



"Now the Lord is that Spirit:
and where the Spirit of the
Lord is, there is **liberty**."
II Corinthians 3:17

"Stand fast therefore in the
liberty wherewith Christ hath
made us free, and be not en-
tangled again with the yoke of
bondage."

Galatians 5:1

VOLUME 42

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NUMBER 2

Since 1886 "Symbol of Liberty"

MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my Guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll;
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Hymns of Zion #117

Since From Everlasting to Everlasting Our Great God



"And I will walk at **liberty**: for I seek thy precepts."

PSALMS 119:45

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

THE UKRAINE

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner — Bluffton North, IN

We rejoice when we read of freedom in what was formally known as the Soviet Union. However, our "celebration" needs to be met with reality that all is not well there. The confusion and uncertainty of "freedom" reveals the fact that, simply said, in the marketplace in the Soviet Union there is no middleman. To have bread lines at the store is so strange as the wheat stands unharvested in the fields. Stories linger as to why the shelves are empty, and the faces of the people are sober and blank.

Yes, for some 70 years, the Soviet Empire endured providing what was thought to be an adequate form of living including, however, the suppression of one's faith. Whether the collapse of the USSR was by man's hand or by God's design, a new system is emerging yet to be identified. So with the uncertainties, pressures, reforms, politics, economic turmoil and religious "freedom," in reality could be a "basket case."

With all the Soviet Union advancements, such as the successful space exploration, excellent health care and worldwide exposure of their cultures, internal problems eat away at the hearts of the people.

What lies under the new lead-

ership in the Russian Republics is yet to be revealed. Perhaps communism is not dead, but asleep. The Russian Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church are very much alive and still maintain religion and political power (influence). At the heart of Russian leadership is still the socialist system. Whether the "New World order" will be revealed is not clear. Very obvious, however, is the fact that common, ordinary people exist and live. They are raising families, going to work, sleeping and eating, yet all of this is thousands of miles away from the United States.

This fact was made known in the fall of 1991 when four men of like mind and faith (Andy Hunyady, George Hunyady, Nathan Steffen and Phillip Stettner) visited the Ukraine. With the potential, at least temporarily, the Russia being a "basket case," the Ukraine is, without a doubt, the "bread basket" of the former USSR: Fields ready for beautiful harvests, streams flowing, hills covered with grazing grasses, soil rich with nutrients and people — people who fear and love the living God.

The Apostolic Christians in the Ukraine region are known as Nazarenes. Regardless of the title, the Word is the same, altered by

language, and the Zion's Harp echoes so beautifully with Romanian and/or Ukrainian language words. The charity and hospitality of these loved ones stands unmatched as they offer their finest foods and heartfelt invitations into their fellowships.

Homes swelling with children, eyes eager to see Americans, serving dishes overflowing with breads and homegrown delights, singing unmatched in quality, tears erupting from eyes, children not hampered with peer pressure, parents not being threatened with takeovers, freedom to worship as seen fit — God has blessed and affirmed His goodness.

(Continued on Page 4)

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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David Bertsch
Uriel Gehring
Lester Stoller

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

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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

ASSISTANT HOUSEPARENT NEEDED AT GATEWAY WOODS

Because our Sis. Ida Metzger is relocating to Elgin, IL, to serve a family who has experienced a tragic loss, we now have an immediate opening for an Assistant Houseparent at Gateway Woods. This sister would assist the Houseparents in the daily care of our young people. We trust that a mature and energetic individual will respond to God's call to work with our troubled youth. We provide extensive orientation and training along with continuing education opportunities. The work is challenging, inspiring and rewarding.

Please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information regarding qualifications, salaries and benefits.

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

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



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).

SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS (1 Pet. 2:5)

The high calling of God in Christ Jesus remains the highest standing any man or woman can be granted in this earthly life. In this, the individual believer is regarded as a "lively stone" (1 Peter 2:5), and is molded together with other lively stones (brethren) into a spiritual house. Their purpose? To comprise a "holy priesthood" (1 Peter 2:5), to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God. Such lively stones are chosen of God, and are precious.

The obligation to offer spiritual sacrifices is a very important one. The true believer will take seriously the duty to offer up holy, spiritual sacrifices every day. In doing so, he will regard the things that are spiritual and eternal far above the things that are transitory and frivolous. This will be reflected in his lifestyle and overall value system.

It is noteworthy that spiritual offerings are to be made by a holy priesthood. This indicates that we as believers serve Christ with a new divine nature which is very different from the carnal nature of the levitical priesthood.

In order to make spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God, a believer must be endowed with power from above. The manifestation of this power is a surrendered heart which humbly bows down to Christ, is submissive to Christ's body, the church, and sees himself as least among the brethren. The proper attitude in this spiritual priesthood was best reflected by Christ, who gave His life for us (1 John 3:16). He also denied Himself many of life's comforts and pleasures.

Today, in order to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God, we as believers should understand the divine nature that undergirds spiritual offerings. We should realize that obedience to God (Rom. 8:7), to each other (Eph. 5:21), to the church (Heb. 13:7, 17), to govern-

ment (Tit. 3:1), and to our parents (Col. 3:20) is an inherent part of the manifestation of the new man (Eph. 4:24).

This divine nature is aware that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. This is described by the Word as our "reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). Since we no longer serve sin, our new nature is free to serve God's divine purpose and to glorify His name through spiritual sacrifices. "Likewise, reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:11).

In harmony with this is the fact that we as believers are no longer our own (1 Cor. 6:19-20). We make spiritual sacrifices in the context that he who loses his life will find it (Matt. 10:39). We cannot effectively offer sacrifices to God, unless our own life (will) is crucified with Christ and we put on the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5).

Spiritual sacrifices include a number of important areas: submission, good works, service, suffering, and worship. Each area offers numerous opportunities for application.

Submitting to the will of God, to the Bible, and to church-defined patterns of holiness are wonderful examples of spiritual offerings. Visible holiness, for instance, pleases God and portrays an attitude of devotion to Him rather than conformity to the world. The attitude of submission reflects a loyalty and love to the Lord. Humility, meekness, and gentleness add to the readiness of offering spiritual sacrifices.

Charitable giving out of a cheerful heart constitutes a practical method of presenting spiritual sacrifices (2 Cor. 9:7). Giving can be done both by offering money, or by offering time and talent in the Lord's work. In addition to meeting local needs, the church's World Relief and

Work Projects programs offer ample and broad opportunities to do good for our fellow human beings (Gal. 6:10). These activities have grown significantly during the past decade.

Serving one another by using our God-given gifts constitutes another area of spiritual sacrifice. Preaching, teaching, praying, visiting the sick or lonely and giving encouragement are important avenues of spiritual sacrifice (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 9:19; Jam. 1:27). God is well pleased and others also benefit.

Worship is a sacred part of spiritual sacrifice through our divine nature. The collective gratitude of the church pours out an adoration and thanksgiving that billows lovingly to the throne of God. Whether in song, in prayer, in the spoken Word, or in thought, the "spiritual house" when assembled together in worship offers up a mutual sacrifice of praise to God. Thanks be to God that our church service has remained free of flesh-pleasing forms of worship. The focus is upon God, the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who are honored in true reverence. No individual or group is put in the position of performing or entertaining others. Rather, emphasis on man is minimized, and a collective praise unto God arises from the hearts of all.

The believer's commitment to live his or her life fully dedicated to Christ is demonstrated by steadfastness of faith (Heb. 10:23), growth in the knowledge of His Word, and fruit-bearing (Col. 1:10). Godliness in all its aspects comes before the Lord as a sweet smelling sacrifice (Phil. 4:18).

By the grace of God, may our spiritual sacrifices arise from the purest motive of love for Christ, and may they be "acceptable unto God" (1 Pet. 2:5), and an honor to His holy and most precious name.

What was seen? What was noticed? Six hundred brethren, plus children, make up membership in the twelve to fifteen Apostolic-Nazarene churches in the Ukraine area. Because of governmental confusion, goods and services are limited. The ruble is basically worthless. Hard, credible currency is in demand. Food (processed and raw) and clothing are in short supply. Fuel is rationed, electricity is expensive and roads are unimproved in rural areas. What does this mean? First of all, we were treated like kings and diplomats when served their finest foods, possibly even causing some to eat less. But secondly, and in reality, we American Apostolic Christians need to be prayerful to our living, loving God and to pursue active charitable assistance. These people do need material help – food/clothing. The National Mission Fund is providing printing and supplying the needed Bibles and hymn books, but stomachs need to be filled and bodies need to be covered and warmed. What an opportunity exists and awaits those who can help loved ones spiritually strong, but materially weak. Thus far, their wish is to thank all who have helped through the World Relief Committee in the preparing and the sending of the much needed food packages and clothing barrels. What a sight to see to have the entire family (possibly 8 to 10 children) from

a small cottage, who are familiar with outdoor toilets and wood stoves, stand around the kitchen table and unpack food from America – Thank You!

Specifically, the four brothers mentioned earlier, flew from the United States to Frankfort, Germany, and stayed for a few days, visiting and worshiping, and then went on to Budapest, Hungary. With the support and prayers of the brotherhood in Budapest, they then departed for the 22-hour drive to the Ukraine. Two residents of Budapest accompanied these brothers, as they provided the vehicles loaded with food and clothing – Andre Sabo and Peter Gal. Having enjoyed the travel in Northeast Hungary to the Russian border, they then spent five days with the brethren in the Ukraine, and then drove south to Chernovtsy to the Romania border. They visited several cities and churches in Romania and returned to Budapest, Frankfort, before returning to the United States. They had 21 days to evaluate the situation in Eastern Europe in regard to food, clothing, Bibles and hymn books. Again, the need is there as we would apply Galatians 6:10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Luke 6:38 also applies, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together,

and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

The six of us who traveled into the Ukraine, rather uncertain of border crossing harassment and possible civil strife, are thankful for the prayers and the support of both the European and the American brethren. Acts 15:18, "Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world." May we all acknowledge our complete dependence on the continuing grace and providence of our heavenly Father, without which nothing can be accomplished.

BELONGING
Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle "
Shioda, Japan

It was nearly midnight, December 26, 1991. My wife, Lois, and I were riding in a taxi in Singapore, going from the airport to our hotel. The airlines had given us a free trip to Singapore because of the miles we had traveled going to the States.

We had heard that the airport was the best in the world and we were not disappointed. We were treated with great courtesy amidst an array of beautiful orchids, blooming all over the airport. The girls who changed our money for us at that late hour were smiling and vying for our business. About

EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR OPENING AT GATEWAY WOODS

We will soon have need for a full-time Educational Coordinator at Gateway Woods. This brother or sister would provide a liaison role between the local school system and the Home, tutor the young people with daily homework assignments, maintain the library and coordinate the volunteer program.

Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and work experience in the field. We offer competitive salaries, benefits and continuing education opportunities. For further information and a job description, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Please prayerfully consider this work. It provides an excellent opportunity to work with a unified team of brothers and sisters toward a common goal of helping troubled young people.

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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

76% of the population of this city-state is of Chinese extraction and English is their official language.

The taxi driver was friendly and bent on telling us as much as possible about Singapore during our short ride to the hotel. He praised his country for its cleanliness and freedom from graft and crime. He impressed me as having a very strong sense of belonging to Singapore. The people work hard under a no-nonsense policy by the government. Even chewing gum

has been outlawed because it can be difficult to clean up.

I wondered about the strict discipline enforced by the Singapore government and the people's sense of belonging. I believe the more self-discipline required the greater sense of belonging. This probably carries over into the church, too, if we support our church like this taxi driver supports his country.

In Mark 9:41 we read where the Lord Jesus Christ said, "For whosoever shall give you a cup of wa-

ter to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." To what extent do we belong to Christ? To what extent do we belong to the Apostolic Christian Church? What kind of self-discipline could we practice to increase our sense of belonging? These things we would do well to ponder.

**REPAIRED BIBLE
SHIPMENTS OVERSEAS
Sis. Arlene Banwart
Congerville, IL**

Okusco Miles from Nigeria wrote: "Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Isn't it wonderful to be in His family and to know He cares for us in tenderness and strength? What a privilege it is for us to be His friends and work with Him in bountifully sowing the seed - the Word of God! For His Word is powerful! The Word, accompanied by the Holy Spirit, can transform lives for eternity.

Dearest Banwarts, for your information, I'd like to keep you informed that I received your bulk shipment of Bibles on July 27, 1991. It came in sound condition, everything was in correct order. All I can say from the bottom of my heart is thank you so much, and may God richly bless you always, till we meet in heaven. Thank you so much and I love the way you are helping me. Please keep it up, well done. When I opened the boxes my heart was overjoyed. Thank you. I have distributed the Bibles to the newly converted and our church members and they were all happy. Praise God!"

Kolawole Ezekiel from Nigeria writes: "As you disperse the truth, Almighty will help you because there is no job more worthwhile than supplying people with the truth. And the truth shall set us free indeed. I thank you very much. May God honour you as you bestow such regard on me. I am not ungrateful.

Please also mention we are not taking Zion's Harp Hymnals. Thank you.

Arlene Banwart

-- NOTICE --

Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books

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

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

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

or

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

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

Bibles Distributed — Ninth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1991 —	2951	2951
September 1991 —	3318	6269
October 1991 —	3634	9903
November 1991 —	1856	11,759
December 1991 —	4632	16,391
January 1992 —	4207	20,598

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

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind and KJV, Old and New Testaments, on cassette tapes for those who can no longer read the large print. Also, pocket testaments with Psalms and Proverbs are available.

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, De-

cember 20, 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 hear.

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 Jeff Schumacher

In a recent staff meeting, during the devotion time, one of the staff brought to our attention a saying "As Christians struggling here on earth with our burdens and persecutions, this is the closest we will get to hell. But other people who are struggling through their life trying to make it on their own without the Lord, this is the closest they will make it to heaven." This little statement makes the staff rejoice every time the Lord provides us with another child to touch and show that there is more to life than just survival.

As much as the children know that we love and care for them, the holidays are always difficult. The joy is sometimes spoiled by anger, resentment and bitterness over not having their real parents' love and attention during this special time of the year. We at the Home, appreciate all the love, prayers and support we receive through our brothers and sisters, all during the year. This is our most powerful help.

We were blest over the Christmas semester break to have several volunteers who came and spent

their time working at the Home. Those who joined us were Bros. Brad Leman (Congerville, IL), Justin Meese (Goodfield, IL) and Mark Wettstein (Gridley, IL), Trent Schrock (Champaign, IL), Sis. Trisha Steiner and Lori Martin (Princeville, IL).

We truly enjoy all the volunteers who come to help at the Home. We pray the Lord will richly bless the volunteers who come and give of their time. Our children also enjoyed a weekend visit from the Goodfield Bible class. They went tobogganing on Saturday evening. All the children enjoyed the visit and extend an invitation to visit again.

The past month we said goodbye to one of our residents. Chad T. went home to live with his mother. We need to continue praying for Chad as he works through the transition of being back home and attending a new school.

We are always sad when one of our staff members leaves. Sis. Ida Metzger is relocating to Elgin, IL. She will be living with a family to care for the children whose mother lost her life in an auto accident.

Please review the requests and needs for an educational coordinator and assistant houseparent, staffing needs at the Children's Home. We would appreciate your prayers for those who would be called to this work.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Pamela Moore

January is usually the coldest month in Alabama, as it is in most areas. Frequently, we experience "power failures," because of the great increase and need for power usage at the coldest times. How good to know that with our powerful, Almighty God, we will never experience a "power failure." God always has "power" to draw from, no matter how serious our crisis may be, or how much of His "power" we draw upon. Our God is a mighty God!

René Barrett (Athens), daughter of Debbie Barrett, has announced her engagement to David Durham (Athens). They are planning an August 1, 1992 wedding.

As a couple, we're glad to have them attending church in Athens. Marriages need God to be successful.

We are so thankful to have Kendra Coulter home from the hospital. She was admitted in very serious condition January 19, relying on a respirator for her breathing. She is now back home again, with her family, all drawing "power" and strength from Almighty God.

Sunday, January 19 was the day for our monthly church potluck dinner. It was special to have Bro. Doug and Sis. Julie (Baurer) Walder to share it with. They were able to spend a week with us here in Athens, renewing old friendships.

Let's all try to remember to draw upon our great "Power" Source. The more we require, the more God provides. Don't get bogged down by this earth, its day to day problems, and seemingly mountains to overcome. No one thing or individual has more power than God, and definitely not Satan. So don't experience a "power" failure, but a "power" surge from God.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

The weather got better as the day got closer to 12:30 p.m. December 29. Bro. Brian Katich and Sis. Debbie Yackley had a lovely wedding performed by Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich. Bro. Greg Gramm had a sermon prior to the ceremony. A sit-down reception was held at the Phoenician Resort.

Their parents are Bro. Al and Sis. Joyce Yackley and Frank Katich and Cynthia Smith.

We pray the new Katich household will always have a welcome for our Lord, and many years of happiness together.

December 30, 1991, was the golden anniversary of Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach.

Their three lovely daughters had a lovely reception for them at daughter, Sis. Christine and Bro. Robert Baum's home. Family and friends came from far and near with congratulations and best wishes for

many more years of happiness together. We pray God's blessings upon them.

Prayers were uttered in behalf of surgical patients: Bros. Bob Farney, Dick Beery, Melvin Miller, Adrian Kellenberger and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall. Bro. Earl Sanders and Sis. Janet Farney were hospitalized.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Frances (John) Martin and Sis. Verna (Ray) Poeschel on the death of their brother-in-law, retired Elder Bro. Edwin Hohulin.

March is the time to pay \$9.00 for your Silver Lining. Bro. Ron, Sis. Ev or Sis. Juie will take your offering.

During our annual business meeting the following new office holders were selected: Bro. Elsworth Neimeyer, trustee; Bro. Robert Baum, assistant Sunday school superintendent; Bros. Jim Meiss and Steve Freed, song leaders; Bro. Jerry Emch, lunch fund; Bro. Leon Baumgartner, congregational room; Bro. Bill Woodruff, congregational room.

On January 2, Kari Neimeyer left Phoenix for a four-year enlistment in the Navy. Our prayers are also with her parents, Bro. Elsworth and Sis. Lois Neimeyer and sister, Kolette.

LOVE is everywhere - for God is Love, which such blessed assurance, enjoy life, be kind, be compassionate, have empathy. (Don't you feel better already!)

Thank You: We are humbled and grateful by the outpouring of love gifts and cards we received for our golden anniversary. To our many loved ones, we want to express our thanks. Also to our children and grandchildren, we thank them for having an open house which was shared by many. God bless all of you. Love in Christ.

Elder Bro. Richard and
Sis. Barbara Schupbach

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our winter visitors are starting to arrive for which we are thankful! Our "winter" weather has, too. We are having unusually cool and cloudy days.

We are very excited to welcome little Allison Bauer. She arrived January 9 and is a healthy, beautiful baby girl. She is receiving a lot of attention from parents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Maria Bauer, big sister, Stephanie, and grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer and Nick and Carol Pazzi.

Elder Bro. John Klotzle spent the last evening of 1991 with us. He and his wife, Sis. Lois, were with us and we thank them for their visit.

Our friend, Art Krozner, is still hospitalized at this writing. Our prayers go out to his wife, Millie. We pray the Lord will carry out His will in their lives and that He will provide grace and strength to all concerned to accept that will.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Lisa Steiner

On December 15, our Sunday school classes presented their Christmas program. It included songs and readings given in tribute to our Saviour's birth and its significance for our lives.

A few weeks later our congregation gathered at the site of our former church building for a groundbreaking and dedication. We are thankful that God has provided us with the opportunity to rebuild and a temporary meeting place at the school across the street.

Through faith and repentance, Debbie Aberle has found peace with God. We look forward to hearing her testimony and witnessing her baptism in the future.

Our prayers are with our dear friend, Bill Opplinger (Sis. Laura). He has been hospitalized and is now at home, but is still very ill. May God comfort him in body and spirit.

COLORADO, DENVER

Eric and Marcel Huber

The first of January was the 90th birthday of Sis. Katherine Ries. Her family held an open house to commemorate the occasion. Sis. Katherine's love for God radiates through her smile and positive disposition. Her attitude reflects the gain in heeding Paul's teaching in

Romans 12:12; "continuing instant in prayer." Sis. Katherine relates that she "prays every day, and is thankful to God for her health."

Elections were held in January to fill the positions of treasurer and trustee. Bro. Rod Schmidt and Bro. Chris Johnson, respectively, were chosen for these responsibilities. Thanks to Bro. Verne Lehman and Bro. Mike Martin, whose terms have expired.

Karen Turner has returned to the Bloomington-Normal, IL, area to continue her education. We will miss her friendly smile and her willingness to participate.

We welcome Brad Metz to our area from Forrest, IL.

Bro. Joe Wagler has entered a nursing home. May God be with him as he adjusts to a new living environment.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

"... the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;" (Ephesians 6:6). Our special thanks to our Sunday school teachers who make a special effort to devote their time to our children.

Our Sunday school program was held Sunday, December 22. There is such joy in hearing the beautiful voices blended together reminding us of Jesus' birth.

"In silence, give attention; The Lord will cheer and strengthen; With His own word and hand. If earnestly we seek Him; And pray'rfully entreat Him; He'll not let us as orphans stand." (Zion's Harp #207). May those who are not able to assemble with us have faith that the Lord will be by their side and guide and protect them in their time of need.

To further our devotion and thanks to our Lord and Savior, six couples decided to share their blessings with those not as fortunate as we are. A dinner was prepared at the Tri-City Cornerstone Soup Kitchen Christmas Day. They served sixty people. God will surely bless those who are able to share their blessings.

Our thanks to Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) who was able to assemble with us. We ap-

preciate his efforts to spend time with our congregation.

Meagan LaNae was born December 12. Parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. JoAnn (Gerber) Luginbuhl. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Beverly Gerber and paternal grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Alma Luginbuhl. Brothers, Benjamin and Ryan, look forward to their new baby sister. What a precious time to spend with our newborns and help formulate their future.

Our annual meeting was held Sunday, January 12. We appreciate and offer our thanks to those brothers and sisters who have completed their commitments. May God provide wisdom and encouragement to those who have been newly elected to positions. "Brethren the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit." (Galatians 6:18).

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever."
Hebrews 13:8

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

Visitors are an important part of our assembly. We had a very blessed weekend when Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) brought several families with him. We were also blest by the visit of Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). Other visitors this month were from Sardis, OH, and Philadelphia, PA.

We welcome back to our congregation Bro. Phil, Sis. Gail, Philonna and Javin Strahm (Gridley, KS). Bro. Phil has another five-month assignment in Virginia.

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

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Terri K. Huber

I am sorry that I forgot to report our November visiting ministers. Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) labored for the Lord on our pulpit.

We had a fun get-together on New Year's Eve after our church services. It is such a privilege to fellowship and socialize with our brothers and sisters-in-Christ. It is one of God's gifts and a little foretaste of heaven!

Our new Bible study topic is the book of Romans. I noted the first session will be about being excited to share the Good News. That reminded me of Jesus' words in Matthew 5:14, 15 (and the topic of one of our sermons today): "Ye are the light of the world . . . Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick . . ."

Our Sunday evening singings have resumed every other week at 7:30 p.m. at the fellowship hall.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS

Dorothy Beer

Jeanette Yergler

Another new year, may we walk more closer and keep our promise to serve our heavenly Father more than we ever have.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."
Psalms 103:2

The picnic on January 5 was also a surprise to Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann on their 40th wedding anniversary. Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay wish to thank all who remembered them with cards and the love that was extended.

A note of thanks from Bro. Roland and Sis. Viola Keller.

We wish to thank all for making our 60th anniversary a memorable one by your present, all cards and gifts. We especially thank all for their effort in making the surprise so special.

May God richly bless each of you.

Ronald and Viola Keller

Visiting ministers this month

were Elder Bros. Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Robert Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Wesley Knapp (Goodfield, IL).

We appreciate each for coming and worshipping with us.

Sis. Viola Keller wants all new and changes of address given to her for the new church address books.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Gala Gerber - Suellen Ott

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Psalms 122:1

As the number in our church pews continue to increase, we continue to thank our God for the gift of "Christian friends."

There are friendships that we cherish
In our daily walk of life,
Friends with whom we meet and labor,
In our earthly toil and strife,
Friends among the aged and youthful,
Friends that live from us apart,
Friends of higher rank and station
Find a place within my heart!

There's a tie of noble kinship
In a soul that loves the Lord.
There's a friendship warm and lasting
If he heeds the Master's Word.
There is mutual understanding
And a sympathy so kind,
In the tie of Christian friendship,
As on earth we oft times find.

Hymns of Zion #91

What a joy to go to the house of God and meet brothers and sisters of like mind and that faith! Such a precious heritage is ours!

We had the opportunity of hosting the Fort Sam Soldier's Reunion as they celebrated their 40th year. Our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach said, "Our church was the fullest it has

even been." What blessed fellowship.

We rejoice with Bro. Orval and Sis. Doris Rocke as they celebrate 50 years of marriage together. May God continue to bless them as they together press on in His vineyard.

How blessed we are to have Sis. Paulette Feucht and Kathy Martin with us to worship! They are both practicing as traveling nurses in a near-by hospital. Bless them, dear Lord!

Both Bro. Richard Seidel and Viola Lemman experienced a short term stay in the hospital. We are thankful they are back worshipping with us. We wish them improved health and happiness in Jesus!

So blessed to have ministering Elder Bros. Robert Beyer (Croghan, NY) and Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL), Bros. Ed Alt (Cissna Park, IL), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), William Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Art Baurer (Princeville, IL). We love and appreciate each one and want to wish them Godspeed!

We are pleased to welcome a new precious bundle of joy into our church family. Rejoicing with Bro. Phil and Sis. Judy Schlatter with the birth of their son, Andrew James Schlatter. May God richly bless their new family.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp

We are thankful and grateful to the following ministers who traveled to Atlanta to be with us this past month. They include Bro. Al Schneider (Rockville, CT), Bro. Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL).

Services are held at the Ramada Renaissance every Sunday at 10:30. 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.

Give Your Old and New
Address To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Carol Steffen

As we begin a new year, we look back over the past year and reflect how good God has been to us. We are humbled to see how God has moved hearts to help us start a new assembly and we thank each one of you. We look forward to the blessings of 1992.

Among our visitors from 13 different congregations, we are thankful for the following who came to minister to us. On Sunday, December 29, Bro. Dale Frank and family (Oakville, IA) came to help. We thank Bro. Gary Anliker for coming out to support him in the afternoon as Bro. Dean was out of town. Bro. Gary so willingly gave of himself again for our New Year's Eve service. Bro. Tom Troxel and family (LaCrosse, IN) came January 5. We thank each one for their support.

We encourage and appreciate visitors! The church address is 525 Carpenter Street, Belvidere, IL, and the church phone is (815) 544-3240. We wish each one a blessed new year in the Lord.

ILLINOIS,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Tudy Schmied

On December 15, our congregation rejoiced in the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Aaron Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary, Bloomington) and Sis. Jackie Fehr (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Linda, Fairbury). May their lives be richly blessed as they travel life's road as one-in-Christ.

We are always appreciative of the service of visiting ministers to our congregation. This month we received God's Word from Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) who mentioned that he is nearing his 42nd anniversary in the ministry. As believers in the Apostolic Christian faith, we are indeed fortunate to be able to hear the Word preached by such good and faithful servants.

We welcome with love the family of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sheri Frank and their two daughters, Ashley and Amanda (Phoenix, AZ).

We miss Sis. Carol Sauder who

is now residing at the A.C. Home in Roanoke while she recuperates from a head injury. She has always let her light shine and has become an encouragement to many. Carol is progressing nicely and appreciates hearing from her friends. Her address is A. C. Home, 1402 W. Randolph, Roanoke, IL 61561.

With more than 10 percent of this new year already gone, we might look back on those recently made spiritual goals and resolutions for 1992. Have we neglected them already or are we on track? Are we looking toward the Holy Spirit to guide our way or are we striving to go it alone? Isaiah reminds us that, "O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand." Isaiah 64:8.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Les and Barb Fehr

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos were blessed with a little boy on December 10, named Cory Weston. Cory was welcomed home by Tyler, Jeb, Sandy and Chad. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Lorene Joos (Peoria) and Norman and Hilda Rouse. Mike and Deonna Buckman also welcome an addition to their family. Austin Michael was born January 11 and was welcomed home by his older sister, Monica. Austin's grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Delores Duckworth and John and Betty Buckman.

During the last month our visiting ministers were Bros. Eric Givens (Princeville), Ervin Knecht (Eureka) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign). May God bless these brothers for their efforts on our behalf.

In Romans 12:15 we are told to "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." During 1991 our church here at Bradford had seven births, three deaths, five weddings and ten baptisms.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

As we enter a new year and a new school semester, we welcome the Parkland and U. of I. students

back to our congregation. We want to give a special welcome to Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri (Herrmann) Blunier and Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue (Heinold) Plattner. Both brothers have been students here, were married during semester break and now are returning to Champaign with their wives. We are thankful to have these new couples as part of our congregation and wish them God's blessings and love as they begin their new lives together.

Our congregation continues to grow in other ways, as two babies were added to our church family. On December 27 Zachary Christian was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynne Musselman; on January 2, Abbey Joy was born to Eric and Nancy Schieler. Zachary and Abbey are first babies for both couples. We are rejoicing with them as they thank God for the miracle of birth. "I will praise thee: for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: miracles are thy works . . ." Psalms 139:4.

Our prayers are with all those who are hospitalized or who are recovering from illness or injury at home. Sis. Wendy Waibel (Bro. Brian) has returned home from a short hospital stay and is doing well as she continues her convalescence at home. May all feel God's nearness and love and healing mercies.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

I sat behind an aunt of mine at the testimony of my cousin's daughter, her great-niece. My aunt's seeing and hearing and mobility are not so good anymore. Yet I thought of her within the context of her church and our family. She was — is — always giving, always! It must be harder now, but at home, Mom said, "Aunt Anne gave Dad this angel food cake when he stopped by. She told him she didn't know when she made it who it was for. But when he came, she gave it to him and told him to take some and give the rest for Kathy and her family to take back." I was so reminded of what our efforts need to be by that phrase: she didn't know when she made it who it was for. It

is so easy to think that we know and understand, that we can decide who needs what when — and the Lord gives us some discernment. However, it is the Lord alone who can truly direct our giving; nevertheless, we need to be prepared to give, must have something ready. We have to be careful because caloric delicacies aren't always welcome and perhaps our latest craft offering isn't either. We can continually have a heart full of love through Christ Jesus, though. That's Aunt Anne's secret. She has taught us much.

We rejoice with Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie Jones in the birth of their son, Caleb Ezra, born December 26. He joins Bobbie at home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock and Sis. Sherrill Jones, both of Morton, IL. As a church family, we welcome this new soul from the Lord and pledge our prayers and love to him and his family. May the Lord richly bless them!

In the month of January we begin and end our terms of church offices. We are so grateful for the faithful service of those who have given of their time and effort, and we ever appreciate those who are willing to begin new challenges, working for the good of the Lord in trustee, Sunday school teaching or ushering positions. May we, as a church, support each one wholeheartedly. Sis. Dana Pflederer and Sis. Jaron Grimm will be taking the preschool Sunday school class, replacing Sis. Susie Jones. Bro. Brad Eisenmann will be replacing Bro. Glen Pfeifer as trustee. Bros. Kurt Pflederer and Tom Gudeman will be replacing Bros. Steve Jones and Dave Kiefer (both of whom have other offices) as ushers. Thank you, all.

Sis. Lois Metzger has just returned home from hip surgery. We trust that all has gone well and her recuperation will be another blessing from the Lord. We extend our prayers and love.

Often this is a month of grief, and 1992 is no exception. We extend our deepest sympathies to Miklos and Erika Furj on the death of her mother and Mike and Arlene Ryan on the death of her father,

Bill. Our parents give so much of themselves to us that we often feel the Lord's time for them on earth is too short. May we show these who are dear to us and their families the Lord's comfort by our tears, our love and time spent with them showing we care.

Our dear Sis. Emily Lauser Lehmann died January 6, and her funeral and burial was January 24. She was born May 5, 1902, in Heidelberg, Germany. She was the last of a family of ten to die. Her husband, Bro. Gottlieb, preceded her in death in May, 1991. She leaves behind her daughter, Esther (England); son, John (Glen Ellyn, IL); and daughter, Nancy (Brookings, SD). Also mourning her are nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She and Bro. Gottlieb lived for many years in Chicago, coming to Elgin Resthaven in 1986. She was an example of faith, love and trust. They enjoyed having people in their home and travelling, especially in Europe. One time Sis. Emily brought back to me a tiny lamp, a souvenir, for no reason but that she wanted to remember me. I treasure it, for as her daughter said, "That was Mom." Sis. Emily knows of the truth of this verse, sung at her funeral: "When once my senses fail, And death shall set me free, From death to everlasting life I'll rise triumphantly . . . Then shall I be, O wondrous tho't! Forever with the Lord." (vs. 4) We were exhorted to be changed by remembering dear Sis. Emily, so that we who remain may be more dedicated, more self-sacrificing, that we may walk more closely with Him who will call us from this earth, we know not when. Our loving arms and prayers we extend to the family. As the funeral was ended: "May God be especially near." And may we know: "When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less day to sing God's praise Than when we've first begun." Amazing Grace, vs. 4.

How could it be that I could have broken my toe walking around the bed and falling in the bed-clothes? Be that as it may, it has been an experience for one who had never before broken anything. At

first I couldn't even walk well, but after I went to the doctor (who took x-rays and said it was a sprain), she taped it and gave me some anti-inflammatory pills, and I did reasonably, even walking. When those pills ran out, however, I found out that, though I see no more bruising, it hurts more to walk (the whole front of my foot hurts) and I still adjust my walk to that pain. Then the office called and said it was a break, but only a small, on-line one. Okay, and it still hurts to walk. Gradually, I saw that break as paralleled in a "tiny" sin - one that could hardly even be detected - caused by a fall in very familiar surroundings. Yet there has been an interruption in my "walk" for a number of weeks, trying to adjust to the pain it causes. Remember the drugs worked, but they only masked the symptoms. Now I have to deal with the time healing takes, especially when one must keep moving in the same surroundings. "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the medication of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalms 19:12-14.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Bev Knapp - Carol Stock

Our congregation was saddened by the death of Bro. Harry Knapp, 73, who passed away December 20, 1991 at Carle Hospital in Urbana. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Gladys; two sons, Bro. Curtis (Sis. Bev, Cissna Park) and Bruce (Normal); one brother, Lester (Leroy, IL); five sisters, Sis. Leona Walder and Bertha Honegger (both of Cissna Park), Lillian Hasselbring (Herscher, IL), Evelyn Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Ollie Hagen (Brook, IN).

We wish to extend our sympathy to this family as well as Bro. Alf and Sis. Ernestine, Bro. Ray and Sis. Emily Eisenmann in the loss of Alf and Ray's sister, Sis.

Clara Frank, who was residing in Fairview Haven, Fairbury. We pray that God will be near each one and be their comfort.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley), Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We thank each one for coming and sharing the Word of Life with us.

We rejoice with Tom and Jill Kaeb as they welcome a baby boy, Alex Wayne, into their family. Alex was born January 9 and has a sister, Alysia. Grandparents are Ed and Ruth Kaeb and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Hauptli (all of Cissna Park).

We pray that God will be near Sis. Tillie Rudin as she recovers from surgery. We also have several shut-ins we continue to remember in prayer.

With the beginning of a new year comes our annual business meeting. We realize once again how many willing hearts and hands it takes to accomplish the duties of many offices and committees. We wish to thank each one who has labored on our behalf in the last year and also offer our support to those who are beginning new responsibilities, especially our new Sunday school teachers, Bro. Jon Anderson, Sis. Sally Rinkenberger and Sis. Beth Walder, and also our new trustee, Bro. Larry Kaufmann.

A reminder to our Cissna Park congregation that Silver Lining dues are payable to your reporters the month of February. Please note the subscription rate has increased to \$9.00.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Myra Steffen - Joanne Roth

On January 5 we witnessed the marriage of Bro. Chuck Zimmerman (Bro. Orville and Sis. Lula) and Sis. Ginny Knecht (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judie, Eureka). May the Lord bless them as they begin their life together.

It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers and their families with us and we are grateful for those ministers who continue to teach God's Word. Elder Bro. Andy

Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) shared His Word with us this past month.

Sis. Millie Schieber (Bro. Carl) and Sis. Sarah Dietrich (Bro. Bill, Sr.) have both returned home after spending time in the hospital. Andrew Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne) remains in the hospital and we pray he will be home soon.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Sis. Peninna Miller who had been hospitalized frequently in the past months. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family who we know will sorely miss the loving mother and grandmother that Sis. Peninna was.

We also sympathize and pray for Clayton and Sis. Margaret Ott and their family at the loss of their daughter and sister, Sis. Boni Blunier (Eureka).

Many are the partings on earth
below,
Dear ones must say good-bye!
But a glad reunion we then shall
know
In that blessed country where we
cannot die.

Hymns of Zion #195

The Clayton and Margaret Ott family wishes to thank everyone for all expressions of sympathy since the death of their daughter, Boni K. Blunier.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Elizabeth Schambach
Betty Bachtold

God's love has been manifested among us as we consider His many blessings already in this New Year. Many of our loved ones have been seriously ill since our last writing. Thankful to return home again are: Sisters Edna Bolliger, Wava Steffen (Bro. John), Bro. Les Heiniger (Sis. Emma), Verona Schock, Lydia Osmun, Gail Hallead (Ron), Bro. Ben and Viola Graf, and Sisters Rose Viellieber and Gertrude Kachelmuss. Surely it is the mercy and love of the Lord, the Great Physician, who can heal body and soul, and we thank Him. "... Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." St. Matthew 8:17.

Sis. Emily Lehmann, 89, formerly of Chicago, passed away January 6. She was the widow of the late Bro. Gottlieb Lehmann. We share sympathy to her loved ones.

Our hearts were saddened as we learned how our heavenly Father so quickly terminated the life of a beloved wife and mother. Gail Kellenberger, 60, passed away January 12 after several hospital visits with a heart condition. She leaves her dear husband, Elvis; five daughters, Mary Heintz, Melody Schambach, Melinda Leman, Margie Johnson and Melissa Kellenberger; one son, Marc Kellenberger; and eight grandchildren.

Her family expresses deep gratitude for all the love and prayers during this time of sorrow.

We appreciate the old, but ever-new truths of the Living Word. Visiting ministers include: Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

Together, as a congregation, we want to thank those who have served in various capacities for the past several years. At our annual business meeting January 15, Bro. Keith Kellenberger was elected as secretary for the church, and Bro. Don Heiniger consented to serve as trustee. Also Bro. Bill Kinsinger is our newly-elected Resthaven Board member, and Bro. Howard Schifferer will begin a term as landsight trustee. Serving as assistant cemetery chairman will be Bro. Frank Schock, and Sis. Marcia Kellenberger was chosen to complete the Sunday school term for our dear departed Sis. Sharon Kellenberger. May God bless all efforts "past, present and future."

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

At Home, 'tis well!
With God in close relation,
The soul forgets the sorrow it has
born,
With pains o'ercome on that
bright, golden morn,
Rejoices in our God's sublime
salvation.

Zion's Harp #170

We were all deeply saddened by the death of our dear Sis. Boni Blunier, but we were comforted as we remembered her peaceful countenance in the last few months of her life. Her pains were overcome as she journeyed on to that bright, golden morn. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Sam, and little daughter, Miranda. We sympathize also with her parents, Clayton and Sis. Margaret Ott; her sister, Sis. Mary Lou Ott; her brothers, Bro. Glenn and Bro. Don (all of Congerville) and her sister, Sis. Lola Steffen (Fairbury).

We are thankful for the exhortations of our visiting ministers in this last month. They were Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville) and Bros. Mike Rinkenberger and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville).

Sunday, January 5 was the wedding day of our Sis. Ginny Knecht (daughter of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Chuck Zimmerman (son of Bro. Orville and Sis. Lulu, Congerville). May God richly bless their union.

We extend our love and prayers to Sis. Edna Martin and Bro. Alf Grusy who have spent time in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Baptized into Thy name most holy,
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and
lowly
Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to
sin;
Thy Spirit now shall live within.
Zion's Harp #41, vs. 1

On January 11, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of the faith of six souls and witness the baptisms the following day. We welcome Bros. Don Welborn (Sis. Phyllis), Michael Steidinger (Bro.

Dennis and Sis. Jane), Darren Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley), Daniel Steidinger (David and Deann) and Ed Hohulin and Sis. Dixie Steidinger (Bro. Doug) into the fold. We rejoice with them and their families.

December 29 was the wedding day for Sis. Suzanne Schieler and Bro. Nate Wieland (Bay City, MI). Parents of the new couple are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler and Roger Wieland and Sandy Buza. May God bless them as they make their home together.

We also wish to extend our congratulations to Michael Lorch and Paula Pankey. They were united in marriage December 28. Their parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Marguerite Lorch and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Pankey (Clifton).

Trisha Steffen and Craig Curry were united in matrimony January 11. Parents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola Steffen and Craig Curry and Emma Kay McCue (Pontiac). May the Lord be the head of each home.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr over the loss of her aunt, Coralie Franklin. They cared for her faithfully in their home. May God bless their labors of love.

May God comfort the hearts of our dear ones, Sis. Lola and Bro. Henry Steffen, who have recently been bereft. Sis. Lola's sister, Sis. Bonnie Blunier (Eureka) passed away at a young age.

We also share our sympathy with Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser in the passing of her mother, Sis. Sadie Riggensbach (Latty, OH).

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Don Kaisner, Sis. Lena Zehr and Marvin Maier. May the Lord be by their side.

We thank our many visiting ministers who came to be with us and share the heavenly manna: Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), DeWayne Dill (Champaign) and Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park). We appreciated their guidance and direction as inspired by God.

On January 13, we held our semi-annual business meeting. May the Lord bless the labors of the brothers whose terms have expired. May the new brothers feel the support of the congregation as they take on new responsibilities.

Summary of 1991: 16 births (13 boys and 3 girls), 7 deaths, 22 baptisms and 6 weddings.

The family of Bro. George Broquard wish to express thanks to all who so lovingly remembered us in prayer and sympathized with gifts, memorials, cards, food, flowers and kind deeds. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, FORREST Sherri Kelson Sandra Schneider

We thank Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) for visiting our congregation and proclaiming God's Word. May our heavenly Father reward them.

On December 23, Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman were blessed with a little son, Joel Mark. Benjamin Stephen, Jonathan and David are happy for a little brother. Grandparents are Sis. Helen Huette (Phoenix, AZ) and retired Elder Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman.

Bro. Troy and Kathleen Lanz had a special Christmas gift as their little daughter, Ashton Elaine, was born December 25. Her grandparents are Jim and Mary Slagel and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz.

December 31 was the wedding day for Lori Lanz and Rick Patton. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lydia Sohn and Sis. Louise Honegger needed hospital stays for a time this month. Let's remember to hold them up on wings of prayer.

We rejoice with Bro. Chad Kupferschmid and Sis. Linda Blunier (Roanoke) as their engagement was announced. May God continue to provide for them. They are children of Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid and Wayne and sis. Marjorie Blunier (Roanoke).

Bro. Clarence and Sis. Laura Kachelmuss wish to thank all who

shared in many ways to make their 50th anniversary a precious memory. God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

Our Goodfield congregation has had a very eventful December and January. The Lord has blessed us with baptisms and a wedding. In December we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Justin Meece (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb), Bro. Jed Rocke (Mark and Connie) and Sis. Jill Hohulin (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joy). We were grateful for the visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign) and Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Rick Plattner (Peoria) and Steve Baner (Gridley).

We wish God's blessings on Sis. Krista Roth (Roy and Sis. Corrine) and Bro. Brian Steffen (Bro. Dave and Sis. Emmie, Gridley) as they exchanged wedding vows through Christ. Thanks to Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Bros. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign) for sharing that day with us.

Our hearts were saddened at the loss of our precious retired Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin. What a positive example and light this shepherd was to us all. Our sympathy is extended to his dear wife, children and grandchildren. Our hope is to live our lives as Christ-like as possible so we can meet with our brother and all of those great patriarchs who have gone before.

Four more lambs were added to the fold after they testified to a large congregation of their conversions. Our new brothers and sister are Rick Bauman (Bro. Les and Sis. Helen), and Chuck, Doug and Erika Hart (Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry). May God bless them as they live their lives in Him. Our appreciation is extended to Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park), Vernon Wettstein and Fritz Knapp (Congerville) for being with us at Goodfield for this special weekend.

Jeni Knapp (Dave and Sis.

Becky) and Faith wish to thank everyone who sent gifts, cards and food. They appreciate all of the love and thoughtfulness that has been shared.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry Klopfenstein

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Brenda Hodel became the parents of their third child January 4. They named her Jaclyn Carol. She was middle-named for her deceased maternal grandmother, Sis. Carol Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Hodel and Bro. Larry Stoller. She has a brother, Nathan, 8, and a sister, Amanda, 4½. We extend our best wishes to them as parents as they strive to "train up" their children in the "way that they should go."

On January 8, we were privileged to hear the testimony of faith and conversion of Jerry Christensen, who was then baptized and became our new brother-in-faith. He gave a very moving testimony as one who was reared in another faith. He had attended our church as a friend of the truth for 26 years by virtue of his marriage to Ada Klopfenstein. She became a sister-in-faith, and he dutifully attended church for half days until his repentance in late summer of 1991. Life's circumstances and burdens helped him to realize he needed a higher power to help him; also, he wished to be with his wife in eternity.

Last summer, as a Vacation Bible School speaker spoke on the topic, "Leaning on the Brotherhood," he longed for this but he was not a brother-in-faith. This was the beginning of God's special revelation to him, and in a few months he found the grace to repent. He expressed a deep appreciation for our faith and church. As a superintendent of schools at the nearby Minonk-Dana-Rutland High School, he said he now leans more on God's direction than on his own strength in dealing with the school's personnel and related problems.

Kaitlyn Noelle was born to Karen Kiefer December 27. Karin is the daughter of Bro. Larry and

Sis. Barb Kiefer. We truly wish her God's help and grace in raising this precious bundle.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

We were saddened by the deaths of several loves ones this month. They leave their family members and friends with many precious memories. Sis. Anna Hofmann's funeral was held December 23. May God be with her three nieces: Mrs. Dayton (Elizabeth) Alt, Mrs. Lane (Mary) Blank and Mrs. D. R. (Heidi) Lloyd; two nephews, Donald Hofmann and Edward Hofmann. Rose Ehehalt's funeral was held December 23. We wish to remember her many nieces, nephews and friends. Sis. Christine Hermann was called home. Her funeral was held December 24. May our heavenly Father bless and comfort her brothers, Bro. Reuben Hermann, Arthur Hermann (both of Peoria, IL), Bro. Fred Hermann, Romeo Hermann (both of Morton; her three sisters, Katherine Becker (Morton), Florence Witter (Peoria, IL), Lucille Knabe (Sun City, CA); and her many nieces and nephews. Sis. Lillian Kaiser's funeral was held January 11. She leaves many precious memories with her family. They are her sons: Bro. Kenneth, Bro. Lester and Bro. Harry (all of Morton); her daughter, Sis. Edith Hohulin (Lamar, MO); her sister, Minnie Stortz; and her many grandchildren; great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends. Sophia Aupperle died January 16. We pray that God will be close to and comfort her sons, Kenneth and Steven, both of Morton; her daughter, Mrs. John (Delores) Woodburn (Pontiac, IL); her sisters, Mrs. Chris (Esther) Getz, Mrs. Art (Alvina) Nelson, Mrs. William (Elizabeth) Bartlett; her brothers, Victor and Ervin Kaisner; and her 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

We have two new couples who have recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. Bro. Levi and Sis. Margaret (Pfleiderer) Ricketts and Bro. Sam and Sis. Clara (Schurter) Staker. May they continue to expe-

rience God's love and blessings.

The church rejoiced with the angels in heaven as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of five precious souls January 18 and 19. They were Kim Kaiser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine), Cherise Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl), Wendy Witzig (Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy), April Kruse (Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry) and Ray Grimm (Caroline). It was a blessing for the church to see both young and old turning their lives over to Christ. The families wish to thank everyone who helped with the baptismal dinner.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers and their families for being with us this month. They were Elder Bros. Raymond Banwart (Fort Scott, KS) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and ministering Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

Sis. Naomi Bauman wishes to thank everyone who remembered her with cards, gifts of love, prayers and visits on her 90th birthday and at Christmas time. Your thoughtfulness will be remembered. May God bless all who were so kind.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Jim David

The Peoria church held its annual business meeting Sunday, January 12. Sis. JoAnn Rieker, Sis. Jody Hoerr, Bro. Dan Hoerr and Bro. Loris Knobloch were elected to the Sunday school faculty and Bro. Leon Kaisner was elected to the board of trustees.

Bro. Frank and Sis. Jill Gutwein are rejoicing over the birth of their daughter, Calen Alexandra, who was born December 22. Calen's grandparents are Edwin and Mary Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Stoller (Peoria).

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Emma Rocke, who passed away last month. Our sympathy and prayers also go out to Bro. Adam and Sis. Margo Marx in the passing of Philip Marx, Adam's brother, and to Sis. Maria Graham in the passing of her husband, Gene. May the Lord comfort them all.

Hospital patients last month were Marie Heller, Sis. Marian Reutter and Sis. Diane Roecker. We pray that God may bless them with a complete recovery.

We thank Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) for bringing us the Word of God on New Year's Eve.

Bro. Lester Bittner sends this note of appreciation: "I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all you dear ones who remembered me in your prayers, cards, gifts and good wishes. Also to our dear nieces and nephews and our neighbors at the duplexes for your kindness since my surgery. God bless you richly."

Another note of thanks from Sis. Gillott: "I wish to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, flowers, gifts and visits while being in the hospital. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness."

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka). We thank him and his dear wife for being with us and for his labor of love.

Linda Martin (Sis. Edna and the late Bro. Ray) and Jim Drake were married December 21. Becky Siebenthal and John DeClercq were also married December 21. Greg Siebenthal and Jan Harms announced their engagement Christmas. Sis. Laura Siebenthal feels it is God's will that Bro. James Baxter (Kitchener, Ontario & Detroit, MI) should be her life's companion. They are children of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay. Brian Wieland (Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth) and Renee Stahl (Norman and Pat), Jill Elsasser (Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen) and Keith Teubel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise, Washington) have all announced their engagements. We wish these couples God's direction and guidance in this important step in life as they plan their lives together.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann Stahl are the happy first-time parents of Joshua Douglas born January 12. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty and

Bro. Dale and Sis. Joanne Sauder (Tremont).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Mary Baer (Bro. Herman) and Sis. Bertie Kieser in the death of their father of West Bend, IA. Also to the Lawrence Stahl family, the Alvin Stickling and Theodore Stickling families in their loss.

Sis. Helen Schick has been on the sick list for awhile. May God grant her better health soon.

Our annual church meeting was held Wednesday evening, January 8. Bro. Lawrence Wagenbach was elected trustee; Bro. Ray Wagenbach, fellowship hall trustee; Bro. Bruce Graham, usher; Bro. Richard Graham, Leo Children's Home; Bro. Noah Herrmann on the Bible distribution. We thank the ones that their term expired and pray that God will direct and bless those with new duties.

A young group Bible study was held January 17 at the fellowship hall by Bro. Rich Plattner (Peoria). The topic was "Apathy vs. Practical Christian Living." We thank him for his labor of love for the young singles.

We welcome Bro. Doug and Sis. Cindy Streitmatter and daughter (Peoria) to our fellowship. May the feel a warm welcome.

Left at Princeville fellowship hall October 27, 1991: Men's lightweight jacket, navy blue, size M, brand name Hollywood Design. Call 309-385-4872.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Cathy Hohulin - Annie Hoffman

We are thankful we were able to welcome five new souls as our brothers and sisters-in-Christ this month. They are Dawn Harris (Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda) and two mothers with their sons, Courtney and Phyllis Saider (Gary) and Matt and Barb Gastman (John). We pray that God will richly bless each one and grant them the grace to walk close to Him.

We were privileged to hear Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) who had our monthly Bible study on establishing a Christian environment in our homes. This is something we all need to work on, and thank Bro. Ray for reminding us of

the importance of keeping Christ foremost in our lives and homes.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Bro. Uriel Gehring (Leo, IN) and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley). We thank all of these brothers for their willingness to serve us.

January 8 was our annual business meeting. We thank all of those who have served us and we pray God will bless those who are beginning their new responsibilities.

Bro. Carl Fehr was in the hospital this month. We pray God will be near him and bless him.

Note of Thanks: We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to the many who sympathized and prayed for us in the loss of our dear Sharon. We are overwhelmed by the many prayers, cards, food and memorials. May God bless you all.

Harold and Emma Blunier
and family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Carolyn Bolliger

Marsha Koch

We thank our visiting ministers for sharing God's Word with us this month. They were Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), Greg Rassi (Chicago), Dewayne Dill (Champaign), Jon Zeller (Morton) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA). May God richly reward each one.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Christine Koch had a baby girl December 26. Ashleigh Christine was welcomed home by big brother, Kevin, and big sister, Lindsey. Grandparents are Bro. Jess and Sis. Amy Koch and Aaron and Iris Gschwind. Also Heidi Elizabeth was born January 15 to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Cathy Koch. Sis. Lori welcomed her home. Grandparents are Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch and Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris Baer.

Kappy Koch (Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice) is engaged to Gayle Lowman (Tom and Judy, Pekin). A spring wedding is being planned. Also, Jonathan Wagenbach (Si, Jr. and Sis. Lavonne) and Rebekah Meister (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy) have made their engagement known. They have chosen April 11 for their wedding. May God be with

these couples as they take this important step in life.

Our hospital patients this month were Mary Rowell, Sis. Wilma Bliss (Bro. Floyd) and Sis. Nancy Koch (Bro. Cleo). We're thankful each one is doing fine. Also Bro. Mike Steiner (Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marcella) was hospitalized and we hope he will continue to recover.

Sis. Elizabeth Moser passed away January 14. May God's comforting Spirit be with the family.

Sis. Karen Holmes (Bro. Marshall and sis. Phyllis) has taken a job in Philadelphia, PA. We will miss her here but wish her the best as she follows God's direction.

We are thankful Bro. Dave Beutel has made it home. He is still continuing therapy and needs our prayers for his continuing recovery.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Jan Sigafus - Rita Menold

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life . . ." Sis. Susie Heinold, daughter of Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan, became the bride of Bro. Darren Plattner, son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Jane (Goodfield). We wish them God's rich blessings as they walk through life together, as one.

We were blessed to have had two visiting ministers last month. Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, KS).

"Our most grateful thanks to our elders, ministers and the congregation for the many sincere prayers offered in our behalf. Also for the many visits to the hospital and our home and for the food, gifts, cards and the many kind deeds and much more. We know our heavenly Father will bless you for your love."

Sisters Emily and Martha Simon

Thought for the day:

"A candle loses none of its light by lighting another candle."

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jill Frauhiger - Mary Isch

Even as we begin a new year, God continues to bless us with new little lives. Born December 19 were

Tiffani Marie Tonner and Chelsey Lynn Roop. Tiffani's parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie Tonner. Tiffani joins brothers, Travis and Tadd, at home. Grandparents are Sis. Dorothy Gerber and Bro. Bill and Sis. Diana Tonner. Chelsey's parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Roxanne Roop. Chelsey joins brother, Douglas, at home. Grandparents of Chelsey are Bro. Godfrey and Sis. Anita Bertsch. Bro. Scot and Sis. Tami Shady are first-time parents to a son, Jordan Alan, born January 4. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger. We wish them all God's richest blessings.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 1;21

Bro. Aden Strahm went to his heavenly home January 15. Bro. Aden is survived by his wife, Sis. Mae; a daughter, Sis. Pat Wall; and a son, Dan; along with several grandchildren.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Russell Moser (Sis. Dorothy), Bro. Kim Yergler (Sis. Sue), Bro. Herman Aschliman (Sis. Nina), Sis. Elizabeth Kaehr, Sis. Nellie Bertsch, Jonathan Kipfer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda) and Sara Reinhard (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Shelly). We pray for God's healing power and strength.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

We rejoice with Bro. Dave and Sis. Kim Bertsch as they welcome Joshua Benjamin into their hearts and home. He was born December 20. His grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Imogene and Sis. Frances Bertsch.

Blessed with a new bundle of joy were Clark and Michele Stoller. Little Michael Richard was eagerly anticipated by grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Arlene Stoller.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Sally Shively (Bro. Charles) and Sis. Lela Meyer (Bro. Bob) on the death of their beloved mother, Sis. Mary Moser. She will surely be missed both in our congregation here as well as her pres-

ence at Christian Care Retirement Community.

We were saddened by the passing of Bro. Aden Strahm. We extend our sympathy to daughter, Sis. Pat Wall. May God be near these families and grant them comfort.

Our congregation will surely miss hearing our dear Bro. Bob Meyer proclaim God's Word from the pulpit. After many years of faithful service, Bro. Bob announced his retirement. Although his ministerial duties may be ended, his light and love for our congregation will always be felt.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Bev Huber

On New Year's Eve, we gathered together for our annual service and New Year's Eve program. Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL) shared the evening with us and reminded us about our responsibilities as Christians to be diligent in reading the Word each day.

Joel Westphal and Vicky Hendryx were united in marriage December 28. Bro. Karl Westphal and John and Sharon Hendryx (Star City, IN) are their parents. We wish them God's blessings as they walk down life's pathway together.

Stanley Gutwein (son of Edwin and Mary B. Gutwein) was announced to have peace and is looking forward to baptism.

Recently, Bro. Chris Huber and Sis. Tracey Putt underwent surgery, and Sis. Frances Leman broke her arm. We are thankful they are getting along well.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL). We appreciate them sharing the wonderful Word of God with us. May God richly bless each one!

Address Changed . . .

Give Your New and Old Address
To Your Reporter

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Miriam Gudeman

Carried by the angels
To the land of rest,
Music sweetly sounding thro' the
skies;
Welcomed by the Saviour
To the heav'nly feast,
Gathered with the loved in
Paradise.

Upward, then, and onward!
Onward for the Lord;
Time and talent all in His employ;
Small may seem the service,
Sure the great reward;
Here the cross, but there the
crown of joy.

Gospel Hymns #389

Our hearts are filled with sadness
at the passing of two loved
ones. We will sorely miss the visits
of retired Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin
(Goodfield, IL), father of our dear
Sis. Leann Bucher, and the fellow-
ship of our dear Bro. Bill Jones
(Nashville, IN), beloved husband
of our dear Sis. Ada. May God be
with each family, giving strength
and comfort to their hearts and
minds during this time of sorrow.
Our love and prayers reach out tot
hem.

Our annual business meeting
was held January 22. As terms
were ending, we voted for new re-
cruits. We want to thank each one
who gave of their time and talents
in serving the Lord and church.
May He guide those assuming new
duties.

With open arms we want to wel-
come back Bro. Gordy and Sis.
Kathy Gerber and family. It's so
nice to have them as part of our
family again. May God bless their
new home in Lafayette.

A special thanks to Bro. Ed Alt
(Cissna Park, IL) who came to
share the Word with us this past
month.

Note: Silver Lining collection
(\$9.00) for Indy will be in April.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Barb Troxel

"And she brought forth her first-
born son, and wrapped him in

swaddling clothes, and laid him in
a manger; because there was no
room for them in the inn."

Luke 2:7

Once again our Sunday school
students told us the cherished story
of Christ's birth at our Christmas
program December 22. It is always
a special time to hear our youth tell
the story we love to hear.

We were privileged to have Bro.
Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) minis-
ter to us Christmas Day. We want
to thank him for his efforts.

As 1991 came to a close, we an-
ticipate 1992 even though we do
not know that is in the future. A
goal that we can all have is to be-
come more Christ-like.

MORE CHRISTLIKE

God, I know you're not in a hurry.
Your plans for me are on time.
You need no schedule or reminders
For I'm always on your mind.

I know you have drawn the mosaic
And you're fitting each tile in place.
As I continue to follow your plan,
Help me not hurry or race.

Waiting is so often difficult,
And patience I don't easily learn.
But to have my life more Christlike
Is what I seek for and yearn.

So as my life's pattern continues
And the next part begins to unfold.
It's you I'm trusting and praising.
It's Your hand I cling to and hold.

Elaine Wright Colvin

"In days of youth seek ye the
Lord, His love and truth with one
accord, Go offer Him thy youthful
days and walk within the Savior's
ways . . ."

"Youth"

Hymns of Zion #135

Eric Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis.
Sandy) and Ned Stoller (Bro. Steve
and Sis. Anna Marie) have sought
the Lord in their youthful days and
found that wonderful peace the Lord
offers us. They are now awaiting
baptism.

We want to extend a special
thank you to Elder Bros. Andy
Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Wen-

dell Gudeman (Francesville, IN)
for assisting in reading the confer-
ence report. We appreciate the care
and concern that the elder body
puts into planning and writing the
conference report. It is very rel-
evant to our daily lives.

Our prayers are with Bro.
Ralph Levy (Sis. Carolyn) as he
recuperates from his recent sur-
gery. May the Lord grant His heal-
ing powers.

INDIANA, LEO
Thelma Schlatter

Following a season of activity,
this past month has settled into a
more quiet routine; however,
whether we are rushing about or
resting, running or walking, time
moves steadily and relentlessly on.
Here we are already into the sec-
ond month of the New Year. Time
began at creation for "in the be-
ginning" everything was created
by God (Genesis 1). This age of
time will come to an end (Revela-
tion 10:6, 21:1). It's during the little
parcel of time and space we oc-
cupy upon this earth that eternal
destiny is determined. If we be-
lieve in Him, let us redeem the
time serving Him and sharing His
love with others; but if you have
not yet believed, there is no better
time and there may be no other
time than today. (Some thoughts
taken from a Good News article "
Waldo Spear)

Mike and Sis. Janet Campbell
moved here some months ago. We
welcome them and trust they feel
at home in our church family.

Plans are being made for host-
ing the mid-year conference at Leo.

Bits of This and That:

Don't only count your blessings.
Be one!

Attach a boy to a good man,
and he will seldom go wrong.

What position does Christ have
in your home? Is He an Outsider,
and Occupant or the Owner?

If you wouldn't write it and sign
it, don't say it.

Walk softly. Speak tenderly.
Pray fervently.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

EVERY HOUR OF THE DAY

At the dawning of day in the cool
 morning hour,
 When the birds sing with sweet
 melody;
 I will call on my Lord for His
 guidance that day,
 That He lead me aright, is my plea.

As the sun does ascend to the sky
 up above,
 And my work for the day does
 begin;
 I will call on my Lord for His
 wisdom and grace,
 To protect me from evil and sin.

In the heat of the day when
 temptation is near,
 And the burden of care presses
 down;
 I will call on my Lord who can
 lighten my load,
 He will help me to win heaven's
 crown.

At the close of the day when the
 sun has gone down,
 And the twilight is fading away;
 I will call on my Lord Who will
 watch over me,
 Through the night 'til the dawning
 of day.

Every hour of the day I can call
 on my Lord,
 And believe He will always be there.
 I can trust in His promises, so
 faithful and sure,
 And I know He will answer my
 prayer.

What a comfort we have know-
 ing we can call on the Lord any-
 time of the day and believe He will
 always be there, ready to listen.
 Many times this past month we
 have found ourselves lifting up in
 prayer our friends and brethren
 who have gone through some very
 rough days. Sis. Millie Beer, Sis.
 Sandy Beer, Bro. John Lehman,
 Jr. and Simon Beer (son of Bro.
 Steve and Sis. Connie) have all
 spent time in the hospital follow-
 ing surgery. Tillie Kasbaum is pres-
 ently confined to her home with
 another cracked vertebra.

Several from our congregation
 had the opportunity to assist with
 the World Relief meat canning
 project in our area. Nearly 3,000
 cans of beef were processed daily
 for 9 to 10 consecutive days.
 Though this project many needs
 were bountifully supplied. In Mat-
 thew 25, verses 35 and 40, Jesus
 states, "For I was hungered, and
 ye gave me meat . . . Inasmuch as
 ye have done it unto one of the
 least of these my brethren, ye have
 done it unto me." We should al-
 ways be ready and willing to lend a
 hand when there is a need.

Joyfully we share in the happi-
 ness of a newly-married couple. Tim
 Troup (son of Bro. Bill and Sis.
 Anne) and Angela Beckman
 (daughter of Ron and Ginny, Mont-
 gomery, AL) were married Decem-
 ber 28. We want to wish them God's
 richest blessings as they begin their
 life together. May their love con-
 tinue to grow for each other and
 for the Lord. Our prayers go with
 them as they establish their first
 home in Hawaii, where Tim will
 continue his duty in the service.

December 30 marks a special
 day for Steve and Heidi Rozow, for
 a precious baby girl, Hannah Leigh,
 was entrusted into their care.
 Grateful for this little blessing are
 grandparents, Bro. Phil and Sis.
 Millie Beer.

During our annual business
 meeting six brothers and three sis-
 ters were elected to fill needed po-
 sitions in the church. Serving in
 Sunday school are Bros. Dan Beer,
 Steve Price and Stan Wuthrich and
 Sisters Carol Hurd and Sandy Beer.
 Taking care of the needs of the
 brotherhood assistance programs
 are Bros. Tom Price and Alan
 Wuthrich. Our newly-elected
 trustee is Bro. Cap Beer. Sis. Dor-
 othy Steffen will assist in our World
 Relief Sewing Circle. May these
 brothers and sisters' service for
 Jesus be blessed.

Holidays always seem to bring
 families together. Our Milford con-
 gregation benefited from these fam-
 ily ties when Elder Bro. Ray Sinn
 (Latty, OH) and Bro. Wayne
 Lehman (South Bend, IN) came to
 visit. We always appreciate our vis-
 iting ministers.

Out of a concern for the indi-

vidual and the family, Elder Bro.
 Ray, along with Bro. Bob Beebe
 (South Bend) assisted our Elder
 Bro. Jesse Beer in reading the con-
 ference letter. We were encouraged
 in many areas to strive to do a
 little better and draw closer to our
 Lord. We humbly thank Bros. Ray
 and Bob for their love and care.

Our sympathy is extended to
 Russ Mikel in the passing away of
 his grandmother, Bertha Mikel,
 January 12.

At the close of our New Year's
 Eve service, our retired Elder Bro.
 Theo Beer spoke briefly to us of a
 few ministerial memories he had
 tucked away. In his lifetime, he
 has seen many pillars of the church
 live for and die in the Lord. The
 Lord has been gracious to Bro. Theo
 and Sis. Naoma in granting them a
 long and fruitful life. They have
 been a source of strength and en-
 couragement to many over the
 years. Even at 94, Bro. Theo's mes-
 sage remains the same, we need to
 be ready to meet the Lord at any
 time. In closing he said, "We're go-
 ing to start a new year at mid-
 night. None of us know how long
 we will be in this new year. We
 know the old must die but the
 young often do die . . . It is impor-
 tant that we keep our spiritual
 house in order . . . I bid farewell to
 1991 and I'm going to welcome
 1992. If it's the Lord's will, I'll en-
 joy worshipping with you every day
 that the Lord grants me life."

INDIANA, REMINGTON

To look out on the beautiful,
 white world this morning one re-
 calls how the Lord used the word
 "snow" to illustrate a point. "Come
 now and let us reason together,
 saith the Lord: though your sins be
 as scarlet, they shall be as white as
 snow." Think of it! Scarlet sins
 washed in His red blood and made
 white as snow!

Our Sis. Louise Waibel was
 privileged to spend Christmas in
 heaven. She passed away at
 Parkview Haven a week before
 Christmas at the age of 89 years.
 Her funeral was Saturday, Decem-
 ber 21. One sister, Sarah Blunier
 (Eureka, IL) and a number of nieces
 and nephews survive. Sis. Sarah

and the nieces and nephews wish to extend their thanks to the many who showed special kindnesses to Sis. Louise in her declining years, as well as to them at the time of her death.

We were happy to have Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) minister to us Christmas Day.

It was good to see the Art Nussbaums in church Sunday. He has been in and out of the hospital several times lately. He now is on a dialysis machine three times a week.

A van load of young sisters and brothers were en route to Sabetha, KS, Friday night, January 11, when they met with an accident. Sis. Sue Waibel (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen) did sustain back injury and has been in the hospital since. We certainly hope and pray for a full recovery for her.

On January 12, we had visiting ministers, Bro. Paul Eisenman (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Ken Eisenman (Cissna Park, IL). We thank you brothers and Bro. Virgil for visiting us, as well as those who accompanied you. Please visit us again.

Thought for the day:
A good thing to remember
And a better thing to do,
To work with the construction gang
And not with the wrecking crew.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

Happy New Year brothers and sisters across the land! Did you make your resolutions for the year? Have you broken them yet? The Lord give you grace to make your goals.

Probably the most common resolution we hear among Christians is "I'm going to try to be a better Christian this year." That's a great resolution, but it's such a general statement that we really don't know where to begin do we?

Let's do it different this year. We know we all need to read, pray and be better witnesses for the Lord. Instead of spreading ourselves so thin trying to accomplish this all at one time, let's be more specific. Let's set the same time up for reading every day. Let's pray

whenever we can, but for sure at specific times of the day when we know we have a break in our schedules. And let us all know how we should witness. Let's study the Word to the point where we can be instant in season and out of season.

It's been a quiet month for us at Valparaiso. We're looking forward to our annual meeting and Lord willing, to share fellowship with our dear Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and family this month. We need that spiritual leadership and pray for all our elders and ministers; that God would grant all spiritual wisdom as only He can do.

Have a Spirit-filled year and stop and worship with us if you get a chance. We love to fellowship and meet you all.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

Several loved ones in our congregation have been hospital patients within this past month. Eric Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa) submitted to surgery. Sis. Donita Edelman (Bro. Kip) and Bethany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) both had brief hospital stays. We are thankful the Lord was with each one of them, and they are now home experiencing the healing of His touch and time.

Our sympathy is surely extended to David and Shellie Kyburz in the passing of her father, Lawrence Meier. May God comfort their hearts.

We rejoice with Bob and Irene Radcliffe who have been able to experience the peace of God in their hearts. Bob's current health condition prevents them from coming to church, but it is their prayer and ours that God will strengthen him and open the way for them to be able to come, give their testimonies and be baptized.

God graciously spared the lives of our young group in an accident they encountered while traveling to another one of our congregations. May we all be more mindful of, and thankful for, His traveling mercies each time we come and go.

On January 6, we held our an-

nual business meeting. We thank those who have carried out duties within the church in the past year and pray God's grace and wisdom on those who have assumed these responsibilities.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Jana Massner - Carolyn Wulf

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of Sis. Esther Peterson in the passing of her son, Wallace Peterson. We trust she may feel God's comforting Spirit in this time of loss.

Sis. Clara Frank, formerly of the Oakville and Burlington area was called to her rest. She had been residing at the Fairbury Nursing Home for the past 3½ years. May her loved ones who still wait on this side feel God's peaceful Spirit. We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Sis. Clara also.

As the new year starts, it is also time again to replace various ones in jobs that keep our church running in proper order. May God bless those who have fulfilled their terms and may those who assume new responsibilities, do so willingly, to the honor and praise of God.

February is the month that Burlington Silver Lining dues are to be paid. It is \$9.00 for one year.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain
But we shall still be joined in
heart
And hope to meet again.

With sad hearts we bid farewell to Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch and family as they leave us and move on to the Winthrop, MN, area. We don't always understand the leading of God but trust that as He directs He will also bless. Our special thanks to Bro. Jim for serving us from the pulpit and pray that God will continue to bless his work in the Lord.

We had one visiting minister this past month, Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). Our thanks to

you, Bro. Kent for serving us. May God bless you.

May we find comfort in God's promise, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues of \$9.00 are due for the Elgin, IA, congregation the month of February.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Dawn Moser

On Sunday, December 15, we again heard the story of Jesus' birth through our children. We often wonder who is the most excited about the program: the children, the teachers or the parents. Everyone had happy faces and the excitement filled the air. After the program, we had our monthly pot-luck supper. A beautiful day we really did have.

Hospital patients these past two months have been Bro. Tony Funk, Megan Funk (Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen) and Bro. Tom Moser.

We want to again thank all of our visitors for joining us in Sunday worship. Each one of you mean so much to us and we hope you know our deep appreciation for you. A special thanks to the ministers and their wives for being committed enough to come and share with us. Our thank yous seem so inadequate. Our ministers were Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Harvey Heiniger (Burlington, IA), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA).

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We greatly appreciated all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and his family. God bless you for taking the time and making the effort to share the day with us.

We have been encouraged several times this month to be more faithful in prayer. The authors of the following commentaries and hymn also noted the power of and need for persistent prayer.

Streams in the Desert January 19

"Men ought always to pray and not to faint."

Luke 18:1

"Go to the ant." Tammerland used to relate to his friends an anecdote of his early life. "I once," he said, "was forced to take shelter from my enemies in a ruined building, where I sat alone many hours. Desiring to divert my mind from my hopeless condition, I fixed my eyes on an ant that was carrying a grain of corn larger than itself up a high wall. I numbered the efforts it made to accomplish this object. The grain fell sixty-nine times to the ground; but the insect persevered, and the seventieth time it reached the top. This sight gave me courage at the moment, and I never forgot the lesson.

The King's Business

Prayer which takes the fact that past prayers have not been answered as a reason for languor, has already ceased to be the prayer of faith. To the prayer of faith, the fact that prayers remain unanswered is only evidence that the moment of the answer is so much nearer. From first to last, the lessons and examples of our Lord all tell us that prayer which cannot persevere and urge its plea importunately, and renew, and renew itself again, and gather strength from every past petition, is not the prayer that will prevail.

William Arthur

If a single fervent pray'r
Of a soul prevailing
On the tender heart of God
Brings its fruit unfailing,
How much more Is in store,
When whole congregations
Bring their supplication?

O the strength and might
unknown
Of the Christians' praying!
Without this could not be done
All they are essaying;
Thus alone There is won
Victory o'er deceivers,
Triumph for believers!

Prayers for inmost depth of heart
Find the Master's favor,
And the Christian's highest art
Is to please the Saviour.
So should we watchful be,
Waiting, hoping, longing
For His second coming.

"The Power of Prayer"
Zion's Harp #174, vs. 6, 9, 13

IOWA, LESTER Cindy Leuthold Mary Knobloch

We are so thankful that God has protected each one who has traveled across the miles to spend the holidays with loved ones. And that He allowed a number of visiting ministers to be spent in our behalf and visit in our vicinity. Those who spent time with the Lester congregation over the past month were Bros. Doug Grimm and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Jim Knobloch (Elgin), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Nate Stoller (Bradford, IL). We thank each one who spoke God's Word and joined us in worship.

We have those in our congregation who have spent time in the hospital. We ask that God's healing power will restore a measure of health to each one. Those hospitalized recently were Sam Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet), Ed Martin (Judy) and Sis. Freda Giesel.

Thought for the day:

You don't stop smiling when you grow old -

You grow old when you stop smiling.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach Melody Steiner

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

When a Christian dies
In repose he lies.
As in slumber, worn and weary,

He in silent grave will tarry
Until called to rise
By our God all wise.

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

Hymns of Zion #248

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Sis. Clara Frank. Her strong faith and example really touched a lot of hearts. She lived in our area for many years until just a few years ago when she moved to our home in Fairbury. We know her children, Bro. Robert, Bro. Norman, John, Kenny and Ed Frank, also Sis. Lillian Ramseyer, Sis. Evelyn Schmidt, Sis. Ruth Pflederer and Betty Witte will feel the loss but know she has fought the fight and kept the faith.

We want to offer our prayers and support to those brothers and sisters who have recently been put in to help take care of many of the physical needs of our church. As church trustee, Bro. Bob Siegle; sister's committee, Sisters Leann Siegle and Bonnie Wagenbach; cemetery committee, Bro. Tom Lindeen; fellowship center, Bro. Ken Lanz; World Relief, Sis. Carol Steiner. We also want to thank all of those who have completed their terms for their time and service.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend), Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). We thank each of these brothers for allowing themselves to be used in sharing God's Word with us.

IOWA, PULASKI
Teresa Schock
Carol Wettstein

Our visiting minister this past month was Elder Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka, IL).

Sis. Esther Rinkenberger (Bro. Cleo) spent a few days in the hospital and Josh Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn) suffered a broken arm.

We extend heartfelt sympathy

to Gary Kellenberger, who attends college in our area in the sudden death of his mother, Sis. Sharon (Bro. Keith, Elgin, IL).

As we have observed in the past how quickly loved ones can be taken out of this life, we also experience the miracle of a birth, as in the case of Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynne Musselman (Champaign). Little Zachary Christian has brought much joy into the lives of first-time grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy Musselman, and also great-grandparents, Bro. Cleo and Sis. Esther Rinkenberger, and Bro. Howard and Sis. Irene Musselman (all of Pulaski).

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber

"Another year is dawning, Dear Master let it be, on earth, or else in heaven, Another year for thee." Hymns of Zion #150, vs. 5. As we reflect on the past year, we note that three dear souls have gone to their reward. Also 17 souls have made a covenant with our dear Lord, 7 babies were born, and 7 marriages took place. May God bless each of these souls in the year ahead.

We have been blessed with a host of visiting ministers this past month. Those willing to let themselves be used in God's service were: Bros. Dale Moore and Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA), Trent Meiss (Iowa City), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Myron Knobloch (Lester).

Dave and Diane Gerber welcomed little Callie Ann, December 28. Carl, Annette and Amanda, along with grandparents, Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber, and Mark and Laura Montag are showering her with love and care. May God be near them.

We wish the Lord's blessings on three dear couples who have entered into marriage. May they look to God as they establish an earthly house. But much more "what therefore God joined together, let not man put asunder." Matthew 19:6. We extend congratulations to Doug and Liz Worth (Fred and Fay Worth and Bob and Kay Banwart), Jerry and Lori Wickman (Bro. Larry and

Sis. Marvella Wickman and Dale and Cleo Bohn) and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sandy Banwart (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart and Jim and Sherry Schmidt).

Our prayers are with Bro. Ervin Mogler (Sis. Elma) who was hospitalized with cancer recently. He is home again and we pray he and Sis. Elma will feel the Lord's loving care. Other hospital patients this month were Sis. Noma Fehr, Sis. Edna Banwart (Mrs. Levi) and Sis. Deb Bruellman (Bro. Mark).

The Lord has called home a faithful servant, Bro. George Sauder, age 93, who passed away December 15. Our sympathy goes out to his children, Ellis and Grace Sauder (Virginia), Sis. Bertha Kieser (Princeville, IL), Virgil and Mildred Sauder (Morris, MN), Mildred and Joe Siepka (Chicago, IL), Sis. Mary and Bro. Herman Baer (Princeville, IL), Dorothy and Richard Zaugg (West Bend), George Sauder, Jr. (Minneapolis, MN) and Sis. Joyce and Bro. Lloyd Knohl (McAllen, TX). As we were reminded in the funeral service, he was a carpenter, building and remodeling houses. He was also building his spiritual house and allowing God to mould and fit him for His kingdom.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Evelyn and Bro. Ivan Schmidt on the death of Sis. Evelyn's stepmother, Sis. Clara (Eisenmann) Frank of Oakville. Likewise our sympathy goes out to Sis. Adele and Bro. Harley Bruellman in the loss of Adele's stepmother, Sis. Esther (Knapp) Esslinger of Sabetha, KS.

We do appreciate so very much the efforts of Sunday school students and teachers as the Sunday school so beautifully told the story of Christmas in word and song.

We want to extend best wishes to Peggy Grimm (Eli, Jr. and Margaret) and Greg Pfeffer (Jim and Neva, Mankata, MN) as they have announced their engagement. A summer wedding is being planned.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

From toddlers to grandfathers, they all had a part in the Christ-

mas program. Instead of the Sunday school students presenting the Christmas program by themselves, this year the entire church participated in the program. After the program, we had our traditional turkey dinner. It was indeed a blessed day.

At the end of December, Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue hosted a Christmas young people's meeting (upper elementary through high school). It was very well attended. We pray that these meetings might have a positive effect upon the boys and girls who come.

We want to extend a special thank you to Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle who made the trip to Tokyo a couple of times to assist in the Lord's work. His Bible study he presented at the ladies' meeting was much appreciated.

The first weekend of the New Year, Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue hosted a supper and singing for Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Kaeb (Forrest, IL) and their little daughter, Kristen, who were visiting Sis. Terri Gramm. We enjoyed the fellowship that we could have with them.

Sis. Haruyo Onoda's son, Yuichi (20) broke his vertebra in a skiing accident. Although he has to be hospitalized for several months, we are thankful to God that he was not paralyzed and will not have permanent damage. God is indeed a God of miracles.

KANSAS, BERN

Donna Edelman - Diane Kaeb

As the new year unfolds, may we be thankful for another year to serve God and obey His Word. We know not what the future holds but what a peace we have knowing that all is in the Master's hands.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh . . ." (St. Mark 10:7-8). On January 4, Sis. Camille Strahm was united in holy matrimony to Bro. Wayne Hartzler. Parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm and Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Hartzler. We wish them God's blessings and grace.

A PRAYER FOR OUR HOME

God grant our home may always be

A place of quiet prayer -
A peaceful spot, because Thou art
The loving Master here!

And may an air of happiness

Fill every room and hall,
And cheer the hearts of those who
dwell

And friendly guests who call!
May respect and faith and
courage

Its strong foundation be -
A monument down here below
Of our deep love for Thee.

Jon Gilbert

With us for the wedding were Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City), Bros. Fred Pomka (Mansfield, OH), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Max Reimschisel (Wichita) and Don Braker (Kansas City). Also this month we were thankful to have Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita) with us. We always appreciate these visiting brothers who allow God's Word to speak to us through them.

The engagement of Chris Strahm (Clayton and Miriam) and Tim Moore (John and Barbara) was announced. They are planning a February wedding.

Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm announce the engagement of their daughter, Sara, to Ed Popkess (Roger and Lana). An April wedding is being planned. May the Lord richly bless these two couples as they plan for their future together.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Glenda and Bro. Allen Rokey and Sis. Gloria and Bro. Darrell Stoller on the death of their uncle, Fred Strahm. Also to Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner and Leslie and Leora Baumgartner on the passing of their aunt, Mamie Abshier. May God grant comfort to each one and may the many memories they have linger and be rekindled for years to come.

Our annual business meeting was held January 10. May God bless those who have completed their terms and may He guide the newly-elected brothers and sisters as they start their duties.

Our prayers are with Bro. Harvey Grimm as he is in the hospital due to a heart problem. May Bro. Harvey and Sis. Marie feel God's nearness and strength during this time.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Teresa Bahr

We appreciated our recent visiting ministers who were Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO).

The blessing is ours to have Bro. Dave and Sis. Jolene Sinn and family move back to Fort Scott from Ohio.

On December 15, the Sunday school students presented their annual Christmas program. In the youngest class there were eight students this year and each child had both parents and one set of grandparents in the audience. Praise the Lord!

The weather was favorable enough this year so the Sunday school was able to go Christmas caroling.

"Walk humbly with thy God."
Micah 6:8

Humility is no sentimental notion. It is the well-worn pathway to heaven . . . and also a good way to walk the earth.

Glenna Oldham
January 8 Quote from
Heavenly Blessings calendar

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

We held our annual business meeting with the following election results: Bro. Lon Banwart, trustee; Bro. John Sinn, usher; Sis. Tammy Sinn and Sis. Janelle Sinn, Silver Lining reporters; Sis. Carol Sinn, food committee; Bro. Dave Sinn, Sabetha Home representative.

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

The winter months have brought lots of activity to our college town! We held our annual Christmas caroling and chili supper the week before finals. All of our group extends its thanks to those who came. It was a very enjoyable evening!

Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) spoke to us about his recent trip to India. It was definitely a learning experience for all of us. We appreciate his time and effort to come the distance so we could have a small taste of his experience.

Our thanks go to Bro. Jay Luthi and Bro. Bill (Lamont, KS) who came to proclaim God's Word on our regular Wednesday evening services. We also appreciated Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) who both came on Wednesday evenings. May God bless these brothers for their willingness to share what He has to offer.

We congratulate Bro. Brad Strahm who completed his bachelor's degree in food engineering this past December. May the Lord lead him as he continues his education.

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

DON'T WORRY

Don't worry, your life is in His hands,
He knows and He loves and He understands.
So what if you stumble now and then,
He always picks you up again.
Don't sigh and fret and spoil the day,
Nobody always gets His way.
Think of your, "blessings," heaven knows
Folks have a way of forgetting those.
Don't squander years that you could fill
With such tremendous worth until

One by one the chances pass,
Like sand within an hour glass.
Don't worry and wish and plot
and plan,
Remember the mighty oak began
From nothing more than one
small seed,
. . . And God is aware of what you
need.

Grace E. Easley

It's human nature to worry, and it takes a lot of faith to overcome our nature and just trust God to see us through this life worry-free. But when we do have that kind of faith, how very blessed we are, for we walk with a calm assurance that every minute and hour of every day we have a Guide to show us the way.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Matilda Schupbach and Sis. Elizabeth Diel who were hospital patients this month, and also to loved ones who were hit by the flu epidemic that we had here. We are small here, and really miss those who are unable to worship with us.

We had two very special celebrations this month: our dear friends, Alice Allenbach celebrates her 85th birthday, and Bro. John Hoffman celebrated his 100th birthday. Both had receptions: Bro. John at Friendship Manor here in Kiowa and Alice at the home of Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lois Allenbach's home. We love and appreciate them both, and pray that should God grant us that many years of life, we may be as faithful as they are in attending church, for very seldom do either of them miss.

We had a wonderful turnout for our services at Friendship Manor again this month, and there is a Bible verse that comes to mind when I think of those who are so faithful in church attendance, support of singings, Bible study, mid-week services, and holding offices determined in our annual meeting each January: Colossians 3:23, "And whatever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." God bless you all.

Silver Lining dues for Kiowa are due in February.

Have A Great Day in the Lord!

**KANSAS, LAMONT
Jane Isch**

We are deeply grateful to Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) for visiting and ministering to us this past month. May the Lord richly bless him for all his efforts.

Our annual business meeting was held recently and the following brothers and sister were elected to fill the positions. Bro. Glen Anliker was re-elected on the church board and Bro. Jay Luthi as church treasurer. Bro. Ron Isch is the new Sunday school teacher and Sis. Mary Isch was elected for the food committee. Bro. Max Burnham was chosen for treasurer of the real estate insurance board. May God direct them in their various duties.

We each have duties to perform in our faith, whether specially elected duties or the duty of being a true brother and sister in the church. May we do them willingly and God will surely reward our efforts.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Sharon Strahm - Beth Hartter**

We wish to express our sympathy to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm and family in the loss of Lois' brother, Fred Strahm (Ladysmith, WI). Fred lost his life as the result of an automobile accident.

It was a blessing to have Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) among us as visiting ministers this past month.

Sis. Marie Plattner is once again home after spending time in the hospital as a medical patient. We trust she will feel stronger with each passing day.

I did a favor yesterday,
A kindly little deed . . .
And then I called to all the world
To stop and look and heed.
They stopped and looked and
flattered me
In words I could not trust
And when the world had gone away
My good deed turned to dust.

A very tiny courtesy
I found to do today,
T'was quickly done, with none to
see,
And then I ran away . . .
But someone must have witnessed
it,
For – truly I declare –
As I sped back the stony path
Roses were blooming there.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Praise the Lord! Sara Gallatin (daughter of Joe and Sis. Kathleen) became our sister-in-faith Sunday, December 22, when she was baptized. Elder Bro. Ron Nelson (Kiowa) and Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont) ministered to us on that joyful day.

Sis. Gussie Wullschleger became grandmother to Ryan Antonio January 7 when he was born to Kermit and Jeanette Wullschleger. They reside in Visalia, CA.

Bro. Godfrey Miller was a hospital patient in early January. He and I appreciate the prayers of our caring congregation.

We have begun a series of Bible study lessons on the book of Nehemiah. God provided for Nehemiah as he worked against one obstacle after another. We can take courage from his example that God will help us perform the difficult tasks encountered in our various roles.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

Recently here in Michigan we had a two-week-long period where the sun rarely came out from behind the clouds. Except for a little peek early in the morning, it was overcast and gloomy and just not very cheerful weather. Yet as I write this, there is a new coating of snow on the ground, the sky is a clear blue and the sun is brilliant!

It just made me think of how thankful we need to be for the "Sunshine" in our lives. Jesus is close by us with His love every moment of every day and though the skies become gloomy and maybe our hearts too, He will always be there to guide

and uplift us out of the darkness of the clouds and into His light!

The light shone out from our children's faces as they shared their verses and songs with us at their Christmas program December 15. From the youngest to the oldest we again heard the wondrous story of our Saviour's birth some two thousand years ago.

On January 11 we held our annual business meeting. Those brothers and sisters elected are as follows: Terry Steffen (Sis. Laurie) as secretary for a second term; Otto Schlatter (Sis. Pat) as treasurer for a second term; Marvin Blough (Sis. Liz) as trustee, replacing Bro. Fred Oesch (Sis. Donna); Donna Gerst (Bro. Wally) on the food committee, replacing Sis. Penny Erismann (Bro. Ron); Laurie Steffen (Bro. Terry) on the World Relief committee, replacing Sis. Marguerite Blough (Bro. Noah) and Wes Daniels (Sis. Sue) as usher, replacing Bro. Wally Gerst (Sis. Donna). We pray they will each find a special blessing in being willing servants of the Lord!

Our hearts rejoice with Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen at the announcement of their son, Mark's, engagement to Sis. Stacey Baum. Both Bro. Mark and Sis. Stacey live in Phoenix and are planning a March wedding. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they plan their wedding.

In the hospital last month for surgery was Bro. Bill Gerst. He spent a lengthy recovery time at home and we are thankful to have him feeling much better and most of all for the Lord's care in healing Bro. Bill.

Visiting Alto this past month was Bro. Tom Schrenk and we ask a special blessing for his willingness to minister the Word to us.

Each year is like a little book
With leaves and covers bound.
Our deeds and acts are written
there,

The year's events are found.
The record of the past events
Was all removed by grace
He then a book with pages fair
Within our hearts did place.
We trust that He may now record
Some deeds of truth and light!

May goodness in our life abound
To make the pages bright.

Henry Beer

As the calendar marks the beginning of a new year, we often make resolutions to get certain things done or to change something about our life. Sometimes we keep these resolutions, though often they are put on the shelf to be pulled out at a later time. May we never put our love for the Lord on the shelf, but always keep it at the front of our life where others can see its light and know we are His!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Emily Rechsteiner

Wishing you all a very blessed, happy and healthy New Year. May we feel like the hymn in Hymn's of Zion #150, vs. 1:

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

So far we have had a mild winter, more rain than snow, which is bad for colds and flu. We did have a good snowstorm today.

We again are enjoying our monthly fellowship dinners. World Relief sewing has also begun.

Sis. Helen Wieland and Sis. Naomi Ramseyer have reached the four score year. May God continue to bless them with happy and healthy years.

Many went to witness the wedding of Bro. Nate Wieland and Sis. Susan Schieler in Fairbury, IL. Bro. Nate grew up in Bay City. They will be living in Detroit. Hopefully they will visit Bay City once in awhile. We wish them God's blessings and wisdom. As in "O God of Wisdom," Hymns of Zion #286, vs. 3 and 4:

As they go forth upon life's way
Sustain them by Thy grace,
May they Thy holy law obey,
And live in joy and peace.

May they with holy lives adorn,
Thy doctrine Lord and be,
Amid life's sunshine and its storm
True witnesses for Thee.

Happy grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Connee Pashak, their daughter, Lori, and Matt Arbour were blessed with a baby girl, Mallory Brooke.

Bro. Robert Knochel had eye surgery and Katherine Wackerle (Ronald) had knee surgery. We wish them speedy recoveries.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Marlene Reinhard
Holly Barton

We extend our belated congratulations to Steve Dawson (fiancé of Julie Martin) on his graduate from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. May the Lord lead Julie and Steve in all their future endeavors.

Illness and death have touched some loved ones in our congregation this month. We are thankful to have Sis. Helen Popo (Bro. George) back in church after being injured in a fall. Bro. Jim Barton (Sis. Vi) spent a few days in the hospital for observation. At this time Sis. Ann Tacher's brother is hospitalized in serious condition. We extend our sympathy to Steve and Mary Hohulin on the death of Steve's grandfather, retired Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). We also pray for God's comfort to Brian and Kathy Barton as Kathy's mother recently died of cancer. May all who are suffering reach out to the Lord, Who is our sufficiency in times of need.

We enjoyed having ministering Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue Heimer (Alto, MI) at Woodhaven for our monthly evening service. We thank them for being willing to make a trip that lasted longer than the service did! Our next service will be held Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. and will be hosted by Toledo, OH.

Our annual business meeting has resulted in a number of new office members. New ushers are Bro. Doug Reinhard and Bro. Nate Wieland, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard were selected to serve on the World Relief Committee. Representatives for the Home for the Handicapped continue to be Bro. Jim Barton and Bro. Walt Bauer, alternate. Bro. Dan Knochel will stay on as our Gateway Woods

representative, with Bro. John Gleichman serving as alternate. New kitchen committee members are Sis. Judy Aberle and Sis. Mary Weigele. We thank those whose terms of service have expired.

We recently gathered together to share the reading of the memorandum. I thought how very appropriate the topic of the family is for our day. Both the physical family and the family of God are in jeopardy, suffering from casualness and lack of commitment. May we all be resolved to do our part not only to preserve both "families," but to help them thrive. The world needs good examples! We thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for sharing this task with our home elder and deacon.

There are two couples here, who, after first accepting the privilege of joining the family of God, are endeavoring to build Godly families of their own. We share in the joy of the union of Bro. Nate Wieland (Bro. Roger and Sandy Buza, Bay City) and Sis. Suzanne Schieler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice, Fairbury, IL) who were married in Fairbury, December 29. A singing shower was held for them January 11 and we warmly welcome Sis. Suzanne to our fellowship.

On January 12, we heard of the engagement of Bro. Jim Baxter (Kitchener, Ontario) to Sis. Laura Siebenthal (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay, Princeville, IL). We pray for God's leading and provision for both of these couples as they establish their homes together.

Mansfield, OH, will host services in Kitchener, Ontario, March 15. We encourage you to contact Bro. Walter Fortenbacher at (519) 699-4133 if you are interested in joining them.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

"... All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God

shall stand for ever." Isaiah 40:6-8. We were recently reminded of the frailty of man and the power of our almighty God.

Bro. Noah Miller is able to assemble with us after spending some time in the hospital.

On January 18, Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) joined our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) in sharing with us conference conclusions. We are thankful for our elder brothers who give so freely of themselves. Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) also reminded us that we should pattern ourself after God's Word and not after man.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Debra Joos - Christa Sauder

We have so many wonderful freedoms in this blessed nation. Many of us enjoy the freedom of traveling across miles to visit other congregations at various times. We have enjoyed the fellowship of visiting brethren who came over the holidays and early in this new year. We want to thank those ministering brethren who served us in the Word. We were blessed to have with us Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA) and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL).

We rejoice to see our congregation growing. We warmly welcome Bro. Keith and Sis. Jodi Schieler and their young son, Austin, to our congregation. We are happy to have them worship and fellowship with us.

We pray for those who must endure bodily afflictions and may God heal as is His will. Sis. Anna Nohl (Bro. Henry) had the misfortune of falling and breaking her arm. Bro. Gilbert Schmidgall (Sis. Barbara), Bro. Orville Nohl and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wally) have been hospital patients.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Helen Schaefer (Bro. Otto) in the death of her sister, Sis. Clara Frank (Oakville, IA).

The 1991 statistics for the Morris congregation were: 9 births, 1 death, 18 baptisms and 2 weddings.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Georgia Messner
Kim Messner**

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt had the privilege of celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and was blessed to have all their children with them on the day.

We had a pleasant surprise also that Sunday morning as Bro. Don Miller and family (Minneapolis, MN) assembled with us and brought forth God's precious Word.

The weekend of December 28 and 29, we were doubly blessed and we were able to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our dear friend Rick Messner (Sis. Brenda). Our Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Dennis Warner were here to perform this important event. It is a true blessing to greet Bro. Rick as a brother-in-faith.

This same weekend we were also privileged to have the reading of the memorandum.

Our only hospital patient this month was Bro. Ray Messner (Sis. Bernadine), who was a surgical patient. We would also like to take this time to remember the elderly ones in our prayers as they also have days when they just don't feel well.

We want to welcome Bro. Jim and Sis. Mary Knobloch and family to our congregation as they have moved here from Elgin, IA. We truly realize that the Elgin congregation will miss them as we are also a small church.

We want to remember our elders in prayers as they prepare for the winter conference and travel upon the highways.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Lanette Meyer

The Kansas City congregation is saddened by the death of Mamie Abshire. Mamie and her late husband, Jack, were active in the Kansas City congregation from its earliest days when services were held in rented buildings, and later when the church was built. Even though she spent her final year in the Retirement Village in Sabetha, she was always considered a part of our congregation.

Thanks to Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) for ministering to us recently. We've appreciated the visitors who've worshipped with us and bolstered our numbers through the holiday season when many are gone to spend time with families.

At our recent business meeting, brothers and sisters were elected to maintain and support our church in fellowship activities. Those elected were Bro. Jesse Delph as trustee, Sis. Eileen Braker for the food committee, Bro. Don Braker as representative for the Sabetha Rest Home Board, and Bro. Garry Rokey as usher.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Janel Kellenberger

We were thankful for having Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City) to share the Word with us this past month. We appreciate the labors of love he continually gives to our church.

We want to express our sympathy to Sis. Edith Hohulin and her family with the passing of her mother, Lillian Kaiser.

We held our annual business meeting this month. Those elected are as following: Sunday school teachers - Sis. Martha Kellenberger and Troy Luthi; Food committee - Judy Braker; Trustee - Ray Luthi, Cemetery board - Jay Braker.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Mark Leman

Our church welcomed Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and ministering Bros. Mavin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Dewayne Dill (Champaign, IL). This past month. It is always a blessing to hear the Word spoken by our ministering brethren. Another great blessing we have is seeing familiar faces in church and meeting new brethren and friends. So we encourage all those who have been to our new church to come back and see us again. For those coming for the first time, we extend our warmest welcome.

March 7 has been set aside for the annual business meeting. We pray that the Lord will direct us in the best path this coming year.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Ruthie Hoerr

Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer and family returned January 2 from a three-week trip to the country of Tanzania in East Africa. They were blessed with a safe journey as they visited Jan's brother's family, Mark and Pam Hodel. They visited three different game parks where they enjoyed seeing wild animals in their natural habitat. They also flew to northern Tanzania where they visited several villages of the Masai tribe. They were impressed with how content the villagers were with very few material belongings. They live in homes made from sticks and mud with thatched roofs and dirt floors, and travel long distances to their water supply. During their traveling, they stayed in tents for two nights in the wild and felt their prayers for safety were truly answered. Kent and Jan want to thank everyone for prayers on their behalf.

Hospital patients this month are Eleanor Arrowsmith, mother of Sis. Marge Gerst; Bro. Ron Streitmatter, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Rose Hoerr. Elder Bro. Roy Grimm is recuperating as a medical patient. It is our prayer they all will feel the presence of His healing hand, and have a speedy recovery.

We were saddened by deaths of Sis. Barb Uppinghouse's father, Delbert Humke (Quincy) and Sis. Anna (Jevremov) Hoerr's grandmother, Marie Jevremov (San Diego, CA). Only God can truly comfort all who share their loss, but we can let them know how much we care.

Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) was our visiting minister this month. We wish him and his family a special blessing for coming.

We are all rejoicing with the angels for two dear souls, Benji and Karen Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda and Bill and Ann Killday) who have turned their hearts to the Lord in repentance. May they find special grace and guidance to walk close to God.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." St. John 3:16, 17. Isn't this a wonderful verse to remember in February, a month with a day set aside to remember those we love? What wonderful love He had for us! Let us share that love.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Franz Soni

"If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

Job 36:11

We thank Bro. Don Stoller (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

Services are held the first Sunday of the month. Pulpit service begins 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. We welcome all visitors who are in the area. For information please call Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

On New Year's Eve we gathered together for a covered dish meal in the church basement. This was followed by a short singing and then a church service. As we begin this new year of 1992 may we each go forward with a new zeal and determination in our hearts to serve God faithfully each day.

On New Year's Day, January 1, Martin and Linda Hirschey welcomed a new member of their family. Justin Roy is welcomed home by his sister, Marissa, and brother, Richard, who are happy for a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice Hirschey and Richard and Emeranciana Plana.

Marilyn Schamback, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Lois, and Kevin Koziol, son of Fran Koziol, were married August 31, 1991. They reside at 8131 Clovertree Court, Richmond, VA 23235. May

God be with them as they begin their lives together.

Bro. Leland Hirschey has been able to return to his home this week following several days of hospitalization in Lowville and Watertown. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice at this time of illness. May God restore him to a measure of health that he can minister the Word to us again if it is God's will, and may He grant them strength and courage at this time of trial.

Little Jacob Nortz (John and Michelle) was also hospitalized in Watertown for a week. He has returned home and our thoughts and prayers are with him and his parents.

As we look back on the year of 1991 we had two births, three marriages, two baptisms, and two deaths.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." III John 2. This wish of God's is near the end of the Bible, but from the beginning the wish is revealed. In Genesis 15, Abraham questioned God: "Whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? So, God made a covenant and said to take a heifer, a goat, a ram, and a turtledove, and they symbolize areas in which God wishes us to prosper. The three animals were divided in the midst. The heifer had to do with purification in Numbers 19. A goat was split for sins; and another goat carried sins away into the wilderness, like into the sea of forgetfulness. The ram was split and had to do with substitution. When Abraham was ready to offer Isaac, God said to take the ram for the substitute. Jesus is our substitute for all, as He "bare our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17), and "for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (II Corinthians 8:9). The turtledove is a symbol of resurrection, and it was not split, so it could "fly away"; and some day, in addition to God's wishes for now, the soul that prospers will "fly away".

Bro. Bryon Palitto and Sis. Lisa Acker were united in marriage. We welcome Sis. Lisa to our congregation. Their parents are Boyd and Barbara Acker and Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto. The wedding was in Rittman with the groom's father having the afternoon services. We wish for them the Lord's continued blessings to be upon them and their happiness to continue always.

Bro. Carl Gasser was hospitalized, but now is at home doing well.

We appreciated visiting minister Bro. Bill Brake for our services on Christmas Day.

A kind thank you goes to those whose term of duty is expired: Bro. Tim Schar for usher; Sis. Carolyn Miller for kitchen committee; Sis. Gail Spangler for Sunday school teacher. Their replacements are: Bro. Mike Walder for usher; Sis. Lydia Graf for kitchen committee; and Sis. Susie Bako for Sunday school teacher.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Julie Grimm

"God's almighty arms are round me, Peace, peace is mine; Judgement scenes need not confound me, Peace, peace is mine. Jesus cam Himself and sought me! Sold to death, He found and bought me!

Them my blessed freedom taught me, Peace, peace is mine."

Gospel Hymns #342

We rejoice with Diane Sauder (Bill and Sis. Becky) as she has found peace with God and man. We look forward to her testimony and baptism on February 1 and 2.

Visiting our pulpit recently were Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH). May God bless the brothers who labor in the ministry.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Laurie Schlatter

We wish to welcome a precious new bundle into our congregation.

Staci Michelle is the new daughter of Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen Manz. Chad, Kari, Kevin, Tami, and Mitchell welcome a new playmate. Staci's grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Klopfenstein (Latty).

Our congregation recently welcomed Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) as we heard the memorandum. How we appreciate these willing brothers who give of their time.

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

On November 22, Bro. Fred Zeltwanger was called unto his eternal rest. May God fill the lonely hours for his family especially his wife, Sis. Caroline. May our prayers be felt during the coming months.

Throughout the year of 1991, the Latty congregation was blessed with nine baptisms and twelve births. We gathered to lay three souls to rest. We assembled for five weddings. At the present time, we are thankful to have nine converts.

On January 1, we gathered asking the Lord's will to be accomplished throughout the year. After the services, we held our annual business meeting during which we voted for offices for the coming year. The results are as follows: Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam), Sunday school; Sis. Desma Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee), Sunday school; Sis. LeAnn Schlatter (Gus), Sunday school; Sis. Renee Sinn (Bro. Walt), kitchen help; Sis. Edith Stoller (Bro. Glenn), world relief; Bro. Ed Wenninger (Sis. Alice), church trustee; Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet), fellowship hall trustee; and Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Jodi), fellowship hall events. May the Lord bless these brethren as well as those who serve during the past year.

As the year 1991 ended the 1992 began, our congregation gathered for three funeral. Robert Stoller (Sarabell) was called into his eternal life. May the Lord's presence comfort those in his family.

Josephine Laukhuf passed away January 5. May the Lord comfort those in her family.

On January 10, many of the

members of Sis. Sadie Riggenbach's family gathered with our congregation to lay their mother to her eternal rest. May Sadie's quiet and peaceful spirit serve as an example to all of us. Through this example, we remain hopeful that this race can be successfully run until God shall call us home.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller are rejoicing over their new baby boy, Martin Allen. Martin will be welcomed at home by brothers: Neil, Trent, Ross, Blane, Rustin, and Arthur. Sisters, Joy and Esther, will give tender loving care to their new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane Stoller.

We are rejoicing with the angels as one more soul has answered the Lord's call to follow Him. Robert Graf (Sis. Joan) has begun the change to surrender his life to Him to obtain that heavenly home. We ask for God's continuing presence within this household.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo), Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo) and Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ). We greatly appreciate every brother who brings forth the gospel to our congregation. We will continue to pray that the Lord will bless each brother and his family.

Those who have experienced afflictions of the flesh this month are Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Sis. Dolly), Nathan Plummer (Bro. Rick and Denise), and Bro. Ben Schlatter (Sis. Helen).

Our congregation will miss Frank Grant as he moves back to Toledo to be with his immediate family. As the Lord provides, may he visit us in the near future.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Sis. Rhea (Bro. Ted) Berry (Smithville); Sis. Kelly Beard, Bro. Steve (Sis. Ruth) Domka and Fred Jones in the death of their sister, Rachel Rust.

Hospitalized have been: Bro. Joe Sabo (Sis. Laversa), Sis. Mary Witschi and Sis. Ruth Weiss. May God bless them according to His will. "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:30)

Leonard and Renee Dolce's daughter, Sarah, was born December 29, 1991. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord . . ."

Bro. John Grimm (Columbus) ministered unto us on Christmas. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season;" II Timothy 4:2.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lois Maibach Charlene Winkler

But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, . . . For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous;

Psalm 5:11, 12

Bro. Pete Baltic (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Bros. Paul Gasser and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. John Grim (Columbus, OH) have ministered the Word of Life unto us recently.

We want to offer our condolences to Bro. Ralph Christian (Sis. Mildred) in the passing of his father, Herman Christian.

Two dear sisters, that were pillars of our church family, have gone home to be with Jesus.

Sis. Lucy Beery passed away January 13. She leaves a dear husband, Howard and four children, Norma Spence (Ken), Lauretta Clark (Bill), Bro. Everett (Sis. Carol), Arthur (Eileen), 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Sis. Lillian Zollinger was taken home January 16. She will surely be missed by her loving family, which includes: her husband, Bro. Charlie, seven children, Carl (Sis. Martha), Sis. Vera Indermuhle (Bro. Lloyd), Sis. Marjorie Boltz (Bro. Robert), Bro. Rudy (Sis. Brenda), Duane (Pat), Bro. Gary (Sis. Terry), Karen Braid (Dan), 32 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and three sisters, Sis. Pauline

Hartzler (Bro. Ernest), Sis. Freda and Sis. Mary Winkler.

Those of our congregation that have needed hospital care are Walter Baltic, Mabel Goodwin, Sis. Marian Klotzle, Jenny Murray (Brent) and Bro. Ralph Weber (Sis. Ellen). May each one feel the prayer that have been said in their behalf.

Our congregation is rejoicing with convert Cherie Maibach (Jeff and Elsie) as she has begun her new walk of life with Christ.

On December 23, Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Ault became first-time parents with the birth of Benjamin Ray. Grandparents are Gladys and Melvin Ault and Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller.

Kelsey Kay made her appearance January 7 to Todd and Kelly Jenkins. Big sister, Rochelle, is happy for a playmate. Loving grandparents are Sis. Clara Jenkins and Carolyn Smith.

On January 5, many from our congregation traveled to Bern, Kansas, to witness the marriage of Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Camille Strahm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia). We welcome Sis. Camille to our Rittman congregation.

Bro. Bryon Palitto and Sis. Lisa Acker chose January 12 as their wedding day. Their parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto (Akron, OH) and Boyd and Barbara Acker. We will miss Sis. Lisa as she will be attending with the Akron congregation.

Chad Riggenbach and Denise Curtis will be united together April 25 in Seattle, WA. Chad's parents are Bro. Edward and Sis. Anita Riggenbach.

May God bless our dear loved ones who have been joined together or who are making preparations for this day. May each couple feel His nearness and guidance each day.

Recently we have filled various positions in our church. Those brothers and sisters that have been elected to take on new responsibilities are: Bro. Dean Hartzler, Sunday school superintendent; Bro. Jeff Ryan, prayer microphone operator; Bro. Rick Dotterer, fellowship hall director; Bro. Elton Rufener, trustee; Bro. Jon Widmer,

usher; Sis. Marie Gasser, nursing home auxiliary; and Sis. Carol Steiner (Bro. Carl), kitchen help.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

We are thankful that our college students could spend their winter break from classes at home with us. We pray that God will be with them as they return to their studies.

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

Philippians 4:4

The occurrences here in our little church have been fairly "normal". Although we have no special announcements to make now anything out of the ordinary to report, we rejoice that we can feel the Lord's presence in our lives daily and praise his name for placing those around us that we know and love.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Pearl Miller

"He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom, but the tares are the children of the wicked one; the enemy that sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels."

Matthew 13:37-39

SOWING AND HARVEST

Tearful sowing brings glad harvest
Where our Master's will is done,
When for Him, the Lord of harvest,
Through His Spirit fruits are
grown.

Love, humility and meekness,
Faith and patience, purity,
Righteousness, although in
weakness,

Are here found in unity.

Zion's Harp #36

Soon we'll be preparing the soil for gardens and fields, a time of year we look forward to. Signs of Spring are early here in the North-

west, as the crocus burst forth in their beautiful array of colors and many other early blooming plants. We think of the dormancy of our souls and the joy when new life springs forth in our lives to behold God's goodness to us to repent and turn our back on the world and all its allurements.

We were so thankful to have Bro. Paul Rumbold in our midst, having been absent for several weeks due to illness. He needs our prayers, as the song in the Hymns of Zion is "I Need The Prayers."

Our thanks to Bro. Nick Kuenzi for lending himself in the song service and Bro. Clarence (Sis. Irene) Farney, Morton, IL, visited us recently. We appreciate each one, as we share the bond of faith with one another.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

Greetings to all in our precious Lord's name! As the new year continues tenfold, let us never forget Who is in control.

December 28, 1991, was the wedding day for Sandy Knecht (Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy) and Tim Jones (Silverton). May God bless their new life together. Tim and Sandy will reside in Silverton.

We welcomed little Jordan Otto Sinn as he joined his big brother, Jonathan, December 22, 1991. Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi are certainly thankful for their precious little bundle. Grandparents are Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian Sinn and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle (Tremont, IL).

We would like to thank Bro. Dennis Rassi and his wife, Sis. Diane (Fairbury, IL), for sharing the Word with us New Year's Day. It is such a blessing to hear the word spoken through the Spirit. May the Lord reward his willingness to be used.

January hosted the annual business meeting in our congregation. We give our heartfelt thanks to those who have so diligently labored in their various terms in office. Sis. Linda Hari (Harold) will replace Sis. Carol Dietrich (Bro. Clarence and Sis. Bess) in the third-fifth grade Sunday school class. Her

term is set for four years. Bro. Jim Dietrich (Sis. Joan) was chosen as our new treasurer. Bro. Ben Bolliger (Sis. Carolyn) has served as our treasurer for several years. The treasurer's term has been established as five years. Bro. Dean Sinn will be our new trustee and his wife, Sis. Heidi, will serve on the kitchen committee. Bro. Dean is replacing Bro. Ray Moser (Sis. Barb) and will serve for three years. Bro. Keith will replace Bro. Chuck Walter (Sis. Karen). We thank our dear brothers and sisters who have served in the past and those who are willing to serve in the future. May God richly bless each one for the labors shown.

We grieve with Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb Moser at the passing away of Bro. Ray's mother this month. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ray and his family.

March is Silver Lining month for Silverton. Please give any address changes and your \$9.00 subscription to your correspondent sometime during the month of March.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

I John 4:7-8

Our Sunday school held its Christmas program December 15. We thank the children and their teachers for the effort put forth in giving such a good program.

A group from church visiting the nursing home in New Holland, PA, and sang for the residents December 22.

Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman hosted a buffet dinner for Sis. Jill Metzger December 28. Sis. Jill and Bro. Matthew Aeschleman will be married March 22 in Lester, IA.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Don Sauder

In this sin sick world, John in His Epistle, chapter 4, verse 1, warns us that we believe not every spirit, but try the spirit whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. How true this is in the days and time we are living.

Due to conflicts in scheduling and traveling, we did not have services in Nashville in January, but we attended services in Athens, AL, instead.

If we only trust, our God will provide.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Viola Perdelwitz

We had a special surprise this month. We had snow. This is so rare in Zapata that school children were dismissed from their classes one hour to see the snow flakes fall. We had snow on the roofs of buildings and cars. The snow melted soon after touching the ground.

We held our annual business meeting January 19. Bro. Roland Messner was selected to take Bro. Elmer Fehr's place as trustee. Bro. Elmer Fehr and his wife Sis. Matilda were selected to take Bro. Glen Luthi and his wife Sis. Lola's place on the food committee. Bro. Cornelius Messerli was selected to take Bro. Willis Sauder's place as usher.

Sis. Lucy Rokey was in the hospital at Laredo, TX, for tests this month. She has been dismissed and is assembling in church with us. We are thankful for that. Bro. Alvin Klopfenstein has spent time with us in the winter. This fall he came and spent some time and then went back to Latty, Ohio, for Christmas. While he was in Ohio, he became very ill and is in the hospital in Ohio now. We are praying for him.

Retired Elder Bro. Edwin Hohulin has spent a lot of winters in Zapata, TX, and served as our minister and elder for a number of years. We were sorry to hear that he was called home to be with our Lord. He died while he was in Illinois. He will be greatly missed. His

wife and family have our deepest sympathy.

EUROPE TRIP

May 14 through 28

Bro. Gene Lehman

Wolcott, IN Congregation
(Continued from January 1992
Issue of The Silver Lining)

After an ample German breakfast, we went to a mineral spa at Bad Bellingen, where Otto and Pete enjoyed the hot baths, while Gene and Verna enjoyed the scenery and some excellent musicians who performed on an outdoor stage in this resort area. It was most relaxing. Back at Hemmers, Herta had a nice lunch waiting for us, after which we went up on the hills, with Otto driving our Opel, since he knew how to negotiate the steep and winding roads. There at the Hochblauen, we climbed a high tower, and had the weather been clear, could have seen the Swiss Alps. When we got back to town, Otto took us to his vineyards on the steep hillside. He works very hard for the rewards that he gets. After a midafternoon repast of coffee and pastries, we headed for Switzerland, and Pete's sister Margrit.

We arrived at Margrit and Walter Rentsch's lovely and interesting old home in the late afternoon. The house is about 350 years old, and rambles on and on. It is furnished with many intriguing things, not the least of which is Walter's trophy room high in what used to be the haymow. He is a big game hunter, and obviously has enjoyed much success at it. Here again we made acquaintance with such friendly and interesting people, and experienced things which will long linger as fond memories. Everyone spoke English, and any barriers of strangers soon faded away. Margrit had a lovely supper for us. Walter sold one business, and now has another, and is a very interesting person with knowledge of many things. We probably didn't settle any of the world's problems, but we gave it the old college try! After a pleasant

walk in the cool Swiss evening, looking down over the city of Zuerich, we retired to our beds, leaving Pete to share things with his family. We each had our own bedroom, with a delicious bar of Swiss chocolate lying on each pillow. Once more, virtually all the comfort one could have, and pleasant company besides.

After a breakfast and brisk discussion on Thursday, we left for the heart of Switzerland. Walter left for their house up in the mountains for a day or so, and we followed him as far as his business, which was along our way. We headed for a small village south of Bern, where we picked up Jerry Bahler from Remington, who is in Switzerland at this time. Taking him with us, we went into the Emmenthal region, one of the loveliest in the world. Here we called at the house of Walter Kraenbuehl, an old minister of our faith, in Langnau, then found ourselves a Gasthouse to stay overnight. The four of us went into the regions around Langnau, finding the spot where Froelich preached in Emmenthal. The Chateau we saw is pictured in "Marching to Zion", where the story of it is also told. We were very happy to see this historic spot.

We returned to Langnau, picked up Walter, and headed for the upper Emmenthal, to the spot where Pete knew that Grandpa Banwart had come from years ago. Walter directed us there, and it was a most interesting and beautiful sight. We saw and photographed a castle in an area known as "Trachselwald" (Trachsel Forest). We have Trachsels (Troxel) whom we know here in America. In the course of our travels, we saw a number of names familiar to us.

This evening the five of us ate a delicious supper in a Gasthof in the rolling Emmenthaler hills. It is owned and managed by Robert and Bridgett Lehmann, which of course was also of interest to us. When we returned to Langnau, Pete and Walter took Jerry back to his lodging, and after a leisurely evening stroll, Gene and Verna retired to bed, which was most welcome after long days of travel. The

accommodations were fully adequate, and really quite affordable, all of which we were very grateful for.

On Friday morning, we ate breakfast at the inn, exchanged some money, and did some shopping. Here Gene bought some large bars of Swiss chocolate, which were very reasonably priced. Verna bought some flower seeds, since we knew we could not bring living plants into this country from abroad, even though we could easily have acquired them. She appreciates all the lovely blossoms, and hopes that finally some will bloom in her own yard.

Driving through alpine country, we stopped at Lauterbrunnen, which rightfully describes itself as the "Valley of waterfalls". The view of the Swiss alps was awesome, and we all enjoyed it immensely. We climbed up the side of a mountain as far as we wanted (or were able) to go, and ate a bit of lunch which we had carried along. Here Pete was right in his element, and we were fortunate to be with him. Having been born in "der Schweiz", he is naturally partial to it, and certainly has many reasons to be, for it is a lovely country. In Gene's German textbooks, Switzerland is described as having, "high, snow covered mountains, and deep, green valleys", and we truly saw the fullness of that description. This day in the alps is part of a string of memories not soon to be forgotten.

Here we also met some American college students who were on a summer long holiday in Europe, and seemed to be having a great time. We stopped in a souvenir shop in the village, and Verna found a store across the street that had the lace curtains she had hoped to find in Switzerland. Although the shop was closed, we managed to find the owner, who came and was most accommodating. Gene reflected that he would have been too, especially when a sale was to be made. It came out fine, however, for price and quality were most acceptable, and Verna was satisfied with her purchase.

We headed down the roads, finding a place that was interesting and historic, and Pete wanted to

stop for a moment, which was just fine, for the scenery was lovely, and we learned a bit more of Swiss history. He also wanted very much for us to see Lucerne, and as fortune had it, we were able to do so. We arrived in the center of this lovely old city in mid-afternoon, crossed the wooden foot bridge across the lake, watched the swans, and in general terms, enjoyed it very much. Verna even found a shop where she got some clothes for herself and the grandchildren at an affordable price, which in itself was sort of amazing.

As we left Lucerne, heading for Zuerich, we felt that we had packed an enormous amount of sightseeing in such few hours, and felt richly blessed for having done so. After an evening meal in a Gasthof, we returned to Margrit and Walter's gracious old home as twilight shadows began to creep across the mountains, grateful for another day of adventure under the protection of a merciful Father in heaven. Verna showed Margrit her purchases, and she was impressed with them, which made Verna feel good, for she was too. We told Walter of all our adventures, and he shared his with us. It seems he had loaded his station wagon with the dog in the front seat, and many other items in the back, with the second seat folded down. He bought some things for supper at the house in the mountains, including some pizzas. When he got to the house, and looked in the back of the car, it was empty. The latch had come open, and the entire contents had spilled out on the steep roads. After a bit of detective work and scurrying around, he actually found everything. It was a good story, and made for interesting sharing. It was truly a warm and friendly time for us, and we appreciated it all very much. After such a full day, Verna and Gene retired to their rooms, with the cool evening breezes making sleep pleasant in this historic house.

In the morning, which was Saturday, we all shared a breakfast together, with friendly comradeship, and about 9:30, the time of parting came. Here Gene and Verna said farewell to Walter and

Margrit, whom they had just learned to know, and to Peter, an old friend, and went off alone in the car, on their own in Europe for the first time. However, we had good instructions, and with no problem whatsoever drove along the city streets and autobahns through Zuerich to Basel on the border, where we crossed into Germany. We stopped at a Tankstelle (gas station) on the border, filled the car with gas, and converted most of our Swiss francs to Deutschmarks, keeping only enough for souvenirs. This is something we don't think much of in America, where one travels many thousands of miles with the same language, money, and culture. In Europe, that all changes in very short distances, and is something the traveler must cope with.

Heading up the autobahn, speeds being what they are, we soon reached the exit for Freiburg, which is described as the capitol of the Black Forest. Since we were in good time, we spent a couple of hours in this resort town, but the crowds and confusion soon got the best of us, and we headed to Grossniedesheim, home of Heinrich and Heidi Schmidt. Heinrich is a minister of the church in Offstein, and their family spent a number of weeks in the US last year. We had learned to know each other, and looked forward to spending this time together. We called them along the way, which was an experience for Gene in using the unfamiliar German telephones in a language not his own, but it did come out fine. The first phone in Freiburg was out of order, but it cost several wasted Deutschmarks to find this out. So it goes.

We didn't exit the autobahn at the right point, and had to back-track, asking instructions several times, which is what Pete and Hans did often. However, they were more fluent in the German language than Gene is, but we did get to our destination. Here in this country, roads are laid out reasonably squarely, with the farm houses on the acreage where the tillage takes place. This is not true in Europe, where the farmers by and large live in the villages, and go out into the

country daily to do their work. The roads wind around and often signs point to somewhere one has just been, and it takes a little getting used to. All of these experiences have made us more understanding of those who come from different lands and cultures and try to adapt to what we have in America. The American traveling outside of his own country must realize that he is the foreigner, and act accordingly. We cannot expect the entire world to adapt to us and speak our language when we are in their land.

After a lovely evening meal at Schmidt's, we went to a singing on Saturday evening in the Offstein church. When we got there, we found our friend, Oscar Bolliger, whom we mentioned earlier, standing in the hallway. It was a happy reunion, for we have shared things together in the past in this country. The singing was a tremendous experience, and the love flowed from heart to heart. Schmidt's speak English quite well, so Verna did not feel in the least bit forsaken, although far from home.

On Sunday, we attended church in Offstein, with morning services being conducted by Heinrich Schmidt, Sr., elder of that church, and the afternoon services conducted by Gene speaking in English with Heinrich, Jr., translating into the German. Karl Crist from the Sheppach congregation had the closing prayer, and once more, the love flowed from heart to heart. The experience cannot be felt until it happens. The dear sister, Lenore Tudic', from Yugoslavia whom we met in Breidenbach, was also in Offstein, which made the day brighter for us all, especially for Verna, who speaks no German. (At this writing, there is trouble in Yugoslavia, and Lenore is from Zagreb, the ancient capitol of Croatia. That makes the whole matter more real for us when we know someone who is personally involved. It reinforces our opinion that we have come to a crossroads in history.) The experience in Offstein is another which will not be soon forgotten. After church we went to Heinrich, Sr's. home for the evening meal, and after the meal we sang the lovely and famil-

iar songs of faith around the organ in their home. When the time of parting came, Gene asked Heinrich, Sr. to commit us to the Lord in prayer for our long journey home, and once again the spirit of God was felt in our midst. It was a tender and loving time.

On Monday, Heinrich took the day off from his work, and graciously showed us around the city of Frankenthal, and we saw the places where they work and shop, and in a small way learned to know how it goes with them from day to day. We feel so fortunate to be able to share this intimate part of daily life with loved ones in a land far from ours.

After church and supper on Sunday, Heinrich and Heidi had taken us to the twin cities of Ludwigshafen and Mannheim, each of which borders the historic Rhein River, and we saw many sights there. We appreciated this also, very much.

After a full day on Monday, and an evening of fellowship with the Schmidts, we retired for our last night in Germany on this trip. In the morning, after a lovely German breakfast, and good and blessed fellowship, we traveled up the autobahn to the Frankfurt airport where we returned our car and awaited our flight.

The journey home took us first to London's Gatwick airport, and then to St. Louis, where we cleared customs with minimum effort. It took a bit of hassle, but we finally arrived in the Peoria Airport about 10:00 p.m., to be met by our faithful children, with whom we spent the night. On Wednesday, we returned to our home, grateful from the depths of our hearts for the mercy and grace of God which had given us this eventful trip.

In retrospect, it is evident that to have purchased all these experiences would first of all have been impossible, and next of all absolutely unaffordable, so we return our thanks to God, to our traveling companion Pete, and all who made it possible. Once more we say, "To God alone belongs all praise, honor, and glory, now and in eternity, Amen."

SILVER THREADS

LIVING IN FAITH

What could be more delightful,
More joy and peace create,
Than when to Thee, O Saviour,
Our lives we consecrate?
Than when to Thee, O Saviour,
Our lives we consecrate?

We live in blessed nearness,
To Thee, Lord day by day,
As if our eyes beheld Thee
And joy attends our way,
As if our eyes beheld Thee
And joy attends our way.

Hymns of Zion #266, vs. 1, 2

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

that was extremely bad. He was in remorse over the sin he had committed to the point that he thought the only corrective action was to take his own life. So, the sheriff recognized that and said, "This man is despondent and I am afraid he might take his own life. Will you come and visit with him."

As we shared together, I brought to him the fact that he had Jesus Christ and that Christ was his only hope. He said, "But if I take my own life, then it is all over." "But," I had to explain to him, "If you take your own life, you have premeditated your own ending." I took him back to the old law, which says that is murder when you premeditate that. I said, "What will be your hope if you do that? Do you have a belief in God?" He said, "Yes, I have a belief in God." I said, "Then, why are you willing to take your life and to remove it out of the consequences of God dealing with the sin in your life? Wouldn't you rather put yourself into the merciful hands of a loving God?"

He began to awaken to that. As we talked, we shared an hour and ten minutes. Afterwards, when I left him, the sheriff said, "I do not understand. That man has not said that much in the whole period of time." I said, "The only thing I could

bring to him is Jesus Christ, because in Jesus Christ, he has a hope." The man had lost all hope, even to the point where he thought he had to take his life to pay for the price of his sin. When we share that Jesus Christ is the One that paid that price, then we begin to have hope, don't we?

Many, many people roam the earth today without a hope. What does the Scripture tell us? In the last days, the young men and young women will go from one end of the earth to the other, asking for the rocks and the hills to come down and cover them. Why? They do not have any hope. Yet, if we stop and think about this particular chapter, when faith and hope are gone, what is going to be left?

When we get to heaven, are we going to need faith? No. We will be with the Lord. Will we need hope? No. We are going to be with Him. There will not be any need for those two.

On this earth we need both . . . in great quantities, we need both of them! When we are forever with the Lord, we are not going to need those. The love that we have for our Lord and Saviour will continue just as it is here upon this earth, if we have that kind of love for His creation.

The Scripture tells us in Romans that we are not to ever come and worship the creation. It says, in fact, that men have forgotten God in their mind. They begin to worship the creation rather than the Creator. When we have this love for our Creator, then we begin to see all these things that He talks about here in this chapter come about.

He says, "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come," or when that which is complete or mature, "then that which is in part shall be done away." I Corinthians 13:9-10. Everyone, maybe, has a little different view, but I look at this and say, "What is it that is perfect, that has come, or what is complete?" Sometimes we can put that off way into the future and say, "Well, that is when Christ will return." I cannot say that is wrong. I like to believe for myself that what

He is talking about is the Bible.

When Paul was speaking in Corinthians, they had the Old Testament and some parchments of some of the New Testament. When that which is perfect or complete is come, then we will know. I feel that completeness is in this Word.

We do not have to look for the deliverer until Jesus Christ comes. Yes, we welcome and look forward to that day, but we do not have to wait for that day to be complete. What He wants us to be perfect in is to be studying His Word and to know what He wants us to know so that we might combat Satan. We don't have to do with a partial knowledge. We will never know all this Word. So, it is only partial, right?

He says He will give us what is sufficient for the cares and trials that come upon us in that day. Is not that the beauty of God's holy Word? We do not have to know it from cover to cover. Yet, the more we learn, the more we are responsible for, aren't we? Now, we can take that two ways. We can say, "Well, I do not want to be responsible for all those things," and set the Book on the shelf. I do not find that to be God's teaching. I find that God's teaching is, especially in the end of Peter's epistle where he said, "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Peter 3:18.

So, if you and I are going to be servants and have the true love that we ought to have, to walk in the faith that we have, to have the hope that we have, then we have got to learn about Jesus Christ.

What was it that Christ did for the people while He walked on the earth? Did He try to remove the hope from their lives? Not at all! He tried to always put hope into their lives.

Look at the many times the people were hungry in a physical sense. Did Jesus send them away and say, "Just go and be fed"? He took what little He had or what was available and He fed them. That is the promise of the Holy Spirit in your life and my life.

We do not need to know all that is here. We have to act upon that which we know and we are respon-

sible for. If we know what God is asking us to do, we are held responsible for that. It tells in the book of Matthew there in the Sermon on the Mount, He says, "To those who prove themselves faithful in a little, He will give much."

Sometimes we say, "There is a person who has everything. He is a wealthy man. It is easy for him to serve God. God has given him everything." Is not that almost what Satan said to God as he accused Job before God? We know he is going to accuse us before God.

It is easy. That is the truth. The Word tells us that when we prove ourselves faithful in the small things, God will give us more to be responsible for. Some people say, "Well, I cannot give to the Lord. I cannot do much. I do not have much."

What was the example Christ gave? He saw the man put some money into the box out of his plenty. But He said, "More faithful is this woman who came and gave all of her substance, even though it was only a couple pennies worth." He said, "Because she has been found faithful." (See Mark 12:41-44).

What does God hold us accountable for? Whatever He has given us, He holds us accountable for. As we go through the Word, we have a desire, I hope, to know more of God. Yes, He is going to hold us more accountable, but praise be to Him for that.

If we ever got to the point where we do not want to be accountable, then where are we? We are into the worldly system of humanism . . . man is his own god . . . he determines what is right and wrong . . . he does not want to be accountable.

I have often thought that it would be great just to get to be the head of my own business, then I would not have to account to anybody. Do you know what I found? I now have more to account to than I ever had before. Before, I only had my boss to account to. Now I have all my employees I have to account to. Why? Because I profess to be a believer in Jesus Christ. Therefore, I must be accountable to every one of those for the Gospel of Christ.

The Scripture tells us not to be

concerned about our own things only, but on those things of another. In that reference, He is not talking about nosing about what our neighbor has or what is happening in our neighbor's life. He is talking about having a concern about what is going on in their life. Do we have that kind of concern one for another? Do we have that kind of love one for another? Do we have that kind of concern?

That is what the Lord is asking us to do. Be involved. Not to be nosy, but be involved in the welfare of all those whom God makes us accountable to. Sometimes, it becomes very hard to be accountable, doesn't it? We do not like that. It goes against our spiritual nature. It goes with our human nature, that old sin nature we have that keeps wanting to bubble up again and come up to the forefront. We forget that even though we might be dead to the desire of sin, Satan is not going to let that old man die. He is going to want to bring it up. He is going to want to resurrect that old man.

We have to keep remembering that the love of Jesus Christ should bury that old man. It is when we have that love coming towards perfection. How do we know this? we have to study this Word.

It is just so beautiful the way God puts this whole thing together. We sometimes say, "Well, He inspired this Word." Yes, He did, but I think we have to recognize what it is. The Scripture tells us, "he moved men of God to write this Word." Meaning, they did not do it on their own, but God directed them to write this Word. He gave it to them to write and to put in here. So, as He has completed this work, you and I have it all between the covers of this Book.

We do not need to be looking for other places to find salvation. He is saying here, "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." I Corinthians 13:3. We can have all these other things. We can give everything we have away. Apostle Paul is the one who wrote this. When the Apostle Paul began to be a servant of the Lord

Jesus Christ, as I understand it, he was a wealthy man. When he died, he had very little in the way of material possessions.

Paul lived the way he preached. He actually did what he preached. When He concluded there in Timothy he could say, "I have fought the fight and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord Himself has prepared for me." (See II Timothy 4:7, 8). Did he count himself as having nothing? He counted himself as having everything.

That is what the love of Jesus Christ does in your life and my life. It transforms us out of being materially minded into being the spiritual people that God wants us to be. It is that love!

The world has tried every way to divert this word 'love' and give it different kind of meanings and cause all different things. Have you and I found what has been our love for Christ? I believe that any of you who have gone through marriage have found that the love grows more, not less. I have found that the same way in my love for Jesus Christ, as I have grown in my spiritual life.

He tells us there, earlier in the Corinthians, not to stay on the milk of the Word, but to get into the meat of the Word . . . to grow in it. As we do, we find we have a greater love for the Lord Jesus Christ. We also find that we have a greater accountability in our own life, don't we? We begin to find things that are wrong. As I was reading the book of James one time, a conviction came upon me. The Word says there, "The cry of the labourer, who is worthy of his hire, and whom you have not paid, comes before the Lord."

As I thought about that, I thought about one employee who, because of the circumstances in her life, wanted to come to work for our firm and stay here in Peoria. So we offered her less money than the going rate. As I read that Word, conviction came upon my heart, "I am guilty. I have not complied with that Scripture." I went back and talked to my partners and we went back and made it right. I came un-

der conviction with that Word . . . I had not complied.

So often in our lives, we do things without going to God and consulting Him. Because had I done that first, I would have recognized that Scripture. I have been surety for individuals, and I have had to pay a price like the Scripture tells us.

All those things are God's way of teaching us. They are God's ways of taking this Word and teaching us. Because if we love God, we can take those teachings and dwell on them and begin to put ourselves down to the point where satan can get a hold of us and begin to twist us around.

But if God takes this Word and causes us to have a love that even when we make those mistakes, we are willing to acknowledge them and go back and make them right. We do not hold any hard feelings. We do not hold any grudges. God removes all of that.

How is this Word made perfect? This Word is made perfect because it teaches you and me in every aspect of our lives, whether it is in money . . . in marriage . . . in teaching our children . . . in our relationship with one another in the church . . . or in our relationship with one another in the world, this Word has the answers.

I believe that it is totally complete that He says here, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." I Corinthians 13:11. Remember back in the first reading where the king did not put away some of those childish things?

Paul was saying, "I put those away." So he would not return to them. What is going to happen if you and I look back on those childish things again? Sometimes we look back on our own life and maybe some of us were rather ornery or just outright malicious in our unconverted days.

Sometimes we bring those things back up in front of our children and kind of laugh about them. That is a danger. We ought not to do that. Those things are put away. We can laugh about them, but is

that what the Word wants? The Word says that we should look upon all those things that were not of God, that we should have disdain for them. We need to be so careful in those things that we do not bring them back up and kind of glory in them lest our children accept it. "Well, dad did it, so it is okay for me if I do it." We need to be careful. That is not what the Word teaches us.

The Word teaches us to be honest in all things. Be above reproach in all things. To set a standard before men that we are without reproach.

What does it tell us in the book of Timothy? Paul is telling Timothy, when you look for a deacon, he is not only to be highly esteemed in the church, he is also to be well thought of in the community. Do we always look at that? Is he respected because he always works a fair bargain? Or does he drive a hard bargain so that the individual that he deals with says, "If he is a Christian, I do not want to be part of it?"

There is a difference between being frugal and being a bad testimony. This Word brings that out in our lives. It says, "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face . . ." I Corinthians 13:12.

I believe that God wants us to analyze every aspect of our lives to see whether we are being a glory unto God or whether we are being a poor testimony. Can we say like Paul, "I kept the faith, I have fought the fight, henceforth there is prepared for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord Himself has prepared?" (See II Timothy 4:7, 8).

Wouldn't that be a beautiful and glorious day to receive a crown from the Lord? Not one we expected. The one that would be there because we have had this love that He talks about here, that we suffer long, we are kind, we do not envy, we do not vaunt ourselves, we do not become puffed up, we do not behave ourselves unseemly, seeketh not our own, are not easily proved, and thinketh no evil. (see I Corinthians 13:4, 5)

Maybe I am naive, but I always like to give a man the benefit of the

doubt. Even if I suspect him of dishonesty, I will always consider, or try to, and say, "No, that was just a chance. The next time he will come forth with the truth."

Sometimes we are let down. Have we let others down? Have we let others down? Have we been man or woman enough to go back and say, "I am sorry, I was wrong; I did not behave as a believer in this particular case?" That is what God wants. It probably takes a greater testimony to go back and admit we are wrong and that we have done something wrong, than just to say that we are a follower of Christ to begin with.

I was reading an article the other day about a man who was high in the Chinese government. He was made minister of religion in China. He went about, trying to destroy religion in China, the religion of Jesus Christ. He was going about persecuting believers.

One day, he came upon a group and there was an old man carrying manure out to the field on his back. He said to that man, "Could you tell me who the leader of your group is?" The man said, "I am that leader." He said, "You mean to tell you are the leader of that group and you are the one carrying that manure?"

The man said, "The Lord Jesus Christ said if we want to be a leader, we have to first be a servant. So I am carrying the manure." That man never forgot that testimony, and he said, "I, then, gave my life to that same Jesus Christ." He was persecuted because he made that decision to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

What did he do? Was it that he heard a great sermon? He did hear a great sermon but it was in the life of that man who read what Jesus Christ's words were. That was not the nature of his government because a leader did not do the menial tasks.

We cannot be a great leader unless we are willing to do menial tasks. Jesus Christ was the Greatest Leader of all because He led you and me to the way of the cross. He went to that cross first, and now He says, "You pick up the cross and follow Me."

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SERMON BY BRO. MARSHALL HEINOLD OF EAST PEORIA, IL

"Hope Is the Anchor of the Soul" II Kings 12 and I Corinthians 13

As he speaks here, I think it probably comes into every one of our minds in a little different perspective just exactly what he is saying. When we get to those three words, faith, hope, and charity, (charity being the word love), as I look at it and see it from my perspective, I guess, he says, "The greatest of these is love."

When we stop and think about it, I do not think we can ever exercise the other two unless we have love. Faith is something that we have when we do not see something, as He tells us in Hebrews. So, we move in faith, not necessarily knowing where we are going.

Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees not knowing where he was going particularly, except that God said, "Leave, because this is a wicked nation." He was to leave, and he did. Sarah had a child at the age of ninety. It was by faith, because it was promised unto her. All these are evidences in the Scripture of faith and how we must step forward in faith.

What is faith? Faith is acting upon that which we know to be true, but cannot necessarily see. Yet, we are willing to go and step out. Faith takes a hope that relies upon God's promises to be true although we may not see the evidences.

Then there is this little word 'hope'. Why do you and I pin our hope upon the Lord Jesus Christ? We have not walked with Christ.

We have not been able to commune with Him "one on one" as we would in the physical sense. So, why do we put such hope in Him? Yet, we recognize that without hope, man has nothing. We find that there is incident after incident of documented proof that men without hope have died.

I am reading a couple of books about some of our men who were put into the concentration camps in the Korean and Viet Nam wars. One of these men wrote a book about the concentration camp, which was called, "Hanoi Hilton." In there he told about the persecution for nine years. You and I cannot visualize the type of torture they went through. He says the one thing that took them from one point to the other was the fact they had a hope that some day they would be free. They endured things like legs being broken and many things to the point they learned to pass out from the extreme persecution and extreme pain they had to go through.

He says he actually witnessed men who finally said, "We will never be rescued." They laid down on their cots and never woke up. Yet they were healthy enough to keep living from day to day. But, when they lost that hope, they perished.

The Scripture tells us, in the Old Testament, that a nation without hope, without a vision, will perish. (see Proverbs 29:18). We need

to have this hope and this vision constantly before us. Is not that, then, why we can step out in faith? These words all go together, but what does it really come down to? It comes down to that word 'love', doesn't it? If we do not have a love for Jesus Christ and our heavenly Father, are we going to display faith in our life? Are we going to display hope in our life?

The second largest killer of teenagers in our society today is suicide. Stop and think about that. Suicide. Why? Because most of them have lost hope. They look at the world about them and they see all the sin and the degradation and they see all the things they do not like, and they begin to lose hope . . . hope that it will change. Why? In many instances, it is because they have never heard of Jesus Christ. They have never heard about the transformation of a life that can go from a body that is worth nothing and is despicable before the eyes of God. Is not that where you and I were before we became converted? Do we have any hope?

Sometime back, the sheriff of Woodford County called me and said, "I have a man here that I want you to come in and talk with. We cannot get him to talk. He has lost his hope." I went to visit with him and began to talk with him. I did not say much, except to ask him questions and try to draw him out. This man had done something

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