



"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, . . ."

Psalm 95:2

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, . . ."

Psalm 100:4

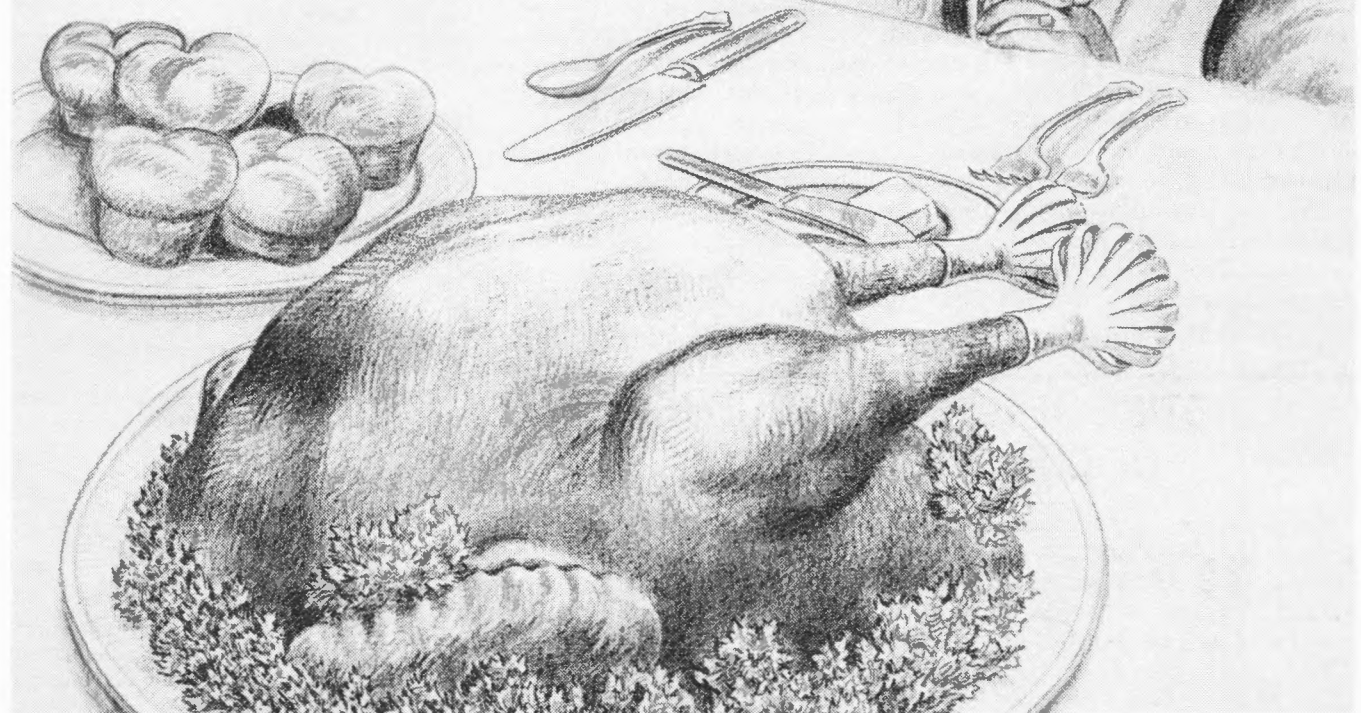
VOLUME 41

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NUMBER 11

"Now therefore, our God, we thank thee and praise thy glorious name."

I Chronicles 29:13



THANKSGIVING DAY 1991

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"

EPHESIANS 5:20

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

MAXIMUM PREPARATION

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle
Shioda, Japan

Recently, in the church, I was thinking and talking about being prepared to meet the Lord, and I asked the audience, "If you have many years yet to live, do you think that the extra time will cause you to be better prepared to meet the Lord than you are now?" Each of us will do well to ask ourself that question.

As recorded in Luke 1:17, John the Baptist was to "make ready a people prepared for the Lord." John was to do that by preaching repentance, submission and faith. The extent of the preparation made, was up to the individual listener. Satan may tell us to make only minimum preparation.

I went further and said that if I live to be 100 years old, I don't believe that I would be any better prepared to meet the Lord than I was at that very moment. I meant that I felt and believed that I had maximum preparation. So far as I know, that was the first time I ever had that concept or thought. It is something to consider. The reason I can say that and feel that, is not that I'm so good. It's because of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for me, not only on the cross but also in my daily life. He challenges us to live by the New Testament teachings and to walk in the light as He is in the light.

Minimum preparation might be to simply become a church member without being broken enough to get rid of self. We bury the old self in baptism but my elder told me before my baptism that the old self can arise again if we are not careful and if we do not remain broken so far as self is concerned. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken," Matthew 21:44.

If anyone hasn't made any preparation, or only minimum preparation, it is a good idea to move in the direction of maximum preparation. That is a good position to be in and it includes no bitterness or ill feelings toward others, also made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ.

HAITI SCHOOL WORK TEAM PROJECTS

In view of the present situation, in Haiti, where the army has taken over the government, and the president sent out of the country and the suggestion from the United States Counsel that all non-essential personnel and dependents seek to leave Haiti until things are settled. With this information, the Caribbean Committee has made a decision to place a hold on all travel to Haiti and the planned projects

placed on hold until it is again safe to travel to Haiti. May our prayers be with the mission personnel who are being evacuated from Haiti and the doctors at Hospital Lumiere who have chosen to stay. We pray for the people of Haiti that peace and freedom can be restored.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch
for the Caribbean Committee

CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

With Christmas just a short time away, last-minute gift buying is often perplexing. We'd like to suggest giving some cassette tapes produced in Austria and Hungary,

(Continued on Page 4)

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:
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EDWARD SOUDER

NOTICE OF A REVISED BOOKLET OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The paperbound edition of Christmas Carols that is currently available from the Apostolic Christian Publications bookstore in Eureka was first printed in 1955, and has remained largely unchanged during the previous 35 years. A revised edition, however, is in the process of being printed and will be available for the coming Christmas season.

This new paperbound booklet, entitled "Hymns of Christmas," will contain 36 songs selected from the Zion's Harp, Hymns of Zion and Gospel Hymns, as well as a few hymns from other books.

These booklets are expected to be available from the bookstore in Eureka around the first of November. As soon as they are available, a copy will be sent to each congregation, along with the cost and information on ordering. Individuals or families wishing to purchase them should contact the bookstore after November 1.



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).

THE NARROW WAY

The Bible teaches those who desire to follow Christ to enter in at the strait gate, and then to walk on the narrow way, "which leadeth unto life" (Matt. 7:13-14). Conversely, entering in at the wide gate and walking on the broad way will lead to a terrible and eternal destruction.

In this, every soul has two choices—a "narrow way" or a "broad way." Obviously, the wise way is the narrow way. In order to reach the proper spiritual destination, a soul must enter in at the strait gate by faith in Jesus Christ, through a true and upright repentance, in obedience to His Word.

The broad way is undeniably destructive. Today's patterns of sin as found on the broad way are sinking lower and lower as Satan unleashes his wrath. He boldly aspires to draw the believer from the narrow to the broad way. Unfortunately, casualness and indifference are leading some to walk a precarious pathway.

In today's social context, anything considered "narrow" can leave negative connotations. Any inclination toward a fixed opinion, a sense of absolutes, or even a mild conservatism tends to draw a negative response. On the other hand, a focus on individualism, relativity, or liberality usually draws a more favorable response.

Thus, the believer should not be surprised that others will think it is strange to renounce the widely acclaimed way of life for the devotion to the narrow way (1 Pet. 4:3-4). This misperception results when the way of Christ is seen through unconverted eyes. Only when one's eyes are opened and understanding enlightened by the power of God can the narrow way be seen as a positive way, filled with blessings and benefits.

The narrow way is not a "narrow-minded way." If it was, it would misrepresent most of the virtues of the Christian faith. Too often it is seen as such and this accounts for the erroneous negativism often

associated with what may appear to be confining. This presents a special challenge for the believer to examine his walk to insure that his life's patterns and attitude reflect Christ's love and concern for all mankind, and not a narrow minded or self-righteous demeanor which creates a bad light.

It should also be realized that the true narrow way, as intended by the Word, is not the "difficult" way, and the broad way is not the "easier" way. Spiritually, the narrow way leads to godly enrichment and contentment and the fleshly way (the broad way) leads to spiritual deterioration. "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6). God's way is not burdensome. As the Lord stated, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:30); and we have found this to be true.

As the child of God walks along the narrow path, he finds many spiritual riches. As he grows in grace and in the knowledge of God, the riches multiply. The narrow way frees the spiritually aspiring soul from the bondage of many of life's burdens and frees the believer to devote maximum energies for the glorious cause of Christ. The narrow way exists, not as a hindrance, but to help focus the believer on the things which have eternal value. It enhances the process of sanctification, and makes him a more effective servant in the household of faith.

The narrow way continually reinforces the believer's biblically based value system and motive in life. Fellow believers walking together on this path serve to strengthen and encourage one another toward the same goal (Acts 11:23; Heb. 3:13). Likewise, the narrow way provides freedom from many distractions: from a love of the world, from conformity to worldly patterns and from the inevitable spiritual corrosion which results from the wasteful pleasures of this present world. The Word teaches the doctrine of separation from worldliness. "Wherefore

come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Cor. 6:17).

Departure from the broad way and embarking upon the narrow way result in many positive attributes. A cheerful and loving disposition will develop and the believer will be easy to be entreated (James 3:17). He will be deferential to others, esteeming others in faith above himself (Phil. 2:3). He will gladly obey the Word and will further recognize the church's godly authority over him. He will submit to its carefully-considered guidelines pertaining to lifestyle and sanctification. He will wisely resist religious falsehoods and will avoid fraternization with those of questionable religious doctrines.

Walking along the narrow way hand in hand with Christ will motivate the believer to lay "aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and evil speakings" (1 Peter 2:1). Judgmental and harsh attitudes will turn to compassion and pity, if one truly submits to the influence of the Holy Spirit. There is no room for extra weights and hindrances if we wish to progress on this heavenly journey.

The narrow way becomes clearer when there are footprints left by faithful forefathers. By virtue of experience, and through gifted discernment of the spirits, the church (Christ's body) helps to define the narrow way.

The believer should strive for righteousness and "lay hold on eternal life" (1 Tim. 6:12). In trodding the narrow way, he must "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12); endure temptation (James 1:12); forsake all (Luke 14:33); and live free from sin (Rom. 6:16-18).

May we as believers and as a brotherhood keep our hearts with all diligence (Prov. 4:23). The narrow way will enhance our spiritual blessings, and will provide safety as we strive for our eternal destination.

containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book) and Zion's Harp Hymnals.

All profits from the sale of these tapes go to Europe, where the money is distributed among our very needy brethren in the Eastern European countries of East Germany, Hungary, Romania and others. Even though the communist "wall" is down and many new freedoms are enjoyed, the economic situation remains desperate in many areas.

A small group of brothers, including Elder Bros. Phil Stettner and Nathan Steffen and Bro. Andy

Hunyady, recently returned from a "fact-finding mission" to the Ukraine, Romania and Hungary. They witness first-hand the on-going economic plight of many of the fellow believers in those countries. Yet, these loved ones are content and so thankful for the privilege of being able to assemble together openly, many for the first times in their lives.

The Heft or Long Book tapes were recorded by Bro. Josef Farkasch, who is a music professor near Salzburg, Austria. He plays the classical guitar and many other instruments on three tapes of songs

from the Long Book. Some include singing.

"Holy Love" and "Blest Be the Tie," tapes recorded in Hungary, feature orchestra and choral renditions of songs from the Zion's Harp and Long Book, as well as many of their Hungarian hymns.

We have received a great response in the sale of these 5 tapes and wish to thank everyone for their past support.

In Christian love,
Don and Lorna Schrock

The Heft (Long Book) tapes include 3 volumes. Volume I includes songs 1-11, 13-18; Volume II includes songs 12, 19-31; Volume III includes songs 33-48. Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add 75¢ extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only 30¢ extra for each tape. Make checks for Long Book Tapes payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

The two tapes, "Holy Love," a tape of orchestra, and "Blest Be the Tie," which has both orchestra and singing are available at \$7.00 for each tape. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add 75¢ extra for each tape. On orders of 6 or more tapes, add only 30¢ extra for each tape. Make checks for Hungarian tapes to the person you order from.

Long Book tapes and Hungarian tapes may be ordered from:

-- NOTICE --

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We're continuing to send used books overseas. Almost daily we receive requests in the mail for Bibles

You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

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

or

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 — 13,890
Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 — 10,812
Third Year — August 1985 thru July 1986 — 18,247
Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 — 23,048
Fifth Year — August 1987 thru July 1988 — 25,969
Sixth Year — August 1988 thru July 1989 — 25,509
Seventh Year — August 1989 thru July 1990 — 25,501
Eighth Year — August 1990 thru July 1991 — 32,677

Bibles Distributed — Ninth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1991 —	2951	2951
September 1991 —	3318	6269
October 1991 —	3634	9903

*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.

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1992
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 8, 1992

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

or

Dennis and Beth Feucht
317 North Third
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-9498

Hungarian tapes ONLY may be ordered from:

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

October 1 marked the 20th year anniversary of the doors opening at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. Bro. Harold Miller (Portland, OR) and Marlene Moser (Fairbury, IL) were admitted on day 1 of operations here. Harold moved from ACHH to Oakwood Estate in 1988, and is now residing at the home on Hazelwood Street in Morton. Marlene Moser is still living here at ACHH, and we are thankful to have her home as she recently spent a month in the hospital where she had a kidney removed.

Two of the original staff of 12 are still working at our facility. Betty Sparks, resident aide, has seen many changes in the past 20 years, but her calm, kindly disposition and job dependability has remained constant. Betty was not familiar with any handicapped people before she began working here. She commented that the predominant learning experience in working at the Home was realizing the many emotional feelings all residents experience and how quickly they know if they are being loved or not. The other 20-year employee is our administrator, Bob Knobloch, who moved to Morton with his family from their farm near Wyoming, IL, to shoulder the awesome responsibilities of managing a new facility for handicapped individuals in 1971. Asked for reflections on the 20-year history of the Home, Bob was quick to ex-

press appreciation for God's abundant provision of funds and a staff to carry out the mission of the Home. We are very thankful also, thankful that God led Bro. Bob to ACHH.

The seed for this project was planted in the early 60's when a few Apostolic Christian parents of handicapped children began talking about their concerns for the future of their children. These concerns were heard by the elder body of the church, who then followed up with a questionnaire to the churches in 1964 inquiring of the need for such a home. With the efforts of many dedicated people, plans were made and ground was broken in the summer of 1970. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18.

On October 1, 1971, there were two residents and a dozen staff members. Today we are serving 100 residents at ACHH and 27 in other homes in the community and the staff has increased to 170.

I wish each of you who have so faithfully supported the Home over the years could hear the expressions of gratitude often conveyed by families of residents. Please continue your prayerful support. It is very encouraging when one visits churches across the land to often hear petitions for the Home's welfare brought to God in prayer.

Those who have birthdays in December when we, as Christians, celebrate our Saviour's birth are: Bryan Streid (8), Christina Otten (9), Diane Baltic (10), Lisa Menold and Delores Wieland (15), Anne Carrescia (30); and at Oakwood: Phil Fehr (18); and at 200 E. Hazelwood: Doug Clauss (23).

The Post Office has asked us to use the following addresses:

Apostolic Christian Home for the
Handicapped
2125 Veterans Road
Morton, IL 61550

Oakwood Estate
2213 Veterans Road
Morton, IL 61550

Give Your Old and New
Address To Your Reporter

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Joan Meister

Our semi-annual board meeting was held November 9. We want to truly thank each brother who serves on this board for their time, talent and prayers on behalf of our Preschool. It is an encouraging time for us at the school and we always look forward to seeing each one again and having them spend the weekend with us here. We trust that the Lord will continue to bless them, and grant unto them wisdom as they make decisions concerning the future of the Preschool.

Nutrition and Thanksgiving are our two themes for the month of November. We appreciate so much being able to teach the origin of Thanksgiving and the realization that all good things come from God. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17. As we practice what we teach, we are truly thankful for the Lord's blessings so far this year. He is faithful and has abundantly blessed us. It is great to be able to trust Him for the future. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6

The Preschool will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29, for the Thanksgiving holidays. We are all looking forward to a small break, and spending time with our families.

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Amy Unsicker

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5:18

As we anticipate Thanksgiving, our hearts often reflect upon all that the Lord has done in our lives, and blessed us with. I am convicted by these words, and realize that too

often, I miss the many blessings, and great joy He has in store for those who abundantly thank and powerfully praise Him, regardless of the situation they find themselves in.

We, here at Gateway Woods, are thanking God for sending us a willing couple to serve as alternate houseparents. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter, along with their two children, Shannon and Kyle (Bluffton, IN) have recently joined our family here. May the Lord bless them as they make their transition here; and may they soon feel right at home. Not only do our board members help us, but their wives do as well. Thanks sisters, for getting the apartment all clean and ready for the Feichters to move into. We also want to recognize and say thanks to the brothers from Bluffton who so generously gave of their time and abilities to help complete the edging along our new paved driveway.

We've been saying a lot of hellos and goodbyes lately. First, we say farewell to houseparent Sis. Susan Getz as she makes her new home with Bro. Tom Waldbeser in Arlington Heights, IL, as they were united in marriage October 20. We will dearly miss her as she touched many lives here.

We are excited at the growth of our foster care program headed up by Sis. Judy Stoller. We are able to license foster homes in Indiana and place children who have been in our on-campus program but who no longer need the structure of the group home setting. Sharon S. has left the East House and is now living in the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Fiechter, our first Bluffton foster home.

We want to wish a warm welcome to Addie P., age 15, to the New House. We also want to welcome Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm back home, as they have returned from a trip to Japan. We hope and trust that the Lord refreshed their bodies, souls and spirits while they were away.

This month we are saying farewell to Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier (Leo) as they retire from their many years of faithful and selfless service here at the Home.

Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma have been helping out at the tome in some way or other since it began and have been directly involved with more children than anyone in the history of Gateway Woods. May the Lord richly bless them for their many labors of love!

As I look around, I see God's creation brimming with the beautiful, rich colors of fall -- golden yellow, burnt orange and mahogany brown. Fall is a time for rejoicing and celebrating life as to grow in what has occurred throughout the year. May we all take the time to soak in the beauty that is around and pour out our hearts in Thanksgiving to our Father above.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Fear thou not; For I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 41:10

Our sincere thanks for the dear elders and families who come to partake in a joyous occasion of an ordination of an elder. On September 22, in a beautiful, but somber service, Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) came to assist our own Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach install Bro. Jon Kokanovich as our new elder. (Our third since moving into our new church in 1978.) Bro. Richard will stay on for another year to assist Bro. Jon.

We pray for God's guidance for Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy. Be assured, you have our prayers, love and understanding in this important undertaking. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31.

A church supper and evening services followed Elder Bro. Jon's ordination.

Many of our Phoenix congregation went to Tucson for the ordination of deacon Bro. Loren Knapp September 29. Our prayers are

with Bro. Loren in these added responsibilities.

Sis. Frances Schrenk and Sis. Esther Harmon are both ill at home. Bro. George Schuster and Sis. Gladys Fisher had eye surgery. Bro. Earl Sanders is under a doctor's care for his heart. Sis. Emma Sanders is in a nursing home. Bro. Nick Knobloch (Sis. Gladys) was in Phoenix for surgery.

Amanda Lynn Frank was born September 26 to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sheri Frank. Ashley welcomes her sister, as do grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Anna Mae Getz and Bro. Ray and Sis. Shirley Frank (all of Morton).

Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger are happy grandparents to little Luke Edward, born October 6 to Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Zollinger (Silverton, OR).

Bro. Loren Schrenk was visiting minister October 13.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Many from our congregation traveled to Phoenix to witness the ordination of Bro. Jon Kokanovich as elder of the Phoenix, Prescott and Tucson churches. Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) will be assisting Bro. Jon in his duties. Our prayers go out on behalf of both of these beloved brothers. Bro. Richard has served as elder to the Tucson church for many, many years. We are so thankful for all the efforts of love, time and energy expended by Richard and his dear wife, Sis. Barbara. Thank you so much and may God richly bless you both. To Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy, we say "God's richest blessings and may much heavenly guidance be yours in the coming years."

The following week many traveled to Tucson to witness the ordination of Bro. Loren Knapp as deacon of our congregation. The day was filled with blessings as we prayed for the Lord's presence. We wish Bro. Loren God's help and guidance as he leads our little church in the times ahead.

Our Sunday school picnic was held October 13. It was a warm day, in the mid 90's, but a lot of

sunshine and cool breezes helped make the day a joyous one.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Marian Petrovic

Bro. Randy and Sis. LaNae Meyer were entrusted with a precious baby boy, Korey Glen. Little Korey was afflicted with Anencephaly, but a miracle took place as Korey was able to come home and bless the lives of his family for over 90 hours before the Lord took Korey back to be with Him in a place where there is no sickness, sorrow, pain or diseases. We extend our sympathy to this dear family and pray that God will comfort them in His loving arms and fill them with His peace.

Our congregation welcomed visiting minister, Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and his wife, Sis. Charlotte. God bless your for faithfully proclaiming His Word!

We welcome Bro. Bill and Sis. Freda Minger to our church family. They have temporarily relocated here from Altadena and are currently residing at 1325 N. Nutmeg, Room #132, Escondido, CA 92026. Bro. Bill was hospitalized a few times this month. May he feel our prayers and God's nearness always.

COLORADO, DENVER
Marlene Leman

There are so many things for which we are thankful and at this time of year when our government sets aside a day and encourages us to think on these things, it behooves us to do just that. Call people you love and let them know you are thankful for their love, do something for the less fortunate to show you are thankful for your plenty, send a card to someone ill and be thankful for your health, take someone to church with you that they may learn of salvation and be thankful that you have that hope and most of all, pray to God to let Him know your deep appreciation for His many, many blessings.

Besides all that, we are thankful for the visits and ministry of

Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH). Also, we are happy that their wives could be with them. May God truly bless them for their service to us.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Mike and Sis. Beth Martin at the death of his grandmother. They were able to travel to Texas for the funeral.

Beginning with the next issue, Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel Huber will be our reporters for the Silver Lining. May God be with them as they take on this responsibility.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Michelle Virkler

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

Psalm 23

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Psalm 27:14

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a

time to refrain from embracing; A time to get and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away; A time to rend and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

The Lord did provide a measure of time for Bro. Emanuel Luginbuhl's family, one in which to savor the wonderful moments, and conversations that would soon be a part of looking back fondly. Although for many, there was much waiting, Bro. Emanuel Luginbuhl passed from this life Friday, September 27. He was the husband of Sis. Florine (Moser) Luginbuhl. He leaves three sons, Bro. Kenneth and Keith (both of Ellington) and Bro. Brian (Tolland); two daughters, Sis. Joanne Elliott and Carol Crohan (both of Tolland); four brothers, Bro. Martin (Vernon) and Bros. Robert, Edward and Rudolph (all of Ellington); four sisters, Sis. Christine Virkler, Adele Trueb and Elizabeth Luginbuhl (Ellington) and Sis. Esther Kupferschmid (Tolland); nine grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Two brothers, Urban and David, died earlier. Bro. Manny was such a Christian example to us all, never complaining, always pushing forward no matter what obstacle came before him. He shall surely be missed not only by his family, but by our dear brothers, sisters and friends.

We were blessed to have in our midst the following ministers this month: Bro. Homer Reineck and wife, Dorothy (Toledo, OH), Bro. Glenn Hackenjos and wife, Kathryn (Altadena, CA), Bro. Harold Schmidgall and wife, Ethel (Grid-ley, IL) and Bro. David Graff and wife, Barbara (Akron, OH).

Sarah Jean was born September 16 to Ross and Robin Luginbuhl. Grandparents are Sis. Charlotte Luginbuhl and Robert and Jean Latvis.

We pray for those who have been under the care of a physician: Bro. Melvin Gerber, Sis. Emma Moser, Bro. John Ruch, Bro. Everett Gerber and Sis. Lydia Luginbuhl.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"And He changeth the times and the seasons."

Daniel 2:21

Our congregation has been enjoying the beautiful leaves and cooler weather of fall by picnicing in some of the nearby national parks.

The Lord has blessed us with many visitors this month. Our guests were from Rockville, CT, Morton, IL, Phoenix, AZ, Indianapolis, IN, Lester and West Bend, IA, Philadelphia, PA, Sabetha, KS and Huntington, WV. We are especially thankful for brothers willing to be used to preach the Word. This month our ministers were Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Bro. John Bollier (Leo, IN).

The last weekend in October many of our congregation will travel to Lester, IA, for the testimonies and baptisms of Ed and Ginny Stoll.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, may we all remember the purpose of the day is to "Offer unto God thanksgiving," Psalm 50:14, not to see who can cook or eat the most.

Services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located on Route 7, about one mile west of I-495. Many from the area meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. For more information, assistance of just to let us know you will be in the area, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Ed Stoll (703) 730-0248.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Terri Huber**

The heat has broken and we are enjoying some lovely "fall" weather. It is so refreshing! Windows are flung open at every opportunity.

Many thanks to our visiting ministers, Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT), as well as Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). God

has blessed us through their efforts.

About half of our congregation joined Sarasota and North Fort Myers for a blessed weekend of fellowship at Lakewood Retreat. Some of us were momentarily dismayed at the "rustic" cabins, while others had "motel-style" accommodations. The forest-like setting was too beautiful for words to describe, as was the large group singing. It was a great opportunity to get to know our brothers and sisters, as well as the kids and teens that joined us. We are looking forward to doing it again next autumn!

It is hard to believe that by the time this is printed, the holiday season will be well underway, beginning with Thanksgiving and continuing with the activities and events we associate with December and Christmas! We are already beginning to see benches filling on Sunday as the winter visitors arrive.

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

Again in this season, we are looking forward to seeing our winter guests. We welcome all to come and enjoy our warm winter months and share with us His love.

Bro. Art and Sis. Marie Keller and son, Mike, along with Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rae Steffen and Lindsey enjoyed recently the church retreat at La Wood Retreat. A special thanks to Bro. Bill and Sis. Beth Roscher (Sarasota, FL) for a blessed weekend.

We have three young friends attending college this year. They are Brett Stoller, 1108 E. Southwest, 14th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601; Chip Stoller, ERAV, P. O. Box 2658, Daytona, FL 32114; and Corey Keller, P. O. Box 47, Warner Southern College, 5301 U.S. Hwy. 27 South, Lake Wales, FL 33853. We wish our young friends God's blessings and protection.

I read this morning Proverbs 4 and in verses 13 and 14 how fitting this is for the youth and the rest of us.

Since our fellowship is small in the summer season, Bro. Art Keller and Bro. Marvin Steffen have set

up a once a month fellowship dinner at a restaurant. This is on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 3:30 p.m. Thanks, brothers, for a wonderful way of spending group fellowship.

This month Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein and wife, Sis. Billie (Fort Lauderdale, FL) were with us. So uplifting was the message we heard. May we give more praise to God. Like Bro. Bud pointed out in song 93, "Trust In God," the words "Thine and not my will be done." Do we remember Thine and not our will because He knows what is best for us alot better than anyone else.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Gala Gerber - Suellen Ott**

God's hand continues to bless the land! Not only is He blessing the land, but He continues to bless our lives.

As the trees up north bring forth their many shades of color, and as the locust begin to sing their song and the "chill" finds its way into the air, we here in Sarasota are experiencing much beauty also. The birds sing all day long not fearing the heat, the citrus trees are yielding their abundance of fruit, and likewise there is a coolness that is so refreshing!

A blessing we look forward to and we are already experiencing is . . . one by one our brothers and sisters are returning to reside with us for the winter months. Just as a mature leaf finds its way to the ground, we have the opportunity of viewing each leaf or "snowbird" on its descent. What a beautiful picture it all makes, and to witness how God's love still abides.

We are thankful and appreciate the opportunity of having Bro. Willard Scheiler and his wife, Susan, with us in the past weeks. Truly we were blessed by his willingness to serve.

Listening to the brotherhood conference tapes has been a blessing to all who take the opportunity to listen. A reminder of how we each must continue to pray for the elder brethren and as a church for one another.

We Florida churches had a beau-

tiful and blessed weekend together in October. The entire weekend was such a blessing and filled with fellowship in praise and song. We truly are a blessed people!

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL), Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA). We pray that they are richly rewarded for their willingness to bring forth God's Word to us.

We are happy to welcome Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz and their four children from the Detroit, MI, congregation. We pray the Lord's blessings on them as they adjust to their new home.

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

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Carol Steffen

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 107:1. We are so thankful to God for placing a desire in each of our visitors' hearts to come worship with us. In sincere appreciation and humbleness, we thank each one who made the effort to visit us and minister unto us. On September 29, we were blessed when Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) came to minister unto us. He brought along 35 others from Forrest to make a very special day! Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) ministered unto us on a Wednesday evening. We certainly appreciate the Elgin ministers who so unselfishly give of themselves. On October 6, Bradford sent two ministers, Bros. Nathan Stoller and Ray Ehnle, providing another blessed day of fellowship! Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) came October 13, so that Bro. Dean could be out of town. Our many thanks to all.

Our Belvidere congregation is

rejoicing with Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene Jepson on the birth of their baby boy, Ryan Allen. Eric and Emily are really excited, along with grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Millie Jepson (Belvidere) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Carol Fehr (West Bend, IA). He is our first baby born in our congregation.

We are also rejoicing with Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg Anliker who were married October 13 in Congerville. Their parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville). We welcome them to our small congregation. They are the first couple to actually live in the town of Belvidere from our congregation!

Attendance this month has ranged from 32 to 79 people. There are now seven couples, three singles, and 24 children who regularly attend for a total of 41 people.

We appreciate each one who comes to worship with us. Directions to the church are as follows: from Bypass 20, take Stone Quarry Road north to Lincoln Avenue, turn right, then make an immediate left onto Carpenter Street; from Business 20, take Appleton Avenue south to Lincoln Avenue, then make an immediate left onto Carpenter Street. The church address is: 525 Carpenter Street, Belvidere, IL 61008. For more information, call Bro. Dean Steffen at (815) 568-6086 or Bro. Jim Jepson at (815) 332-9793.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Carolyn Fischer
Tudy Schmied

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Genesis 1:1

I often wonder why some people do not believe there is a God. At this time of the year I look around and behold the beauty of the fall colors with the trees turning many different shades of color. When the sun shines on them it enhances the beauty of God's creation and His power.

We thank visiting ministers Bro.

Wayne Laubscher and Bro. Tom Stock (both from Cissna Park, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this month.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Les and Barb Fehr

On October 13 we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Leann Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) and Bro. David Berchtold (Bro. Lavern and Sis. Joan, Princeville). We wish David and Leann God's grace for a lifetime of happiness.

Ministers who visited us this month were Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), John Hartman (Fairbury), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Walt Herrmann (Princeville), Jim Vierling (Eureka) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville). We thank each one for their part in bringing us the Word of God.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Deb Knobloch (Daryl) who has been unable to assemble with us for the past several months due to complications with her pregnancy. We miss her and are looking forward to seeing her in church again soon.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Kim Walder

Our congregation was blessed this month with hearing the testimony and witnessing the baptism of our dear Sis. Jami Steinbeck on October 12 and 13. Ushering a new lamb into the flock is always a joyous and uplifting occasion. We had several ministers visiting to share in the services. We want to thank Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger and Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington) also visited this month for Wednesday evening Bible study.

Our prayers are with Eric and Nancy Schieler as they have begun their walk with the Lord in repentance. May they build a firm foundation on the solid rock.

Jeff and Janice McDonald have been blessed with a son, Spencer David, September 27. Spencer has

a brother, Tyler, and his grandparents are Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Anne Young (Cissna Park) and Jean McDonald (Sidney).

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder have a new grandson. The little bundle, Andrew Joseph, was born to Dave and Kathy Welter (Glenview) October 8.

The church received its annual cleaning this month. It was a fruitful day with everyone working together in harmony to maintain the Lord's house.

The annual Sunday school wienner roast and hay rack ride was held at the Dennis Manger's home. The children and adults enjoyed an evening of fellowship around the fire and singing on the racks.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

I know you think I spend my life in the car. Though that is not quite true, I do seem to receive numerous insights there. In a moment you will definitely wonder what that says about my driving. I was attending a conference in Michigan and planning to stay with a special brother and sister and their family. I had the directions but had not paid more attention to them than to get out of the Chicago city traffic and the expressways from then on. When I stopped for gas, I checked the directions and started north again. But, oh, no -- I realized I was supposed to get off at Exit 52 and I was at Exit 73. I turned around as quickly as possible and zoomed back the other way. I carefully followed the directions, but not one of the signs was right -- and as I passed a small feed store (thankfully open at 11:00 at night), I thought, "I'll come back here and ask if I need to." Of course, I needed to. I had missed a small but crucial route number change on the instructions. The farmers were quite nice, I made it to my destination, and I only used an extra 1½ hours of gas and time. But I felt I could gain insight from it all -- in fact, going out of town when I had not yet written this down, I took the wrong fork, as if to remind me of the importance of pro-

cessing my "getting lost" experience.

Certainly we have our spiritual directions, and I am mightily convinced we need to look at them more often and much more thoroughly, ahead of time, than I checked my set to Michigan. A small misreading could lead to much loss of time and danger. (I was fortunate the farmers were: a) there and b) helpful.) I had made a logical inference, but it was based on an incorrect reading of the directions. Even taking a fork in the road which seems to be the only choice instead of continuing on a straight course can cause grave difficulties. May we believe and study our directions carefully so that our journey is not beset with more difficulties and so that we reach our destination safely, spiritually intact.

We were so uplifted by the visits of our ministering brothers: Mike Rieker (Peoria), Art Baurer (Princeville), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). Bro. Ray and our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann were the instruments of the Lord in sharing communion with us Saturday, October 12. We can never overrate the importance of partaking of the cup and the loaf as a united church and family. We are so thankful for the Lord's faithfulness in reminding us, that we may continually be mindful of the cost of our salvation.

We joyfully welcome Bro. Tom (Chicago/Cissna Park) and Sis. Susan Getz Waldbeser, a newly-begun Christian family, who were married in Remington, IN, October 20. With much gratitude, we look forward to their joint contribution to our church family as they together learn and grow and give. May we in some measure be useful to them, by our prayers and by our love.

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom?" James 3:13. The Lord's timing is perfect. In this time of harvest, He found another soul ready to turn home. Bro. Karl Lehman, faithful brother and devoted hus-

band, died October 21, on his 58th wedding anniversary. Born in 1907, he had come to Chicago at the age of 20, married Sis. Minnie in 1933, and was baptized with her in 1944. He is survived by Sis. Minnie; his brother, Eugene, and wife, LaVirra; nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and a host of spiritual children. "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers . . ." I Corinthians 4:15. Bro. Karl was not given to many words, yet he preached a sermon by his life of steadfast belief. As usher, one brother remembered hearing Bro. Karl saying, "You have to be there; they (on the women's side) need your presence." Bro. Karl was truly a presence, serving on the building committee and as trustee. For many, many years he was the church treasurer. His concern for the physical aspects of our church building grew out of his desire for excellence and order. "Let all things be done decently and in order." I Corinthians 14:40. We are thankful for the pillar that he was and the memories that we have. When Bro. Rich Schurter died, Bro. Karl stepped in as our "unofficial greeter" where Bro. Rich had been before and he gave public encouragement when it was requested at converts' testimonies in place of Bro. Rich. Now it is time for another to take up the mantle that Bro. Karl has laid down. As we think of Bro. Karl's single-minded devotion to his Lord, his church, and his beloved wife, may we be tender to the Spirit for whatever we may have yet left undone.

We send all our support and love and prayers to Sis. Minnie as she waits for their later reunion in heaven. To Eugene and LaVirra, especially for their extra-special love and help for Bro. Karl and Sis. Minnie, we extend our thanks -- and more love and prayers than we can count. May the Lord whisper comfort into their listening hearts.

At conferences time in Michigan, I was told by the natives that I had missed the peak of the colors by one week, but I didn't mind. The blazing and burnished reds and golds that I saw against the bright

blues of the Thornapple, Grand and Kalamazoo Rivers were delightful, so that for once I appreciated rather than playing "poor me." I am sure that had a great deal to do with my host and hostess, true 169-hour-a-week Christians, who made me feel as though I had done them a privilege by staying there -- when I was, of all people, most richly blessed. The older I grow, the more I am in awe of my grandfather's words: "Go ahead and make plans, but don't be surprised if the Lord changes them." In my case, I had no idea how I could take such a trip at such a time, but every part of it was something I needed. And in this, another even-more-stressful week, He stopped us in the midst of busyness to remember our purpose here in and through Him -- the reason for the time we are given.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Bev Knapp - Karol Stock

Tho' we may travel the valley of death,
 Jesus will save us from harm.
 Tho' we be weary we soon shall rest;
 Open Thy merciful arms.
 Do not be fearful lest ye be late;
 Jesus has called and His sheep must not wait.

Oh, what a joy to be traveling home;
 Open Thy merciful arms.

Our congregation was saddened by the death of Bro. Vernon Martin, 60, who passed away September 17 at the Danville Veterans Administration Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Rosie; four sons, Bro. Randy (Sis. Patty, Hoopston), Bro. Jay (Sis. Dawn, Bloomington), Greg (East Lynn) and David (Fort Benning, GA); three sisters, Sis. Lois Belsley (Bro. Ben, Detroit, MI), Sis. Beulah Funk (Bro. Leo, Morton) and Sis. Arlene Stock (Bro. Les, Cissna Park); three brothers, Bro. Richard Martin (Sis. Aldine, Sarasota, FL), Edward Martin (Ruth, Morton) and Bro. William Martin (Sis. Jane, Morton); and four grandchildren. We

certainly extend our sympathy to this family and pray that God will be near and comfort them.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Kevin Knapp and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington). We thank both of these brothers for coming and sharing the Word of Life with us.

Those who spent some time in the hospital are Sis. Clara Vogel, Sis. Elsie Ehman, Jeffrey Beer, all medical. Bro. Harry Knapp and Sis. Louella Hari were also surgical patients. May God bless each one with renewed health and strength.

Our Bible class students and teachers attended Youth Fellowship the evening of September 22 at Washington. We pray for our young people that they might be drawn closer to God and to our fellowship through these evenings.

Thank you to all who remembered us with cards, prayers, words of comfort, and the many kind deeds and acts of love during the illness and death of our loved one. We appreciate it all so much.

The Vernon Martin Family

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God . . ." Psalms 95:2, 3. As we observe Thanksgiving Day, let us "come before His presence" with a heart truly thankful for all that God has done for us.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Joanne Roth - Myra Steffen

"Thank ye the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, For He is gracious, His mercy it endureth evermore . . . Bless ye the Lord, O bless ye the Lord! My soul remember, His goodness and His gifts bestowed on thee . . ."

Hymns of Zion #245

May we each have thankful hearts, not only at Thanksgiving, but each day of the year, as we consider God's abundant mercy and blessings.

On October 13 we rejoiced with

Sis. Peg Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene) and Bro. Brian Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie, Elgin) as they were united in marriage. We will miss Sis. Peg in Congerville, but wish them God's blessings and guidance as they begin their life together in the Belvidere, IL, congregation.

Henry, Rueben and Amber welcomed home a new brother, Joel Matthew. We rejoice with Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily Wettstein at the birth of their new son. Grandparents are Clarence Schlipf and Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eureka).

Hospitalized recently were Sis. Nancy Knapp (Bro. Jerry) and Ruth Miller. May God grant His healing hand.

Visiting ministers sharing God's Word with us were Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere). May God's Word continue to come forth by the inspiration of His Spirit.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

Autumn is a time of frosty mornings, golden noons, Autumn is a time of sunset hues and harvest moons . . . Autumn is a time to share with friends and families, And Autumn is a time for giving thanks for all of these.

We heartily welcome back home our beloved Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen from an extensive trip. We are thankful for God's protection; may He bless their efforts.

September 27 marked the wedding day of William L. Schambach Jr. and Josey Capehart (Sycamore).

Also, Mary Jane Schambach and Lance Gladwin, both of Elgin, exchanged wedding vows October 5.

Sis. Peg Banwart (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Brian Anliker (Elgin) were united in marriage October 13 and became one in the Lord.

We wish God's love and mercy upon these dear couples.

Elsie Schock, 89, who resided at Apostolic Christian Resthaven, was relieved by the beckoning of God, and could close her eyes in death October 10. May God comfort her loved ones: Lillian Bohlin (Wallace), Elizabeth Rodney (Richard), Rudy Schock (Wisconsin) and many grandchildren.

"Then He shall come gently, --
Lead us by His hand From our
weary journey To the Father-land.
There when strife is over, Praise to
God we'll bring, With the right-
eous chorus "Hallelujah" sing!"

Zion's Harp #149

We are thankful for loved ones who could return home after hospital care. These include Sisters Leola Schambach (Bro. Charles), Gertrude Kachelmuss (Mayo Clinic), Sandra Rudin and Leah Kuschmirz. Praise God also for protection upon Bro. Earl and Sis. Kay Steffen who escaped serious injury in an automobile accident.

The Lord again inspired beloved ones to teach us the heavenly way. This past month our visitors included Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, I). May God bless you.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Leman

Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein welcomed Ellen Sue into their hearts and home September 18. Welcoming Ellen to the family are Cynthia, Samuel, Edward, Christina, Curtis, Keith and Andrew. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield) and Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eureka).

Bro. Brian, Sis. Tina and Keith Wiegand welcomed Kaylene Marie September 28. Kaylene's grandparents are Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin and Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta Wiegand, all of Eureka.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn Martin welcomed Angela Lynn October 8. Angela's sisters are Bethany, Jennifer and Rachel. Grand-

parents are Sis. Verna Wettstein (late Bro. Bob) and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen Martin, all of Eureka. May God's blessings be upon all these families as they strive to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

We were thankful to hear the testimonies of Darrell and Rachel Stoller (children of Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie) and Duane Rocke (Bro. Curtis and Sis. Beth) September 27. The following day we witnessed their baptism and welcomed them into the fold as our sister and brothers-in-the-Lord. We are thankful Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign) could be with us for this very important work. We pray that many more would come and taste and see while the door of grace is yet open.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Earl Gerber (Forrest), Ken Dietz (Bradford), Virgil Metzger (Chicago) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). May God bless the words that were spoken and may we apply them to our lives.

Our hospital patient this past month was Bro. John Hartter (Sis. Bev). Thankful that his stay was short and we pray that God will grant renewed health.

Our dear Sis. Anna Hartter, having reached the age of 100 years, passed away October 14. Her husband, Bro. Samuel, passed away in 1976. Surviving are three children: Sis. Martha Grusy (Bro. Alf, Eureka), Jane Hartter (East Peoria) and Calvin Hartter (Eureka). May God comfort their hearts in the loss of their dear mother.

Another dear couple, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline Rocke, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless them as they continue on this earthly pathway hand in hand. We sincerely wish them the Lord's continued blessings.

Thank you: We want to thank all our friends and brethren for every prayer, card and gift of love we were remembered with during Virgil's illness and to make our

50th anniversary a blessing. Pray God will bless all of you.

Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline Rocke We wish Lisa Carroll and Ben Wettstein the Lord's blessings as they were married October 5. Their parents are John and Barb Carroll (Congerville) and Dale and Sis. Freidora Wettstein (Eureka).

Thank you: I would like to thank everyone for all of the thoughts, prayers, cards, visits and words of encouragement since my accident. It has all been appreciated very much. May God bless you.

Sis. Dianne Crawford

"Count your many blessings, name them one by one . . ." Hymns of Zion #116. What a blessed and fortunate people we are for God has surely blessed us each and every one, especially with His wondrous plan of salvation that He offers freely to all. As we commemorate this Thanksgiving season, may we reflect upon the countless blessings He has given us and may we strive to be a more thankful person.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

GOD BLESS YOU THIS THANKSGIVING

As bountiful as fruitful fields,
as wide as skies above,
As deep and true and endless
as our Heavenly Father's love --
May the blessings of Thanksgiving
and all the whole year through
Be as boundless and unending
as our Father's care for you!

We were glad to hear from visiting ministers, Bros. Edward Knecht (Silverton, OR), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), David Graf (Akron, OH), William Emch (Lamont, KS), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bruce Leman (Roanoke). Our gratitude is expressed to them for sharing God's Word with us.

It is a blessed joy when hearts are bonded together as a God-made union in faith and love. Joining hand and heart September 29, Sis.

Julie Young and Bro. Mark Maibach began to walk the path of life together. Their parents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie Young and Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach (Smithville, OH). We certainly wish them God's blessings as they establish their home together.

Becky Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) and Perry Biggerstaff (Jim and Patsy Holland-McLeansburro) have announced their engagement. We pray for God's blessings as they plan for a December 6 wedding.

Rick Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) has moved to Kansas to work as a carpenter. He is living with his aunt and uncle, Clemens and Sis. Marjorie Edelman. I'm sure he would appreciate a letter. His address is: Route #4, Box 167, Sabetha, KS 66534.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Myrna Moser (Bro. Lloyd) as she recovers at home from her time spent in the hospital. May God comfort and console her and her family during this difficult time.

Also hospitalized were Ollie Steidinger and Sis. Della Meiss (Bro. Eli). Our prayers truly are extended to each one that suffers.

"I want to thank everyone for making my 90th birthday so special. I truly enjoyed all the cards, flowers and gifts. May God richly bless each one for their deeds of love and kindness."

Sis. Lena Zehr

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider**

"Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

Psalms 100:3, 4

As our nation celebrates Thanksgiving, let us remember who we are, who God is and how

we have Him to thank for all our blessings. We want to praise Him with our lives.

As a congregation, we have experienced many and varied blessings again this past month. We appreciate the blessing of ministers who stand and preach the Word each Sunday. We thank Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley) and Bro. Kenny Weerts (Cissna Park) for visiting us and sharing the duties of ministering with our home ministers.

A special blessing has come to the home of Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schmidgall, Tami Sue, who was born October 17. She joins brothers, Trent and Scott. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Kathryn Fehr (Fairbury) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall.

Bro. Meredith and Sis. Leona Ricketts and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Doris Koehl have experienced the special blessing of sharing 50 years of married life. We rejoice with them as they have reached this milestone in their lives.

Jennifer Ebach and Douglas Dierkes have just begun their married life as they were united in marriage October 5. Their parents are Bro. Lyle and Gloria Ebach and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Dierkes. May they experience the blessings of the Lord in their union.

It has been a blessing as we have listened to the tapes of the annual conference. They gave us much food for thought.

A blessing we may sometimes take for granted is the brothers that teach our children in Sunday school each Sunday. We want to give our support to Bro. Jim Koehl and Bro. Alan Gerber as they will be starting 10-year terms in this important work. May they ever depend on the Spirit to guide them.

Along with all the blessings, there are those who have experienced sickness, sorrow or unique situations.

Helen Fehr (William) and Sis. Louise Honegger (Bro. Perry) needed hospitalization. May they feel God's nearness.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Elmer and Bro. Harvey Ifft and Sis. Alice Lehmann in the passing

of their brother, Albert Ifft (St. Petersburg, FL). May God comfort their hearts.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our retired Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman and his wife as he and other brethren have been in India working for the Lord.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

Our prayers are constant for Sis. Lisa Huette (Kurt and Sis. Jane), Sis. Jacki Knobloch (Bro. Dean) and Sis. Karen Wiegand (Bro. Gary) as they undergo treatments and attempt to recover from their illness and pain. Sis. Barb Brim very lovingly submitted the following words of encouragement for any of us who feel down and maybe need to be lifted up.

This poem was written for a very dear aunt of mine who passed to her reward several months ago. During her life here on this earth she suffered from quite a few physical ailments and it was with great joy she looked forward to her heavenly reward. She said this poem gave her comfort. Maybe it will help someone else who needs to hear these words.

I know you wonder why sometimes,
God keeps you on this earth.
You feel your life has reached
beyond the limits of its worth.

But when we look into His Word,
we know without a doubt;
There is a season for all things,
it's what our lives are about.

You may bring sunshine to some
one
you do not even know,
Or by your loving Christian ways,
bring light where darkness goes.

You may have opened up the doors
of someone else's heart;
So they could find the way of life,
and make a brand new start.

So many people are amazed
at what you have been through;
And still you are a shining star,
a child of His so true.

So when your faith in Him is shaken,
remember our reward;
For there is peace and joy abounds,
our home is heavenward.

By His grace,
Sis. Barb Brim

We were happy for Jenny Knapp as she gave birth to a healthy little girl and named her Faith Noel. Jenny's parents are Dave and Sis. Becky.

Thanks to Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) for ministering to us and for sharing the weekend with their families and us.

A note of thanks:

My deepest thanks and gratitude to our children and grandchildren, relatives and many friends for their prayer, flowers, cards, gifts and visits while I was in the hospital and recuperating at home. May God bless you all.

Sis. Norma Bauman

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

Recently, a visiting minister left us with a profound thought: "Our church is not perfect because I am in it." Each of us can say that. We are clothed with flesh and blood, and are imperfect. This should not deter us, however, from striving for God's standards of holiness. The Word is clear in its idealism that the church is to be adorned as a bride "without spot or wrinkle or any such thing."

As the church strives for perfection, each member is instructed to put on charity which is the bond of perfectness. Also, the Lord said, "Love one another as I have loved you."

Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) was a guest speaker Wednesday evening, October 16. He spoke to our special semi-monthly gathering of Sunday school youngsters in grades five through eight.; His topic was "Peer Pressure," and he made many excellent points that were upbuilding to the children. He challenged them to draw "a line in the sand"

regarding morals, and not cross over it.

On October 20, the Bible class entertained the Champaign and Bloomington high school Bible classes. In the afternoon lesson, Bro. Earl Ringger exhorted the students to look to God for life's direction. He emphasized how much we all need divine direction. Deploring the current trend of individualism and "do your own thing," he remarked there is really no such thing as "doing your own thing." A person either does God's thing, or Satan's thing.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller are the parents of Kristin LaNae, born September 28. Awaiting her at home were Rachael, 13, Brad, 12, and Lisa, 9. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie Stoller (Gridley).

On October 20, the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Barry Ehresman and Sis.s Joy Blunier (Bloomington) was made. Her parents are Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier (Forrest); his parents are Roy and Gladys Ehresman (Gridley). We rejoice with them in their marriage intentions.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

On September 22, it was announced that our Bro. Joe Zimmerman was retiring from the pulpit ministry. We are thankful for his 24 years of serving us so faithfully. We wish to express our appreciation to him, and his wife, Sis. Millie, for the labors of love and time spent in serving our congregation. We all had an opportunity to personally express our gratitude to him and his family at a church potluck in his honor. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Hebrews 6:10

We wish to thank the ministers and their families that visited us this month. They were Bros. Eric Givens (Princeville, IL) and DeWayne Dill (Champaign, IL). How

precious is the tradition that encourages visiting among our churches.

Bro. Joe Zimmerman served as a good example to us all, with his special gift of ministering to the sick and aged. let us not forget our loved ones who are shut-in or hospitalized; or those that have lost loved ones. Let us remember to pray for them, visit them, and meet their needs in whatever ways we can.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Jim David

Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Hinrichsen experienced God's miracle of life September 18 with the birth of their third child, Jay Alan. Jay was welcomed home by his two older brothers, Todd and Steven. Jay's grandparents are Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Ann Maurer (Bloomington, IL).

The Peoria church had three visiting ministers this month: Bro. Curt Heimer (Alto, MI), Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN).

Our hospital patients this month have been Anna Traub, Sis. Caroline Schmidgall, Sis. Bertha Eisenmann and Sis. JoAnn Koehl. Sis. JoAnn sends this note of thanks: "I wish to thank everyone for all the cards, gifts and prayers while I was hospitalized. In Christian love, JoAnn Koehl."

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of Sis. Louise Stickling, Edwin Gehrig and Carolyn Kuck, who passed away within the last month. The family of Sis. Louise Stickling sends this note of appreciation: "We want to thank all who helped us during our dear mother and grandmother's illness and death. Your prayers, cards, meals and loving support were so very much appreciated. May our Lord reward you all for your kindness."

Nathan Hoerr, the son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr, was married August 10 to Joanie Sanford (daughter of Bill and Frances Sanford, Urbana, IL).

Bro. Walt and Sis. Hazel Geyer celebrated their 45th wedding an-

niversary in August, and extend the following words of thanks: "It was such a pleasant surprise to receive a great many cards for our 45th wedding anniversary. We would like to sincerely thank all that remembered us with the lovely cards."

Several months ago, we mentioned that Bro. Steve Joos, formerly of Peoria and now residing in Poseyville, IN, would appreciate receiving some mail. However, we incorrectly listed his mailing address. In the interest of accurate reporting and good journalism, we print this correction: Bro. Steve's mailing address is P. O. Box 372, Poseyville, IN 47633. (Bro. Steve will appreciate this correction, since he is a journalist!)

A THANKSGIVING

For summer rain, and winter's sun,
For autumn breezes crisp and
sweet;
For labors doing, to be done,
And labors all complete;
For April, May and lovely June,
For bud, and bird, and berried vine;
For joys of morning, night and
noon,
My thanks, dear Lord, are Thine!

For loving friends on every side;
For children full of joyous glee;
For all the blessed heavens wide,
And for the sounding sea;
For mountains, valleys, forests
deep;
For maple, oak, and lofty pine;
For rivers on their seaward sweep,
My thanks, dear Lord, are Thine!

For light and air, for sun and shade,
For merry laughter and for cheer;
For music and the glad parade
Of blessings through the year;
For all the fruitful earth's increase,
For home, and life, and love divine,
For hope, and faith, and perfect
peace,
My thanks, dear Lord, are Thine!
John Kendrick Bangs

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

We appreciate and were thankful for our visiting ministers this

month, Bros. Don Wagenbach (Washington), Earl Ringger (Gridley), Jay Rinckenberger (Goodfield), Doyle Frauhtiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park). May God richly bless them for sharing God's Word with us.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." (John 14:27). Krista Scholl (Bro. Robert and Sis. Arlene) and Jane Knobloch (Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances) were announced to give their testimony of faith October 26. May God guide and direct them each day of their life.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife."

Ephesians 5:31

We wish God's richest blessings on the engagement of Sis. Keri Hermann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann) and Bro. Darin Blunier (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce) which was made known October 15.

We are happy to welcome Sis. Leann Berchtold to our congregation. Bro. David and Sis. Leann were married October 13 at Bradford. Their parents are Bro. Lavern and Sis. Joan Berchtold and Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress (Bradford). May God richly bless this marriage in the Lord.

We extend our congratulations to Bro. John and Sis. Lillian Elsasser who recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. May God bless them with good health and more years together.

Happy grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Virginia Streitmatter. Their daughter, Dawn, and Scott Schick were blessed with a baby girl. Also, Fred and Sis. Esther Schafer, their daughter, Sis. Judy and Bro. Bill Longcor (Milford, IN) were blessed with a boy.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Katherine Baer (hip). She had spent time in the hospital a short time ago. We pray for God's healing powers.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (II Timothy 4:7) Our dear Sis. Elizabeth Stoller,

mother of our dear Elder Bro. Joe, has gone to be with the Lord where there will be no more bodily afflictions on October 17. She married Joseph Stoller January 16, 1912. He died June 14, 1947, leaving her a widow for 44 years. She is the last survivor of her family reaching the age of 100 July 28, 1991. Our sympathy and prayers go out to her beloved family, Eldere Bro. Joe (Sis. Emily), Bro. Vernon (Sis. Bernice), Bro. Foren (Sis. Dorothy), all of our Princeville congregation, Bro. Nathan (Sis. Martha), Sis. Violet Elsasser (Bro. William), Sis. Lucille Endress (Bro. John), all from the Bradford congregation, Sis. Geralene Ringger (Elder Bro. Edwin, Gridley) and Richard (Gravois Mills, MO). She leaves 34 grandchildren and 104 great-grandchildren. May God be your comfort and may you cherish the many memories of your dear mother as she reflected a Godly woman clothed with humility with a meek and quiet spirit. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." (Proverbs 31:10)

Thank You: I want to thank everyone for remembering me while in the hospital, for your prayers, telephone calls, flowers, beautiful cards, gifts and food. Many thanks to my family also, your kindness and love will always be remembered. God bless you all. In humble love,

Helen Baer

Thank You: The brothers, sisters and families of Jacob Menold wish to thank all who have sent cards, gifts and flowers in his memory. The many prayers in his behalf are much appreciated. God bless you all.

The Menolds

Thank You: We would like to thank our children and grandchildren for providing a special 50th wedding anniversary celebration for us. The memories from that evening are like golden treasures which we'll always hold forever in our hearts. We also want to thank our family and friends for the cards, gifts and most of all for your love, support and friendship through the

years. May God bless each one of you and keep you in His care.

Lovingly,
John and Lillian Elsasser

A MESSAGE OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, God, for everything --
the big things and the small,
For "every good gift comes from
God" --

the giver of them all --
And all too often we accept
without any thanks or praise
The gifts God sends as blessings
each day in many ways,
And so at this Thanksgiving time
we offer up a prayer
To thank you, God, for giving us
a lot more than our share . . .
And help us to remember
that the key to life and living
Is to make each prayer a prayer of
thanks
and every day Thanksgiving.

Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Cathy Hohulin - Annie Hoffman

" . . . let us offer the sacrifice of
praise to God continually, that is,
the fruit of our lips giving thanks
to his name."

Hebrews 13:15

We were thankful to have Bro.
Wes Knapp (Goodfield) with us for
our monthly Bible study. He spoke
on the subject of overcoming dis-
couragement.

Our family sing was held Octo-
ber 6, and we especially enjoyed
the hymns sung by our own high
school students, Aaron Hoffman,
Ben Luginbuhl, Cindy Luginbuhl
and Michelle Gastman.

Bro. Lenny Martin and Sis.
Lynne Hohulin were united in mar-
riage October 13. Their parents are
Bro. Lyle and Sis. Mary Lou Mar-
tin and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Shirley
Hohulin. We appreciated having
Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Phila-
delphia, PA) with us that day.

Our hospital patients last month
were Justin Knepp (John and
Jackie), Sis. Fannie Zimmerman
and Sam Bradle.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Carolyn Bolliger Marsha Koch

We thank Bros. Dale Frank
(Oakville, IA) and Dewayne Dill
(Champaign) for coming and shar-
ing the Word of God with us.

Bro. Kyle and Sis. Tanya Dill
had a baby girl, Kylie Lynn, Sep-
tember 21. May God grant them
wisdom and love as they start their
family. Grandparents are Bro. Ken-
neth and Sis. Sandy Dill and Archie
and Jacki Martin (Hopedale).

Our sympathy goes to Sis. He-
len Michel (Bro. Paul) on the pass-
ing of her father, Bro. Chris Gerst
(Oakville, IA).

Sis. Minnie Sauder was hospi-
talized this month and is now re-
siding at Restmor. We wish her
God's comforting and healing
Spirit.

This last month we were privi-
leged to listen to the conference
tapes. May the Lord bless each of
our ministers and elders for all that
they do for us and for all the time
they spend on our behalf.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Jan Sigafus - Rita Menold

"To every thing there is a sea-
son, and a time to every purpose
under the heaven: A time to be
born, and a time to die; a time to
plant, and a time to pluck up that
which is planted; A time to kill,
and a time to heal; a time to break
down, and a time to build up; A
time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to
dance; . . ."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

Two more families have been
blessed with new little bundles
from heaven! Morgan Joy was born
to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine
(Wettstein) Rocke. Jenna Christine
was born to Scott and Dawn (Stre-
itmatter) Schick.

Our prayers and deepest sym-
pathy are shared with our Sis. Sue
Ruppert as her brother, James, was
tragically killed in a farm accident.

"Jesus know thy sorrow,
Knows thine every care;
Knows thy deep contrition,

Hears thy feeblest prayers;
Do not fear to trust Him,
Tell Him all thy grief,
Cast on Him thy burden.
He will bring relief."

Hymns of Zion #74

Bro. Elmer Banwart and Sis.
Lorene Wiegand have returned
home after recent hospitalizations
and wish to express their thanks.

"During my recent surgery, we
have been recipients of innumera-
ble kindnesses and prayers. Our
heavenly Father knows each one
who has been so kind and will
surely bless. Our family and I
thank you most sincerely."

Bro. Elmer Banwart

"I wish to express my sincere
thanks to the ministers for their
visits and prayers. It was much
appreciated. Also thanks to every-
one that sent cards and gifts while
I was in the hospital. It was all
very much appreciated. May God
bless you for your kindness."

Sis. Lorene Wiegand

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Jill Frauhiger - Gwen Kipfer

"But my God shall supply all
your need according to his riches
in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

We pray for God's healing power
for those hospitalized this month.
This includes Bro. Millard Aeschli-
man (Sis. Alice), Bro. Clarence Stef-
fen (Sis. Frieda) and David Wable
(Arlen and Jeannie).

May God bless Bro. Dean and
Sis. Julie Tonner with their new
little son, Clayton Dean, born Oc-
tober 19. Clayton joins a brother,
Trevor, at home. We rejoice with
grandparents, Bro. Gary and Sis.
Diann Tonner and Bro. Doyle and
Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bluffton
North). Born September 29 was
Audry Page, daughter of Bro. Cris
and Sis. Becky Stucky. Proud
grandparents are Bro. Steve and
Sis. Carol Stucky and Cathy Pertel.
Also born September 24 was Jon-
athan Chase, born to Bro. John and

Sis. Sue Kipfer and Howard and Judy Hess and Leland and Bernice Miller. Jonathan joins a sister, Kayla Charlene at home. First-time parents, Kerry and Penny Frauhofer, graciously welcome Andrea Marie into their home. We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose Frauhofer.

We once again want to offer a special thank you to Bro. Lynn Steiglit (Leo) for so unselfishly giving of himself and sharing God's wonderful message with us.

Our deepest sympathies go to Sis. Martha Kipfer who has experienced the loss of a dear sister, Sis. Emma Kipfer. Sis. Emma passed away October 12, after being ill for some time. Sis. Emma is also survived by many nieces and nephews who we want to remember at this time. We also grieve with the family of Lloyd Fiechter, who died October 4. Lloyd is survived by two brothers, Richard (Wava) and Glen (Libby); and two sisters, Sis. Nova and Sis. Lula Moser (Bro. Erv).

In loving memory of our dear Sis. Ruth Schwartz, who died on November 12, 1986.

It has been five years
without your presence here.
God gently closed your eyes and
took you in His loving care.
No one will ever know how
it broke our hearts to lose you.
Each time we look at your smiling
picture,
we whisper, and say, "Ruth, we
love you."
You seem to say, "Don't cry, I'm
only sleeping,
we'll meet again someday."
We'll always remember the happy
memories
that time cannot erase.

We love you and miss you,
Dad, Mom and family

We want to wish everyone a
blessed Thanksgiving. We give
thanks to our Lord for all the bless-
ings He has bestowed upon us
throughout this year.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser
There is a story about two

friends who met one day on a city
street and were walking together.
In the course of the conversation,
one said to the other, "I read a won-
derful verse in the Bible today,
Psalm 56:3, It says, 'whenever I am
afraid, I will trust in You.'" "That's
very good," said the other man, with
a smile on his face. "But I found an
even better verse in my reading to-
day. Isaiah 12:2, 'I will trust and
not be afraid.'"

It is so easy today for a Christian
to feel that the world is "out of con-
trol." It is then even more impera-
tive that we keep our eyes focused
on God and the goal and remember
that "greater is He that is in us that
he that is in the world."

Karen Moser (daughter of Bro.
Tom and Sis. Jan) was united in
marriage to Scott Helt October 5.
We wish them many blessings in
their life together.

We rejoice with Bruce Stoller
(Ingrid) as he begins his walk with
the Lord. Our thoughts and prayers
are with him at this time.

We are happy for grandparents,
Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhofer
on the birth of grandson, Clayton
Dean, born October 19. Parents are
Bro. Dean and Sis. Julie Tonner
(Bluffton).

Just as a new lift begins, the life
of Lloyd Fiechter was ended. We
extend our sympathy and prayers
to Bro. Art Kipfer (Sis. Goldie), who
lost his brother-in-law in a tragic
accident this month.

Our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner has
returned home safely from his trip
overseas. He recounts how though
these countries may be considered
poor in material blessings, they have
a strong, common bond in the Lord,
which is far more valuable than any
worldly goods.

Reminder: November is collec-
tion month for Bluffton North.
Yearly rate is \$9.00.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Jacki Huber

We extend a warm welcome to
Bro. James, Sis. Gina and Amy
Emch who have recently moved
here from Phoenix, AZ.

Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott) vis-
ited us recently. We're always glad

to see Bro. Neal, Sis. Kris and their
children.

Hospital patients this past
month were Bro. Bill Huber and
Blake Nold (John and Alexis). They
are both getting along well.

The Gospel choir of Francesville
still has cassettes of "Open Your
Heart" for \$8.00 each, plus post-
age. They would make nice Christ-
mas gifts. If interested, please con-
tact: Joan Steitmatter, 979
Swartzell Drive, Rensselaer, IN
47978.

ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

Sis. Octavia (Getz) Erb was
born in Tremont, IL, October 15,
1891 -- 100 years ago. She was the
oldest of nine children, six broth-
ers and two sisters, and is the only
one living of the nine.

In the year of 1910 at the age
of 19, her family moved from Illi-
nois to a farm east of Medaryville,
IN. The cattle were driven along
the road, and at a later date, the
household things were moved on
an open truck and wagon. The fam-
ily came by horse and buggy.

She was converted at the age
of 20 years and taught Sunday
school in the German language a
number of years.

Octavia was married to Her-
man Erb who lived west of West
Central School, on a farm now oc-
cupied by Wendell and Karel
Anliker. There are eight children
in Octavia's family, George, Don,
Neil, Carol Bucher and Lora Putt
(all of Francesville), Helen Leman
(Fairbury, IL), Max (Monon, IN)
and Glen (Irvine, CA). There are
twenty-one grandchildren, forty-
six great-grandchildren and two
great-great-grandchildren. Two
grandchildren preceded her in
death.

She was a widow at the age of
72 and stayed in her own home for
fifteen years. During that time,
she opened up her basement for
World Relief work, especially mak-
ing comforters. She cut the blocks,
sewed them into tops and got them
ready for knotting. One afternoon
a week, ladies would come to her
home and knot them. Through the

years she has made over 350 comforters and quilts.

Thirteen years ago, when Parkview Haven was built, Octavia moved into an apartment. She was the 8th one to move in and the only one of the eight that is still living. She is still able to be in her apartment. Each day she spends a little time cutting marked blocks for comforter tops. She also enjoys reading and goes through the daily paper. She takes very little medication and if asked how she is feeling, she smiles and says, "Oh, it goes!" Another one of her favorite expressions is, "Hard work never hurt anyone!" She is thankful she can live in her apartment and take care of herself.

Amazingly, she still dresses herself and walks down the hall without a cane. She certainly one of those miracles we think about as the ideal. Her life has been a wonderful testimony to all who know her.

Eighty members of her family were together to help her celebrate her 100th birthday October 13.

She wishes to say thank you to all who sent her cards and special remembrances.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Miriam Gudeman

TO ALL YE PILGRIMS

Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, beans, squash, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; now, I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November ye 29th of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and the third year

since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor, and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

William Bradford
Governor of Plymouth Colony,
1623

Just thinking about Thanksgiving brings to mind loving memories of past family gatherings and of those yet to come. When families come together, it should be a time filled with warm embraces, a unity of hearts and minds, prompting the spirit of humility and forgiveness. Break down those walls of conflict and pride, not only at home but at church, be a "family" again! Let's thank God for each other. That's what Thanksgiving is all about.

We, here at Indy, are especially thankful for our ministering Bros. Ron and Ken, who have so diligently strived to encourage and strengthen us through God's Word. We are also thankful for our visiting ministers, Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), who came to share with us in love and fellowship this past month. May God enlighten their hearts and minds with His Holy Spirit to continue in enlightening ours.

The weekend of September 28 and 29 was an enjoyable, busy time for us. Our Sunday school traveled to Camp Mac to share in singing and fellowship, while some of our couples from Indy again offered their support at Gateway Woods to allow the residing families a "camp-out." Let us continue to help each other and share in the work of the Lord.

We want to thank the Detroit choir and all those who came, friends and family, for such a wonderful weekend, October 5 and 6. Your singing was an inspiration and delight. May God continue to bless your talents for His glory.

Our first annual Sunday school meeting was held October 12 with guest speaker, Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL). A special thanks goes to all those who made the weekend such a blessing.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Barb Troxel

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

I Timothy 5:17

For nearly twenty years, our dear Elder Bro. Ed Frank has served us in the eldership. He has felt that the Lord has led him to lay the mantle on younger shoulders. This tremendous responsibility has been laid on Bro. Curt Frank's shoulders. We want to give him and his wife, Sis. Lyla, our prayerful support.

We had a truly blessed weekend when many visitors came October 5 and 6 for Bro. Curt's ordination service. We want to give a special thanks to the following elder brothers, Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and retired Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL). We also want to thank Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) for sharing that day with us.

We are happy to report that Sis. Lena Hitz has been able to return home from the hospital. We pray that the Lord will continue to be her healing strength.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

Certainly Bro. Doyne and Sis. Dorthy Stewart have been favored of the Lord as they have walked life's pathway together. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary October 15.

Happy Thanksgiving Day!

INDIANA, LEO Doug Kellenberger

Some situations are so overwhelming that our own minds are incapable of making the right decision. In those instances, any decision we make leaves us feeling bewildered, confused or guilty. It's in those predicaments that Paul taught us to let someone else do the deciding -- someone who is far more capable and knowing -- someone who always prays the will of God.

Therefore he taught, "Pray in the Spirit." (Jude 20, Ephesians 6:8, Romans 8:26)

Let the Spirit of God do the deciphering, because God already knows what we have need of before we even ask. (Matthew 6:8) Let His Holy Spirit open us up to the will and kingdom of God on earth just as it is in heaven. (verses 9-10).

Our dear Sis. Anna Steiner has found heaven fully opened up to her now. Her mind and frail body (102 years old) has deceased. She is now with the Lord. We are so happy for her. We wish God's grace and comfort to her sisters.

Congratulations to Ron and Christy Bowie. They have a new baby girl, Lydia Christine. The Bowies have been gathering with us for some time now. We are happy to have them.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Gwen Steffen - Paula Haab

Thanksgiving season is upon us. I read that we don't need more to be thankful for, we just need to be more thankful. The harvest of grain was not what we hoped for when we planted, but generally, I believe, we got more than we thought possible. Oh, how that the harvest of sin-sick souls could be more than we even think possible.

We've been able to see the miracle of God's creation with the birth of three healthy babies.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Longcor and daughter, Blessing, welcome Matthew Coalter, who was born September 26. Grandparents are Coalter and Kathryn Longcor and Bro. Fred and Sis. Esther Schafer (Princeville, IL).

Joining the family of Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Bowerman, Rick and Laura, is Jacob William, born October 1. Grandparents are Lloyd and Lucille Bowerman and Sam and Nancy Fauver.

Brian and Marlene Stewart became first-time parents October 16 when Madison Marie was born. Stan and Sis. Ginger Price; Melvin Stewart and Arneae Dillion are her grandparents. We wish God's blessings on these happy parents.

Many young people gathered together at Camp Mac near Milford for fellowship and the hearing of God's Word September 29. God provided a beautiful day on the outside and warmed hearts on the inside with much singing and inspiring Words of Life on the topic, "How Shall We Pray." We thank all who labored to make this day possible.

A dear sister, Alma Emch, from the Girard area, was able to go to her eternal home after many years in a nursing home. Her son and his wife, Bro. Harold and Sis. Kathryn Emch, from our congregation, were very diligent in visiting her and seeing about her needs. May God fill this vacancy in their lives.

Two couples have announced their engagements. Tim Troup (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne) and Angela Beckman (Ron and Ginny, Montgomery, AL) are making plans to be married December 28. On October 13, Bro. Jon Haab (Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula) and Sis. Debra Lehman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley, South Bend) made their wishes to become one known to the church. We wish these couples God's direction and guidance as they plan their lives together.

October 13 brought extra blessing as Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) came to visit us and lent themselves in the ministry of God's Word. We also enjoyed those who came with them.

Sis. Melba Hunsberger recently had knee surgery. Our prayers are for her full recovery.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

"Be careful for nothing; but in

every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God."

Philippians 4:6

There are many verses in the Bible concerning prayer. Many of them were brought to our attention by our Bro. Edwin Bahler when he conducted our topical Bible study Wednesday evening, September 26, on "How To Pray." Bro. Ken Schneider ably supported the topic by closing. It is always good to have visitors come and speak to us but was special to have our own ministers bring a lesson to us.

When we sum it all up, there really isn't any occasion or stage in our life when we can't find a prayer answer in the Bible to fit the need.

On the weekend of September 28 and 29, our two churches, Remington and Wolcott, hosted the Morton Handicapped Home residents. For several years now this event has been sponsored by Maurice and Eileen Getz. There was a wiener roast Saturday night and a potluck supper at the fellowship hall on Sunday for everyone. We welcome all our friends from Morton to come back next year.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Renee Mangold

A wonderful blessing was had by all during our recent fellowship weekend. Each South Bend family invited a family to come and share in a Saturday evening singing, worship services on Sunday with a supper following. How wonderful it was to hear the beautiful sound of many voices singing God's praises. We were thankful, too, to have Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and their families join us.

Our children, as well as their parents and others, enjoyed and received a blessing at Camp Mac this month. This was a wonderful opportunity for all who attended to renew friendships, and to be fed spiritually in a unique setting.

We rejoice in the engagement of Sis. Debbie Lehman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. John Haab (Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula, Milford, IN). We pray for a wonder-

ful life for them serving God together.

The children and their Sunday school teachers were busy this month. Along with Camp Mac, they prepared for and presented their harvest program this Sunday. Bro. Marvin Lehman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) and their families, along with other visiting brethren, were able to join us for this special Sunday, for which we were thankful.

Just as the farmers are now harvesting the crops which sprung from the seeds in spring; we pray that the seeds of faith which are being planted in our children will result in a bountiful harvest in their adult lives.

Mourning the passing of her grandmother are Sis. Jill and Bro. Don Lehman. Our prayers for solace go out to them.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

When you've counted all your
blessings
and named them one by one,
You'll stand in awe before the
Lord
For all that He has done.
You'll be amazed by little things
That you didn't see before
Like rainbows in the meadow
And moonlight on the shore.

How sweet the melody of birds
For each angelic voice
Sifts softly through the night
To let our hearts rejoice.
How precious, too, the budding
rose
Which brightens every smile,
For these are the simple things
That go the extra mile.

And treasured, too, are memories
of friends who pass our way
To share a cup of kindness
When sorrows cloud our day.
You'll be aware of many things
Unnoticed by us all
When you worship on your knees
And praise Him wall to wall!
Clay Harrison

In this Thanksgiving season, we are thankful above all for the plan

of salvation that we may have the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Tracey Putt

The fall semester is half over, and the school work is really piling up! This is an extremely busy time of year for us, but a light is at the end of the tunnel: College Week-end 1991. Presently, we are practicing the songs that our Purdue and Francesville Young Groups will offer to God and His glory this coming Saturday at Peoria, IL. We look forward to being with our brothers and sisters-in-Christ and our many friends whom we hope will be there. As students, we come to appreciate the fellowship we can rely on for edification in the midst of the chaotic world. The same goes for our wonderful brothers who come and minister the Word to us. This month we were blessed by two brothers: Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse) and Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL).

In Luke 6, Bro. Tom Troxel spoke on loving your enemies and doing good to those who hate you. In verse 28 Jesus says, "Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." Sometimes this is one of the hardest tasks of our Christian walk of life - but oh how it pleases the Father! Bro. Tom also touched upon building your house and laying your foundation upon a rock, rather than upon sand "against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great" (verse 49).

Bro. Tom Stock also read out of the Gospel of Luke. In chapter 4, Bro. Tom preached about Jesus being tempted by the devil in the wilderness. This temptation is really applicable in our young Christian lives -- it is so easy to let the devil come and destroy our peace with the cares of this life. Thankfully, we have a gracious heavenly Father who will help us in our time

of need: ". . . but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Corinthians 10:13.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

We were privileged to gather several evenings and listen to the brotherhood conference tapes. May we have a deep appreciation for our elder brethren for their care and concern in preserving our precious faith.

On Wednesday evening, September 25, Bro. Edwin Bahler conducted our Bible study on "Prayer." Truly prayer is a blessed opportunity to communicate with God and we know He has the power to answer prayer when we humbly and earnestly come before Him.

Two precious baby girls are adding joy to our congregation. Michelle Lee blessed the home of Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa Furrer September 26. Joshua is pleased to have a new little sister and future playmate. Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer and Richard and Lola Ponto are enjoying their new granddaughter. Michelle spent a few extra days in the hospital, but we are thankful she is home and doing well.

Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris Widmer welcomed Katie Sue October 16. Big brothers, John, Brad, Blake and Matthew, are anxious to help with Katie. Bro. Sydney and Sis. Fern Lehman (Francesville, IN) and Ed and Sis. Gladys Widmer are thankful grandparents.

Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) visited us October 6. May the Lord bless him for lending himself in the Lord's service.

IOWA, AMES/DES MOINES
Michael Wagenbach
Aaron Schmidgall

In our first three gatherings of this school term, we were blessed with the ministering of Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend) and Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski). We sincerely wish to thank these three ministering brothers and their

families for giving unto us the bread of life.

On the weekend of October 12, we were privileged to have in attendance the single groups from Lester, IA, and Tremont, IL. Forty-five brothers and sisters from these two congregations participated. We were also blessed to have representation from the following churches: Burlington, IA, Chicago, IL, and Oakville and West Bend, IA. We wish God's blessings upon all that offered their support.

New in the Ames community this year are: Scott Bonnema (Lester), Gene Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Eric Gerber (Lester), Craig Knobloch (Lester), Brad Meyer (Lester), Sis. June Mogler (West Bend), Bro. Aaron Schmidgall (Oakville) and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Oakville).

A continual sign of encouragement each day as we walk to and from classes is a Bible verse engraved on the side of the Parks Library on central campus. Wherefore Jesus says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. This reminds us of our first love that we found in Christ Jesus and our continual commitment to serving Him in our daily tasks.

Upcoming services for the Ames community will be held November 10 and December 15. These will be the last two services held during the fall session. Song services will begin at 12:00 p.m. and church services will follow at 12:30 p.m. Services will be held in the basement of Midland Financial Savings and Loan, located at 525 Main Street, Ames. For further directions, contact Bro. Neil Knobloch at 302 Strawberry Lane, Ames, IA 50010 or call at 515-233-6943.

IOWA, BURLINGTON Carolyn Wulf

We were blessed with the visit of Bro. Gary Anliker and family (Elgin, IL). We thank him for bringing us the Word of Life. May God be his rich rewarder.

Randy and Sis. Juanita Gerst were blessed with a baby girl, October 10. She has been named Elizabeth Rae. She has two broth-

ers and two sisters to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst (Oakville) and George and Ramona Fox (Peoria, IL).

As the seasons change, we are reminded of the upcoming holidays. May we always be so thankful for our land and most of all for the faith that has been handed down to us by our forefathers.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

What a beautiful array of fall colors was displayed across the rolling hills this year. How can we view this without remembering our Creator and being humbled with the thought that He would permit us to see this beauty? What a loving God we have to share His handiwork unto us.

Since the beginning of our nation, at least one day, each year, has been set aside to give thanks with feasting and prayer for our many blessings. In many homes it is still enjoyed as a day off work, and shared with families, but the real thanksgiving part is forgotten. As we observe Thanksgiving Day this year, may we think about God's provision, protection and love to us in so many ways and be truly thankful!

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We extend our thanks to all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and his family. We appreciate all who make the effort to assemble with us.

We extend our welcome to a new family, an appreciated addition to our small congregation. Bro. Jake and Sis. Wanda Hoerr (Phoenix, AZ) and their children, Franz and Aneliese, assembled with us for the first time this month. We look forward to getting to know them better.

We have been listening to the tapes of the conference this month. Even though most of us were able to attend the conference in Morris, MN, we all realize how quickly our

human minds forget and appreciate the opportunity to again consider the inspired exhortations our elders so kindly have given us.

As each of us commit our lives to God, we often find ourselves seeking God's direction for decisions, small or great, that we face in our daily lives. The author in "Streams in the Desert" contemplated the divine wisdom in not only the Yes answers, but also the No and Wait responses to our prayers.

Some day we shall understand that God has a reason in every No which He speaks through the slow movement of life. "Somehow God makes up to us." How often, when His people are worrying and perplexing themselves about their prayers not being answered, is God answering them in a far richer way! Glimpse of this we see occasionally, but the full revelation of it remains for the future.

If God says "Yes" to our prayer,
dear heart,
And the sunlight is golden, the sky
is blue,
While the smooth road beckons to
me and you,
And the song-birds warble as on
we go,
Pausing to gather the buds at our
feet,
Stopping to drink of the streamlets
we meet,
Happy, more happy, our journey
will grow,
If God says "Yes" to our prayer,
dear heart.

If God says "No" to our prayer, dear
heart,
And the clouds hang heavy and
dull and gray;
If the rough rocks hinder and block
the way,
While the sharp winds pierce us
and sting with cold;
Ah, dear, there is home in the
journey's end,
And there are the trials the Father
doth send
To draw us as sheep to His
heavenly fold,
If God says "No" to our prayer, dear
heart.

Oh, for the faith that does not make haste, but waits patiently for the Lord, waits for the explanation that shall come in the end, at the revelation of Jesus Christ! When did God take anything from a man, without giving him manifold more in return? Suppose that the return had not been made immediately manifest, what then? Is today the limit of God's working time? Has He no provinces beyond this little world? Does the door of the grave open upon nothing but infinite darkness and eternal silence?

Yet, even confining the judgment within the hour of this life, it is true that God never touches the heart with a trial without intending to bring upon it some grander gift, some tenderer benediction. He has attained to eminent degree Christian grace who knows how to wait.

Selected (October 23)

**IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold
Mary Knobloch**

As we near the end of our harvest season, we give thanks to God for the bountiful harvest which is above our expectations. We know there are those areas of the country who have not been so richly blessed. Our prayer is that God will bless each one as only He can. May we always be willing to share with those less fortunate.

We view the handiwork of God in the beautiful colors of the season and we know that God is the Creator of all.

On a recent weekend, we enjoyed a visit from ministering Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR). We thank him for being used in God's service and ask God's blessings for his labors.

We have a number of our congregation who have undergone surgery or medical treatment recently. Those who have undergone surgery are Sis. Emma Meyer, Bro. Ted Gerber (Sis. Emma), Bro. Ed Roemen (Sis. Amelia), Bro. Larry Knobloch (Sis. Sheryl), Liz Wulf (Emil), Sid Meyer (Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn) and Ladell Kellenberger (Shelly). Hospitalized for

medical treatment was Roger Myrlie (Patty). We ask God's healing power for each one.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, we realize that God has so richly blessed us in so many ways this past year. As we give thanks, may we pray that through His Holy Spirit we might strive more fully to be obedient to His Word and will.

**THANK YOU, GOD
FOR EVERYTHING**

Thank You, God, for everything
the big things and the small,
For "every good gift comes from
God"

-- the giver of them all --
And all too often we accept
without any thanks or praise
The gifts God sends as blessings
each day in many ways,
And so at this Thanksgiving time
we offer up a prayer
To thank You, God, for giving us
a lot more than our share . . .
First, thank You for the little
things
that often come our way,
The things we take for granted
but don't mention when we pray.
The unexpected courtesies,
the thoughtful, kindly deed,
A hand reached out to help us
in the time of sudden need . . .
Oh, make us more aware, dear God,
of little daily graces
That come to us with "sweet
surprise"

from never-dreamed-of places --
Then, thank You for the "miracles"
we are much too blind to see,
And give us new awareness of
our many gifts from Thee,
And help us to remember that
the key to life and living
Is to make each prayer a prayer of
thanks
and every day Thanksgiving.

Helen Steiner Rice

**IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach**

Two new babies have recently been born. Brock Douglas was born August 16 to Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna Massner. Nicole, Amy and Dustin were looking forward to

their new baby and now that little Brock is here, they're very excited. Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner and Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice Wuthrich (Morton, IL) are the happy "grandpas" and "grandmas." Gary and Tammy Sharp (Oklahoma City, OK) have a new little daughter to love. Ashley Lynn was born September 25 and joins Nathan and Sara in the Sharp family. Dorothy Sharp (Oklahoma City, OK) and Bro. Jerry Sr. and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach are now grandparents nine times over. We are presently expecting many new babies in our Oakville congregation. May God grant our young parents encouragement and strength to raise their children according to the Bible.

After a lengthy battle with physical afflictions, we laid to rest our dear Bro. Chris Gerst. His loving wife, Sis. Nettie, preceded him in death. What a joyful reunion for those who die in the Lord. Our sympathy goes out to his family left this side of the grave: Sis. Helen Michel (Tremont, IL), Marilyn Kauffman (Morton, IL), Bro. Wayne Gerst and Sisters Rhonda (Morton, IL) and Janet Gerst. May God relieve the feeling and lonely ache within their hearts.

God is so marvelous. Recently on a vacation out East, I was just amazed at the beauty of the fall foliage. The magnificence of the trees nearly took my breath away. We know that the beauty of nature cannot compare to all the glories of heaven; but should we not be thankful for the serenity and calming effect that God's wonderful creation has on our undying soul.

Note: I wish to thank all who remembered me with prayers, cards and words of encouragement during my hospitalization and recovery. May God bless you all richly.

Mrs. Robert Frank

**IOWA, WEST BEND
Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber**

We were privileged to have with us for a midweek service, Bro. Art Metz of the Silverton, OR, congregation. We enjoyed a visit from Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA) this past

month as well. We appreciate the teachings of our ministers.

We're thankful to have Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger assembling with us following their car accident in Illinois. Sis. Alice was hospitalized for a period of time.

We are looking forward to the weekend of November 9 and 10, when plans are for the following to give their testimonies and be baptized, Jim Knobloch (Orvie and Lauretta, Lester), Marilyn Banwart (Mike), Scott Fehr (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenagene), Lynn Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula), Bryan Traub (Bob and Eunice) and Trela Wirtz (Chuck).

Thankful for the safe arrival of Ethan Charles are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr. He was born September 20. Ethan's brothers and sisters include Bro. Darren, Ann, Jason, Ryan, Brennan, Autumn and Corbin.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Janet Fehr rejoice in the arrival of Erica Lynn September 26. They are thankful and appreciate all the love and prayers in little Erica's behalf. She has remained hospitalized until this time. Grandparents include Maurice and Sis. Marjorie Schafer (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr.

A reception was held for Kelly and Tammy Fehr (Chicago, IL) at the fellowship center. Kelly is the son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole Fehr. We wish them God's blessings on their recent marriage.

Our sympathy is offered to Bro. Verner and Sis. Betty Wirtz and families in the loss of their brother-in-law and uncle, Harold Schmalen.

The following words remind us of our harvest season and to Whom we owe our thanks for all such blessings. May we always give thanks, not only on Thanksgiving Day.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Thanksgiving Day has come again
With its golden harvest time.
Our season's handiwork is blest;
We enjoy these gifts of Thine.
And in the comfort of our homes
Happy family circles dine.

Henry Kipfer

Reminder: December is collection time for our West Bend congregation.

JAPAN, SHIODA Terri Gramm

September and the first half of October we've had an unusual number of typhoons. They bring wind and much rain. Our rivers and lakes are full to overflowing.

Just as our land has received an abundance of water, our spiritual cup too has been filled to overflowing with the fellowship of the saints. We praise our Father for supplying our needs just as He promised (Philippians 4:19);

Four dearly beloved ministering brothers, Elders John Klotzle, Eugene Marti, Perry Zimmerman and Bro. Jim Hoerr, stopped at Japan en route to India. Sis. Lois Klotzle, Bro. John's wife, came also and plans to spend the month of October with her daughter, Sis. Kathy Sauder.

Sunday, October 6 was a day of worship and fellowship together. Our little church was packed. In the evening, brethren and friends gathered together to learn more about this trip to India. Much to our surprise, we learned there are approximately 900 Indian believers in a tribal area away from the cities. Those people are hungry for the Word. Elder Bro. John Klotzle implored us to pray that committed Indian church leaders could be found to shepherd those flocks. Thank you brothers, for encouraging us to greater love and good works!

Also visiting us from Illinois and Ohio that weekend were Bro. John and Sis. Catherine Fehr and Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser. Our hearts were uplifted as you spoke and ministered to us also. Thank you for your visit.

Melvin and Katherine Huber (Northern Brazil, along the Amazon River), Tim (their son from the Tokyo area) and Michiyo Kido (whose mother is a member of our church) spent October 10 with Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle and myself. Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois used to work with the Hubers in our Athens, AL, church. It was a re-

freshing time of spiritual conversation and reacquaintance.

We were all delighted too with the visit of Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm (Leo, IN) and Sally and Joel Kauffman and family (Toyama, Japan). Sunday evening, October 20, we had a church wiener roast and time of fellowship. Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth shared many of their experiences at Gateway Woods. From them we learned the plight of many mistreated children in Indiana and the United States, and how the Home wants to help. With one heart and mind, we entrust the Father to give wisdom and strength to those working in Leo at Gateway Woods.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

We are thankful to God that He has led Bro. Andy and Sis. Jana (Kieser) Klaus to establish their home in Japan. On Sunday, September 29, a special lunch was held to welcome them to Japan and congratulate them on their recent marriage. Bro. Andy was born and raised in Japan and is now employed by Toshiba. Sis. Jana is from Bradford, IL. Although living in Japan is a new experience for Jana, it is not completely foreign to her since she visited Japan 2½ years ago for several weeks. We wish them God's blessings upon their marriage and their new life in Japan.

This past month, we have been blessed with visitors from the States. Bro. John and Sis. Catherine Fehr (Fairbury, IL) and ministering Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser (Akron, OH) were able to spend a Sunday with us. May God bless them for giving of themselves, and we are especially thankful for Bro. Paul ministering words of encouragement to us.

The following week, our family was privileged to be able to go to the Tokyo airport to welcome Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm (Leo, IN) and their grandson, Joey Kaufman, who were on their way to the west side of Japan to visit Joel and Sally (Gramm) Kaufman.

On the same day, a few hours later, another plane arrived at the

airport. Our two little boys anxiously waited outside the custom door for their "grammy and grampy Klotzle" (Bro. John and Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA). Although separated by an ocean and not really knowing the joy of having family close by, their faces beamed with excitement as they looked for their grandparents to appear. It was easy to see that they really knew the meaning of family.

Accompanying Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois were: Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), who were on their way to India to oversee the missionary work going on there. On Sunday, Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman and Gene Marti ministered in Tokyo and then in the evening they journeyed to Shioda along with several members from Tokyo for a church dinner, singing and evening message. We want to express a special thank you to the Shioda congregation for a blessed evening of fellowship. We were encouraged to hear all that is being done for His kingdom through World Relief, Work Projects and the Missionary Committees' efforts not only in the States, but also in Eastern Europe, Russia, Mexico and India. The following Tuesday, the brothers continued on their trip to India while Sis. Lois stayed on in Japan with her family for the rest of the month. She will then join the brothers on their return trip to the States. May God richly bless the brothers for giving of themselves and may He bless their trip to India.

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) On Sunday, October 13, fourteen brothers and sisters gathered together to partake of holy communion. We thank Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle coming into Tokyo to assist our Elder Bro. Akito. Our dear sister, "Mother Utsuki" was unable to be with us. We pray that God will strengthen her and we look forward to the day when she will once again be able to worship with us.

KANSAS, BERN

Kathy Strahm - Diane Kaeb

On October 13, Bro. Harlan and Sis. Pearl Stoller and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Deaver were thankful to hear of the safe arrival of their new grandson, Kevin Andrew. His parents are Merle and Diana Stoller.

HEAVEN'S VERY SPECIAL CHILD

A meeting was held quite far from earth

"It's time again for another birth."
Said the Angels to the Lord above,
"This special child will need much love."

Her progress may seem very slow
Accomplishments she may not show

And she'll require extra care
From the folks she meets way down there.

She may not run or laugh or play
Her thoughts may seem quite far away

In many ways she won't adapt
And she'll be known as handicapped.

So let's be careful where she's sent
We want her life to be content
Please Lord, find the parents who
Will do a special job for You.

They will not realize right away
The leading role they're asked to play
But with this child sent from above
Comes stronger faith and richer love.

And soon they'll know the privilege given
In caring for this gift from heaven
Their precious charge so meek and mild
Is heaven's very special child.

Author Unknown

On September 19, Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Strahm finalized the adoption of their little daughter, Jill Elizabeth. She was born December 7, 1990. Her grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Loree Plattner (Sabetha) and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm.

Our congratulations go to Dawn

Esslinger and Stan Feldkamp on their engagement announcement. Their parents are Waymer and Pauline Esslinger and Ernest and Margaret Feldkamp. Our prayers are with them as they plan their wedding.

We are grateful to the ministers who visited and fed us from the Word of God. Thanks to Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber.

Those who spent time in the hospital this past month are Bro. Mike Strahm (Sis. Diane), Sis. Darlene Stoller (Bro. Arden) and John Strahm (Bro. Curtis and Sis. Ellen). We pray for God's healing power to restore their health.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

Let our thanksgiving and praise always and forever be to God, the maker of heaven and earth and the bountiful blessings therein.

The conference conclusion tapes were played on three successive Friday nights. We truly need to give careful attention to what we believe and how we live our daily walk with the Lord.

We thank ministering Bro. Roger Aberle and his wife, Sis. LaVonne (Sabetha) for assembling with us one Sunday.

On October 13, Bro. Ephraim (Skeet) and Sis. Dorothy Young celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. A reception and dinner was hosted by their daughters, Sharyl Ellis and Lanette Bazil. The children, in letters to their parents, reflected on the Christian values of their parents that helped mold and set the right course for them. Also, Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Dorothy acknowledged how they wouldn't have been able to cope and handle some of life's trials and tribulations without the Lord's guidance and direction.

KANSAS, KANSAS STATE UNIV.

Sheri Braker

We would like to thank all of our family and friends who have taken time out of their busy schedules to assemble with us on cam-

pus. Wednesday evenings are special times and we appreciate those who are able to come and share the blessings! A special thank you is extended to Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) who took the time to come and preach God's Holy Word. Surely they and their wives will receive an extra blessing for being so willing to lend themselves for God's service.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

THE LITTLE THINGS

It's the little things in life that count,

The things of every day,
Just the simple things that we can do,
The kind words we can say.

The little things like a friendly smile

For those who may be sad,
The clasp of a hand or kindly deed
To help make someone glad.

A knock on the door of lonely homes,

Or flowers bright and gay
For someone to whom you might bring cheer
With just a small bouquet.

Just the little greetings here and there

On which so much depends.
The little pleasures that all can share.

The joy of making friends.

Virginia K. Oliver

May we all remember to take time for the simple things that mean so much and to give thanks to God in all things, not only at Thanksgiving time, but all year round.

Bro. Vern Schurter was in the hospital this month with heart problems. Sis. Elizabeth Diel is scheduled for treatments to help battle her illness. We have several others at Kiowa that are in poor health. Let us remember to keep them in our prayers.

A small group from Kiowa joined the Kansas choir at Sabetha, KS and sang at the Home for the Aged and also the Village Apartments. We especially want to thank Sabetha for their hospitality. We were blessed with good food and a singing. The fellowship was enjoyed by all. Those of us from the smaller churches especially appreciate the fellowship and love of the larger churches. May the Lord bless them for opening their doors to us.

We pray for God's blessings on the marriage of Ty Piper (grandson of Sis. Matilda Schupbach) and Christine Zelenka. May they strive to make Christ the center of their home that they may feel the fullness of God's richest blessings.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jane Isch

ALL COME AND THANK THE LORD!

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and Holy Ghost,
Who dwell in highest heaven.
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore,
Who is and shall survive,
Now and forevermore!

Zion's Harp #236

With Thanksgiving Day approaching, may we remember to thank God for our salvation and the blessings we enjoy.

As we gathered together to hear the tapes of the brotherhood conference, we received admonition and guidance for our daily lives. How necessary it is to be aware of the dangers that face God's children in these latter times. May we all be inspired with a new resolve to walk more closely with our God and prayerfully support these faithful brothers who watch for our soul.

We wish to thank ministering Bro. Bob Stoller and his family (Lamar, MO) for spending a weekend with us. May God bless him for his labors.

Give Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

KANSAS, SABETHA

Beth Hartter - Sharon Strahm

We appreciate the teachings and encouragement of our visiting ministers who have been Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Howard Plattner (Wichita). Along with Bro. Howard's family, we had visitors from several Kansas churches who sang for the elderly at our nursing home.

Christy Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl) and Bro. Darin Grimm (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Ruby) were treated at the hospital for minor mishaps. We are thankful they both are doing well.

We want to welcome Doug and Lisa Hartter and their family to our fellowship. They have recently moved here and we appreciate their support.

We've listened to the tapes with the theme "The Family." Many of us have been reminded of our duties as Christian parents. May God grant us wisdom and grace to carry out these duties.

"The Christian home is the Master's workshop where the processes of character molding are silently, lovingly, faithfully and successfully carried on."

Lord Houghton

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

On September 22, we were uplifted by the guest ministry of Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa). The following weekend, many of us traveled to Sabetha to join the South Kansas Choir as we sang at the Apostolic Christian Home. Since all our ministers were absent from Wichita, Elder Bro. Ron Nelson (Kiowa) came to minister. I heard numerous reports of the blessing for that day. Thank you, Bro. Ron and Sis. Lois, and Bro. Ron and Sis. Shirley, for your labors in our behalf. God be praised!

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Ann Farney. Her 74-year-old sister, Rose Munson (Shelby, OH) passed away September 15.

Sis. Gussie Wullschleger has a new granddaughter in Grand Rapids, MI. Kelli Ann was born to Rich-

ard and Lisa Wullschleger October 1.

Bro. Mike Bowers has been transferred from Kearney, NE to Beloit, KS, where he is continuing his training program. We thank God for bringing Bro. Mike two hours closer to Wichita.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Lester Huber

At this season of the year, we can all join with David of old and truly say "Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits." Psalms 103:2. We have so many blessings showered upon us, surely we need to remind ourselves daily to never cease to be thankful to the Lord for them all.

How blest we are that we can gather together on Sunday and Wednesday evenings to have the Word expounded to us through inspiration of our ministering brethren. We have been listening to the brotherhood conference tapes the last few weeks on Wednesday evenings and have appreciated the loving and God-fearing exhortations for the family. We are thankful for faithful elder brethren as they expressed from their hearts and through God's Word, the different topics on the family, home and church family as well. Some of their own experiences were touching to our hearts.

We are always grateful to all who come and share in the ministry here and the Christian fellowship of our precious faith in our dear Lord Jesus Christ. Our visiting ministers in the past two months were Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Bros. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL). May God bless and reward each one.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

God paints the world with love
 That's how I know He lives,
 He fills the earth with colors
 And in that way He gives; such
 happiness

Oh how we're blessed to have this picture of

A wonderful God who cares so much

That He paints the world with love.

His world is like a coloring book
 His beauty's everywhere I look,
 Every color that I see
 Reminds me of His love for me.

from Back at the Creekbank

Every season has its special beauty, but the colors displayed as the leaves change is always a sight to behold! It is a busy time of year with finishing harvest and getting things ready for winter. But it also can be a time for taking pleasure in the simple things. Taking a walk in the crisp air that smells oftentimes of burning leaves, sharing in the discovery of a special colored leaf with one of our children, and just enjoying the beauty that the Lord provides with such abundance at this time of year!

The Lord has provided an abundance of blessings here in Alto! We are thankful as another young soul finds the road to repentance. Karen Zaagman (Ed and Sis. Joyleen Zaagman) has chosen to take that narrow path and we pray that the Lord's grace will be granted to her as she begins her walk in Him!

We rejoice with our dear Sis. Helen Steffen at the engagement of her daughter, Sis. Kathy to Bro. Nathan Knochel (Bro. Herb and Sis. Johanna, Phoenix, AZ). We look forward to their wedding here in Alto and with them the Lord's blessings as they make their plans.

Two homes were blessed with new little bundles from heaven. Paula Kay came to bless the lives of Carl and Brenda Blough. Proud grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite Blough.

Little Kelly Marie arrived to bless the home of Bruce and Tammy Wingeier and big sisters, Melissa, Kimberly and Michelle. Proud grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier. May these little ones be brought up in the Lord's care and keeping is our prayer.

Our Sunday school picnic was held September 28 at the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough. It

turned out to be a nice day and everyone enjoyed the fellowship around the campfire while roasting hotdogs and even though it was so cool, a hayride that evening. We are so thankful to those who opened their home to us all and to the teachers who spent time and effort to make it a special day for the children!

In September three new Sunday school teachers were voted in to replace those whose terms were up. Bro. Paul Jackson (Sis. Margaret) replaced Bro. Ron Erismann (Sis. Penny), Sis. Stephanie Schlatter (Bro. John) replaced Sis. Deanna Steffen (Bro. Matt) and Sis. Liz Blough (Bro. Marv) replaced Sis. Donna Oesch (Bro. Fred). We are thankful always to these brothers and sisters who give of themselves in the Lord's service.

It is good to have our minister Bro. Bill Gerst (Sis. Judy) back safely from his three-week business trip to Japan. But this past week he has been sick in the hospital and it is our prayer that the Lord's healing hand will be with him and recover him fully.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Morton, IL), Joe Braker (Goodfield, IL), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI). We ask a special blessing for each of you for bringing us the Word and being His willing servants.

"Salt is what spoils the potatoes when you leave it out." Thankfulness is like that, it spoils everything when you leave it out." I read this little insight recently in Guideposts and as we approach Thanksgiving, may we each be like the salt in the potatoes and remember to come to the Lord with thankfulness in our hearts!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Emily Rechsteiner

We thank Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) for spending a Sunday with us. May God bless Bro. Homer and Sis. Dorothy.

Bro. Marvin Wieland, as part of his internship, has spent the month of September working at a Bay City hospital.

God has really arrayed the forests of Michigan with beautiful colors this season. It would be nice if our friends would come north to enjoy this season and fellowship with us.

Several have been recent hospital patients; Sis. Blanche Wieland, Sis. Carol Meylan (Bro. Eugene), Alan Wackerle (Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine). God has again restored their health. Sis. Marie Waibel has been house-bound with a broken bone in her foot.

We thank God again as the field is ripe for harvest. Kori Andrzejewski (Norman and Sis. Linda), Neil and Ginger Mosher (Bro. Winsor and Sis. Loretta), David and Wendy Hoag (Bro. James and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer) have peace with God and their fellow men. We are looking forward to hearing their testimony and baptism and greet them as our brothers and sisters-in-Christ. Now they can sing, "Once earthly joy I craved, Sought peace and rest; Now Thee alone I seek, Give what is best; This all my prayer shall be; More love, O Christ, to Thee, More love to Thee, More love to Thee!" Hymns of Zion #114, vs. 2.

Sis. Martha Rezmer and Bro. Erwin Wieland have both celebrated their 80th birthday. With God's blessing, we wish them more happy and healthy years to come!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton
Marlene Reinhard

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means . . ."

II Thessalonians 3:16

Our hearts rejoiced once more to know that Ted Orcsik has found peace with his Almighty God and that on October 12 and 13 we could feel the love of the church as we listened to the testimonies of Bro. Ted Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) and Sis. Amy Bahr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev) and witness the renewing of their bodies in the baptismal waters.

Now it is accomplished!
I'm no longer mine;
Lord I will forever
And always be Thine . . .
Zion's Harp #209

Our church groups have had the privilege of traveling to some of our churches across the highways and sharing pieces of our precious fellowship with friends, both old and new. Our older Sunday school classes spent a weekend in Alto, MI, and our choir spent a weekend with the brethren in Indianapolis, IN. Both weekends were blessed with the presence of God and filled with His abounding love.

Monthly evening services at Woodhaven were hosted by our church in Detroit for October. It is always a blessing to go to Woodhaven and spend some time with the residents and to witness their eagerness to hear about Jesus and to join in the singing. Hosting the services December 3 will be Bay City, MI. We want to thank everyone for the continued support at Woodhaven and may God bless each and every one.

Many of our churches also have the privilege of lending their willing brethren to travel to Kitchener, Ontario, to assemble with the small congregation. Smithville, OH, will be hosting services in December at Kitchener. For directions to the church or if you will be in the Kitchener area and wish to assemble with the brethren, please call Walter Fortenbacher at (519) 699-4133.

We want to say a special "thank you" to Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City) for sharing God's work with us this past month. May God continue to bless the ministers who are so fervent and willing to preach the Word to our needy souls as we battle our way against the world and Satan each day.

We have much news here in Detroit that has saddened us when we first heard it, but God has promised not to give us more than we can bear and that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Maria Kobal (Mario) was unfortunate to be in an auto accident in September. We praise God she is home and recuperating from being hospitalized for a couple of weeks.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Lois Belsley (Bro. Ben) in the passing of her brother, Bro. Vernon Martin, in Cissna Park, IL. We also breathe a prayer for Leland and Katie Haines and family. Leland's nephew's 16-year-old son was killed in a motorcycle accident in Elkhart, IN. May God comfort each grieving heart and hold them each one in His tender embrace.

We are thankful to hear that Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben) has had no permanent paralysis from the minor stroke she endured a couple months ago, but is steadily regaining health and strength. She is a special person in many of our lives and brings much happiness wherever she goes.

Our thoughts and prayer travel the miles with Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz and family, Heather, Tommie, Trisha and Kristen, as they make their new home with the Atlanta, GA, congregation. It may seem like they have moved a long way away, but God has a new plan for their lives. The memories we have with us wherever we go and prayers are only a whisper away. We look forward to having them come back "home" often and wish them God's richest blessings as they face this new endeavor.

With thanksgiving rapidly approaching, we are reminded of all God has blessed our lives with and how little we say "thank you, Lord" and be content with what we have and not always want what we do not have.

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

Early 17th century hymn

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Marcy Schmidgall

As the cool, fall air comes in, we are truly warmed by the many visitors who come to worship with us. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr was here to share God's Word with us once again.

We are also warmed in our hearts when our small congrega-

tion has growth. We want to extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Dreste who moved here from the Altadena, CA, congregation. We wish them God's blessings in their new home and employment.

1) "Why grieve my soul must thou suffer great pain, Trust in your dear Jesus, he'll strengthen again. Endure and be still. Believing it is thy dear Saviour's good will.

2) "Is thy lot to suffer in sickness and pain, Let nothing deceive you to murmur in pain. Endure and be still. Believing it is thy dear Saviour's good will.

6) "Though fiery temptations come near to thy heart, Fly therefore to Jesus He healeth thy smart. Endure and be still. In silence and suffering God shows thee his will." Zion's Harp #241, vs. 1, 2, 6

In deep and fervent prayer, we remember Bro. Kenneth Schmidt (Sis. Vera) who will begin cancer treatment once again. May we all unite our hearts in prayer, making supplication to our Father to heal him, if it be His will.

"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."

James 5:16

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

Funeral services were held October 14 for Waldemar (Dutch) Schlupp. He is survived by one son, Larry Schlupp (England). Dutch's wife, Minnie (Spohr), passed away in June, 1989.

Our sincere prayers and thoughts are with our dear Sis. Kathy Nohl as she is hospitalized once again. May God continue to give her grace as she so patiently bears her cross.

Bro. Neil Schmidgall submitted to surgery in Rochester. He will have many weeks of therapy ahead.

Heather Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa) fell and broke her arm and is in a cast for awhile.

THANKSGIVING

Now another fruitful year
Is drawing to a close.
It's time to count our blessings
That lie in sweet repose.

We thank Him for the rain of
spring,
The warmth of summer sun
That yielded towers rich in grain
When harvesttime was done.

We thank Him for a freedom shore
Where we can plan and dream
And freely worship as we choose
Within the candle's gleam.

We thank Him for our loyal friends,
Each love our heart holds dear,
And pray that He may guide us
still
Through each new coming year.

Unknown

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Georgia Messner

Kim Messner

Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) spent the past weekend with us. We truly want to thank these dear brothers for their efforts and may God richly bless them.

A ladies black suit jacket has been found in our church and has been there for quite some time. Any questions contact Georgia Messner at 612-237-2733 or Kim Messner at 612-237-5411.

Sis. Ceclina Schmidt has moved from the Burns Manor Nursing Home in Hutchinson to the Winthrop Care Center. She is so thankful to be back close to church.

A couple in our area has had the misfortune of breaking limbs in the past month. Darlene Schmidt (Bro. Darrel) fell and broke her knee and Lincoln Messner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kim) broke his leg. We pray that God's healing hand be upon them.

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thessalonians 5:18) May we remember this at this Thanksgiving season.

Lisa Messner, daughter of Sis. Carol Ann Messner, and the late Bro. Dennis was united in marriage

to Jay Kent September 28. We pray that they look to the Lord for their guidance.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Lanette Meyer

The church welcomed recent visiting ministers, Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS). We truly appreciate all of our visitors.

Fred and Charmaigne Palton welcomed the arrival of Kimberly Jane September 24. Her grandmother is Jane Patton and great-grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Wilma Farney. Kimberly joins her sister, Samantha Jo.

On Saturday, September 14, we had our annual Sunday school picnic at a local park. We also met on a Saturday in late September for a work day dedicated to maintenance and cleaning of God's house. Many stayed after work to enjoy a wiener roast on the newly acquired additional church property.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Martin Hohulin

Jenel Kellenburger

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward."

Psalm 127:3

Little baby cousins, born one day apart, came to bless two Luthi homes.

Jennifer Lynae, born September 23 to Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi. She has been welcomed by Maranda and Jordan. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn Luthi; Howard and Mary Zartman (Branson, MO).

Jared Chat, born September 24, to Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jodi Luthi. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn Luthi and Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenburger. Jared is welcomed by Audrey.

Little Jennifer Luthi had to return to the hospital at this time.

Hazel Kibler is a patient at the Lamar hospital at this writing. Hazel has a pleasant and radiant personality. She is loved and esteemed by all who know her in the

Lamar church community. Hazel is faithful in church attendance and functions.

Bro. Leonard Braker is home from a hospital stay. He wishes to thank everyone who remembered him with prayers, visits, gifts and cards.

Isaac Marti, son of Kurt and Mary Jo Marti, was in the hospital.

Waldemar (Dutch) Schlupp (Morris, MN) departed this life in October. He was a resident of this area for many years. The Schlupp's were a pioneer family in the Lamar church. His father, Bro. Nathan, was one of the early ministers.

Our sympathy goes to a sister, Lorene Knapp (Joplin); a brother, Aaron (California); and many nephews and nieces in our area.

Elder Bro. Eugene Marti was our visiting minister September 22.

The Lamar Senior Bible Class hosted the Sunday school classes from West Bend and Pulaski, IA.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."
James 5:7

We were blest with these ladder rains in late July and early August. While they were late, they certainly refreshed the earth, made the grass green and gave us a fair crop. The Lord has ways of providing for His children and His creation.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Ruthie Hoerr

Sometimes we become discouraged when we hear of this one or that one doing special things for the Lord, while we are home caring for our families. Maybe we think we should be doing greater things for the Lord than preparing meals and washing dishes or cleaning house and washing clothes. One such day while prayerfully trying to overcome these discouraging thoughts; the chorus to the hymn, "Victory By Grace" came to me. "Not

to the strong is the battle, Not to the swift is the race, But to the true and the faithful, Victory is promised by grace." The words true and faithful seemed to bring a light that cast away the discouragement. Maybe the Lord wants us just to brighten the corner where we are. If we sincerely offer our works for the Lord's glory and honor, no matter how uninteresting they seem, can't He bless them too? Isn't victory by grace?

Bro. Don and Sis. Tricia Grimm are enjoying their precious little bundle from heaven, a daughter born October 6. Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marion Pflum (Oakville, IA) are the happy grandparents. Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona are also rejoicing the birth of another granddaughter born to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller (Gridley, IL) September 28. May they be blessed with Godly wisdom to bring these children up in His way.

Bro. Mike Stratton (Sis. Cheryl) is recuperating nicely after chest surgery. Test results were encouraging and an answer to many prayers. Ted Hoerr (Washington, IL), son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma, is recuperating here following emergency surgery at Peoria. May both patients continue to feel God's love and healing hand.

Our Bible class joined with Congerville's to sing for ACYF at Washington, IL. They always look forward to this time of fellowship. On October 13, our Bible class enjoyed hosting Congerville, IL, here for church, singing practice and a wiener roast. On October 6, our whole Sunday school enjoyed a picnic at Knapp's Lake of the Oaks.

We were happy to have Bro. Al Langhofer and his wife, Sis. Judy, with us October 13. May God bless them for ministering to us.

We were all saddened by the death of Bro. Rod Moser's mother, Sis. Bertha Moser of the Eureka Home. Another dear soul has reached her goal and will receive her reward.

It is so nice to see our sign completed in front of our church welcoming people to worship with us. We hope everyone feels welcome to come visit us.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Franz Soni

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

We had a general church cleaning October 5. We thank the groups from Rockville, CT and Philadelphia, PA churches for helping us. How special it is to know our brethren are so willing to help.

We thank Bro. Les Bahler (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Arthur Ingold (Rittman, OH) for bringing us God's Word. We thank them and all who made the effort to worship with us this past month.

Services are held the first Sunday of the month. Services are at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. We encourage you to come worship with us if you are in the area. Please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (302-478-7846) for information.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN/NAUMBURG Alice Virkler

Lord God, we honor Thee
And praise Thy mild compassion,
That Thou so gracefully
Dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great;
Thy mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink
For Spirit, flesh ad soul.

So now again Thou hast
To us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest
By Thy good Word from heaven.
Thou blessest food and drink
Our needs to satisfy.
Therefore, we give Thee thanks;
Our song shall rise on high.

Zion's Harp #13

Surely we have many reasons to give thanks unto our heavenly Father at this season of the year as we have been blessed in so many ways. Throughout the year we have our elders and ministers who faithfully minister unto us each Sunday. God provides for our every need if we turn to Him and ask for His help and guidance.

The family of Roy and Sis. Edna Sturtze helped them celebrate their

65th wedding anniversary by hosting an open house for them Sunday, September 22. We are thankful that Roy and Sis. Edna enjoy good health and are able to be with us each Sunday. May God grant them many more years together.

On Sunday, October 6, Bro. Homer and Sis. Dorothy Reineck (Toledo, OH) were with us for the day. We thank Bro. Homer for expounding God's wonderful Word unto us.

Two young couples have begun the step in their lives of marriage. May each of them look to God for their help and strength in their important commitment to marriage. Laura Lynne Hirschey and Samuel Villanti were married August 31. Their parents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice Hirschey and Sam and Johanna Villanti. Michael Virkler and Barbar Cawley were married October 12 in Westerly, RI. Their parents are Nat and Sheila Virkler and Catherine and the late Joseph Cawley.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Berdena Widrick as she has not been able to assemble with us for several weeks. She has been having much discomfort from shingles. We hope she will soon be able to be with us again. Sis. Rachel Snyder had cataract surgery and is waiting for surgery on the other eye. May she soon be granted good vision and be able to return to her Sunday school class where she has been missed for several Sundays.

At a special meeting, our congregation voted to change the name of our church from Evangelical Baptist Church to Apostolic Christian Church.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

As we begin the Christmas season, we begin to think of the Christmas story, which begins: "Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the king . . ." Matthew 2:1. The two mentioned in the beginning of the story are Jesus and Herod, descendants of twins, and the difference in the twins are still seen in the different of these two. Jesus' forefather was Jacob who

loved the birthright, and Herod's forefather was Esau who despised the birthright. Exodus 20:5 states that the iniquity of the fathers are visited until the third and fourth generation. Each one answers for their own sins, but the weakness goes on until someone heeds God's dealings and mercy to break it. Esau's despising the mercy of God was not broken and so it is still seen in Herod the Great. God tries to help Herod and brings him the Wise Men and scribes who give Him the Word, but he refused it and had the babies killed. Then the weakness appears in his son, Herod Antipas, to whom God gave the Word through John the Baptist, but he refused it and had him beheaded. Then it appears in his grandson, the next Herod, who put Peter in prison, and when God led him out, instead of taking that light of God, Herod had the guards put to death. The next Herod was King Agrippa, and God had him called into the court room to hear Paul, who preached to him. He also refused the Word and said: "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Acts 26:28. That was the fourth generation of Herods and nothing further is known of them. History from the Holy Land says that he lost his position and bought a farm on a mountain and when it erupted they perished. But from the twin that loved God, came Jesus, who still lives on, and in whom all the world can be blessed.

Bro. Paul and I have returned from a trip to Japan. We visited our two churches on weekends and were well taken care of by our American brothers and sisters. In addition, we also dined and stayed all night with Japanese and in a Japanese Inn. The beautiful mountains and valleys portray some of God's beauty, but it is sad to see the masses in idolatry.

It would seem unreal that in Kyoto, a very large city in Japan, that walking on a busy street after dark we would just happen to see someone from our own city and our own church. But we did. By chance, we saw Charlotte Kaufman, a widow, and her daughter, Karen. Charlotte and Karen spent 23 days visiting Japan, China and Hong

Kong and Charlotte tells of some wonderful experiences on their trip.

Bro. Ned and Sis. Gail Spangler will be having the happy occasion of observing their Silver Wedding Anniversary, as on November 27 they will have been married 25 years. They are the parents of a daughter, Lisa, who this year graduated from college, and a son, Bro. Eric, who was baptized this year, and is in college. We pray for God's blessings to continue on them.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane Klotzle have become new parents with the birth of their baby girl they named Meredith Jane. Grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Irwin and sis. Jane Klotzle (Rittman).

Bro. John Palitto is back with us after surgery. Sis. Kathryn Novotny and Sis. Juliet Graf were hospitalized. We pray for them and they wish to thank each for all remembrances for them.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Julie Grimm

God's blessings are too many
To count or understand --
He spreads them all round us
With a kind and lavish hand --
There's the sunlight every
morning,
The stars that light each night,
Food and friends, and those we
love,

And homefires burning bright

...
We could not start to thank Him
For the gifts He sends our way,
Not even if each day we live
Could be Thanksgiving Day!

Author Unknown

We have been richly blessed with many visitors this past month and thank each one who has come to worship with us. We appreciate the God-inspired messages brought forth by Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

September 22 was College Welcome Day. After services, we enjoyed a picnic at a local park with the students and their families. We are glad for each one as they are special to our small congregation and pray that they will always feel welcome to assemble with us.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Laurie Schlatter

We wish to thank Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty) for ministering to our congregation.

Thanksgiving Day is rapidly approaching. Most of us will be enjoying turkey, dressing and all the trimmings. It is hard to imagine not having a bountiful table. May we always be thankful for the simple, yet essential things in our daily lives.

"And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

Isaiah 65:24

OHIO, LATTY
Kathy Sinn

SERVICE

Let us count service
As the deepest of our joys.
It is the salt and savor
Of our every day.

'Tis that by which
The heart is warmed,
Our antidote for loneliness,
Our balm in Gilead.

Service asks no recompense,
It is its own reward.
But, like bread cast upon the
waters,
it will return to us
In its own time
In its own way.

Alice B. Dorland

We appreciate those brethren whose service is to bring the Word of God to His people. We thank the visiting ministers who preached the Word to us in the past few weeks.

A true blessing was experienced by all who shared in communion.

We are thankful God has provided a way for us to renew our spirits and remember His great gift of love.

Bro. Roy and Deb Klopfenstein have been blessed with their second little boy. We pray God's wisdom and strength to be with Bro. Roy and Deb as they raise their family to praise and glorify God.

November is the month known for Thanksgiving Day. As children of God, we have so many reasons to give thanks. Don't deny God this respect. He has freely given but He can freely take away. Praise Him with your whole heart. Also remember to thank your family, friends and brethren in faith for their help, prayers and encouragement throughout the year. May God's love and grace be with you always.

OUR OWN
THANKSGIVING DAY

We thank Thee, Lord,
and render praise
For many gifts and length of days;
For benefits and joys apace,
For happiness and Thy good
grace,
For friends and kindred
and for home
That we, like many, need not
roam
Afar in alien lands. We greet
With thankful hearts our Lord.

We meet
In reverent communion sweet,
To bow before the mercy seat.
All that we are or have we bring
With thankful hearts to our great
king.
We praise and thank,
rejoice and pray
On this our own Thanksgiving
Day.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Linda Morrison

"And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation." Sis. Joannie Beer was baptized October 13; rejoicing in her salvation are her parents: Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) shared in the joy of the Lord and we appreciate his efforts.

"Marriage is honourable in all . . ." (Hebrews 13:4). Sis. Emilie

and Harold Went celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless them.

"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry." (Psalm 34:15) Bro. Claire Keever (Sis. Bev), surgery; Ryan Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie), arm injury; and infant son, Andrew (Ron and Vickie Kerschmann: Bro. Dick and Sis. Carolyn Sauder, grandparents). It is truly a comfort to know God hears our cry in time of distress.

"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces . . ." (Isaiah 25:8). We trust the Lord will comfort Dave and Joy Sauder in the death of Joy's father, Jerry Robson.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Lois Maibach
Charlene Winkler

Last month's column was lost in the mail. Therefore, it is included with this month's. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

August 24 and 25 was a blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Darin Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane), Sis. Marcene Miller and Bro. Michael (Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene) and Sis. Carol Miller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian). We rejoice with them. We appreciate our visiting elders, Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) for assisting Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer with this precious work. Also, visiting us for the weekend were ministering Bros. Gary Maibach and Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH).

Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Con-gerville, IL) and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) have labored in our midst recently. May our heavenly Father reward each of His dear servants.

Sis. Martha Beery has recently needed care in the hospital. May she feel God's nearness and strength each day.

Kelly, Gerri, Sarah, Rachel, Ruth and Abigail, along with their parents, Greg and Sis. Peggy

Tieche, welcome a family addition, Rebecca Marie, born August 22. Loving grandparents are Miriam Tieche and Bro. Andrew and Sis. Lillian Maibach.

Carrie Mariah made her appearance September 19 to first-time parents, Brad and Christine Clark. Happy grandparents are Gerald and Ruth Clark and Bill and Kathleen Shane.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of John Maibach. He is survived by six brothers, Fred (Jo), Dale (Dixie), Bro. Alpha (Sis. Helen), Bro. Arthur (Sis. Janet), Robert and Joe Maibach, Jr. (Donna); and two sisters, Sis. Margaret Calame (John) and Sis. Mary Ellen Gerber. May each one feel God's nearness and strength during this difficult time.

Our congregation has been listening to the conference tapes. May we each strive a little harder to reach that heavenly goal.

Welcoming their first child, Barrett Michael, are Mike and Kristen Gasser. Barrett, born September 23, is lovingly embraced also by his grandmother, Sis. Doris Gasser.

John and Judy Wachtel (Alexander City, AL) are parents of a son, John Kenneth, born October 9. His sister, Crystal, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wachtel and Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener, welcome him.

We thank Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Glenn Riggensbach (Smithville, OH) for visiting us and ministering the Word.

We remember those who have been sick and in the hospital in the past weeks: Sis. Martha Beery, Bro. Reuben Hartzler (Sis. Velma), Bro. Alpha Maibach (Sis. Helen), Gary Murray (Sis. Susan), Sis. Marian Steiner (Willard) and Regina Winkler (Keith).

OHIO, SARDIS
Paula Figel

It was announced that another soul has found peace with God and man. Our friend Clifford Brake has taken advantage of that blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. Oh what a fore-taste of glory divine. May he ever cling near to the Shepherd in

his youthful years and grow to the likeness of his Maker.

Sis. Lisa Brake and Bro. Eric Indermuhle became one-in-the-Lord October 20. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake and Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle. We who are married were exhorted that our relationship as husband and wife should be as Christ and the church. It was a special blessing for a brother and sister, both from Sardis, to be united in marriage. We wish them God's richest blessing as they establish a new home together.

We were privileged to have visiting minister Bro. Mark Barr and his family with us this month.

We are, at this writing, in the peak of our fall season. The valleys and the hills are ablaze with brilliant oranges, bright reds and many beautiful colors. The magnificent handiwork of the Lord's creation is so evident. In a few days it will disappear but the Lord has given us a mind that we can remember His blessings. If we look hard enough there is beauty all around. We thank God for the good gifts of this life.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Stephanie Lubinbuhl
Kim Stoller

PRAISE AND THANKS
FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

Lord God, we honor Thee
And praise Thy mild compassion,
That Thou so gracefully
Dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great;
Thy mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink
For spirit, flesh and soul.

Zion's Harp #13

The Lord again has richly blessed us this past year. As Thanksgiving Day approaches, may each of us thank God for our moderate health and strength, religious freedom, and many earthly blessings.

We want to thank Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for sharing God's Word with us.

On September 29, a number of us traveled to Fairbury, IL, to witness the marriage of Bro. Mark Maibach and Sis. Julie Young. Their parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie Young. Our prayers are with Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie as they walk this life together. We also welcome Sis. Julie to our Smithville congregation.

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise." Jeremiah 17:14. Our hospital patients were Dennis Indermuhle (Shari), Sis. Terry Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose) and Bro. John Dotterer (Sis. Betty). We are always thankful for God's healing hand.

WHERE HE LEADS

Do not question where He leads
But if you choose to follow,
The path is straight and
sometimes steep
And you'll find joy and sorrow.

There may be thorns along the
way
But roses bloom there too,
There may be cloudy, gloomy days
Then skies of azure blue.

A happy heart won't always smile
On this side of the river,
But promises He'll always keep
He said, "I'll leave you never."
Margaret Loyd Rockwood

OHIO, TOLEDO
Frances Laidig
Josephine Rehklau

BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in
the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor
winter's chilly breeze,
By and by the harvest and the
labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing bringing
in the sheaves.

Gospel Hymns #609, vs. 2

We were thankful and fortunate to have two lovely fall days for our Sunday school outings. The Sun-

day school picnic was a blessed day of fellowship with our guests. The bike hike and sack lunch made a pleasant afternoon for anyone who wanted to spend time in one of our nice Metro Parks.

We have finished listening to the tapes from the annual brotherhood conference. May we have been stimulated to become more dedicated in His service. It is a privilege for those who were unable to listen to tapes to have the opportunity to do so in their own homes.

We had the "Young Group" form several of our churches with us October 9. The many voices brought praise and honor to God. May His blessing be with them.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

"Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely."
 Psalm 147:1

The pilgrims left a foreign strand
 And sailed across the main,
 And landed on New England's
 shore
 That faith they might retain.

Some say the first Thanksgiving
 Day
 The pilgrims did ordain
 Was when they offered thanks
 and praise
 For life and food and grain.

It was a day of gratitude
 When stormy voyage was o'er,
 When they had landed safely there
 On cold New England's shore.

The rolling sea behind them lay,
 Before them, trees of pine.
 With thankful hearts they knelt
 in prayer
 And praised God's help divine.

The pilgrims marked the
 Plymouth Rock
 Where they had knelt to pray.
 And still it stands memorial of
 That first Thanksgiving Day.
 Bro. Henry Beer

It was an interesting experience
 to see Plymouth Rock and the rep-

lica of the Mayflower that came to the New England shore in 1620, a few years ago, and all the hardships the pilgrims endured.

Our hearts were filled with thanksgiving as we were privileged to have ministering Bros. Jim Leman (Sis. Myra, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR). Being reminded of an assembly line as each part needs to be inspected to bring about a finished product that will work most efficiently, so it is in our spiritual life -- when the final inspection of our life has come, we will not be rejected. It was a blessed day as quite a number of the Silverton congregation gathered with us also October 13. In the evening, a singing was shared by all.

Experiencing a forest fire only a half hour away from Portland, near Multnomah Falls and the Columbia River Gorge, we had prayerful thoughts that it could soon be extinguished. We're thankful that it is now under control and out of further danger. It makes us think of how sad for an unquenchable fire that will not be contained for those who are not ready for our Lord's return. "Where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched." Mark 9:44

Sis. Golda Ditch (Medford, OR, almost 300 miles from Portland) was able to assemble with us October 13. We're always thankful when she can be with us.

A hearty welcome to all to visit us here in the beautiful Northwest.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Again this fall, our Sunday school invited and hosted a visiting ministering for a weekend. Bro. John Rowell, his wife, Sis. Nelda, and daughter, Melissa (Burlington, IA) spent several days here getting acquainted with our Bible class students and teachers. They traveled the Northern Oregon coast and toured Astoria, Fort Clatsop and other historical and natural sights. Saturday evening, there was a supper at the church for our guests, teachers and the Bible class, followed by a talk from Bro. John to the Bible class. Sunday, the Sun-

day school hosted an afternoon potluck supper and singing at the Silverton Grange building. This was a very special weekend for us all.

The next weekend we said our fond, and sometimes teary, farewells to John and Karmin (Walter) Popkes. John and Karmin have moved to Lester, IA, where John plans to work with his brothers. Many prayers and well wishes go with them.

We neglected last month to mention the birth of Kyle Alan Knecht, who arrived July 25. His parents are Allen and Jenifer Knecht and grandparents (first time!) are Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht and Jim and Janet Loomis (Beaver Creek). Another sweet little boy to make his entrance into this world recently is Luke Edward Zollinger, first child of Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle. Luke's grandparents (also first time) are Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Phoenix, AZ). May these new parents look to the Lord for guidance in this joyous, amazing and responsible new phase of their lives.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers in recent weeks, in addition to Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), were Bro. Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL).

Hospital patients for September and October were Sis. Linda Hari (Harold), Bro. Paul Dettwyler and Lawrence Gehring (Alice). Thankfully, all are nearly recovered at this time.

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni

Thank ye the Lord!
 Give thanks to the Lord,
 For He is gracious,
 His mercy It endureth evermore.
 Endureth evermore,
 Endureth evermore.

Hymns of Zion #245

We have much to give thanks for as we celebrate Thanksgiving this month. We are blessed to live in a land that is free. We are not abused, we have more than enough

to eat. We are truly blessed in that we have a Lord and Saviour who promises us eternal life. We have much to be thankful for every day. The price was paid for us on Calvary two thousand years ago.

A group from Philadelphia joined our Union City, NJ, brethren for a general church cleaning Saturday, October 5, in Union City. It was so special to be able to help in the cleaning and to fellowship with those of like mind and faith.

We thank Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for sharing God's Word with us. May God reward them for their efforts.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Don Sauder

As the Apostle Paul wrote to the churches, so we also from Nashville write. Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. May we always, as long as we travel this earth working out our soul's salvation, have and feel God's love for each other.

This month, instead of having services here in Nashville, we attended services in Athens, AL. We rejoiced along with angels in heaven as Elder Lavoyd Moore, assisted by Elder Bro. David Bertsch, baptized Don Miller. Since this is our first at Nashville, it is a special blessing to welcome Bro. Don into our blessed faith. We wish Don God's richest blessing. May the Holy Spirit guide and direct Bro. Don and each and every one of us so we can bring our ship of faith to a blessed end.

We also want to thank our ministers, Bros. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Elmer Schrenk (Alto, MI) an those who came with them. May God be your rich rewarder!

Again we remind all of you, we hold services here once a month. We invite you to worship with us. Faye and my phone number is (615) 373-8928. The Miller's is 384-1081.

TEXAS, DALLAS/HOUSTON Sandy Darlington

On September 29, Houston services were conducted by Bro. Don

Braker (Kansas City, MO), who was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Eileen. We welcome Hally Humphry to Texas from her home in Arizona. She is going to school at the University of Houston.

Services are held in Houston on the last Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Southwest. Please contact Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Zeltwanger at (409) 542-0763 for information regarding Houston services. As we sometimes gather together on Sundays when there are no scheduled services, we encourage anyone passing through the Houston-San Antonio-Austin area to contact us.

Bro. Gary Brown and his wife, Sis. Jane, traveled from Forrest, IL, to be with us October 6 for Dallas services. We are so thankful for all of the ministers and wives who travel so far in their service to the Lord. This includes Bro. Dave Wagen and his wife, Sis. Marie, who were in Dallas October 20.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp, at (214) 867-4974, are the local area contact for Dallas services which 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.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Bro. Lloyd, Sis. Joyce Nohl and their daughter, Julie, have welcomed three foster children into their home. They are Frank, 5-years-old, Emma, 3-years-old, and Rosita, 1½-years-old. We trust the Lord will bless Bro. Lloyd, Sis. Joyce and Julie. We enjoy having the children assemble with us. It is good that these children can receive the guidance of a Christian home.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

He was struck down but he grasped that truth when Jesus asked him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Acts 9:4. Paul recognized that Voice. He asked the question, "Lord, what would Thou have me

to do?" He was then obedient to the Voice that spoke to him. He was shown what to do and he was faithful to that. I am impressed always, even as we read it in this particular chapter.

In another place, he speaks of the word of reconciliation and he thanked God that it was committed to him. We read in this chapter here, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." I Timothy 1:12. I am humbled by that many times and even put to shame because I have not often considered the privilege that Paul looked upon this as. Especially in my early ministry, I looked at it as something to escape if at all possible.

We can be thankful to Paul and to the Spirit of God that drove him and motivated him, even as he said, "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel of Christ." I Corinthians 9:16. That was his life . . . to speak the message of the Lord Jesus Christ, recognizing that was the only hope of man.

In this letter, too, as he saw his end drawing close, he was concerned that the work would go on just as Jesus was concerned earlier. I believe Jesus is concerned yet today that the work will go on as long as it is His will that the world will stand as we know it.

He said, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope." I Timothy 1:1. He starts about all of his letters and all of his epistles in that way, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ . . ." He is pretty much establishing his credentials in the very first statement of these epistles.

We know that throughout some of his epistles his word and his authority are challenged. It is unfortunate that it is true, but a man of God is going to have to recognize it that his faith is going to be challenged. We should learn to expect that and then not be intimidated or discouraged by that. Rather, in the strength and hope of the Spirit to continue to go on and speak forth the Word. He established his credentials.

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God . . ." I Timothy 1:1. In another place, he said he didn't receive this ministry by the will of men, but it was given to him of God. He wanted to get that point across. He was speaking under the authority of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope. He always established that. In other places, he puts it in a little different way. He will say, "The Lord Jesus Christ whom God hath raised up," establishing that as the basis of our hope.

God sent His Son into the world and Jesus died upon the cross. He shed His blood there to atone for our sins. Christ established that many centuries before. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.

Even the law that called for all those sacrifices, we read in Hebrews, could not change the hearts of men. Yet, it was a law given to them, it was man's duty to keep the law. But man soon learned that he couldn't keep the law. So the sacrifices were offered and they were offered as examples of the sacrifice that would one day ultimately be offered by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ, in faithfulness to the Father, did come and offer the sacrifice and God raised Him from the dead and took Him to heaven. That is our hope. That is the simple story of salvation. There is no need to complicate it, but at the same time, we don't want to over simplify it. When we say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ . . .", you know, the devils also believe.

Let us remember the words of Jesus. He said many times, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." He made it plain that, "By their fruits, ye shall know them."

The things that are in our hearts and in our lives, evidently (and I think I can say this without fear or contradiction) the things that are on the inside, is going to show forth on the outside. Jesus said, "By their fruits, ye shall know them."

So he exhorts us as the Apostle James says about faith. We know that we are not saved by works, but faith without works is dead.

We do not perform works to be saved, but we perform works because we are saved. These are going to testify the faith that is within us and the belief that is down in our hearts.

Surely the Apostle Paul was a real example of that. He said, "Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord." I Timothy 1:2. He said, "As I besought thee and I already told you in the past how you should teach others, so do continue on in that. There are some that teach no other doctrine." He said, ". . . that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine." I Timothy 1:3. No other doctrine but Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

John writes about the anti-Christ's that are already in the world. There are many anti-Christ's in the world. If a man comes and doesn't confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and that God raised Him from the dead, consider him an anti-Christ.

Here Paul is exhorting that none should ". . . teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith; so do." I Timothy 1:3, 4. There are a lot of things. I think of Paul as he spoke there on Mars Hill. He was speaking to the people of Athens and said they were curious people and they were always willing to get together and debate about some new thing.

He is pointing out here that there are some things that is really not worth debating, not worth a lot of time in discussing. They are a waste of time. I think we lose track of this sometimes.

Jesus said, "For every idle word that men speak, they shall give account in the day of judgment." (See Matthew 12:36). As I think of that, then life becomes a rather serious matter. If we are going to be held accountable for an idle word, then what about the times we waste? What about the times that are not put to good use for the Lord Jesus Christ? Or towards working for gathering souls into His Kingdom?

He said here, "Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions . . ." I Timothy 1:4. They bring on questions. They really don't edify or bring a lot of spiritual uplifting, but rather questions. He just continued to warn them against this kind of thing.

"Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned." I Timothy 1:5. Paul was of genuine faith and I think that is really what he is exhorting here -- for him to be genuine and of an unfeigned faith, no pretension of any kind, and above all charity out of a pure heart.

I think if we give thought to that, we do not allow ourselves to be polluted in any way by the things of this world and time or give heed to fables and endless genealogies and all of the things of the New Age Doctrine and all those things that are being promoted in our day and time. Things and those people who have an agenda to discredit our God make us believe that we are all gods, and in our own way we can believe the gods and we can worship the earth and worship anything that you want to. It doesn't really matter, just so you are sincere in what you worship. The Scriptures do not tell us that at all.

Rather, "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm." I Timothy 1:5-7. Jesus said He didn't come to do away with the law, but rather to fulfill the law. The Scriptures make it plain that the law did not make men righteous, but it served its purpose. If men were serious at all about it, they could soon learn that they were unable to keep the law and that they needed a Saviour. The law, at least, accomplished that in the hearts of men to make us aware that of ourselves, we can accomplish nothing.

(Continued in the December Issue of The Silver Lining)

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SERMON BY BRO. MARVIN STIEGLITZ OF LEO, IN

"God's Work Must Go On" I Timothy 1

God perhaps spoke in a special way to the Apostle Paul. We've already heard considerable about the Old Testament patriarchs who were really men of deep and abiding faith. Paul certainly is our New Testament patriarch. I think he is a tremendous model if we are looking for someone to model our life after. Surely we can't go too wrong in modeling our life after the Apostle Paul.

He had a closeness to his God, but not always so. There was a time when, he says here, he was even the chief of sinners because he persecuted the believers and sought to stamp out that new faith that was being promoted.

He was called there on the way to Damascus and established a very close relationship with his God. It seems after a life of service, we know that it was not a life of ease or honor or fame, but rather a life as he kind of lists in his writings of all the things that he endured . . . the beatings, the imprisonments, the shipwrecks and all of those things. It was not a life of ease, but for him, it was still a life of joy. Through it all, he could say, "I thank God that I am counted worthy to endure these things for God's sake." (See II Timothy 2:10).

There came a time when God apparently spoke to him in a special way that his time on earth was at an end. He could make that proclamation, "My departure is now at hand. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith." (II Timothy 4:7). Therefore, there was waiting him a crown of righteousness, but

he said not to him only, but to all those who would believe.

He was faithful to the end, but I love the way God has provided. I hope if that is our prayer, that it will always be so. God, even in Old Testament time, always preserved some. We heard this morning there was still a remnant that had not bowed their knee to Baal -- to the devil. There has been a remnant always to carry on God's work. Let us never forget that.

We were reminded that God always works through people. I don't think it will ever change from that. It will always be that way, but it should always be our prayer that God will raise up faithful men and women to carry on the work.

The Apostle Peter is another one that I just think of now as I think of his writings. He said that he would be faithful in writing down those things so that we will always have the Word. Peter expressed the desire to be faithful in penning down the words of life in his epistle. In other words, we will always have that, and we do have that yet today. God has preserved that.

Here Paul is writing this letter to Timothy. It is often referred to as a pastoral letter where he is passing on these instructions to Timothy as to how he should live, how he should exhort, how he should preach that this work would forever go on. That should be our prayer . . . that the work will go on.

The Lord Jesus already began that work. He looked out upon the fields and said they were white unto harvest. He said, "Pray ye the Lord

will send laborers into His harvest." (See Luke 10:2).

I am mindful that He walked and talked to His disciples nearly three years and there came that time when He saw the end close at hand. He must have had concern as He also had been tempted of the adversary. He knew the wiles of the devil and He had to be concerned and wondered if He was getting His message across.

He finally asked His disciples, He asked, "Who do men say that I am?" I think He was just trying to make a determination as to whether His message had gotten across. Some said He was Elias, some said John the Baptist, and so forth. Then He said, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter made that tremendous profession of faith, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." He said, "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you." (See Matthew 16:13-17).

I am sure that Jesus must have breathed a sigh of relief at that time when He could see that someone had grasped the truth -- the message -- that He was the Christ, and that He was the Saviour of the world. He was the hope for mankind, as Peter made that profession. Peter perhaps did not know that as he was not a converted man at that time. Perhaps he didn't know what he was saying, but it was also by the Spirit of God that it could be recorded and that we would have that testimony of truth yet today.

Likewise, Paul was raised up.
(Continued on Page 34)