro. John Diggelman; a son, Richard; two sisters and three grandchildren. Bro. John and Sis. Mary lived all of their married life, except the last three years, in Union City, NJ, where Bro. John was a minister for many years. May God's consoling grace rest on those she leaves behind.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN/NAUMBURG

Alice Virkler

Our Sunday school children presented their Christmas program after church December 23. They spoke in verses and sang Christmas carols to remind us of the important event that happened so long ago to change our world. May each of these children carry the teachings in their hearts as they go about their daily lives.

Sis. Iva Pohling was called out of this life into a better home and we feel her prayers have been answered as she has lived several years in a nursing home. Funeral services were held December 28 by Bro. Duane Farney and Bro. Leland Hirschey. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her children, Sis. Cora Scham-

back (William, Elgin, IL), Anna Mellnitz (Lowville), Ralph Woolschlager (Waterloo), Frederick Woolschlager (Utica), Harold Woolschlager (Ithaca) and James Woolschlager (Dallas, TX) and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also has a sister, Clara Stewart (Watertown).

On New Year's evening we gathered at church for a covered dish meal and service. As we begin a new year, may we look to God each day for guidance to carry out His will in our lives.

We are happy to have Bro. Clyde Virkley back with us in church and Sunday school after his surgery. Gayle Hirschey (Bruce) was hospitalized several days with pneumonia. Bro. Raymond Stockberger and Bro. Roland Geiser have also been hospitalized this month. We feel God has heard our prayers for our loved ones and pray that He might continue to heal those with afflictions. May they each look to Him daily for strength and encouragement.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

"Many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him for the saying of the woman . . ." John 4:39. While in Samaria, we paused at Jacob's well to read John 4 of Jesus and the Samaritan woman, who left her water pot with Jesus at the well Jacob dug, and took the well of living water from Jesus to say to the men of the city to come and see the one she believed was Christ. The Samaritan woman of Sychar knew the Jews rejected her, as they were only part Jews as their forefathers had intermarried with the idolaters of the land and built their own temple at Samaria. Sychar means "purchased," as the land was purchased by Jacob which he gave to Joseph. Jesus "purchased" our salvation, as it cost Him everything. He wanted this woman to have the well of living water springing up and flowing out over onto others. Whether or not we feel rejected like this woman, we can leave our water pot, our cares with Jesus, and take His well of living water to flow out to others.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Graf

were blessed with a baby boy they named Adam Leon. They have one other son, Andrew. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Leon Graf and Bro. and Sis. Sandor Bako.

Stephanie Gasser (daughter of Bro. and Sis. Don Gasser) graduated from Akron University with a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Management and an Associate's degree in Transportation.

Sis. Mary Baumgartner, who is a resident at the Home, will be having her 90th birthday February 12.

Sis. Dora Smith was hospitalized, and is feeling better.

A thank you for diligent service for those whose terms expired: Bro. Bob Graf as trustee; Bro. John Graf as usher; Bro. Glenn Greenbank as Sunday school superintendent; and Sis. Kathy Graf on the kitchen committee. The replacements are: Bro. Tibor Zsoldos as trustee; Bro. Mike Palitto as usher; Bro. Randy Miller as Sunday school superintendent; and Sis. Cheryl Collins on the kitchen committee.

Sis. Janet Graf submitted: We are grateful to God and each of you for your love and concern for us in the past weeks. Hearty thanks to each of you for your prayers, cards, gifts, good and visits at a time when we needed you so much. May God reward you richly for your kind thoughtfulness.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Julie Grimm

"He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

Psalm 46:9-10

What a comfort we have in these perilous times of war and turmoil to know that God's Word is true and that He reigneth with complete sovereignty.

On December 29, we gathered for the reading of the memorandum. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Mans-

field, OH) for words of encouragement and admonition for the welfare of our souls.

Also ministering God's Word to us this past month was Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). May God bless these brothers for their willingness to be a servant.

REPENT YE

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;

Heed the word of God today!

Haste to flee His condemnation;

Seek the straight and narrow way.

Zion's Harp #52

We are thankful that two of our college friends have heeded God's call to repentance. Our prayers are with Dwane Beery (Smithville, OH) and Mike Reinhart (Detroit, MI) as they begin this new walk of life. It is evident that God is still tenderly calling to those who are without the fold. May others recognize the urgency of seeking their salvation.

OHIO, JUNCTION Laurie Schlatter

Our congregation welcomes Maburn and Sis. Julie Hale from Florida. We hope they feel at home here with us.

Bro. Oliver Spangler (Sis. Annabelle) suffered a broken leg in a fall. He has returned home from the hospital and is recuperating well. We certainly wish Bro. Oliver the best.

During our New Year Day services, the following offices were filled: Sunday school - Bro. Gus Dietrich (Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Sandy Manz (Bro. Paul); trustee - Bro. Jerry Carnahan (Sis. Pauline); kitchen committee - Sis. Connie Manz (Bro. Don); usher - Bro. Denny Schlatter (Sis. Laurie); World Relief - Sis. Karen Manz (Bro. Lester); and Gateway Woods representative - Bro. Lester Manz (Sis. Karen). May God's blessings lead each of these brothers and sisters.

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

As we began 1991, we gathered for our New Year's service and our

business meeting. Once again we have a new start, let us strive towards the Goal by picking up our cross daily. "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go, I will guide you with My eye." Psalm 32:8. Another of God's many promises of His faithfulness.

We are very thankful to God for His continual call to the unredeemed. It is a joy to report that we have several young souls desiring to change the course of their lives to serve the Lord. They are Pam Stoller (Bro. Millard and Sis. Irma) and Carrie Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori). "For you were like sheep going stray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." I Peter 2:25.

We are thankful for the recent visit of Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). May God grant strength and courage to our ministering brethren to preach the Word in season and out of season.

On December 19, we gathered to hear the Sunday school children recite verses and sing praises of the Lord's birth. We were reminded of the precious Gift which is freely given because of His love towards us.

As the new year began, we elected brethren to fill the needed positions for the coming year. The offices which were filled are brother for Sunday school - Bro. Bill Eisenmann (Sis. Carol), sister for Sunday school - Sis. Becky Schlatter (Bro. Tim), brother for trustee - Bro. Mark Stoller (Sis. Shirley), sister for World Relief sewing - Sis. Elaine Stoller (Bro. Willis) and brother for fellowship hall trustee - Bro. Bruce Rosswurm (Sis. Amy). We are very grateful to those brethren who have served us in the past years. We pray that God will be their Rewarder now and much more in the time to come.

Bro. Doug and Annette Nygaard welcomed home a new baby boy, Jonathan Douglas. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorine Hackenjos and Philip and the late JoAnn Nygaard.

We are so thankful Bro. Roy Stoller (Sis. Helen), Sis. Della Wenninger (Bro. Kevin) and Aldean Price (Robert) have recovered from their hospital stay.

We extend our sympathy to Bros. Raymond, Alvin and Marvin Klopfenstein and Aldean Price in the loss of their brother, Harold Klopfenstein. May God be a comfort in this time of sorrow.

The wedding engagement of Randy Wenninger (Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine) and Joni Saylor (Linnis and Lula) has been announced. We wish this young couple God's richest blessings during this time of planning.

Many prayers were answered as four of our converts have been announced as having peace. Those who have been blessed with God's peace are Marlise Stoller (Bro. Willis and Sis. Elaine Stoller), Matt Schlatter (Gus and Sis. LeAnn), Cindy Sinn (Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee) and Karen Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann). "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Linda Morrison

"Let not your heart be troubled" God is in control; of our individual lives and of the world as a whole. What will happen in the Middle East is the question of the hour. When we read this a month from now, I wonder what will have transpired. God is in control. "Let not your heart be troubled." John 14:1.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Robert Beer (Sis. Kathryn), Sis. Claudia Gadd (Jerry), Sis. Bev Washington (Bro. Barnie) and Sis. Elda Rigganbach (Bro. Alvin). "I will not leave thee comfortless: I will come to you." John 14:18. Sis. Sarah Rice, Sis. Janet Beer (Bro. Alvin) and Ella Earhart are all recovering from falls. They have all been able to assemble with us again and we rejoice in that.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27. We rejoice with Tracey Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen) and Ed Dawson. They have both been announced for peace and await baptism.

OHIO, RITTMAN Lois Maibach Charlene Winkler

We are indeed thankful for friends who can turn to the Lord in repentance and plead: "Look down, O Lord, with pitying eye, and save the soul condemned to die" (Gospel Hymns #458). Our converts are Marcene Miller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene), Michael (Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene) and Carol Miller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian), Ken (Ken and Sis. Lillian) and Carol Rupp (Elder Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer) and Patricia Baran (Craig, Detroit, MI), daughter of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Wilma Ramsier. May God bless them as they begin to serve Him.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynne Beery welcome their first child, a boy, Austin William, born December 31. Austin's grandparents, Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol Beery and Dale and Sis. Marilyn Uhler (Smithville, OH) will surely provide much care.

Maria Suzanne joined the family of Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie Beery January 12. Mollie, Katie, Caleb and Reid welcome their little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery and Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn (Latty, OH). May both families enjoy the blessings of their additions.

Those who have been ill and in the hospital were Bro. Raymond Marty (Sis. Grace), Sis. Minnie Rigganbach (Bro. George), Sis. Esther Saylor and Sis. Margaret Winkler (Bro. Stanley). We wish them God's nearness through their sickness and recovery.

Announcing their engagement for marriage are Dawn Young and Douglas Knieriem. Parents are Rex and Carol Young and Mr. and Mrs. Russel Knieriem (Hudson, FL).

January 12 we heard the memorandum of the conference read to us by Elder Bros. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and our own Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer. Other ministers visiting us recently were Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). We thank them for their efforts.

Several brothers and sisters have

willingly accepted various responsibilities in our church. Those who have been elected to positions are Bro. David Steiner, trustee; Bro. Alan Blough, usher; Bro. Galen Indermuhle, fellowship hall director; Bro. Art Maibach and Bro. Nelson Ramsier, nursing home directors; Bro. David Emch, treasurer; Bro. Walter Beery, song leader; Sis. Joyce Stoller, kitchen help; and Sis. Beverly Rufener, nursing home auxiliary.

OHIO, SARDIS
Paula Figel

The angels in heaven rejoiced, the church strengthened, and two more souls gave their testimonies and were baptized January 19 - 20. Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) aided our own deacon, Bro. Ken Indermuhle, in proving and baptizing our new Bro. Eric Indermuhle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Lisa Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam). We were much blessed by this common beginning, the door by which we all came into the fold. As we were reminded, we declared our intention to complete salvation journey within this church; we were not just passing through. Other ministers that day were Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield). We thank these dear brothers one and all for being with us and sharing God's Word.

We have such a precious heritage in our Apostolic Christian Church, something to really cherish! It's a blessing to hear our elder brothers express their love and concern for the flock, and their desire to help us stay on the straight and narrow way. Each of us must do our part as well as to uphold the faith of our fathers and to live according to His Holy Word. When we walk down life's pathway, the Lord showers His blessing upon us. One of them is the fellowship of the saints. We can go to any of our churches across the land and even the ocean, and find a like-minded faith in God. Then to converse spiritually with His children gives us an increased feeling of presence in our lives! We can share and express our concerns, faults, joys, griefs or experiences

which have helped us grow in the Lord. So often it encourages, guides or admonishes one or the other. If it draws us closer to Him, we have been edified: Truly we need each other as we journey toward Zion.

As Valentine's Day approaches, we think of love.

The test of love is loyalty. God expressed His inward thoughts and love to us through His precious Word, the Bible. God's love for us is a permanent love as should our love toward all mankind, not only on Valentine's Day but all year through. The Bible puts love at the head of the list of virtues.

Our hearts were overwhelmed with joy and our cup runneth over as we heard the news that Laura Brake has found the need to repent. We rejoice with Laura and pray that God will give her the sufficient grace to work out her soul's salvation and then find that peace that passeth all understanding. We rejoice with you, Laura. She is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Stephanie Luginbuhl
Kim Stoller

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"A time to be born . . ." (verse 2)

Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach, Rachel, Samuel and Daniel welcomed Phillip Dale into their family January 3. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach.

" . . . a time to heal . . ." (verse 3)

Sis. Shelley Riggerbach (Bro. Glen and Sis. Lou) was hospitalized this month but we are thankful that she has returned home.

"A time to get . . ." (verse 6)

We are happy to report that Dwayne Beery (Art and Eileen) has turned to the Lord in repentance and is seeking to get spiritual wisdom and understanding.

" . . . a time to speak;" (verse 7)

Visiting ministers who spoke to

us the Word of God this month are Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL).

" . . . a time of war . . ." (verse 8)

We pray for our nation as we might be on the verge of a physical war and for all Christians who are fighting in a spiritual war.

" . . . and a time of peace." (verse 8)

No matter what goes on around us, may we feel God's peace in our hearts as we fully trust in Him. David Maibach (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann) and Steve Dotterer (Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda) have found this wonderful peace and are now awaiting baptism.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehlau
Frances Laidig

We are in the midst of stormy days. We pray that God will give the knowledge to our leaders to make wise decisions.

May it be that, as the day of grace is still with us, many souls will take the advantage of the plan of salvation brought to us by Jesus our Lord and Saviour before it is too late.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;

He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat:

O, be swift, my soul, to answer Him!
be jubilant my feet!

Our God is marching on.

Fourth verse of
"Battle Hymn of the Republic"
by Julia Ward Howe

We are very sorry to hear that Bro. Matthew Fetter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betty) will be leaving our congregation for employment in the Washington, D. C. area. May God's blessings be with him.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

"When He shall come with trumpet sound,

O may I then in Him be found;

Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne."

Hymns of Zion #99

Rich blessings were received from our Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr visiting us January 9 from West Bend, IA. Pertaining to the important teachings, we were reminded to not worry about prophecies being fulfilled but to await the sound of the trumpet in these last days.

Our prayers arise this day, January 15, for the somber situation in the Middle East as we near the deadline of possible war with Iraq. May God's will be done.

"Life on earth is but a vapor, Soon we'll lay these bodies down, but if we continue faithful, we shall wear the victor's crown. Brighter than the stars of heaven, brighter than the dazzling sun, we shall shine among the ransomed, when our work on earth is done.

"We shall not abide forever, in this gloomy vale of tears; for our life shall at the longest, only last a few short years, then we'll fly away to glory, at the Father's own right hand; help to sing redemption's story, with the blood washed angel band.

"I would not give up my title, to that future world of bliss, for the shining gold and silver, of a thousand worlds like this. I would rather bear affliction, be a hated pilgrim here, miss the diadems terrestrial, and obtain a crown up there.

"Let us then be up and doing, we have but a few more days, priceless souls of men to rescue, from their dark and sinful ways. Courage, brother, work and suffer, till this fleeting life is past; God will recompense our labors, with a great reward at last."

Select Hymns #241

The conference memorandum was read to Silverton and Portland on the evening of January 12. Good and thought-provoking exhortations were rendered to us. May we be obedient hearers!

On Sunday afternoon, January 13, the Portland church assembled with the Silverton brethren, as we were privileged to hear the elders, Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA)

and Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) minister the precious Word to us. After a potluck at the church, we gathered in the evening for services. We thank them for coming.

We are glad to report that Bro. Ray Cooper, Sr. is home from the hospital since surgery and is doing seemingly well, for which we are thankful.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Ann Rumbold are planning to leave us to spend a couple of months in Phoenix, AZ. Our prayers go with them for God's protection and a safe return in the spring.

It is always a joy and blessing, when our brethren visit us from the various churches! Recently, Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy Crockett (Altadena, CA), Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Ken Wulf (Bluffton, IN) visited us, we thank you.

After having cold winter weather, we welcome the spring-like temperatures. We see the spring flowers starting up from the ground and it lifts us up to see new life after the dormancy.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We are pleased to report that we have three young couples who have announced their engagement. Knowing of the efforts these young people and their parents will be putting forth to make their wedding day special, we add our prayers that they will look to the Lord for direction in their lives that He can make their lives together special and bless their new homes.

Allen Knecht (Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie, Silverton) and Jennifer Loomis (Jim and Janet, Beaver Creek, OR) plan a February 2 wedding. Kurt Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris, Lester, IA) and Koreen Kuenzi (Jim and Barbara, Silverton) plan to marry in Koreen's parent's home March 16. John Popkes (Sis. Eleanor and the late Edward Popkes, Lester, IA) and Karmin Walter (Bro. Church and Sis. Karen, Silverton) are planning their wedding June 8.

We especially want to thank Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend,

IA) for clearly and lovingly reading and explaining the memorandum of the 1990 brotherhood conference to us recently. Our own deacon, Bro. Clarence Dietrich assisted in this weighty work of the Lord. We were all encouraged to willingly follow as our elder brothers together have deemed necessary to keep our election sure and our light shining in this dark and troubled world.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris Luthi and son, Aaron, have come to our area from the Lamar, MO, congregation, with the intention to relocate here if the right employment opportunities develop. We heartily welcome them and pray for much grace and patience as they seek the Lord's leading.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

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

Isaiah 54:13

On December 16, our congregation was blessed by the Christmas program performed by our Sunday school. We are thankful to have such willing students and brothers and sisters who willingly volunteer to teach.

Sis. Marilyn Lanz (Bro. Edwin) will be joined by Sis. Gail Gasser (Bro. David) on the church kitchen committee.

We thank Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us. May God bless him and his family for being such a willing servant of his.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Don Sauder

With things the way they are in the world today, it sure is a great feeling to know we have a loving Heavenly Father and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who still are in control, and hears our prayers. May we continue to pray for peace if it is His will and in His great plan.

We are always thankful for visitors who support us. This month we had visitors from Peoria, IL, and

Sarasota, FL. Bro. Doug Sabo ministered to us both morning and afternoon. We know we can never thank Doug and other visitors enough, so we pray God will richly bless all of you.

Our prayers are with Everett Miller, brother of Don Miller, who is having open heart surgery.

Again, I remind all of our monthly services held the second Sunday of each month. Visit us if you can. We need your support. Services are held in Faye and my home, 2059 Timberwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37215, phone 615-373-8928.

TEXAS, DALLAS/HOUSTON Brad and Cindy Eisenmann

Ministering Bro. Tom Shambach (Elgin, IL) and his wife, Sis. Connie, served us at our Houston service in December. Our hearts are always gladdened when we can share in fellowship together with our brethren.

Ryan Dale Eisenmann was born January 15, 1991, to Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann. Big brother Greg was excited to welcome his new playmate home. Ryan's grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). With the outbreak of war in the Middle East, it is especially good to have a God whose promises are sure and in whom we can trust for wisdom in raising these precious children He has entrusted to us.

Services are held in Houston on the last Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn - Southwest Freeway. Please feel free to contact Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann at (713) 265-2216. All are welcome to attend.

Due to holiday travel plans of the local Dallas residents, the January 6th service was moved to Houston. Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont, IL) along with four of their children spent the Sunday with us.

On January 20, Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS), accompanied by his wife, Sis. Marie, ministered to the gathering in Dallas. We thank

all the brothers who served the Texas rotations in the past month.

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

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Harvey Meinger (Burlington, Iowa), Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), and Bro. Albert Schneider (Rockville, CN). We enjoyed the visit of Bro. Harvey, his wife Sis. Leola, Bro. Clarence, his wife Sis. Betty and Bro. Albert and his wife Sis. Gladys. It is such a blessing to meet and greet our visitors.

Most of our winter residents are here. We miss Bro. George Kuntz and his wife Sis. Hazel. Sis. Hazel had surgery at the hospital in Burlington, Iowa. We hope Sis. Hazel has a speedy recovery and that they can come later this season.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)
ousness of God demands, a perfect sacrifice. But man couldn't do it because they weren't perfect. All we could do is come with a sacrifice but it would always be imperfect because we would come short, but He didn't. And the last night before He was betrayed, He prayed to the Father in Heaven. He said, "I have finished the work you gave Me to do." Now He is ready to go and to die for men upon the cross. That was told about all through the Bible. When we read in the Old Testament who are we reading about? We are reading about Jesus, really. The Old Testament tells about Him, He is going to come as a promise of a Redeemer and that is what we see all through the Old Testament. Moses, who gave the law, said, "God is going to bring a prophet and you should listen to Him." When He came, they wouldn't listen. He came to His own and His own received Him not. In Micah, he said, "God delighteth in mercy." Isaiah would

say, "Well don't just have a form of godliness; bring your sacrifices." He wants you to be obedient and to love Him. That's what He wants. He wants your whole person. The law told about it, the prophets told about it, but now that's what we read, that something new has happened. Now Jesus has come and died for men upon the cross. And now they do like Bartimaeus, that we read about this morning, they say, "Have mercy on me," and He just comes and stops and calls and gives men the help, even the righteousness of God. That's what he showed to men, what God wanted Him to do, which is by faith of Jesus Christ by what He did. By the faith of Jesus Christ, how He was faithful to the Father. He said when He was a little boy, "Don't you know I must be doing His work on earth?" And one time they said, "Don't you want something to eat?" He said, "I have plenty; what I want to do is the Father's will." He was faithful to Him all the time. Sometimes we get an appetite for something else; but He never did. When they hung Him on the cross, He said, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit." That is the faith of Jesus Christ -- a complete faith in the Father; and now He wants to share that and give that to us. Who gets it? Anyone it says, unto all. Everyone should have this. It should be placed on everybody. How do you get it? It says here that it's for everyone that believes.

We had an elder come down to our church once. He was preaching and he said what we should do is go and take the old words out and dust them all off so that they don't mean what they think they mean but what they mean what they meant in the beginning when they were written. What this means when we say we believe, it means to say I trust Him completely. It means that I don't trust myself at all anymore. It means that I am going to commit myself to Him from now on. It means I am going to do whatever He says. In fact, like in daily living, He said, "Repent. We say, "I believe and I'll do what He says and I'll repent." We'll believe the gospel. It says there is a home put away for men in heaven. We say we'll believe that because if you believe that Jesus died for you

and loved you, you ought to walk even as He walked. We'll say we'll believe that and do as close as we can. This doesn't mean here at all like we sometimes, I sometimes, maybe you can say that too, I sometimes, take these words and try to make them mean something else than they did in the beginning. It doesn't mean that I say I believe Jesus and then go out and do things that are the opposite. That isn't believing. That's something else. When the Bible says to believe, it means that we trust Him, we don't trust ourselves, we throw all our weight upon Him, and to lean upon the Lord and trust completely upon Him. "Upon all them that believe: for there is no difference." Everybody has to believe if they want to have this home. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace." He came and found men under condemnation and He said, "I'll die for them so they can go free." We can't earn it by our works, but once we have it, and that's what we were reading about this morning, and talking about, once we have been made free, once we have been justified, once we have been clean and then that is where the works come in. It's like Martha. Remember that story and perhaps this will give us a picture of it. You read in John's gospel about Martha. She was always working and one time she came to the Lord Jesus and said, "You should have Mary help me; I shouldn't have to do all this work." Why would she? Because she was cumbered, she was anxious and she thought other people should be working too. But now you turn on a little further in that same gospel and you find they made a feast for them and Martha served. She wasn't saying anything about having to do all this work now because Jesus had raised her brother from the dead and now He just accepted what ever she would do for Him, and she was just so glad to do it. She didn't come and say, "How come I have to serve you and get Mary to help too." No, she just wanted to do everything she could. Did you see where it was placed in the scripture? After the resurrection of her brother, after she saw new life and that is the way

it is with us. Before we are saved, we try to do things. We do it kind of grudgingly and we want people to give us a lot of credit and make sure they see us; but afterwards, all we want is the chance to do it.

I turned here, while I was speaking, to Ephesians chapter two. Here is the picture of it. It says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourself: it is the gift of God." You have to receive it as a gift; you have to be empty so He can put it in your hands and your heart. If your heart is all filled with pride, there isn't room for it. If your hands are full of works, then it won't work either. But when your hands and your heart and everything is empty and you say, "I just couldn't do anything myself and I need your help," then He gives us this gift, this gift of peace. It isn't works because then it says men would boast and say, "See what I've done and what I've earned." But now go on and now that men are saved, what should we be doing? We are created in Christ Jesus; we are made new in Him unto good works. He made us new so we'd walk in good works and that we should walk in them. You know what that means? What do you think it means? What does the Bible say it means? You boys and girls are too young to remember about walking behind the plow, plowing corn, I'm almost, but then, going out to plow, you walked in the corn; you looked to the right of you and there was corn, to the left, there was corn, ahead of you there was corn and behind. Now if we walk in good works, that means that's just what we wanted to live in. We want to do good works, we turn this way or that way or this way of if we go back. We want to do it because Somebody has saved us and we are following Him and so it is an opportunity, it is a chance to do anything.

Being justified freely. So now we get our hands empty of ourselves and our heart by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. That's where the payment was made. See, men were soiled under sin and they didn't belong to themselves; Satan had a hold on them and said, "You sinned and now I have this hold on you, in bondage, in slavery," and He came and He

redeemed us. He paid down the price in Christ Jesus, who God had set forth. God put Him there. See, it's like we read this morning, He takes the first move. He sent Jesus forth to be a propitiation of sacrifice through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past. Why did He do it? God is righteous, isn't He? He does things right, not like you and I, who get sentimental once in a while, and kind of cover things up here and there but He does things right. And so He sent His Son and the Lord laid on Him all of our iniquity. Surely He has borne our sorrows and carried our transgressions and now He can deal justly. He did with Jesus; and He paid it all and now, He says that He can forgive these people that it can be done; that He might be just, that He can do that which is right Righteous Father, you remember in the Bible, Holy Father, in the Old Testament, Holy and Reverend is His name, and the Justifier, the One who let sinners go free, those that believe in Jesus. Now if a man confesses that he is a sinner and Jesus went and said, "Now you are free." If a man confesses that he has a big debt and couldn't pay it and Jesus paid it for him, what would this person do? Could he boast about it at all? Where is boasting then? Can one say, "I have done any one good thing?" No, it's excluded. There isn't any room in the heart of a Christian for it. Just like back here at the door, if someone would have wanted to come in this morning and the usher would have said, "You're excluded." They wouldn't do that here, I'm sure; they would let everyone in that would come, but that's just the picture of it. But that's the heart of a Christian after he has come to Jesus, he can't do it. Just about the time you get ready to boast about something, then you remember that Jesus died for you and that He paid the price for your sins and that He is the One who is the Justifier and we are the recipient. By what law of works have we done anything? No it's by the principal, by the law of faith. So we come to this end, the Scripture says, that a man is justified by believing in Jesus and when we say that word, we mean it to mean what

it meant when it was written; not by saying something and doing something different but by putting everything together by saying, "I believe in Him, I trust in Him, I'll do what He says, I don't trust in myself, I will not trust in princes or arms or men but I will trust in Him and do what He says." Does that kind of faith make void the law? Why, no, it establishes the law because now the just requirements of law are fulfilled in our bodies because Jesus died for us and what we couldn't do at all, He gives us the credit for it, because we believe in Him.

Isn't that a wonderful thing, that He would give all of these things to people that can't accomplish it themselves and He gives it to people because He loves them? Now what does He give to us? Let's look at chapter five. Therefore, it says, because this has happened, because Jesus came and died upon the cross for man and because we believe in Him and commit our whole life unto Him, and follow Him in the way, being justified, being set free, being counted as righteous even when we're not, by our faith that living power from heaven, we have peace. Now here we are starting to receive gifts already and that is the first thing you get from Him is peace, but not as the world giveth by saying make a compromise with me. This is His peace, "My peace I give unto you, My peace I leave with you." When Jesus was on the earth and He went back to heaven, He was like a man that had great treasures and He left them all upon the earth. He says, "My peace I give unto you. My joy I leave with you. I have this home in heaven; I made a mansion for you and I'm going up and get everything ready. If that wasn't so, I'd have told you." They could trust Him. They took Him at His word indeed. They had faith in Him. We have peace with God. That's who we need our peace with. If we have peace with God, it doesn't say much right here about peace with man but if we have peace with God, we have peace with man. It's an extra part. It's like at home when you make an apple pie, there is always a little left over and the children get to eat it as apples. And that is the

way it is with having peace with God. If we have peace with God and He says you can call Him Father, then He says, "You can call everybody else that can call Me Father, you can call them Brother." See, that is just an extra benefit, a wonderful benefit. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We come to Him and He gets us there. It's from God. He has a present for everyone.

"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand." He lets people come to the Father in prayer and we pray to God. Did you ever notice, you do it too, we all do it, when we pray, we say, "In His Name, in Jesus Name, in the Name of our Lord and Saviour." It's just not a habit or something we started. That's the only way you can come to Him in prayer, He is the One who gives us access to the throne of God. Men don't come and say, "Well, I deserve this." No, they say, "I have a lot of need. I need grace," that's what this person was talking about so let's use that, "I need grace to live today and the Father in heaven has it," and we come in Jesus name and He gives it to us.

This summer we were doing some painting in our home and apartment and we needed either paint or tape and so I sent one of the children over to the store to get it and to charge it. I told them to just tell them that it is for us. They went over and told them it was for their parents and he gave it to them because of us, he knew us. That's the way it is when we come to the Father. We don't deserve these things: peace and grace and hope but we come to the Father in Jesus name and He says, "I know this one. He needs grace; You give it to him, for My sake." We stand in it, every place you look around, there is grace, sufficient for you and for me. Rejoice. When people stand in grace, they can't help but be happy, even if there is no smile on their face, they are happy inside because we are different. Some of us smile more and some less on the outside. But inwardly there is this joy that no man taketh from you. Rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Remember what we read, everybody has sinned and

come short of the glory? But now everyone can have this again. It's offered to everyone and so we stand in grace, we have peace, and we're happy and we have a wonderful place to go to. A man couldn't stand in grace and do anything else but rejoice. Even if it wasn't written here and you start reading it and all of a sudden you'd lose your place, it would go right through your head; if you have peace in your heart and you can come to the Father and pray and you're standing in grace and He's forgiven you your sins, you have the hope of a home in heaven, even if it wasn't here and it was in another part of scripture, you'd know that it would be there. You would be rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God.

That isn't all. It says, that we glory in tribulation also and if things don't go so good for us, when there are days where there are funerals or sicknesses, or Satan attacks, then we glory in them too, knowing that God wouldn't give us anything if it wasn't for our good. What did James say, He said when you have something come along you don't like, did he say, "I will endure this?" No, he said, "Count it all joy; this is all for my good. If He is my Father, He wouldn't give me anything bad. This is to shake me a little bit to make me the way I should be" and so we glory in tribulation and afflictions and sorrows and things like that. Really what it is saying here is if you have the peace in your heart, the hope of a home in heaven, if you're standing in grace, these are all inward things. How is anybody going to know about it? If we are to be a light set upon a hill, when something bad comes upon us, what we call bad but it is really to work for our good, then if we say, "I'll take this too, because it is from the Father's hand, because we know that this will work patience." Did you ever notice older people, they've gone through these tribulations and they have more patience. You know when you are young, you just think you have to do something right now; but when you get older you know the last time it came upon you, that this, what we call a tribulation, is really a present from God, something to help us. Did you remember Jacob? Here is a story out of the

Bible that might help us. They came back and said they have to bring Benjamin down and old Jacob said, "Is this going to happen to me yet, too? Everything is happening to me is like the whole world is falling to pieces. And now this is the last straw." Here God had prepared a place for him down there. All of his sons were down there waiting to meet him and fall upon his neck and kiss him. So that is what tribulations are for; wrapped in them, they are something good for us. They'll make us a little more patient and give us some more experience and strengthen our hope, because every time God helps us through a struggle here upon the earth, it just makes our hopes stronger, doesn't it? Would He help me this far and then let me fall down? No, I can really believe now. Before I knew in part but now I have looked out another window into the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ and I saw a little bit more of what He had for me and I can hope and hope maketh not ashamed. When this trouble first come to save us, it was to make us ashamed, wasn't it? To make us fall down and here it worked out just the opposite to the glory of God and hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us. Everything we read in these five verses is a present to us, it's given to us -- the peace, the grace, the right to pray, something we would call a tribulation, which is really a gift of God to shape us, something given to us. It's just like going to Communion; it says take eat, this is My body, put your hands to the cup, drink ye all of it. That's what life for a Christian is. It's receiving things from Jesus, gifts from the Father and from the Son and from the Holy Spirit which is in our heart shed abroad, filling it up and not leaving any more room in there for self but teaching us and leading us on to say, "Father, Father."

For when we were yet without strength," when men couldn't do anything for themselves, struggling against sin but, rather than getting better, they were getting worse because they were ungodly, going away from God, in due time Christ died for someone like that because He

asked for help. In due time, just at the right time, when Jesus came on the earth, the Bible said, in the fullness of time, just at the right time, there aren't accidents in His hands for He doeth all things well. Anybody here ever go home at night and say that I did everything just wonderful today and right? I don't hardly think so. We always say I left a little something undone today. Should have said something to that person there. Maybe it's worse, maybe I should not have said that; but He doeth all things well and just at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Not because we were righteous, not because we were good, but because He loved us. But God showeth His love to us, but God commendeth His love toward us, He showed it to us, so the people don't wonder anymore. Does He love me, a sinner, condemned unclean? He showed His love to us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us and that is what this Bible is about. That's what it is about from the beginning to the end that Christ loved sinful men and died for them upon the cross. People who have received all of these gifts from Him, then they walk around just wanting to share them with somebody else because His gifts just overflow, don't they? Sometimes when we are weak and He is strong, we receive more than we can handle and there is a surplus, something for somebody else.

"Much more then, being now justified by His blood we shall be saved from wrath through Him." He didn't just want to die for us, He wants to live in our hearts and to guide us here upon the earth and save us from the wrath to come. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God; if when we were fighting against Him, He sent Jesus to die for us upon the cross and He did die for us. Now that we are reconciled, He wants to live in our hearts and we should be saved by His life, by the new life, the resurrection life. That's what makes people happy because they know that Jesus died for them and now He lives and He lives in their Hearts.

When you are home tonight, or sometime when you have time, look at the Gospel of John, look in the

20th chapter and in the twentieth verse, if I'm right, it's right after the resurrection, there they were together in that upstairs room and they were all scared, they were together because they were afraid of the Jews. Then Jesus came and stood in the midst of them and said, "Peace be unto you," and then it says, "then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord." Then they were happy. Then they knew that sin couldn't hold this Lord because He had done away with it and conquered it upon the cross and now He came to them who had run away. They all forsook Him and fled and here they were in that upstairs room, afraid and trembling and He came and stood right in the middle of them. Can you understand that? Just like when we have all kinds of trouble, or we have all kinds of joy, there are both kinds today, and He comes and stands right in the middle of it and He says, "Peace be unto you." When we come together this morning, you tell people, "Greetings, Brother" and to the friend you say, "Good Morning" and we want it to be a good morning but all we can do is wish for it and hope for it, but when Jesus comes and stands in the midst of your heart, or if He comes and stands in the midst of a church, or in the midst of a school, or in the midst of where you are working, and He says unto you, "Peace be unto you." He doesn't just say it, He brings it and He has it there for men to take. What if when men meet with the great rulers of the nations, and they are about to go off to war, and Jesus would come into the midst and say, "Peace be unto you," how would things be changed in the hearts of each individual man, and in the hearts of all of us as the body of Christ, and as all people on earth, wherever we would go, we would hear that echoing, "Peace be unto you." Then, we would be glad when we saw the Lord and heard him, we would be safe, we would be saved by His life. There wouldn't be any room for any doubt or fear because we joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we have now received the atonement. Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. It's a wonderful thing when He lets us pay a little bit from time to time.

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SERMON BY ELDER BRO. DAVE WIEGAND OF THE CHAMPAIGN CONGREGATION

Romans 3:19-31; and Romans 5

When you read in the book of Romans in the first chapter, Paul writes and tells them he wants to come and visit them. He wanted to for a long time but, I think in the Bible language that, hitherto he has not been able to come and he wants to come and speak to them of the gospel of God. He isn't ashamed of it because it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile, people like you and I. Then in the remainder of the first chapter and through the second and in the third, up to where we read, he showed them that everybody needs it. That's where we should start this afternoon. We should all say and all bear witness to it, "We have need of the salvation which appeared in Jesus Christ upon the earth, the grace and truth which came when He came on the earth." If there is anyone that doesn't know Him that hasn't received Him, also they must ask themselves this question, "Do I need to be saved?" In plain language, "Do I need Jesus Christ?" That's where we found ourselves when we started reading this afternoon. It says, "Everyone does." There is no difference. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

In the beginning we read that God made man in His own image but man, because of the weakness of the flesh, fell; and that is just like little children when playing games they fall and they get dirty. They need to be washed so their clothes are clean again and their hands. In the spiritual way, man and he be-

came dirty with the dirt of sin upon his mind, heart, hands and feet. He tried to wash it off by works but that didn't avail. "Could my zeal no rest but know, could my tears forever flow." We couldn't pay for our sin; Jesus Christ had to save us. That is why we come to the Bible and read and when we come near to Him in prayer, everyone kind of gets quiet in their heart. Outside around you can be in school and the classroom is just all a buzz or at work where everyone is talking, and when you pray to Him, then it gets quiet in your heart. That's what the world is; But those things which are heavenly, they are restful. We read all about it in chapter five. And so everyone of us here this afternoon have to bear witness and our hearts tell us this, even if we won't admit it with our mind. The heart will say, "You need help and strength upon the earth."

Now we started out that the law says that you should do this and men say, "Well, I didn't do it." It says stop their mouth. We can't say, "Well, I fulfilled all the law said I should do." Therefore by the deeds of the law by what we can do ourselves, anyone of us, shall no flesh, no flesh, that means everybody, that means the best people who are the strongest and have the strongest will power and that means the weakest people. So those of us that are weak, we get strength there. Those that are proud, they can be brought down. Then everybody starts off at the foot, there at the ground level at the cross. It was upon the

hill of Calvary; but when you come to Jesus, nobody feels bigger than the other, or smaller because we don't even see anybody else when we see him. There everybody starts out even. There shall no flesh, that's anybody, be justified in His sight. See, we are dealing with Someone else besides a person. We are dealing with God, who made us and who knows every thought we have and even before we have it. For by the law is the knowledge of sin. People try to do the best they can. I try. I tried. Didn't you? Everyone of you here tried and you'd always find yourself coming short of the glory of God. He said, "We'll make man in our image," so to be like Him. But everyday, we would say, "I come short; I wasn't in His image like I should have been." But something new happened when Jesus came into the earth; grace and truth came by Him.

Now in verse 21, Paul says something new has happened, but now, and when you read in Paul's writing you find this, he always says you people who live now is the best time there ever was to live. Jesus has come and died for your sins and now there is a new strength and a new power and a new hope. What he thought at the time he didn't say, like we do, last year and this year, like I do; he said then and now. Now since Jesus came everything is new and everything is fresh. The righteousness of God has been shown unto me. It was shown unto men in Jesus Christ. This is what the right-

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