



"Joy to the world! the Lord is
come; ..."

Gospel Hymns #606

"Behold, a virgin shall be with
child, and shall bring forth a son,
and they shall call his name
Immanuel, which being inter-
preted is, God with us."

Matthew 1:23

VOLUME 41

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NUMBER 12

GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD



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

ISAIAH 9:6

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

GOOD TIDINGS

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle
Shioda, Japan

Christmas is meant to be a time of "good tidings." In Luke 2:10, the angel of the Lord is quoted as saying, "I bring you good tidings of great joy."

What were the good tidings about? Basically, it was that the true and living God, the Creator of the universe, loved us enough to send His Son to earth in human form to die for us. That was good tidings for us but it meant a sacrifice for the Lord Jesus Christ.

At this Christmas season let's do all we can to bring good tidings to others. If someone is searching for a Saviour, we have the information that will help. It's the same "good tidings" that the angel talked about.

Other good tidings as far as we ourselves are concerned, are that others love us, that they respect us, and that they care about us. To hear such tidings makes us feel very good and we are motivated to try to do even better.

"Bad Tidings" is when we are trying our very best to do what is right and others speak unkindly about us. "Bad Tidings" is when we receive the news that a loved one has a terminal illness or has been killed in an accident. These kinds of tidings come to us often enough in spite of our best efforts — we need more good tidings.

Perhaps we could increase the feeling of "good tidings" at this Christmas season by adding the phrase, "I love you," to the greeting, "Merry Christmas," when greeting our loved ones. At least if you greet me that way, I'll be encouraged. I know that love is a pure love, the kind the Bible exhorts us to practice.

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

THANK YOU

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the many brothers, sisters and friends who have remembered us in so many ways, but especially in prayer, this past month. We are thankful God has answered those prayers and ask that you continue to remember us as we strive to carry out His will in our lives.

In Christian love,
Steve and Susie Jones
Marvin and Mary Sauder
Sandy Johnson
Dick and Cindy Miller
Curt and Bev Knapp
& families

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
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).

YOUNG GROUP ACTIVITIES

For many years a group of members in each of our churches has enjoyed special blessings of fellowship during their single years. Although often referred to as the "young group," there is really no age limit to participation in these gatherings. The benefits derived from the spiritual edification and friendships developed during the years in the young group endure for a life time.

The Word teaches that brethren who are single are able to give more of their time and attention to the things of the Lord (1 Cor. 7:32-34). This is a time of special opportunity for spiritual development and offering of one's time and talents to the service of others.

From time to time there are the newly converted who enter the young group. There is a special responsibility to help nurture these precious lambs and every effort must be made to avoid offending or harming them spiritually (Matt. 18:6). Sometimes there are those who do not mingle well and appear to isolate themselves. Extra effort should be made to reach out and nurture friendships. Special attention should be given to any who become lax in their participation. The early church was filled with new believers and they were characterized by a zeal to worship and fellowship together. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God" (Acts 2:46-47). A fellowship can be experienced through Christ which compares to no other on this earth. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

We are especially blessed in our church because of the opportunity for fellowship to extend beyond our respective congregations throughout the entire brotherhood. Many of us have observed the awe on the faces of various co-workers or school

mates when we mention the close brotherly relationships we share with individuals from many congregations throughout the land, many of whom we have never met before. This cherished benefit will be retained only if great effort is made to uphold beliefs and practices which are in accord with the long-established, scripturally-based doctrines and traditions of our church.

Apostolic Christians should be non-conformists with respect to the world, as the Word teaches (Rom. 12:2). It is sometimes very difficult to resist the pressures to conform to the casual behaviors and fleshly entertainments of the world. Tremendous support is derived from being part of a group which abhors the ways of the world, holding in common strong, biblically-based convictions to which all can gladly conform. We as individuals must do everything we can to strengthen this essential support mechanism and not weaken it.

The unifying force in young group gatherings is the spiritual relationship of the believers in Christ. When time is spent in diversionary activities such as athletic games, etc. there is no spiritual benefit to be derived. This is a step toward worldliness and away from godliness. Such activities create an additional temptation to dress with casual, even immodest apparel. They create division within the group because there are many who justifiably feel such activities are not edifying. "If thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably" (Rom. 14:15). We should take note of the origin of athletic contests which occurred hundreds of years before the birth of Christ. History tells us that the Olympics were created for the purpose of bringing honor to Zeus, the king of the Greek gods, and to glorify man.

Is there any justifiable reason why hair styles should be casual and flighty when a young group gathers on a Saturday evening and then be re-arranged in a more orderly manner for arrival at church on Sunday

morning? Consistency and spiritual stability are very important attributes in our serving as effective examples to the unconverted as well as to other brethren. We should not have to feel compelled to follow the teachings and practices of the church, but rather we should feel motivated by the Spirit within to walk in the ways of godliness, and to resist the ways of the world, out of a deep love for Christ and for our brethren. The Apostle Paul wrote: "I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you" (1 Cor. 4:14). "Charity (love) does not behave itself unseemly" (1 Cor. 13:5).

There are many opportunities for spiritually edifying activities for our young groups which promote unity and bring glory to Christ. When several groups spend a weekend together, the emphasis should be on singing, fellowship and exhortation. There is lasting benefit from singing (Eph. 5:19), and it should be approached with enthusiasm and joy. Special blessings have also been derived from asking a minister (through consultation with the elder) to give a brief exhortation to the group. When additional time is available, effort should be made to schedule activities such as singing for residents at local nursing homes. Sometimes circumstances lend themselves to other wholesome activities such as visiting a museum, a historical site or an area of natural beauty, which if undertaken carefully can be beneficial.

Local young groups can involve themselves in important volunteer activities such as work projects and Bible distribution. Participation in authorized Bible studies under the supervision of a minister is also encouraged. Many blessings will be enjoyed by all if we "follow after the things which make for peace" (Rom. 14:19). The chances for this will be enhanced if there is consultation with the local church leadership in planning young group activities.

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, 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 commu-

nist "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 Far-kasch, 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

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

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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 |
| November 1991 — | 1856 | 11,759 |

*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.

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¢ ex-

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

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CALENDAR**

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CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE**

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 8, 1992**

tra 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:

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EUROPE

May 14 through 28, 1991

Bro. Gene Lehman
Wolcott, IN Congregation

After having been blest with a wonderful visit to East and West Germany in September of 1989, traveling companions Peter Weber and Gene and Verna Lehman maintained a close relationship not only with each other, but also with the loved ones they had met in Europe. These folks were Elder Bro. Hans Heer, his wife, Dina, daughter, Edith in Adolzfurt, Westdeutschland, and the old members in East Germany, Traudel Markert and her sister, Ruth, and brother-in-law, Willi Sonntag, Maria Braun, Elisabeth Pamer, Heinrich and Helena Hartmann, and their families. Correspondence flows on a very regular basis, with letters in the mail most of the time.

We had a heart to return, especially before the old ones were unable to visit with us, and during this time, Arno Markert, a minister, and father of Traudel and Ruth passed away. This was the last remnant of the church in the village of Liechtenstein, which had been established during the time of Samuel Froelich, founder of our denomination. Needless to say, this caused much grief in the lives of Traudel and her family.

We had considered returning in the fall of 1990, but things did not seem to want to work out, so we continued to trust in God that all would come in His good time. In late winter, during one of their many conversations, Pete and Gene decided to seriously look for decent rates for flights in the spring of 1991. We found some rates with Lufthansa Airlines which were affordable, but Pete wanted to hang on for something better. One night the phone rang at Lehmans and Pete's voice said, "I hope I have done the right thing! TWA has flights from Peoria to Frankfurt for \$386.00 round trip, and I reserved three for us. However there is a problem, for there are no openings on this limited number of seats for Gene and Verna to return when they want to." (Pete was staying two weeks longer than we were.) Gene told him this was just fine, and we would let the matter rest in God's hands, and if we were supposed to go, something would come up.

On a weekend trip into the Peoria area where their children live, Gene and Verna went to their daughter's one Friday evening, and on Saturday morning, Pete and Gene had breakfast with some of the older brothers from Peoria, which in itself was very nice. However, when they returned to Pete's house, within five minutes the phone rang, and it was the travel agency who said that two return seats had opened up on the 28th of May. The Lehmans wanted to come home on the 27th, and Pete said, "What shall we do?" Gene replied, "We shall buy the tickets." And we did. We had never anticipated that we could fly to Europe for such a low price, and still consider it a gift from God.

Letters with a proposed itinerary had been going back and forth from America to Hans, who once again would be our companion, although his health has failed somewhat since we were there before. Gene phoned him the next week, telling him of how things had worked out. He said he would notify the dear ones in East Germany. Communism is indeed dead there, which is good, but the telephones

haven't really come alive, which tends to complicate things, (and annoy) for Americans who like to do things fast. However, it did all work out through the mail, and we soon learned that all would be well. We settled down to make arrangements to be gone, and the time passed so very swiftly. Soon the day of departure came.

On the weekend of May 11, Suz and Max Hoerr came home, and on Sunday, the family was together at Greg's home. When the time of departure came, we sang and prayed together, and the Hoerrs and Gene and Verna went to Goodfield overnight. Early Monday morning, Suz took us to the airport, where Pete soon showed up. We flew from Peoria to St. Louis where the international flight began. We had to change planes in JFK airport in NY, which became somewhat of a hassle, but those things go along with travel. We have found that it isn't child's play, and one must be flexible, and with this attitude, it all worked out, even though we waited an extra hour and a half in a crowded terminal with the air conditioning down. Remembering the ancient slogan, "This, too shall pass", we survived.

We touched down safely in Frankfurt, Germany, only an hour or so late, so we had made up some of the time in flight. We also had lost seven hours, which was the night, and we saw no beds during it. Surprisingly, we were reasonably alert, and managed to get our luggage and pick up our reserved rental car. We had quite a stack of luggage, and Pete asked the girl at the counter if it would all fit in the Opel Kadette we had reserved, and the dear lady gave us one size larger auto at no extra cost. Once more we felt the hand of the Almighty directing us.

There comes to mind an amusing incident on the plane. A Jewish man from New Orleans gave us an interesting lecture on Jews, and he was wearing a watch with many functions. Toward the end of the flight, he said that we were going down, for the watch had an altimeter on it, which showed lower altitude. A discussion followed, and

(Continued on Page 34)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"They presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

Matthew 2:11

The tradition of giving gifts has been an important part of the celebration of Christmas for many centuries. This tradition may have begun partly because the wise men brought gifts to Jesus. The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh were costly items. But when you compare their value to the effort the wise men displayed - by traveling hundreds of miles - to worship Jesus, the true value is their presence of worship, not the gifts.

On this Christmas Day, we want to remember what truly makes Christmas - God's greatest gift to us - His holy presence in our personal lives as Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

For each of our people, Christmas is important, and again it is your presence by Christmas caroling, inviting a friend or family member for the holidays, taking people to worship services, which is more valuable than the gifts they may receive.

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

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

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

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Tim Sauder

What is Christmas? Christmas has become lights, decorations, music, programs, festivals, parades, shopping, vacations, sumptuous food, toys and gifts, family gatherings, charity baskets, etc., etc., etc and all kinds of things that we humans have heaped on. Are these things bad? No, not necessarily. But Christmas is a whole lot more. Or perhaps a lot less. Christmas is simply Jesus! God's perfect, humble, divine, wise simplicity. A baby born in obscure poverty. Humility to confound the proud. Simplicity to confound the wise. Apparent lowliness and weakness to confound the high and mighty.

So in the middle of the clamor of advertisements and cash registers, the worry of finding the right gift or tree, the hustle of baking bread and cutting cookies, the hurry of getting to church or dinner on time - let's stop and listen to the simple, quiet truth; Christmas is Jesus. Jesus is love. Jesus is Lord! As you focus on God's precious Christmas gift to the world - a child, a Savior, a King, may your heart well up with awe at His profound wisdom, praise for His mercy and thanksgiving for His abundant blessings to us all.

We welcome Darlene M. (14) to the Baumgartner family in the New House. It is our hope and confidence that she will respond to unconditional love and acceptance and blossom into a radiant, young woman.

Speaking of radiance; we rejoice with Cathy B., who has been in the East House for the past 15 months, as she moves into the foster home of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina Schumacher in Fort Wayne. Her tender smile and gentle spirit will be missed here on campus. We're glad she will still be in the area and continue to worship with us as one of our precious new babes in Christ.

Cathy is now one of eight children who are in our foster homes in the area, including the Transitional Living House in Fort Wayne, headed up by Sis. Amy Unsicker.

We are thankful to report that of these eight foster children, four are converts who have surrendered their hearts to Christ. We rejoice in these blessings because they have not only been changed, but they have changed us. They have changed our Home, our young group, our church and the way we look at the future and the way we look at God's mercy to all. Because He is ". . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3:9.

Volunteers this past month have been Bro. Mitch Leman (Bradford, IL) who helped with maintenance and child care and Sis. Renee Bauer (Princeville, IL and Shioda, Japan) who shared her talents and energies in all of the houses helping the child care staff. God will bless them for giving.

With Christmas vacation coming up, this could be a good time for maintenance volunteers like farmers or college students to consider some service work at Gateway Woods. Please contact the office at (219) 627-2159 to coordinate plans.

Presentations about the Gateway Woods, including slides, were given at the Golden Year Home and the Eastern States World Relief Review in Wolcott, IN during the past month. It's our privilege to share about the Lord's work here. Any church or group who would like a presentation is encouraged to contact the office.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Pamela Moore

We're experiencing that rainy November weather in Alabama. We may not see much snow, but we definitely see much rain. We would like to apologize for the missing Athens, AL, column in the past few Silver Lining issues. Our current writer, Sis. Lisa Huette, has been recuperating from an illness, and so we will change writers for the column for awhile. We are very thankful Sis. Lisa is again back with us and continues to get stronger with each day.

We've experienced many blessed times in the past weeks and months. We were able to hear the

testimonies of Bro. Joel Schrenk and Bro. Don Miller October 5, and witness their baptisms the following day. Christ can make such a change in the lives and souls of people. Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Bro. Elmer Schrenk (Alto, MI) shared this special time with us.

In the south, the beginning of fall always brings many fall festivals. We had our own fall festival, getting together to bob for apples, have two-legged races and a wiener roast. We all shared in a singing to end the evening.

November 9 and 10 was the weekend for the bi-annual Pre-school Board meeting. We appreciated hearing the Word of God brought to us Sunday by Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI).

Izora (Granny) Cooley has spent time in the hospital, as has Debbie Barrett and Roger Harden. We pray God will renew and restore their health.

We are looking forward to the wedding of Tim Hall (Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall) and Darlene Nixx, upcoming December 6. May God bless and be in their marriage and lives.

As Christmas is so quickly approaching, and we get caught up in buying presents, putting up trees and decorations, let's remember the true meaning of Christmas. Let's ponder the humble birth of so great a Savior, the miracle of God's Son, sent to bring us salvation. Let's tell our children the story of Christ's birth and what Christmas means to us as Christians. Satan would have us to take Christ out of Christmas, but we know that Jesus is the reason for the season!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

A much needed rain poured Sunday morning, but lo, when it was time to go to the park by 3:30, the sun was shining brightly. Our Lord saw lots of happy people at our annual Sunday school picnic. A lovely time for fellowship, food and singing! Heartfelt thanks to all, especially Superintendent Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer.

We have been listening to the elder conference tapes on Wednesday nights.

October 27 was the wedding of Bro. Earl Roth and Sis. Marilyn Weyeneth in Roanoke, IL. A reception will be held here November 17. We wish them much happiness as they blend their lives along God's pathway.

November 17 our prayers and thoughts were in Alto, MI, where Sis. Kathy Steffen and Bro. Nathan Knochel exchanged wedding vows. Several from our church were present, including Bro. Nate's parents, Bro. Herb and Sis. Johanna Knochel.

Best wishes to you for years of happiness only found in a God-loving home.

We are mindful of our walk on the "Christian Highway" when we hear the conference tapes and the conference letter was read to us. Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin).

Other visiting ministers we thank are Bro. Loren Knapp and Bro. Nate Leman (Tucson) and Bro. Loren Schrenck (St. Louis).

Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Sophie Huber are happy for a new grandson, Bryce Alex Ricketts. His parents are Sis. Cheryl and Jon.

We've said many prayers for our sick list names. Bro. Melvin Miller, Bro. Earl and Sis. Emma Sanders, Sis. Frances Schrenck.

Like the rest of the world, we have weather, not quite seasonal at times. However, in Phoenix part of every day is just as you want - nice. Come join us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) were with our congregation recently to serve communion to us along with our deacon, Bro. Loren Knapp. Their efforts were greatly appreciated.

Our business meeting resulted in the following elections: Bro. Don Bauer was elected as an usher; Bro. Rudy Bertschi was elected as our other usher; Sis. Gloria Bauer was elected as kitchen chairman; and Bro. Fred Funk was elected as a

trustee. Many thanks to Bro. Jay Knapp, Steve Bauer, Rudy Bertschi and Sis. Diane Funk for their services in the jobs they vacated.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to one and all to attend a Pancake Supper January 26, 1992. If you are in the area, come join us for pancakes!

Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix) was also with us this past month. We thank him for thinking of us and for his service on the pulpit.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Lisa Steiner

We are thankful that God has brought back our ministering brethren safely from India. Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), retired Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and our Elder Bro. John Klotzle traveled to India to visit the mission. We are also thankful that we could visit with them and hear Bro. Gene preach God's Word before they departed on their journey.

Ministering brethren Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) were able to visit us in November and share God's Word.

We were saddened at the sudden passing of Sis. Louis Erhart October 3. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Louise's family, especially her husband, Bro. Fred. May God grant them continued strength.

We also miss the presence of Bro. Bill and Sis. Frieda Minger who have relocated to the Escondido area. They attended services in Maywood and Altadena for many years and were a special part of our congregation.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Marian Petrovic

This past month we were privileged to have two visiting ministers. They were Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena) and Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Rory Strahm is home recuperating after having surgery. We pray for his full recovery.

COLORADO, DENVER **Eric and Marcel Huber**

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Psalm 119:9. It was refreshing to hear the testimony of Chris Johnson on the weekend of November 16 and 17. A special "thank you" to our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) who were here for this special occasion. The young children of our church were especially enthusiastic since this was the first time many of them had witnessed a baptism.

Little Kaylynn Hohulin (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn Hohulin) spent several days in the hospital. We are thankful she has returned home and is feeling better.

We want to welcome Chuck and Carol Schrenk along with their two children, Justin and Amanda. May God's blessings be upon them as they have recently moved from Michigan to Colorado.

We also want to thank Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for his visit and ministry.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE **Michelle Virkler**

"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children" (Deuteronomy 6:7). As a newborn enters into this world, we all have a tremendous responsibility to teach them about our Lord and Savior. Bro. Scott and Sis. Luanne Hills welcome Paul Matthew October 21. Aaron and Laura anticipated the arrival of their new little brother.

"We'll now depart, ye faithful friends; And from this place we'll go; The Lord in whom our spirits blend, Will lead us on the road. (Zion's Harp #143). Our dear Bro. Ben, Sis. Michelle and daughter, Lauren, have departed from Rockville to make their home in Champaign, IL. We trust God will be with them. They will be missed greatly in Rockville.

On November 3, Tom Bahler (Bro. Lee and Sis. Maxine), Matthew Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma) and Jason Kloter (Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary) were baptized as brothers in our Lord. "And Jesus

when he was baptized went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. And lo a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (St. Matthew 3:16-17) Isn't this what we all want as sisters and brothers-in-faith, to please our Lord for all He has done for us?

We are thankful Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and retired Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) were able to be in our midst. We always appreciate their efforts to assemble with us.

Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) also was able to visit us the weekend of November 9 and 10. May richly bless those dear brothers who take time to come and visit us.

As the holiday season approaches, may we take time for the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior. What a wonderful time of the season to show our love and re-dedicate our hearts and minds to following Jesus Christ.

Note: Annual subscription (\$9.00) for the Silver Living will be collected during the month of January. Please inform your correspondent during this month of any changes of address, deletion in subscription, wish to subscribe, etc. Thank you!

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, **WASHINGTON** **Henrietta Meyer**

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." I Corinthians 12:13. The weekend of October 27-28, several from our congregation traveled to Lester, IA, to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of Ed and Ginny Stoll.

We welcome Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp (Eureka, IL) to our assembly. Bro. Bob's job with Caterpillar has taken them to Raleigh, NC. While it is quite a drive, we appreciate their effort to assemble with us.

Our ministers this month were

Bro. Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Dale Wolf (Lester, IA). We are so thankful for these brothers and their families to fit a trip to this area into their busy lives. Not only did Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy have the usual concerns of plane tickets and who would watch the children, they had several delays because of the snow. We are so thankful for and richly bless by all who come to visit. Other visitors this month were from Philadelphia, PA; Fairbury, IL; Latty, OH and Bluffton, IN.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18. The engagement of Bro. Matthew Aeschleman to Sis. Jill Metzger (Lester, IA) was made known November 17. Their parents are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Delores Metzger (Lester, IA).

As the Christmas season draws near, may we always remember the true meaning of the holiday as we celebrate.

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 are in the area, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Bro. Ed Stoll (703) 730-0248.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE **Terri Huber**

It is with great joy that I report a new convert in Fort Lauderdale. Diane Klopfenstein (Richard) has given her heart to the Lord. We wish her God's grace and guidance on her new walk.

Activities this month included church cleaning and our first senior supper. The Sunday school children put forth tremendous effort to shop for groceries, set tables, cook, serve and entertain their "Senior Citizen" guests. It was a good opportunity for the older folks to

feel appreciated and for the students to learn how to do the Lord's work.

One of our visitors this month was Bro. John Kaufman, who rode his bicycle all the way from the western part of the United States. He had many stories to tell of the hospitality and friendliness of the American people he met along the way. We wish them Godspeed and God's protection on the trip home.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Dorothy Beer
Jeanette Yergler

NOT ALONE

I cannot walk alone, dear Lord,
 Without the touch of Your hand.
 My legs are weak and I'm afraid
 But I know you understand.

When I reach out for You, dear
 Lord,
 I always find You there.
 And You will renew my strength
 When I come to You in prayer.

You've given me many blessings,
 Lord,
 Including a heart that sings.
 And as I walk in Your shadow
 I am safe beneath Your wings.

In my distress I cried, dear Lord,
 And I know You heard my plea.
 You said, "dear child, take My
 hand,"
 And, "Fear not but come unto
 Me."

I know I need not fear, dear Lord,
 For You call me by my name.
 You'll walk with me all the way
 And help me to not complain.
 By Gladys Adkins

This is pointed out to us in Isaiah 41:13, "For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."

Our prayers are with Bill Heckel (Louise) who was a surgical patient and is recuperating at home now. We are very grateful to God that all is well.

Bro. David (Sr.) Eisenmann is

recuperating from an unfortunate accident.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. David Sr. and Sis. Kay Eisenmann in the death of his mother, Sis. Bertha Eisenmann (Bro. Jesse). She was 92 years old and walked in God's love for 76 years. She spent the last 6 years at the home in Peoria, IL. Most of her life was in the Burlington and Oakville, IA, area.

We enjoyed fellowship at a picnic held recently at Bro. Vic and Sis. Dottie Beer's home.

We are planning a church dinner/carry in this month to surprise Bro. Roland and Sis. Viola Keller on their 60th wedding anniversary. May God's blessings be with them.

Our congregation was blessed this month with visiting minister Bro. Glen Price (Sarasota, FL).

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Gala Gerber - Suellen Ott

Holiday times are such special times! They are times when we rekindle family ties, times when we step back and observe our many blessings, and times when our focus goes to the needs of others instead of ourselves. A time to express our sincere appreciation to our Father for "life" and for the priceless "gift" He offered on our behalf "His Son Jesus! May we all since His presence during this holiday season and offer up words of gratitude for His boundless love and redeeming grace!

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

Bless ye the Lord,
 O bless ye the Lord!
 My soul, remember His goodness
 And His gifts bestowed on thee,
 His gifts bestowed on thee,
 His gifts bestowed on thee!

Hymns of Zion #245

We appreciated the kindness of Bro. Roger Souder and his wife for sharing with us the World Relief slides! So encouraging and motiva-

tional to see and know just what all we brethren, when working together as a team with our Lord, can accomplish in His name!

Our congregation once again has been blessed with visiting ministers. We want to thank Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bros. Richard Sutter and Brian Webb (Fort Lauderdale) and Bro. Dave Eisenmann (North Fort Myers) for sharing with us the manna from on high! God bless each one!

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp

We have one again been blessed as Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) could be with us Saturday evening, November 2, to read the memorandum. We thank them for their love and concern for us.

Also visiting this month were ministering Bros. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and their wives. May God richly reward each of them for their efforts of love.

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. Mark Gerst (404-339-4454) for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Carol Steffen

As time quickly passes, we can hardly believe we have been having services in Belvidere for five months now. We deeply depend on God's guidance and appreciate the blessings He has bestowed upon us.

Among the blessings, we are thankful and grateful to the ministers who traveled here to support us. They include Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Bros. Ron Schambach and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen who came for a Wednesday evening service. Besides ministers, other visitors came from nine of

our other churches this month. We thank each one.

To clarify our schedule, we have services every Sunday and the first and third Wednesday nights of the month. We are on a minister rotation that sends a minister the first and fifth (if there is one) Sundays of every month. An Elgin, IL, minister comes the third Sunday of every month and the first Wednesday evening of every month. Visitors are appreciated anytime, however, so please give us a call if you are going to be in the area.

Once again, the church is located at 525 Carpenter St. in Belvidere. Please call Bro. Dean Steffen at (815) 568-6086 or Bro. Jim Jepson at (815) 332-9793.

**ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Tudy Schmied
Carolyn Fischer**

"Angels" was the topic of our Day of Devotion, November 11. We were uplifted and encouraged as we learned of the special role that angelic beings played in Christ's life and how they watch over us today. "Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him." Matthew 4:11; and when Christ was on the Mount of Olives He prayed, "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him." Luke 23:42, 43. We thank Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) as well as our own ministers, Dennis Kaufmann and Kevin Knapp, for being with us and sharing what God had revealed to them concerning angels.

Praise the Lord that the door of grace remains open and God continues to work in the hearts of man. We heard evidence of this once again as three souls gave their testimony November 9 and were baptized the following day. They are Sis. Pam Zimmerman (Bro. Dennis), Sis. Ann Nussbaum (Bro. Jay) and Bro. Jeff Leman (son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary).

We are thankful for the loving

service of visiting Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Bob Grimm (Goodfield) and Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield).

May the joy of the birth of our Lord and Saviour permeate your holiday activities. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6:21

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Les and Barb Fehr**

On October 19, a blessing, Joshua Lee, was delivered to Sis. Deb and Bro. Daryl Knobloch. Joshua's grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dianne Knobloch and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn Gudeman (Congerville). We are so glad that Sis. Deb is able to come to church again. May God bless this new family.

We would like to thank the visiting ministers who so lovingly brought us God's Word. They are Bros. Gary Brown (Forrest) and Bruce Leman (Roanoke).

Our get-well wishes go to little Monica Buckman who is recovering from a leg injury. Her parents and Mike and Deonna Buckman (Duckworth).

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Marjorie Heintz**

We are again being blessed with new families moving to our area. Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand and their daughter, Lauren, have returned to Champaign from Boston. Ben will be doing post-doctorate work in chemistry at the University of Illinois and Michelle will be working at home. We are thankful they will be worshipping with us again and encourage them to stay as long as they are able.

We are happy to welcome another family to our congregation. Mike and Kay Nibbelin and their daughter, Katelyn, have moved from southern Illinois to Charleston. Mike teaches accounting at Eastern Illinois University and Kay is a nurse. We are thankful to have them here and hope they will soon feel part of our congregation.

Since the completion of our new church building, it has become com-

mon for us to have many visitors at services on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. We're thankful for each one who makes the effort to worship with us and are grateful to God for His added blessings. The visiting minister this past month was Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park).

Recently the friends and members of the Champaign congregation gave a housewarming for Bro. David Bauer. He has purchased a home in Danville where he teaches in one of the elementary schools. Champaign has been his church for several years, and we're all happy that he has put down some more "roots" in this area.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter**

I am discovering over and over again how much my students think they "deserve" something. If they spend fifteen minutes on homework, they become disappointed, even downright discouraged, if it isn't automatically given a good grade, no matter what kind of work is shown. If they are asked to come in after school for extra help, they don't have time - or they give lip service to doing better next time, totally ignoring the fact that they don't have any more skills or understanding now than they did before. If they are offered an incentive, they may sneer at it, saying it isn't enough - though it is more than the "nothing" they had before. Sometimes being patient and caring with such reactions becomes difficult. I become "cast down." I feel like giving up. But always somewhere within the time as I pray and grapple with my concerns for them, I am reminded how much, in the eyes of God, I am like my students. I am always wanting approbation, whether I deserve it or not, for I need so much encouragement to keep my going. Spending more time with my Lord in prayer, reading, and meditation seems difficult: there is so much to do around me in other spheres. Yet without the preparation, how can I do better as His ambassador "next time"? Incentives abound in the Lord's

plan, but they are not so immediate nor do they always come in large packages, immediately recognizable to my too-often materialistic eye. How can I tell the Lord of the universe what I "deserve" – for what I deserve I do not want – death for my sins! I thank Thee, Lord, for all the times Thou remindest me of who I am and how far I have to go, but most of all, I am so grateful for Thy Son who intercedes and reminds Thee that I am but a child being schooled, that (like my own goal for my students) Thou canst only aim for perfection: Each one being successful, that none be cast out. Thus must I also be merciful.

We were warmed by the visits of ministers from near and far. Brandon Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon), our newest brother-in-faith, gave his testimony Saturday, October 26 and was baptized Sunday, the 27th. Besides those who attended Brandon's testimony Saturday evening, Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman helped our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in this joyous time both Saturday and Sunday, and Bros. (and uncles) Rich Sutter (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) participated Sunday. We rejoice with Bro. Brandon and his family, and as his church family, we would remember we have another responsibility, to be his examples and supporters in the Lord.

Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) was inspired of the Spirit this past Wednesday evening as he came and shared thoughts on humility in a topical Bible study. He reminded us that humility is a middle ground, not high like pride, nor negatively low like self-abasement – and that we ought to be humble in deed and in thought. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus . . ." Philippians 2:3-5. We pray that the Lord might reward Bro. Wayne for his usefulness in the Spirit for our growth.

We would sing Alleluias with the angels in heaven, for Tammy Collinsworth has sought the Lord in true repentance. May we be her family, especially spiritually, and enfold her in our love and prayers.

We are happy for Sis. Dana Bucher and Bro. Curt Anliker in their engagement in the Lord. Sis. Dana (originally from Washington, IL, Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicky) has been attending Northern Illinois University in DeKalb for physical therapy. Bro. Curt (originally from Francesville, IN, Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicky) has been working up here in the northern suburbs. They look forward to a May wedding. May their waiting be a time of spiritual learning and growing together.

We are missing some special people again. Bro. Mark and Sis. Kaylene Butikofer and their sweet little daughter, Whitney, have moved to Gridley, IL, and are attending church there. Bro. Mark's work is with Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance in Bloomington. We understand that their families enjoy having them closer, and we believe in the perfectness of the Lord's plan for each of our lives, but we (and they, too, possibly) are still adjusting. We are thankful for the time we had together and express our appreciation to Bro. Mark for his coordination of song leading. We would have been glad to keep them longer, and we encourage them to visit. Through tears, we repeat: "The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another." Genesis 31:49. To Sis. Paulette Feucht (Lester, IA) we also bid a fond farewell. Her willingness to take these limited-stay engagements and move from place to place as a traveling nurse is exciting. We are grateful that we could know her for a time and ask her to try us again sometime "for longer."

I haven't felt well this week. And this is three weeks after my big week – at which time I had anticipated I could handle things again. Almost, though some pressure is gone, I would say each week has become increasingly tough to take. My body is reacting to what my mind is doing, I am afraid: spinning, whirling, anticipating, forget-

ting too much of the time what is most important. Consequently, I am starting to succumb to stress. I need to draw back, to think slowly, drink in words of promise: remembering a song from choir – "Dark the night, rough the way, Step by step – my Lord and I. By God's green pastures feeding, by His cool waters lie, Soft in the evening walk my Lord and I. All the sheep of His pasture fare so wondrously fine. His sheep am I." (vs. 2, Orien Johnson) Psalm 23 and all of the Lord's promises are the THJPLG we need to get us through life with less stress: ". . . whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Philippians 4:8, 9. May the end of the "old" year be peaceful; may the beginning of the new be so also. What a resolution – to maintain peace moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day, for the year of 1992! "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Karol Stock - Bev Knapp

As the time of Christ's birth appears, we think of the age old, yet priceless, stories that have refreshed us time after time. The shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the lowly manger, the baby Jesus, all are part of those stories that become more precious year after year. And as we become more seasoned in our faith, we marvel anew at how God in His great mercy has shared it all with us so many years later. No matter where we are, no matter how old or how young we are, we can still feel the "Peace on Earth" that comes through knowing the story of Christ's birth and His life here among men.

WISE MEN SEEKING JESUS

Wise men seeking Jesus
Traveled from afar,
Guided on their journey
By a beauteous star.

But if we desire Him,
He is close at hand;
For our native country
Is our holy land.

Prayerful souls may find Him
By our quiet lakes,
Meet Him on our hillsides
When the morning breaks.

In our fertile cornfields
While the sheaves are bound
In our busy markets,
Jesus may be found.

Fishermen talk with Him
By the great north sea,
As the first disciples
Did in Galilee.

Every peaceful village
In our land might be
Made by Jesus' presence
Like sweet Bethany.

He is more than near us,
If we love Him well;
For He seeketh ever
In our hearts to dwell.

Gospel Hymns #867

We have had several missing from our assembling due to illness this month. Kendra Gudeman (Bro. Stan and Sis. Debbie), Bro. Les Walder and Bro. Dale Koehl, all had surgery. We are thankful they are recovering and we are glad to have them with us again. Also, Bro. Harry Knapp, Sis. Mattie Bauer and Sis. Laura Hodel have suffered afflictions of the flesh. We pray they can feel God's healing hand in their lives.

Graveside services were held here in Cissna Park for Bro. Carl Leman (Elgin, IL). Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Minnie (Elgin) and his brother and sister-in-law, Bro. George Winger and Sis. Martha Brenner, both of our congregation.

We appreciated the efforts of our visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bro.

Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville) all labored to bring us teachings from God's Word. We thank them for their visits.

An enjoyable Sunday was spent fellowshiping and singing with the Prairie Choristers from Roanoke November 10. It is such a blessing to share our faith in the Lord.

We appreciate the efforts of our brothers and sisters in the Forrest and Roanoke congregations as they have hosted our young people this past month. May all be blessed who are a part of these "times of refreshing."

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Myra Steffen - Joanne Roth

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy king cometh unto thee: he is just and having salvation . . ." Zechariah 9:9. May we rejoice this Christmas season with thankful hearts and praise Him for the gift of salvation.

On October 16 Ben Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda) and Karen Killday (Bill and Ann Killday, Quincy, IL) were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings.

Following God's direction, the engagement of Bro. Chuck Zimmerman (Bro. Orville and Sis. Lulu) and Sis. Ginny Knecht (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Judy, Eureka, IL) was made known to us. May they continue to seek God's guidance as they plan their life together.

We were privileged to hear God's Word brought to us by Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL). God bless these brothers for their service in our behalf.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn McClure have welcomed Clinton Cecil into their home. Amanda and Austin are his big sister and brother. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon McClure and Roger and Elaine Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

Hospitalized this month were Art Miller (Lena), Bro. Bob Williamson (Sis. Doris) and Sis. Gerri Schrock (Bro. Steve). May God grant His healing hand and may His grace be sufficient for each day.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

THE RETURNING OF CHRIST

At Christmastime when every
heart
with special rapture fills,
Each soul becomes a Bethlehem
among Judean hills,

And Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
in His only lowly way
Comes seeking room in human
hearts
to share the Christmas Day.

May He not find the crowded inn
too full for Him again,
Or Christmas gifts and Christmas
trees
without the Christ of men.

But may there be the humble
heart
with room prepared and blessed,
And heart reborn to greet anew
the long-expected guest.

At Christmas when He seeks His
place
supreme in human wills,
Each heart becomes a Bethlehem
among Judean hills.
by Betty W. Stoffel

Once again, we were brought to remembrance of the uncertainty of life for young and old. Bro. Karl Lehman, 84, formerly of Bensenville, passed away in Apostolic Christian Resthaven October 21, after a short illness. We offer our condolences to his dear wife, Sis. Minnie. Other survivors include one brother and several nieces and nephews.

"Some one will enter the pearly gates By and By . . . Taste of the glories that there await, Shall You? shall I?" James McGranahan. Heartfelt sympathy and love are shared by all to Sis. Carolyn Haas and family as their loved one, Edwin Haas, 59, of Tucson, AZ, formerly of South Elgin, suffered injuries in an airplane crash November 4 and died a short time later. He leaves one daughter, Barbara Leclerc (Paul, Phoenix, AZ); five sons, Thomas (Kimberly,

Tempe, AZ), Daniel (Scottsdale, AZ), John (Park City, UT), Paul (Flagstaff, AZ) and David (Tucson, AZ); a granddaughter; and three sisters, Lenora Leveen (Larry, Palmer, AK), Betty Klaus (John, Tokyo, Japan) and Virginia Cummings (Mike, Sonora, CA). His parents, Bro. George and Sis. Anna Haas, preceded him in death.

We wish also God's comfort for Sis. Edie Anliker (Bro. Gary) who recently laid to rest a dear sister.

Our thanks and appreciation to our loved ones who visited us with inspired messages. They are Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Garth Steffen (Portland, OR) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). May God bless you.

A stop in faith, an act of love: The engagement of Bro. Jeff Cargill and Sis. Crystal Broquard (Fairbury, IL) was recently made known. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay, and Bro. Don and Sis. Ione. May the Lord continue to lead.

A goodly number of brethren and friends attended the annual supper honoring those who have reached the three-score-and-ten mark. "Blest Be the Tie That Binds Our Hearts in Christian Love . . ."

Gail Kellenberger (Elvis) and Elmer Schambach have spent time in the hospital and are in need of our prayers at this time of writing.

The family of Edwin Haas wishes to thank everyone for their gifts of love, support and prayers.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy L. Leman

"tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free." Hymns of Zion #36. As we enter the holy season of our Lord and Saviour's birth, may we all become more childlike and humble in our walk of life. What a precious season for all God's children.

Our loved ones who have been hospital patients this past month are Sisters Aldine Leman (Bro. Sam), Elaine Blunier (Bro. Myron), Ida Mae Klaus (Bro. Joe), Bro. Willis Stoller and Bro. John Huetter. May God bless and heal as He sees best.

We have been thankful for those

brethren who have brought us the Word of Life. May God bless the messages brought forth by Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington), Vernon Wettstein and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield).

October 27 we heard the wedding engagement of Sis. Ginny Knecht (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judith) and Bro. Chuck Zimmerman (Bro. Orville and Sis. Lula, Congerville). May God bless them as they plan for their lives together.

We also with God's blessings for Brent and Brandi Kupferschmid who were recently united in marriage. Their parents are Lon and Kandy Kupferschmid (Eureka) and Mike and Gay Hughes (Sunnyside).

Bro. Keith and Sis. Michelle Knepp welcomed Emily Nichole into their hearts and home November 12. Emily's grandparents are Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht and Gary and Sis. Nancy Knepp. May God bless this little family.

Our Bro. Stan Wiegand has felt God's leading to move to Bern, KS, to seek employment there. We are thankful for God's Spirit and guidance and wish the God's continued presence with Bro. Stan as he assembles with the brethren at Bern.

Correction: Ben Wiegand (not Wettstein) and Lisa Carroll were married October 5. His parents are Dale and Sis. Friedora Wiegand (not Wettstein) of Eureka. Sorry for the error.

Reminder to the Eureka congregation: Silver Lining collection is in January. The amount is \$9.00. Also, please submit any address changes "the old address and the new address.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

". . . We have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Matthew 2:2

STAR TRAILS

"Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,

Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light."

At this season of the year, we rejoice in the birth of our Saviour. Let's be thankful every day for this wonderful salvation.

Our congregation was blessed with two new additions. On November 4, Sis. Elaine and Dale Mowery gave birth to Chase Eli. Chase has two older brothers, Lance and Brent. Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger and Russell and Rosie Mowery are his grandparents.

Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy Zehr were blessed with a baby boy, Micah Joel, November 5. Micah's sister, Laura, is happy to have a brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores Zehr and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge Waibel (Forrest).

November 10 was a special day for Sis. Ann Huber and Bro. Keven Hofstetter (Washington). They were united in the Lord as one. Their parents are Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber and Bro. Ted and the late Sis. Lynetta Hofstetter (Furrer, Wolcott, IN).

Lorrie Stork and Rex Shambrook were united in marriage November 9. Parents of the couple are John and Eunice Stork and Gene and Hedy Shambrook (Roberts). May the Lord bless these couples with His grace and blessings as they walk together.

Sis. Crystal Broquard and Bro. Jeff Cargill (Elgin, IL) announced their engagement November 3. A March wedding is being planned. Their parents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione Broquard and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill. Our prayers are with them as they plan for their future together.

The Sunday school Bible class hosted Tremont October 27. Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Chicago) were the speakers for the day. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

Sis. Barb Meiss (Bro. Marion) was hospitalized this month. We are thankful she is getting along better.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Dianne and Bro. Tom Steidinger and their family over the loss

of Sis. Dianne's father, Henry Schick (Morton). He passed into eternity October 21. May the Lord comfort their hearts.

We are grateful for our visiting ministers who fed us with the Word of God: Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN).

Thank You

We wish to thank everyone for their love, prayers and gifts given to us during my recent stay in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you for your love and support.

Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser
and family

Below was given to the Moser family while Myrna was in the hospital. It gave them much courage and strength.

PRAY, PRAY WHEN THINGS GO WRONG —

Psalm 86:7 — In the day of my trouble, I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

Psalm 22:11 — Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

Psalm 31:9 — Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble.

AND GLOOMY FEARS AROUND YOU THROG —

Psalm 88:14 — Lord, why castest thou off my soul? Why hidest thou thy face from me?

Psalm 88:2 — For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave.

Psalm 55:5 — Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.

Psalm 22:2 — O, my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not.

THE LOVING GOD YOUR VOICE WILL HEAR —

Isaiah 59:1 — Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

Psalm 77:1 — I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me.

John 11:41 — And Jesus lifted

up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me."

LOOK UP TO HIM, HE'S ALWAYS NEAR —

Matthew 28:20 — . . . and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

I Corinthians 1:9 — God is faithful . . .

John 14:8 — I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you.

PRAY, PRAY BE CALM AND STILL —

John 14:1 — Let not your heart be troubled.

Luke 24:38 — And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled?

Mark 4:39 — And he arose and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, "Peace, be still." And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Psalm 46:10 — Be still and know that I am God.

WHATEVER COMES MUST BE HIS WILL —

Luke 22:42 — "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

Mark 3:35 — For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister and mother.

Matthew 6:10 — Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

HIS PROMISES LIKE BUDS UNFOLD —

Psalm 91:4 — He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust.

II Corinthians 12:9 — My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

Isaiah 40:31 — But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength . . .

Mark 11:24 — What things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them.

NAUGHT THAT IS GOOD WILL HE WITHHOLD —

John 14:14 — If ye shall ask anything in my name I will do it.

Matthew 18:19 — If two of you

shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Isaiah 41:13 — For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, "Fear not; I will help thee."

PRAY, PRAY TILL FAITH GROWS STRONG —

Psalm 71:14 — But I will hope continually and will yet praise thee more and more.

Isaiah 40:29 — He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Psalm 31:24 — Be of good courage and he shall strengthen your heart.

AND IN YOUR HEART RINGS HEAVEN'S SONG —

Psalms 91:2 — I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God: in him will I trust.

I Timothy 1:12 — For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day.

Psalm 89:1 — I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever.

TILL SELF SHALL DIE IN PURE DESIRE —

John 18:11 — ". . . the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"

II Corinthians 9:10 — Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me . . . for when I am weak, then am I strong.

AND EV'RY THO'T TO HIM ASPIRE —

I Corinthians 4:4 — For I know nothing by myself . . .

Psalm 31:14 — But I trusted in thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God.

PRAY, PRAY THOUGH YOUR EYES GROW DIM —

Mark 14:37 — And he cometh and findeth them sleeping and saith unto Peter . . . "couldst thou not watch one hour?"

Matthew 26:43 — And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

GO WITH YOUR TROUBLES STRAIGHT TO HIM —

Psalm 55:22 — Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.

Psalm 46:1 — God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

PRAY, PRAY FOR GOD UNDERSTANDS —

Isaiah 53:3 — . . . a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

John 11:33 — When Jesus saw her weeping . . . he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled.

Matthew 6:8 — . . . your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

HAVE FAITH, LEAVING ALL IN HIS DEAR HANDS —

Mark 11:22 — And Jesus answering saith unto them, "Have faith in God."

Matthew 17:20 — . . . if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you.

John 13:7 — Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do, thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter.

Matthew 6:34 — Take therefore no thought for the morrow . . . Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider**

The first Christmas Gift ever given
Wasn't bought in a mall or a shop,
And it wasn't encased in bright
wrappings

With a colorful bow on top.
The first Gift of Christmas was
given

In a manger lowly and bare,
And a blanket was the lone
wrapping

Of this Gift so priceless and fair.
God gave the First Gift of
Christmas,

A most Holy and Wonderful One,
When He looked down in mercy
and goodness,

And gave us the Gift of His Son!

Jon Gilbert

At this season, may we all again thank God for giving this perfect Gift.

We rejoice with Bro. Clarence and Sis. Laura Kachelmuss as they were able to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary November 16. We were happy to share their joy at a singing at the fellowship hall. They hold a special place in our hearts as they have devoted many years of service to our congregation.

We welcome Bro. Perry Honegger to Fairview Haven. We are thankful that his wife, Sis. Louise, was also able to return there and that they can share a room together.

Hospital patients this month have been Trent Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), Sis. Peggy Young (Bro. Terry), Sis. Nathalia Honegger and Bro. Elmer Ifft (Sis. Emma). May God grant His healing mercies to each one.

Lori Lanz and Rick Patton are planning a December wedding. Their parents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz and Kermit and Barb Patton (Decatur).

Angie Kaisner and Chris Rieger exchanged wedding vows October 26. They are children of Larry and Cynthia Kaisner and Donald and Delores Rieger.

May these couples desire to have homes where the Lord is always a welcome guest.

Warren and Sis. Cindy Edelman and Abby are thankful for the little daughter born to them. Heidi Jo will also be loved by her grandparents, Vernon and Ruth Edelman and Helen Walter.

We want to express our thanks to the ministers who visited us: Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Gary Bucher (Rittman, OH), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and John Stoller (Leo, IN). May God reward them.

On November 10, former Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman revealed that he felt the time had come for him to retire from the ministry. Bro. Perry was put in the ministry May 20, 1966. One and a half years later he was given the responsibil-

ity of ordained deacon. Then December 9, 1970, he as given more responsibility as he became elder. May God reward him and his dear wife, Sis. Dorothy, for their tireless labors of love on our behalf.

Bro. Dave Schmidgall wishes to thank one and all for their cards, gifts, and above all, for their prayers during his hospital stay and convalescing at home. God bless one and all.

Bro. Meredith and Sis. Leona Ricketts would like to thank each one who remembered them with cards, gifts, flowers or phone calls on their 50th anniversary. It was all deeply appreciated.

Bro. Clarence and Sis. Doris Koehl wish to thank the many brothers, sisters and friends who remembered them on their 50th anniversary with cards and expressions of Christian love. It was deeply appreciated. God bless you.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Trish Gerber

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Mabel Debolt family in the loss of their mother. May God comfort Sis. Evelyn and Bro. Floyd "Shorty" Hoffman and Harold and Sis. Shirley Debolt.

Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp and their family were saddened at the loss of their father and grandfather, Bro. George Sr. We were comforted to know that Bro. George had found peace with God and was ready to go "to his new home."

It is good to know that Bro. Alfred Kieser is recovering from his recent accident. We pray for God's healing power.

Our Bible class students spent a blessed weekend in Bluffton, IN. Our brethren in Indiana certainly do know how to share God's blessings. We all really enjoyed the bus trip out and the activities that were planned when we arrived. We hope all of our precious children will some day meet with these friends they have met as brothers and sisters in our Lord. Thanks once again to the Bluffton churches.

The George Knapp family wishes to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and prayers after the

loss of their father and grandfather. May God richly bless you.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

Recently one of our ministers exhorted us to pick one aspect of our Christian life, and seek to improve on it. He, too, went home and decided to improve the reverence in his prayer life. In teaching us to pray, the Lord Jesus indicated the importance of reverence, "Hallowed be Thy name . . ." As our prayers improve in reverence, it can only lead to a greater enrichment as we commune with God and cast all our care upon Him.

During the afternoon worship service Sunday, November 17, we sang a farewell song for our dear Sis. Pauline Witzig, who was moving to the Eureka Home. "Christian Friendship," Hymns of Zion #91, was a most appropriate send off to our dear sister, who lived most of her entire life in Gridley.

"But I prize the friendship highest,
 Of the one whose heart is true;
 Friends who live by truth and
 goodness
 And who live in Him anew.
 Friends whose hearts are up in
 heaven
 Though their feet traverse this sod.
 Find a place of highest merit
 In their fellowship with God."

We, the entire Gridley congregation, bid our most sincere Christian best wishes to dear Sis. Pauline, a long-time light and witness for God in our Gridley community.

On October 27, Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) were our visiting ministers. We truly rejoice in the widespread fellowship we can enjoy among the brethren.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

As the New Year approaches, you may wish to review the state of the world in comparison with II Timothy 3. We can readily recog-

nize these latter day signs in our world today. We may feel helpless against the increasing evil, persecution and deceit. But we must not waiver. "Be of good cheer, Christ has overcome the world." John 16:33

Our Sis. Bena Roby passed away and her funeral was held November 6. We share in the sorrow of her family; her daughter, Bonnie Heiniger (Larry); her grandsons, Mike and Steven Heiniger; her sisters, Sis. Elizabeth Kaufman, Ida Kaufman and Sis. Marie Hauter (Bro. Chris); and her great-grandson, Drew. May God comfort all those who will miss her so much.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers and their families for being with us this month. Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) brought us God's precious Word.

We want to express our thanks to the Morton Church for the enjoyable retirement potluck dinner, the gifts of remembrance and the cards we received. The expression of love was far above our expectation or what we deserved. The privilege of serving in the ministry has been rewarding enough, but the love shown to us is truly a humbling experience which we shall never forget. "To God Be the Glory For What He Has Done!"

Humbly,
 Bro. Joe and Sis. Milly
 Zimmerman

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Jim David

Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie Hoerr have a new addition to their family, Caleb Donald, who was born November 1. Caleb was welcomed home by his two older sisters, Olivia and Sadie. Caleb's grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel.

The Peoria church had several visiting ministers this month: Bro. Steve Banner (Gridley, IL), Bro. Eric Gibbons (Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL).

Our hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Esther Welk,

Sis. Marie Heller, Bill Aeschleman, Bro. Les Wagenbach and Sis. Caroline Schmidtgall. Let us pray that they may all experience God's healing power.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of Sis. Bertha Eisenmann, Bro. Ezra Hohulin and LaVerne Perdelwitz, who passed away within the last month.

Sis. Ella VonBergen sends this note: "Thank you to all those who remembered me with cards, gifts and prayers for my 90th birthday. May God bless each of you."

Another note of thanks: "Bro. Bob and Sis. Ethel Waibel wish to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone who prayed for them and their family, and also for all the cards, flowers, gifts and many deeds of kindness shown to them. A special thanks to the relatives and friends who traveled the many miles to New Mexico to visit Bob. Everything was greatly appreciated, and may God bless you all for your thoughtfulness."

"What is Christmas?" I asked my soul, and this answer came back to me: "It is the glory of heaven come down in the hearts of humanity - come in the spirit and heart of a Child. And it matters not what we share at Christmas; it is not Christmas at all unless the Christ Child is there."

Anonymous

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Martha Jane Siebenthal

We were richly blessed this past month with many visiting ministers. We thank these dear brethren for their labors of love. They are Elder Bros. Charles Hemmer (Peoria), Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Bros. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Marvin Lemans (Bradford), Gary Endress (Bradford), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Jim Vierling (Eureka). May God richly bless them and their families.

"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5). On October 26-27, two dear

souls gave their testimony and were baptized, they are Sis. Krista Scholl (Bro. Robert and Sis. Arelene) and Sis. Jane Knobloch (Bro. Edward and Sis. Frances). May they always look to the Lord for their help and walk the narrow way that leads to heaven.

We are listening to the conference tapes (the family). May God grant the wisdom and grace to carry out these duties and may our hearts be open and submissive to the advice our dear elders give to preserve our church in these latter times. We appreciate and thank the dear elders for their time and concern for the church and may we always support them as they watch over our souls.

On November 10, our Sunday school entertained the Sunday schools from Eureka and Congerville. We hope new friendships have been made and will be lasting. May God bless our youth as they are the future church.

Happy grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette Graham and Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold. Their son and daughter, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doreen Leuthold (Kansas City, MO) are the happy first-time parents of a little girl.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been in the hospital or in the care of a physician. Sis. Vera Baer (Bro. Larry, surgery), Sis. Betty (Bro. Lyle, surgery), Sis. Lelia Elsasser and Bro. Nick Knobloch (Sis. Gladys, surgery). Katherine Baer is recuperating at the Rosewood Nursing Home in Peoria. May God grant His healing hand and His comfort to each one.

Thank You

The Elizabeth Stoller family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks for the many prayers, food, flowers, cards and deeds of kindness we have received in the loss of our dear mother.

"In everything give thanks . . ." As another year is ending, we are so thankful for a bountiful harvest, as well as many joys and blessings in the past year. God truly has been good to us.

If we lived Christmas each day,
as we should,
And made it our aim
to always do good,
We'd find the key
to meaningful living
That comes not from getting,
but from unselfish giving . . .
For in the glad tidings
of the first Christmas night,
God showed us the way,
the truth and the light!

Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Annie Hoffman

As the holiday season approaches, we turn our hearts to our heavenly Father in thankfulness for the great gift of His only Son for the sole purpose of giving Him up in death on a cruel cross for our salvation. May we ever appreciate and hold dear this truth.

Two new Christian homes were established in October. Bro. Steve Byrd (Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota) and Sis. Colleen Fischer (Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara) were united in marriage October 20. Bro. Earl Roth and Sis. Marilyn Weyeneth were united in marriage October 27. May God abide in these new homes and may they always feel His presence.

Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) brought us a message on "the power of purpose" for our monthly Bible study. As we realize our true purpose for being here on this earth, may we all walk closer to Him.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). May God bless these brothers for their willingness to serve us and Him.

On November 16, we were privileged to listen to the testimonies of six dear souls who have turned their hearts to God. We witnessed the baptisms and greeted our new brothers and sisters-in-Christ on the following day. They were Kathy Fehr (Ben Jr.), Jana Harris (Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda), Robyn and Joni Zimmerer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Raylene), Curt Leman (Sis. Verla) and Matt Leman (Bro. Steve and

Sis. Shirley). May they ever walk close to God and feel His nearness.

Those who were in the hospital this month were Sis. Thelma Hodel, Sis. Cindy Leman and Sis. Clara Braker. May God grant His healing and strength to these loved ones.

Note of Thanks: I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts and the many acts of kindness shown me while I was in the hospital and since returning home.

Sis. Carol Schwab

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Carolyn Bolliger
Marsha Koch**

We are happy for two new babies born this month. Born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger October 31 was a son, Michael David. Michael is welcomed home by big brother, Joshua, and sisters, Sarah, Debbie and Rebecca. Michael's grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger and Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris Baer.

Another little boy, Trent Alan, was welcomed into the home of Bro. Earl and Sis. Marsha Koch November 6. He has a brother, Craig, and sister, Nichole. Little Trent's grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence Koch and Bro. Ken and Sis. Arlene Huetter.

Sis. Doris Staker (Bro. Weldon) spent a few days in the hospital. We are thankful she is feeling better and has returned home.

Our Bro. Dave Beutel (Sis. Eunice) who met with a serious farm accident some time ago is still confined to the hospital. We are thankful he is slowly healing. Our thoughts and prayers are often with him as we know the hours are long.

We offer our sincere sympathy to those in our congregation who have recently lost loved ones. Sis. Rose Knapp lost her dear sister with whom she made her home, Mary Suchert. Bro. John and Sis. Emma Greiner were saddened by the death of their young grandson, Chad Marsh. Chad was the

son of their daughter, Laina, and her husband, Tom Marsh (Oconomowoc, WI).

Sis. Julie Sauder's brother, Ezra Hohulin (Peoria) also passed away.

We also wish to remember Sis. Christine Aberle (Bro. Andy) and Sis. Debbie Aberle (Bro. Peter) in the loss of their grandmothers, Sis. Bertha Moser, who resided in the Eureka Home, and Sis. Elizabeth Stoller (Princeville).

A thank you to our visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka), Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville) and Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria). There is always a special blessing when our neighboring ministers and their families spend time with us.

As the Christmas season comes around again, we share this thought-provoking poem:

THIS IS CHRISTMAS?

What's all this hectic rush and worry?
Where go these crowds who run and scurry?
Why all the lights – the Christmas trees?
The jolly "fat man," tell me, please!
Why, don't you know? This is the day
For parties and for fun and play;
Why, This is Christmas!

So this is Christmas, do you say?
But where is Christ this Christmas Day?
Has He been lost among the throng?
His voice drowned out by empty song?

No, He's not here – you'll find Him where
Some humble soul now kneels in prayer,
Who knows the Christ of Christmas.

But see the many aimless thousands
Who gather on this Christmas Day,
Whose hearts have never yet been opened,
Or said to Him, "Come in to stay."

In countless homes the candles burning,
In countless hearts expectant yearning
For gifts and presents, food and fun,
And laughter till the day is done.

But not a tear or grief or sorrow
For Him so poor He had to borrow
A crib, a colt, a boat, a bed
Where He could lay His weary head.

I'm tired of all this empty celebration,
Of feasting, drinking, recreation;
I'll go instead to Calvary.

And there I'll kneel with those who know
The meaning of that manger low,
And find the Christ – this Christmas.

I leap by faith across the years
To that great day when He appears
The second time, to rule and reign,
To end all sorrow, death and pain.

In endless bliss we then shall dwell
With Him who saved our souls from hell,
And worship Christ – not Christmas!

Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Jan Sigafus -Rita Menold

We extend our sympathy to the family of Henry D. Schick, father of our Sis. Lillian Pfaffman and Bro. Stanley W. Schick.

"The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another." Genesis 31:49. We bid farewell to Hope Klaus who has returned to Japan and to Sis. Sheila Moser who has moved to the Sabetha, KS, area. Also to Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica (Gutwein) Fritz and their family who have moved to Lafayette, IN. We will miss their love and fellowship, but our loss is someone else's gain.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways ac-

knowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

The paths of Sis. Dana Bucher (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Aschliman, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Curt Anliker (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicky Bucher) have been directed together and their engagement is announced. We also rejoice in the marriage of Bro. Keven Hofstetter and Sis. Ann Huber. God's blessings to both of these couples.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Cheryl (Huber) Rickets welcome a new son, Bryce Alex, to their family circle. Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally (Mangold) Plattner welcome Terese Larae into their family.

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." I Peter 4:10. We are thankful to Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria) for conducting our Bible study this month.

"There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer,
And a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
cradles the king!"

J. G. Holland

May the true meaning and spirit of Christmas be in your heart now and in the coming year.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Jill Frauhiger - Gwen Kipfer

Our church has been abundantly blessed this month with several new little faces. Bro. Keven and Sis. Andrea Sipe are proud parents of a son, Timothy Ryan, born October 24. Timothy joins Janelle, Mindy, Kristopher and Nicole at home. We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. Charles and Sis. Doris Neuenschwander. Bro. Nick and Sis. Jennette Ringger welcomed Lucy Ann into their family October 26. Lucy joins sisters, Elizabeth, Ellen and Katie and a brother, Jacob. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Rosetta Ringger and John and Roberta Eisenmann. Kyle Daniel

was born to Bro. Vic and Sis. Peg Reinhard November 1. Sisters, Nichol, Mindy and Kelli are happy to have a baby brother in their family. Proud grandparents are Bro. Alphie and Sis. Lucille Reinhard and Bro. Ken and Sis. Joyce Troxel (Fort Lauderdale, FL). Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda Grube were blessed with a little girl, Rachele Ann, born October 14. Rachele joins Rozanna, Jayson and Justin at home. We rejoice with grandparents, Paul and Jane Grube and Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Detroit, MI).

We will greatly miss Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter and their family as they will be the new alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods. We wish them God's blessings in their endeavors.

We were thrilled to hear that Doyle Weil has decided to live his life for the Lord. Let's keep praying for many more souls, that they too could experience God's love in their lives.

A special thanks goes out to visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North), Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North) and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo), who assisted with the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Ron Steffen, Bro. Ryan Fiechter and Bro. Arlo Kipfer November 17. May they continue to grow strong in the Lord.

We were saddened to hear of the passing away of Bro. Ed Moser October 30. Ed is survived by a sister, Sis. MaryAnn Gerber; two sons, Bro. Glen (Sis. DinaFae) and Harold Moser, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well.

Let's remember those hospitalized this month in our prayers. They were Bro. Ervin Aeshliman (Sis. Stella), Bro. Don Reinhard (Sis. Sarah), Bro. Aden Strahm (Sis. Mae), Bro. Mike Barger, Bro. Millard Aschliman (Sis. Alice) and Sis. Emma Baumgartner.

"There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer,
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a king!" J. G. Holland.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Lora Kieser - Terri Mueller

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). May God bless these brothers for sharing with us.

The sins that would entangle us
Must never be ignored;
And if we don't get rid of them,
We cannot please the Lord.

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and then witness the baptisms of Bro. Jason Bussel (Bro. Dave and sis. Cathy Bussel) and Sis. Darla Hari. Also, Bro. Arlo Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie Kipfer) was baptized at Bluffton.

Our congregation at Bluffton North is rejoicing with our new converts, Phil and Cindy Hoover (Bro. Truman and Sis. Marj Baumgartner). May they feel God's guidance as they begin their new lives with the Lord.

Our prayers are with Sis. Sandra Kipfer (Bro. Aaron) as she was hospitalized this month.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Bev Huber

On November 3, we were privileged to have the Chicago choir visit us and share the praise of God in song.

Bro. Curt Anliker (son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicky) wishes to announce his engagement to Sis. Dana Bucher (daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Bucher, Washington, IL). We wish them God's blessings as they plan their wedding day.

On the weekend of November 9 and 10, we were blessed and edified to hear the testimonies of Chad Huber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb) and Sally Wuethrich (Tim). We welcome them into the family of God. Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) was with us for this special weekend.

We welcome Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz and family into our fellowship. They have accepted employment in the Lafayette area.

Hospital patients this past month were Josh Cook (son of Bro.

Bob and Sis. Debbie), Timothy Wuethrich (son of Tim and Sis. Sally Wuethrich) and Bro. Pierre Neihouser.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), and Elder Bro. Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL). We appreciate their labors of love.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Miriam Gudeman

In the First Light of the new day
No one knew He had arrived.
Things continued as they had been
While a newborn softly cried.
But the heavens wrapped in
wonder

Knew the meaning of His birth.
In the weakness of a baby
They knew God had come to earth.

As His mother held Him closely
It was hard to understand
That her baby, not yet speaking
Was the Word of God to man.
He would tell them of His

Kingdom,
But their hearts would not believe.
They would hate Him in anger
They would nail Him to a tree.

But the sadness would be broken
As the song of life arose
And the first-born of creation
Would ascend and take His throne.
He had left it to redeem us
But before His life began
He knew He'd come back, not as a
baby
But as the Lord of every man.

Hear the angels as they're singing
On the morning of His birth.
But how much greater will our
song be
When He comes again to earth!
Hear the angels as they're singing
On the morning of His birth.
But how much greater will our
song be

When He comes again to earth!
Bob Kauflin

A special thanks goes to the visiting ministers who came to share the memorandum with us this past month. They were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Alfred

Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL). It was a blessed and encouraging weekend.

We rejoice with our dear Sisters, Stephanie Pearson (daughter of Dave and Sis. Becky) and Andrea Zeller (daughter of Bro. Eric and Sis. Jenny) as they were baptized November 17. The evening before, we were privileged to hear their testimonies of how God had called them. We are so thankful they answered that call. May God bless them as they continue in His care.

Thanks again to our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) for being with us that special weekend, and to Elder Bro. Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL). We appreciate your love and support in ministering to us. May God be with you this special Christmas time.

Merry Christmas everyone from Indy! God bless!

INDIANA, LACROSSE Barb Troxel

As the holiday season approaches, it seems our lives become even more hectic than they have been. Can that be possible? Do we take a few minutes to slow down each day and count our blessings? We have so many material blessings to count. But even greater are our spiritual blessings.

GOD IS THE ONE

Who designed the rainbow?
The earth? The sky? Each tree?
Who conceived such wonders,
Such bold creativity?
Do you doubt that the One
Who made us all
Is the only One who could do it?
I have no doubt;
God is the One.
Quite simply,
That's all there is to it.

Diantha Ain

We are thankful that Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) could spend November 10 with us and minister to us. We appreciate his efforts in preaching the sincere Word of God.

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

A CHRISTMAS WISH

"I should like to have been with
the Shepherds
When the angels announced
Christ's birth.

I should like to have heard them
herald
'Toward men, peace, good-will on
earth.'

I should like to have stood by the
manger
Where the Christ-Child so humbly
lay.

I should like to have shown my
devotion
As He pillowed His head on the
hay.

I should like to have been with the
wise men
As they travelled the distance far,
In their search for the king who
was promised,
By the light of a matchless star.
I am glad to have learned of His
manhood -
His example so good and fine.
I was there at the Cross when
they nailed Him -
The sins that He bore - they were
mine.

I hope to be here when He comes
again,
I expectantly watch and pray.
Will you, too, be ready to meet Him
When He comes in glory some day?"
Frances Mary Humphrey

A devotional program remembering and honoring His birth is planned for December 15 to be followed by a fellowship dinner.

A precious new baby boy, Jordan Daniel, is welcomed into the home of Bro. John and Sis. Sue Grusy.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter have recently come to serve Him at Gateway Woods. We welcome them and their children, Shannon and Kyle, to our Leo church.

Also hearing His call to the labor of love at Gateway Woods are Sis. Joan Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Sis. Andria Moushon (Morton, IL).

We trust they, too, will feel our welcome.

Bro. Gary Ringger (Gridley) was a recent guest minister. We express our appreciation.

We are thankful for the safe return of Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm from their recent trip to Japan. They were able to arrive in Iowa in time for the funeral of her mother, dear Sis. Bertha Moser. We remember with sympathy Ruth of our congregation and all of the Moser family. It's good-night here, but good-morning up there.

May the peace of God bless each of our homes at Christmas and through every season of life. Luke 2:14.

INDIANA, MILFORD Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

Many of us experienced a little "heaven on earth" this month when our choir traveled to Detroit. We were greeted with a warm welcome of love. Many new friends were made and old acquaintances renewed. We truly have "more to go to heaven for, than we had yesterday." (as one song writer penned). We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Detroit congregation for a wonderful weekend.

Very special to many of us are Ray and Rosemary Piper, who in the last few years have made Milford their church home. They always seem to have an endless supply of love, joy and encouragement to share. Presently Ray and Rosemary are visiting their daughter and family in Germany. After this family reunion they have made plans to spend the winter months in Florida. We look forward to their return home in April.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Sis. Mary Gerber, Tillie Kasbaum and Edna Graff, whose sister, Barb (Otto) Beer, passed away November 3. Barb was so lovingly cared for in her home for many years by her daughter, Evie. She will surely be missed in their family circle.

We're thankful for the safe return of our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer who recently traveled to Mexico searching out a possible service project. We appreciate his willing-

ness to lend himself to aid the brethren and friends in Mexico.

ARE YOU INCLUDING JESUS?

Are you including Jesus in your Christmas plans this year,
Or will He be forgotten when His special day is here?
Are you including Jesus on the gift list you will make,
Or will He be forgotten in this game of give and take?

Are you including Jesus in the music you will play,
Or will He be forgotten in the modern songs of today?
Are you including Jesus in the Christmas cards you send,
Or will He be forgotten just because you might offend?

Are you including Jesus in the things you will do,
Or will He be forgotten by the family and you?
Are you including Jesus on your guest list for Christmas day,
Or will He be forgotten and again be turned away?

Won't you try including Jesus in everything you do?
Remember when He died to save . . . Jesus included you.

Author Unknown

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

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

Genesis 2:18

Sunday, October 20 was a beautiful autumn day, just the kind made for a lovely bride. Sis. Susan Getz, daughter of Bro. Maurice and Sis. Eileen, chose this day to become the bride of Tom Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL). It was a lovely occasion with Elder Bro. Dale Eisenman having the wedding sermon and our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler taking the marriage vows.

There were many guests present. Among them was retired

Elder Bro. Ezra Feller (Cissna Park, IL) who is grandfather of the groom. Besides Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann and Alfred Bahler, were Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Dave Bertsch (Leo, IN) Also attending were ministering Bros. Todd Feller and Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN).

We thank all of you brothers for your presence and do invite you to visit us sometime again on an ordinary Sunday - but not all at one time!

The weekend of October 26-27, Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Ed Swartz (Bluffton, IN) were here to assist our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler in the reading of the memorandum. Our Remington congregation assembled Saturday evening and Wolcott on Sunday afternoon after regular services. Bro. Ed Swartz spent Sunday forenoon with us and then went to Wolcott at noon. We thank you brothers for your service and kind guidance.

That same Sunday, October 27, our congregation and our family and other invited guests had a supper at the fellowship hall in honor of my husband, Albert Schini's 80th birthday. He was very much surprised and enjoyed every minute of the evening.

On Saturday, November 9, Wolcott and Remington hosted the annual eastern division World Relief meeting. Approximately 250 attended. It was a very inspiring meeting.

The next day, Sunday, November 10, Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Hartsell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) spent the day with us. We surely did enjoy a blessed day. We thank you brothers also for your visit and welcome you to visit us again.

We always want to acknowledge our ministering brothers' visits. We never want to forget our many visiting sisters and brothers who visit us from time to time and add so much to our fellowship. This fellowship is a real fringe benefit that we need to always appreciate.

Thought for the day: A ship is safest in deep water.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Renee Mangold

Our thoughts and prayers were with Sis. Mildred and Sis. Ernestine Meister's brother, Elmer, who underwent cancer surgery this month. Sis. Emma Lou Gerber was admitted to the hospital after a fainting spell in her home. She is undergoing tests. We pray that God would be with Elmer and Sis. Emma Lou in a healing and comforting way.

Mourning the passing of his uncle, Bro. Carl Lehman (Elgin, IL) are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman. Our prayers are with them for comfort in their loss. Bro. Carl Lehman's wife, Sis. Minnie, survives him, but is ill. Our prayers are with her, too.

We rejoiced this month when Keith and Ruth Elcock were blessed with the birth of Emily Rose. Keith and Ruth have three other children, Shea, Ryan and Ashley, who welcome their new little sister. We pray for God's blessings on the whole family.

We were fortunate this month to have with us our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and his wife, Shirley, for a Sunday service. We pray that God would richly bless His faithful servants.

Recently I heard this phrase in a song, "Sometimes God's greatest gift is an unanswered prayer." We find ourselves daily going to God again and again in prayer. How truly fortunate we are that God has infinite wisdom and patience as He listens to each and every prayer and chooses to answer some and not others. But always, always He listens.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

Our congregation once again enjoyed our annual harvest dinner. We were blessed by the beautiful singing and poems. A special "thank you" to Proclaim for favoring us in songs.

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

We would like to thank Bros. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Nelson

Beer (Milford, IN) and Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH) for visiting our congregation and willingly teaching the scripture unto us.

My sincere "thank you" to all who had a part in making my 65th birthday a very special and blessed occasion. May God bless you
Bro. Elmer Bucher

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

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

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

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Tracey Putt

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2. Bro. Wayne Lehman and his wife, Shirley, came to share the Word with us Thursday, November 7. Bro. Wayne reminded us that the world will try to confuse us, as Christians, but we can be assured that God's Holy Word is the truth, and that someday we will be able to reign with Christ in heaven. Bro. Wayne also said that if we set our minds and hearts on Christ, our wants of the things on earth will not seem important, and that our lives can be "hid with Christ in God." Colossians 3:3. In St. John 16:33, Jesus Himself reminds us that "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." We can also be comforted by the magnitude of God's love and protection when we turn to II Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." As

Christian students, sometimes it is very difficult for us to keep sight of what is really important in this life, and it is much too easy for us to become involved with exams and lab reports that start to hinder our relationship with the Lord. We are very thankful for our ministers and their wives who give of themselves and take time out of their busy schedules to "revive us again."

Thank heaven for little children! In October, God delivered a new baby girl to Neal and Kris Widmer. Katie Sue will have four brothers to love her: John, Bradly, Blake and Matthew. Congratulations to you all!

We are so thankful for the new families that have moved into the Lafayette area. Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Gramm, along with their children, Justin, Nathan and Matthew have moved into our area, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz with their children. Cheree, Jordan, Mahlia and Obed have also come to be with us. It is such a joy to see our fellowship growing! We welcome all of you and your families!

The season of Thanksgiving is upon us, however, as Christians, this season never leaves, it only gets emphasized. When we think of all of the things we are thankful for, one thing really stands out to our Purdue Group this year: in December we will have been our new Lafayette fellowship center for one year. We are so thankful for the opportunity of going to a place of refuge from campus where we can worship our Lord and Savior. Over the past year God has enabled us to have many church services, church programs, weddings, young group activities, and a place to go in order to escape campus life and be with other believers while drawing closer to the Lord. We realize, however, that this precious building would not be possible if it weren't for the many brothers and sisters who have spent an overwhelming abundance of time, labor and money in making this project a success. In this time of Thanksgiving, we would like to take the opportunity to say once again how very thankful we are to everyone and especially the com-

mittee, who helped to give those of us in the Greater Lafayette community a place to worship our Lord.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

We were sorry to hear that Sis. Josephine Farney fell and broke her wrist. May God grant her a quick recovery so that she can assemble with us again soon.

On October 27, we were blessed to have our memorandum. It was so good to once again be reminded of the dangers which Satan confronts us with, and the necessity of remaining vigilant and ever-watchful lest any of these things should creep into our lives. We thank Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) for speaking to us in accents clear and plain, and pray that we will all heed the warnings, so that their labors will not have been in vain and it can be well with our souls. We should be so thankful when the trumpet does not give an uncertain sound, but rather sounds loud and clear so that we can all be prepared.

We were privileged to host the Eastern Churches World Relief meeting, along with Remington, November 9. We thank all those who came from afar, and all our home folks who helped in any way, to make this a blessed weekend. We were thankful Sunday to have Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) willingly be used to bring us the true Word of God through the inspiration of the Spirit. May God continue to bless him with much grace, courage and wisdom.

Once again our hearts go out to Sis. Marilyn Schieler, who had to be hospitalized again for a time in Indianapolis but is presently back home. She is always so patient, cheerful and uncomplaining about her heavy cross. Yet, surely she needs and appreciates our prayers in her great physical afflictions. Let us all lift her up to the Father heart of God.

IOWA, BURLINGTON Carolyn Wulf

Greetings to all. "We give thanks

to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;" I Thessalonians 1:2.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Leo Moser and Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA). Also our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) was with us for church. We appreciate these brothers bringing us the Word of Life and pray that God may richly bless them.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann and their family in the passing of his dear mother. Sis. Bertha Eisenmann was 92 and was a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home (Peoria, IL). Sis. Bertha and Bro. Jesse were formerly of the Oakville and Burlington areas. She was the last surviving child of Albert and Katherine Conrad Rauhaus. She married Jesse Eisenmann December 14, 1930 in Oakville, IA. She was a homemaker and a member of the Burlington Apostolic Christian Church.

Survivors include her husband of the Peoria church home; four sons, Bro. David Eisenmann (North Fort Myers, FL), Bro. Paul (Burlington), Bro. Harry (Peoria) and Virgil (Douglasville, GA). She had 15 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one son, Dale; one sister, Emma Winzeler and five brothers, William, Herman, Otto, George and Eli.

Services were held at Burlington church Thursday, November 7 with burial in Apostolic Christian Gardens in Burlington Memorial Park Cemetery.

"When a Christian dies
Precious is the prize!
Lasting joys for days of sorrow,
Rest from conflict on the morrow.
Follows when he dies,
Follows when he dies.

"A Christian's demise
Leads to paradise.
After days of tribulation
He will find his full salvation,
Death the way supplies
Unto Paradise."

Hymns of Zion #248, vs. 1, 4

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

How fitting that Christmas should come at the end of the year and we can close each year remembering the birth of our Savior. May we rejoice not only in His birth but also in His death and may we continue on into the New Year with faith believing that He is with us each step of the way. The way ahead may seem dark and unknown but if we put our hand in His we need not be afraid.

As we gather, hungry for a blessing, we come with faith believing that God will supply not only the food but also the servers. This past month we have been blessed with three visiting ministers, Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Alpai Strahm (Bern, KS). While we appreciate our home ministers, visiting ministers are always a special treat. May God bless each one who are called to serve this much needed nourishment for our souls.

At the time of this writing, our thoughts and prayers are with George Schupbach (Mildred) who is in the hospital recuperating following a total knee replacement.

May God grant him patience and endurance through the healing process.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Dawn Moser

One of the first things we notice when we have many visitors worshipping with us is the fullness of our singing. On Sunday, October 20, we had a full church, and therefore, our singing was beautiful. We would like to thank the group from Princeville, IL, and Winthrop, MN, for coming and spending the day with us. Not only did we appreciate the talents of voice, but also the fellowship of the Spirit.

Our ministers for the past two months have been, Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Marvin

Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL). How thankful we are that you were willing to travel and be God's messengers to us. May God grant you His blessings.

We have been listening to the conference tapes for several Wednesday evenings. For many of us, the most important things in our life, next to salvation, is our families. We appreciate the Biblical insights we have been given from the elder brothers regarding families.

In a recent sermon we were encouraged to remember to worship the Creator instead of creation. At Christmas, with the world so full of self, it is easy to worship "creation."

How thankful we are that Jesus humbled Himself to leave the gloriousness of heaven and come to earth and be born in that stable. This fact should make it easier, as a child of God, to indeed worship the Creator instead of creation, especially at Christmas.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We are thankful for all of our visitors this month. They perhaps never realized how it uplifts our hearts to hear a car, then a door, then to turn from singing with our Sunday school children to see unexpected visitors coming to spend the day with us!

We are also thankful for the safe arrival of the newest member of our church family. We rejoice with Bro. Joe, Sis. Connie, Tim, Dawn, Sharon, Amy and John, as they welcome home Luke Joseph, born November 17. May the whole family be blessed as the Lord entrusts another soul into their care.

As we welcome little Luke, we bid farewell to Sis. Melody Knobloch. She has finished her internship here and is moving back to Lester, IA, while she waits for the Lord to direct her to a place of employment. Our prayers and thoughts go with her as she seeks out God's will in her life.

Wait, patiently, wait,
 God never is late;
 Thy budding plans are in Thy
 Father's holding,
 And only wait His grand divine
 unfolding.
 Then wait, wait,
 Patiently wait.

Trust, hopefully trust,
 That God will adjust
 Thy tangled life; and from its dark
 concealings,
 Will bring His will, in all its bright
 revealings.
 Then trust, trust,
 Hopefully trust.

Rest, peacefully rest
 On thy Saviour's breast;
 Breathe in His ear thy sacred high
 ambition,
 And He will bring it forth in blest
 fruition.
 Then rest, rest,
 Peacefully rest!

Streams in the Desert
 November 20

IOWA, LESTER
Mary Knobloch
Cindy Leuthold

IN CHRIST WHO WAS BORN
 AT CHRISTMASTIME
 ALL MEN MAY LIVE AGAIN!

Let us all remember
 When our faith is running low,
 Christ is more than just a figure
 Wrapped in an ethereal glow -
 For He came and dwelt among us
 And He knows our every need
 And He loves and understands us
 And forgives each sinful deed -
 He was crucified and buried
 And rose again in glory
 And His promise of salvation
 Makes the wondrous Christmas
 story
 An abiding reassurance
 That the little Christ Child's birth
 Was the beautiful beginning
 Of God's plan for Peace on Earth.
 Helen Steiner Rice

Our congregation, as well as our
 many visitors, rejoiced October 25
 when five dear souls gave their tes-
 timonies. Ed and Ginny Stoll (Gib
 and Sis. Vicki Knobloch), Donna

Barber (Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva
 Knobloch) and Bob and Shirley De
 Smet (Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva)
 were welcomed in the fold. We were
 also blessed by the presence of El-
 der Bros. Ed Aeschliman, Ray Sinn
 and Wayne Fehr. Other visiting
 ministers this month were Bros.
 Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Jim
 Knobloch (Elgin, IA), Clarence
 Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Duane
 Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Dean
 Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Jeff Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and
 Sis. Vicki) is home from the hospi-
 tal after suffering some painful in-
 juries in an accident at his farm
 home. Other known hospital pa-
 tients were Sis. Eleanor Popkes and
 Bro. Ed Roeman.

A precious little girl was born
 to first-time parents, Vernon and
 Chalea Knobloch October 31. They
 have named her Chalsea Ann and
 her paternal grandparents are Bro.
 Art and Sis. Elgeva.

On November 17, the announce-
 ment of the engagement of Bro.
 Matt Aeschliman (Washington,
 D.C.) to Sis. Jill Metzger. Their
 parents are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis.
 Nancy Aeschliman (Philadelphia,
 PA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores
 Metzger. We wish them God's bless-
 ings and guidance.

Please note that the collection
 for the Silver Lining dues is in
 January for Lester.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We shall sleep, but not forever,
 There will be a glorious dawn!
 We shall meet to part, no never,
 On the resurrection morn.
 From the deepest caves of ocean,
 From the desert and the plain,
 From the valley and mountain,
 Countless throngs shall rise again.

Blest are they who in the Saviour,
 Die consoled in peace and joy,
 Who their time and all their
 talents
 For the Master did employ.
 They shall rest from care and
 sorrow,
 From the burdens of the day,

And their works do follow after,
 In that bright eternal day.

We shall sleep, but not forever,
 There will be a glorious dawn;
 We shall meet to part, no, never,
 On the resurrection morn!

Hymns of Zion #125

Our thoughts and prayers are
 with the family of Sis. Bertha
 Moser. As she was called to her
 eternal home October 21. She lived
 her recent years at the Eureka
 Home, but her funeral was held in
 our congregation as this is where
 she and her husband, Bro. Phil,
 lived since the early 30's. Our sym-
 pathy goes out to Bro. Larry and
 Sis. Beverly Moser as she is Bro.
 Larry's grandma. She has truly re-
 ceived her reward.

IOWA, PULASKI
Teresa Schock
Carol Wettstein

Our visiting ministers this past
 month were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr
 (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Harold
 Schmidgall (Gridley, IL). We thank
 them for sharing God's Word with
 us.

Bro. Albert Wuthrich (Sis. Eliza-
 beth) was a hospital patient, but
 we're glad to see him in church
 again.

We extend sympathy to Sis.
 Esther Rinkenberger (Bro. Cleo) in
 the passing of her brother, Laverne
 Perdelwitz (Peoria, IL).

Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem,
 shining afar thru shadows dim,
 Giving a light for those who long
 have gone;
 And guiding the wise men on their
 way,
 unto the place where Jesus lay,
 Beautiful star of Bethlehem shine
 on.
 Oh, beautiful star the hope of light,
 guiding the pilgrim thru the night,
 Over the mountains till the break
 of dawn;
 And into the light of perfect day,
 it will give out a lovely ray,
 Beautiful star of Bethlehem shine
 on.
 Oh, beautiful star, the hope of rest,
 for the redeemed, the good and
 blest,

Yonder in glory where the crown is won,
For Jesus is now that Star divine;
Brighter and brighter He will shine,
Beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on.

As we get caught up in the rush and excitement of Christmas, let us always remember the true meaning of Christmas, and keep our eyes on that "Star of Bethlehem" to guide us every day.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

We enjoyed the message of the Word when our Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) came to visit our congregation. The following Sunday we heard the testimony of the Lord's work in six dear souls. We welcome Sisters Marilyn Banwart (Mike) and Trela Wirtz (Chuck) and Bros. Bryan Traub (Bob and Eunice), Jim Knobloch (Orvie and Lauretta, Lester), Scott Fehr (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenna) and Lynn Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula) as our fellow believers in the Lord. May they feel His hand leading them as they continue living in this world. Here to share the blessings of this miracle of God were: Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN). Also ministering Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL), Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN), Alpha Strahm (Bern, KS), Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr were blessed with an open house in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary November 30 in our fellowship center. May God continue to dwell with them during their allotted years together. They appreciate all the kindness, love and wishes showered on them at this time.

Amanda Gerber (Dave and Diane) spent some time in the hospital recently, but is able to be in church again.

Darrel and Julie Zaugg welcomed Jackilyn Marie into their

home November 1. At this time she is still hospitalized in Des Moines and we hope she soon can be home with her family. A brother, Ben, is at home to help care for her and happy grandparents are Walter Zaugg and DeLoss and Julie Biddle (Urbandale, IA).

Sis. Leah Traub is now residing at the West Bend Care Center, we know the Lord will be near her wherever she dwells.

We extend sympathy to Bob and Sis. Ruth Sigsbee and family on the death of Bob's mother, Rose Sigsbee. May God comfort their hearts.

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

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

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

JAPAN, SHIODA Terri Gramm

A sigh of pleasure comes forth as the view from the window catches my eyes. The reds, the yellows, the oranges, the browns, and greens of foliage on the mountains are so beautiful. The sky is clear and blue with a puffy cloud here and there. I can't help but be reminded the greatest artist of all is our Creator, our God.

This Creator, this God is still "an unknown God" to so many Japanese. Won't you pray for the unsaved and deceived souls right now?

JAPAN, TOKYO Frank and Kathy Sauder

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." (Luke 2:10) Although these were the words spoken by the angel to the shepherds almost 2,000 years ago, they are very applicable to us today. As we enter into the End Times, it is natural for us to experience fear. But, if we focus on Christ, we have no need to fear. The good tidings of salvation which the angel proclaimed is still with us and is available to all people. Let us rejoice rather than be overcome with fear as the return of our Lord approaches.

Our dear friends, Kiyoshi and Sachiko Fujii and their son, Makoto, have been temporarily transferred to Texas. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, and we look forward to the time when they will once again be able to assemble with us.

KANSAS, BERN Diane Kaeb - Kathy Strahm

We were thankful to have Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa) and his wife, Sis. Janice, visit us at Bern. Surely we felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and wish Bro. Jeff many blessings as the labours in the Lord's vineyard.

Rejoicing together that their engagement could be announced are Sis. Camille Strahm (Bro.

Wayne and Sis. Claudia) and Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce, Rittman, OH). We wish Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille God's blessings and guidance as they plan for their wedding January 5. November 9 marked the wedding day of Dawn Esslinger (Waymer and Pauline) and Stan Feldkamp (Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Feldkamp).

Bro. Stan Wiegand has recently made his home in Bern as he has employment in our area. We welcome Bro. Stan to our congregation as he moves from Illinois (Eureka) to Kansas.

While it is once again more temperate her in northeast Kansas, two weeks ago our area was hard hit with a wintry ice storm. Most were without electricity for at least several hours, some of us several days, or even most of a week. This certainly made us realize how much we depend on the power for our daily lives; even as was mentioned that, if we think of God as our source of power, then the supply is ever-flowing. We must keep the 'line' open and unbroken to receive the power from above.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucy Rokey, and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm as the sisters' brother-in-law, Bro. Noah Steiner (Sis. Evelyn, Sabetha), passed away November 17.

We are thankful the Lord spared Sis. Jana Strahm (Bro. Faron) from serious injury in an automobile accident.

As Thanksgiving approaches, it seems we are more appreciative of our many and various blessings, none of which we would have were it not for the provision of God. Have we anything for which we are more thankful than our most precious faith and church, that we may have the hope of a home in heaven one day? It brings to mind the story of the little lost boy being helped by a police officer. As the officer began naming places possibly familiar to the boy, none brought recognition until the church with the cross was mentioned. The boy's face brightened as he said, "Yes, take me there, for from the church I can find my way home!"

Our thoughts and prayers are often with those hospitalized or tak-

ing treatments. Harlan Wittmer (Alice) had surgery and had gone home when other problems arose and he needed to be readmitted to the hospital for further care. We trust Harlan can feel the healing power of Almighty God. We also remember Bro. Glen and Sis. Lois Luthi in prayer as Sis. Lola has once again begun cancer treatments.

Note of Thanks: In humble gratefulness and appreciation for the gifts of love, cards and prayers in our behalf these past weeks, we say thank you.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Lola Luthi

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Teresa Bahr**

"The real victory of faith is to trust God in the dark."

Wings of Silver, pg. 68

Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL) was a recent visiting minister.

Saturday evening, November 2, Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) assisted our Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart in reading and expounding the 1991 conference letter. Then on Sunday, November 3, we heard the testimony and had the baptism ceremony for Larry Bahr, Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth. We welcome him with open arms into the family of God.

**KANSAS,
KANSAS STATE UNIV.
Sheri Braker**

We want to thank the ministers for again travelling the distance to minister God's Holy Word. The ministers who came this month were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Tim Zimmerman and Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS). We truly appreciate your dedication to the Lord and wish each of you His richest blessings!

Have A Merry Christmas
and A Blessed New Year

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

THAT NIGHT, IN BETHLEHEM

She rocked the wee Babe in her arms,
And sang a Jewish hymn;
A star of magnitude shone bright,
That night, in Bethlehem.

Close to her heart, Salvation's Hope
Lay snug and loved . . . secure:
The Promise come, in lowly state,
For all time to endure.

To think that she, a Virgin maid
Could mother One so fair;
The Mystery, to be revealed,
Lay safely cradled there.

The shepherds came to worship Him,
And angels filled the night
With songs of adoration; praised
The Holy Gift of Light.

Her eyes with tender tears were dimmed,
For somehow, then, she knew
This Precious Baby Boy, she held,
Would die for me . . . and you.
Anna Lee Edwards McAlpin

What a precious gift we've been given! (The hope of life eternal). It gives us so much reason to rejoice through caroling, Christmas programs, special services and any other way we spread the joy of Christ's birth. May we never ever forget that our blessed Jesus is the reason for this beautiful holiday season!

Our hospital patients this month included: Holly Domnick (daughter of Floyd, Jr. and Vanda Domnick). Holly underwent a tonsillectomy, and got along very well. We are thankful Vern Schurter is home and was even able to worship with us one Lord's Day recently. Sis. Marie Schurter, Sis. Elizabeth Diel and Sis. Laverne Roth still need our prayers in their pain as does Verda Tanner who fell and broke her arm in our recent ice storm. We need each other's love and prayers so much, for we don't always know what trials and tribulations our loved ones are go-

ing through, but God does and if we keep the prayer lines open we will see His power and comfort in those lives.

Be ever faithful!
Be ever true!
But most of all remember,
God loves you!

KANSAS, LAMONT
Jane Isch

CHRIST WHO WAS BORN
AT CHRISTMAS

Let us all remember
When our faith is running low,
Christ is more than just a figure
Wrapped in an eternal glow.

For He came and dwelt among us
And He knows our every need
And He loves and understands us
And forgives each sinful deed.

He was crucified and buried
And rose again in glory,
And His promise of salvation
Makes the wondrous Christmas
story.

An abiding reassurance
That the little Christ Child's birth,
Was the beautiful beginning
Of God's plan for Peace on Earth.
Helen Steiner Rice

Sis. Clara Anliker had the misfortune of dislocating her shoulder. We pray God will bless her with a quick recovery.

Our dear friend, Bertha Huber, has moved from her home to the Rest Home in Madison. The only place she ever cared to go in her later, confused days at home was to church. May her eagerness to hear the Word of God read and hear the singing of hymns be an inspiration to all of us who knew her.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Sharon Strahm - Beth Hartter
Sabetha and a large area surrounding our community had God's might and power once more brought to our attention when a

severe ice storm enveloped our area and caused much damage, including downed power lines. Many of us could not function in our homes without electricity, because of such dependence on modern conveniences. This did provide occasion for us to be reminded of the value and blessings in having family and friends. Many families, with little notice, opened their hearts and homes to others, for several days. It brings to mind the question "will we, without a moment's notice, be ready for Jesus' return visit?"

There have been a number of loved ones from Sabetha who have required medical attention this past month. Those hospitalized include Sis. Leona Aeschliman, Sis. Mary Aberle, Sis. Marie Kellenberger, Bro. Joe Steiner, Bro. Adrian Kellenberger and Bro. Ernest Kellenberger. May each one feel God's nearness as they convalesce and soon enjoy improved health.

On November 19, our nursing home held their annual meeting and several from away, who attended, remained in our area for Sunday. Among those who stayed were Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott). We appreciated their visits and messages of encouragement.

With Christmas in our hearts and on our minds, we would like to share one of the poems a Sunday school class has learned for their program.

OPEN THE DOOR

There was no room at the inn for
Mary
Though she had come a weary way;
There was no room for Joseph
Who had walked beside her that
day;
There was no room for the Christ
child
Who would be born that night.
The door was closed and none in
the inn
Could see the star's bright light.

And so it is with the door of our
hearts,
When we close them against all
who knock.

We do not know who might stand
outside

Unless we will lift the lock.
We, like the innkeeper long ago,
May shut the Christ outside.
Let us open the door and bid Him
come in
To our hearts this Christmastide.

May all who read this experience the nearness and blessings of God in the New Year.

submitted by
Beth Hartter

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

A very special event for us November 2-3 was a weekend of song and fellowship with the Princeville Choir. They made the long trip to Wichita on an unusually cold weekend. Our hearts were warmed by the blessings of their presence in our church community. We especially praise the Lord for the ministry of Bro. Jim Plattner and Bro. Art Baurer.

Vern Banwart died November 2. He was the brother-in-law of Sisters Judy Langhoffer and Gussie Wullschleger.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ann Farney's family circle has been growing. Their grandson, Mike Farney, son of Donna and Jerry, recently married, and their granddaughter, Vickie, (also Donna and Jerry's) plans to be married soon. Another grandson, Craig Farney, was married this passed month. Craig is the son of Jackie and Larry. He is also the grandson of Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian Bowers. Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ann have a new great-granddaughter, Stacey Wheeler, born November 10 to Wesley and Angie Wheeler.

Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhoffer are happy to have their son, Bob, back in Wichita. After living on the East Coast for a period of time, Bob felt the direction to return to the Midwest. Family and friends welcome him back.

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

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Michelle Oesch - Denise Oesch

Let us above him.

Love was born at Christmas -

A star announced this birth.

Love was born at Christmas -

The Savior of the Earth.

Author Unknown

The holiday season is upon us as we prepare for this special time of the year may we remember what Christmas really means. Christ is the start and the beginning of the reason we have Christmas. Let us try not to forget for it seems so hard as we look around us as a parent to explain what Christmas means to our children. As I look at my children's innocent faces and say Christmas is not all the presents and lights and trees we see as we drive through town. But Christmas is a feeling of awe, the gift of one baby to a woman named Mary. A baby who was born in a barn. A baby who grew to a man and gave us a gift of his life.

When I look at my children I pray they learn the meaning of Christmas. And can give of themselves with love not just at this time of year but always. And remember Christmas with the true feeling of wonder that the season brings and God's gift of Life and a baby named Jesus.

We at Alto celebrated another joy; the wedding of Sis. Kathy Steffen and Bro. Nathan Knochel. Proud parents are Sis. Helen Steffen (Alto) and Bro. Herb and Sis. Johanna Knochel (Phoenix, AZ). We wish the couple happiness as they return to Arizona to make their new home together. Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City) and Bro. Will Schuler (Milford, IN) were with us for the happy event.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Emily Rechsteiner

There is a chill in the air, the leaves are fallen and with a slight snow fall, we know that real winter is not far away.

This is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. We have many things to be thankful for; not only on Thanksgiving Day

but every day of the year. "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord and to sing praises unto Thy name O most High." Psalm 92:1.

We also enjoyed a weekend of fellowship with young brothers and sisters from the Latty and Junction, OH, congregations.

Our joy was unspeakable to hear testimonies and witness baptisms of four precious souls whom we now can greet as Bro. Neil and Sis. Ginger Mosher and Bro. David and Sis. Wendy Hoag. We are so thankful for them. May God ever be at their side. "God is ever present! Let us now adore Him . . ." Zion's Harp #68. Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) was here for this memorable occasion. We also enjoyed retired Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier's visit. May God bless them for their time and effort.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Mabelle Wackerle in the loss of her sister, Johanna Tanner. Also to Bro. Paul and Sis. Eleanor Munsel in the loss of their grandson, David Kosnik. May God comfort them with loving memories.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Marlene Reinhard
Holly Barton

Everywhere we go this Christmas season, it seems there is a song in the air. Even people who do not fully grasp the true meaning of Christmas and the significance of its beautiful hymns and carols seem to celebrate the season through song. How precious when singing is used to praise our Lord and lift us closer to Him! We were blessed by the Milford, IN, choir who recently came and sang to us. We appreciate their talents and willingness to share them with us. Ministering Bros. Walter Steffen and Nelson Beer accompanied the choir and we are appreciative also of their sharing of God's Word with us. The choir sang a few selections by phone to Sis. Ruth Gudeman, who was undergoing chemotherapy once again. We continue to uphold her in our prayers.

We wish to thank Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) for conducting our monthly evening Woodhaven service for November. Our

next service will be held Tuesday, January 7, 1992, at 7:00 p.m. It will be hosted by Alto, MI.

We are happy to benefit from ministering Bro. Doyle Frauhiger's (Bluffton North, IN) frequent visits to Detroit to visit his daughter, Sis. JoAnn Gudeman, and her family. We thank him again for his recent message.

Are you doing some last-minute Christmas shopping? You may want to add some items from the following "shopping list" to yours!

One of these days I must go shopping. I am completely out of self-respect, and I want to exchange the self-righteousness I picked up the other day for humility. They say it is cheaper and wears well. I want to look at some tolerance, which is being used for wraps this season.

Someone showed me some pretty samples of peace - we are a little low on that; never seem to have enough. And I must try to match some patience that my neighbor wears; it is very becoming to her and might look nice on me. I want to try on that garment of long-suffering they are showing; I never wanted to wear it, but feel myself coming to it.

And I must not forget to have my sense of appreciation mended, and look for some everyday goodness. It is surprising how quickly my stock of that is exhausted.

One of my college roommates once said to me, "Doesn't it seem like Christmas gets more precious every year?" Indeed, may this be your most blessed Christmas ever!

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

The weatherman had predicted snow and nearly 28 inches had fallen by evening November 1. Many people were not prepared. Gardeners were caught with their carrots still in the ground and travelers were stranded. The Bible tells of Christ's returning. Our prayers are that all would be ready and not one would be left stranded.

Believing it is God's will, Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy Schmidgall, Isaac and Amanda, have moved to Lamar, MO. They will truly be

missed by our small congregation as Bro. Larry was song leader and assistant secretary-treasurer and Sis. Marcy was Silver Lining Correspondent and World Relief Sewing Leader. We wish them God's blessings and know they will be very welcomed by the Lamar congregation.

We are thankful that our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Sis. Kathy could spend a week-end with us. May we continue to support our elder brother through prayer and being obedient to God's Word. We also enjoyed Bro. Wayne's presence and comments at our November Bible study.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ed Frank (Lacrosse, IN) minister the Word to us during a midweek service. Bro. Ed and his wife, Sis. Leah, joined our Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra Nohl and traveled to Regina, Canada, to visit the small congregation there.

We thank God that another soul has answered His call and has begun repenting. Our prayers are with Barb (Knobloch) Lesmeister (Paul) as she makes this experience.

The engagement of Marsha Goll and Chris Muntifering has been announced. Their wedding date is April 25, 1992. Marsha is the daughter of Helen and John Goll, Jr.

Several have been hospital patients this month. They were Sis. Sandy Fehr (Bro. Gary), Tracy Nohl (Ray) and Bro. Shane Jones (Sis. Ruth). We're thankful they have recuperated and are able to worship with us again.

Thank you note:

Sis. Kathy Nohl would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, flowers, gifts, visits, and phone calls she received while being in the hospital. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness.

Address Changed . . .

Give Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Georgia Messner - Kim Messner

Surgical patient for the month was Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce). We pray for God's healing hand.

Our annual sister meeting was held November 10, and Sis. Georgia Messner was voted in as assistant to Sis. Lois Messner. It was brought up that we are to remember to visit the sick and the older ones as it is hard for them to get around.

Let's not forget the season that we are in, as it's not the gift giving but to celebrate our dear Savior's birth.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Lanette Meyer

Two of our couples have been blessed with the arrival of baby girls. Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan Fehr are the parents of Britney Lyn. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Barbara Fehr (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL). Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doreen Leuthold have named their baby Kalin Marie. Kalin's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold and Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Gramm, all of Princeville, IL.

Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont) was a guest minister last month. We appreciate his willingness to come and serve our congregation.

Sis. Diane Smith (Ron) is wearing a cast on her ankle after falling from a ladder. We pray that it will heal quickly so she can resume every day activities.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Martin Hohulin Janel Kellenberger

We want to thank Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) for sharing God's Word with us. We are grateful for all the visitors we have had this month.

Our hearts were saddened by the death of our dear friend, Hazel Kibler. We extend our sympathy to her family and many friends.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy Schmidgall have recently moved here from Minneapolis, MN. We

welcome them and their children, Isaac and Amanda.

Hospitalized this month was Walter Cordill.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Mark Leman

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: For he shall save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

Christmas. The celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. A time to reflect on the humble origin on the physical manifestation of the Lord here on Earth. A time to remember that the King of kings could have come to the world in a fiery chariot or on the wings of angels in a glorious spectacle. Instead He was born of ordinary parents in a stable normally reserved for animals. A time to be humbled ourselves.

But it is also a joyous time, for baby Jesus became the man Jesus and 33 years later died on a wooden cross to save us from our sins. Let's not be complacent in this Christmas season but instead actively worship, praise, and serve our Lord to the best of our abilities. For only in true servitude can we find freedom and ensure that the Lord's death and rebirth was not in vain.

Joining us in worship the last two months have been Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and ministering Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). We encourage and appreciate visits from our brethren around the country. A recent Sunday saw approximately 60 visitors. This does much to bolster our spirits and makes worshipping and fellowshiping all that more joyous.

Many of us in St. Louis enjoyed a dinner at Bro. Jeff and Sis. Robin Steffan's house last month. Visiting were Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and his wife, Sis. Donna. We were also pleased to have the couple who live next door to the new church join us. We enjoyed some fine food and fine singing afterwards.

It was my personal joy and privilege to have the St. Louis Sunday school (jr. high and high school) class at my apartment for a pizza party last month. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Liz Leman (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Darin Leman (Morton, IL) joined us for a night of Dutch Blitz and Pizza Hut.

1991 has been a good year for our St. Louis congregation. It saw the first service in our new church, the joyfulness of seeing some new faces in our congregation and the sorrow of seeing some leave. It saw many, many visiting brethren wishing us the best and giving of themselves freely. If the Lord grants us another year here on Earth, we hope and pray that it will be as joyful and faith-confirming as this year has been.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Ruthie Hoerr

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him"

I John 4:9

At this season of the year, we find great joy in the knowledge that Christ did indeed come to earth as a babe; that He did die for our sins; and we do have that hope of eternal life, if we believe.

These past few weeks we have enjoyed Bible studies based on angels given by Bro. Kent Heimer. They were very interesting and appropriate for this season of the year. What would we do without the knowledge that there are guardian angels and we can entreat the Lord to surround our loved ones with them?

Congratulations to Benji Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda) and Karen Killday (Bill and Ann) who were united in marriage November 16 in Quincy, IL. We pray they will seek the Lord's guidance for that "three-fold cord" that will enhance their happiness and insure God's blessings.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha,

KS) who was here for his nephew's wedding. May God give him a special blessing for sharing God's Word with us.

Many here were saddened by the death of Noah Steiner (Sabetha, KS). He has a special place in all our hearts. Our sympathy goes out to all his family and may God give comfort.

Bro. William Cottrell was hospitalized again this month and is now home. Craig Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb) had surgery as an out-patient. Bro. Jim Sutter is scheduled for knee surgery. May the Lord's comforting and healing hand be with each one.

We are happy to have Bro. Phil Bauer back with us from England. The Bible class enjoyed singing and fellowshiping at the Roanoke ACYF, November 17.

We wish you all a Christmas that is bright with the light of God's love and a new year filled with blessings.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Franz Soni

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

We thank Bro. Jerry Isch and his family for being with us this past month. We thank Bro. Jerry for bringing us God's Word. May he and his family receive our Saviour's blessings for their effort.

Services are held once each month on the first Sunday of each month. Brethren who might be in the area are encouraged and will be welcomed to worship with us. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. following lunch and fellowship hour. For further information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at 302-478-7846.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG

The angel's sweet message - let me hear it again -
Of peace on earth, good will toward all men;

How the shepherds made haste and, forsaking their sheep,
Found the lowly manger and the Baby, asleep.

Brave Wise Men traveled from the East afar

To worship the Babe, having followed the star;

Costly gifts at His feet they laid,
The King of all kings who was born that day.

I love the story of Christmas.

Mrs. Paul E. King

We should all keep the story of Christmas in our hearts each day of our lives. We can never thank God enough for sending His own Son to earth as a Babe to live as an example for us to follow each day and to die for our sins. May we never forget the true meaning of Christmas and the One who made the way of salvation possible for all who will follow God and serve Him faithfully each day.

On October 20 we were blessed to have Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig (Gridley, IL) with us and to hear Bro. Elmer minister the true Word of God. We thank Bro. Elmer for his willingness to serve us.

Sis. Corinne Virkler has been able to return to her apartment after being a hospital patient. She is unable to assemble with us and our thoughts and prayers are that God will richly bless her. Sis. Rachel Snyder again submitted to cataract surgery.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be Sis. Berdena Widrick who has not been able to assemble with us. Also sympathy is extended to her and her family as her grandson, Randy, was taken from this life in a car accident at the age of 41. May God comfort each of them.

At this writing Bro. Floyd Graves Sr. (Sis. Loretta) is a medical patient and Janet Beck (Louis) has submitted to surgery. May God grant each of them a complete recovery so they can assemble with us again soon.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

"Reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press

toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14. Soon we will be reaching forth into the new year, and our resolution is to aspire to the prize of the high calling of God. We praise God that "He hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:6. As we exalt Jesus, He puts us on high with Jesus over the situation, sitting in heavenly places on top of our circumstances, and can give us victories.

Gyongyi Bako, daughter of Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako, shared with us a strong testimony of her conversion and was baptized. Visiting Elder Bro. Andy Stoller assisted. The Lord will be with her in all things.

The engagement was announced of Bro. Brian Palitto and Sis. Lisa Acker for their forthcoming marriage. Parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto, and Boyd and Barbara Acker (Rittman). The Lord will be with them as they make plans.

We welcome newlyweds Bro. Eric and Sis. Lisa (Brake) Indermuhle into our area and to assemble with us. They were recently married at Sardis, their home church.

Cindy Collins, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Hank Collins, and John Kulton were married. May they take the Lord Jesus for their Lord and helper.

Don Taylor passed on to be with the Lord. We are thankful for his testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. His wife, Sis. Ruth (Kaufman), survives, to whom he was married for 57 years; a son, Fred, and his wife, Nancy; two grandsons, David, and wife, Venita, and Mark, and wife, Karen; and three great-grandchildren. They all speak of fond memories of Don.

We enjoyed the inspiring message of visiting minister Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN).

Sis. Kathryn Novotny is in the hospital and is recovering.

Have A Merry Christmas
and A Blessed New Year!

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." St. Luke 2:10-11

What a wondrous site it must have been as the shepherds beheld the multitude of heavenly host praising God!

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

St. Luke 2:14

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL). We are thankful for the truth of God's Word. May God's blessings be upon these brothers and their families as they labor in His vineyard.

We are grateful that the Lord has brought Bro. Andy Hunyady safely back home after his visit to Eastern Europe.

OHIO, GIRARD

Kathryn Emch

We want you to know how things are with our Girard loved ones.

Harold's mother, Alma Emch, has gone on to her heavenly home. Mother had been in the Apostolic Christian Home in Rittman, OH, for nearly 15 years. We thank the Lord for welcoming her home. She was 97.

Our Sis. Anna Enyeart became unable to remain in her own home and has been in Glenn View Manor in Mineral Ridge, OH, since July 4.

Sis. Margaret Kincaid continues to live in Shepherd of the Valley Home in Niles, OH.

Our friend Esther Deislinger has moved from her family home where she had lived her entire life to Park Vista Retirement Commu-

nity in Youngstown, OH. She will be 96 in February.

Harold and I visit these dear ones whenever possible and always enjoy their company.

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

As the Christmas season approaches, let us remember the real reason for this time of the year. God gave us His only Son who gave His life for us. May we strive each day to live our life for Christ by daily taking up our cross.

May the Lord bless the ministering brethren as they stand Sunday after Sunday to preach the truth from God's Word. Visiting our pulpit recently were Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Jim Ramsier (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

During the week of September 23-27, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Stoller kept two Hungarian sisters in their home. As the sisters gathered with us, we felt the true bond of love between brethren of like mind and faith in spite of the language barrier.

We gathered together to listen to the reading of the conference letter. We were instructed as to the duties of our walk in our earthly family and our family of faith. May we, each one, heed the warning and follow the direction given by our elder brothers.

During the month of November, Bro. Ken and Sis. Marge Laukhuf and Bro. Will and Sis. Elsie Rager commemorated their 50th wedding anniversary. May the Lord continue to bless their lives together.

December is the month for Latty's subscription renewal. Please pay \$9.00 to one of your correspondents.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

Bro. John Grimm (Columbus) ministered unto us Sunday, October 27. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: (Matthew 28:20) We

appreciated his willingness to be used in God's service.

Wesley Thomas was born November 11 to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Tammy Beer. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville) and Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue Beer. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord . . ." (Psalm 127:3) May God bless them and encourage them as they accept this new responsibility in God's service.

Hospitalized during the past month were: Sis. Fred (Ben) Beer, eye surgery; Sis. Sarah Rice, eye surgery; Elmer (Bud) Sauder, heart surgery; and Bro. Robert (Sis. Kathryn) Beer. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers;" (I Peter 3:12). What a comfort to know the Lord hears are every prayer; may we support those with special needs.

Our special prayers support Sis. Ruth Weiss in the tragic death of her great-grandsons; Jimmy (5) and Carl (3). "The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace." (Psalm 29:11)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, . . ." may we keep that gift foremost in our Christmas celebrations; ". . . that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life," and may we be reminded of that wonderful promise as we start the new year.

We said "goodbye" to Bro. Dave and Sis. Jolene Sinn and family as they return to Kansas. We have appreciated their love and willingness to serve while they made their home in Mansfield. "Goodbye, goodbye, may we meet on heavens shore."

OHIO, RITTMAN
 Lois Maibach
 Charlene Winkler

There is joy among the angels,
 Singing round the throne above,
 When repentant tears are flowing,
 While the risen Lord is showing
 All the riches of is love.

Gospel Hymns #171

We rejoice with Willard Steiner

(Sis. Marian) as he turned to the Lord in repentance. May he feel God's nearness and strength each day.

A precious baby girl, Amanda Jo, was born October 29 to Bro. Michael and Sis. Carol Miller. Anxiously awaiting her arrival were grandparents Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller and Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian.

Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) have ministered to us this past month. May they be richly blessed for their laboring efforts.

O God of wisdom, life and love,
 Thine is the blessed plan
 In holy bonds of love to join
 The twain, created man.

Hymns of Zion #286

On October 27, the engagement of Bro. Wayne Hartzler and Sis. Camille Strahm (Bern, KS) was made known. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm. They are planning to be united together January 5.

Bro. Bryon Palitto (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) and Sis. Lisa Acker (Boyd and Barbara) announced their engagement November 3. They are anticipating January 12 as their wedding date.

May each couple feel the Lord's blessings during this time of planning and decision making.

Recently Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Erma) and Sis. Marian Steiner (Willard) have been hospitalized. May God grant them moderate health and strength if it would be His will.

Let us also remember to keep Bro. Harry Saurer (Sis. Esther) in our prayers.

OHIO, SARDIS
 Paula Figel

The most beautiful season of the year is upon us. May God grant us much grace, through all the activities of the season, to truly remember the real reason why we have Christmas, our Lord Jesus' birth and His purpose to save sinful men. May it be a holy season for all.

We rejoice in the way of salvation!

Saturday evening, November 16, was an evening of rejoicing as we gathered together to hear the testimonies of Laura and Clifford Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake). On the Sabbath we welcomed them into the fold as a brother and sister-in-faith having their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. May they be granted sufficient grace to remain true and faithful unto life's end. We give thanks to Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) for assisting our Bro. Ken Indermuhle in his duties. We also thank Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron) for ministering God's Word to us.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
 Stephanie Luginbuhl
 Kim Stoller

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) was our visiting minister this month. We thank him for his exhortation of God's Word.

We pray for God's healing on Ted Beery (Sis. Rhea) and Bro. John Dotterer (Sis. Betty) as they were hospitalized this past month.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Esther Dockus as she passed away. Her funeral was October 28. She leaves a sister, Sis. Helen Hartzler, and a niece, Sis. Martha Lou Marty (Bro. Dean), of our congregation.

OHIO, TOLEDO
 Frances Laidig
 Josephine Rehlkau

The new birth from above
 Glory be to God in heaven,
 Praise to Christ, our Saviour great!
 By the power of Thy Spirit
 A new man thou didst create.
 God's own Word indeed fulfilled;

And amid our glad embraces
Is this child of God revealed.
Zion's Harp 34:1

We rejoice, as do the angels of God in heaven, over one sinner who repenteth. Our new brother-in-faith is Seth Beard, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee. Repentance and forgiveness for his sins was made possible through the shed blood of Jesus and he then found peace with God and man. He gave his testimony on Saturday, November 16 and baptism took place Sunday. He has become a child of the King (our Lord) and his name is written in the "Book of Life" in heaven. May the Spirit of God be utmost in his life and be a guide for the future days to come. The services for this special occasion were conducted by our Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Walter Rager. It is our prayer that many more of our dear friends will find their soul's salvation.

Bro. Homer Reineck (Sis. Dorothy) has now retired. He was one of our ministers who has faithfully brought to us the Word of God since he was a young man and we will miss him. May he always be blessed for his special service for the Lord.

The Lord has blessed Bro. Paul and Sis. Teresa Rywalski with their first baby, Ella Marie. We welcome this precious little one in our church.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

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

Isaiah 9:6

THE GIFT DIVINE

God's gifts are unnumbered like
sands of the sea,
His mercies are boundless and
broad,
But no gifts so great as the Saviour
could be,
The Gift of the Son of God.

In Him we receive all the riches of
grace,
Abundant unmeasured supply;
Enough to supply every tribe,
every race.
To save and to sanctify.

In Him we have pardon, in Him we
are free
From bondage of sin's galling chain,
With Him we are lifted forever to
be
With Him on a high plane.

Our Father, we thank Thee this
glad Christmas Day
For giving us Thine only Son;
To carry our sins and our sorrows
away,
And ransom us every one.

Chorus:
Gift divine, Thou art mine,
Wonderful gift from above,
Freely bestowed by the Father of
love,
O wonderful Gift divine, O
wonderful
Gift divine, O wonderful Saviour of
mine.

Haldor Lillenas

Bro. Art (Sis Betty) Metz (Sil-
verton, OR) ministered the precious
Word to us November 10. An anal-
ogy was made of the sun's rays
breaking forth from the dense fog
(which was experienced by Bro.
Art's while driving to Portland), so
should the Light of our Lord and
Saviour break forth from any fog
that may want to hamper this Light
in our Christian walk. We thank
them for coming.

Our thanks to song leaders, Bro.
Don (Sis. Linda) Sinn, and Bro.
Mike (Sis. Lisa) Leman (Silverton,
OR) for coming.

Bro. Paul Rumbold spent sev-
eral days in the hospital for tests.
Our prayers are with him that the
Master's healing touch can restore
him to good health.

A few of us from the Portland
congregation gathered with the
Silverton brethren for the monthly
singing. Singing songs to God's
praise and honor fills our hearts
and being in the fellowship of our
loved ones.

Bro. Garth (Sis. Connie) Steffen
returned home safely from a visit

in Elgin, IL, with loved ones, their
dear Mother, Sis. Rose Steffen (who
had her 90th birthday) and family.

"Let us live as though Christ
were crucified yesterday, risen to-
day and coming tomorrow."

Unknown

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Our Fall Church Clean-up Day
is planned for Saturday, Novem-
ber 23. Hopefully the weather will
cooperate giving us favorable
weather for the outside work to be
accomplished as well as the inside
cleaning. The first week of this
month a good turn-out of men put
the new roof on our church. Plenty
of man-power and sunshine made
the work go smoothly with the
pleasant fellowship as an added
benefit.

The Sunday school students and
their teachers have been prepar-
ing for the annual Christmas pro-
gram for sometime already. They
plan to present their retelling of
the blessed birth of Jesus through
their songs and pieces Sunday
night, December 15.

The wedding plans of one of our
young couples was recently made
known. Sandy Knecht (Bro. Ed and
Sis. Julie) and Tim Roth (Silverton)
have announced their plans to
marry December 28. Our well
wishes and prayers go toward their
harmonious wedding plans but es-
pecially for their success in their
lifetime together.

After somewhere near ten years
of writing this newsletter for the
Silver Lining, this writer is hand-
ing the job over to someone else. It
has been an enjoyable little "chore"
each month and your words of en-
couragement have been appreci-
ated very much. Many times I have
felt like I was writing a letter to a
dear friend and like a dear friend
understood when joys or sorrows
showed through the news. Thank
you and may God be with us all
until we meet again, if on earth or
in heaven.

Joy to the world, the Lord is Come!

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

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

Hymns of Zion #40

What a joy it is to be able to once again celebrate our Saviour's birth. A time of family reunions and giving gifts. A time also to give thanks to our God for all we have and for allowing His Son to be born and die for each of us. May we be faithful to our God for the sacrifice His Son made for us.

Our church had its annual fall cleaning Saturday, October 19. A general cleaning was performed inside and outside. A lunch was served to all those who participated.

We rejoice with Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll (Washington, D.C.), who were recently baptized in Lester, IA.

We welcome all those in the area to come visit and worship with us. Services are Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday 8:00 p.m.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Don Sauder**

After our monthly (November) services were ended, we could truly say the Lord again has given His council and His will. His promises were fulfilled. Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) ministered to us from Nashville along with our visitors from Junction and Mansfield, OH. After taking Bro. Doug to catch his airplane, icing was added to our Lord's day when Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore, returning home from spending the weekend in Indianapolis, IN, slipped in to have supper with us. Not only did Bro. Lavoyd eat with us He also fed us again from God's Holy Word. How wonderful it is when we know that God will surely keep His promise

even though we are so small in numbers. He will never leave or forsake us.

We thank Bro. Doug and Lavoyd and all our visitor for spending time with us. Our prayers are that God will richly bless each and everyone of you, He and he alone knows each of our every needs. Please come again.

I am very pleased to report my brother, Bud (Mansfield, OH), is recuperating at home after open heart surgery for five bypasses. Again we much thank God for His tender mercy and healing power.

As a reminder, we hold services once a month in Nashville. Please plan to spend a Sunday with us soon. Faye and my phone number is 615-373-8928. Bro. Don and Enid Miller number is 615-384-1081.

**TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz**

Our winter residents are returning. Among them are retired Elder Bro. Paul Fehr and his wife, Sis. Anna. Two of our trustees. Bro. Willis Sauder and his wife, Sis. Pauline, Bro. Alvin Klopfenstein and his wife, Sis. Ellen are here also. It is such a blessing to have more people to greet each Sunday.

Our members are making plans for Christmas. Some are going north to be with their families. Some of our members are having their families visit here and all of us will enjoy the fellowship of our Christian family. May the true meaning of Christmas be foremost in our hearts and minds.

(Continued from Page 5)

Pete finally asked if that thing also told the time. The fellow said, "Yeah, I think it does, but I don't know how to run that part of it." To each his own, as they say.

We headed down the German Autobahn on a lovely morning in late spring. Fields of rapeseed, which we call canola, were in full bloom, glorious expanses of brilliant yellow. This is a major oilseed crop in Europe. We stopped for lunch at a rest stop along the way, and with only a little difficulty, arrived at Heer's shortly af-

ter the noon hour. A tender reunion followed, and the love once more flowed from heart to heart. We feel such a close kinship with these dear people we have known for such a brief period of time. There is no question of the truth of the hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love, the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." We felt it in action. It was like coming home again, and our old rooms were very inviting.

We freshened up, rested a while, and then Gene and Hans went to the bank in Oehringen to change some dollars into Deutschmarks for our journey. The kind brethren from the National World Relief Committee had sent funds along for the loved ones in the east, and we took care of what was necessary to carry out their instructions. In the evening, Edith came home from work, we had supper together, and retired early to a peaceful night on comfortable beds. Heers have a nice home, and all of our needs were abundantly supplied. The warm baths felt good after many hours of travel.

Dina went with a group of farm wives on a tour of Brussels, Belgium on Wednesday, before we got up, and Edith fixed us a typical German breakfast of hard rolls, butter and jam, cheese, coffee, etc., which suited us very well. She also packed some delicious sandwiches for our trip. The four of us loaded up and set forth. We took the autobahn as far as we could, and then traveled over surface roads (Bundestrasse) through the former East Germany. One could tell instantly when he entered this area, for the houses and buildings showed evidence of fifty years of neglect, and the roads likewise. Very quickly it became evident that we would not reach Hartmann's in Goldberg in early afternoon as we had hoped. However, we felt in good company, and the conversation flowed freely. Hans said more than once that this group travels well together, and, with thanks to God, that was so.

(To Be Continued in the
January Issue of Silver Lining)

Sermon . . .

(Continued from November issue)

"We know that the law is good, if a man uses it lawfully." I Timothy 1:8. We have laws in our day and time. If we are law-abiding, we don't have to fear the law. If we are abiding by the speeding limit, we don't have to drive with one eye in the rear-view mirror and this type of thing. The laws have their purpose and they are good purposes.

I recall the time when I went to Latty, Ohio, for an evening and on the way home, I saw red lights flashing and I pulled over. I had gone through an area where I was pretty sure I had exceeded the speed limit. He came to my car and said, "Do you know why I stopped you?" I said "I assume I was exceeding the speed limit back there someplace." He said, "Yes, that too." He said something about fifty miles an hour in a thirty-mile zone.

But he wanted me to get out and walk up to the front of the car. He pointed out and said, "Look at your headlight there." They were on bright but I didn't know what he was getting at. He said, "You had them on bright and when I met you, I tried three different times to get you to dim your lights." We were visiting and I didn't notice it. Not only was I speeding, but I wouldn't dim my lights for him. I thought there was no chance of mercy here.

Then he wanted to see my driver's license, registration and all that stuff. He looked at them and said, "Your driver's license is expired!" Now when you have those kind of driving habits, you have reason to fear the law. He was very gracious to me. He said, "I'm going to have you send in this card as soon as you get your driver's license renewed." He gave me a warning and I was on my way. I was very thankful for the mercy of that individual officer.

We have so much more reason to thank God for His mercies. The law has that affect on us. When we don't abide by the law, we have reasons to fear the law. The law-breakers have reasons to fear. If we are living within the will of God, we have peace of mind and peace

of heart. We are thankful for that.

During the war, I served at Fort Sam Houston and we have many pleasant memories of experiences with brethren. But there were those who actually gave their lives. This is the time to remember those. But let's think about having a memorial day and hold up anyone in memory. Let us remember what Jesus Christ has done for us. All who served in the service, they served that a way of life could be preserved here upon earth . . . a way of freedom in our land. It is very worth while and I appreciate all those who put forth much effort . . . more effort than I did and sacrificed a whole lot more.

Let us remember what Jesus Christ did for us. He also gave His life . . . not that we can have life pleasant here upon the earth for a few short years, but throughout the ages of eternity. We can have peace with God and we can be forever with the Lord, not separated from God eternally.

Let us remember what Christ has done for us and let us be willing, even as Paul was desirous that Timothy continue to speak forth the truth so the work can go on. Let us be faithful in carrying out the commission that God has given us.

"The law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers . . . manslayers, for whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind . . . and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust." I Timothy 9-11. I often hear the ministry criticized that we are afraid to speak on these things. It is not that we are afraid to speak on these things, but we would rather speak of the joys of heaven than the chills of hell.

I would say for those who are yet living a life outside the will of God, that these things that Paul lists here, as he mentions whoremongers and them that defile themselves with mankind, just because society has hung some different la-

bels on some of these things, doesn't make them right or any more pleasing to God. They are an abomination to God.

The immorality that is going on in the world today is just as much a stench in the nostrils of God today as it was when these things were written. God is displeased with this, unless a person repents of those things. The Word doesn't hold any other hope, but such are going to languish in hell throughout the ages of eternity.

Some say a favorite phrase, "Everybody is doing it," just as though that makes it right. Society tells us these things are not wrong . . . they are alternate lifestyles. We have just gotten away from these things that the Scriptures hold out here as being wrong. Society wants to call them other things and say, "This is your choice and that is okay. It's the choice you make." But the Word of God doesn't say that.

I would warn those who live by this standard of the world or thinking that, just remember that these things are contrary to sound doctrines, as he says here. They have not changed and I feel safe in saying they will not change. Just because we are enticed and tempted to go that route, I would urge all to take a stand against that. God will bless any efforts that is put forth to maintain a standing of righteousness.

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor . . . but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." I Timothy 1:12, 13.

I would say this again to the unbelievers, when Paul spoke on Mars Hill, he told them about the altar that he noticed to the unknown God that they were worshipping. He said that is the God that I want to proclaim to you . . . the God who is unknown to you but known to Him. He said how this God at one point in time, in times past perhaps, winked His eye . . . overlooked the sins of mankind . . . and had patience. But he went on to say that God now commands

men everywhere to repent and believe the Gospel. That is the dispensation we are living in.

We are living in the time subsequent to the time of our Lord here upon the earth. When Jesus walked here upon the earth, He set the example, He taught, He gave His life for sin, He taught that men should repent, believe the Gospel, and forsake the ways of sin. Paul says that is a commandment.

I have said it in the past, repentance is not an option. We think this is a choice that we can make. The only option we have is whether we are going to repent in this time and life when we can receive forgiveness and peace in our heart, peace with God, and joy above anything that can be explained. Or, if we are going to reject God, reject His love, and then repent throughout the ages of eternity and regret it forever and forever.

I think how the rich man pleaded with God to send Lazarus with his finger dipped in cold water that he might cool his tongue, "for I am tormented in this flame." Luke 16:24. Nothing very pleasant to talk about. But the Scriptures tell us that is the way for those who reject the love of God and turn from Him and go their own way.

I have close relatives, brothers in the flesh, that have not committed their life to the Lord Jesus Christ. My heart goes out to them. I had a brother that passed away a year ago last fall. He had cancer and it was obvious that he wasn't going to make it and I had that compulsion. I told Joan that I have got to talk to him. He moved away to Ohio and we had not had opportunities for spiritual conversations, but I felt I needed to talk to him to free myself. I had that confidence that he knew the Saviour. He had regrets and he had to say that he was fearful that he had not always lived as the Lord wished him to live. I assured him that we all have to make that statement that we haven't always lived the way the Lord would like for us to.

Our heart goes out to these people who are bound by Satan, you might say, their whole life time. I particularly urge young people to think long and hard about this de-

cision. The older people get in their life, the more difficult it is. The longer they serve the devil, the harder it is to make that break. I urge young people to surrender their heart to the Lord while they are young.

He goes on, "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare." I Timothy 1:18. I think that is the commission passed on to each of us. We are not here just to see how we can enjoy ourselves the most in this life time in the pursuit of physical pleasures or whatever it might be or an easy life. But rather that we might see how we might best serve the Lord Jesus Christ, just as he exhorted Timothy that he might war a good warfare.

Let us remember we are in a war . . . we are in a battle. There are two forces. We just need to ask ourselves and whether we realize it or not, whatever effort we are putting forth, it is showing to somebody around us. If we are serving God, that soon shows up. If we are not, that also shows up. So we are in a battle fighting on one side or the other. We just need to ask ourselves, just whom are we fighting for?

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)

So, where do we stand? What are our works? What are our labors? What is our patience? Are we patient with that? When we see evil all about us proclaimed as being good, are we tolerant of that? Or do we say, "No, that's not good?"

Are we willing to make a statement by our lives, or by our actions? You say, "How do I make a statement by my life or by my actions?" It may be refraining from going someplace, or participating with other people and other events. We are asked many times, aren't we, to go to a certain event with someone, or to partake of a certain activity? Yet it may not be that wholesome to be there.

We are almost intimidated by those people, because there are peers in business or in fellowship or whatever. We think, "Maybe I

had better go along just to be nice." Yet, if God would rather have us in a different environment, we might want to say, "Sorry, I don't participate. I just couldn't make it to that." They might even ask you, "Why?" You know, Satan might be driving that person to ask you why so that it puts you on the spot and embarrasses you and makes you feel bad about yourself.

But, it also may be God saying, "Here is an opportunity . . . use it!"

"I don't go to that place because I know people do a lot of drinking when they go to that place." Maybe it is kind of riotous when they go to that place. Maybe the conversation is not wholesome when you go there, or else it's on a Sunday.

"Where else should I be on a Sunday other than in church with God's people?" We make a lot of excuses of places to go on Sunday, don't we? Children have activities, and we have activities. It is kind of hard to accept somebody's excuse for Sunday. I can make an excuse to you for where I'd like to be on a Sunday afternoon.

But I just wonder what it would be like to have to go up to Jesus and say, "Jesus, I can't be there Sunday afternoon, because my son over here has got an obligation and I have to be with him." That is important. Believe me, I think family is important! But I wonder if we could explain it to Jesus as easily as we explain it to one another. What is important?

I looked down here when I talked about this church. In verse four it says, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." Revelation 2:4. What was its first love?

It says he was fallen and needed to repent and do the first works. Here is this loving God, and this merciful Saviour, and what does He say? He says, "If you don't, I am going to come quickly and I will remove your candlestick out of its place." (See Revelation 2:5). I believe that is interpreted, "You won't go to heaven." That's pretty bold, isn't it? That is a pretty strong statement!

We are on holy ground. We prayed about that, didn't we? We talked about that. Moses went be-

fore that burning bush and he was frightened! Why was he frightened? Because the bush was on fire? He was frightened because he was in the presence of Almighty God talking to Him. That is why he was frightened. He took off his shoes because he was on holy ground. He wanted God to know that he was humbled, and that he was submissive. Are we?

These are examples of seven different churches. Each one of these churches had good aspects and bad aspects . . . just like us. They were human, and Satan tempted them. From time to time, they yielded and got into trouble.

Jesus, in His loving way and merciful way, comes to us and pleads with us to be holy. We should think of that in everything we do, in all our actions, our day-to-day activities, our hobbies, our work, and everything we do.

I ask myself, "Can I be holy here? Can I be holy? Can I radiate Jesus Christ where I'm going to be?" If you have trouble saying that, you can say "Could I be a good witness there? If the opportunity came up in that place where I'm going, could I just ignore what is going on and say, 'That reminds me of a Scripture in the Bible. Let's talk about that.'" If you think about that and say, "I would be awful uncomfortable saying that to the people I am going to be with," then I wonder if we ought to be there.

We should not be uncomfortable talking about the most precious thing we have, should we? What is the most precious thing you have? It should be this beautiful Word living in you. It should be Jesus Christ living inside of me. That should be the most precious thing I have.

Why wouldn't I want to talk about the most precious thing I have? When most women get together, they talk about the most precious thing they have - their children. Men, we probably brag about our children more than we praise them sometimes. Everybody has their things that they want to talk about that they are really proud of - proud of their work, proud of their possessions, proud of their family.

How about Jesus Christ? Are you proud of Him? He died for us. He just didn't die. We read that all the time in the paper. Picked up the paper this morning to look at the obituaries to find the people that died. It happens all the time. Did you read about this little girl that got kidnapped? Imagine what she went through! Kind of horrible to think about it, isn't it? Poor little girl.

Then you think about Jesus Christ. They beat on Him. They spit on Him. They beat Him up so bad you could not recognize His face. It says that in Isaiah. Then they made Him walk out to this place where He was going to die. It is kind of like making a guy dig his own grave, isn't it? They hung Him up on that cross. They laughed at Him. They made fun of Him. His own people ran away. He went through a lot so that you and I could stand on holy ground.

Do we respect the holy ground? I speak to myself first. We get carried away, beloved, and get thinking about me. We get thinking about this capital "I" that stands right in front of us. We get thinking about just ourselves, what we want, how comfortable we want to be and the nice things that we would like to touch and take hold of. That is this big, capital letter "I".

Do you know where that came from? It came from Satan. He is the one that uses the word "I" because he said he wanted to be raised up to be like God. He wanted to sit where God sits. That is why he fell. Before he was a murderer, a liar, and he was anything that you and I try to avoid, and he was an egoist. He was proud. That is why God says He hates the proud look. He hates a proud person. It reminds Him of a beautiful angel He made that rebelled against Him. That was Satan, made by God, beautiful, powerful, and selfish.

We are supposed to be like Jesus Christ. He was anything but selfish. He gave Himself. He would stop in the middle of wherever He was going to help somebody. It did not matter who He talked to. He talked to a blind man that no one paid any attention to. He would go

and touch a leper that everybody just backed away from. He would go to a Pharisee. He called Zacchaeus, a wealthy man, out of a tree.

He was no respecter of persons. Are you? Am I? Are we a respecter of a persons? Are there people that we think, "No, I would not care to be with that person? They are just not as good as me."

It reminds me of that Scripture where it talks about the Pharisee and the publican coming into the temple. The Pharisee, he is humbled, isn't he? He is making a plea to God and ask the Lord to help him in his life and says, "But I am just thankful that I am not like this guy over here." (See Luke 18:11).

Then it tells the prayer of the man who was a publican that was "that guy over there", and he said, "Lord, just be merciful to me, a sinner." He even smote his chest, he was just so disgusted with himself. I really believe that. He was looking inside himself and saying, "I am just wretched." He was just begging God to be merciful unto him. (See Luke 18:13).

Isn't that how we are supposed to be, just recognizing where we stand with God? He is so far above us, beloved, we have just got to be so thankful that He even allows us to attain unto Him . . . to come unto Him . . . to pray unto Him . . . to reach out and touch Him. He is God! He is not a man! He is God!

If I would walk before the President of the United States, I may have a lot of respect for that man, but I just don't think that there would be any driving force that would force me to my knees. He is a man. It says that when you come before Jesus Christ, you are going to hit your knees.

When Jesus Christ was being taken in the garden, (I always marvel at that), when they came to get Him in the garden, He walked up to them. In John, I believe, it says, "Whom do ye seek?" They said, "Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth." Then He said, "I am He", and it says they fell backwards to the ground, just at His mentioning that fact! (See John 18:4-6). You won't find that from a man. That is God!

Do we hold Him that high? He is God! You are His representative, and I am His representative. I should not be embarrassed at anytime in my life to be able to bring forth the fact that that is who I represent. If I am in a situation where it is embarrassing to bring that out, I should not be there. Or else I should be examining just how strong my faith is.

That is why He was coming to these churches. He was saying, "You are a church. You are living for Jesus Christ, but you are not showing it!" I don't think I am just saying that today, because I think this is just coming out that this is the warning that was given to these churches that you and I have to consider ourselves, because we are a church. We are a body of believers.

It is often remarked that it is not this building, but it is the very souls that occupy this building. That is the church. Whether you and I meet outside on a grassy knoll, or whether we meet in a basement or a cave somewhere in a time of persecution, or whether we have the privilege of worshipping in such a beautiful sanctuary as we have right here, it is not the building . . . it is not the place. It is the hearts . . . the souls . . . the minds!

What do we think about? What do we act like? We are a body, it says, "fitly joined together." Ephesians 4:16. Look at an athlete. If he is going to win something, if he is going to be successful at what he does, everything has to be in tune. He has to have a knowledge of what he is out to perform. He has to have a knowledge of it. He has to almost have the track in front of him, or whatever his obstacles are, to have a perception of them so that he can know where he is to go, where to place his feet, where to place his hands, and how to move his body back and forth. His body has to be fit, it has to be tight, it has to be together, and it has to be disciplined.

My boys are always looking at athletes and different people and saying how good they are and they want to be like that. I say it takes practice. It takes practice if you

are going to play piano, or if you are going to play ball. It takes practice if you are going to be good in school, which is important. It takes practice if we are going to be good in our faith, doesn't it, beloved? It takes reading . . . praying . . . action . . . diligence . . . and discipline!

These churches evidently let some of that slip to have an accusation. Can you imagine the Lord coming to us and having an accusation like, "You lost your first love?" (See Revelation 2:4). There again, what is our first love?

Our first love is Jesus Christ! That is your first love! If it is not, You have got a real problem. If it is not my first love, I have got a real problem. The key to heaven's gates is to have Jesus Christ as our first love.

If that is not our first love, we are going to be those that come before the Lord on that final day, and He is going to say, "Depart from me, I do not know you." We are going to be amazed and say, "What do you mean, you do not know me? I was a Christian." I believe He might say, "What was your first love? What was it? Things of the world? It has got to be Jesus Christ."

He is such a beautiful God because He says at the end in an admonishment, "Do you have an ear? Use it." (See Revelation 2:17). That is basically what He says in my terminology. "Do you have an ear?" We have got it made - we have two ears! Think of that! We just don't have one ear, we have two ears!

Think of the faculties God gave us. He says, "You got them? Use them! Listen! Listen to my Word. Understand what it is." He says, "Listen to what the Spirit saith." Are we listening to what the Spirit says? The Spirit will prompt us and lead us through every situation.

I had to think this morning as I was reading in chapter two of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was in captivity and he was coming before this king, Artaxerxes, and he was afraid. He was so burdened because Jerusalem was trodden under foot. It was torn down and burnt. He loved that city so much because it

was God's city and he wanted it rebuilt. It says that his countenance was sad. The king saw him and he said, "Why is your countenance sad?" Nehemiah 2:2.

It says in verse four, "Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven." Nehemiah 2:4. I had to think, before Nehemiah was going to answer that king, he prayed, He said a prayer!

Do we do that? I know when I am in a situation where I am going to a meeting with a bunch of other men or something, I am intimidated by them because they are my peers in business of whatever. Maybe they are more successful, more important, or maybe that are just knowledgeable men. I am frightened. I find myself praying to God that He would guard my actions and my mouth while I am with them, and that I could use His wisdom and not mine. I am not bragging about that because I don't do it often enough.

When I read that from Nehemiah, it really gave me courage to think that Nehemiah did that. Nehemiah prayed before he answered! That is the Spirit! If we listen, we are going to hear this Spirit and we are going to be overcomers.

It is interesting that He says to the church at Ephesus, "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life." Revelation 2:7. We read of the Garden of Eden in the book of Genesis, that there were different trees. There was the tree of knowledge of good and evil that Eve was not supposed to partake of, but she did. (See Genesis 2:17 and 3:6).

She was allowed to eat of the tree of life all the time. There was only one tree they couldn't eat of - the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Once she ate of that, God took them out of the garden and guarded it unless they went back in and ate of the tree of life. This one right here. Then they would never die again.

You and I are going to partake of that very tree . . . the very tree that Adam and Eve ate off of in the Garden of Eden. You and I are going to have the privilege, I believe,

from this Scripture, to eat from that tree when we are in heaven. Isn't that a worthy goal to go after? Just imagine that. There are people who travel all over the world to see famous sights. What a sight to see the Garden of Eden! What a sight to see God and Jesus Christ, face to face with a happy countenance and not that of an austere judge.

To the church of Smyrna, he says, "You won't be hurt in the second death." (See Revelation 2:11). That is important, isn't it? We are going to have two deaths. One from this mortal body that we have right now, and one spiritually. We do not have to die the second death . . . the spiritual death. That can be life everlasting!

That was promised unto this church of Smyrna. He encouraged them because he said, "You have tough days coming ahead. You are going to be persecuted." So, what was the advice He gave them? "Do you have ears? Use them!" See Revelation 2:11).

It says he went to Pergamos. He reminded them that He is the one that has the sword with the two edges. (See Revelation 2:13). Beloved, we dwell where Satan's seat is. In this world today, I believe we all dwell where Satan's seat is. He is in the hearts of mankind. He is in the hearts of carnal men. It says it is going to get so bad, it is going to get to the days as it was in the days of Noah, where it says, "Every imagination that man has is evil." They justify themselves among themselves. They are not comparing themselves with God's Word.

Look at this trial that is going on right now. Think of how important that position is in our country. That is a very, very serious position is in our country. That is a very, very serious position to be a Supreme Court Justice. It makes you wonder what the real story is, doesn't it? Who is right? Who is wrong? Who is leading who? Where does Satan play in that? Maybe you have listened to it; I have had to listen to it. It was very interesting but sometimes it got so sickening that I wanted to turn it off. Sometimes I did. When you listen to that debate, what comes to your

mind? Do you think of what a bunch of different people they are? Do you wonder which one is right and which one is wrong? Or does what is going on remind you of the Holy Word of God?

It is amazing how many conversations I have run into in the last week, that when we have brought that up. I guess I have been around the right kind of people, because it seems like it reminded them of different Scripture verses. I have to think of the one where Jesus Christ had a prostitute brought to Him, and He has all these righteous Jews wanting to condemn her. He says, "He who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone." (See John 8:7).

We had to think of those men standing up there judging this other man. You wonder how their conscience might be pricked to say, "What if that was me?" You know, if you have listened to it, this man (Whether innocent or guilty) is constantly bringing up the fact that, "I have never been so persecuted, never been scrutinized so closely, never been so examined that my life was just bared before the whole world and exposed."

You are going to get that opportunity, and so am I. Jesus Christ knows your works. He knows your labors. He knows everything about us. We have got to be before His judgment seat.

Mr. Thomas has been embarrassed. Can you imagine the embarrassment to sit before the throne of God, to kneel there (because you are going to be on your knees), and to have this Judge Who is going to look into your eyes, look into your heart, look into your mind, and know your soul? He doesn't even have to ask you a question. He doesn't have to ask me a question. He knows the answers!

We were wonderfully made in our mothers' wombs by Him. He has known us ever since we were conceived. He is God! He is just not some buddy that I walk through life with. I am privileged to hold His hand. He is God. He is awesome! He is going to judge us.

What this man is going through is nothing compared to what mankind is going to go through on Judgment

Day. Think about it. It should make us want to examine ourselves, like we are encouraged in the Word. Examine ourselves to know that we stand right, to ensure that we stand right, to be holy to walk with the Word, to walk with God, adhere to His laws, adhere to His teachings, and adhere to His principles.

Then, after we have considered ourselves, we need to be extremely considerate of those without the fold. Think of them going through that judgment. Think of someone going through that judgment who isn't converted. Think of someone being in front of a judge that is going to condemn them to hell. Think of how serious it is that you and I walk on holy ground, so that we can pray for those people.

It says, "The fervent prayer of a righteous man is very effective." (See James 5:16). That must mean just the opposite. A man who is not righteous cannot have a very effective prayer. If we want to have effective prayers for our children, our parents, our loved ones, our friends, our enemies, we had better be reverent, we had better be righteous, we had better be holy, we had better be Christ-like. Otherwise, those prayers are not going to be very effective. They are just going to be air waves. We want them to have power. We want them to have love. That is the power, isn't it?

The power of God is His love. His love conquers. So we need to have that above all things. The love of God, not just love. When the world talks about love, be careful. Are they talking about the love of God?

The music of today just loves to talk about love. It is kind of a play on words there, isn't it? Listen to the music, those of you who are tuned to it, it is not talking about God's love unless it specifically brings out that this is the love of Jesus, the love of the Spirit, the love of God, or the love of the Messiah. They talk about love, and the power of love. They are not talking about God. They are talking about carnal love. It is dangerous . . . it is deceptive . . . and Satan is involved.

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SERMON BY BRO. JON F. ZELLER OF MORTON, IL

"Make Jesus Christ Your First Love" Proverbs 21 and Revelation 2:1-17

This is the beginning of when he was writing to these seven churches. If we would go through chapter three, we would find that he finished writing to each one. Each one is particular and peculiar in its own way. Seems like in each one of them, for the most part, he had something to praise them for, for their faith, and yet there was always something lacking.

Aren't we like that? Isn't there always something lacking? There is always someplace we need to do a little better . . . someplace we need to keep improving upon ourselves. We should never be content that we are far enough and that is all the farther we need to go. If we have become a child of God, we've got work to do.

We're never supposed to lay down the armor. We're never supposed to lay down the sword. We're never supposed to lay down our lives, until it's our time . . . until we're ready . . . until we've fought the good fight.

He knows our works. How does that make us feel? God knows our works. He knows everything we do, not just our work with the labor of our hands, but He knows how our life works.

What has been left behind us? Every one of us has left a path in this life, from the time you're alive to right now. Whether you're fifteen years old, or whether you're fifty years old, or whether you're eighty-five years old, your life has

left a path. You have left knowledge that you were there, and God observes that.

What does He observe? What does He observe in your life and mine? Is it good? Or is it bad? If it is bad, has it been corrected? He knows our works. He knows our labors. He says He knows our patience. (See Revelation 2:2). He was speaking expressly about the church at Ephesus and about their patience because they were bearing up under evil times.

It said they had men among them that proclaimed to be apostles and were not. It said they found them out to be liars. (See Revelation 2:2). How can you find someone out to be a liar? You've got to live a holy life, don't you? If you and I live a holy life, and the people we associate with that are professed children of God, we don't have to go on a statement, we go on facts. That is why we have trials in our courtrooms. That is why there is a trial going on right now, over our Supreme Court Justice, to find out facts.

If we went by what everyone said, it would be beautiful if everyone could be trusted to that point, but we know we can't. Satan himself, it says, comes as an angel of light. He comes professing many good things. We are experiencing that in our day and time, aren't we?

There are not many good things out there that seem to be very good.

We especially start looking at all the different things for our ecology and our environment around us and how people are trying to improve it. We see people gathering together all over the world, trying to bring nations together in harmony, peace and love. It is amazing how many times love is used today. But, you know, love is of God! We talked a little bit about that at Restmor this morning.

If God is not mentioned, then we need to be careful because I believe Satan is using the word "love" right now to deceive many into thinking they are good because they love. Yet if you don't have God, you don't really have love.

Because God is love! That is love!

Be careful because the world is seeking to deceive us. It says they bear them which are evil. Do we see evil in our time? It talks about works and about labor. (See Revelation 2:2).

I believe we talked about that a little back here in Proverbs, this king's heart and judgment, and whatsoever is right in a man's own eyes. It says, "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes . . ." Proverbs 21:2. Don't we see that today? We see men who justify everything they do by another man's actions or by the law of the land. Just because the government of the United States says something is legal, that doesn't mean God says it is legal.

(Continued on Page 36)