



"For he saith to the snow,
Be thou on the earth; . . ."
Job 37:6

"Thou hast set all the bor-
ders of the earth: thou hast
made summer and winter."
Psalms 74:17

VOLUME 42

JANUARY 1992

NUMBER 1

A MIDWINTER SCENE



"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow; . . ."

ISAIAH 1:18



MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

NO ARROGANCE IN 1992

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle
Shioda, Japan

A year ago we were all worried about the arrogance of Sadam Hussein. As it turned out he was not as successful as he thought he would be, but he is still carrying on, albeit with less media coverage.

As we enter a new year it is our hope and prayer that the leaders of all countries will be reasonable and not think more highly of themselves than they ought to think. We can all do without wars, there are better ways to spend our time and resources.

In the church, too, we can do without conflict. Much love and respect for one another is highly desirable. Even if we know that, we must still guard against arrogance. Somehow we must put ourselves lower than our brothers and sisters, even when exhorting them.

In Ephesians 5:21 we read, "Submitting yourselves one to an-

other in the fear of God." The attitude of submission, of being willing to be taught, especially from the Bible, is a must for all of us. May God somehow grant all of us in 1992, a spirit of submission and humility, quite the opposite of arrogance or the act of putting ourselves above others and thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. We are cautioned against this in Romans 12:3.

In Philippians 2:3 we read, "In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Let each of us go all out for complete obedience to God and let us speak freely with each other as to how we can become more completely obedient, and leave self out of it. None of us have all the answers and we must not think that we do. We are striving for perfection and we need each other's help in that endeavor. None of us will be arrogant in 1992.

EUROPE TRIP

May 14 through 28

Bro. Gene Lehman

Wolcott, IN Congregation

(Continued from December 1991

Issue of The Silver Lining)

A traveler on a long journey soon learns to respect the needs and wishes of his companions. Of the many things we have learned on our trip, that perhaps is one of the most important. Gene and Pete traded driving, using Hans as navigator.

Looking back on the initial experiences of the Autobahns, the greatest difference between them and the American Interstate Highways is the speed limit. None exists in Germany, and the drivers of their high-performance cars know it. Pete was driving along at around 135 to 140 km/hr. (about 85 mph). Once, though, he said, "I've got her up to 160 km/hr. (100 mph), and no one is passing me now." However, from out of seeming no where, a Mercedes passed us so fast that the force of the wind rocked our

car. (At 100 mph, mind you), and disappeared into the distance just as fast. We laughed about it, but agreed that the 135-140 was really fast enough for us, but at that we had to keep out of the fast lane. At that speed, even motorcycles went around us!

At one point along the way, we saw a group of American soldiers pushing a large bus along the road. That brought some humorous comments, although the soldiers probably were not amused. The American presence is diminishing, and finally no doubt will all be gone. The face of the entire continent of Europe is undergoing massive change. As this trip progressed, we learned more of this, and came to feel that we have come to a turning point in history. The old orders are indeed dead, to be replaced by something new. However, God alone knows what the new will be, and most of us will have to wait and see what it is. In the mean time, many books will be written about it!

About 6:30 on Wednesday, we arrived in Goldberg at the home of Heinrich and Helena Hartman and their daughter, Suzanne Wenzel and family. Here there were warm embraces, kisses, and tears of joy. Opa (Grandpa) Hartmann had back trouble, and had been in bed, but he came to the big supper that was served soon after we got there. Love flowed as we ate the wonderful meal of pork chops, thin sliced cold meat, smoked fish which Paul Hartmann (Heinrich's son) and Oscar Bolliger had caught. There will be more about Oscar later. He is from Garibaldi, Oregon, and spent 60 days in Europe, visiting some of the same people we did. He is our friend in America, and it was good to meet him when we

(Continued on Page 4)

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

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

ESTEEMING OTHERS OVER SELF

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (Rom. 12:3). "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (Rom. 12:10). "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3).

One of the major attributes of our conversion and of our becoming a part of Christ's body, the church, is to esteem our fellow believers in Christ above ourselves. In this we become conscious of the fact that Jesus loves each one of the brethren so much that He gave His life to pay for their sin and gave them peace and salvation. Thus, we desire to love and esteem all our brethren very highly (1 John 3:14).

The idea of lowliness of mind and esteeming others over ourselves does not imply an unhealthy attitude about one's own self-worth. If we put on the "mind of Christ" we will not be concerned about enhancing our own reputation (Phil. 2:5-7). Rather, we will find our true worth in the knowledge that Christ uses each of His children to further His sacred work here on earth. As ambassadors of Christ we possess the highest standing of all human beings. We are humbled as we recognize that this is not something we have earned or deserve.

In this humble, Christ-like state of mind, a higher sense of peace and harmony can prevail among the brethren. As believers in Christ, we struggle daily to achieve this biblical precept of esteeming others over ourselves. We fight this battle in a society that finds such attitudes outdated. The prevailing philosophy in our secular-oriented world is to exalt one's self over others and to do what is right in one's own eyes. Self-exaltation and individualism are cardinal features of corrupted human nature, finding their origin in the an-

cient fall of Lucifer (Is. 14:12-15). As a culture we are in danger of being consumed by wholesale esteem for self, rather than esteem for others, or for the absolutes of God's word. This is clearly a fulfillment of the prophecy that in the last days "men shall be lovers of their own selves" (2 Tim. 3:1-2).

There are many specific scriptural instructions regarding esteem of others over ourselves. The Word teaches that wives are to show respect to their husbands, even to the extent of reverencing them (Eph. 5:33). Likewise husbands are exhorted to extend a special honor to their wives as the "weaker vessel" (1 Pet. 3:7) and they are to love them as Christ loves the church (Eph. 5:25). The highly valued position in Christ of both husbands and wives is evidenced by this summarizing statement: "... as being heirs together of the grace of life" (1 Pet. 3:7). The Apostle Paul also taught that widows are to be given special esteem: "Honor widows that are widows indeed" (1 Tim. 5:3). Believers in Christ are to honor all men, with special recognition toward certain God-ordained authorities. "Honor all men, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king" (1 Pet. 2:17). If we show esteem to both the lowly and great, it will return a positive response to us and will be a light for Christ.

The Bible is clear that we are to give a special esteem to the servant leadership and ministry of the church: "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake: (1 Thes. 5:12-13). Those that rule well will "be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in word and doctrine" (1 Tim. 5:17). It is not intended for us to exalt individuals but to honor a spiritual office and by such honor to obey the instructions and warnings given by those who are over us in the

Lord. It is spiritually "profitable" for us to do this (Heb. 13:17).

Satan is cunning in his efforts to bring confusion and division within the body of believers. He tries to cause brethren to judge each other's motives and lose esteem for one another. Factions can develop and deepening rifts can occur if this corrupting process is not stopped (Gal. 5:15). Sometimes fixed opinions and personal convictions are allowed to take precedence over scriptural truths and established church standards. Paul warned, "Be not wise in your own conceits (Rom. 12:16). He had to chasten the Corinthian believers for their polarization and misdirected exaltation and censure of their church leaders and ministers. Some were for Paul and against Apollos (1 Cor. 3:4) and vice versa. Paul wrote: "... no one of you (should) be puffed up for one against another" (1 Cor. 4:6). They were not to judge the motives of the Lord's servants (1 Cor. 4:5). Other scriptures give instructions requiring judgment of sin (1 Cor. 5) and doctrinal error (Tit. 3:10-11) when committed by anyone in the church. These actions are not the responsibility of individuals but of authorized brethren in the church.

From the beginning of the church age there have been differences in gifts and talents as well as in administrations (1 Cor. 12:4-6). These should be viewed as adding to the collective strength of the body. Partiality or critical attitudes toward ministers and elders eventually lead to emulation, divisiveness and loss of esteem. The same can happen among brethren. These are not fruits of the Spirit.

Realization of true peace and harmony in the brotherhood can occur only when there is an abundance of godly esteem for one another, emanating from spiritually minded brethren who walk meekly in the blood-stained footsteps of our beloved Saviour.

did. The evening meal was outstanding, an example of gracious hospitality.

After the dishes were done, and all had settled down, we had a worship service in the living room with Gene speaking, Pete translating, and Hans contributing in the German language. Gene found it much easier to communicate in German than the last time, but learned first hand the humility which comes when one finds the little children can speak the language better than he can. However, with patience,

all went very well, and a great blessing followed. The whole family had been present, and once more love flowed beyond expression. We sang many songs together, with the children asking for certain selections, and taking part in the singing. Present were the old Hartmanns, their daughter Suzanne Wenzel and her husband Andreas, Paul and Elke Hartmann, their daughter Andrea plus the four of us. It was a wonderful time together.

After services, we opened our

packs, and gave the gifts we had brought with us. Verna had made hand-painted purses for the women, perfume and a scarf for Oma (Helena), and Gene had caps for all. Everyone picked out a colorful cap, and we took pictures with them on. A little bit of monkeyshines, but it was fun. Pete also distributed the treasures he had brought along.

We were tired, and had wanted to go to bed early, but it was all so good and interesting, that it got late. We had warm showers and comfortable beds, however, and the night brought peaceful rest in a land so far from home. We felt secure, and indeed we were.

Suzanne and Andreas are both school teachers, and are each somewhat shaky about their jobs. The new order since the unification of the two Germanys has brought many problems along. The solutions are not simple, nor will they be soon resolved, and only those who have lived with the situation can fully understand it. At the time we were at Hartmann's, we had not talked to the people that we have at this writing. However, it can truly be said that we visited with many different people throughout central Europe, and actually got the same story from all of them, but from their individual viewpoints. All in all, it simply reinforces the view that we are at a very major turning point in the history of this troubled world, and once

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GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**1992
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE**

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 8, 1992**

more convinces the believer that his only solution rests in the stability and security of the Word of God. That is the only thing that has stood and can stand the test of time and its many changes.

After a good German breakfast, we went with Paul to the place where he worked, visited Elke at her Job, and also went to the place where they shop. We really wanted to do this, so we could see how it is with these dear ones on a day to day basis. We shopped in their stores, bought things there, and walked where they walk on a daily basis. It was very, very good to be there, and helped us to relate to them on a personal basis.

Suzanne insisted on fixing lunch for us, and did a beautiful job of it, and after that, we headed for Berlin in two cars, Pete and Andreas in his Opel, and the three of us, Hans, Gene and Verna in ours. Wenzels were able to get the Opel after the unification, and find it a big improvement over the Trabant which they drove for years. The Trabbies do leave alot to be desired, as we found out the last time we were there. Good used cars have flooded into the former DDR (East Germany), leaving an actual shortage in the west. Almost without exception, they have manual instead of automatic transmissions, which are better suited to German conditions, plus they deliver better gas mileage. Gas cost the equivalent of about \$2.85 - \$3.00 per gallon. Pete and Gene did have to get used to shifting, however. Also, the gear shift on our Opel was on the floor, but at the exact place where we are used to having our gear shift lever, there was the windshield wipers and washers. Pete and Gene both squirted water all over at most inconvenient times, to the amusement of spectators. It helps to have a sense of humor.

In Berlin we went to the Brandenburg Gate where we were the last time. This time, of course, the wall is down, and in the plaza nearby are all kinds of merchants selling souvenirs of every description. Gene bought a couple pieces of the Berlin Wall for people who had been interested in our trip, and helped us to make it. He also

bought a wooden Russian doll. It has five characters, one inside of each other. They were Gorbachev, Reznev, Khrushchev, Stalin and Lenin. The doll is ugly as sin, and is forbidden to be sold in Russia, but Gene thought it was a collector's item, and it now rests on a shelf in his office.

Walking together through the historic Brandenburg Gate, we strolled to the Reichstag Building (Parliament), and saw the many sights of the central city. Then we followed Andreas to the apartment of their daughter, Kerstin, and her Bulgarian husband, Ewloge. Kerstin insisted on fixing a supper for us, which was very delicious, and after a time which one again was so very short, we took our leave to head for Lichtenstein to Markert's.

A dark cloud had been hanging over our heads, as we knew that Traudel Markert was in the hospital with a possibly serious ailment, and it lay in the back of all our minds, most especially Hans'. He has loved and known the Markert family for many years, and shared a great many joys and sorrows. We did not know what to expect once we got there. Hans had written to them that we were coming, but the telephone system did not allow us to call them, and we had no idea what to expect. The hour was late, and the places to find a bed were few and far between. As tension built up in the car, Gene told Pete a miracle would happen. Pete replied that the greatest miracle would be if we found a bed.

Darkness fell as we traveled the narrow winding roads through the East German countryside. Pete knew that at night all is closed, and felt it not too likely for us to find an open Gasthouse. As we wandered through the silent towns, each time we saw a sign pointing to one, we had just come from that town. It was a bit unsettling. Finally, we reached Zwickau, which is a rather large town not too far from Lichtenstein. We knew we were close, but it was after 10:00 p.m. also. However, we pressed on, finally seeing the familiar sign proclaiming we were in Lichtenstein, "City in the Greens". Green it was,

but it was also 10:30 at night, and the city was asleep. Pulling up in front of Markert's familiar old house, we noticed a light in the second story window. Gene hollered, "Hallo, Willi Sonntag", and a face appeared at the window. He said to Pete, "See, you never listen to me." and Pete replied, "I was listening, but I didn't say anything because I was praying." Shortly Willi appeared at the locked gate of the ancient courtyard, and let us in. They had been waiting for us. Once more it strengthened our faith in the existence of guardian angels who watch over not only the brave, but sometimes the foolhardily. We soon went to bed in old familiar surroundings, which although they were primitive, were adequate. Pete and Hans slept under the eaves in a small room with no heat, and the night was cold. It helps you appreciate American motels.

In the morning, it was already Friday, with a distance yet to travel. Ruth fixed us an ample German breakfast, after which we tried to find Traudel in the hospital. Ruth and Willi were never members of their father's church, yet showed much love and compassion for us who were. Traudel had been moved to Zwickau for tests, so we headed immediately for Auerbach and Klingenthal, not real far away, to visit Maria Braun and Elisabeth Pamer and their families.

Finding Maria Braun alone in
(Continued on Page 31)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

In this New Year we look to the Lord for guidance in each step we take. The Holy Spirit is able to guide us through each new and different event or problem no matter how large. Let each of us have the faith that He will show us the way. As stated in Romans 5:20, we know that enough grace is available for the times in which we are living. We ask for your continued prayers that the necessary grace will be given to the board, our administrators and our staff to make and carry out decisions for our home and satellite homes.

Everyone here at the home had a busy and pleasant Christmas with all that goes with it: caroling, baking, shopping, and going home for the holidays. We have now settled into the New Year and its scheduling. The staff here continually tries to improve the quality of life for each resident.

We want to thank each volunteer that has cared about our dear residents and ask that in 1992 you continue to see that opportunities to serve the Lord are here at ACHH.

The birthdays for February are: John Kamm (18), Lee Anne McKay (19), Virginia Reece (27), Guy Masinelli (28).

Again 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.

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

Well, we made it through the December rush, and are now enjoying the New Year. In December we read the story of Jesus' birth to the children, and then each one had a part in a Christmas play that we put on for the parents, grandparents, and friends. For three weeks the students practiced their lines and songs, and then they got to tell the story of Christmas through the Play. On Friday, Dec. 20th, we had about 150 people come and watch the Play. What an important time to spread the story of God's love to some who never heard.

The Preschool was closed for two weeks at Christmas, so now we are all rested and it is good to be back into a more regular schedule. January starts the time when the students, especially the ones who will be going to kindergarten in the Fall, really start to learn and are so thrilled about it. Their eagerness is such an encouragement, and it is a privilege to be a part of that excitement.

As we begin this New Year, we do wonder what the Lord has in store for us, and we would ask your

support in prayers as the Lord molds and shapes children through the Preschool.

**GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home**
Joanne Kaisner

As we reflect on the past year, we all can say God has been faithful, and He has richly blessed us. God has lead us on paths that were unknown and yet we have conquered. This past year has brought many new employees to Gateway Woods. We truly rejoice that brothers and sisters have heeded God's call to join in our "work of faith and labor of love".

Jordan Daniel was born on November 21 to Bro. John and Sis. Sue Grusy. Sis. Sue is the Educational Coordinator at Gateway Woods. Jordan is welcomed home by big brother Jeremy, Stephanie and Jackie. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

We welcome Charity H. (15) to the all girls house. We pray that she can feel a part of "our family" here. We appreciate her cheerful personality!

December is a busy time of the year for all of us. December 15 was the Sunday School Christmas Program here in Leo. It was so uplifting to hear children, young and old, tell the Christmas story. Our staff Christmas gathering was held on December 18 at Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder's. We enjoy the time we can spend together as a staff reminiscing on the past year, encouraging each other and praising God for all His blessings. On December 19, we held a Christmas party for the entire campus. We served an old-fashioned meal at the New House. Afterwards, we went Christmas caroling at the Cedar Creek Retirement Complex next door.

Christmas is such a special time of year for Christians. We rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour nearly 2000 years ago. Christmas is also associated with family gatherings, togetherness and love. The media even encour-

ages us to go "home for the holidays". Unfortunately today many people have no where to go. The staff at Gateway Woods would like to thank each person who invited a child to spend time with them for the holidays, who sent a donation or gift for our children and who prayed for the children over the holidays. We pray that you will be richly rewarded for your thoughtfulness!

As each one of us look forward to a spirit-filled 1992, may we whisper this prayer for every day.

"Lord, in all I do today, remind me that there's just one way to do the things that I do best, to put my mind and heart at rest. And that's to put in Your great hands, my life, that You alone have planned."

Author Unknown

I encourage each one to share the plan of salvation with those you come in contact with in this new year. May God bless each one of us as we strive to walk the path that leads us to His Throne.

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pamela Moore

January 1992 is here already, unbelievable! Everyone is making New Year's resolutions and goals of how they will improve in the upcoming year. There is really only one goal that matters, and one that will meet all other goals if it is met, and that goal is to draw nearer to your heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. This is my goal every year, and each year, God helps me to meet this goal. It may not be through joyful and happy experiences, but through times of spiritual needs and trials, The reward is always the spiritual peace and joy of drawing closer to our Lord and Saviour.

As always, December was filled with times of remembering our Lord's birth. We all gathered on a Wednesday night to Christmas carol to some of those in the Athens area who are unable to get out at this time of year. It's a special tradition we have, that hopefully enlightens the hearts of those we sing for, as well as our own hearts.

The teenagers got together at

the home of Bro. J. R. and Sis. Louise Hall Sunday afternoon, December 15, for their Christmas party. What could be better than encouraging the fellowship of our teenagers?

Friday night, December 20, was the Christmas program for the Preschool, with our Secret Pal/Church Christmas on Saturday night, December 21. This is a special Christmas, when everyone is invited to come for a potluck supper, followed by the women revealing their secret pals for the year. The next day, Sunday, the Sunday school presented their Christmas program, from one-year-old up to high school age. All together, we counted 28 children in attendance. The focus of their program was on the importance of giving, rather than receiving. May this be the focus of our New Year ahead, giving rather than receiving.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

'Twas a brisk night before Thanksgiving when, once again, as related in I Corinthians 11:24-26, we had the privilege to take communion. Bro. Bill Dotterer and Bro. Greg Gramm brought the sacraments to the table, from which Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and Richard Schupbach served us.

Visiting minister Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) brought our Thanksgiving message. Other visiting ministers, to whom we are thankful, are Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Tucson) and Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN).

Thanksgiving Day we heard the engagement announced of Bro. Mark Steffen and Sis. Stacy Baum. We pray the Lord will be the plan maker for this event to be in March. Their parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum (Phoenix) and Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen (Alto, MI).

We were happy to see Bro. Earl Sanders and Sis. Frances Schrenck back assembling with us, after lengthy sickness.

A December 8 reception for Bro. Nathan and Sis. Kathy Knochel was held in the congregational

room. The Knochel's were married in Alto, MI, November 17. Best wishes and God's blessings to you, as you set up a home to honor God.

Sally Jean was born November 26 to Bro. Ron and Sis. Marge Lindenbaum. Aubrey and Lucas love their baby sister and are happy they got to name her. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Leman and John Lindenbaum and Maryann Lindenbaum.

Sis. Sherry Frank, Ashley and Amanda have joined husband and daddy, Bro. Dennis, in Illinois.

December 15 was the special treat known as the Sunday school program. Oh, the joy of seeing and hearing our dearly loved youngsters telling the Christmas story. A festive buffet of goodies was enjoyed by all plus lots of good Christian fellowship.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. Fred Zeltwanger (Latty, OH). Bro. Fred and Sis. Caroline have visited us for many, many years in the winter months. We will miss Bro. Fred this year, but we rest assured he is in a better place. Our prayers are with Sis. Caroline and Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman (Tucson) for God's healing peace.

We are anticipating our winter visitor's arrival and pray for their safe traveling and arrival.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Marian Petrovic

We wish to thank Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this month. It's always encouraging to have visitors from near and far, and we extend an invitation to all those who will be in our area to stop by and worship with us.

COLORADO, DENVER

Eric and Marcel Huber

Our friend Naomi Braun (Herb and Sis. Sharon) is seeking God's will for her life in repentance. We rejoice she has chosen to heed Proverbs 3:6, "In all thy ways acknowl-

edge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Our annual Sunday school Christmas program was held Saturday evening, December 14, with a dinner preceding the program. We appreciate the time and energy our youth and Sunday school teachers spend preparing for this event each year.

Many from our congregation traveled to Colorado Springs for our regular Sunday evening church service, December 15. Christmas carols and a lunch were enjoyed by all after the service.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathe Hasty as Bro. Richard has entered the hospital. May God comfort them and provide healing powers during this difficult time.

As we begin a new year, may we reflect upon the words of W. D. Longstaff, who exhorted us to "Take Time To Be Holy."

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

"There are loved ones in the glory,
Whose dear forms you often miss,
When you close your earthly story,
Will you join them in their bliss?
Will the circle be unbroken,
By and By, by and by?
In a better home awaiting
In the sky, in the sky?"

Hymns of Zion #222

Our circle in Rockville will certainly be broken as we have bid our last goodbye to Sis. Verna Fern (Fannie) Lanz, who passed away Thursday, December 5. Fannie was to celebrate her 85th birthday a couple of weeks later. To the correspondent, she was a very special friend, and she will be missed greatly by all her family and friends. She leaves two daughters and sons-in-law, Sis. Carol and Warren Gottier (Vernon), and Sis. Beverly and Bro. Edwin Gerber (South Windsor); a brother, Louis Zimmerman (Illinois); two sisters, Adella Kiefer and Lillian Witzig (Illinois); and 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

As life passes away, a new life is born into this world. Bro. Guy and Sis. Beth Gottier welcomed

their new daughter, Julianne Louise, born November 16. Bro. Roy and Sis. Joyce Schneider are the maternal grandparents; Warren and Sis. Carol Gottier are the paternal grandparents. Bruce and Kevin are excited about their baby sister.

Also, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan Moser welcomed their first-born child, David Steven, to his new home. David Steven was born November 13. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser; maternal grandparents are Bro. Dick Lanz and Sis. Frieda Lanz.

"I'm a lamb of Jesus' flock;
Untold blessing are my lot;
For my shepherd gives protection;
Showers on me His affection;
And with peace and gentle love,
Calls to me from heav'n above.

Zion's Harp #17

Those during the month of December that have been in the care of a physician or hospitalized are: Jacob Virkler and Delvene Starks. We pray that God will watch over these loved ones and enfold them with His arms of love.

As we have welcomed in a New Year, may this year friend you with God's richest blessings of joy, love and peace in your hearts.

Reminder: January is collection month for Rockville.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"Pray without ceasing."

I Thessalonians 5:17

When calling either brother listed in the last paragraph, or just about anyone else in our congregation, you will more often than not get an answering machine. If you leave a message, you will get a response later. How different it is with the Lord. His line is never busy, He is always there, He is available as long as we need Him, and He doesn't say, "Can I get back to you? I have another prayer waiting."

Our ministers in December were Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We are thankful these brothers and their wives take time to come and serve us.

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 or just to let us know you will be in the area, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Bro. Ed Stoll (703) 730-0248.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Terri Huber**

What a busy month! Aside from the usual holiday activity, I have two special events to report:

Kathy Martin is repenting. She is a "traveling nurse" who has held a position in our area. Praise the Lord!

Bro. Eric and Sis. Elaine Olson welcome a precious bundle into their home. Rachel Marlene is a beautiful addition to her parents' lives. God bless their family.

Our Christmas activities have included bell ringing as volunteers for the Salvation Army and the Sunday school Christmas program. The children said their pieces and sang with joy. We thank the Sunday school teachers for their efforts in putting in all together.

One Christmas event that I imagine is unique to our area: the "Boat Parade." Seventy-five boats were decorated with lights and music and proceeded down the intracoastal for half of a million onlookers. One boat even had a sign that read Happy Birthday "Jesus."

Lord willing, we will be caroling for the elderly this Sunday, December 21. It is a precious tradition that we hope brightens the evening for the listeners as much as it does for us!

Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT) was our visiting minister in December.

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

Again we our in the season to be grateful for all things. We should not place our thoughts on the things and gifts of the worldly ways. We need to look more to the gifts from our heavenly Father who gives us so much more to look forward to.

Bro. Roland and Sis. Viola Keller recently were very surprised on their 60th wedding anniversary. Their son, Duwayne Keller, presented a tribute to them. A surprised carry-in dinner was served.

Recently Ronald and Barbara Yergler have surrender their hearts to God in repentance. We are so glad and rejoice with them.

Bro. Dave Eisenmann Sr. had surgery on his thumb.

We thank and appreciate all the visiting ministering brothers. We heard God's teachings and His true Word from Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL).

A picnic is being planned for January 5 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lakes Park in Fort Myers.

Our Christmas program was a bit different this year. It started out with our only two little girls, Stacy Yergler (Ron and Barb) and Lindsey Steffen (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rae) singing Jesus Loves Me. Then with adults giving readings. Then ending with a couple of songs by our visitors from Francesville, IN.

We thank you brothers and sisters of Francesville for this wonderful surprise.

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

Thanksgiving is past, Christmas is here and, Lord willing, a New Year lies before us. Time just seems to move at such a rapid pace! "... For it is time to seek the Lord ..." (Hosea 10:12) Are we making preparation?

By word and deed is brought to light

How Thy great name is glorified
And pure and clean our life shall
be,

A living witness, Lord, for Thee.

Zion's Harp #188

Did we invite the Christ Child to His own birthday party? Was He made welcome or was He lost in the many plans we just had to accomplish? We need to recapture that joyous excitement by refocusing our attention on the event we celebrate rather than on the celebration of the event!

Our congregation was so thankful for the opportunity of hearing the testimonies of Matt Koehl and Jeff Sabo, and then also to witness their baptisms! We rejoice here in Sarasota and in the Word we also read of the great rejoicing that takes place in heaven over one sinner that repents. God bless them today and always as they allow Him to have full reign of their lives!

"God's Christmas Rainbow" was the theme of our Christmas program this year. As we watched, listened and sang together, we were reminded of the many promises God does fulfill each and every day! Jesus, the "Christ Child," our Saviour — what a "Promise!"

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing the Gospel with us through their ministry! God bless them and their wives, and we wish them safe journeys.

We, in Sarasota, want to wish everyone a most blessed 1992.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

The Atlanta congregation had a blessed Thanksgiving weekend as Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and his wife could be with us Thanksgiving Day and the following Sunday. Also ministering to us this past month was Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). May God bless them for their willingness to serve us.

On December 6, several from our assembly went Christmas caroling at the Christian City Home. The Sunday school children exchanged presents later that

evening. It was a wonderful time of fellowship for all who attended.

Congratulations to Charmin and Bobby St. Mary (West Palm Beach, FL) on the birth of their second daughter, Nikki Leigh. Bro Don Sellers is happy for another grandchild.

Services are held every Sunday at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Road Exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554) or Bro. Mark Gerst (404-339-4454) for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Carol Steffen

We are thankful once again for the many blessings God has bestowed upon our small gathering. On November 17, Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach and family (Elgin) came to minister unto us. Sunday, December 1, Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman and family came from Fairbury, IL, to support us. We thank all of our visitors that Sunday from six different churches. There were 78 people with us which gave us a day of blessed fellowship! The day was finished off with a meal at church. Meeting loved ones from our different congregations is a joy that is unique.

Our Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen came Sunday, December 15. We certainly appreciate them and thank them. That same day, we were privileged to have our first Christmas program in place of the afternoon service. Bro. Dean spoke on how many times children minister unto us. After the program, refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Many times when we try to cheer someone up, we are the ones who are encouraged. Such was the case when our church went Christmas caroling to the local nursing homes and hospitals. Afterwards, we enjoyed a chili supper at the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene Jepson.

We realize that although Christmas is joyful for some, it is sorrowful for others. We extend our sympathy to the Martin family in the passing of their dear mother and

grandmother, Sis. Flossie Martin. Also, our sympathy is extended to the Kellenberger family in Elgin whom our hearts hold so dear in the passing of Sis. Sharon Kellenberger and Bro. Nathan Kellenberger. May God comfort each one.

Visitors came this month from ten different churches and the attendance ranged from 36 to 78 people. Average attendance has been around 40 people. We thank each one who came to visit us.

For more information on our church, call Bro. Dean Steffen at (815) 568-6086 or Bro. Brian Anliker who lives in Belvidere at (815) 544-5787.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON

Carolyn Fischer

Tudy Schmied

We rejoice with Bro. Bernie and Sis. Joyce (Witzig) Ferneau as they were united in marriage November 24 and will make their home in Chicago.

God has called another precious soul into His fold. Sis. Sandy Kupferschmid (Larry) gave her testimony and was baptized the weekend of December 7 and 8. Her parents are Kenneth and Georgiana Pinto (Rock Island, IL). We wish Sandy God's continued guidance and direction in her life. Elder Bro. Bob Grimm and ministering Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) shared God's Word with us this weekend.

On December 13, Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Blunier received one of God's precious bundles from heaven above, Luke James. Grandparents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts (Forrest, IL) and Wayne and Sis. Marjorie Blunier (Cullom, IL).

Sis. Ella Cargill passed away December 13. Two of her daughters from our congregation are Sis. Dixie Knapp (Bro. Kevin) and Connie Grusy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families. Sis. Ella worshipped with us for the past six months after being in Gridley for many years.

On December 14, we enjoyed singing songs of praise to glorify the birth of Christ with those in the nursing homes in the Bloomington-Normal area.

On December 15, we were told the old familiar story of Christ's birth from our Sunday school students. What joy to listen and watch the very youngest three-year-olds to the high school seniors as they presented the story in song and verses.

Special prayers go out to Sis. Carol Sauder who was recently hospitalized and has moved to our church home in Roanoke. May God's healing power go out to her.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Les and Barb Fehr

On December 8, we heard the engagement announcement of Sis. Cheryl Ringger to Bro. Brad Kupferschmid (Eureka). Parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Ringger and Bro. Richard and Sis. Mary Beth Kupferschmid (Eureka). May God be with them as they make plans for their marriage.

Our prayers and support are with Bro. Bill Endress as he begins his new duties as Sunday school teacher.

On December 15, we enjoyed hearing our Sunday school student's songs and recitations during our annual Christmas program. How blessed it is to be reminded about the real reason for Christmas — the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ — by our young people.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers for their efforts in bringing us the Word of God. They were Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont), Bill Emch (Lamont, KS), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville).

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

On the weekend of November 23, the Sunday school students and teachers prepared food boxes to give to several needy families in the Champaign-Urbana area. The boxes were decorated, filled and delivered by the students with the help of their teachers.

On November 30, Sarah Vogel (daughter of Jerry and Lois Vogel) and Dan Henrie (son of Paul and Teri Henrie) were married in

Urbana. They are now living in Geneva, IL, so we won't be seeing them on a regular basis. We wish them God's blessings and will welcome them each time they come to visit.

What has become an annual "babysitting day" took place Saturday, December 7. The college students, who attend church here in Champaign, provide a day of respite for parents of young children in the midst of the hectic season. This is one of the many ways in which the students show their appreciation to the members and friends of our congregation. And we want to thank the students for the love, enthusiasm and faithfulness which they model for us.

Our annual Sunday school Christmas program was presented on Sunday, December 15. The focus was on God's glory: the glory of God as revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai; His glory in Christ's birth and the real and potential glory of God in our lives today. The children shared the powerful message with simplicity and joy. Following the program a large group of children and adults went carolling at several nursing homes and then returned to the church for a chili supper. It was a blessed day of fellowship and worship. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." II Corinthians 9:15.

We are all sorry to say goodbye to Bro. Keith and Sis. Jodi Schieler and their infant son, Austin. Keith has completed his schooling and has taken a position with Cenex/Land O' Lakes, which will employ him in the Morris, MN, area. We have appreciated their love and support and pray and trust that God's love will go with them. We'll miss them!

In addition to many visiting worshippers in the past month, our visiting ministers were Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago) and Bro. John Zeller (Morton). We appreciate the encouragement they brought. Bro. Richard Zutter (Fort Lauderdale, FL) visited us in October. (His name was inadvertently omitted last month.)

January is Silver Lining collection month for Champaign.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

In my family, the lighter the dinner rolls (baked, yes, but just), the better they are. I made a batch of rolls for one of our Christmas gatherings, and once again some became too brown on the bottom. They really looked reasonable on the surface — yet I knew from experience that they would lose their softness and, because of that, become drier — "hardhearted." I wasn't pleased. As the Lord sends us into the heat of battle (already begun in this new year), He is looking for us to remain "easy to be entreated," showing His compassion to a very harsh, cruel world. But in the intensity of this time in the oven, we also get "too brown on the bottom" at times. A situation makes us jeer at all we know to be true from the Word. We forget to claim His promises, build up our defenses against those whom Christ died for, and lose our love in that spot. May we focus always on our Lord's example and seek His wisdom which "is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality (no matter what our experiences, through Satan's work on our mind would try to teach us otherwise), and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." James 3:17-18. Only then can we be truly light — and the Lord be pleased.

Bro. Art Baurer, with his wife, Sis. Joy, makes his way to Chicago periodically. We are grateful to him for his willingness to minister to us again. We love them for coming and want them to know the welcome mat is showing no signs of wear.

The beauty of the Christmas program is its children. They have a sweetness, simplicity and dignity in showing their faith that we always need to remember should be ours, too. From the youngest to the oldest, ours concentrated this year on the people of that holy night and their thoughts and part in the Bible. Parents and Sunday school teachers have important roles in the preparation of the program, but ultimately it is the children's will-

ingness to participate and reaction to the responsibility of telling this truth that makes it precious. Saturday, December 7 was an especially priceless time as our children presented so well — with clarity and joy — that information which the world seeks to stamp out of this season and its consciousness. We sang these words to the tune of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year": "We come now expressing The faith we're confessing To bring you a Christmas blessing For a happy New Year. May God's love surround you, His peace dwell within you; His mercy continue Throughout this New Year! Good tidings we bring . . ." (Claire Clonger)

Singing Christmas carols is another delight of a season with much busyness and not time for delights — or so it seems. Our afternoon and evening, Saturday, December 14, were given to caroling and fellowship. We were in two groups, and in our group we sang to a neighboring couple of one of our brother and sisters, a retirement community, and a small home for handicapped adults, before joining the other group at Elgin Resthaven. All seemed appreciative; however, there was a clear sense, going from the very well-to-do retirement community to the small, much more downscaled home that here we were more needed. Certainly we all have spiritual needs and we want to be discerners of the Lord's will for us in whom to minister to — but let us not forget those who are not in our fellowship nor even in our middle class status in life. Who of us among us does enough for those who cannot repay us in kind?

We again joyfully welcome a Christian couple to our large, populated and spiritually-needy area. Bro. Bernie and Sis. Joyce (Witzig) Ferneau were married in Gridley November 24, and we hope that they will consider us family. Especially to Sis. Joyce, who has just begun the adjustment process in leaving all and coming to our city environs, but also to Bro. Bernie, we offer our love, our welcome, our prayers and thanksgiving as they

walk now together in this place where the Lord has brought them.

We had only an hour before finished opening all the gifts at my parents' house, and the nephews were examining each exciting new toy and game that they now possessed among them. Suddenly, amidst the "beep-beeps" of the electric games, we heard the youngest 4½ exclaim, "I've conquered it! I've conquered it!" Truly, we were surprised, but he had patiently spent his time on that game — succeeding despite his age disadvantage. He continued to try it over and over, persistently making sure he had "conquered" it. Such a lesson that was. "Thy grace we need forever, Without it we would fail. In patience we shall conquer, conquer, Though faith we shall prevail." Zion's Harp #134, vs. 5. May we pray for patience and "stick-to-itiveness" to continue — despite the odds, despite any disadvantages our earthly eyes tell us; for, Lord willing, "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:37. Would that we would also recognize and celebrate our victories, giving God the glory, and go on to overcome by His love.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Bev Knapp - Karol Stock

In remembering the less fortunate during Thanksgiving, our third through eighth grade Sunday school classes delivered food baskets to several families in our area Sunday morning, November 24. The Bible Class also visited with several local residents that evening.

The annual all-church Christmas caroling was held December 15. It was an enjoyable evening as all ages joined together to sing at several area nursing homes and the homes of some of our local members and friends. Everyone then returned to the fellowship hall for refreshments.

On December 1, Sis. Sylvia Martinez and Bro. Walt Laubscher had their engagement announced. Their parents are Eulalia and Octavio Martinez (Hoopeston) and Sis. Marie (Cissna Park) and the

late Bro. Ben Laubscher. They are planning a March wedding.

On December 15, Sis. Valerie Kaufmann and Bro. Todd Kaeb also had their engagement announced. Their parents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb all from our congregation. They are planning a February wedding. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to both of these couples.

Sis. Clara Hofer, Sis. Kathy Stock and Lacey Walder have all had surgery this last month and Bro. Harry Knapp also spent some time in the hospital. Sis. Ida Laubscher was hospitalized for a time and is now at Heartland Health Care in Paxton, IL. We pray that each one will feel God's nearness and the comfort of His love as they recover.

We also wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Kathy Stock and her family in the loss of her mother, Sis. Florence Martin (Elgin).

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Joanne Roth - Myra Steffen

We have been blessed this past month to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Sis. Beth and Bro. Jeremy Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn), Bro. Brad Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary), Bro. Derek and Bro. Kevin Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) and Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis Miller.

We were also blessed to hear the Christmas story shared with us by our Sunday school children. As we "rejoice, the Savior is born," we are also thankful that these dear souls have found salvation and new birth through faith in the Savior's death and resurrection.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Roth's home has been blessed with the birth of Julie Marie. Kristin, Shari and Michael welcome their new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth.

Darrick Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy) is engaged to Holly Meisner (Jim and Sandy, Benson, IL). We wish them God's blessings.

We have had several visiting ministers share God's Word with

us: Elder Bros. Walt Anliker (Eureka) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), Earl Gerber (Forrest), Jim Vierling (Eureka), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka).

Hospitalized this month are Sis. Millie Schieber (Bro. Carl) and Sis. Peninna Miller. May they feel our prayers and draw strength from God's presence.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

This month our joys have been mingled with sorrows. On November 23, it was our privilege and we rejoiced to hear the testimonies of three precious souls and are thankful to welcome Sis. Kelly Schmidt, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara Dietz as new babes in Christ. Together in Him, may we all wend our pilgrim way to that heavenly home.

We appreciate the efforts and spoken Word by Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bros. Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL), Walter Herrman (Princeville, IL) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). Other visitors were Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL).

We were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Sis. Florence Martin, 81, who went to be with our Lord November 22. She was buried beside her husband, Bro. Carl, where "they shall sleep, but not forever, There will be a glorious dawn . . ." Their children include Evelyn Yergler, Sis. Kathy Stock, Sis. Betty Metz, John, Tom, Bro. Dave, Edward, Carl, Dale and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Two brothers and two sisters also survive. The family of Sis. Florence wishes to express appreciation to all for the many deeds of love and kindness shown to them during their bereavement.

Believing the Lord's ways and timing are best, we tearfully laid to rest a loving wife and mother of

eight children. Our dear Sis. Sharon Kellenberger, 45, was unexpectedly taken from her family circle December 1 as a result of a serious van accident. She is survived by her parents, one sister and two brothers.

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

Isaiah 40:11

It is hard to know how to express our thoughts to all of you dear brothers, sisters and friends for all the love and prayers which you have shown to our family during this time of sorrow in the loss of our dearly beloved wife and mother, Sharon Kellenberger.

Although we miss her sorely, we know that she is at rest and peace in heaven with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are comforted in knowing that although she cannot return to us, we can go to her when life's journey is over if we are true and faithful to our Lord as she was. She so deeply touched our lives and we know she also touched many of you. Her Godly example will always remain with us to encourage us on the way.

Through the infinite love of our merciful Saviour and the continued prayers of those we love, we will be able to carry on. May God bless you. Bro. Keith Kellenberger, Sis. Rachel 23, and Bro. Barry Dietz (Bradford, IL), Neal 21, Gary 20, Kay 17, Robbie 15, Danny 10, Chad 9, and Trisha 6; 540 N. Clifton Avenue, Elgin, IL 60123; 708-888-4801.

Having been blest with good health and sound mind, our dear Bro. Nathan Kellenberger who recently celebrated his 97th birthday, also received serious injury in this van accident and on December 3 could close his eyes in sweet rest in Jesus. His wife, Sis. Minnie, preceded him in death. Their children include Verona Schock, Barbara McDonald, Sis. Joyce Weiss, Lorraine Tatge, Janice Straugh, Donna Bucher, Sis. Kathleen Schifferer, Bro. Eugene, Robert, Elvis, James, Bro. Keith and the

late Bro. Gerald and Glen, also many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. One sister and one brother survive.

The world has lost a warm and loving person
 Who made a special difference every day
 Yet all those seeds of love so gently planted
 Leave blossoms that will never fade away.
 For the million memories we hold so dear
 And your stories we so loved to hear
 For the love that's never failed a day
 We thank you, Father, in every way.

In loving memory of Nathan Kellenberger, we, the family, wish to thank everyone for their love, kindness and prayers in our recent bereavement.

We also share sympathy to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill in the passing of his mother of Gridley, IL. Likewise, may God share comfort to the Graf family as they mourn the loss of their sister, Martha Loehner.

Stacie Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) underwent extensive tests at Mayos Clinic recently. Daniel and Chad Kellenberger (Bro. Keith) were able to return home following surgery and hospital care. May God continue to bless and heal these dear ones. We love you.

Beautiful scenes of the Bethlehem birthplace were recaptured in our minds as our Sunday school children presented the Christmas story in word and song.

May the gifts that only Christ can give be yours this happy season and may they remain in our hearts throughout this New Year.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Kathy Leman

"Peace in our heart and grace to keep it." — what a wonderful way of life! We were thankful Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Vernon

Wettstein (Congerville) came and ministered the Word unto us. May God grant the increase.

Thankful that the Lord has led them together, Sis. Dianne Roche and Bro. Jim Wettstein announced their wedding engagement Thanksgiving Day. Their parents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Ida Mae Roche and Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein (all of Eureka).

Also feeling the guidance of the Lord, we heard the wedding engagement of Sis. Cheryl Ringger of the Bradford congregation (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen), to Bro. Brad Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth, Eureka). We wish both of these couples the Lord's blessings and guidance as they make their plans to be united as one.

Bro. Milton and Sis. Caroline Leman, and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marjorie Stoller recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Bro. Thurman and Sis. Laydine Hinrichsen celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. God's continued blessings to these dear couples.

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marjorie Stoller want to express their thanks for the love and many cards they received for their 50th anniversary. May God bless you.

We recently held our business meeting. We know some rotated out of office and others were voted in to fill those vacancies. We want to thank each one that gave of their time and talents and with the Lord's nearness on those who are assuming duties.

How quickly the year has gone and we are on the threshold of another year. We do not know that the future holds, but may we put our faith and trust in the Lord knowing that He knows us, and the way, better than we. As we close this final issue of 1991, we wish you all the blessings and nearness of our great God in the year and time that lies ahead.

Note: Silver Lining collection (\$9.00) will be in January.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

It is now 1992, the year of our Lord. We can look back at 1991 and remember our joys as well as

our sorrows. But we must look to the future. Will the Lord tarry one more year? How thankful we can be that we can place our future in His hands and trust in His mighty power.

Our congregation enjoyed the annual Sunday school Christmas program December 15. We always look forward to these dear voices tell of the true meaning of Christmas.

We were once again blessed with a visiting minister and we thank Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park) for the refreshing message he brought us. May the seeds that were sown that day bring forth good fruit in our lives.

A daughter, Karla Janae, was born to Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger December 2. Her sister, Leann, and her three brothers, Alex, Wesley and Kent, welcome her home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger and Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest).

Bro. Alan and Sis. Linda Walter welcomed a precious baby boy named Eli Richard into their family December 3. His brothers are Jacob and Jared and his grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen Walter and Nancy Eaton.

Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami Bahler also welcomed with joy their first baby, Mark Steffen. He was born December 11, the grandson of Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola Steffen and Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler.

We are rejoicing as two engagements have been made known to our congregation. Sis. Sylvia Martinez (Octavil and Eulalia, Hoopston, IL) and Bro. Walt Laubscher (Sis. Marie and the late Ben, Cissna Park) have found faith that they should be joined in hand and heart.

Also Sis. Jacki Fehr (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Aaron Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary, Bloomington) have felt God's guiding hand that they become one in Him. May God richly bless these two couples.

Loved ones hospitalized this month were Sis. Rachel Saathoff, Bro. John Fehr and Ronald Slagel, Jr. May our heavenly Father con-

tinue to be with them and all those who are ill or shut-in.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Al Wagler who passed away November 22. He was a resident of Fairview Haven Nursing Home.

On December 8, our hearts were saddened by the death of Bro. George Broquard who passed away at Fairview Haven Nursing Home. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife, Sis. Clara; Sis. Suzanne Bahler (Elder Bro. Art), Bro. Don (Sis. Ione) and the rest of his dear family.

AT HOME 'TIS WELL!

At Home, 'tis well! There shall the pilgrim tarry,
When tired and worn by sorrow,
grief and strife;
In heav'n when the hard race of earthly life is run,
The long-borne load no more he'll carry.

At Home 'tis well! Then let us hasten thither
Through pain and death on to our homeland shore!
On, boldly on! When this short life is o'er,
New life will bloom for us and never wither.

December 6 was a special day for Becky Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) and Perry Biggerstaff (Jim and Patsy Holland, McLeansburro) as they were united in marriage.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sherri Kelson

Sandra Schneider

As I write this, we are almost to the end of 1991. The year 1992 lies ahead like a field of snow not yet traveled. Where will our footprints be when 1992 comes to a close? Only God knows what lies ahead. What a comfort to know we can pray to Him to guide us through this new year.

Corbin Anliker (Bro Bob and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Louise Honegger (Bro. Perry) have experienced ill health and needed to spend time in the hospital. We're glad Corbin

has come home and Sis. Louise has returned to Fairview Haven.

We appreciate ministering Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Gary Anliker (Elgin) and Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) who visited us this past month. May God reward them for their service to us.

Bro. Allen Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean) and Sis. Alisa Hamilton (Tom and Sis. Earlene) were united in marriage November 20. We wish them God's blessings as they start their home.

The funeral of Sis. Esther Knapp Esslinger was held November 24. Sis. Esther lived in Forrest with her husband, Bro. Louie Knapp, while raising their family and then as a widow after he passed away. She moved to Sabetha, KS, after she married Bro. Pete Esslinger. He passed away in 1990. We extend sympathy to Esther's children, William and Clarence (Burlington, KS), Duane (Maise, KS), Louie Jr. (Forrest), Ed (Midway City, CA), Robert (Rochester Hills, MI), Mary Isch (Gridley, KS), Sis. Arlene Schwab (Fowler, IN), Betty Wernli (Madison, WI) and Romona Herrmann (Peoria).

Sis. Anita Sohn was laid to rest December 15. She had been living at Fairview Haven for a number of years and it is a blessing for her that she could go "home." We sympathize with her brother, Bro. Harold Honegger. May God comfort the heart of each one that has an empty place in their lives with the passing of both these dear sisters.

Marisa Schrof is planning to marry Kraig Rogers March 21. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Larry Rogers (Bement, IL). Melanie Schrof is planning to marry Michael Masching July 11. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Leo Masching (Eminington, IL). Marisa and Melanie are daughters of Ed and Sharon Schrof.

Sis. Janny Schneider, Bro. Al Kupferschmid and Bro. Jerry Leman have completed their 10-year terms in Sunday school. We want to thank them for their faithful service in this important work. May God bless them for their love shown to our children in Sunday school.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

Our congregation was saddened by the recent passing of three dear sisters-in-faith. While their presence will be missed, it is encouraging to know they had made preparation for their soul's eternal destination and are asleep in Jesus.

Sis. Ollie Rich, 93, passed away November 22. Her funeral was held November 25. She is survived by a daughter, Betty, and a sister, Sis. Lucille Hofmann, both of Gridley. Also surviving are three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Sis. Ollie was a quiet and retiring woman who repented for her sins just a few years ago.

On November 27, Sis. Marcella Hany was laid to rest after an unexpected death. She is survived by two sons, Bro. Rick (Normal) and Roger (Gridley); and five grandchildren. She will be missed by her aunt, Sis. Minnie Stortz, with whom she made her home the past few years. Sis. Marcella was a nurse for many years.

Sis. Ella Cargill died December 13, and her funeral was held December 16. She had resided in Bloomington for the past six months after living in Gridley for many years. She was a native of West Bend, IA. She is survived by Bro. Jerry (Elgin, IL), Lee (Coronado, CA) and Robert (Bloomington, MN); and two daughters, Connie Grusy (Bloomington) and Sis. Dixie Knapp (Towanda); a sister, Sis. Lydia Kuntz (Lexington, KY); 17 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Sis. Ella was noted for her ability to work hard. During her funeral she was also noted for her positive attitude.

On November 24, Sis. Joyce Witzig was united in marriage with Bro. Bernie Ferneau (Chicago). She is the daughter of Bro. Edward and Sis. Dorothy Witzig and Lillian Ferneau. We wish them the blessings of God as they look to Him to guide their lives together. Ministers present for this occasion were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest), Ed Fritz (Washington) and Everett Hari (Bloomington).

Bro. Rudolph and Sis. Esther Miller observed their 50th wedding

anniversary November 30. She was the former Esther Zurlinden. They are the parents of Bro. Orlan and Sis. Vera, both of Gridley.

Bros. Silas and Alf Witzig were hospitalized recently; also Karen Kiefer.

Visiting ministers Thanksgiving Day were Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN).

On Sunday, December 15, our Sunday school children presented their Christmas program to the church. Their message was inspiring. Their final song, "Joy To The World," sung at the end by all the children (K-2) was truly descriptive of the joy that resides in the heart of the believer!

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

As we look forward to this new year, we realize that only our Father knows what these months of 1992 will hold for us. But we can rest in His promise that ". . . all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

The end of 1991 brought much rejoicing to Bro. Ted and Sis. Joyce Hirstein with the coming of Troy Alan into their lives. He was born November 20. His grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Mabel Belsley and Harold and Sis. Louise Hirstein, all of Morton.

We also rejoiced over the testimony and baptism of two young men, Jake Martin and Jeff Kuykendall, which were held December 6 and 7. Bro. Jake's parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Jane Martin. Bro. Jeff's parents are Gary and Ellie (Grimm) Kuykendall.

Our sorrow was mingled with joy at the death of Bro. Chris Frank. His funeral was held November 30. We sorrow with his wife, Emma; his daughter, Janet Bonham; his son, William; his sister, Irene Kadesky; his brother, Richard; and his many other relatives and friends. But we cannot help but rejoice that he could repent of his sins and make peace with his God during the last years of his life.

It is always a joy to share the fellowship of our visiting ministers and their families. We would like to thank our December visitors: Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL).

Ray and Carolyn Grimm wish to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, flowers and prayers during Ray's recent illness. They appreciate the love and concern shown to them.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Jim David

"Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee,
 Christ the Lord, the newborn
 King."

This and many other songs celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ were presented at our annual Sunday school Christmas program December 15. All who attended most certainly received a blessing, as our Sunday school children and young people recited memory verses and sang hymns praising our heavenly Father for the birth of His Son Jesus. The innocence and faith of our children was a reminder of Christ's teaching that we must receive the kingdom of God "as a little child." (Mark 10:15)

The Peoria church was privileged to have three visiting ministers Christmas Day. Bro Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) brought us the Christmas message, and Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) were also present with us Christmas Day. In addition, Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend, IA) visited Peoria this month.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Gina Kempf were doubly blessed December 12 with the birth of Dane Christian and Paige Marie. The twins were

welcomed home by their brothers, Tyler and Ryan. Dane and Paige's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Clara Kempf (Eureka) and Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Honegger (Peoria).

We were saddened by the death of Bill Aeschleman last month. Our sincere sympathy and prayers go out to his family.

Hospital patients last month were Sis. Eva Gillott, Sis. Louise Fehr, Bro. Les Bittner, Bro. John Honegger and Sis. Judith Woerner. We pray that God may bless them with a complete recovery.

You are writing a gospel, a chapter
 each day,

By deeds that you do, by words
 that you say.

Men read what you write, whether
 faithless or true,

Say, what is the gospel according
 to you?

Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Martha Jane Siebenthal

We were thankful to have Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) with us Thanksgiving. May God bless them for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

Our prayers are with Keith Streitmatter (Bro. Norman and Sis. Joyce), Kathy Martin (Florida), daughter of Sis. Edna and the late Bro. Ray) and Jamie Grant as they have begun their repentance. May they build on a firm foundation.

We wish God's blessings on the marriage of Colleen Knobloch (Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances) and Tom Magnussen.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Floren) Stoller in the passing of her brother.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Leonard Menold (Sis. Marie, surgery). Marvin Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane) broke his ankle. We pray for God's healing powers.

Our Sunday school children presented the Christmas story in word and song Sunday evening, December 15. We wish to thank the teachers and students for their time and effort.

Thank you note: I want to take

this opportunity to say thanks so much for the special acts of kindness given to me and my family during my treatments at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, AZ, and hospital stay in Peoria. We really appreciate the many, many cards, gifts, food, notes of encouragement, flowers, phone calls and visits while in the hospital and at home. But most of all, thank you for your thoughts and prayers. I praise God for your love and concern.

Nick and Gladys Knobloch

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

As we start a new year
 Untouched and unmarred,
 Unblemished and flawless,
 Unscratched and unscarred,
 May we try to do better and
 accomplish much more
 And be kinder and wiser
 Than in the year gone before --
 Let us wipe our slates clean
 And start over again,
 For God gives this privilege to all
 sincere men

Who will humbly admit they have
 failed many ways
 But are willing to try and improve
 these "new days"
 By asking God's help in all that
 they do
 And counting on him to refresh
 and renew
 Their courage and faith when
 things go wrong
 And the way seems dark
 And the road rough and long --
 "What will you do with this year
 that's so new?"
 The choice is yours -- God leaves
 that to you!

Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Annie Hoffman - Cathy Hohulin

On November 17 our Bible class teachers and students hosted 20 churches for the ACYF hymn sing. We thank God for every participant, and pray that the seeds sown in their hearts will one day bring forth fruit unto repentance. We thank Bro. Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park) for his inspirational message.

We rejoice with Bro. Jim and

Sis. Helen Martin, as their son, Tom, who resides in Springfield, has turned to God in repentance.

On November 24, our annual Thanksgiving singing was held at the fellowship hall. It is a special opportunity to thank and praise God for His love and blessings.

Clinton Cecil McClure was born November 9 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn. Grandparents are Roger and Elaine Hodel (Roanoke) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon McClure (Congerville).

On December 13, Luke James was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Blunier who reside in Normal. His happy grandparents are Wayne and Sis. Marjorie Blunier and Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts (Forrest).

Our deep sympathy is extended to Bro. Harold and Sis. Emma Blunier and their family in the loss of their daughter, Sis. Sharon Kellenberger (Elgin, IL). Sis. Sharon grew up in Roanoke before marrying Bro. Keith Kellenberger. She will be sorely missed by many relatives and friends. May God grant them the grace and comfort needed at this difficult time.

Our precious Sunday school students presented a Christmas program December 15. It is always a highlight of the season to be reminded of the true meaning and purpose of Christmas through their songs and verses.

We thank our visiting ministers for their service this past month: Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO).

Hospital patients this past month have been Bro. Sam Leman, Bro. Bill Leman, Bro. Jim Leman, Bro. Alvin Farney, Sis. Jean Hoffman, Sis. Carol Sauder and Bro. Curt Sauder.

Note of Thanks: I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards, flowers and gifts while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you all.

Sis. Clara Braker

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Carolyn Bolliger - Marsh Koch
Once again we welcome new ba-

bies. Born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail Sinn, November 20, was a little son, Wade Jeffrey. He is welcomed home by big brother, Brooklyn. Grandparents are Dan and Donna Sinn and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck, all of Tremont.

Also welcoming a little son were Bro. Andy and Sis. Chris Aberle. Little Benjamin Robert was born November 22. He, too, has a big brother, Drew. His grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle and Bro. Bob and Sis. Marvel Knobloch (Morton).

Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence Koch have another new grandson. Little Alex Jacob was born November 29 to their daughter, Nancy, and her husband, Ed King.

We are thankful to Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury) for ministering to us Thanksgiving Day.

Connie Schweigert (Dan) and Sis. Merna Koch (Bro. Vernon) were both surgical patients this month. We hope they will both be feeling back to normal very soon.

We miss Sis. Royaldine Hodel (Bro. Bob). Sis. Royaldine had a fall and is recuperating at her home.

An inspiring Christmas program was presented by our entire Sunday school last Sunday. This is a blessing we always enjoy. We appreciate the efforts made by the children and our teaching brothers and sisters.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Jan Sigafus - Rita Menold

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name:

"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

St. John 1:12-13

We rejoice with Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold as two of their children have given their testimony of faith and were baptized. Their daughter, Becky, and adopted son, Phil McVitty, are now also children of God. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and his family from Junc-

tion, OH, were here to share this beautiful weekend with all of us.

Bro. Gary Brown and his family (Forrest, IL) also visited our congregation and shared God's Word. We are always grateful to know there are brothers who are willing to be used as God's vessels.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Teubel are the happy first-time grandparents of Seth Andrew, born to Mark and Marty (Bienemann) Teubel.

As we being a New Year in our Lord Jesus Christ, may we begin with this thought, . . . "He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jill Frauhiger - Gwen Kipfer

We're excited to start off the new year with four new converts, Molly Gerber, Shannon Compton, Abby Kipfer and Molli Gilliom. We pray that God will continually be by their sides as they make this change.

Thank you Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend) for visiting us and sharing God's wonderful message with us.

Bro. Troy Leyse (Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Kelly Manges (Hans and Kay) announced their engagement to be married. We rejoice with them and look forward to their wedding in May. We were also happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Ron Macklin (Carl and Betty) and Sis. Lanae Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda). May God richly bless their lives together.

Our congratulations go out to Bro. Rich and Sis. Wendy Runion who are the proud parents of a girl, Ryann Nichole, born November 18. Ryann joins a sister, Jena, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosie Kipfer. Timothy Jay was born to Bro. Roger and Sis. Tara Steffen December 4. Brother, Matthew, welcomes Timothy into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Marv and Sis. Della Steffen and Bro. Ted and Elaine Liechty.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Sis. Ida Meyer who passed away December 11. Ida is survived by her husband, Bro. Charlie; a

daughter, Sis. Dorothy Fiechter (Bro. Wayne); a son, Bro. Les Meyer (Sis. Carolyn) and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A special prayer goes out to those hospitalized this month, including Rodney and Jeremy Reimschisel (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori), Michael Reinhard (Bro. John and Sis. Pam), Bradley Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmen), Sis. Mary Moser, Sis. Elizabeth Kaehr, Sis. Beulah Clark (Bro. Richard), Bro. Carl Fiechter (Sis. Mary), Bro. Alphonse Reinhard (Sis. Lucille), Bro. Cliff Heyerly (Sis. Helen), Bro. Alphonse Reinhard (Sis. Lucille), Bro. Cliff Heyerly (Sis. Helen), Bro. Millard Aschliman (Sis. Alice), and Bro. Aden Strahm (Sis. Mae).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Tern Mueller - Lora Kieser

We have been blessed this past month with visiting ministers, Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Ben Mantz (Junction, OH). May God richly bless them and their families.

Our hearts rejoice with five souls who have answered God's call to repentance. Kara Ifer (Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth), Abby Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie), Amber Heyerly (Arlon and Roxanne), Shirley Carrico (Pat) and their son, Bill Carrico. May God grant them an extra measure of grace and peace in the days ahead.

Our prayers have also been with those in the hospital. Sis. Mary Moser and Sis. Elma Kipfer. We pray they can feel God's nearness and healing power.

Once again we were blessed by the joyful singing of the children in the Sunday school Christmas program. It is a joy to see the effort that these little souls put forth to show us the true "reason for the season."

We gathered together for the reading of the conference letter this month. It's a special feeling of closeness and peace as you stop to think of all the thousands of people over the thousands of miles that believe on the one, very solitary, God. May we all be bonded together, so tightly knit, that when the forces of evil

attempt to cause a "snag" he will be unable to do so.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber

We enjoyed a blessed Wednesday evening as we shared communion together recently. We were beautifully reminded of Christ's suffering for us, to save us from our sinful nature. We appreciated Elder Bro. Kurt Frank and his wife, Sis. Lyla, sharing the evening with us.

Other visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN). May the Lord bless them for sharing the evening with us.

This past summer, Kerri Ward (Bro. Dale and Sis. Anne) was married to Rodney Westerhouse (Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Westerhouse, Monticello) and Ms. Connie Westerhouse (Lafayette). We wish them the Lord's blessings and nearness throughout their lives.

We rejoice with Sis. Joy Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne) and Bro. Bob Huber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty) as they exchanged wedding vows Sunday, November 24. May the love of God continue to dwell in their home.

On December 15, a cold, wintery Sunday, our hearts were warmed by listening to songs of praise and hearing verses about the birth and life of Jesus through the Sunday school children. Later that day we meet at the church for the annual Christmas carolling.

Bro. Andre Neihouser has recently been hospitalized, and Bro. Merle Yaggie is now residing at the Rensselaer Care Center, due to failing health. May the Lord be with each one who isn't well and grant them health again, according to His will.

Christmas is such a beautiful time, when we can enjoy the blessing of hearing Christ's praises sung in stores and restaurants, as well as in the quiet of our own homes. After Christmas has passed, and a new year begins, may our lives continue to tell the story of His love by

the way we live, even though we may not hear carols.

YOUR OWN VERSION

You are writing a Gospel
A chapter each day,
By deeds that you do,
By words that you say.
Men read what you write
Whether faithless or true,
Say, what is the Gospel
According to You?

Paul Gilbert

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Miriam Gudeman

"Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh not evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things,, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

I Corinthians 13:4-7

As of November 15, our dear Bro. John and Sis. Edye Mayer have been celebrating 50 years of marriage. A reception was held for the December 1, after Sunday services, in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. Cake and refreshments were provided by their children, followed by a special song sung by Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich. We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Edye as they celebrate their 50 years of love and devotion to each other. May the Lord bless them with many more years together. A special thanks to all the friends and family members who came and made it such a memorable occasion.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ardie and Sis. Leann Bucher as her father, retired Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), is recuperating from a stroke. Also, Bro. Troy Reimschisel's nephew, Jeremy, and friend, Karl Kerr (Bluffton) are being hospitalized after an accident that happened while caroling. Karl is here at Riley Hospital and Jeremy, as

we understand, is in Fort Wayne. We know God will be with them. May He provide strength and comfort to the families during this holiday season.

On December 8, we went caroling at the Broad Ripple Nursing Home, delivering oranges and bananas to the residents there.

Our Christmas program was held December 15 during the afternoon services. Bro. Ron Bollier, in his closing comments, asked the question, "What would happen, and where would we be today if Jesus had never been born?" The children had many interesting answers. The final answer was that we all would not have been present worshipping and praising our Lord Jesus Christ!

We want to thank our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). May God bless them as they continue serving Him in sharing the Word.

We wish everyone a blessed New Year.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Barb Troxel

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Colossians 3:17

On November 24, Bro. Mike Thomas (Valparaiso, IN) ministered to us, followed by a Thanksgiving program and dinner that was enjoyed by all. It is at these special times we are more mindful of counting our many blessings.

On Thanksgiving Day we were blessed by the presence of Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). We are very thankful that our government sets aside a special day to give thanks. Let us never take for granted the many freedoms we have in this wonderful country.

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted

within me? hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

Psalms 42:11

We are also thankful that the following have returned home after being hospitalized: Sis. Lucille Heiniger (Bro. John), Sis. Mary Gudeman (Bro. Art), Lydia Heiniger and Bro. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen). May the Lord continue to grant His healing graces.

Thank You: John and I would like to thank everyone for all their love shown us, especially since I was in the hospital and since returning home for all the cards, flowers, food, phone calls, etc. May God bless each one very much.

Lucille Heiniger

INDIANA, LEO
Doug Kellenberger

A Christian author did a character sketch of the American Dipper bird. One Dipper, despite its physical limitations, exhibits joy and cheerfulness in harsh living conditions. Obviously nothing physical generates the bird's success, nor do the harsh living conditions bring it its joy.

That is a good example for us. Our life will be what it will. The circumstances we can't control. But inside the Lord promises we can conquer and succeed. As long as we are living anyway, why not claim our God-given right in Christ, and make those winning choices.

Our Bro. Dean Allen Stoller was laid to rest. We rejoice with him. He is the son of Bro. Ernie and Sis. Dean Stoller (Spencerville, IN).

Bro. Jerry Fessenden and Sis. Rachel Gehring's engagement to be married was announced. Bro. Jerry grew up with us at Gateway Woods. He is originally from Valparaiso where his mother, Billie Jean, lives. Sis. Rachel is the daughter of Bro. Uriel and Sis. Judy Gehring (Grabbill, IN).

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Carl Wyss, Bro. Randy Kellenberger and Bro. Ron Bollier. We appreciate both our visiting and hometown ministers.

Our New Year's Eve service is

planned again this year. The whole church, young and old, attend. Many stay and enjoy the whole program til midnight. A full evening is organized, starting with a church service, followed by a supper, family program, and a final devotion and prayer to bring in the new year.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Gwen Steffen - Paula Haab

It is cold outside this morning, reminding us that it is winter and that Christmas is a few days away. It is a happy time when we think of family gatherings. I hope and pray that we keep the reason for the season in our hearts amid the glitter, buying, candy and cookies. While visiting with a friend, she told me that when her young grandson was told that there is no Santa Claus, he asked, "Is there a Bethlehem?" This brought tears to my eyes as I thought of the confusion we adults can put in little ones' minds. Our Sunday school truly reminded us of the truth during their Christmas program.

During the past month, several from our congregation needed to be hospitalized. June Clauss (Bro. Noah), Sis. Esther Getz, Bro. Robert Hoerr (Marquerite), John Schieler (Jan) and Tom Haab (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha) are all now recovering. Many prayers were offered for each one, and God has allowed healing of the body.

We have been edified with many messages from our ministers and three visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend) warmed our hearts with their presence. They encouraged us to be sure we are in our rightful place and to be cheerful givers not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

Lee and Jamie Price became first-time parents when their son, Shelby Lee, was born December 10. Happy grandparents are Stan and Sis. Ginger Price and Joan Bryan. Great-grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Kate Price. May God bless this new family.

New babies make us all happy. God has blest our congregation with seven babies this year, three boys

and four girls. It is uplifting to have this hope of a full Sunday school once again.

What really brings gladness to our hearts is the assurance that God is still calling souls to repentance without respecter of persons. We have one in the eighties, one in the forties, and one in the twenties that have begun their walk with the Lord. May God give them the peace that passeth all understanding.

Another year is dawning. May it be another God-loving year in a God-fearing nation. Our government, as well as all world governments, need our prayers.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Renee Mangold

This is the season of joy, peace on earth and goodwill toward men; a time of gift giving and receiving. Let us all remember that the greatest gift ever given or received was the gift of God's only begotten Son. There is such an intense focus on Christ's birth, our thoughts turn to that blessed event again and again — let us try to remember at all times of the year, and not just the holiday season, all the gifts God has given us, most importantly, His Son.

Last month we told you of our dear Sis. Emma Lou Gerber and her admittance to the hospital. At that time Sis. Emma Lou was released after tests with the diagnosis of a chronic illness. Since that time she has suffered a heart attack. She will soon be released from the hospital. It warmed our hearts that throughout her illness Sis. Emma Lou spoke of the peace she had and a readiness to meet our Lord, if it should be His will. We're glad that He has chosen to have her remain with us here awhile longer. There is so much to be learned from our older brothers and sisters and the strong faith that they have.

Accepting positions for the new year are Bro. Dean Lehman (trustee), other trustees are Bros. Marty Langhofer and Tom Frank. Other offices include head song leader, Bro. Marty Langhofer; Ushers, Bros. Scott Schafer, Tom Frank

and Rich Gramm; Real Estate Aid, Bro. Rich Gramm; Assistant VBS Director, Sis. Gigi Schafer; Assistant Food Chairman, Sis. Shirley Lehman; Sound System, Mike Mangold. We appreciate so much the efforts put forth by our brethren in helping our church to run smoothly.

We're happy to announce the engagement of Michael Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) and Susan Ingle (Ronald and Noreen, Lakeville). We pray their union would be blessed and that they might ever experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ throughout their marriage.

On a recent Saturday, our church went caroling at the homes of some of our shut-ins and at our local nursing home. What a wonderful chance for the children to experience the joy of giving and sharing with others less fortunate. The caroling was followed by a pizza supper. Our thanks go to those who organized the day and provided the meal.

We were fortunate this month to have with us Bro. Edwin Baylor and his wife, Lois (Remington) as well as Bro. Walt Rager and his wife, Sharon (Toledo, OH). We're so thankful for the fellowship opportunity and for their effort in bringing God's Word to us.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

THE KEEPER OF THE INN

Long years ago in Bethlehem
The keeper of the inn
For Joseph, Mary and the Babe,
Would make no room within.
He bolted fast the wooden door
And made them go away
Into a bedless stable, where
They slept upon the hay.
Now you are keeper of the inn,
And Jesus stands outside;
The latchstring hangs inside the
door.
Will you let him inside?

Once Jesus came in human flesh
To die for all our sin.
Now He in spirit comes to man,
And asks to enter in.
Now you are keeper of the inn,

The inn which is your heart.
The choice is yours to ask Him in,
Or bid Him to depart.
O Jesus, come in human flesh
To save us from our sin,
I gladly open wide the door;
Come now and enter in.

E.L.G.

It is the most sincere prayer of every child of God that many, many loved ones will heed their heavenly calling this New Year. Will this be the year that the door of grace will be closed? No one knows, but why wait and take the chance of not ever seeing your loved ones again? Many are called, but few are chosen. Are you among the many who are called, but will not heed; therefore be forever lost?

Our congregation once again enjoyed our annual Christmas dinner. As we partake of life's blessings, we need to remember those who are less fortunate. Our Sunday school children have been collecting food so some unfortunate families can be given food baskets and Bibles.

We were blessed with our Christmas program by our Sunday school. Our precious little Sunday school classes sang, "Happy Birthday, Jesus." How fitting this song was for all of us!

On Wednesday night, we had the privilege of singing carols to several local homes. Afterwards, we went back to the church for refreshments and fellowship with one another.

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). May God richly bless him for his willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Tracey Putt

Our semester at Purdue is complete, and we finished it while praising our Lord and spreading Christmas cheer. On December 5, we enjoyed our Christmas program, which marked the one year anniversary of our beautiful fellowship center in Lafayette. The congregation of approximately 250 people were favored by a poem, a reading

and many songs telling of Christ's birth. Among the song groups who blessed us with their singing were the Francesville Men's Sextet, the Lafayette Children's Choir and the Purdue Men's, Women's and Combined Choirs. It was such a beautiful evening singing praises in thankfulness for God's precious gift — Jesus Christ.

The following week all of the friends and families in the area went to the George Davis Manor Nursing Home in West Lafayette. We were able to bring warm tidings of great joy to the residents as they joined us in singing Christmas carols, and they in return gave us a special peace to take home with us to uplift us throughout the duration of our rigorous finals week.

As we look forward to another semester starting in January, we would like to extend an invitation to everyone to come and worship with us here at Purdue. We always look forward to seeing new, as well as familiar, faces to give us strength and encouragements throughout the weeks. There are schedules available, so please come and join us!

When making your New Year's resolutions, keep these simple suggestions in mind —

HOW SHALL I LIVE MY LIFE? Some Suggestions for Today and Every Day

Mend a quarrel.
Search out a forgotten friend.
Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust.
Write a love letter.
Share some treasure.
Give a soft answer.
Encourage youth.
Manifest your loyalty in word or deed.
Keep a promise.
Find the time.
Forego a grudge.
Forgive an enemy.
Listen.
Apologize if you are wrong.
Try to understand.
Flout envy.
Examine your demands on others.
Think first of someone else.
Appreciate.

Be kind.
Be gentle.
Laugh a little more.
Deserve confidence.
Take up arms against malice.
Decry complacency.
Express gratitude.
Gladden the heart of a child.
Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
Speak your love,
Speak it again.
Speak it still again.
Speak it still once gain.

Anonymous

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) conducted our Bible study Wednesday evening, November 20 on the "Profile of Peter." The evening was a blessing as we reviewed the accounts of Peter's life. We appreciate Bro. Walt's willingness to come and give us much food for thought.

Our thoughts and prayers of sympathy have been with Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab and family since the death of Sis. Arlene's mother, Sis. Esther Knapp Esslinger (Sabetha, KS).

We are always thankful for visiting ministers who share God's Word with us. Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) was a willing servant for our Thanksgiving Day services. On December 15, Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) lended himself in the Lord's service.

Our Sunday school children presneted their Christmas program Wednesday evening, December 18. We were reminded of our Savior's lowly birth in a manger through songs and recitations. May we have that child-like faith shown by our Sunday school children.

IOWA, AMES/DES MOINES Aaron Schmidgall

In the last three gatherings of the fall semester we were thankful to receive the Word of God from the following ministers: Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Myron Knobloch (Lester) and Harvey Heiniger (Burlington). May these brothers and

their families be blessed for all their efforts.

The end of the fall semester brings with it the departure of Sis. Lynn Martin (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Neil Knobloch (Lester). Sis. Lynn has graduated from Drake University and will be accepting a position in the Bloomington, IL, area. We wish to thank her for everything she has done and pray that God will continue to bless her in her new environment. Bro. Neil will be leaving Iowa State University to student-teach in Lake View, IA. We will miss Bro. Neil as he has been the coordinator of the Ames gathering. May he be blessed for all the effort he has put forth in his duties and in his future career. With Bro. Neil leaving us, the position of coordinator was to be vacant. We are thankful to announce the appointment of Bro. Michael Wagenbach to this position. Any questions should now be directed to Bro. Michael whose address is identical to that which was posted for Bro. Neil in the November Silver Lining.

We are also thankful to have Bro. Leo Banwart (Elgin, IA) assembling with us. Bro. Leo is currently continuing his education in Des Moines. Our next two services will be held January 26 and February 9.

IOWA, BURLINGTON Carolyn Wulf

Greetings to all! Our congregation was blessed with visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Doug Schock (Pulaski) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville). We pray God may richly bless them for their labors.

We also pray for God's grace, nearness and wisdom to be upon Bro. Fred Eberhardt as he was recently put in the ministry. We trust he can feel the may prayers and support from the brethren.

As 1992 approaches, may we continue to serve God with our whole heart and count it an opportunity to serve such a merciful and loving heavenly Father.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master let it be,

In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.
Hymns of Zion #150, vs. 1

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; . . ."

Isaiah 41:10

As we bid farewell to another year and press on into a new year, may God grant us grace to trust in Him and faith to believe that He is with us each step of the way. Though we cannot see the path before us, we will not stumble if we keep our hand in His.

Our Lord's blessings are wished for Tammy (Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl Moore) and Jeff Callahan (Tom and Lavonne) who repeated their marriage vows November 23.

Noah Metzger continues to spend some time in the hospital. Last report is that he is improving. May he feel God's nearness when the days seem long.

We want to thank our Sunday school students for again telling us the story of the Christ Child's birth through verses and songs. May they be as richly blessed as we.

We wish each of you God's nearness and blessings in the new year.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! It's been a busy month for everyone. Some of us had the privilege of traveling to Oakville to hear the testimony of our new brother-in-faith, Jay Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha). We appreciate his assembling with us when he can. We'll miss Jay and the other students as they go "home" for the holiday break.

We appreciated each of our visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and his family. Many others came for the Sunday school program December 15. We were all inspired by the children's recitation of the role shepherds and sheep played in the plan of salvation —

from creation to Jesus' birth, to the Good Shepherd giving His life for His sheep.

I wonder if Jesus knew
as a babe born Christmas Day,
That the rough-hewn wood of the manger,
the bed upon which He lay . . .

I wonder if the boy Jesus,
as He worked with childish hand,
in the carpenter's shop of His father,
did He somehow understand. . .

That the rough-hewn wood that He crafted,
like the wood of his manger bed,
Would someday become the Old Rugged Cross,
where He's die in our stead?

May the precious story of Jesus' birth, selfless life and willing death upon the cross awaken many souls to repentance and cause those who have already found their salvation to begin the New Year with renewed joy and commitment.

THE KEEPER OF THE INN

Long years ago in Bethlehem
The keeper of the inn,
For Joseph, Mary and the Babe,
Would make no room within.
He bolted fast the wooden door
And made them go away
Into a bedless stable, where
They slept upon the hay.

Then Jesus came in human flesh
To die for all our sin.
Now, He in spirit comes to man,
And asks to enter in.
Now you are keeper of the inn,
The inn which is your heart.
The choice is yours to ask Him in,
Or bid Him to depart.

Now you are keeper of the inn,
And Jesus stands outside;
The latchstring hangs inside the door.
Will you let him inside?

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

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold
Mary Knobloch

The angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repents. And we are rejoicing with Orvie and Lauretta Knobloch who have now begun a new walk with Christ. May our merciful God provide grace and strength for each day that they may lay a good foundation and find that peace of heart with God and man.

We offer our sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently. Ed and Judy Martin and family mourn the loss of his mother in Illinois, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber the loss of her mother in Kansas.

God has sent precious gifts into the homes of Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley DeSmet and Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda Meyer. Grant Robert DeSmet arrived November 21 and Lanna Noelle Meyer joined her family December 10. May God ever provide the guidance for these young families to rear their children according to His will. "Raise up a child in the way he should go and he will never depart from it." It lays a great responsibility upon us as parents to direct our children and teach them of Jesus and Him crucified.

We are sorry to see Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Knobloch leave our congregation. They have moved to Hopedale, IL, and are assembling with the Congerville congregation. Might they always feel the love of God wherever they might assemble.

We pray that God's healing powers and love might be with those who have submitted to surgery recently. Carter Leuthold (Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi) and Bro. Ernst Metzger are among those who are recuperating.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Lanz welcome little Kelsey Anna into their hearts and home. Kelsey was born November 25 and is the granddaughter of Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach.

The last weekend in November

marked a new beginning in the lives of three dear souls. Renouncing sin and its deceitful pleasures were Sean and Valerie Gray (Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner) and Jay Wiegand (Bro. Al and Sis. Martha). We welcome them into our precious brotherhood and may God further direct their lives according to His blessed will. We extend a special thank you to the ministering brothers who were with us for the weekend. We were especially grateful to have Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) to assist our Elder Bro. Ed with his responsibilities. Also with us were Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL). May God richly bless them for their willing service.

Our dear Bro. Doug Wyss has recently laid down his cross of bodily afflictions and has went to be with Jesus. What an inspiration Bro. Doug had been to us all. We pray that God will comfort his faithful wife, Bonnie; his daughters, and the rest of his family who remain yet on this side of the grave.

The Christmas season brings families together. We were thankful to have Bros. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) with us in Oakville December 15. May God reward them for their diligent labors.

As we gathered at church to listen to our precious youth recite their verses and sing the songs of Christmas, our hearts were overwhelmed with the innocence of the little ones. We pray that in God's own time, He will call them all to repentance. When the innocence departs and the deep feeling of condemnation presses sorely upon their souls, may God grant them the grace to turn to Him. Let us remember to sincerely pray for our youth, as the days are so evil.

Recently I heard a really good thought expressed. It says, "Pain is inevitable, but misery is optional." Often we feel the painful jabs of the world, but thanks be to our loving God we don't have to become miserable. Let us treasure our blessed hope.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

Our thanks to our visiting ministers, who labored for our benefit, Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City).

Our hospital patients, recently, were Ted Gerber (Bro. Manuel and Sis. Mary), Shon Bruellman (Julie), James Banwart (Becky), Bro. George Sauder, Josephine Thomann and Dave Gerber (Diane). May they all feel God's nearness.

We have three dear couples in our congregation who have reached a milestone in their lives. We want to wish them God's blessings as they observed their 50th wedding anniversaries. Bro. Fahey and Sis. Marie Gress, Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Ella Schneider were all blest with health and an opportunity to be with loved ones and friends. They each appreciate all the love, prayers and kindnesses in their behalf for this special occasion.

We also with the blessings of the Lord for two dear souls from our congregation, Bro. Kevin Banwart (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis) and Sis. Sandy Schmidt (Jim and Sherry). May they feel the Lord's hand as they become one in the Lord. A January 5 wedding is being planned.

A New Year is approaching and we often pause to consider what changes we will make in the year ahead. Let us make these words our desire.

MAKE LIFE A LITTLE SWEETER

O let me shed a light
On someone's path I pray;
I'd like to be a messenger
Of happiness today!

It may be just a phone call,
A smile, or a prayer,
Or long neglected letter
Would lift the edge of care.

I want to spread some happiness
In what I say or do,
Make life a little sweeter
For someone else! Don't you?

Alice Hansche Mortenson

JAPAN, SHIODA

Terri Gramm

"Thank You, God, for Jesus. We love you," was the prayer of both the shepherds and wise men as they knelt before the Baby Jesus in our SAK Christmas play. We worked very hard all of December. Then the children outstandingly presented the Christmas story in English. Our eyes filled with tears a couple of times at the beauty, enthusiasm and innocence of these children. They too were filled with an excitement and awe over the Savior's birth.

We had 45 children participate in the church Sunday school program December 22. Almost all of those children attended our kindergarten when they were younger. It's so inspiring to see them learning about God now.

A small group of us enjoyed singing Christmas carols at a local hospital.

We hosted a well-attended Christmas Eve service. Because December 25 is not a national holiday in Japan, we worship together on the 24th.

Thinking back on the story of Christmas, I was especially reminded of the differences between the shepherds and the wise men who came to worship Jesus. The shepherds were poor. The wise men were from a different country even and searched and inquired before they found the new King. The two different groups of people seem to point to God's plan of salvation. Jesus is a Savior for the close Jewish people and also for the Gentiles from different lands. God is not a respecter of people and Jesus is a Savior for the poor and also the rich.

Just like today, the poor came too and found Jesus without much hindrance just as they were. The wise or learned of this world search and search and travel a great distance (takes many years) before they come to find their salvation in Jesus.

The beautiful similarity, as Bro. Frank Sauder pointed out, is that God knew the soft, receptive hearts of these two groups. Because they had a relationship with God, he could guide them to His Son and

they were the privileged who knelt and worshiped the Savior.

Are our hearts soft and receptive? Today, in spirit, we can kneel and worship the Savior.

KANSAS, BERN

Kathy Strahm - Diane Kaeb

A special welcome to Sis. Sheila Moser who has moved to our area to work at Lakeside Terrace. We are happy to have her and trust she will feel the love of the congregation.

Our sympathy is extended to Waymer and Pauline Esslinger and family, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Lillian Esslinger and family, Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene, Sis. Linda, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty Esslinger on the death of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Esther Esslinger. Our prayers are also with Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm, whose grandfather, Bro. George Sauder (West Bend, IA) passed away and also to Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Kaeb on the death of their grandfather, Bro. George Broquard (Fairbury, IL). Parting is sad for us but what a joy to know they are "safe in the arms of Jesus."

We are so thankful that God's protecting hand was over Ryan Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn) as he was in an accident coming home from school. Also our prayers go to Sis. Gerty Esslinger who was helping assist someone and slipped on the ice and broke her leg. As winter is upon us, we pray a special prayer that God would keep His guiding hand over all who would travel.

We were so thankful to hear that Harlan Wittmer is now home from the hospital. May God continue to grant health. We are looking forward to having Harlan assemble with us again. Bro. Reuben Moser was a surgical patient and Bro. William Metzger is also in for medical reasons. God knows each one's needs and we continue to pray that His will may be done.

December 6 we gathered with the Sabetha congregation at the fellowship center to see the slides and hear about the people of Romania, Hungary and Yugoslavia. We also heard about the recent trip

to India. It makes us feel so humble to see all the blessings we have that are a part of our normal lives.

Lord God, we honor Thee and praise
 Thy mild compassion.
 That Thou so gracefully dost hear
 our supplication!

Thy love is truly great; Thy
 mercies are untold;
 Thou givest food and drink for
 Spirit, flesh and soul.

Zion's Harp #13, vs. 1

A special thank you to each of the brothers who took of their time to share with us their experiences.

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Lee Plattner (Zapata, TX) were our recent visiting ministers. We humbly thank God for sending them to preach the truth to us. We also are thankful for our Sabetha ministers and congregation as we shared midweek services through the winter months.

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

Isaiah 9:6

As Christmas approaches, may we be reminded that Christ's birth is the true meaning of this special season.

We always look forward to hearing our Sunday school children sing praises to our Lord and Saviour at our annual program December 22.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY
Vola Young - Judy Kraft

I think love is a miracle
 And sent from heart divine
 Across the many miles of space
 Into a heart like mine.

This miracle for human hearts
 Should always be for two . . .
 And what makes ours so
 wonderful

Was when God gave me you!
 George L. Ehrman

The children of Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseton (Young) Strahm will be hosting a 50th anniversary celebration for their parents February 9, 1992. They invite you to participate in a card shower for their parents.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

JESUS KNOWS THY SORROW

Jesus knows thy sorrow,
 Knows thine ev'ry care;
 Knows thy deep contrition,
 Hears thy feeblest pray'rs;
 Do not fear to trust Him,
 Tell Him all thy grief;
 Cast on Him thy burden,
 He will bring relief.

Hymns of Zion #74

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Edna Reed at the passing of her husband, Hubert. May she find comfort in her faith and her loved ones at this time of sorrow.

We are grateful to visiting Elder Bro. Bob Grimm and his wife, Sis. Elna (Goodfield, IL) for assembling with us. May the Lord bless them for sharing with our congregation.

We have been listening to the conference tapes this month and feel, as always, that the Lord has provided for us an encouragement as well as an admonishment.

Our church had services at the rest home this month and many gathered to share in this special time.

Our Sunday school presented a Christmas program to help celebrate the birth of our Savior. May each of us feel a renewing of our faith at this special time of year.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Jane Isch

Our Sunday school Christmas program was held December 15, when the children told the true story of Christmas in verse and song. May God bless the efforts of the students and teachers. Following the program, we enjoyed an afternoon of Christmas caroling

and then a supper at Bro. Tom Knoclocks.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Mary Isch in the loss of her mother, Sis. Esther Esslinger. She has been a resident at the Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha.

Martha Hughes is a medical patient in the hospital. Our prayers are with her that she can feel the nearness of the Lord through her trials.

As the New Year begins, may we ever "strive aright" to live a life pleasing and acceptable to our Father in heaven.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Beth Hartter - Sharon Strahm

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;"

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Our hearts were saddened when our dear Bro. Noah Steiner was unexpectedly called from this life November 17 at the age of 83 years. Those bereaved are his beloved wife, Sis. Evelyn; a brother, Bro. Joe Steiner; and five sisters, Sis. Lena and Sis. Matilda Steiner, Sis. Esther Grimm, Sis. Martha Bittner (Peoria, IL) and Sis. Priscilla Anliker (Francesville, IN). May God comfort their hearts.

We rejoice with Bro. DeVere and Sis. Michelle Meyer as they welcomed a son, Grant William, into their hearts and home December 3. His sisters, Allison and Lauren, are delighted and also his paternal grandparents, Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer.

Another time to rejoice was December 1 when we welcomed Erma Wenger (LaVon) as our dear sister-in-faith having repented and been born again. May she always feel God's nearness and guidance. Elder Bro. John Lehman (bern, KS) assisted with this.

We appreciated ministering Bro. John Bahr and his family being with us Thanksgiving Day and thank him for serving us.

It was a blessed privilege for us to host the World Relief meeting. Several brothers showed slides and

told of their experiences visiting Eastern Europe and India. We support their efforts helping those in great need. Our heartfelt thank you to the ministering brethren who brought us the Word of Life: Elder Bros. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI).

We are thankful to have Sis. Marie Hartter (Bro. Virgil) assembling with us again after hospitalization and a lengthy recovery at home.

We warmly welcome Sis. Sheila Moser to our area. She is now employed at Lakeside Terrace. We wish her God's continued direction in her new duties and home.

Thank you to all who remembered us with cards, gifts and your kind expression of sympathy. It is appreciated.

The family of Noah Steiner Surely there's a special blessing for every ones kindness through prayer, visits, cards and gifts that were deeply felt and appreciated during my stay at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls. May God richly bless you all.

Adrian Kellenberger

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the outpouring of love and support extended to me during my illness and recovery. May warmest thanks to my many dear friends and relatives for the many prayers, visits, cards, telephone calls and flowers that I received. May God richly bless you all.

Mary Aberle

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

November 29 was the sixtieth wedding anniversary for Bro. Ernie and Sis. Nellie Lambert. The preceding Sunday we recognized the event by singing the beautiful Zion's Harp hymn, #79, "The Union of Hearts." (Sis. Nellie claims this as "their song.") Following the singing of the hymn, Bro. Glen Funk offered a prayer in which he thanked God for the example of Bro. Ernie and Sis. Nellie.

Sunday, December 8 was the date for our church Christmas dinner. After the dinner, we gathered

in the assembly room to sing carols and then to be feted by a special program of song and inspiration by our older Sunday school students.

The annual Christmas program was held December 15. The eager participation and cooperation of the students at the time of the production helps minimize the stress on those in charge. When our soloist had to stay at home with a temperature, God provided a willing substitute at the last minute. This is just another example of the spirit of cooperation in our small church. Praise to His name!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Glendoris Huber

Upon the threshold of another year
We stand again.

We know not what of gladness and
good cheer,
Of grief or pain
May visit us while journeying to
its close.

In this we rest,
God dealeth out in wisdom what
He knows
For us is best.

T. Wearing

"As for God, His way is perfect
..."

Psalms 18:30
Isaiah 55:8-11

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Allen and Joyce (Deak) Rieman and family in the passing of their dear mother and grandmother, and our dear sister-in-faith, Katherine Deak. She was 81 years of age. Even though she had been in failing health for sometime, she quietly and unexpectedly slipped into eternity. We will all miss her presence in our small assembly. "Asleep in Jesus! Oh, blessed sleep!"

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky Snodgrass have been blessed with a new healthy baby boy, Jesse Wayne. Jacob and Rachel are happy to welcome their new little baby brother.

"For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come." I Corinthians 1:26. We were grate-

ful for the soul searching experience of sharing communion together the weekend of November 17. We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and their dear wives help share in this blessed sacrament with us. May God bless them for their continued dedication of preaching the Word in the Lord's vineyard. We were richly blessed and strengthened in a time of renewing our commitment to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We appreciate all our visiting ministers who have traveled many miles to share God's Holy Word. During the past two months, visiting ministers have been Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL). It is our prayer the Lord will bless and reward them. As a small church, we truly do appreciate the fellowship of those of "like mind and faith."

Elder Bro. Joe Stoller left us with this inspirational thought. "As believers, we need to have the "faith of Abraham," the "patience of Job," and the "love of Christ." May this thought be a prayer for our walk of life as we enter the threshold of another year.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Emily Rechsteiner

It is with amazement when we look out our windows in the morning and see six inches of new fallen snow. Really a beautiful sight created by God to see all the trees and shrubbery trimmed in white a masterpiece only God can create.

We were all very happy when Sis. Eiko Nozawa from Japan came to visit us. We then soon were saddened when Sis. Eiko received word that her mother passed away. We all do extend our sympathy to her. Also we are again happy that Sis. Eiko has returned to complete her visit.

On the weekend of November 16 and 17, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and also witness the baptisms of Bro. Jeff

Waibel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol), Bro. Chad Wieland (Bro. Merle and Sis. Elaine), Sis. Heidi Broquard (Bro. Duane and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Cory Andrzejewski (Sis. Linda and Norman). It is such a heartwarming event for rejoicing that they now are willing to live for the Lord. They now feel like the Zion's Harp hymn #6, verse 3, "One thing O! Lord above all will I covet and cherish. Rest for my soul and may all other vain objects perish. My only Joy! All other pleasures destroy. In me Christ only shall flourish."

In the evening we had communion service, a very solemn occasion in the memory of our Lord's Last Supper. "As brethren we unite together. That unto death we might be Thine." We thank Elder Bro. Ed Aeschliman (Philadelphia, PA) for his time and effort in assisting Elder Bro. Andy Virkler. May God bless them both.

We have had several who have been hospital patients; Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bro. Earl), Sis. Anna Meylan, Bro. Howard Wieland (Sis. Pauline), Bro. Jerry Wieland (Sis. Lois). Bro. Jerry was hospitalized for heart surgery. We are thankful all are on the road to recovery.

On December 7 and 8, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Sis. Emily and family spent the weekend with us to help read the memorandum. It was very well explained to us. Now we should be willing to heed their concern for us and live the life we are suppose to represent for the Lord. May God bless Elder Bro. Bill for time and effort.

We also express our sympathy to Sis. Elaine Wieland (Bro. Merle) and Bro. Duane Broquard (Sis. Carol) in the loss of their father, Bro. George Broquard. A staunch brother-of-faith was able to go to his reward.

We also sympathize with Sis. Pauline Wieland (Bro. Howard) in the loss of a nephew and an uncle in such a short time.

Sunday evening was our Christmas program which we all look forward to. The voices of our youth are such a joyful sound. It is amazing to see the little ones perform and we see Christ is still in Christ-

mas. May God bless all who put much effort into the program.

A special thanks to everyone who participated in the surprise card shower for my 70th birthday. It truly was a blessed surprise. May God richly reward you for your love and kindness.

Fred Ruegsegger

Bay City Silver Lining dues of \$9.00 are due in February.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton

Marlene Reinhard

Our thoughts and prayers are with several in our congregation who were recently hospitalized. Sis. Lydia Meister (resident of Woodhaven), Sis. Helen Popp (Bro. George) and Bro. Jim Barton (Sis. Viola). We apologize for not putting in the last issue that Katie Hines (Leland) was also in the hospital. May God be near them each one that they gain strength from His love for a speedy recovery.

We were privileged to listen to the Christmas program December 15. It is good to be reminded in our busy lives just who the real reason for the season really is. We were reminded that there is a very special, important gift we can give to Jesus, and that gift is our heart.

As 1991 draws to a close, and 1992 is upon us, was this past year a good year? Was God pleased with us? If He came tonight, would we be ready? Being ready to meet our Lord should be the first New Year resolution on our list. As the saying goes, "Only one life twill soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last." May this be our motive and our motto as a Christian as we start each new day.

May everyone have a blessed and wonderful New Year, 1992.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Delores Sauder

As another year ends, so does another chapter in our individual book of life. What will be in the next chapter? Will it be pleasing to our God? It is up to each individual as to what will be contained therein.

Sis. Laura Miller (Bro. Noah) is recovering from injuries she sustained from a fall.

The following were elected to fill positions in our church; Bro. Dick Metzger, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Sis. Sheryl Luthi, World Relief Sewing; and Delores Sauder, Silver Lining Reporter.

On December 15, the Sunday school children shared with us the story of the birth of Jesus through verses and song. May the seed that has been sown continue to grow in their hearts.

We have enjoyed Christmas caroling for the mentally handicapped, hospitalized children and the elderly. The smiles on their faces show us how much they really appreciate it and it is a blessing for all.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

We appreciate and were thankful for our visiting ministers this month; Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). May God richly bless them for sharing God's Word with us when they come to visit their families.

In the hospital for surgical reasons this month were Jeremy Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois), Amy Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Alvin Nohl. In for medical reasons was Bro. Gary Fehr. May God grant renewed health to each one as they recuperate.

Little Anna Marie was born December 12 to brighten the home of first-time parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn Schmidgall. May God give them wisdom to guide her little steps. Also welcoming her are grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen Nohl and Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall.

Duane Wulf and Ann Gunderson have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. and Sis. Leonard Wulf and Mr. and Mrs. Jon Gunderson (Lake Park, IA). Duane and Ann plan to be married June 13, 1992, in Lake Park.

Our sympathy and prayers are

extended to Lowell and Karen Moser at the death of Karen's mother, Irene Thorstad, and to Virgil and Mildred Sauder in the loss of Virgil's father, Bro. George Sauder (West Bend, IA). May God give comfort as only He can.

The Sunday school presented their Christmas program December 15. We trust that each can retain the thought that "Tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free."

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Georgia Messner - Kim Messner

We are thankful for God's grace in calling friend, Rick Messner (Sis. Brenda) to repentance. He now has received his precious gift of peace and awaits baptism.

The annual brotherhood meeting was held this month and we pray for the dear brothers that were voted into offices.

We had a blessed evening listening to the Sunday school children recite pieces and sing songs of Jesus' birthday. We all enjoyed fellowship together after the program. As was mentioned, the good that we do is our gift to the Lord. May we all resolve to do better with the New Year of 1992.

Bro. Cornelius and Sis. Delores Messerli had the opportunity of celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They were thankful to have all their children home.

Sis. Florence Messner celebrated her 85th birthday. May the Lord continue to watch over her as she goes about her daily life.

Gene Schmidt (Sis. Ella Mae) was a hospital patient and was home recovering when he fell and broke his ankle and had to have surgery. Pray the Lord will watch over him during his recovery.

Bro. Alphonse Moser and his wife (Morris, MN) blessed us with his presence in bringing forth God's Word.

With the holiday season upon us, we pray for God's watchful hand as we have had numerous snow and ice storms.

January is collection month for Silver Lining.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Lanette Meyer

We're thankful to have Elder Bro. Gene Marti back from India. Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) who travelled with Bro. Gene to India spent a weekend in Kansas City and shared with us some background information on how our church became involved with this mission project, their purpose for going to India, and some of their experiences while there. Other ministers visiting us recently were Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer and Bro. Wayne Miller.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Martin Hohulin

Janel Kellenberger

Our congregation was blest with visiting elder brethren November 23 and 24. Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr and Gene Marti assisted our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi in the reading of the conference letter. We were blest with their ministry on Sunday; then a potluck supper was enjoyed by all.

Sis. Marilyn Luthi was an outpatient, while her little granddaughter, Maranda, was a hospital patient. Maranda is the daughter of Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi.

"My lifetime doth pass away." Another year is gone in our lifetime. We find ourselves racing towards eternity.

MORTAL MAN

Mortal man is but a shadow
Passing through allotted time
On the way to heavenly pastures
Where life and living is sublime.

Praise the Lord for His compassion
For His love and mercy mild
May we be His faithful servants
And His true obedient child.

Oh, how sweet it is to linger
Neath the shadow of His wing
Where life's vernal fount is flowing
And each day a breath of spring.

When the flowers of life are faded
And the vanities of life are past

Guide us safely to Thy haven
Where peace and joy forever last.
W. L. Cordill, Author
October 5, 1991

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Ruthie Hoerr

What a joyous December we had. How much we enjoyed celebrating the Christ Child's birth, listening to the programs presented by the children in honor to Him, making memories of love to share in the future, and trying to touch hearts in the service of the Lord. Now a new year is before us and a new beginning. It is time to reflect on the blessings, accomplishments, and even the discouragements; setting new goals and rededicating ourselves to serve the Lord more faithfully.

We have received this past month, the new Daily Devotional Bible (KJV) arranged to read the Bible in one year. It is exciting to have our church distribute such a welcome study guide. These verses (Psalms 1:1-3) were January 1. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Art Bauer (Princeville, IL), Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Curt Heimer (Alto, MI). May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

Bro. William Cottrell were showered with cards for their 50th wedding anniversary. It is encouraging to see Bro. William in church the times he is able to come.

The Lord fulfilled the wishes of Grace Frieden (sister-in-law of Sis. Elizabeth and Sis. Rose Hoerr, Taylor), Lena Meyer and Dan Frieden (Quincy), Fred Frieden (Kahoka, MO) and Leslie and Robert Frieden (Lincoln, NE). She passed away December 22 after many years of being ill and bedfast. She was an

inspiration to those who knew her with her patient and uncomplaining attitude in her suffering. When she could no longer hold the Bible to read, she tore the sheets out so she could hold them to read.

Bro. Jimmy Sutter (Sis. Kris) is recuperating nicely from knee surgery. Jenny Foote (Sis. Mary Jane and Dave) was also a surgical patient and doing well.

A summary of this past year is four births, two baptisms, two marriages and one death.

May you all have a blessed New Year.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Franz Soni

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

Hebrews 11:1

We thank Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) for bringing us God's Word this past month. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

Brethren who might be in the area the first Sunday of the month are encouraged and welcome to worship with us. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. and at 12:30 p.m. following lunch and fellowship hour. If you need further information please call Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

I Timothy 4:12-13

God's Word gives us specific instructions on teaching our youth and bringing them up and guiding them in the prescribed way. We are glad that God gives faithful brethren strength and courage to give of their time and talent to

teach our youth in the Sunday school. God has been good to us and provided that we were able to have an addition built onto our church building which will now house our Sunday school children. We have been in need of larger rooms for some time, and our children and teachers are happy to be using the new rooms. May God richly bless our children now and in their future. May they always remember the teachings of their youthful years.

On Sunday, December 8, Elder Bro. Robert Beyer conducted a dedication service for our new addition. We also had a covered dish meal following the service. We were happy to see Bro. Floyd Graves and Sis. Loretta with us for the afternoon. Many of us remember Bro. Floyd as our Sunday school teacher for the Bible class. Our prayers are that he will continue to be strengthened in health so he can again assemble with us each week.

John and Michelle Nortz became first-time parents with the birth of Jacob Roy December 2. May God grant them strength and wisdom to nurture and care for this added blessing to their family. Happy grandparents are Jack and Barb Nortz and Richard and Linda Bush. Roy and Sis. Edna Sturtze are great-grandparents to little Jacob.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

"Forgetting those things which are behind . . ." Philippians 3:13
We began a new year and we want to accomplish something for the Lord, but maybe we failed in the past, and, not forgetting it keeps us from trying again. Joshua 3 and 4 gives an example to help us forget our failures, and have faith for another opportunity. When the Israelites crossed the Jordan into the promised land, the waters rolled back as far as to Adam. In the Holy Land we learn that Adam is a city about 20 miles north of the place believed to have been crossed near Jericho. The Lord spake that Joshua was to set 12 stones in the midst of Jordan; and take 12 stones from the midst of Jordan to pitch at Gilgal. When we cross through

to Jesus into the promises, he rolls our past away as far back as Adam. The 12 stones in the midst were covered when the water returned, and were not to be seen any more. They had grieved God in the wilderness, but they repented and their failures were not to be seen any more. Gilgal means rolling off and away, and the 12 stones and encampment at Gilgal symbolized the reproach of Egypt was rolled off and away. We're thankful that we can cross to Jesus, who rolls off our past, covers it, and also rolls away our reproach.

Sandy Graf, daughter of Bro. Carl and Sis. Kathy Graf, exchanged wedding vows with Peter Reed. We pray that Sandy and Peter will feel the Lord's presence in their married life together.

Eugene Bako has been hospitalized, and we pray for his speedy recovery.

We appreciated Bro. Gary Maibach ministering to us.

This past year we were blessed to have three baptisms, four new babies, five weddings, and there were two funerals.

From Sis. Ruth Taylor: The family of Don Taylor wants to thank you, one and all for your love and concern during Don's repentance, recent illness and death.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

"Silent Night! Holy Night!" were the words our 17 Sunday school students sang together with the congregation at the end of the Christmas program. What a blessing it was to hear the young voices singing of the birth of our precious Savior with such zeal. Many each of these young people keep within their tender hearts the meaning portrayed in the beautiful Christmas cards.

Over the past month we have been blessed with several visiting ministers. They were Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL). May God's blessings be upon these brothers and their families as they labor in His vineyard.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Laurie Schlatter

We rejoice with Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz as they welcome Angela Kay into their hearts and home. Angela's brothers and sisters are Chris, Sam, Scott, Cheryl, Fred and Andy. Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz and Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey Ehnle (Bradford, IL) are the happy grandparents.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn - Rhonda Stoller

Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest are praising God for their third child, Alyssa Marie. She is so precious and valuable in the sight of God. Her older sister, Andrea, is such a big help for mommy and her big brother, Aaron, is a fun playmate. May the Lord continue to be with the Nuests as they raise their children to glorify Him.

It was a happy Sunday morning to hear Randy and Joni Wenninger have found the peace of God. May the Lord continue to be with the both of you.

Our congregation had their cups overflow and their hearts filled with joy at our Christmas Sunday school program. The young children smiled and sang the songs with their whole heart. What joy to know what they learn as a child will stay with them as they grow old.

Your utmost for His highest may sound like a tall order; but, considering what God has invested in your life, it's a filling way to say, "Thank You!"

Author Unknown

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting . . ." (Ecclesiastes 7:2) Bro. Robert Beer died November 25. Our prayers and sympathy support his widow, Sis. Kathryn, who has lovingly cared for her husband many years. His children: Bro. Rex, Delbert, Bro. Ken, Bro. Alvin, Dennis and Sis. Donna Gabor and Kathy will miss their father but have a heavenly Father to take all their cares to. The family wishes to

thank everyone for their loving support during the illness and death of their loved one.

"Sorrow is better than laughter: for by sadness of the countenance the heart is made better."

Ecclesiastes 7:3

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Wilma Steiner (Rittman) with the passing of her brother, Robert Hartzler. Bob made his home in the Mansfield area where he and his wife, Minnie, raised their family. "Will the circle be unbroken, by and by, by and by; in a better home awaiting, in the sky Lord, in the sky."

Haily was born December 17 to Doug and Karla Stricker. Heather and Holly are happy to have a new sister. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Janet Beer are the prayerful grandparents.

The Sunday school children presented the story of Jesus's birth in verse and song. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sin." (Matthew 1:21) Can we hear that good news without rejoicing? May we make each day of the new year a day to rejoice in God's goodness and a day of praise for His lovingkindness.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lois Maibach

Charlene Winkler

We rejoice that three friends can say "I've tired of sin and straying, Lord, I'll trust Thy love, believe Thy Word." (Gospel Hymns #754) Our converts are Gail Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois), Sam Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie) and Dean Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri).

We extend sympathy to Sis. Wilma Steiner (Bro. John) as her brother, Bob Hartzler, has passed away.

Sis. Marian Steiner died December 7 and we trust God will fill the emptiness her family feels. Certainly her husband, Willard; and sons, Bro. Bob (Sis. Betty), Bro. Carl (Sis. Carol) and Don (Sis. Debbie); as well as grandchildren

and great-grandchildren are comforted knowing she is home and free from pain. "At Home 'tis well! With God in close relation, The soul forgets the sorrow it has borne, With pains o'ercome on that bright, golden morn, Rejoices in our God's sublime salvation (Zion's Harp #170).

Roy and Sis. Wilda Fetty welcome two grandchildren. Matthew Stephen was born May 22 to Tom and Beth (Fetty) Gadorcik. Emily is Matthew's sister. Betty and Todd Fetty are parents of a baby girl, Jill Kathryn, born October 4.

Dennis Reusser (Sis. Mildred) and Lisa McGill (Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGill) were married November 16. We wish them a blessed life.

Trisha Marie joined the family of Gary and Jackie Landis October 30. Trisha is welcomed by her brother, Brandon, and grandparents, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Elizabeth Landis and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Newcomer.

Those of our church family who have been ill to varying degrees are Todd Gasser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sue Ellen), Sis. Wilma Ramsier (Bro. Kenneth), Bro. Harry Saurer (Sis. Esther), Sis. Marge Weber, Sis. Mary Jane Winkler (Bro. Andy) and Sis. Donna Young (Bill).

Visiting us and serving as ministers recently were Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL).

OHIO, SARDIS Renee Miller

As the last few weeks of 1991 drew to a close, we were once again so richly reminded of the meaning and impact of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. With renewed joy and enthusiasm, we look forward to serving him in this new year. Our Sunday school program was held on the evening of December 15. The time spent singing carols was so beneficial and uplifting for us once again. Both listeners and singers truly felt a blessing. May we each one commit ourselves to being more in tune with the

needs of others as we strive to live more closely to God's Word and will in 1992.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Stephanie Luginbuhl Kim Stoller

PEACE, PERFECT PEACE

Peace, perfect peace,
In this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace,
By thronging duties pressed?
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.
Hymns of Zion #26, vs. 1-2

We are thankful that God has given peace to Angie Blough (Ben and Sis. Janette) and James Maibach (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann). May God be near them as they look forward to being baptized.

May God bless Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) for ministering unto us on Thanksgiving. We were reminded how thankful we should be because God has richly blessed us.

Our prayers are with the dear souls who were hospitalized this past month. They were Sis. Ann Maibach (Bro. Ken), "Tug" Elmer Maibach (Sis. Alma) and Jeff Criss (Becky).

Children are little bundles of joy from heaven. Mark Eli Marty was born to David and Michelle. His delighted brothers are John, Benjamin and Corey. Grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey Beery and Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou Marty.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie Marty welcomed Jill Marie into their home. Aaron, Kathy and Becky are excited to have another playmate. Happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller and Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou Marty. May God grant these parents wisdom on how to raise their precious children.

On December 15 we had our annual Christmas program. What a joy it is to hear our children sing carols of our Savior's birth.

OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehklau Frances Laidig

"Tomorrow is God's secret — but today is yours to live."
Springs in the Valley

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers and their families with us during the month of December. Our Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) were with us.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Minnie Fetter on the loss of her brother, Bro. Fred Zeltwanger (Latty, OH). The Lord is taking one by one.

In this beautiful Christmas season, we were again privileged to listen to our Sunday school children give readings, recite poems and sing Christmas carols and also listen to a message given by one of our ministers. After the program, we had an opportunity to have fellowship with loved ones and visitors while enjoying a delicious assortment of Christmas cookies. We appreciate the obvious effort set forth to bring us a blessed evening. May God give each of us the grace to understand the real meaning of Christmas and to know it is the most important thing in our lives.

Payment for the Silver Lining (\$9.00) is due in January.

OREGON, PORTLAND Pearl Miller

"... But Thou art the same, and Thy years have no end."
Psalms 102:27

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

The New Year has come, as the annals record,
What an opportune time, 'Tis the year of our Lord.
Awake, O my soul, this year is not mine!
For His is the day, and each moment of time.

Henry Beer

Dear Bro. Paul Rumbold hasn't assembled with us for several Sundays due to a blood disorder. We trust and pray for his recovery that he can soon be with us again. He has been in and out of the hospital several times.

Our sympathy is with Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz (Silverton, OR) of the sudden death of their dear mother, Sis. Flossie Martin (Elgin, IL). We have precious memories of dear Sis. Flossie!

"Many thoughts are with you
In the sorrow you must bear,
For many friends are close to you,
In sympathy and prayer.
May God Who loves each one of us
Stay always at your side
To comfort you throughout these
days
And be your friend and Guide."
Unknown

On November 24, there was an open house for Bro. Ray and sis. Margaret Banwart's 63rd anniversary. Also Sis. Margaret celebrated her 82nd birthday on this day. They have been blessed with many years together.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht, Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara Moser (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Bruellman (Sarasota, FL) visited us. Our thanks to Bro. Ed ministering the precious Word of God to us!

On December 8, the Sunday school class Christmas carolled for a needy family and brought them gifts of food and clothing. The children learned the joy of giving and the family was very appreciative! Later the parents joined us for dinner and an evening of fellowship.

OREGON, SILVERTON Peggy Schulz

We all received a blessing, Sunday evening, December 15, as we listened to our Sunday school tell the Christmas story through verses, songs and scripture readings. May we all strive to have the same eagerness and zeal in our spiritual lives as was reflected in those young faces. Earlier in the month, some of our congregation enjoyed singing and signing Christ-

mas carols to our dear Bro. Lewis and Sis. Gloria Kuenzi. We are looking forward to our all-church Christmas caroling on the evening of December 20. How rewarding it is when we take time out of our busy schedules to do things for others.

We were sorry to hear that Craig Walter, son of Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen, suffered a ruptured appendix and had to have emergency surgery. He is now home and recovering well. We were saddened to learn that Sis. Betty Metz's mother, Sis. Florence Martin (Elgin, IL), passed away suddenly this month. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Betty and her family.

As we embark upon a new year, may we stop and evaluate how we spend our time. Are we taking enough time to be holy?

"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."

I Timothy 4:13, 15

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Franz Soni

You asked me how I gave my heart
to Christ,

I do not know;

There came a yearning for Him in
my soul

So long ago;

I found earth's flowers would fade
and die,

I wept for something that would
satisfy

And then, and then, somehow I
seemed to dare

To lift my broken heart to God in
prayer,

I do not know, I cannot tell you
how;

I only know He is my Saviour
now.

Anonymous

We thank the brethren from Akron, Rittman and Smithville, OH, Rockville, CT, and Washington, D.C. who spent the weekend of November 9 and 10 with us. It is such

a joy when we can gather to have a singing and the next day worship together in such unity.

Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (Washington, D.C.), son of Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy, and Sis. Jill Metzger (Lester, IA), daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Delores, have announced their engagement. The wedding date will be March 22. We pray for God's guidance to be with this dear couple.

We would like to thank the following ministers for visiting with us and sharing God's Word with us, Bro. Everett Gerber and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Don Sauder

How thankful we are to our God that through His willing servants, even small flocks can be fed.

Our minister for December was Bro. Mike Ricker (Peoria, IL). May God richly bless Bro. Mike, Sis. Carol, their son, and parents for their efforts of love. Please come again.

As we end this year, may the love of God and His blessed Son, our Lord, bless each one in the coming year.

TEXAS, DALLAS Sandy Darlington

Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), accompanied by his wife, Sis. Elna, were in Houston for our Sunday worship service in November. Our thanks and the Lord's blessings to the faithful servants who minister to us.

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

We welcomed Bro. Harold and

Sis. Ila Gramm in Dallas December 15. The extra effort put forth by the ministers and families to travel to Texas is so appreciated by all of us who attend services.

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

While visiting family and friends in Illinois this November, my grandmother Martin (Elgin, IL) unexpectedly died early one morning in her home. She died in much the same way she lived quietly and peacefully. Her whole family will miss grandma's frequent and lengthy letters, but can be comforted that we will meet again.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

We were blessed with a visit from two ministers this month, Bro. Tom Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Joan (Athens, AL) and Bro. Duwayne Metzger, his wife, Sis. Ruth, and their family (West Bend, IA). We thank Bro. Tom and Bro. Duwayne for their precious messages.

We are also happy to have retired minister Bro. Elmer Schrenk and his wife, Delila, here for the winter months.

It hardly seems possible that another year has ended and a new year is beginning. With time fleeting so fast it is good to reflect on the sentence, "I do not ask to see the distant scene: one step enough for me," from the song "Lead Kindly Light," from the Hymns of Zion.

Europe . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

her apartment in Auerbach, we informed her we would be back in the afternoon and hold services there. Then we traveled to Klingenthal, and along the way saw a shepherd leading his sheep. We ate lunch in the Sporthotel in Klingenthal right along the Czech border where we ate last time. It was very good, and then we went to Elisabeth's apartment, where she and daughter Eva were wait-

ing for us. After we were there a short time, her husband, Andreas, came home, and they served us pastries and coffee. We enjoyed the visiting together.

Taking Elisabeth with us, we drove the short distance to Auerbach, where we found Maria's son Georg, his wife Kristal, and daughter waiting for us in her apartment. There we had worship services once more, following the order as always. They fixed us an evening meal of fried chicken, several kinds of pork, salad, various kinds of bread, with juices. Following this we distributed our gifts, visited with them about their situations, and had a nice discussion with Antje Braun, Georg's daughter. She feels it is possible for her to come to America, and Gene agreed to care for her once she comes. She is about 20 years old, and would like to visit families here, which we feel we can arrange. We are looking forward to a visit from her. Her father is out of work, and it is obvious this is a big concern to him. Only in part is it possible for us to sympathize with a situation like exists for them. One can see the anguish in his eyes.

Taking our leave around 6:00, we hastened to Lichtenstein to find Traudel in the hospital. We were fortunate enough to do so, and found her in rather good spirits in spite of the serious nature of her problem. The fear is that it will not be benign, with surgery to be performed the week after we were there. However, she truly showed the depths of her simple faith, and in spite of the seriousness of the situation, few tears were shed. Hans spoke to her in a most comforting manner, and we had a prayer together. We promised to come back on Saturday morning again.

Leaving Traudel, we drove back to her house, where we unloaded, and then walked together the short distance to the ancient cemetery where her parents are buried. Here at the crest of the hill, we took pictures which have since been sent to her. She keeps the graves covered with flowers, visiting them twice or three times daily. She cared for her parents their entire life. watching them die one by one

in the ancient house in which she was born. Under the former Communist regime, this house was signed over to the state, and now the future of it is uncertain. It is very dilapidated, and would cost a lot of money to restore, which makes for a complex problem. We truly sympathize with her, without really knowing just how to help the situation. Beyond a doubt, the Lord will work it out for her, and we do indeed stand ready to help where we can.

Visiting only briefly with the Sonntags, we soon retired for the night, weary with the travels and travails of the day. Very early on Saturday, just as light began to dawn, Gene looked out at the rooftops of the medieval city, established in 1212. Seeing the morning mists, he thought of the words of the hymn, "We shall know each other better, when the mists have rolled away." Standing in Traudel's kitchen, he reflected that we have known her such a short time, yet know the deepest feelings of her heart, and feel her love. although the place where she lives is years behind the times in creature comforts, still the love flows from heart to heart. It helps to establish those things in life in their proper perspectives. It also shows that the God who watches over all of us sees us in many different conditions, and deal with us as individuals.

On Saturday morning, we visited once more in the primitive hospital which sheltered dear Traudel, and Hans spoke beautiful words of comfort. Gene prayed in German in the best way he could, beseeching God to remember the many years of caring for the aged parents, and to show mercy in the days ahead. We sang the Hymn, No. 46, in the Zion' Harp, "The Best Refuge", all together, and felt the spirit in our midst. Hans, in spite of the depths of his concern, was encouraged by the way Traudel had accepted her lot by the grace of God. It took its toll on him, however, for we often found him later gazing blankly into the distance with concern in his eyes. It wasn't easy.

Taking our leave, we started out of the old DDR heading for the

church in Breidenbach where we wanted to attend the evening hymn singing. We passed through the ancient city of Eisenach, stopping at the Wartburg Castle where Martin Luther found refuge from the Pope after his excommunication from the Catholic Church. We saw the room where he translated the Bible into the German language. It was a very interesting stop, a piece of history which we were glad to share. We ate our lunch in the restaurant there, a form of roast beef which we found to be a little chewy, but tasty nonetheless. It was amusing when our Swiss-born Peter spoke to someone in German and they answered him in English. We told him an American always stands out! About 3:30, we passed through what used to be the DDR border, now only an unpleasant memory. The country is rolling, and very lovely although the day was chilly, with alternate sunshine and rain. As he nibbled on chocolate bars which are cheap in Europe, Pete reflected that he hoped the man who invented the stuff got wealthy, for he surely deserved it!

We arrived in Breidenbach just in time to go to the evening singing with no chance to freshen up or change clothes. However, the familiar strains of the old hymns from the long books (Heft) lifted our spirits, and once again the love flowed from heart to heart. It was hard for Verna who speaks or understands no German, but an older lady came up to her, speaking in perfect English. Her name is Lenore Tudic', and she was born and raised in the USA, living in Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis, and also in Canada. She married a Yugoslavian, and has lived in Europe 58 years. She is an amazing lady, and was like a god-send for Verna. She came to Breidenbach because she knew we were going to be there. She lives in Zagreb, which is the ancient capital of Croatia, and is a cultured city. She invited us there, and beyond any doubt would welcome us as royalty.

Hans and Verna and Gene stayed all night in the home of Minister Ernst Pfister, and his family of 14 children. They have a very large home, and welcomed us with

open arms. They had a full meal for us after the singing, and were the most gracious of hosts. They even pressed our Sunday clothes, which really needed it by this time. Ernst has his electrical business in the home, and he and Hans also shared the concerns of the church. Breidenbach is north of Frankfurt, in an industrial area. The church was established shortly after World War II, and has shown substantial growth in recent years. They have a very nice facility, but it is totally inadequate for the numbers of people who attend.

They have around 100 members, plus 150 children, and the sanctuary seats perhaps 150. Needless to say, they are very crowded, and are making plans to do something about it as quickly as possible. On Sunday, Pete and Gene met with Hans and the ministers of the church to investigate the proper method of presenting Breidenbach's needs to the American brethren in order to see if help from us would be available. An excellent rapport was established, and a plan was agreed upon which appears to be workable. In the mean time, we would encourage anyone traveling in Germany to consider stopping at Breidenbach for a blessed Sunday.

On Sunday morning, Pentecost, the spirit of a holy day was present. Pentecost is indeed a major holiday in Europe, with the following Monday also a holiday. Hans had the morning service, speaking until about 10:45 at which time Gene spoke in English with Pete translating until about 11:10. This was a bit trying for Pete and Gene both, but the people seemed to appreciate it, and certainly showed a great amount of love. A rather complete meal was served after morning services, and with the large numbers of people present, took almost two hours to complete. The afternoon service was in German for the first forty minutes, followed by about 20 minutes in the Hungarian language for the sake of the many Hungarians in the congregation. This was followed by a long period of greetings, with everything finally coming to a close after 4:00 p.m. They had a simple repast for us,

after which we took our leave with many loving wishes and friendly exchanges of love and good humor, which proved to be a great blessing. Hans was determined that we make this visit to Breidenbach, telling us that this would be the dot on the "i" of our trip, and it certainly was a time we shall not forget!

We had made up a small album of photos of our family, which got great interest from the people we visited. Breidenbach was no exception. As we took our leave, we felt very strongly and expressed to one another that although this was our first meeting, it is our fond hope and wish it shall not be the last!

We made the trip back to Heer's with no incident, finding Edith waiting for us at the curb. She is a lovely person having just passed her 32nd birthday while we were gone. She is devoted to her parents, and their love for her is also obvious. Naturally, there was an ample lunch waiting for us, and we lingered at the table telling of our adventures. Dina also shared hers from Brussels, and a good time was had by all. We got into a discussion of the DDR situation, and Edith, who has experienced a healthy increase in her taxes as a result, reflected that perhaps they should have built the wall a little bit higher. All of this simply emphasizes that the whole thing is complex, and solutions will be painful.

On Monday morning, the travelers broke bread for the last time on this trip with the Heer family. We felt so much at home, and so relaxed among them, that it was indeed hard to go on our way, but such is the fate of travelers. As we packed for the trip, we heard the calls of cuckoos in the gently rolling hills outside the back door. Hans has many hundreds of grape vines on those hills, and often hears the cuckoo calling. It was, however, a new experience for us. After breakfast, Hans took us to the factory where he had worked for many years. This concern, Dynamit Nobel, made black powder, and last year there was a most terrible explosion there, which destroyed a good portion of the facility making necessary its closing. Although he is retired, Hans is grieved over the

huge loss, and showed us the ruins.

Heading south on the Autobahn, we journeyed toward our next destination, Strasbourg, France. Pete had made arrangements with Alfred Klein, a minister of the church there, to meet us at the border just across the Rhein River. We got there in good time, parked our car on the German side and walked across the bridge. There we met Alfred, who took Gene and Verna to his car, while Pete went back and got ours. There was virtually no problem at all crossing the border, in fact we had to ask them to stamp our passports.

Alfred took us to their home, a gracious old building along a busy street in Strasbourg. Here he lives with his wife, Martha, and her sister, Suzanne Heintz, lives in the apartment above theirs. They have lived there many years, and welcomed us most kindly into their home. Here they had a lovely noon meal prepared for us, consisting of an appetizer tray of blonde asparagus spears which were utterly delicious, and small ears of pickled corn. This was followed by rolled beef roast portions, a large platter of green beans, carrots and corn and small browned potatoes. Also along came fresh mushrooms in beef juice. Outstanding! Of course, this was followed by desserts of the finest pastries. Gene told his gracious hostesses that he would give their names to his doctor, who says he shouldn't eat so much. Suzanne said that if he writes, she will tell him to come to France and eat, too. How is one supposed to handle something like that? Perhaps it is best simply to be grateful and appreciative, which we tried to be. These wonderful people have been to America numerous times, and perhaps it could be our good fortune to entertain them in our homes, who knows? The language of the day here was English, which Verna appreciated. Up to now, it had been mostly German, which we tried to keep interpreted for her, which isn't always easy.

After this outstanding meal, Alfred took us in his Mercedes through the old portion of the interesting city of Strasbourg, to Bro.

Froelich's grave, and the house where Froelich preached for the 7 years he lived in Strasbourg. This was of great interest to all, but especially to Pete, who has done a lot of translating of Froelich's papers. We went to the present church in Strasbourg, which we were also glad to see. It would be very nice to come back on a Sunday. We wandered around the center of town, purchased a few small souvenirs, and had a drink of soda at a sidewalk cafe. We went back to Klein's for the evening meal, which again was most delicious. This was served in Suzanne's apartment.

Present for the evening meal were Veraund Job, a member of the Strasbourg church, and his wife, who speaks only French. The conversation was in English, to her disadvantage, but Gene and Veraund did hit it off really well, and an animated discussion ensued. It got a little late until we signed off and went to bed.

Breakfast was served in Suzanne's apartment, after which we soon took our leave of these pleasant people. In the courtyard behind the house, Gene told the two hostesses that he believed he had found two new aunts in France (in his imperfect German), and this brought big smiles to both of their faces. The entire visit was another pleasant interlude in this whirlwind trip across Europe.

Crossing the Rhein back into Germany, we soon entered the Black Forest (Schwarzwald), where the Lehmann ancestors came from. Here in the upper Rhein valley where we saw many fruit trees, berries, grapes, and strawberries. All around were beautiful flowers, in beds and window boxes. We traveled over the Black Forest High Road (Schwarzwald Hohestrasse) through winding ways and up steep grades. Here we saw country much like our own Black Hills in South Dakota. We stopped in some of the picturesque villages, and in one of them Gene bought a cuckoo clock, to everyone's delight. They packed it so that he could carry it on the plane home. The area is simply beautiful, and really calls for a great deal more time

than we could spend in it on this trip. It does indeed leave something to come back to, and a reason to come. Reaching Burgberg where Grandfather Lehman was born, we stopped at the house on Muehlenweg 9 where we had been on the last trip.

We had written to tell them we were coming, and Frau Broghammer, the lady of the house, met us with open arms and warm embraces. Once again, she showed us through the house, where we first were in 1989. Since that time, Broghammers have sent us the official records of the house, which show that it is exactly the right one. We took many pictures, and showed her the ones of our family. We were especially interested in the old stable attached to the house, for it appears to be in original condition. We have letters written from that house in 1893 and 1894, now almost 100 years ago. Our time here, as everywhere, was just too short. We ate a bit of lunch in Erdmannsweiler, the next town, from which many of our people came. Then we went to Koenigsfeld, hoping to get more family records, but the office was closed. We bought a few trinkets from a lady named Hilde Haas, and went on.

Working our winding way through the Schwarzwald, we came to the Feldberg, highest point in the area. We continued on, reaching our destination for that night, Tuesday, at the home of Otto and Herta Hemmer, in Niedereggenen. Otto is first cousin of Chuck Hemmer, elder in Peoria. These folks are vineyard keepers and wine makers, and here, took we were most graciously received and entertained. They had been to America a few years ago, and Pete took them on a 7500 mile trip out west, so they were no strangers. No English was spoken here, and Gene had problems with their dialect, which is getting a bit "Swissy". He and Verna went to bed shortly after an evening stroll, and the others continued their visit into the night. Hemmers wanted us to stay more than one night, but it just wasn't in the program, unfortunately. We had our own little apartment in their lovely home, with all

of the comforts one could hope to have.

(To be Continued in the February Issue of The Silver Lining)

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

be fed when there really was not much there to feed them with.

"And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven." So they had something to start with. You know, I'm not that much of a scholar of the scripture, but it comes to my mind just how, whenever the Lord performed miracles like this, He always had something to start with. It might not have been always and He would not have had to have, but remember the marriage of Cana where He changed the water to wine? He had water to start with; the pots were not empty. And here in the feeding of 4,000, He had seven loaves to start with. That, in a spiritual sense, loved ones, means there is something available from God, if we have something to start with. Just like you and I, when we got here in this assembly this morning, we had something to start with, we had this Good Book. We had something we could read; something that if your hearts would let you, God so ordained it to be multiplied may, may folds within your hearts. This is the way God does it. So it is that in this great multitude they did have something to start with. When I think of these seven loaves, I don't necessarily think of just seven loaves of natural bread, which I believe they were, but I think of the Bread of Heaven that God has to share with His people, whoever would want to partake.

"And He commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to His disciples to set before them." Now here is a miracle of multiplying the loaves, multiplying the natural loaves of bread so that there would be sufficient food to feed four thousand people. Loved ones, I know all of you would acknowledge that when we take the Word of God, we know God had the power to multiply the Bread of Heaven, the Word

of God. We know He has the power to multiply that many, many times to many more the four thousand. And so it is that we do have the miraculous work of God even in our day and time.

"And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them. So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets." Loved ones, to you and I today, I don't believe the significant factor is that there were seven loaves or a few small fishes or that there were four thousand people fed, I believe the significant thing about this particular writing is the fact that there were seven baskets left over. Now I believe, in my finite understanding, as we read in the Word of God of these parables and actual incidents that occurred in the Bible time, there is a possibility that there be a natural meaning, which I think this has, where the actual natural loaves were multiplied by the hand of God through His Son, and there can also be a spirit-meaning, which we talked about, but that there can also be a prophetic meaning. Many times, loved ones, I think that we have to dive rather deeply into the Word of God in order to get the prophetic meaning of what He wants you and I to learn aside from the fact that Christ had performed here a great miracle. Now maybe that would be sufficient for truly we recognize Christ as the Son of God. Too we recognize that He has power to do all of these things, not only at the time when He walked upon this earth, but He has the power today to transform the heart of a soul from a life of sin unto a life with Christ. So it is we do have the miracle of Christ yet today and this beautiful transformation, not conforming to things, but being transformed with a renewed heart and renewed mind unto a new life. This is a great miracle of God today.

We have no idea how long it will be that we will have the opportunity to take part, or to be a partaker, of the plan of salvation as it was instituted by God from the very beginning. But we do know this, that God has a timetable of which

we know nothing about. God's timetable is sure, and because we don't know anything about it, loved ones, that causes us to believe and to know that inasmuch as there will be an end to these things some day, it requires you and I to be watchful, to be prayerful and to be reconciled to the fact that time is going to run out. When time runs out, loved ones, no one can take part of the plan of salvation is the grace of God. That is the only way that man can come unto God, is by His grace, because man of himself cannot do it. No one comes unto the Lord unless the Father draw them. This is our belief and our way that we look at the plan of salvation not a superficial, rather shallow concept of accepting Christ, which is so predominant in the world today; but rather a digging deep to a foundation that is based on Christ, a rock that will stand, that will not wash away when the storms of life come upon us. It might seem to some, possibly to some of our younger folks, particularly those who reach higher levels of education (we have nothing against that) to be sort of a trend; that it seems as though the way of the Lord, the true way of the Lord, is an old fashioned way, and with the changing world and the changing times, there ought to be a new concept whereby we don't have to believe to this great depth. But loved ones, we have to recognize this: that in the end, there will be a true church and there will be a false church or the church of the apostasy. Loved ones, I fear, I greatly fear that the church of the apostasy will have the belief that they are of the true church until the end only to find out that they have not dug deep enough to be grounded upon the Solid Rock of Christ Jesus. Then it will be too late. So you see there is a great significance to your life and my life as we live it in the end times.

Now about the seven baskets. Is it possible, can we rightly believe, there were that number left over, a basket for each of the gospel ages, of which we believe we are in the last one right now? You know, numbers in the Bible take on a significance. Oh, I don't be-

lieve that we should rightly assume things, but I believe we have to give the Word of God credit, that everything in this Word of God has a meaning. It couldn't have been eight or couldn't have been nine, but for a specific reason, it was seven. Can you visualize with me for a moment, the bread that was broken there good, substantial food that these people partook of can you visualize that as the Word of God? And as they partook of the Word of God and were filled, that there was some left over? Left over for what? For who? Left over for us? It was not all consumed; some was left over so you and I can be partakers of the things God shares unto us out of these baskets, that are indeed the Bread of Heaven.

We come to the stark realization that possibly we could be feeding out of the last basket of the Word of God as it is shared unto this age and dispensation of grace. If we are feeding out of the last basket that has been left over, can it be, loved ones, that when this basket is empty, there will be no more? Yes, I think this is a possibility. Loved ones, when we think of a possibility like that, when we think there is not going to be food anymore, when grace will not be here anymore, then young men and women will walk from one end of the earth to the other and they'll not find one day of grace. Just as these people would have been helpless, loved ones, if Christ would not have multiplied that bread unto them and given them something to eat, you and I would be helpless this morning. We would be lost; we would be without anything. We would have no blessing from God if God would not reach into our midst here this morning and bless and break the Bread of Heaven.

That is why, loved ones, we have to regard this Word of God highly. We cannot take it just lightly and think, "Well, alright now here is something that happened and, so it happened." No, loved ones, we have to give this great significance. We have to ponder it in our hearts to recognize the fact that these things are for a specific meaning. Therefore, your learning and my learning should be to know what

we should do. You know, if all of us could only come to the point, like the people who heard Peter in his first sermon, when they were pricked in their hearts, to say, "What shall we do?" We have to bring ourselves to this point to ask the Lord, "What shall I do?" When we do that, then we will hear from the Lord because He has given us this Word, "Repent ye, everyone of you." This is the only way of salvation there is no other way that we know of to come to the cross where the Saviour died and to see Him as a loving Saviour and Redeemer.

There are many types of religion today that circumvent the cross. They say the road is too hard. They don't want to go to the cross or to acknowledge all the things that the Lord had done for us and, especially, they just don't want to acknowledge Him in their lives. So this is why the Word of God has such a depth of meaning because there is no circumventing of the cross. All of this ground work was laid in order that you and I can be saved, in order that whosoever will may come. It makes no difference who they are because when the true church is gathered together at the rapture, the Bible tells us, they will be gathered from all corners of the earth. We surely want to prepare ourselves now for this inevitable day that will come.

Now we read further, loved ones, that the Pharisees came forth asking Him a question, seeking a sign from heaven, tempting Him and then He told these people, "There shall no sign be given." Now this is stated a little differently in the other gospels, but, I believe that in our day and time when there is gross evil prevailing upon the earth, there are some today who seek after a sign. They want proof. They want to know with assurance of those things that Christ had done and that He arose from the grave. Loved ones, even today, I believe, even as in that day, there shall be no sign given. No sign except the fact that the Lord came, suffered, died, shed His blood on the cross and was buried in the bosom of the earth for three days and He arose again. That is the sign we have by faith.

Your life and my life, loved ones, is a life of faith. If you eliminate the element of faith in anyone's life, you have nothing. You have absolutely nothing. When one who is a Christian, who has repented and become a child of God, speaks to one who does not have faith, really, loved ones, there is not much we can say. If one does not have faith, really loved ones, there is not much we can say. If one does not have faith, you don't have anything to start with. If you have nothing to start with, it's a sad situation. That's why it is always good to see a church that is full because, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). In some way, God, in His infinite love, can reach out and He can share unto you this Bread of Heaven. If your faith is ever so small, that faith can increase and grow and grow. It's not the faith that will save you, but it's the faith that will bring you to the realization that all of these things in this Good Book are true. If they are true, then there is work to be done work for you and work for me.

We're still eating out of the seventh basket, we believe. We believe we are living in the age of the Laodiceans and the last church. There were seven church gospel ages revealed unto us in the Revelations of Jesus Christ by St. John, the divine. These seven gospel ages represent the whole gospel age up to the time of when the time of the Gentiles will be fulfilled and the time of when the Jews will come in again. Loved ones, if you want to find just an inkling of God's time-piece of the ages, then you look at the nation of Israel, you look at all the prophecies as they are threaded throughout this Good Book and you will see the prophecies as they are threaded throughout this Good Book and you will see the prophecies of the prophets of old fast fulfilling themselves to a point when, we believe, the time is short. If the time is short, loved ones, it only allows us so much time to get our house in order to avail ourselves of the wonderful opportunity and grace of God while it is yet here.

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SERMON BY RETIRED ELDER BRO. EUGENE BERTSCHI OF ROANOKE, IL

(Deceased and gone to his blessed rest)

Mark 8:1-13

Loved ones all, we have a great lesson in the Word of God before us. The thought entered my mind that, as here in this portion of scripture, a great multitude of people were gathered together, that also in this place, there are many who are gathered here this morning. I am hopeful, as also I believe many of you are, that everyone here this morning is hungry; that you are seeking something to provide for your inner man and that God in His infinite love and tender mercy will share unto each one according to your faith and desire. That is our sincere prayer that God open the hearts of people so that everyone is receptive to His good Word because, really, even though through a very weak servant, every portion of this Word of God is so precious that none of it should be wasted. God willing, it should all fall on good fertile ground.

We have here this portion of scripture that was written by John Mark, who, we believe was a very close friend of Peter. Every time I read in the Gospel according to St. Mark, I cannot help but believe that the apostle Peter, who did not write any of the four gospels, was instrumental, nonetheless, in helping Mark to write down the things as they happened in the days that Jesus was here upon earth.

This great multitude came together because they were following a Person, the Person of Jesus Christ who was healing the sick, making the blind to see, the lame

to walk, and cleansing the lepers. It was His specific purpose to do this in order that He might convince the people in that day the chosen people of God, the children of Israel that they might believe in not only God but that they would believe in the only begotten Son of God who was sent into this world in order that they might be saved. You know, the people of Israel were so steeped in tradition and, rightly so, because this is the way they were trained, this is the way they were brought up, they should have recognized the fact that for the offering that had to be made for the atonement of sin, it required blood. They, of all people, should have recognized that now here is One who had come into the world, that the prophets had spoken about, and here was the Redeemer, the Saviour of mankind. It was for them that He came into this world, but they didn't recognize Him. And so it was that as the Lord went from place to place, He had a great following. Some of the followers, very likely, were very devout followers. Some of them may have followed Him because of curiosity; they might have wanted to see some of the things that He would do. Having heard of His great mission here upon this earth, they probably wanted to see for themselves what the Lord would do in a miraculous way.

Nevertheless, we do have here the scripture that tells us that the multitude was very great and they

had nothing to eat. You know, whenever we go away, someplace, we sort of think ahead of having provisions for food and, possible if there is no place to get it, we might take some along. But these people must have been so intense on what they were doing, that none of them had anything to eat. Now this is the material way to look at this particular parable but there is a spiritual way also that we should look at it, and that is that these people were hungry and had nothing of a spiritual sense whereby they could partake of.

So the Lord had compassion on the multitude because they had been with Him now for three days and had nothing to eat. Jesus said, "And if I send them away, fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far" and so in the lovingkindness and tender mercy of the Lord and Saviour, He was not about to send them away without anything to eat. So His disciples, not yet having been converted, not having yet received the Holy Spirit as was shed abroad in their hearts later on, were thinking only of the temporal things of life. They were thinking of the bread they would eat to sustain their mortal bodies and they answered Him, "From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?" It was something they couldn't understand why the Lord would suggest these people should

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