



"Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." Matthew 2:2

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." I Corinthians 15:57

VOLUME 42

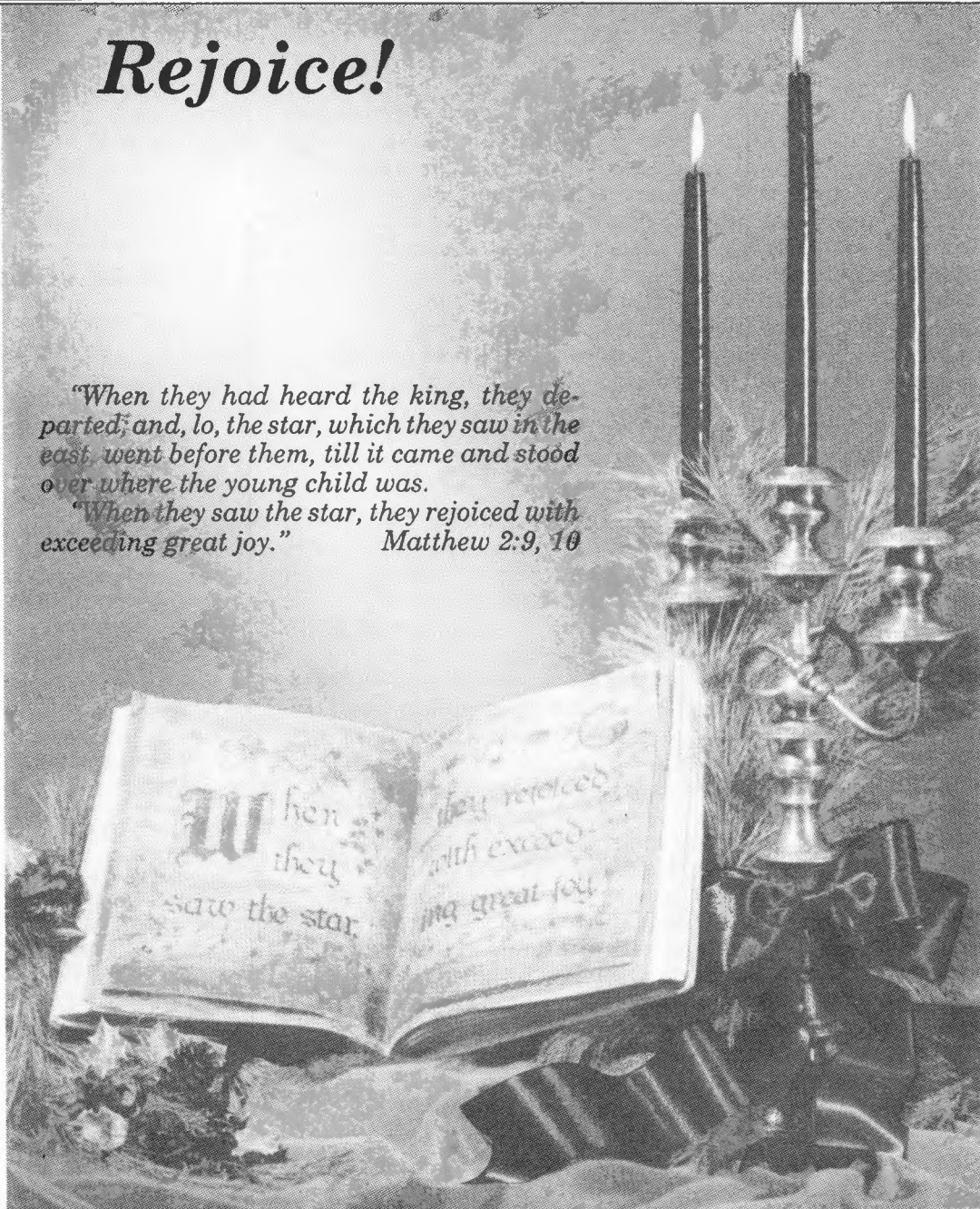
DECEMBER 1992

NUMBER 12

Rejoice!

"When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Matthew 2:9, 10



MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

SEARCH DILIGENTLY

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Are you searching for presents? Are you searching for special food? Are you searching for Christmas decorations? Christmas has come upon us once again and we should be searching diligently for the real meaning of Christmas.

Herod the king instructed the wise men to, "Go and search diligently for the young child." He had an ulterior motive, but his words are thought-provoking. Just how diligent is our search for truth, for God, and for His Son? Perhaps it is especially at Christmas that we would just like to relax and enjoy ourselves with our families without thinking about anything very heavy. However, Christmas is a good time to think deeply about God's Son coming to earth and living in a human body, in order to reveal God to us and to make an atonement for our lost condition and for any sins we may have committed. What does it all mean and

what effect should it have on us, in our attitude and in our daily living?

Someone has said, "If Christ be God and died for me, then there is no sacrifice too great for me to make for Him." Is this scriptural or is it some radical's idea? It appears that II Corinthians 5:19 substantiates the first part of the statement, "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself." The latter part of the statement may be supported by Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

At this Christmas time let us together "search diligently" for a closer walk with God and with His Son and with the Holy Spirit. It will help us when we make the transit from this world to the next, from the physical world to the spiri-

tual world. That will be wonderful if we are ready, through God's mercy and Christ's atonement.

WORLD RELIEF PROJECT Jamaican Evaluation Trip August 31 - September 3, 1992

This is a summary of the evaluation team that went to Jamaica. On the team were Elder Bro. David Bertch, Bros. Kurt Munsel, Harold Witzig and Hartzell Kaisner. They checked the feasibility of sending work teams to Jamaica.

Leaving Monday, August 31, we arrived at Montego Bay, Jamaica, at 3:55 p.m. We continued through customs without problems.

After renting a car, we went to
(Continued on Page 4)

GOD-GIVEN TALENTS

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man accordign to his several ability; and straightway took his journey."

Matthew 25:14-15

Praise God, He has given us talents according to our individual abilities. The responsibility of how we use those talents, however, falls on us. How often do we bury our talents by rationalizing, not recognizing our gifts or resisting, assuming someone else will answer? Shouldn't we rather be like Isaiah, who in his newly cleansed state eagerly said "Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:7 & 8 The opportunities are available, the call has been sounded, the needs are real, and children's lives depend on your response.

Gateway Woods offers a variety of opportunities to use your God-given talents, and we currently have staff openings in the following areas:

- Houseparent (single sister for the All-Girls House)
- Office Manager (bookkeeping and organizational skills)
- Female Foster Parents (transitional setting for older teen girls)

Please prayerfully consider using your talents for the Lord. If you have any questions, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

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Box 151
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IN MEMORY – EDITORS:
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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).

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

In the household of faith, as well as in the society at large it is very important for people to communicate, share and relate to one another in an effective way. This results in greater understanding and better relationships with one another.

Discord, misunderstanding, cynicism and sometimes estrangement result when effective communication is either absent or breaks down. Even on a less serious scale, ineffective communication can result in hurt feelings, withdrawal and a general lack of love and esteem.

To communicate is to share, to impart, to make known and to give and receive information. The word communicate is a derivative of the word common, which is defined as "belonging equally and sharing equally with everyone." Isaiah wrote, "Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord" (Is. 1:18).

In order to communicate in a positive way with fellow believers, our intent should be to edify and uplift each soul with whom we have conversation or correspondence. There are several underlying principles that will enhance the prospect of effective communication:

- (1) It should be done under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- (2) It should be done with great respect and love.
- (3) It should be done with the purpose of showing concern for others and with a willing heart.
- (4) It should be done with the goal of drawing closer in love and unity with our loved ones in Christ, and for building up the household of faith.

The most common form of communication is verbal expression. We do this by visiting, fellowship and while conducting our daily responsibilities. The Bible gives some sound direction regarding communication. First, a believer is to be "swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath" (Jam. 1:19). Ineffective communica-

tion often results when the opposite of this scriptural advice occurs. Misunderstandings develop and emotions may get out of control, but the Word says: "the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God" (Jam. 1:20). It is imperative that our conversations be thoughtful and that we listen well and with patience.

Another principle of communication is that we keep our "tongue from evil and our lips that they speak no guile" (1 Pet. 3:10). This takes the grace of God because one of Satan's greatest objectives is to cause us to speak with a loose tongue. Our tongue is a fire that must be controlled (Jam. 3:6). The Apostle Paul gave excellent advice: "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Col. 4:6). In addition, our expressions should be "words of truth and soberness" (Acts 26:25).

Other principles of communication center around the Scriptures that teach us to "let thy words be few" (Ecc. 5:2), to refrain from uttering "words to no profit" (2 Tim. 2:14) and to avoid "malicious words" (3 John 10). The Apostle Paul summed it up so beautifully, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29).

Listening is an essential element of communication. As a person listens to the problems and woes of another and is both sensitive and sympathetic, he is performing a very important service. Effective listening is necessary before we can offer specific help to one in need. Anyone who is in a position to offer counsel can give more useful advice by first being a good listener.

Communication can be accomplished in a variety of ways. Sending a card or a note of encouragement is a very effective mode of

communication. A smile or a pat on the back sends a wonderful message to a loved one. A donation or any other charitable act also constitutes a form of communication. Simply being available when someone needs a friend sends them a powerful, loving message.

One of the most important means of exerting effective communication is to be friendly with everyone. This applies not only to those with whom we feel comfortable, but with others with whom we are less familiar. Experience teaches us that by making the effort to communicate and by exercising friendliness toward those who are not well known to us or whom we don't understand very well, will result in our drawing closer to each other.

If we avoid people and purposely make effort not to communicate, we are fostering division and are conducting ourselves in an unscriptural way. As believers, our task is to love even our enemies; it follows that in the household of faith, especially, we are to love everyone. To love everyone is to exert our utmost effort in communicating. When we assemble in our churches we should make sincere effort to greet as many brethren and friends as possible and to exchange kindnesses in the true spirit of Christ.

Effective communication, used with sincerity and sensitivity—and always with Christ-like concern and love for others—is a stimulus for greater love and unity and is a way to increase understanding and esteem in the household of faith. We should always remember that the enemy of our soul tries to build walls and create resentments among believers, but we should pray fervently for the grace to communicate in ways that will bring glory to God and will edify one another. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Falmouth Resort, in the City of Falmouth. This was used as our home base and overnight accommodations.

On Tuesday, September 1, we went to the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf. CCCD is located at Knockpatrick in the Manchester area, approximately 3½ hours from Montego Bay.

After meeting managing director, Bruce Mullberry, and his wife, Terry, his assistant, Tom Turner, and his wife, Debbie, we had a tour of the existing facility. We then had

lunch in the school cafeteria. This school has a capacity for 150 children and includes a facility to assist them with their dental needs.

This facility is in the process of adding a second floor to the cafeteria for the purpose of housing staff members. In the Home Economics room they have plans to remove metal siding and wood studding up to the roof and replacing it with masonry blocks.

Accommodations for work teams will be either on site or nearby. All transportation will be furnished

from the airport and to and from site as warranted. Duration of these projects are short term.

Next we were taken to view the new Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf Village which is located at Williamsfield in the Manchester area. This is a 100-acre expansion project under the supervision of Ernest Clark, who is also chairman of the CCCD. This project is just coming out of the ground and has a great purposed future. CCCD Village will provide housing, day care, medical facilities which include a clinic with sick rooms staffed with a nurse, and a factory for manufacturing products. These products, textiles or electronics can be exported. This will provide a way to earn a living for the deaf. Recreation and shopping will also be provided.

The only construction started on this site at this time is the footings for a three-story dormitory. Most of the buildings will be cement blocks with sheet metal roofs. The factory may have metal siding. The duration of these projects appears to be on going.

The work team accommodations will be at a nearby plantation only a few miles from the site. All transportation will be furnished to and from the airport as warranted.

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Sixth Year — August 1988 thru July 1989 — 25,509
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Ninth Year — August 1991 thru July 1992 — 39,608

Bibles Distributed — Tenth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1992 —	3670	3670
September 1992 —	3304	6974
October 1992 —	4238	11,212
November 1992 —	3913	15,125

*Note — 792 Romanian Bibles and Testaments shipped
770 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 2nd shipment
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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 PUBLICATIONS

A new Froehlich book entitled, "OLD TESTAMENT MEDITATIONS" is now available through the Apostolic Christian Publications bookstore in Eureka, IL. This publication is a softbound collection of Froehlich's notes on certain Old Testament passages. The format will easily accommodate highlighting or underlining if desired. The text itself is styled for easier reading and comprehension, and should appeal to a wide readership of members and friends.

The bookstore is ready to receive your orders. The cost of the book is \$4.85 plus tax, and can be ordered by mail or by calling (309) 467-3611 during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

On Wednesday, September 2, we visited the site of the new Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf. It is located in the Granville area on the outskirts of Montego Bay, approximately half an hour from the airport. There we met building director, Larry Frick, and his wife, Katherine, along with his assistant, Jim Hedrick, and his wife, Becky. This site is considerably further along than the village site.

The manager's house A is complete and the assistant manager's house B, including staff apartments, is approximately sixty-five percent complete. Footings are installed for a two-story dormitory F. Buildings yet to be started are, Sponsors and Missionary housing B, office, dining room and kitchen building C, classrooms buildings D, vocation and staff housing building E and a hospital building J. These are all two-story buildings. A water tank, a soccer field and a volleyball field are also in the plans. The concrete and masonry security fence appears to be well on its way.

This facility will accommodate 150 children. Accommodations for

work teams on this project will be in Montego Bay at the Chatham Cottage and Miss Betty's guest house. The duration for this project is estimated at four to five years.

Again, transportation to and from the airport and job site will be furnished and warranted.

Next, we visited the Falmouth Infirmary in Falmouth, approximately a forty-five minute drive from Montego Bay. It is a rest home facility with over 100 beds funded by the Jamaican government. The government funding is not adequate to meet their needs. The matron is Mrs. Foskin and her assistant is Mrs. Barton. Both men and women can work on this project. The work would be maintenance, electrical repairs, painting, cleaning up the grounds, etc. The duration of this project is short term.

Accommodations for work teams is at the Falmouth Resort where we usually stay. Rooms are approximately twenty-five dollars per day and will accommodate two people. Meals are an extra fifteen dollars per day per person. Transportation will have to be arranged as work teams are scheduled. Work teams should be adults only.

The next project is the Granville Place of Safety. This facility houses fifty girls from ages seven to seventeen years who are wards of the court.

These girls are kept here until they can be placed in a more permanent site which may take up to a year or longer.

Work teams will need to repair or possibly replace some of the louvered windows plus doing maintenance work such as painting, minor repairs, cleaning, etc.

Again, the accommodations for this project will be at Falmouth Resort. The duration for this project is short.

The woman could help clean, paint, maintain existing building and also help cook for students and work teams for both projects until the new village is ready for cleaning and painting.

The Trelawn Infirmary and the Granville Place of Safety will welcome visitors and worship services held by our brethren.

At the new Caribbean Christian

Center for the Deaf at Montego Bay in Granville area, both men and women could be used. The work on this project will consist of concreting, masonry, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, painting, cleaning up and cooking. Again, it would be recommended that some of the teams would be pulled out for Falmouth Infirmary and Granville Place of Safety. These should be scheduled ahead of time by our own leaders in order keep consistent and smooth working conditions with all parties involved.

Let us remember when we go as work teams, we are work teams for the Lord and not only for the material labor. It appears the Lord is opening doors for His people so He can be made known and reach many hearts.

We recommend the first work team have a skilled craftsman to act as a leader for the team.

A minister should accompany each work team, to conduct our worship services.

In closing, I believe the brothers will agree that it was a very essential and successful trip.

We thank God for His guidance, protection and blessing. May God richly bless each of you for your prayers, support and willingness to be used.

Your least Brother-in-Christ,
E. Hartzell Kaisner

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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH WORK SEASON 1992-'93 PROJECT LIST

Project Number	Date	Project	Location	Missionary	Organization	Church Area	Area Coordinators
#1	1/1 - 1/9/93	School	Haiti (Bereau)	Bob Stewart	M.E.B.S.H.*	#1, #2, #3 CT, E. OH, AL, CA, FL	Craig Emch 11856 Miller Road Sterling, OH 44276 (216) 939-4591
#2	1/8 - 1/16/93	School	Haiti (ILA Vache Zanglais)	Bob Stewart	M.E.B.S.H.*	#5 Bluffton & Indy	Bill Stoller 1050 N. Main St. Bluffton, IN 46714 Ho. (219) 565-3291 Off. (219) 824-4686 Fax (219) 824-4719
#3	1/22 - 1/30/93	School	Jamaica* (Knockpatrick)	Bruce Mulberry	C.C.C.D.□	#11 & #12 CA, AZ, OR, CO	Glen Hackenjos 10564 Haverly El Monte, CA 91731 (818) 442-4957
#4	1/29 - 2/6/93	School	Haiti (Boucan Moran)	Eris Labody	Palm Grove	#9 & #10 KS, MO, MN, IA, TX, CA	Richard Schmidgall 955 Lyon Street Hancock, MN 56244 (612) 392-5241
#5	2/5 - 2/13/93	School	Haiti* (3rd Baptist)	Bob Stewart	M.E.B.S.H.*	#8 Western, IL	Mike Finley Box 176 Carlock, IL 61725 (309) 376-7301
#6	2/11 - 2/19/93	School	Jamaica* (Montego Bay)	Larry Frick	C.C.C.D.□	#4 & #6 N. IN, MI, W. OH	Phil Isabel Route 2 Remington, IN 47977 (219) 261-3541
#7	3/4 - 3/12/93	School	Haiti* (Fon De Nerger)	Bob Stewart	M.E.B.S.H.*	#7 E. IL	Jim Walter 26 Timber Ridge Fairbury, IL 61739 (815) 692-3158

* Couples invited on this project

* Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti (M.E.B.S.H.)

□ Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (C.C.C.D.)

EUROPEAN UPDATE

Andy Hunyady

Greetings Beloved,

I believe that we all follow the world events as reported by the various news services, particularly the events that touch the lives of our fellow believers in foreign countries. None are more heart-rending than those coming from the former Republic of Yugoslavia, where we have many brethren whose lives have been most tragically affected. I would like to quote just a brief excerpt from one of the reports received from a brother: "Just recently the Yugoslav Syndicate Organiza-

tion gave the following information: 90% of the population is poor and 40% of that 90% live below the existing level . . . one family of that 40% has an income such that they can buy each and every day of the month one kilogram bread and two liters of milk. That's it! Where is the rest of the living necessities? Besides that, there is 7,500,000 unemployed and 300,000 on forced vacations. There is no work in the factories due to shortage of raw materials because of the embargo on our country. It is estimated that only 550,000 will have work. This results in one employed person sup-

porting 22 unemployed people."

"This year we had drought. Prices of potatoes, vegetables, meat and groceries are rapidly rising. There is enough food to last only till January 1993. It is going to be a very bad winter. Diesel fuel is almost impossible to find. It costs \$2.00 - \$3.00 per liter on the black market. Heating fuel is just enough to last a few weeks. All transportation, both public and private are curtailed. As a result, many of our brethren cannot attend church. Those who attend are assembled in small rooms in order to keep warm and conserve fuel."

"This reporting I give to you and I pray that God will shorten the days that come upon us and upon our country. Please relate this information to all of our brothers and sisters and express our heartfelt thanks for the priceless help that they extend to us. May our Lord and God reward you in His heavenly kingdom. Greetings to you and to all from a humble servant."

Z.L.

We are utterly disappointed that after weeks of negotiating with various International Relief Agencies, that none would take the risk to transport our food shipment from Detroit, MI, to Yugoslavia, not even to Budapest, Hungary. Finally, to avoid loss by spoilage of food, it was decided to donate it to food banks in the Windsor area. Currently brothers from Hungary and Yugoslavia are trying to work out some program to purchase food items in Hungary, possibly in Szeged, near the border area, and have it transported across the border into Yugoslavia to our brethren. It is hoped that the local Red Cross will cooperate in this undertaking. Food, medications and clothing are desperately needed. May God be their helper in this work of love.

It is reported that several young brothers and friends are serving in the military, some in the fighting areas. Little is known of their life situation. One young brother was reported as having been executed earlier this year for refusing to bear arms and fight against the enemy. May we all pray to God for their safety as well as the safety of all in that country.

Last weekend we received an invitation from Romania for our brethren to attend the dedication of two new churches. Dedication is to take place Sunday, November 29. The one in the village of Ripa (Korospart), a smaller congregation and the other in the village of Chesa (Kishaza). Chesa has the largest congregation with a membership of over 130 souls and a nice group of young children. Another large congregation in Arad has a nice, new building with the roof over it, just in time before the winter weather sets in. Several smaller churches

are scheduled for construction in the spring of 1993. It is very heartwarming to receive letters reporting of good attendance by many young people. The elder brothers are kept very busy with counseling and with baptisms. We are getting a large number of letters in response to our letter that was placed in the food packages last August. It was addressed to our beneficiaries, encouraging them to drop us a note or letter about themselves, their families and also about the condition of packages they were receiving. Because these letters are written to you, our supporting brethren and friends, we are going to publish excerpts for your reading enjoyment. It is really good to hear from so many who benefit from your labors of love and work of faith. These letters are written in Hungarian and Romanian. It will take a little time to have them ready, but we want to share them with you. Here are a few now, and more in future issues of the Silver Lining.

"May the blessings of love and peace of our Lord be with you all and us all! Dearly beloved brethren-in-faith, we want to thank our Lord and you for the love packages that we receive nearly each month, and we know that it is the work of love that springs from your heart. I am 75 years old with poor health, but I thank God I am able to endure it all. I suffer with heart disease, asthma, tracheal infections, bone degeneration and poor vision. My wife is 70. She is in fairly good health, although she suffered a broken leg a few years ago and still has difficulty walking. We both worked on a collective farm, but since these were dissolved, we no longer receive pension. What will be our future only God knows. For this reason your gift packages are most helpful. About our family, we have three married daughters and five grandchildren.

We have a small garden and raise vegetables and we live out of it as we have no other income. Again, we want to thank our Lord and you for your love and help. We just can't find words to properly thank you for it! My wife and I are the only believers in this village. We used to at-

tend the church in Arad, but lately we can't go because of my poor eyesight. This letter is being written by one of our granddaughters. We greet all the brethren by this letter, in the name of our Lord."

Antal M.

"Dearly beloved brethren in the Lord,

The holy grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the holy peace of God, our Father, fill your hearts all the days of your life! I find it necessary and my duty to write to you and to thank our Lord and all of you for your great love and the many, many hours of your labors that you do for us, most unworthy ones. It is hard for me to find words to properly thank you for all the great help you keep sending me. May our God reward you richly for it. I thank my God continually for your manifold gifts. May the blessings of peace of our God fill the hearts of everyone who is carrying this heavy load for their fellow men. 'Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ,' (Galatians 6:2) May our good God help His people in these soul-killing times to stand fast and not fall, but by God's grace all can enter into His eternal kingdom! For closing, I wish everyone the very best from the Lord, and greet all the brethren as your least sister-in-the-Lord,"

Ilona T.

"Dear Uncle Andy and Aunt Theresa,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and praise His name, and thank God, that finally I have received that wonderful grace of God. I just pray that He will grant me endurance to keep all that I promised to Him, that I will keep in my heart that wonderful faith to the end of my life. Only God knows the very difficult circumstances that I live in, and only now did I find that comfort and love that my heart and soul sought after for so long a time. It really touched our hearts, when after the baptismal services it was announced in our church that you had called by phone, to show your love and concern for us. Though you were absent in the body, yet we all felt that you were with us in the Spirit. It was the most wonderful

feeling to know that your thoughts were with us and your greetings were really appreciated by all. I still have the hope and keep praying for our son, Misi (crippled son) that he will get better with the help of the Lord. We remain in the love and grace of our Lord and wish you all the very best of health and greet you in the hope that we will see you again, soon."

Kati H. (a new sister-in-faith)

"Dearly beloved in the Lord!

I am writing this letter with the help of the Lord, hoping that you can read my writing because my hands are very shaky. It was a long, long time ago that I went to school and now it is very difficult for me to write. But I must write to you, first, to thank God for you, and for all who so often think of us in that far distant country and put forth so much effort and hard work for us. I just can't imagine how much work and expense it is for you, it is such a great sacrifice! But God knows it all and He will repay, for no man can ever repay or reward you for it. Even this pencil and paper that I am writing with is a gift and even my grandchildren say what a fine pencil it is! So is the facial soap, very fine. I just cannot describe how precious and nourishing everything is. For so many months now, this is really a marvelous thing! I have two daughters, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. One of my daughters was born with a joint malformation, but is not afraid to work. I live with my youngest daughter whose husband died a year ago last December. She is 46, we are very close to each other. All my children are very good to me. I was paralyzed and also have kidney problems and take medications to get rid of the fluid. Sadly, my children are still traveling on the side road. I may not have very much time left here, but we are in the Lord's hand, unto Him be praise, honor and glory! With loving greetings I remain,"

Gizella K.

"Dear brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord!

We send you our Christian love and greetings, wishing you peace

and the love of God with good health and happiness. We and our families are well and we thank first our Lord and then you, our dear brothers and sisters. We have received everything that you have sent us in good order, and again we thank first to our Lord, Jesus Christ and then you beloved in the Lord. I have read your letter and we wish to let you know that our families are well and healthy. I am a widow sister and live with a sister with five children who is writing to you. The good Lord bless you and keep you safe in His arms of love and help us to meet where Jesus wishes us to meet. With love from our families,"

Floare A. & Maria P.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The main facility at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped is a 104-bed facility located two miles northwest of Morton, IL. It is licensed by the State of Illinois as an Intermediate Care Facility for Developmentally Disabled. This home provides for the residential and training needs of people who are developmentally disabled and certified as being in need of a high level of personal and medical care.

The original home was built in 1970-71 and had a capacity of 52 beds. However, the non-living area (kitchen, activities, laundry, mechanical) were built for twice that capacity. In 1976-78, an additional living wing and dining area of approximately the same size as the original was added to complete the home. The home has enjoyed steady growth in the number of residents, starting at six in 1971 and reaching the current capacity in 1986.

The residents of the home have widely varied handicaps and needs, including physical, mental and emotional. Almost all of the residents have some mental handicap and many have physical and emotional handicaps as well. Some of the mental handicaps include Downs and other Syndromes, autism, and brain damage. The major physical handicap is cerebral palsy. Some of the residents are much

higher functioning (can live more independently) than other residents who are very dependent on the staff for help with basic needs (eating, toileting, mobility, etc.).

There are currently 103 residents living at the Home for the Handicapped. They vary in age from 19 to 85, with the average age being 41. They come from all over the United States. The majority of the residents come from Illinois. 60% of the residents are either from an Apostolic Christian Church family or are a relative of one. The remainder of the residents are mostly from the central Illinois area. Most of the residents attend Sunday school at Morton, Washington or at the Home. The residents have family members (parents, siblings, etc.) that visit them from time to time and occasionally take them back to their original homes for short visits. The residents always enjoy anyone who comes to visit them.

Since the home has been in existence for over 20 years, there have been significant changes in residency. During that time span approximately 175 residents have lived at the Home. As the residents gain new skills, age, and go through other changes, their needs change and quite often are better served in a different environment. Approximately 27 residents have moved into other smaller homes in Morton operated by the Home for the Handicapped that better suit their capabilities. These homes will be discussed in next month's article. Some have moved away from the Morton area to other homes (for example Lakeview Terrace in Sabetha, KS). Nine residents have also passed away while living at the home. These moves create openings that are filled by new residents that typically need a higher level of care, resulting in the need for more staff per resident.

Each resident's strengths and needs are assessed by an inter-disciplinary team. A program is designed and monitored by a case manager for each resident to improve their skills and overcome their handicaps as much as possible. Their progress is reviewed annually to make necessary modi-

fications and assure maximum effectiveness.

A full range of services are provided, including training in personal, social and leisure skills and speech, occupational, physical therapy, and recreation. The goals of these services are to maximize their integration into the community and to live as independently and normally as possible. Nursing and certified resident aid staff are on duty 24 hours a day.

All of the residents attend some type of activity during the day that is suited to their needs. These include programs designed to develop their skills, vocational training, and employment in the community. Most of the developmental and vocational programs are provided by other social service organizations in the community. An alternate day program is provided at the Home for the Handicapped for those residents who are unable to leave the Home.

The Home currently employs 142 people, many of whom are part-time. The equivalent number of full-time employees is 102. The largest number of employees are resident aids, followed by nurses and then kitchen help.

Birthdays at the Home in January are: Edith Wagenbach (8), Mary Schramm (13), Karen Blunier (14), Bruce Steffen (19), Jackie Willett (19), Laverna Zobrist (25), John Eddy (27), and Tom Sides (31). At Oakwood: Max Honegger (22), Becky Huber (26). And at Main: Rhonda Gerst (12).

GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home
Stephany Moser

"But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."
 Luke 2:19

We are in the season where many people around the world will open Bibles to the account of our Savior's birth. How many times have we ourselves read or heard this precious story? But amidst the bustle of getting and giving, so often the reality and true gravity of

the birth of Jesus Christ onto this very Earth, gets lost in the shuffle of good intentions.

Can you imagine what Mary must have been feeling and thinking? Imagine being called to mother the Son of God! Luke 2:19 takes on new weight when we really consider all that she had to ponder. Yet, each one of us, here at Gateway Woods and in natural relationships, are called to parent the children of God. Each child on this earth can be adopted by our Almighty Father, and become His son or daughter through this Jesus. This is our calling to raise up His children, in His ways, teaching them the true meaning of Christmas - Christ in the flesh, deeply loving and longing to bring others into a right relationship with His Father, there in that stable in Bethlehem.

For many of the children here at Gateway Woods, this will be the first time that Christ will be the reason for the celebration and remembrance. Some of the children will even be able to return to family for a few days during their Christmas breaks. Pray that they too, could be messengers of the truth of Jesus Christ to their families. So often during this holiday season, our children have many deep hurts that get stirred up again because of memories of the past, or simply longing for a true family they've never experienced. Please pray that Jesus will minister healing to these tender hearts, and that we each can do our part in the family of God to help them.

We continue to pray that whoever is supposed to come to work in our Gateway Woods family will listen and obey our Father. We still have openings for an Office Manager and Single Sister Houseparent in the East House. Also, we will have a need for volunteer skilled finish carpenters during January and February to help us complete our Social Services Building addition. If you have any questions about any of these opportunities to serve our Lord, please contact our office or see the notice in this issue.

We also rejoice that two of our precious sisters have begun glorifying the Lord in new relationships.

Sis. Amy Unsicker, (formerly our TLP Coordinator), has been engaged to Bro. Dean Kaisner (Champaign, IL) and Sis. Joanne Kaisner (our Administrative Assistant) has been engaged to Bro. Ked Gerber (Bluffton, IN). That makes a total of three of our sisters who have become engaged recently. Last month Sis. Rhonda Stoller was engaged to Bro. Scott Gerber (Rittman, OH). May each couple grow together in Jesus as a threefold cord, not easily broken.

As we each follow the path our Father has directed us to, let us truly treasure Jesus Christ in our hearts. Never forget that when we remember His cradle in this season, that our true salvation was in His mission - the cross.

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Lisa Huetten

As we grow older each day of our lives, it's easy to lose sight of the childlike innocence when we were young. It's good to take the time to notice the innocence of a child, and mimic it in a Christ-like way. We rejoice with Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Moore at the birth of their second child, Luke Michael. Welcoming little Luke home is his big brother, Matthew. Luke and Matthew's grandparents are Elder Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris Moore (Athens) and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL). Our Sis. Corrine Thomas also has a new little grandson, Brad Austin. His parents are Sis. Corrine's daughter, Carolyn, and her husband, James Lewis.

As the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repents, so do we also rejoice here on earth. Our prayers are with Renee Durham and O. C. Haggemaker as they make this commitment to become Christians.

We'd like to thank Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH) for sharing the Word of God with us this month. November 14 was the date of the board meeting, and our church was blessed with many visitors on Sunday. Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH), Bill Schlatter (Junction,

OH) and Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN). It was also a special time for those of us from Goodfield, IL, to have Sis. Elna Grimm amongst us.

Once again this month we'd like to thank our many visitors from various parts of our country. It's always a good feeling to walk into the sanctuary on Sunday and see brothers and sisters from far away.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:38

November 7 and 8 was a most beautiful weekend, both weather-wise and spiritually. Many gathered to hear Martha Elsasser gave her testimony and witness her baptism.

Sis. Martha was blessed with many relatives and friends coming from out of state. Later, we enjoyed a fellowship dinner and hymn sing.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Loren Knapp (Tucson), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Douglas Wagenbach (San Diego, CA).

Our sympathy to Bro. Alvin and Sis. Kathryn Laukhuf, on the death of his brother, Bro. Richard. They flew to Ohio for services and also visit Joe Zollinger, who is recovering from an accident.

Bro. Gordon Greenbank is back in the hospital, Sis. Doris Kokanovich is undergoing studies, Bro. Todd Roth is hospitalized with a broken leg from an equipment accident.

The Sunday school church picnic is a joyous time for everyone. Fun, food and fellowship are three big ingredients to have a picnic and the Lord blesses us with good weather to make "all things possible."

Our dear visitors, used to miles of level land, always enjoy seeing how beautiful and colorful the canyons and mountains are. If anyone

needs a spiritual lift to see what God has done - Arizona has much to offer. Our Lord God made it all.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi are happy first-time grandparents. Bro. Jon and Sis. Stephanie Schlatter (Alto, MI) welcomed Victoria Rose October 27.

Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) was our guest minister November 15. In the evening, he and our two elders read the conference letter. Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach and Jon Kokanovich were grateful for the help and we members are thankful for the loving delivery of church guidelines that keep our eyes upon our heavenly Father.

An August 17 medical exam of Christina (Tina) Beery showed her condition in the acceptable range. As we continue praying, medical technology is being updated for even better results for a heart and lung transplant. Therefore, doctors are watching carefully.

Please continue your prayers in behalf of our granddaughter. God bless.

Gratefully,

Bro. Dick and Sis. Marie Beery
Bro. Gordon Greenbank and Sis. Emily wish to thank everyone for their love and prayers, cards, gifts and the many deeds of kindness during his recent surgery and recovery. May God bless you all.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Philippians 4:13

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We shared holy communion this month. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and his family were with us on that special Sunday. Many thanks to them for their efforts!

Also, in the last month many of us traveled to San Diego, CA and Phoenix for weekends of fellowship. We wish to thank both of these congregations for their love and hospitality. We have many special memories to cherish from these weekends.

We have enjoyed some beautiful fall weather (finally) with temperatures in the 60's and 70's and

the sun shining through. We will have temperatures in the low 80's this week.

Our love and prayers are with Sis. Darla Hari (Daryle and June, Tucson) as she plans her wedding to Bro. Ryan Fiechter (Bluffton, IN).

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Marian Petrovic

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bill and Barb Holbert at the passing of Barb's father, Bro. Howard Greiner (Cissna Park, IL). May the dear family be comforted by John 14 with the promise that the Comforter will come and that God has prepared a place where we can meet our loved ones once again.

Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) were our visiting ministers for the month of November. We thank the brothers for expounding unto us the Word of Life.

A hearty welcome is extended to Mike Howell (Bay City, MI) who is stationed here in San Diego for the time being. We appreciate his ready smile and desire to worship with us and participate in church activities.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Michelle Virkler

"I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this." (John 11:25-26). "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." (Psalms 23:4). Sis. Olga Bahler, widow of Gotfried Bahler, passed away Thursday, November 5 at 92 years of age. She leaves two sons, Bros. Kenneth (Tolland) and Owen (Ellington); and Audrey Graf (Akron, OH); two sisters, Sisters Ella Marti and Julia Bahler (Ellington); 19 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. We will miss Sis. Olga's gentle spirit.

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern,

KS) visited our congregation recently.

Those dear ones in our congregation that have been under the care of a physician or hospitalized are: Sisters Diane Stoller, Mary Kloter, Rosile Erismann and Bros. Brian Luginbuhl and Wil Whitman. May God touch them with His healing hand.

Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman visited with us and assisted our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in the reading of the memorandum. "Til I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." (I Timothy 4:13, 16).

As the holiday season approaches, may we always be reminded of the greatest miracle of all, Jesus' birth and the reason for Christmas.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON**
Henrietta Meyer

As reported in last month's news, our congregation is now having services the fourth Sunday of the month. Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) was here for our first regularly scheduled fourth Sunday service. Ministers this month have been Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). Other visitors have been from Bloomington and Eureka, IL and Philadelphia, PA. We are always glad to have visitors whether in the area on business or vacation.

As we are busy with all the holiday gatherings, may we always have Christ as our unseen Guest. May we remember the reason for the celebrating.

Services are held the first, third and fourth 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. We often meet for a tape on the other Sundays, so please let us know if you are in the area. We are always blessed when we have

additional opportunities for fellowship. For more information, assistance or just to let us know you will be in the area, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Bro. Ed Stoll (703) 494-3955. Please note the Stoll's number has changed since the minister book was printed.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Terri K. Huber

It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker (Morton, IL), as well as Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys Schneider (Rockville, CT) here during the month of October.

It's exciting to report the engagement of two of our local congregation, which is not only unusual in a small church, but also results in the first wedding in our church in nine years! Our congratulations are in order for Bro. Doug Sauder and Sis. Suzanne Green. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder and Bro. Peter and Sis. Claudia Green.

After almost a year of planning, we were able to join brethren from Sarasota, North Fort Myers and Atlanta, GA at a church retreat weekend. The time of singing, Bible study and fellowship was a welcome interlude in the hustle and bustle of our daily lives.

Annual church cleaning is scheduled for November 21. From the looks of the weather today, November 20, it may rain too much to do the yearly grounds upkeep. Perhaps that means we'll do an extra thorough job on the inside, with all the help we'll get from the men who aren't working outside!

Sis. Joan Kuntz was hospitalized this month. Her surgery was safely performed and she is at home recuperating, praise God.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Marvin and Rhea Steffen

We are so thankful for visitors this past month, including ministering Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota). We appreciate so much, having he and his dear family travel to share with us.

Last month, the congregation

listened to the conference tapes on Wednesday evenings. May we take all the teachings to heart, become doers rather than hearers only of the precious Word.

Our sympathies are extended to Bill and Louise Heckel in the passing of her sister. May God comfort them will be our prayer.

Bro. Victor Beer had surgery and we are thankful for his speedy recovery.

We were so thankful for the wonderful privilege of gathering together our families with families of like mind and faith at the retreat we attended with our churches. The weekend spent was truly an inspiration to all, and we sincerely thank all the brothers and sisters that gave of themselves in the Lord's service to make the weekend what it was. Not only were we strengthened and renewed, but our children were given such memories. It is so important, in this day and age, to expose our children to the joys of the precious heritage of our people. They must see that there is everlasting joy and peace in serving the Lord, rather than the fleeting pleasures of this world. That joy and peace were so evident at the retreat. We would certainly encourage all who can to plan to go next November if the Lord should tarry in His return.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Suellen Ott - Gala Gerber

So precious is the fellowship of our brothers and sisters-in-Christ and friends of the truth! Our congregation had the wonderful opportunity of sharing some time with our neighboring churches; Atlanta, GA, Fort Lauderdale and Fort Myers. Though the air was nipped with coolness, our hearts were warmed with love by communing with one another! As our Lord requests for us to "bear (or carry) ye one another's burdens," (Galatians 6:2) - what comfort and strength we found in doing just that! We thank God for His presence and Him blessing our time together.

Our hearts were saddened at the passing of our faithful brother, Richard Laukhuf. As our Lord compares our flesh to grass in Isaiah

40:5-8, we find comfort in knowing we have a soul that is going to live forever, somewhere – and we are so thankful that Bro. Richard had chosen the “better way” – Jesus! We pray for his dear wife and family that they might be comforted, strengthened and encouraged to know that our Saviour is at the helm!

Dear God, we humbly come before Thee, asking Thee for Thy favored blessing upon our sister, Beseika Krstec. Sis. Beseika has undergone surgery and no doubt she and her husband, John, covet everyone’s prayers as she awaits restoration of health.

We also wish for God’s healing powers to touch our dear Bro. Harvey Banwart (Eureka, IL). Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sylvia I’m sure would each covet your prayers as he too awaits God’s perfect will of restoration.

Our “health” is a “gift” that should be prized! A “gift” that cannot be priced! – Father, help us to recognize the blessing of “health” and to place our honest efforts into glorifying Thee with this “gift”!

We are thankful once again for the blessing of visiting ministers! Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) all spent time and shared a portion of themselves which our great God had given to them. We pray God will bless them and their wives for being willing servants!

GEORGIA, ATLANTA John Brewer

As the presidential campaign progressed this year, there was a clamoring of the American citizens wanting someone to cure all of the ills that befall our country. Just one man to make everything better. If all that faith could be given to someone that can heal ills, that can heal wounds that seem too deep to heal. If all that faith looking for that one man can be put on Jesus Christ, there would not be as much effort into trying to find someone who can bring about needed change.

Our hearts were saddened upon the passing away of Tamara

McClellan’s father, Jess Grimm, this past October. Our thoughts and love are with Tamara’s family during this time of grief, praying that Jesus will heal the wounds of deep loss.

As always, we are extremely blessed to have visiting ministers bringing the Word to our small congregation. We want to thank Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) for coming down. The spirit anointed both men to nourish us with the Word of God.

As winter blows upon us, many families will be heading down to Florida to temporarily escape winter’s chilling touch. As you travel down, stop by and visit our congregation. Atlanta is not as warm as Florida, but our hearts are. We enjoy the visits of travelers and the excitement of meeting those we have never met or have not seen in a long time.

We meet every Sunday at the Ramada Renaissance on Riverdale Road and I-85, just south of the Atlanta airport. We begin our services at 10:30. If there are any questions or you want to drop a line that you will be stopping in, please call either Linn Stoller (404-631-4554), Tom Hitz (404-642-1221) or myself (404-591-5432).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Carol Steffen

This past month has been fairly eventful for our church in Belvidere. Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg Anliker are thankful to God for their first-born son. Derek Steven was born October 21, and is also welcomed by two sets of first-time grandparents; Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville, IL).

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sarah Steffen have recently moved to this area and are making Belvidere their home church. We welcome them with open arms and trust the Lord will provide for them as He has already in the past.

We have had several visitors this month including several from the Peoria young group. Our visiting ministers this month included

Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Marshall Heinhold (Washington, IL), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Ron Schambach, Gary Anliker and Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL). We sincerely thank them for bringing forth God’s Word to us.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Tudy Schmied - Debbie Grieco

“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

I Thessalonians 5:18

This one piece of scripture can help us to stay focused on the importance of this Christmas season. It is timely that Thanksgiving falls just a few weeks before Christmas so we might take time to ponder the wealth of blessings that have been bestowed upon us as a nation, as a faith and as individuals. Daily, we can read of the sinful ways of our society and of the many foreign nations where people are starving and are oppressed and we wonder why God chooses to bless our nation so abundantly. In the recent national election, we heard repeatedly how bad our economy is. Compared to what? Bro. Willis Endsley once said, “If you go to bed at night and sleep between two sheets, you have nothing to complain about.” In everything give thanks.

It is easy to get caught up in the gift buying, decorating, baking, etc of the holiday season. We often forget to take time to consider what we and our loved ones really value about the holidays and to apply our time and efforts toward those values. Our congregation was recently reminded that Hallelujah means “Praise ye the Lord.” Let us thank the Lord and praise the Lord as we celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our hearts were saddened by the death of Bro. Howard R. Greiner (Cissna Park) October 26. He is the father of Doug Greiner.

We appreciated the services of our visiting ministers. This month we were blessed by the message

brought by Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN).

Construction has recently begun on the new addition to our Sunday school area. This new area will hold about 200 students. The old Sunday school area will be remodeled to provide an enlarged baby room, conference room, and fellowship area. We thank God for the guidance He has given those involved in the planning of this new structure and ask for His continued direction.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Les and Barb Fehr

Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Gudeman were blessed with a new son, Shannon Gregory. Shannon is welcomed home by Brandon, Lucas, Tonya and Miranda. Grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Martha Stoller and Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman (Elgin).

We also welcome little baby Alexandria Christine into our congregation. She is the daughter of Jennifer Pyles (Bro. Denny and Sis. Becky).

During the last month our visiting ministers were Bros. Bill Gudeman (Elgin), Glen Dill (Tremont) and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville). May God bless these brothers for their efforts on our behalf in bringing us the Word of God.

Thank you for the prayers, cards, gifts, visits and concerns while I was hospitalized in June and since returning home. May God bless each of you.

Emma Knobloch

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Margie Heintz

We are thankful to God that souls continue to respond to His call. In mid-November we were privileged to hear the testimonies and to witness the baptisms of Eric and Nancy (Weiss) Schieler. We were all encouraged and taught as we heard again how God works diligently and lovingly to fulfill His will in the lives of all of His children. We welcome Bro. Eric and Sis. Nancy into our congregation

and pray that we can all continue to grow together in the Spirit and in love.

We wish to extend our condolences to John and Mary (Greiner) Tucker at the recent loss of her father, Bro. Howard Greiner (Cissna Park, IL). "... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

The engagement of Bro. Dean Kaisner and Sis. Amy Unsicker (Leo, IN/Peoria) was announced recently. We pray for God's blessings on them as they continue to seek God's direction in all that they do and plan for their life together. "... seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." Luke 12:31

It was 36 years ago when Wednesday evening services were initiated at the University of Illinois. On the evening of November 7, 1956, the Constitution of the Apostolic Christian Bible class was read to the group in attendance. Among other things it states that the objectives are "... to promote among the group a greater knowledge of the Bible, a deeper religious faith, and a better understanding and appreciation of the will of the Lord..." We are thankful that those lofty goals were set so many years ago, and it seems appropriate for each of us to consider them in relation to our individual lives.

The Sunday school students and teachers again prepared Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. After decorating boxes, shopping for food and packing the boxes, everyone helped deliver the boxes to very thankful families.

We want to thank the ministers and their families who came to our congregation to share God's Word with us during the past month. They were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), Jim Plattner (Princeville), Steve Sauder (Tremont), Ron Schambach (Elgin), Tom Schambach (Elgin), Dale Stoller (Fairbury) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). May God continue to bless them all.

Silver Lining payment for Champaign is due in January.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Large pieces, small pieces, turned every which way - the puzzle that was to be our addition was scattered all over the yard. When I looked at it, nothing made sense. However, men who understood the relationship between each piece had soon joined them all together, smoothly, in a significant whole. Within the puzzle that is each of our lives, we also do not understand often why we have some pieces there, why we do not have some pieces we think we might like to have, but Christ will gather them all together to make us beautiful in His eyes, to make us a blessing. There is, however, one piece which we must reach out for, without which the relationships of all the other pieces do not make for wholeness, true peace, true purpose. That is the piece which can only be filled in when we come to our God through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in repentance, pleading for His forgiveness and mercy. Then and only then can the puzzle, which is each of us, go forward to completion. Still, we must be alert. I have had students who, for reasons I do not understand, have removed one piece from a puzzle in progress or torn the picture from several pieces. Others have merely been careless and dropped a piece or two, which were swept up in the janitor's broom. Satan has his own reasons and would certainly steal from the wholeness of the picture God intended us to be. He uses his strongest tactics to take away our piece of completeness, for unless our relationship with our God is at our center, how can we be used and made perfect in Him? May the Lord grant us wisdom that we may gladly add the pieces of our lives that He gives us in 1993, allowing Him to fit them into the proper places, and may we ever be grateful for His central "piece" in our lives, granting us heavenly goals as we put together our daily earthly purpose. "A Christian is a mind through which Jesus thinks, a heart through which Jesus loves, a voice through which Jesus speaks, and a hand through which Jesus helps." - copyright Kristone

Visitors are always welcome. Having many ministers we have been blessed by their spiritual counsel from above. We are thankful to Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL). Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Eric Givens (Princeville, IL) spent themselves in the Lord's work as well. Perhaps we can be more aware of the demands on our brethren. On Sunday last month, we had one minister alone at home in Chicago, one ministering in Valparaiso, IN, one ministering alone in Washington, D.C., and one ministering alone in Dallas. They had extra responsibilities then. There are places where one brother often needs the extra portion of grace and many times has two services alone. Do we pray enough for them?

Elder Bro. Sam Huber assisted our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in holy communion October 24, privileged to come away together in the quiet of the sanctuary; to have the Spirit of God present, binding us together as we symbolically share Christ's blood and body; to be led by men of God, our brethren, and to be surrounded by our church, also Christ's. May Satan's worst onslaughts, including the busy-ness and commercialism of the season be turned aside day by day because our faces are fixed on Christ, remembering His sacrifice.

We would extend our sympathy to Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Kaiser and their daughter, Laura, at the passing of her grandfather. May they be comforted in the promises of the Lord.

When a student is part of my classroom, I trust him/her. Each one knows that. In recent weeks, my trust became a temptation for one, and I lost over \$100 being collected for a field trip. Lord willing, it became an opportunity. I told my students I was not angry – except that I could no longer trust them as a whole implicitly with keys, money, passes. The true issue was the stealing of trust. Sometimes that is a problem for me with those who would depend on me so completely. If one's trust is not in God, it will not stand. I am only a fal-

lible person. At some time I will let a person down, even though I would never choose to do so. I pray that my thoughts, words, deeds would never become a stumbling block – but I must point each one to Christ for He alone will never give these tender souls a reason to lose trust. Lord, may I be ever more watchful and prayerful – specifically – in 1993.

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ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Bev Knapp - Cyndee Anderson

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come,
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him
room . . .”

The challenging need, as we sing again the angelic song and look forward to the glorious day of the trumpet sound, is for preparation.

Christmas, with its glamour, gaiety and giving, may distract us from the person of Jesus Himself. The cares of this world, the love of pleasure, the pursuit of happiness and a multitude of other things may tend to deafen our ears and dull our hearts to the fast approaching day of the trumpet sound.

As we think of giving, shall we not first give to Him our spirit, soul and body – our past, present and future? Shall we not ask Him to fire our hearts with a new love-flame so that we will pray, Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20)? From “The Song and Trumpet,” by R. R. Brown

It was with appreciation for God's blessings that we sat and viewed the slides of our brethren in Russia one Saturday evening at the fellowship hall this month. Appreciation not only for the many material blessings we enjoy here in America, but also for the blessings of travel and communication that make it possible for us to see how God is faithful even in the poorest of situations; and how the real blessing of God is simply the work He does in the hearts of men. We want to thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing these with us and also for ministering to us that Sunday,

along with Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

The following Sunday we were again blessed with visitors on the pulpit. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Fritz Knapp (Congerville) were with us that day, along with other company, making it a special day of fellowship.

October 26 was a day of sadness for our church and community as we learned of the sudden passing from this life of our Bro. Howard Greiner. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Viola; to his children, Barb Holbert (Bill, San Diego, CA), Mary Tucker (John, Champaign), Elaine Mackey (Scott, Columbus, OH) and Bro. Doug (Sis. Jean, Bloomington); and to his eleven grandchildren. Also in our thoughts are his sisters, Sis. Tillie Rudin (Cissna Park), Sis. Rose Eureich and Lydia Osmun (both of Elgin, IL); and his brothers, Bro. Bob (Cissna Park) and Bro. Ben, Otto and Emil (all of Hancock, MN). May the Lord comfort these dear ones in their loss.

We wish to extend our best wishes to two couples who have announced their engagements this month. On November 8, Bro. Joe Walder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy, Cissna Park) became engaged to Sis. Tricia Steiner (Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen, Princeville), and on November 15, we heard of the engagement of Bro. Tim Kaufmann (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean, Cissna Park) to Sis. Robin Zimmerman (Bro. Rick and Sis. Raylene, Roanoke). Also, looking forward to being married this month are Jill Hofbauer and Karl Weiss, both of Decatur. Jill's parents are Jim and Betty (Cissna Park), and Karl's parents are Patty and the late Herb Weiss (Greensfork, IN). “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us . . .” Ephesians 5:1-2

We wish to remember our Sis. Clara Hofer who had hip surgery this month and also Al Rudin who spent some time in the hospital. Also in our thoughts were Bro. Stan and Sis. Debbie Gudeman as their daughter, Kendra, underwent a series of tests at Mayo's. How thank-

ful we can be for a loving Father who cares for even every little sparrow.

The Marvin J. Hari family wishes to thank the elders and ministers of Phoenix, AZ and Cissna Park, friends and relatives, for their prayers and support of Sis. Carolyn's illness and family crisis at Phoenix and Sis. Carolyn's surgery later upon returning back home. The many cards, calls, notes, gifts and encouragements during this difficult time were appreciated.

The Bible class has been busy this month with a visit to Princeville one Sunday and an ACYF at Forrest on another. Thank you to each parent and Sunday school teacher who helps with these activities.

With us for a Wednesday evening recently were our Elder Bro. Art Bahler and also Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). May the Lord bless and strengthen these dear servants that they may continue to "watch for our souls, as they that must give account . . ." (Hebrews 13:17) As the world darkens around us, the need for strong leadership and direction in the church becomes greater, a fact that Satan knows as well as God; and therefore it is no surprise that we find our elders so often under attack these days. May we find ourselves among those who prayerfully and lovingly support them in the fear of the Lord, knowing that this is what He asks us to do in His Word. ". . . But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Isaiah 66:2.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Sue Wiegand - Myra Steffen

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

Isaiah 9:6

We rejoiced this past month to

hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Ree Hartman (Bro. Jim) and Kurt Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet). May the "Prince of Peace" continue to rule in their hearts.

Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) were here to assist with the baptism services. Other ministering brothers visiting this month include: Bros. Marshall Heinold (Washington), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton) and Steve Sauder (Tremont). We appreciate their efforts.

John and Jackie Schrock welcomed their first child, Andrew John. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock, and James and Sherry Sollis (Bloomington). We wish John and Jackie God's blessings and guidance.

Recently married are Darrick Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy) and Holly Meisner (Jim and Sandy, Roanoke). Also Miriam Funk (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley) and Doug Kathy (John and Jane, Carlock). We wish them God's blessings also.

We are thankful to have Bro. Bob Williamson back in church again after his extended hospitalization.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

'Twas not the angel's message
That gave the Christmas thought
Nor yet the gold and incense
Which the Wise Men had brought.

'Twas not the star that led them
Upon the unknown way;
It was the birth of Jesus
That makes the Christmas Day!

Annie Johnson Flint

It is always uplifting to see our Bible class making and renewing friendships with visiting Sunday school students. Such was experienced as they recently hosted the young people from Roanoke. We hope and pray those friendships established will become even deeper and more firmly grounded as one

by one they find the grace to heed God's call.

"Flourishing youth, thou our hope and fond expectation, Hark to the voice that is calling in kind invitation."

Zion's Harp #168

We rejoice with Ryan Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) as he has found grace to heed this king invitation. May God grant him the sincere desire to build a firm foundation.

Elated grandparents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker, and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville, IL) welcomed their first grandchild, Derek Steven, October 21. Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg (Belvidere, IL) are Derek's thankful parents.

God's healing touch has once again been bestowed upon our hospital patients Otto Mueller, Bro. Don Schambach (Sis. Leann) and Sis. Peg Heiniger (Bro. Don). We continue to pray and trust God's restoration can also be granted to Keith Schambach (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison) and James Schurter (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ruth).

The hearts of Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy Kinsinger were saddened in the tragic loss of her aunt, Arlene Dahlhauser of Arizona. Lydia Osmun and Sis. Rose Eurich likewise experienced parting as their brother, Bro. Howard Greiner (Cissna Park, IL) was taken to his eternal reward. May God comfort these dear families and may we all strive to be ready that when summoned, we may be found prepared.

"Blessed hope that in Jesus is given,
In all our sorrow to cheer and
sustain
That soon in the mansions of
Heaven

We shall meet our lov'd ones again."
James McGranahan

The Lord also saw fit to relieve Sis. Esther Kachelmuss, 89, of her earthly cares and take her "home" November 7. Her family includes: Sisters Gertrude, Katherine, Ceceila Braun (the late Bro. Herman), Martha Greiner (Bro. Ben, Morris, MN); Bro. Clarence

(Sis. Laura, Forrest, IL); and many nieces and nephews. We will all miss Sis. Esther's smile and example but trust her family will feel our love and prayers at this time, and in the days to come.

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." St. John 3:5. Heartwarming fellowship and rich blessing were our portion as our dear friends, Larry and Beth (Weiss) Moore, shared their testimonies and were baptized November 1. Each of us were challenged to better serve our God with not only our tongue, but also our feet. We are thankful to God for the inspired messages and labors of Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

An evening of fellowship was enjoyed as many brethren and friends, aged threescore and ten or above, gathered for the annual dinner prepared on their behalf. God bless the efforts of all who assisted in making this possible.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David."

St. Luke 1:68, 69

We are so blessed to have been taught and to have experienced the salvation which Jesus brings to every soul who seeks Him. As we remember His birth, let us especially remember His gift of salvation.

Our Bible class students invited the Tremont and Washington Bible classes to spend Sunday, November 8 with us. We also appreciated the visits and labors of Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley), and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) who helped share in that day.

On October 24, Ellen Banwart

(Bro. Joel and Sis. Sonia) and Eric Porter (Melvin and Bev Porter, Mackinaw) exchanged wedding vows. May God bless them in their life together as they make their home in Washington, IL. The engagement of Bro. Dale Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene) and Sis. Lavonne Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky, Bradford) was announced November 8. We wish them the love and blessings of our God.

Our congregation has been blessed with two more little baby boys. Brace Andrew was born to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri Martin October 27. His brothers and sisters are Bradley, Stephanie, Brett and Stacy. Bro. Keith and Sis. Michelle Knepp and daughter, Emily, welcome Ross Michael into their lives November 10.

On November 4, Bro. Ben Schumacher passed away. He was 94 years old. We sympathize with his wife, Sis. Ruth, and his two daughters, Jeannete Schumacher (Eureka) and Mrs. Earl (Eleanor) Meyer (Morton).

Our prayers have been with Bro. Virgil Rocke, Bro. Harvey Banwart, and retired Elder Bro. Walt Anliker in their recent illnesses and surgery.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees.
Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine.
O night when Christ was born!

Gospel Hymns #876

This lovely Christmas hymn always reminds me of Christmas caroling on a clear, cold, winter night when the earth is covered with glis-

tening white and the stars hang brilliant in the firmament of the heavens. Our weary souls rejoice with a thrill of hope at such a time when we ponder the miracle that occurred that night when Christ was born. The miracle in Bethlehem has only been exceeded by the miracle on Calvary.

Our congregation mourned the loss of our loved one, Myrna Moser, 53, who passed on into eternity November 11 after a long illness. We are comforted to know that she left us with a testimony of peace. We pray for the Lord's nearness to her family: Bro. Lloyd, Bros. Doug, Kevin and Jeff, Sis. Marsha Fehr (Bro. Nathan), Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry, Oakville, IA), Sis. Janis Fehr (Bro. Randall), Sally Fehr (Les); grandchildren and 13 brothers and sisters. We will miss Myrna's loving example in our church family.

We also extend deepest sympathy to Bro. Reuben Bach (Sis. Louise) in the loss of his brother, George Bach (Forrest).

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

Hospital patients were Christine Steidinger (Harvey), Sis. Lydia Nussbaum (Harvey) and Sis. Ruth Hofstetter. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. We also think of Sis. Fannie Maurer, who has not been able to assemble with us for some time and who recently had her 91st birthday.

Our Sunday school Bible class hosted the Bible classes from Eureka and Bradford October 25. Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park) ministered to the children.

"The seed is the word of God . . . The sower soweth the word . . ." Luke 8:11, Mark 4:14. We were blessed with an abundance of ministering brothers who visited us recently. Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Earl Gerber (Forrest), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Dan Stoller

(Remington, IN), Greg Rassi (Chicago), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Ralph Garber (Morton) and Walter Herrman (Princeville) labored among us. May the seed which they have sown "fall on honest and good hearts and bring forth fruit."

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider

O list to the story that never grows old,
 Its tidings of joy repeat,
 The Saviour is come by the prophets foretold,
 To Bethlehem's quiet street.
 The miracle star shines in splendor above,
 The stable so dingy and worn,
 So humble a cradle for one who is Love,
 And where Jesus Christ is born.
 A. H. Ackley

At this Christmas season, we appreciate our Christmas program where our children tell us of Christ's birth in a lowly manger.

May God reward Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Tom Stock (Cissna Park) and Jim Plattner (Princeville) for being willing to bring us God's Word.

We are thankful that Rebecca Mueller and Kraig Edelman have surrendered their lives to God and have found peace with Him. Their parents are Ron and Loida Mueller and Levi and Dona Edelman. May they always feel God's grace.

Our thoughts have been with Bro. Richard Rieger, Sis. Leah Honegger, Sis. Nathalia Honegger and Eric Bachman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna) as they have been hospital patients.

May Bro. Clarence and Sis. Laura Kachelmuss feel our prayers on their behalf in the loss of his sister, Sis. Esther Kachelmuss (Elgin).

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

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Trish Gerber

There's a song in the air!
 There's a star in the sky!
 There's a mother's deep prayer
 And a baby's low cry!
 And the star rains its fire
 While the beautiful sing.
 For the manger of Bethlehem
 Cradles a king!
 Josiah Gilbert Holland

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, we rejoice in His generous plan of salvation. How privileged we are to be the recipients of His great love and mercy. We look forward to hearing our children share the story of His miraculous birth; and we pray for God's guidance as we lovingly teach them.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Kris Bauman, along with Luke and Anna, rejoice in the birth of Bethany Rose. Bethany's grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman and Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman (Denver, CO).

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Gerry Laukhuf on the passing of her husband, Richard. We also remember Bro. Dan and Sis. Jane Plattner and Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner in our prayers. It is a comfort, in a lonely time, to have the assurance of our loved ones being in a better place.

Thanks to Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Don Sauder (Roanoke) for being with us and sharing God's precious Word.

Shelly Jones is our new sister-in-faith and we rejoice with her. It was uplifting to hear Sis. Shelly's testimony and to witness her baptism.

We will miss Bro. Ken and Sis. Jill Martin as they move to Washington, D.C. But we pray for God's blessings as they get situated in their new home.

Our love and sympathy goes out to Mark and Sis. Barb Brim on the death of Mark's mother, Marge Brim (Florida). May God comfort this dear family as they grieve in this loss.

We pray for God's guiding hand as surgery is performed on Bro. Mark Steffen.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

"There was a man
 Some called him mad;
 The more he gave,
 The more he had."

The above verse by author John Bunyan, who wrote "Pilgrim's Progress" and lived from 1628-1688, rings true because this precept has a Biblical root.

The Lord said, "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 unto you again." (Luke 6:38) The Lord also taught, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

In view of these divine teachings, may each of us be wise and be good givers - and be known by our charity and generous deeds.

Our dear loved one, Sis. Esther Miller, 89, passed away October 30 following a period of declining health. She was adorned, as we remember her, with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit; and she will be remembered too for her generous and sparkling smile. She was in the faith for more than 70 years.

Sis. Esther is survived by her husband, Bro. Rudy; and by a son, Bro. Orlan and a daughter, Sis. Vera (both of Gridley).

Rich and Raejean Kuntz are the parents of their first child, a girl, born October 18. She was named Abbie Lee. Her grandparents are Raymond Lenaway (Pekin) and Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma Kuntz (Gridley).

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Everett Hari (Normal) November 1; Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) November 4, and Bros. Sid Kaufmann and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park) November 15.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

Let's give ourselves a precious Christmas gift this year and commit Luke 2:1-20 to memory. Then,

no matter where you are or what you are doing this Christmas season, you may pull out your special gift and be blessed by it and use it to praise the Lord.

We rejoice to welcome two more dear souls into our precious faith. They gave their testimonies October 31 and we witnessed their baptisms November 1. May our heavenly Father continue to lead, guide and direct Sis. Kathy Tanner (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette) and Sis. Tonya Kaiser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly) as they walk the narrow path of life.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

We were so kindly reminded of our duties as a Child of God by hearing the reading of the memorandum. May we all be prayerful and walk the narrow pathway which leads to heaven.

Sis. Irene Farney wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, food and gifts of love while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless all who were so kind.

There are no words to express our deepest gratitude for the love and support shown to our family. Whether you sent a card, a flower, food or came to visit or if you remembered us in prayer, it will never be forgotten. May God bless you.

The family of Paige Kahler

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We appreciate and welcome visiting ministers. Bros. Roy Ehle (Bradford), Marshall Heinold (Washington), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Don Wagenbach (Washington). We thank them for their labors of love and their families for sharing with us.

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

5:31). The engagement of Sis. Tricia Steiner (Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Joe Walder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy, Cissna Park) was announced Sunday, November 8. May they look to God to lead them in this important step.

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing." (Proverbs 18:22). Bro. Dennis Herrmann (Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean) and Sis. Renee Stieglitz (daughter of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan, Leo, IN) were united in marriage November 1. May they look to God for their help in this important commitment to marriage as they establish a Christian home.

God has blessed several families with precious bundles from heaven. Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann with a baby boy, Scott, born November 5. Bro. Noah and Sis. Evelyn Herrmann and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford) are the happy grandparents. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deyona Streitmatter are the first-time parents of a baby girl, Julie, born November 9. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Floren and Sis. Twylla Streitmatter and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington, IA). Don and Carol Baer are the parents of another daughter, Monica. Her grandmother is Katherine Baer. Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen Elsasser are the grandparents of another grandson born to Sis. Lynne and Bro. Brent Tuebel (Peoria). May God bless the little ones and their families and may they bring up to the honor of God.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Edith Martin on the death of her brother.

Sis. Marian Hinshaw is now at her home after suffering a stroke several months ago.

Bros. Mark Rumbold and Mike Rumbold families are now making Princeville their church. They had been assembling with the Bradford congregation.

LET'S PUT THE GIVING BACK INTO CHRISTMAS

With Christmas coming nearer, my thoughts go back farther and farther. It's that very special time of year, I see many shoppers, I see few smiles and almost no one utter-

ing the special words, "Merry Christmas."

When I was a girl, I told every soul that I met, young and old, these two words of joy.

I never had much as a child; a penny to me was like a dollar or two today, but at Christmas time - or even if it wasn't Christmas - I'd put it in someone else's pocket. A legless man selling pencils, a blind man holding out his hat, a needy organization.

Giving - Christmas - One and the same. It need not be a gift or money, just the giving of yourself to others. A friendly smile, a word of joy or praise.

Give - No, not by ridding yourself of all you've earned, but by putting it to good use. Yes, the way to happiness is simple but too many of us make it hard. Give - Share what you have regardless of the amount. Put some food on someone's table without them knowing. Make a child happy on Christmas Eve. Send a card or give something homemade to someone who has no one with whom to share this happy time, especially the elderly who deserve it most.

It's grand to give. To work hard for others as well as yourself. It's a satisfaction money cannot buy. Try it this season. Be good to everyone. Better yet, make it a New Year's resolution.

(Taken from a clipping in a local paper written by E. Repleh).

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Annie Leman - Cathy Hohulin

December is the month of joy - of giving and receiving gifts, gathering of family and friends, baking and decorating, programs and caroling, shopping and wrapping, snow and lights, and the list goes on. In the midst of the many activities, may we acknowledge and honor the reason for it all - the life of Jesus. May His presence be in our hearts and homes.

We are so happy for Cori Wilkins who has come to Jesus in repentance. She is the daughter of Dan and Polly Leman, who are also in the process of conversion.

Sis. Ida Fischer passed into eternity November 3. She will be

missed by her five sons, four daughters, forty-nine grandchildren, forty-eight great-grandchildren, two brothers and one sister, as well as all of us who knew her for many years.

Our annual bazaar was held November 14. The purpose of the bazaar is to benefit our nursing home in Roanoke, and we thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the day.

November 15 was a day of celebration, as we witnessed the marriage of our Bro. Jim Leman and Sis. Annie Hoffman. Their parents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Mary Hoffman and Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra Leman, all of Roanoke.

Also that day we were happy to hear of the engagement of our Sis. Robin Zimmerman (Roanoke) and Bro. Tim Kaufmann (Cissna Park). Bro. Rick and Sis. Raylene Zimmerman and Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean Kaufmann are their parents. Robin and Tim are both currently attending the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Our visiting ministers for the month of November were Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest). We appreciate their visit, and ask God's blessing upon them.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Carolyn Bolliger
Marsha Koch

Many of us enjoyed watching slides and listening to Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Andy Hunyady (Columbus, OH) as they told of their experiences during their trip to Eastern Europe. It certainly made all of us thankful for the freedoms of our country which we so often take for granted. We thank these brothers for sharing their experiences with us. We also thank Bro. Nathan for sharing God's Word with us on Sunday of that weekend.

A new little daughter was born November 4 to Ron and Amy Crumbo (Pekin). Little Kasi Joy was welcomed home by brother, Jerrey, and sisters, Trudi and Cali. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel are little Kasi's grandparents.

Rebekah Wagenbach (Jonathon)

spent some time in the hospital earlier this month. We are thankful she is feeling better.

Sis. Vera Aberle (Bro. Walter) is at this time in the hospital for tests. We pray all will go well and she too will be home soon.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Denise Romersberger
Sue Ruppert

We are always thankful when ministering brothers come to visit. This month we were uplifted by the efforts of Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bro. John Reinhart (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL). Bros. John and Dennis joined us as we enjoyed a special Sunday with guests invited by each family and individuals. It was nice to see our sanctuary filled, as the attendance nearly doubled for that day by friends and members alike. Let us pray always that we can be used to reach out to those around us so that more people will desire to sit in God's house every Sunday.

Our church family continues to grow. Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda Folkerts welcomed a new baby boy named Jerrod to their family. We rejoice with them.

Those hospitalized this month were Bro. Ron Messner and Bro. Rich Dreske. We are glad they have returned home and pray God's blessing of healing on them both.

The young people from the Bible class spent a Sunday at Eureka. We are glad that opportunity was given them to meet others in our circle of faith.

The elections are now over and whether our choice of candidates won or lost, we know that we need to pray for our government and for our nation. Sometimes it is easy to get discouraged by the trends of moral decay in society that we see. But, we must look beyond all of that to the great day when the Lord will come to take us home. Meanwhile, we need to align our lives with God's Word and be the light that God says we will be if we follow His precepts. We may not be able to influence congressmen, or great masses of people, or even the

president, but we can touch people one on one in our daily lives. That is really all God has ever asked from us. Psalm 37 speaks of trusting, not worrying. It also tells of the end of the wicked in contrast to the reward of the righteous. Read that Psalm because as always, its message is so appropriate for the time that we are in.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Psalms 37:5

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Jill Frauhiger - Mary Isch

This month we gave thanks to God for all His many blessings. Several families also gave thanks for their new little blessings from the Lord. Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz welcomed Cameron Lee into their lives October 19. Cameron joins Amanda, Jeremy, Natalie and Tianna. Grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz (Leo). On October 21, Jason Michael was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy Tonner. Jason's big sister, Alyssa, welcomed him at home. Jason's grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann Tonner and Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner. Bro. Tom and Sis. Lyn Steffen rejoiced at the birth of their first child, Jessica Lyn. Jessica's grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty Steffen and Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean Moser. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kathy Bertsch had their first daughter, Erika Lynn, November 1. She has an older brother, Caleb. Grandparents are Sis. Fran Bertsch and Bro. Walter Jr. and Sis. Joyce Neuenschwander. On November 9, Bro. Rex and Sis. Becky Neuenschwander welcomed Jenna Lyn into their family. Jenna joins her brother, Drew, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander and Bro. Harry and Sis. Lula Baumgartner. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jeanne Steffen were blessed with a baby boy named Josiah Wayne, November 12. Josiah's grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Gloria Steffen and

Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch.

We rejoiced to witness the union of two hearts November 15 as Sis. Angie Frauhiger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie) and Bro. Kurt Ifer (Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth) were joined in marriage. May God's blessings be with them as they begin their lives together. We also wish God's blessings on two couples who recently announced their engagements: Bro. Ked Gerber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Joanne Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Ryan Fiechter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Maxine) and Sis. Darla Hari (Bro. Daryl and June).

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Sylvia Meyer who went home to be with the Lord November 2. She lived to be 101 years old.

There were also several who were hospitalized this month. They were Kevin Barger, Sis. Elizabeth Ginzler, Sis. Pat Gerber (Bro. Earl), Bro. Olen Geisel, Bro. Curt Tonner (Sis. Jeanette), and Bro. Don Gerber (Sis. Justine). We wish all of them God's nearness and healing power in their time of sickness.

We rejoiced with the many souls who decided to repent and give their hearts to the Lord. They are Chris Blem, Chad Gerber (Bro. Butch and Sis. Susie), Mandy Steffen (John and Etta), Rick Schwartz (Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni) and Mark Baumgartner (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn). We wish them God's grace and strength as they begin their new walk with the Lord.

We would like to thank the visiting ministers who came to share the Word with us this month. Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) were all a blessing to us as they shared their messages with us.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

"In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

We are thankful for our visiting ministers that have recently spent time with our congregation. They are Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Wayne Lemman (South Bend). May God richly bless them for their efforts.

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four more souls on the weekend of November 21-22. We welcome Sis. Rachel Rauch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Margo Stetner (Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen) and Bro. Arlon and Sis. Roxanne Heyerly. We are so thankful for their new found love in Christ.

We extend best wishes to Sis. Darla Hari and Bro. Ryan Fiechter as their engagement was made known to us.

Also making an engagement announcement was Sis. Tammy Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Jon Lemman (Bro. Wally and Sis. Marilyn). We wish both couples a lifetime of joy and happiness together.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy Tonner (Bluffton) have been blessed with a precious son, Jason Michael. Happy grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann Tonner and Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner.

We pray for recovery for all of our hospital patients this month. They are little Erica Bertsch (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Goldie Kipfer (Bro. Art) and little Logan Aschliman (Bro. Kelli and Sis. Lisa). May God see to the needs of these patients and also to their families.

Two more souls have chosen to accept the Gift that God has given to us, a chance for eternal life. They are Jaiila Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Karen) and Erika Aeschliman (Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen).

We also want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Theresa Kipfer at the passing away of her husband, Bro. Ted. Bro. Ted is in a place now where his earthly suffering will be no more.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Bev Huber

"Seek ye first the kingdom of

God, and his righteousness; and these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. Six dear souls were announced to have peace: Janell Anliker (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel), Heather Gutwein (Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen), Marie Gutwein (Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol), Tricia Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice), Sharlin Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie) and Erica Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy).

On November 4 we had the privilege to share communion and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) came to share with us. We appreciate his labor of love.

On November 15, we had our Thanksgiving program and it was a blessed evening together. We were encouraged to be thankful in all things because we have a God who is so good to us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Dale and Sis. Ann Ward in the passing of Ann's father, Keith Jackson. Also Sis. Donna Gutwein in the passing of her father, Oscar Minkert (Francesville).

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Steve Kingger (Bluffton North, IN) and Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN). May the Lord bless them and their families.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Miriam Gudeman

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

Isaiah 9:6

As I read this verse at Christmas, I can't help but hear the strains from Handel's "Messiah" resounding in my head. Think how wonderful it will be when we sing it face to face with Jesus! Music has played such a major role during this holiday season; the same as it had long ago when the angels sang to the shepherds. It shares the message that Jesus, the Messiah, has come! Let us share that same message this Christmas in songs and praises to our King. May

you have a blessed Christmas.

We want to express our love and appreciation to our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and a special thanks to Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) for coming to share in the reading of the memorandum with us November 14. A potluck dinner followed the services on Sunday.

Another special thanks goes to Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL) who also visited with us this past month.

This Thanksgiving, our Sunday school took part in a food drive for the homeless here in Indy. We appreciate all the support and food that was given. Thanks kids! "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 24:40

Our prayers are with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kathy Bertsch (Bluffton) as their newborn little girl, Erica, is awaiting heart surgery at Riley Hospital. They are in need of a heart donor. May God be with them and supply their need quickly. May He strengthen their faith and keep them free from worry.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Barb Troxel

As another month passes, I look at my list and see that I really have no news to report from the LaCrosse congregation. It is said that "No news is good news." But when we think about it, we have many good things to think about and be thankful for. We can spell thanksgiving in the following way.

THANKSGIVING

- T - is for "thanks" for blessings received.
 H - for the harvest with hunger appeased.
 A - for another grand, bountiful year.
 N - for neighbors with help ever near.
 K - is for the knowledge to labor and prosper.
 S - for the season when families gather.
 G - is for grace, our thanksgiving prayer.

- I - for God's infinite mercy and care.
 V - is for visions of a world even greater.
 I - for the instinct to do even better.
 N - is for nature's unending treasures.
 G - is for giving; life's greatest pleasure.

Author Unknown

INDIANA, LEO Thelma Schlatter

There was a most precious gift given and left for each of us almost 2,000 years ago. That gift held promise of eternal value.

The promise was withheld from no one.

Some have left it unclaimed.

Some have failed to remove the wrappings.

Some have opened it and received it.

But for each of us the promise reads:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

It is God's promise to all who gladly receive His Son: "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." (John 1:12)

It is the promise of Christmas for you and me. May the age-old yet ever-new story mean more to you than it ever has before! May the season hold special joy for you because of Him.

We anticipate being reminded again of His coming to earth in a program planned for December 13. He is coming again. Are you looking for Him?

Bro. Dennis Herrmann and Sis. Renee Stieglitz were united in marriage in a service by Elder Bro. David Bertsch and the bride's father, Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, November 1. The couple is wished His blessing upon their Christian home.

Patty Souder (daughter of Sis. Irma Souder, and the late Bro. Edward Souder) and Don Gremaux were married November 14 and are

at home in Woodburn, IN. We wish them His blessing and joy.

Two other young couples have wedding plans for the future. Sis. Amy Unsicker, daughter of Sis. Carolee Unsicker (Peoria, IL) and the late Bro. Melvin Unsicker, is engaged to Bro. Dean Kaisner (Champaign, IL). His parents are Brian and Colleen Loschen (Champaign, IL) and Robert and Sherrie Kaisner (Fairbury, IL).

Sis. Joanne Kaisner (daughter of Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner, Detroit, MI) is engaged to Bro. Ked Gerber. His parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber (Bluffton). Both brides-to-be are serving at Gateway Woods. These couples are wished His guidance and blessing on their future plans.

Visiting ministers to our Leo congregation in recent weeks were Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Jesse Beer (Milford), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville), also Bros. Arthur Baurer and Walter Herrmann (both from Princeville, IL), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Marvin Leman (Bradford).

Bro. Otto and Sis. Frances Bertsch are both in poor health and are supported in prayer.

Bits of This and That:

"It is good to sometimes see from children's viewpoint, and never better than at Christmas when childhood's mighty Founder was a child Himself.

"It has been said that Romans 8:28 is a pillow for the tired heart.

"There's a saying that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

INDIANA, MILFORD Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

STATUE OF LIBERTY

In New York harbor stands a lady,
 With a torch raised to the sky;
 And all who see her know she
 stands for
 Liberty for you and me.

I'm so proud to be called an
 American,

To be named with the brave and
the free;
I will honor our flag and our trust
in God,
And the Statue of Liberty.

On lonely Golgotha stood a cross,
With my Lord raised to the sky;
And all who kneel there live
forever
As all the saved can testify.

I'm so glad to be called a
Christian,
To be named with the ransomed
and whole;
As the Statue liberates the citizen,
So the cross liberates the soul.

Oh the cross is my Statue of
Liberty,
It was there that my soul was set
free;
Unashamed I'll proclaim that a
rugged cross
Is my Statue of Liberty.

by Neil Enloe

Liberated and set free! What a wonderful feeling! Oh how we rejoice when another soul has been released from the bondage of Satan. We welcome our dear friend, Lisa Mikel (daughter of Russ and Sis. Pat) into Jesus's fold. Lisa was baptized November 1. Assisting in this special work was Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend). Also sharing the weekend with us was Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton). We want to especially thank Bros. Bob and Allen and their families for willingly giving of themselves to minister to us.

A reunion of Christian friends brought Bro. Dennie Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) to us November 15. We were taught more about the loving heart of God and the continue need to pray without ceasing. Thank you, Bro. Dennie and Sis. Bonnie, for coming to share more of the Father's love with us.

There is much love and joy to be found on a wedding day. October 25 marked that special day for Doug Hoerr (son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite) and Suzanne Malec (daughter of Steve and Katie, Chicago, IL). It was the privilege of Bro. Theo Beer, Doug's grandpa, to assist in their wedding ceremony. (This day was not only special to

Doug and Suzanne, but also to Bro. Theo and Sis. Naomi, for 67 years ago they too were united as one.) Doug and Suzanne are making their first home in Evanston, IL. May their love continue to grow for each other and for the Lord.

Too often we find ourselves in the midst of a world packed full of commitments and responsibilities, and there is no doubt the Christmas season accelerates our pace. It is during these busy times that we find it even more necessary to refuel and refresh ourselves by spending time with our Savior. Ken Gire, in a portion of his book, "Intimate Moments With The Savior," quiets our busy life and takes us on that journey to Bethlehem, allowing us to see and hear and feel just what Mary and Joseph did that "Christmas" night so many years ago . . .

"For the census, the royal family has to travel eighty-five miles. Joseph walks while Mary, nine months pregnant, rides side-saddle on a donkey, feeling every jolt, every rut, every rock in the road.

By the time they arrive, the small hamlet of Bethlehem is swollen from an influx of travelers. The inn is packed, people feeling lucky if they were able to negotiate even a small space on the floor. Now it is late, everyone is asleep, and there is no room.

But fortunately, the innkeeper is not all shekels and mites. True, his stable is crowded with his guests' animals, but if they could squeeze out a little privacy there, they were welcome to it.

Joseph looks over at Mary. "We'll take it," he tells the innkeeper without hesitation.

The night is still when Joseph creaks open the stable door. As he does, a chorus of barn animals makes discordant note of the intrusion. The stench is pungent and humid, as there have not been enough hours in the day to tend the guests, let alone the livestock. A small oil lamp, lent them by the innkeeper, flickers to dance shadows on the walls. A disquieting peace for a woman in the throes of childbirth. Far from home. Far from family, Far from what she had ex-

pected for her firstborn.

But Mary makes no complaint. It is a relief just to finally get off the donkey. She leans back against the wall, her feet swollen, back aching . . .

The Messiah has arrived . . .

Tears pool in her eyes. She touches his tiny hand. And hands that once sculpted mountain ranges cling to her finger.

She looks up and Joseph, and through a watery veil, their souls touch. He crowds closer, cheek to cheek with his betrothed. Together they share in awe at the baby Jesus, whose heavy eyelids begin to close. It has been a long journey. The King is tired.

And so, with barely a ripple of notice, God stepped into the warm lake of humanity. Without protocol and without pretention.

Where you would have expected angels, there were only flies. Where you would have expected heads of State, there were only donkeys, a few haltered cows, a nervous ball of sheep, a tethered camel and a furtive curry of curious barn mice.

Except for Joseph, there was no one to share Mary's pain. Or her joy. Yes, there were angels announcing the Savior's arrival - but only to a band of shepherds. And yes, a magnificent star shone in the sky to mark His birthplace - but only three wise men bothered to look up and follow it.

Thus, in the little town of Bethlehem . . . that one silent night . . . the royal birth of God's Son tiptoed quietly by . . . as the world slept."

How sad that Jesus' birth went unnoticed to many that night. Our prayer this season would be that we not overlook Jesus or allow Him to be sent out to some dark, cold stable, but that we prepare a warm, cozy room for Him . . . in our hearts! Spend some intimate moments with Your Savior . . . tonight!

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Amelia Schini

"Call and cry, ye watchman, boldly;
Truly stones could not help crying

Speak the gospel of salvation."

Zion's Harp #112
1st lines of song

Our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler, along with assistance from Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), did obey this teaching by reading the memorandum to us Sunday, October 25. We thank you brothers for your visit and wish you grace and courage for these "darkening" days.

Kevin and Andrea Waibel are first-time parents. A daughter, Shelby Inez, was born October 19. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Diane Waibel and the Wayne Patshski's of Rensselaer.

Blake Ryan was born November 11 to Dale and Andrea Schneider. His sister, Alisa, is happy to welcome him, along with grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rogers (Brookston).

We look forward to having the privilege of watching these two precious babies grow. May God bless them and their parents.

Our cup was truly filled to overflowing on Sunday, November 15, when Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) visited us. God was good to him and to all of us when He so richly provided for us that day. We had many other visitors also that day. We thank all who came as well as Bro. Marvin and the brothers who led in prayers. All are welcome to come again.

Thought for the day: Carry your cross patiently and with perfect submission, and in the end it shall carry you.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Renee Mangold

We were blessed to have with us this month ministering Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Jon Zeller (Morton, IL). We thoroughly enjoyed the singing and fellowship brought by the Morton Mixed Choir. How wonderful to hear all the voices blending and singing praise and glory to God.

Three-year-old David Mangold, son of Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold, is recovering nicely after

a fall that broke his nose and the subsequent surgery that followed.

Bro. Matthew Mangold (Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold) and Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger (Mark and Sis. Diane Kellenberger, Morris, MN) have been announced and, Lord willing, plan to be married. Our hearts rejoice that God has, once again, guided two together according to His perfect plan.

We do not plan to have services at our church Wednesdays during January and February. On the Wednesdays of January 13, 27 and February 10, 24, we are planning to meet at member's homes. Please call either Bro. Wayne Lehman or Bro. Bob Beebe if you plan to be in the area these months. Everyone will, of course, be welcome at these home services.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

Greetings to all our brothers, sisters and dear friends. We, here at Valparaiso, have had a very busy month.

Our church once again enjoyed our annual harvest supper. We were blessed by the beautiful singing and poems. A special thank you to the Princeville, IL, choir for favoring us with their many talents in song.

Our Bible class would like to thank Francesville Bible class for coming and sharing a Sunday and fellowship with us. We were also privileged to have many young brothers and sisters to spend a later weekend with us from several different churches. There were many blessings for all.

We were also deeply moved and blessed by three testimonies we heard on Saturday evening, November 14, with the spiritual guidance of Elder Bros. Curt Frank and Dale Eisenmann. Ed and Caroline Lester, three years ago, felt they needed to find another church and since have seen what a Godly faith the Apostolic Christians have and humbly asked to be a part of this beautiful fellowship again. We all gladly welcome them back home again. And to top the evening off, their daughter, Christine, had a beautiful testimony of her conver-

sion and desire to serve God and become a member of this church. So Saturday night, Ed and Caroline were reinstated and on Sunday Christine was baptized and become our sister-in-faith. It took us all back to our past experiences and inspired us to value our faith wholeheartedly. We pray that many more will come before it's too late.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha Weiss have been blessed with a bundle of joy named Logan Alexander. Natasia welcomes her little brother home. Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher are the happy grandparents.

We have been blessed this past month with several visiting ministers. They include Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Art Baurer and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). May God bless and keep them for their many labors of love and bestow special blessings upon their families.

As you can see, we have had many days of sunshine in our church, but also some rain. Isn't it wonderful that no matter what happens in our lives, we can still have this peace about us that we know all will work out in the end. Until that end does come upon us, won't you please pray for us as we will also be praying for you and our faith. There are so many that we would all like to see saved while the time is yet afforded. Keep on smiling and don't forget to let your lights shine at all times.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Camille Vogt

The Purdue young group has started a Bible distribution project by placing an advertisement in the campus paper for a free Bible in any language. God is showing Himself to those souls who are hungry for the Solution to life. We have distributed Bibles in the following languages: English, French, Italian, German, Spanish, Russian, Lithuanian, Swahili, Persian, Greek, Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabian. We ask for your prayers that God will bring forth fruit from

the seed of His Word! "But other fell into good ground and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold." (Matthew 13:8)

We enjoyed gathering together for Purdue services. We thank Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) for sharing God's Word with us. Bro. Ben ministered on making decisions. Bro. Tom encouraged us as young people that "the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." (Proverbs 4:18) A warm welcome is extended to all to worship our God with us every other Thursday evening.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) with us October 24 to share the memorandum. Elder Bro. Don was then able to stay and feed us from God's Holy Word the next day. May God richly bless both of these dear brothers, along with our own Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler, for their untiring efforts.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our Sis. Dorothy Lehman, who is currently hospitalized. May God grant her much grace, strength and courage and renewed health if it could be His perfect will.

Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita Edelman became elated first-time parents November 8, with the arrival of Rebekah Sue. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer and Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean Edelman (Gridley, KS).

Bro. Vernon Schwab spoke to us at our recent Bible study about God's faithfulness. May we ever strive to be more faithful to God. The Lord will surely bless Bro. Vernon for being a faithful servant to us for Him.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Jana Massner - Carolyn Wulf

No room for the Savior,
no room in the inn,

No place in its shelter,
without or within;
And yet in its shadow
the comrade of kine
Was born in the darkness,
your Savior and mine.

Gospel Hymns #858

Christmas is truly a time to rejoice as we think about our dear Savior who came into this world so we could have a hope of life eternal. May our thoughts ever be upon Christ and what He has done for us as the Christmas season approaches. Let us consider how Christ was brought into this world and how He might look down upon us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

God has blessed the home of Bro. Curt and Sis. Jean Eberhardt with a precious little boy, Shane Travis, who comes to join Seth, Katie and Kent. Bro. Jody and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt and Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley Wuthrich are the happy grandparents. May the Lord continue to give Godly wisdom to dear parents as they raise up their children in the fear of the Lord.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds saith the Lord; . . ."

Jeremiah 30:17

Bro. Harvey Heiniger and Sis. Ingrid Buster are recuperating from their bodily ailments and have returned home after several weeks in the hospital. May the Lord ever grant them sufficient strength so they can assemble with us again and can continue to fight the fight of faith.

The true Word of God was brought forth once again as we enjoyed hearing Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville). We appreciate his willingness to share with us the Word.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

It seems we are living in such a busy world today. How can we make twenty-four hours stretch for all to be done? I'm afraid many of us are guilty of taking unnecessary shortcuts. If we are too busy to allow ourselves thirty minutes of respite

from our daily tasks to eat a meal, we are too busy! If we are too busy to find a couple of hours a week to visit some shut-in, we are too busy! If we are too busy to write out Christmas and just hurriedly write Xmas, we are definitely too busy! Let's remember that their would be no Christmas or Easter or hope of eternal salvation without Christ. May God help us to set our priorities straight and give Him first place in our lives.

Keep Christ in Christmas, Let Him abide

Mid all the tinsel and tinkling bells,
All of the wrappings and fancy frills,

Keep Christ in Christmas, Don't spurn His grace;

Your joy will increase, You'll have sweet Christmas peace,
When Christ has first place.

Keep Christ in your heart, Let Him abide

Mid all the confusion and endless strife,

All of the turmoil of busy life;
Keep Christ in your heart, Don't spurn His grace;

Your joy will increase, You'll have sweet lasting peace,
When Christ has first place.

Bert LeRoy Jones

Down through the ages it has been with much reluctance that God's people answer the call into His service. Moses replied "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh? I am not eloquent but am slow of speech and slow of tongue." But God answered, "Certainly, I will be with thee." Gideon replied, "Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel from the hand of the Midianites, behold my family is poor and I am the least in my father's house." God answered, "Surely I will be with thee." Jeremiah hesitated when commanded by the Lord to speak forth His words, but God again gave His promise, "I am with thee." Trusting also in this promise is Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan) as he humbly and reluctantly accepts his call into the ministry.

Welcoming a new member into their family are Teri, Brody and Lizzy Hill. Little Ashley Marie was

born October 24. May God bless this family with His love.

While there is joy when a new life begins, there is bound to be sorrow when a life ends. Our prayers and sympathy go to Sis. Laverne Butikofer (Bro. Al) and her family at the loss of their mother and grandmother. How precious is the hope that she is now safe in the arms of Jesus, her Savior.

What a blessing it is when visiting ministers come and lend themselves on our behalf. Our thanks to Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City), Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester). A special thanks to Bro. Leo for assisting our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer with the reading of the memorandum.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schultz

Greetings to all! We have enjoyed another month of worship and Christian fellowship – a privilege not accorded to everyone. May we be thankful for this special blessing. We are also thankful for those who travelled to share this blessing with us, including ministering Bros. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) and Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA).

As we regretfully note the drop in temperature that signals the coming of winter. May we strive to keep our spiritual fires burning so we can enjoy the warmth of God's love regardless of our physical comforts. The author of "Streams in the Desert," Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, expressed this thought in her November 19 commentary as follows:

Though the rain may fall and the
wind be blowing,
And cold and chill is the wintry
blast;
Though the cloudy sky is still
cloudier growing,
And the dead leaves tell that the
summer has passed;
My face I hold to the stormy
heaven,
My heart is as calm as the summer
sea,
Glad to receive what my God has
given,

Whate'er it be.

When I feel the cold, I can say, "He
sends it,"

And His winds blow blessing, I
surely know;

For I've never a want but that He
attends it;

And my heart beats warm, though
the winds may blow.

In everything give thanks! I
Thessalonians 5:18

We handed out the Christmas program pieces to the Sunday school students last Sunday – a keep reminder of how quickly our celebration of our Savior's birth is approaching. Every year it's a challenge to keep a spiritual focus during the hustle-bustle of the holiday season. May we all be especially aware of those who are hurting or in need – of God's love or His physical blessings.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it
unto one of the least of these my
brethren, ye have done it unto me."

St. Matthew 25:40

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

We are rejoicing with our friend, Kristi Kellenberger, who has begun a new walk with Christ. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kristi, who is attending college in Denver, CO.

We're happy for our dear Sis. Amy Feucht, who is engaged to Bro. Lynn Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula, West Bend). We pray that God will be near them as they plan for their life together.

November 8 was the wedding day of our Sis. Sherri Metzger and Bro. Troy Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). We enjoyed the many visitors who came to share the blessed day. We wish them God's richest blessings, and hope that they will visit us often.

A wedding reception was held there November 14 for Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler. We warmly welcome Sis. Donna to our congregation, and wish them both much happiness.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our home and visiting ministers

who willingly share the Word of Life with us. Our visitors include Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS). May God reward them for their labors.

Our Sunday school children have begun practicing for the Sunday school Christmas program. It is so moving to see the joy and wonder on their innocent faces as they learn the songs and stories that tell of the birth of Jesus. May we all be more childlike in our faith and love for Him.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

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

Isaiah 41:10

May this verse from the precious Word, ever serve to comfort those who've lost loved ones this past month. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of our dear single Sis. Lena Siegle. Surviving are her brother, Bro. Ernie Siegle and several nieces and nephews.

Our prayers go out for Sis. Elizabeth Grimm in the passing of her husband, Bro. Jess, in a tragic tractor accident. We also want to remember his daughters, Janet Jordan (Columbus-Junction, OH), Marilyn Gustison (Oakville), Tammy McLain (Marietta, GA) and his brothers and sisters, Bros. Mark, Kenny, Clyde (Oakville), Charlie (Wichita, KS), Sisters Ursel Barth (Oakville), Mavis Kaiser (Morton, IL) and Dave (Verona, MO).

Much love and sympathy is extended also to Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry, Jr.) in the loss of her dear mother, Myrna Moser (Fairbury, IL).

May each of these dear families feel the strength and prayers offered by many brethren on their behalf.

A special thanks to our visiting ministers this past month, Bros. Curt Rassi and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). May the Lord bless them for their labors.

Thank You Notes

We wish to thank all who sent cards, food, flowers, helped with meals, and gave words of comfort in our recent bereavement. We appreciate it all so much.

Family of Bro. Jess Grimm

We want to thank everyone for the prayers, gifts and cards while Leon was in the hospital and home again. May God bless you. Our love,

Bro. Leon and Sis. Doris Kuntz

IOWA, PULASKI

Carol Wettstein

Ernestine Wuthrich

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, everyone is thankful for spiritual blessings, but also for a bountiful harvest that is now in progress. We pray that it will be safely completed.

The Bible class had a special and enjoyable weekend with the Lamar, MO, and Garden Grove, IA, Bible classes. Bro. Wes Knapp was our visiting minister for the weekend and gave very inspirational messages. Especially the thought that repentance is not so hard; we just need to confess to God which begins the process of obtaining true peace.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Irene Musselman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past month. We have enjoyed them in our small congregation and pray they continue to share their life with us. May they have blessings and good health in the future.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol Wettstein welcome Derek Levi to their home. Nathan and Caleb are loving and helpful older brothers. Sis. Verna Wettstein and Bro. Walter and Sis. Clarabell Anliker (Eureka, IL) are the happy grandparents.

Thank You: Bro. Howard and Sis. Irene Musselman wish to thank all who sent cards, gifts of love, prayers and well wishes to help us celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. God bless you.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber

We enjoyed the visit of three dear brethren this past month. Those who ministered the Word were: Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN). May God be their rewarder.

"Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted." (Matthew 5:4) We extend sympathy to Don and Deb Schulz and family on the death of Don's mother, Belva Schulz. We likewise want to ask God's nearness to Adolph and Jean Knobloch on the loss of his brother, Bro. Albert (Lester). May God comfort each of their hearts as a vacancy is now present in these family circles.

Our prayers go out to those who have been in the hospital. Fred Wirtz Jr. (Patsy) has been released from the hospital following an injury from a fall, and is able to be about again. Sis. Louisa Zaugg is back in the West Bend Care Center after a week in the hospital. May God be near her side and grant her grace sufficient to cope with her illness.

The light that shines from the humble manger is strong enough to lighten our way to the end of our days.

Author Unknown

"CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!"

God sent the little Christ Child
long centuries ago

To walk and talk with mortal men
on this sinful earth below.

And remember that God's purpose
in sending His Son

Was to purchase our salvation
when our life on earth was
done -

So let us try to follow in His
footsteps day by day

By loving more and hating less all
men who pass our way.

Helen Steiner Rice

JAPAN, SHIODA

Frank and Kathy Sauder

Christmas in Japan in some ways is similar to Christmas in America, but in many ways quite different. The department stores are decorated in red and green and Christmas songs permeate the air. Although Christmas Day is not a holiday, most fathers try to leave work a little early on Christmas Eve to eat the traditional Christmas supper of Kentucky Fried Chicken. After dinner the children usually receive a gift from their parents and they then eat Christmas cake for dessert. Among the younger generation it is considered fashionable to find a church which holds a Christmas Eve candlelight mass. Unfortunately, the true meaning of Christmas is not important to most of the people here. It is simply a time for merchants to make money, a reason for having parties, and a way to impress your girlfriend or boyfriend. Over the years, Japan has been quite successful in picking up the culture of Christmas but the spirit of Christmas is left out except in the small group of believers who have become Christians in Japan.

One of the greatest battles that the church faces in Japan is that of ancestor worship. During the past year, we had a young family that was attending our church. The wife's heart was especially touched by the Gospel message and was moved to repentance. However, as she counted the cost she felt it would be impossible for her to break with the worship of her ancestors. It was not that she believed in them, but she felt she had to outwardly go along with the worship customs in order to maintain peace and harmony in her home and neighborhood.

This way of thinking is common in Japan since numerous churches embrace the idea that Christianity mixed with ancestor worship is not wrong. This is one of the reasons why Christianity has not taken a deep root in Japan. In many Asian

countries Christianity is growing, but in Japan there is a smaller percentage of Christians than there was in the first 50 years when Christianity was first introduced to Japan. Over the past centuries, most of the people who called themselves Christians tended to participate in other religions to varying degrees. Until they can cut themselves off from their other religions, I think Christianity will most likely have a difficult time flourishing.

This past week we had our annual business meeting. We thank God for the fruitful time of discussion as we addressed the church's needs.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

In early November, our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue took a trip to the Holy Land with a group tour. Mr. and Mrs. Hashimoto, an older couple that has been assembling with us for several years, also went along. We're thankful for their safe return and look forward to hearing of their experiences.

Mr. and Mrs. Fuji and son, Makoto, came from Texas for a two-week visit, and were able to worship with us once again. We found out, to our pleasant surprise, that they are expecting their second child, so they'll be moving back to Japan in March. We look forward to them worshipping regularly with us again.

We're all pretty excited in Tokyo Church as we've learned that three women are expecting babies within the next half-a-year, Lord willing. "Lo children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalms 127:3

KANSAS, BERN

Donna Edelman - Diane Kaeb

"Someone will enter the pearly gates, By and by . . . Taste of the glories that there await, Shall you? Shall I?"

James McGranahan

Our sympathy is extended to retired Elder Bro. Lester Hartter

(Sis. Ella) and Sis. Marie Grimm (Bro. Harvey) and their families in the passing of their sister, Sis. Helen Hartter Lobnitz. We also extend sympathy to Bro. Eldon Plattner (Sis. Waneta) and Bro. Carroll Plattner (Roberta) and their families in the loss of their dear mother, Sis. Marie Plattner (Sabetha). May God comfort their hearts and fill the void that is felt.

This happy anniversary proves a fact you can't disparage - It takes true love and faith and hope to make a happy marriage . . . And it takes a lot of praying and a devoted man and wife To keep God ever-present in their home and in their life . . .

Helen Steiner Rice

In these days when there are so many broken marriages, it is so beautiful to see those that demonstrate love, faith, hope and forgiveness. Bro. Ed and Sis. Leola Lehman observed their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to dwell with them during their allotted years together.

We appreciate and thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) for sharing God's Holy Word with us.

We are so thankful to have Sis. Anna Ulmer assemble with us again after her recent knee surgery.

Our song of praise to God ascend,
And there with angel's voices blend.
The day of gladness now is here,
Sing hallelujah with good cheer.

Zion's Harp #7

May we rejoice this Christmas season with thankful hearts and praise Him for the gift of salvation.

Thank You: My sincere thanks and appreciation to family, friends, and to each person for prayers, cards, visits, gifts and food while I was hospitalized for knee surgery. God bless each of you.

Sis. Anna L. Ulmer

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn
Our congregation was blessed

to have Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) minister to us this month. We thank Bro. Ron and his family for this labor of love.

Sis. Carol Sinn (Bro. John), Sis. Mabel Springer, Justin Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta), and Timothy Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie) were all surgery patients this month. Our many thoughts and prayers are with them as they recover.

During this holiday season, let us remember to be thankful to God for the gift of His Son. May we ever be aware of the true meaning of the Christmas.

Reminder: Silver Lining subscription dues of \$9.00 should be paid by January.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Vola Young - Judy Kraft

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11. Angels proclaimed the glad tidings to the shepherds. These shepherds are good examples for us to imitate. They received the message God sent them by faith and responded with immediate obedience. They found the baby and joyously reported the good news to others, "glorifying and praising God." Luke 2:20

A first born child has blessed the lives of Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita Edelman (Wolcott, IN). Rebecca Sue was born November 8. Bro. Albert and Sis. Mary Jean Edelman are happy, first-time grandparents.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Edna and Sis. Sara Somerhalder. Elizabeth's (Somerhalder) son passed away in Burbank, CA, Tuesday, November 10.

The weekend of November 14-15 brought company and visiting ministers to our small church. The momentous occasion was to witness the ordination of Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont).

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

Over the desert wastes of life
We travel with weary tread

Until, like the wise men,
We see the star
And kneel at the manger bed.

Into our lives flood the Christmas
light,
And we grope in the darkness no
more,

For we can see
In that moment of truth
The ultimate far-reaching shore.
Lois Tiffany

Isn't it appropriate that Thanksgiving comes just before Christmas. At such a busy, commercialized time of the year, it's good that we pause to give thanks for all the blessings in our lives, the greatest of which is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ whose birthday we celebrate with such joy! For, if Christ had not come, our life would be a desert waste with nothing to look forward to but eternal death. But God did send us His Son, and as we sing our carols, and hold services and programs to worship Him, let's do it with all the love and thanks our hearts can hold, for we aren't in darkness anymore, because Christ "was" sent, and we (through God's grace) can see that far-reaching shore of life eternal. Hallelujah! Dear Lord Jesus, we're so thankful you are the "real" reason for the blessed "season."

Our hospital patients this month included Tillie Diel, who underwent knee surgery; Sis. Alice Tanner; Sis. Sophia Kircher; and Sis. Mildred Farney. There have been a number of others who have been unable to be in our midst due to illness or family illness. May God be with and bless each in their suffering and may we all hold one another up on the healing wings of prayer.

It is with much love and sadness that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Dale Frieden, who passed away this month after a long fight with cancer. He was an inspiration to many of us and will be missed by us all.

We have commenced midweek services again and though we are small in number, God never forsakes us and we are blessed.

We so much appreciate visitors in our midst, and thank minister-

ing Bro. Max Reimschisel for lending himself when he and Sis. Judy were here recently.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Jane Isch

"And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed."

Acts 14:23

On November 15, Bro. Jay Luthi was ordained as the elder of the Lamont congregation. Carrying out this work were Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Dan Cook (Tremont, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA).

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Gene Marti and the rest of the elder committee who has so willingly cared for us since Elder Bro. Sam Anliker retired. May God richly bless each one of you.

Also, with us that weekend were Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Bro. David Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO).

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Sharon Strahm

It was a privilege to have Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) share the Word with us. We thank him for his services.

"So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts unto
wisdom."

Psalms 90:12

Our hearts were saddened to hear Sis. Elsie Lambert (Bro. George) lost two sisters in a car accident.

The battle is over and victory won for our Sis. Marie Plattner (Bro. John) who passed away October 20. Survivors include her husband, Bro. John and son, Bro. Don

(Sis. Ada, Sabetha) and Bro. Eldon (Sis. Waneta) and Bro. Carroll (Roberta, Bern).

Gradually we don't see so many of the older brethren in our midst. Let's not take them for granted but visit with them whether they are able to attend church or reside in the nursing home.

Services were held for Sis. Helen Lobnitz (Denver, CO). She is survived by her brother and sister, Bro. Virgil Hartter (Sis. Marie) and Sis. Eloise Bahr (Bro. Willard) from our congregation. How thankful we are that she found the need to make the change and repent before she was called out of this life.

May God grant grace to each family who has recently lost loved ones.

Sis. Lena Steiner was recently hospitalized. We are thankful she is in church again.

After Thanksgiving we will again switch from our traditional alternate Sunday evening singings with the Bern congregation to Wednesday evening church services.

"Our saving hope is all in vain,
If here our love should cease,
For in the man of Galilee,
We find the gift of peace.
'Tis not the babe, but Christ,
The man Who walked in Galilee;
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,
That sets the spirit free."

Hymns of Zion #36

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel have opened their home to Daniel Garcia, an exchange student from Caracas, Venezuela. Daniel attends Rose Hill High School. We welcome him into our fellowship and pray for our witness as a called out people.

Praise the Lord! Bro. Phil Bowers has responded to his lengthy recuperation. He was able to return to his university teaching assignment the week of this writing. At the same time, another emergency occurred in the Bowers household as his father, Bro. Milton, suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized. At this report he

is responding to treatment. This reminds me of I Corinthians 10:13 where God has promised to provide a way of escape from every temptation. God is surely providing a time of stress for this dear family.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Wayne and Becky Snodgrass

Greetings of love in our Lord Jesus' Name. Going into this season where we are reminded of our dear Saviour's birth, it is important to also remember the man that the baby grew into. No matter what season of the year it is we have to stay focused on Jesus and what He did for us. In our lives we carry many burdens, but Jesus is always there to carry them for us when they get too heavy to bear. It has been a good year for us here in Lexington. God has richly provided all our needs. He has blessed us with a multitude of visitors from across the country. He has helped us grow, and Lord willing, we will continue to grow both in spirit and in number. As always, we would like to especially thank the visiting ministers who have served us from the pulpit. They were Bros. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL) and Walter Steffen (Milford, IN) and their wives.

May we all remember to keep Christ as the center of all our activities this holiday season and every day of the year.

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

I John 4:9

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Denise Oesch - Michelle Oesch

"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Mark 11:13, 16

Little Victoria Rose was born to Bro. John and Sis. Stephanie Schlatter. Proud grandparents are

Bro. Otto and Sis. Patricia Schlatter and Bro. Edward and Sis. Connie Frautschi (Phoenix, AZ). Allison Paige came as a blessing to Jennifer Oesch and grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna Oesch.

We pray that each of these little ones will be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and may their parents be especially blessed with His guiding hand in caring for these most precious of all gifts.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

Our hearts rejoice with Otto Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. Patricia) as he has made the decision to walk in the way of the Lord. As he turns his heart away from the many worldly pleasures, we pray for the Lord's loving grace to guide and strengthen him!

On Saturday evening, October 31, we gathered in the Lord's house to hear the reading of the memorandum. We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) with us to lend themselves in this service. Sunday was a blessed day as with prayerful hearts we witnessed Bro. Howard Plattner be put in as our new minister here in Alto. Our prayers are truly with Bro. Howard and his wife and children that they may be blessed for their willingness to be servants of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Bertha Wingeier (Bro. Dave) for surgery on her foot, Michelle Blough (Martin) for surgery, and Darlene Goodwin (Rich) with pneumonia. We are thankful for the Lord's healing hand upon each of them.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped

in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Luke 2:10-12

May you each have a blessed Christmas filled with the spirit of His love!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Peggy Waibel

Bay City has seen a quiet month this past month. The weather, except for one snowstorm, has been mild and even, at times, warmer than usual for this time of year. There have been no earth-shattering revelations, no untimely deaths, no news of life – it has just been quiet and fairly peaceful. We have learned that in times like these, the Lord God speaks to us in a mighty way. When life is quiet it seems that we can really hear Him. Maybe that is why He advises us to "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10). We seem to think that we can breathe a hurried prayer and move on with the hustle and bustle of life, and still hear Him. He says: "Be still." Jesus was not born in a city like Los Angeles or New York, he was not born amongst a myriad of lights, the shrill screams of sirens and the loud talking and laughing of the crowds. Jesus was not born in the hustle and bustle of a hospital. He was not born to a family who rushed and hurried, nor was he born in a world driven by a clock. Rather, He was born on a quiet night. He was born to parents who waited on the Lord and listened to His voice. He was born under a star, the only light that was on that night, and He was born in a quiet little village – the silence only broken by His cries. The whole world was still and ready to know that He was God.

Four members of our beloved congregation were hospitalized this past month. Sis. Lynette Munsel (Bro. Greg), Sis. Margaret Ruegsegger (Bro. Glenn), Bro. Eli Schlatter (Sis. Ella) and Ron Wackerle (Kathryn), all spent time in the hospital due to illness. All of them are feeling much better and we thank God that he has extended His healing hand to them. Sis. Emily Rechsteiner has continued

to need the support of a hospital setting. She is doing very well, but still has a lot of healing to do and I am sure that she would be thrilled to be remembered in your prayers.

May the Good Lord bless each one in this upcoming month.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Marlene Reinhard
Holly Barton

A BABE, SO TENDER

A Babe, so tender, has come down to earth.

Bright winged angels are singing His birth.

He came to earth for the sake of us all,
 Yet our Lord Jesus was born in a stall.

He came to earth as a Baby so fair,
 Yet for our sin the cross He did bear.

And so to Heaven, to Heaven above,
 Jesus, our Saviour, we sing Thee our love.

Old Flemish carol

'Tis the season! To be jolly? Oh, much more than that if we believe that "He came to earth for the sake of us all"! As a public school teacher, I am distressed at how the celebration of Christmas is becoming increasingly restricted. Even secular symbols such as Santa and Christmas trees are discouraged in some schools. However, maybe this is actually beneficial because it helps to keep the emphasis on Christmas as a religious holiday. May we all strive to keep the reverence of the season so that we may be joyful, not jolly!

We were privileged to be the first congregation (other than their own) to enjoy the talents of the Indianapolis, IN, choir. They visited Detroit the weekend of October 24 and 25, and, despite disagreement on who was blessed the most, the singers or the audience, a wonderful weekend was enjoyed by all. We know they worked hard and were also somewhat nervous, but as was brought out several times that

weekend, all efforts are really to please the Lord and glorify Him. We are sure that was accomplished! We also enjoyed having ministering Bro. Ken Wuethrich with us that weekend.

Bro. Doug and Carole Maibach are thankful and delighted at the arrival of their first baby, Katherine Elizabeth. She was born October 26. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach and Janet Basford.

Our dear Sis. Ruth Gudeman is again hospitalized at this time and is very ill. We continue to uphold her in prayer and know that the Lord will tenderly care for her during this battle.

We offer our sympathy to Bro. Mark and Bro. Phil Bahr on the death of their aunt, Sis. Helen Lobnitz (Denver, CO). It is such a comfort to know that she gave her life to the Lord recently.

So when the Word of God we hear,
 The Word so pure and holy;
 Now grant us, Lord, a listening ear,
 A spirit meet and lowly.
 For if we hear, and heed it not,
 We hear for condemnation;
 For "doers of the Word," we're taught,
 Are heirs of Christ's salvation.

Gospel Hymns #227

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction . . ."

James 1:27

Our congregation was privileged to host the annual World Relief Review meeting November 14. We had a large group for this event and heard many inspiring discussions. We pray that we may have had a "listening ear" so that we can be "doers of the Word." We also thank all those who remained to worship with us Sunday, including several ministers: Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Andy Hunyady (Columbus, OH) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH).

We rejoice at the engagement announcement of Sis. Joanne

Kaisner (Leo, IN) to Bro. Ked Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Lord willing, they plan a February 14 wedding here in Detroit. May God be with them as they make their plans. Their parents are Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner of our congregation and Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) was at Woodhaven this month for services and we appreciate him lending himself for the residents. Also, Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) happened to be here when we had a Wednesday evening service at Woodhaven and he also shared a message from the Word. We look forward to services again at Woodhaven January 5, which Alto, MI, is scheduled to host.

Never wait for fitter time or place to talk to Him. To wait till thou go to church or thy closet is to make Him wait. He will listen as thou walkest.

George MacDonald
 Is He waiting on you?

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

We bid farewell to Bro. Mike, Sis. Kathy, Rebecca and Phillip Dreste. We wish them God's blessings in their new endeavor.

We often pray for those who suffer afflictions of the body, and that God would give them strength to endure. Sis. Arletta Bragg is recovering at home after hip surgery, and Bro. Ken Schmidt has begun a more vigorous chemotherapy regimen.

We are thankful that God permitted Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Alpai Moser (Morris) to minister to us.

With Christmas approaching, we continually remind ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas.

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

Is it just a day at the end of the year?

A gay holiday filled with merry good cheer?

A season for presents – both taking and giving?

A time to indulge in the pleasures
of living?
Are we lost in a meaningless,
much-muddled daze
That covers our minds like a grey
autumn haze?
Have we closed our eyes to God
and His love?
And turned our eyes from "the
bright star above?"
Oh, Father in Heaven, renew and
restore
The real, true meaning of
Christmas once more,
So we can feel in our hearts again
That "peace on earth, good will to
men"
Is still a promise that man can
claim
If "he but seeks it in Thy Name."
Helen Steiner Rice

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Debra Joos - Maxine Sauder

"For unto us a child is born, unto
us a son is given: and the govern-
ment shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Won-
derful, Counselor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The prince
of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Isn't it wonderful that our God
is everything we need Him to be!

There are those in our congrega-
tion to whom He was "Healer."
Brady Gramm (Bro. Ted and Sis.
Wanda), Bro. Greiner, Bro. Alphai
Moser and Levi Koehl (Bro. Roy
and Sis. Jenell) were hospitalized.
We are thankful for their healing.

To some, we pray he was mani-
fested as "Comforter." We extend
our sympathy to Bro. Ben Greiner
on the death of his brother, Bro.
Howard Greiner (Cissna Park, IL).
Also, our sympathy to Sis. Martha
Greiner on the death of her sister,
Sis. Esther Kachelmuss (Elgin, IL).

As we celebrate our Saviour's
birth, may we more fully "compre-
hend with all the saints what is the
breadth, and length, and depth and
height; and to know the love of
Christ." (Ephesians 3:18-19) May
our response be to lay our life, with-
out reservation, at Jesus' feet.

Note of Thanks: My heartfelt
thanks to those who remembered

me with prayers, cards, gifts, flow-
ers and visits during my stay in
the hospital for surgery and when
I returned home. May God richly
bless each and every one.

Sis. Marilyn Joos

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Kim Messner - Nancy Messner
We wish to extend our sympa-
thy and prayers to Sis. Brenda and
Bro. Rick Messner in the loss of
their Grandmother Briest.

As we prepare for this Christ-
mas season, let's prepare our heart
and mind with thankfulness, and
focus on the true meaning of Christ-
mas for Jesus' birthday.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Martin Hohulin
Janel Kellenberger

We want to thank Elder Bro.
Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) for
assisting our Elder Bro. Lawrence
Luthi in reading the memorandum.
It truly is good to be reminded and
exhorted on how we should walk
daily. Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend,
IA) and Bro. Glenn Hackenjoes
(Altadena, CA) were with us this
past month. We appreciated the
Word they shared with us.

Hospitalized this month were
Sis. Marilyn Luthi and Bro.
Leonard Braker. Our prayers are
with them as they continue to get
better.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

The following ministers visited
St. Louis recently: Bros. Dennis
Rassi (Fairbury); Kenny Eisen-
mann (Cissna Park, IL) and John
Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). Bro.
Kenny's wife, Sis. Sharon, was
reminiscing about their trips to
serve the St. Louis church through
the years, first at the Harley Hotel,
then at the Ben Franklin Motel,
and now in our own building, lo-
cated in a tranquil wooded area in
St. Charles County, dedicated
solely to worship services. We mar-
vel at our great God's blessings,
and we are humbled and encour-
aged by the faithful, long-term sup-

port of our little church by so many
ministers and their families.

Bro. John, after visiting the
Arch and the Westward Expansion
Museum beneath it, was recalling
that historically, St. Louis was "The
Gateway to the West." Pioneers
came here to get prepared for their
journeys west. Lewis and Clark had
gone ahead and mapped the way.
They told of the best ways to go,
and warned of the dangers.

Spiritually, our "Gateway to
Heaven" is the cross. For each con-
verted person's spiritual life begins
there when he or she takes that
first baby step of faith. We look to
the Bible as our roadmap, but we
can also benefit from the exper-
iences and advice of those fathers of
faith who have gone on before us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Ruthie Hoerr

"For God so loved the world, that
He gave his only begotten Son, the
whosoever believeth in Him should
not perish, but have everlasting
life." John 3:16. This was the scrip-
ture revealed as comforting words
for the family of Buddy Plank, who
died suddenly November 18. He
leaves his dear wife, Barbara
(Hoerr); two daughters, Connie
Miller and Bonnie Plank; and four
grandchildren.

Our church and community
were again saddened the same
week by the sudden death of Bro.
Don Scott November 20. His wife,
Sis. Janelle, and two children, Todd
and Tonya, survive. Where can we
go but to the Lord, when grief over-
whelms us and we cannot under-
stand. Our prayers are with these
two dear families. May they find
their comfort and strength in the
Lord. I think God is telling us all
we should be prepared; for we know
not when we may be called home.

Taylor was blessed with two vis-
iting ministers this month, Bro. Roy
Ehnle (Bradford, IL), and Bro. John
Rowell (Burlington, IA). We wish
them and their families special
blessings for coming to serve us.

Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally
Haerr's family is enjoying a new
precious foster baby girl, Destiny.
Bro. Kent and Jan Heimer's family
will surely feel a loss of their foster

baby girl who went to her new adopted home this week. We are glad there are willing hearts who provide homes during transition periods for children. We know they feel blessed.

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell, and Sis. Marie Butikofer want to say a special thank you and wish God's blessing to a group that painted their house this past month. There were seventeen willing workers that turned a big job into a day's labor of love.

During this special season of the year, when our blessed Lord came to earth as a child to give us that hope of life eternal, we want to praise and thank Him for that gift of love. Remember John 3:16! We wish you all of blessed New Year.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Franz Soni

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Galatians 6:10

We thank Bro. Everett Gerber and Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God richly reward them for their efforts.

Services are being held once a month. We encourage all who are in the area to check if services are being held. We welcome your fellowship. Services will be held at the Days Inn Hotel, Ambassador Room, 2570 Tonnelle Ave., North Bergen, NJ. For more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (301) 478-7846 or Bro. Franz Soni (201) 835-3577.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

THANKSGIVING AT
CHRISTMAS

Thanksgiving season is now gone. As Christmas time draws near Let's keep Thanksgiving in our hearts,
 To mix with Christmas cheer.

Thanksgiving that a Babe was born
 To save men from their sin;
 To fill each life with joy and peace
 All who invite Him in.

Thanksgiving that at Christmas
 time
 Our gifts of love we give
 Remembering He who came to
 earth
 To die that men might live.

Thanksgiving that His humble
 birth
 In lowly cattle stall
 Gave proof Salvation was not for
 The rich alone - but all.

So when at Christmas we rejoice
 With friends and loved ones dear,
 Let's keep Thanksgiving in our
 hearts
 All through the coming year.

Author Unknown

As the year of 1992 draws to a close, we can all think of many reasons to have thanksgiving in our hearts. We are thankful that the door of grace is still ajar and that all who want to can enter through the door and find their salvation. There are many worldly preparations made for the Christmas season, but let us never forget the true meaning of Christ in Christmas. The birth of Jesus many years ago was the gift of God to all men.

We are thankful that Bro. Leland Hirschey is able to minister to us again after being hospitalized several days as a medical patient.

We are thankful that Bro. Robert and Sis. Lucille Beyer are doing well in their new home. They have asked that we share their new address with you. Robert Beyer, 711 N. Apostolic Lane, Peoria, IL 61614.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

Congratulations to Bro. Mark Graf for getting his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at Akron University.

We are sorry Sis. Janet Graf has been hospitalized, and pray that she can soon assemble with us.

We appreciated Bro. and Sis. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) vis-

iting us and Bro. Don ministering to us. Their daughter and her husband, Jeff and Lynn Bennett, have moved to our area, and we welcome them to assemble with us.

We appreciated visiting minister Bro. Mark Steiner.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Julie Grimm

God's plan fulfilled as He had
 willed,
 Them came the Christ on earth
 The star so bright in deepest night
 Foretold His blessed birth.
 The angel's throng with joyous song
 Appeared to shepherds meek
 The angel's word the shepherds
 heard
 Then went they forth to seek.
 'The blessed child so meek and mild
 At Bethlehem they found,
 In manger low where cattle low
 And sheep did gather round.
 In swaddling clothes there to
 repose
 And lying on the hay
 What glorious sight in that dark
 night
 Where Christ the Savior lay!

Hymns of Zion #35

Our prayers are with our dear Sis. Sara Adam, as she travels to Hungary to visit her son and other family members. May God bless her reunion with those so dear to her heart and protect her during her travels.

Serving us recently in the ministry of God's Word were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

May God bless each one this Christmas season as we reflect on the birth of our precious Savior.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Sandra Manz

Wishing all our readers and their loved ones a spiritually blessed Christmas season. May we all remember that it doesn't take money to give love and time to others during this time of exchanging.

We thank our neighboring minister Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty,

OH) and his family for their visit last month. May the Lord continue to add His blessing to man's efforts.

We are privileged to have our dear Sis. Henrietta Gerber back in our midst. This widow of Bro. Elmer Gerber, she felt moved to return to our area and is again living with her sister, Sis. Madeline Manz. We know how much the Bluffton, IN, congregation will miss her and welcome them to make frequent visits.

On Sunday, November 8, we met in our dimly lit and somewhat chilly church with no electricity. Many of us were hosting guest families, but we were reminded that a lack of the usual conveniences has no bearing on the amount of warmth and light we can receive from the scriptures. Indeed this was fulfilled as the Word was brought forth in power through Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL). We thank them and our many visitors for a blessed, memorable weekend.

OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

We are extremely blessed through the Word which was preached by these visiting ministers: Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN). May the Lord greatly bless these brothers and their families.

Pauline Riggenschach passed away October 25. Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Schlatter and Harlan and Sis. Delores Riggenschach will need our prayers and support as they adjust to her death.

Bro. Richard Laukhuf passed away November 7. His death will leave a void in the lives of Bro. Bob and Sis. Iris Laukhuf, and the family of Merrill Laukhuf. They will also need our comfort and encouragement.

The families of Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Sis. Irma Stoller and all grandchildren will miss their step-mom, Sis. Esther Haab, and aunt, Sis. Laura Kammerer.

Sis. Mildred Stoller and Sis. Florence Stoller and their families will miss their brother, Robert Ger-

mann. May God give them great comfort during this death in their family.

The death of Myrna (Riggenschach) Moser will be felt by several local brethren who are relatives. We give our prayers and words of encouragement during this time.

Jessica Ann was born to Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni Wenninger during this month. Jessica will be welcomed into the Wenninger family by many relatives. Her grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger and Linnis and Lula Saylor.

Abel Alan was welcomed to the home of Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma Klopfenstein. His sister, Timna, will now have a playmate and brother. His grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein and Larry and Linda Davis.

Ben Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller) has made the most important decision in his life. He has heeded to the Lord's call and started to repent. The Lord will grant the needed grace for every day; as He does for us all.

On October 25, the wedding engagement of Sis. Rhonda Stoller (Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby) and Bro. Scott Gerber (Roger and Sis. Eunice) was announced. May God grant His guidance and direction during the engagement and throughout their married life.

We will surely miss our local brethren who have and will journey south for the winter. May the Lord watch between them and us.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"Be still, and know that I am God . . ." (Psalm 46:10) was the admonishment of Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) when he brought God's Word Thanksgiving. May God bless Bro. Aaron and his family that joined him to be in our midst. As the "busy-ness" of the holidays push in upon us, may we each hold the truth of that verse close to our hearts and be reminded that God is in control and it is our prayers from a thankful heart that availeth much.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

"And the word was flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:4)

Richard James was born November 3 to Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty Dotterer. Grant, Gale, Matthew, Christopher, Jesse and Lydia welcome their new brother. Bro. LaVerne and Sis. Christine and Bro. Dave and Sis. Stoller (Latty) are the prayerful grandparents. "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) Hospitalized have been: Bro. Steve Domka (Sis. Ruth), Bro. Ed Beer (Thelme), Frank Bertka, Sis. Freda Beer (Bro. Ben), and Sis. Wilma Sauder. "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven." (James 5:15) We are reminded that prayers of faith are answered not simply because they are prayed in faith but only if they are prayed in the will of God; but God does not always see it best to heal.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Marsha Hartzler Charlene Winkler

"Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; he is their help and their shield."

Psalms 115:11

Tim Geissman has felt the call unto repentance. May he feel our prayers each day.

Sis. Doris Gasser has been hospitalized. We pray that she will return once again to good health and strength.

On October 25, we heard the engagement of Bro. Scott Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Eunice, Latty, OH) and Sis. Rhonda Stoller (Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby, Latty, OH). May they feel God's nearness and guidance as they make their plans to be united March 14.

Jamie and Janeen Berger welcomed their first child, Samantha Mae October 18. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Berger and Sam and Judy Hilty.

Elaine Marie arrived November 1 into the home of Tony and Julie Zollinger. Anxiously awaiting her arrival were grandparents, Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wilkinson.

Kevin and Carolyn Keiper, along with their son, Seth, welcome Kyle Andrew, born November 3. Kyle's grandparents are Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty Keiper and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Shook.

Patrick William joined the family of Bro. David and Sis. LeAnn Rufener November 12. Luke and Kristina, along with grandparents, Bro. Elton and Sis. Velma Rufener and Bro. Roland and Sis. Melva Messner (Winthrop, MN), will help love and care for him.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

Many of us had the privilege of traveling to Detroit, MI, for the Annual World Relief meeting. As we heard of the many needs others have across the face of the earth and the opportunities we have to help them, I thought of what Jesus would want us to do for the less fortunate. When we think of Jesus' humble birth this Christmas, let us remember what we do for others we are also doing for Him (Matthew 25:35-40). Let's follow Jesus' death for our sins as our example and have the true spirit of giving this Christmas and throughout the new year.

We are thankful that Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and his family made the effort to be with us for our last Bible school session. He spoke of "Giving the Glory to God" as we look around and observe God's wonderful creation. As Bro. Bill works with bees, he certainly has a chance to learn of the details that God worked into His plan for our earthly home, and it was very interesting and edifying to hear what he has seen first hand.

Sis. Hazel Riggenbach reached her 80th birthday November 8 and her family held a surprise party for her. Hazel would like to thank all who remembered her by a kind word or gift on her special day and wishes God's blessing to each one.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Stephanie Luginbuhl

Kim Stoller

On November 7, Brock Emerson joined the family of Bro. Larry and Sis. LuAnn Hartzler, Jed and Kylee. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler and Bro. Don and Sis. Alice Steidinger.

This past month Sis. Margaret Marty was hospitalized. We are thankful she could return home again.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehlau

Edie Fetter

While shepherds in the field by
night

Their lonely vigil keep,
The loving Shepherd of us all
Comes down to save His sheep!
And once again our hearts lift up
To see His light aglow
And hear the angels echoing
That song of long ago.

Christmas Treasures

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, goodwill to-
ward men."

Luke 2:14

We were thankful for the visits of Elder Bro. Andrew Stoller (Smithville) and Bros. Gary Maibach (Smithville) and Tom Leman (Denver, CO). May God bless them for their willing service on our behalf.

Jeffrey Harris (son of Sharon Harris) was hospitalized due to an injury. We pray for a speedy and complete recovery.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Elizabeth Klopfenstein

As 1922 draws to a close, we thank God for bringing us safely through another year. We are also so grateful for the wonderful refuge our church is, since the world is so full of sadness and turmoil. Looking back over this past year it seems that our congregation has nearly doubled in size! It is such a blessing to have more families to share in church responsibilities and fellowship as we experienced Sat-

urday, November 7, when many of us spent the morning cleaning church together. This also has expanded our Sunday school which presently consists of eleven children ranging in age from 4 to 13. We appreciate their efforts in learning songs and Bible verses for our Christmas program. Their enthusiasm has been an inspiration to all.

We also rejoice that we were blessed with out-of-state visitors, including Ruth Beutel (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL).

Wednesday evening, as we listened to the last conference tape, the thought came to mind that we have a special challenge, since we are isolated from the majority of our churches, to accurately represent the Apostolic Christian Church and all that our precious faith stands for. Are those that we work with and go to school with, here in the Portland area, getting an accurate picture of what the Apostolic Christian Church is all about? Do we portray the Biblically based doctrines and traditions of our church in our daily walk of life? As sin and darkness hover over this city, and others world-wide, we, as God's children, must let our lights shine brighter than ever, reaching out to the thousands of lost souls seeking for a bright meaningful life of peace and joy.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Becky Gudeman

Peggy Schulz

We greet you all in our Lord's name. May God's blessings be on us all during this precious Christmas season!

We want to offer a sincere apology to Sis. Tami Dettwyler (Gary). Her name was omitted in a previous issue from a list of dear souls that have become brothers and sisters in our precious faith. We are very appreciative to have Sis. Tami and her family with us.

Sis. Esther Dettwyler seems to be recovering well after having cataract surgery in one eye. We wish her God's continued healing!

We rejoice with Bro. Troy and

Sis. Sherri Kuenzi as they were united in holy matrimony November 8. Sis. Sherri is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA); Bro. Troy is the son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi. We wish God's richest blessings on Bro. Troy and Sis. Sherri as they begin their life together.

Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Portland) shared God's Word with us this past month. We are so thankful for Bro. Ed's willingness to be used.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

Isaiah 51:11

We thank the young group from our Ohio churches that visited us the weekend of November 7-8. It is times like these that we can appreciate having brothers and sisters who willingly travel many miles so they can fellowship with us.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Paul Aeschleman (Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy) to Patricia Feely (Tom and Jackie, Chicago, IL). An April 1993 wedding is planned.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Don Sauder

"Two ways O man are there for thee, there are two destinations." (Hymns of Zion) The two are described as follows, "And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sarduis; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve

pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." (Revelation 21:19-23) "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." (Revelation 7:15-17) How wonderful heaven will be! All this by the love and the blood of our Lord.

The second place is described by Jesus Himself in the Gospel of Matthew 8:12. Luke 13:28, "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Mark 9:43-44 tells us about hell, ". . . into the fire that never shall be quenched. Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" - forever and ever. We all should be very thankful as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9). November was a very blessed month for us as many came with Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie) from Junction, OH. Other visitors were from Mansfield, OH, Tremont, IL and Athens, AL. This was the largest group we have had to date. A total of 41 including 14 children. It was great for the first time to have two Sunday school classes. Surely we look to God to bless Bro. Don and all for their visit. Trusting in God that His work will continue and many of you will visit us. As a reminder, services are normally held the 1st Sunday of the month with the first service starting at 10:00 a.m. Faye and my phone number is 615-373-8928; Bro. Don and Enid Miller's phone

number is 615-384-1081 or our Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore 205-232-2035, Athens AL.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

We were richly blessed this month with a visiting minister. Bro. John Stoller and his wife, Sis. Patsy (Leo, IN), were with us Sunday, November 15. We want to thank Bro. John for being willing to bring the Word to us.

We are also happy to have two of our trustees and their wives, Bro. Willis Sauder, Sis. Pauline, Bro. Alvin Klopfenstein and Sis. Ellen return to Zapata for the season. We want to thank God that Bro. Alvin Klopfenstein is able to assemble with us again. He had a stroke last winter and is now able to get around in a wheelchair. We enjoy visiting with him. May God's healing hands continue to heal him.

The area code for the Zapata telephone numbers have changed from 512 to 210. I hope everyone that needs this information will notice this change.

SILVER THREADS

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

Is it just a day at the end of the year?
A gay holiday filled with merry good cheer?
A season for presents - both taking and giving?
A time to indulge in the pleasures of living?
Are we lost in a meaningless, much-huddled daze
That covers our minds like a gray autumn haze?
Have we closed our hearts to God and His love?
And turned our eyes from "The Bright Star Above"?
Oh, Father in heaven, renew and restore
The real, true meaning of Christmas once more,
So we can feel in our hearts again
That "Peace on earth good will to men."

submitted by Junction, OH

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!

When the sun does descend from
the sky up above,
And I ponder events of the day;
I will call on my Lord Who is
worthy of praise,
I will thank Him for guiding my
way!

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,
Thru the night 'till the dawning of
day!

Ev'ry 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
pray'r!

Bro. Rodney Stoller

*"And the angel said unto her,
Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found
favor with God. And, behold, thou
shalt conceive in thy womb, and
bring forth a son, and shalt call his
name Jesus."*

Luke 1:30-31

BRING PRAISE
TO THE SAVIOR

O come let us gather together and
sing,
A song of rejoicing and praise to
our King!
To Jesus, the Savior, our voices
we raise,
For He is our King Who is worthy
of praise!
O come, all ye people, and lift up
your voice,
Exalt now the name of our Lord
and rejoice!

O come all ye people, in rev'rence,
adore,
The Lamb Who was slain, yet does
live evermore!
Foundation of faith, as the corner
stone laid,
Atonement for sin, so that all debt
is paid!
The Rock of Ages, He ever is true,
Our hope of salvation to live life
anew!

O sing of the mercy our Lord does
extend,
To those who will trust Him, it
never shall end!
His goodness and kindness, they
surely abound,
He always is faithful, His children
have found!
Eternal and lasting, His peace He
does give,
And those who obey Him, forever
shall live!

O come all ye nations and in one
accord,
Give honor and glory to Jesus, our
Lord!
And sing with the angels in
heaven above,
Triumphant in chorus of infinite
love!
Let all of creation with joy now
proclaim,
How great is the Savior, all praise
to His name!

Exalt now the name of our Lord,
let us sing,
For He is the Savior, our Lord and
our King!
Redeemer and Master of
everything,
And worthy of all of the praises
we bring!

Hosanna, Hosanna! Let everyone
sing!
Bring praise to the Savior, our
Lord and our King!
Bro. Rodney Stoller

OUR COMFORTER

When Jesus ascended to heaven
above,
fulfilling His mission on earth,
He promised the Spirit, a gift of
His love,
for those who believe in rebirth;
A Guide that would lead us in all
that we do,
give heavenly vision to see,
This Spirit, so holy, a comforter,
too,
a part of the Trinity three!
It's purpose for man is to quicken
the soul,
by faith we can feel it within,
With voice very small to
accomplish its goal,
protect and to keep us from sin;
Its dwelling is found in the heart
that is pure,
redeemed by the blood of the
Lamb,
Endowed from the Father with
promises sure,
from God, our Creator, I Am!

This spirit from heaven, we see
not its form,
like wind that does come and
will go,
But we can receive it if we will
conform,
submit to God's will, this we
know.
The fruit of the Spirit from God
we obtain,
receiving its peace, joy and
love,
Longsuffering, gentleness, faith
we retain,
with goodness, 'tis all from
above;
Its temperance, meekness, no law
can condemn,
all attributes prize for the soul,
Reward for the faithful, 'tis
promised to them,
restoring and making them
whole!
We know that this Spirit within
us can dwell,
if no room is given for pride,

We then can rejoice, with our soul
it is well!
Our Lord in our hearts will
abide!

This Spirit has power to save and
to heal,
inspire His Word that is read,
Give courage and boldness to
show God is real,
with vision of heaven ahead;
Revealing God's will when
decisions are made,
His faithfulness never can fail,
With strength for the weak to
endure, never fade,
His truth then will always
prevail!

This Spirit can grieve, if we heed
not Its voice,
Its counsel and wisdom not take,
It soon cannot help us if sin is our
choice,
God's blessings for us, we
forsake!
May never this happen, may
steadfast and true,
devoted in Spirit we be,
Yes filled with this Spirit, in
Christ live anew,
with promise of hope, we are
free!

This Spirit so holy, a comforter is,
when burdened with trial and
care,
We surely have found that Its
purpose is this,
to lift us to Jesus in pray'r.
In joy or in sorrow, more fullness
we know,
because of the depths of Its
pow'r,
In life or in death, or wherever we
go,
It guides us each day, ev'ry
hour!

We know, thru the ages, this
Spirit divine,
has guided all men who believe,
May now to Its virtues our
nature align,
Its prompting and teaching
receive;
Forever, eternal, God's gift from
above,
Its blessing for us may we see,
This earnest of Spirit of infinite
love,
we pray now our Guide it will
be!

Bro. Rodney Stoller

HAND IN HAND WITH JESUS

Hand in hand, I'm walking with
my Savior,
On the path that leads to heav'n
above;
As I travel, I can feel His presence,
Guiding ev'ry footstep, evidence of
love!

Step by step, He leads the way
before me,
O'er the mountain path so very
steep;
Safe across the sea and river
rapids,
Thru the rugged canyon, and the
valley deep!

Day by day, I know He will be
with me,
Joy or sorrow, always He is there;
Everlasting is His mercy
promised,
For the ones who trust Him, He
will hear their pray'r!

Hand in hand, I'm walking with
my Savior,
Step by step, He leads me all the
way;
Day by day, I trust Him for His
guidance,
Nevermore to wander, Him I will
obey!

Hand in hand with Jesus, trusting
Him each day,
Wonderful assurance, O what
peace is mine;
Hand in hand with Jesus, singing
all the way,
Glory, hallelujah! O what joy
divine!

Bro. Rodney Stoller

HAPPINESS

Happiness is serving Jesus,
My Redeemer, Lord and King!
Joy unending, ever singing,
Thanking Him for ev'rything!

Happiness is knowing Jesus,
Who has died to set me free!
Once a sinner, lost forever,
Now redeemed eternally!

Happiness is sharing Jesus,
Helping others far and near!

Tell the story, O what glory,
Of my Savior's love so dear!

Happiness is thanking Jesus,
For the blessings I receive!
What a Savior, Lord, Creator,
In His name I do believe!

Happiness is serving Jesus,
My Redeemer, Lord and King!
Always joyful, ever singing,
Thanking Him for everything!
Bro. Rodney Stoller

I BELIEVE!

As a child, I was taught to believe
in a God,
Who created the earth, and the
heavens up above;
And with Jesus, His Son, heaven's
plan now is done,
Full redemption for me, O
wondrous love!

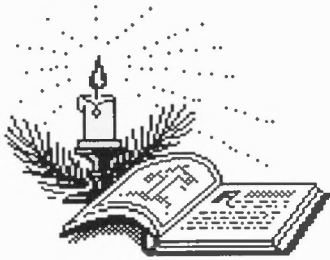
I believe in this God, Who created
my soul,
I believe in His Son Who died for
me;
I believe in the love of my Father
above,
And His promise to live eternally!

Ev'ry day that I travel along in this
world,
I can trust in this God, Who will
lead me all the way;
Ev'ry step that I make, ev'ry path
that I take,
By my side, He will guide me ev'ry
day!

What a wonderful thought, just to
know God is there,
For each trial and care, ev'ry
burden He will share;
I can call on His name, He is
always the same,
And I know He will hear my ev'ry
pray'r!

As the years come and go, I will
trust in my God,
I will lean on His Word, and
depend upon His grace;
I do earnestly pray, at the end of
life's day,
I will see God, my Father, face to
face!

I believe in this God, Who created
my soul,
I believe in His Son Who died for
me;
I believe in the love of my Father
above,
And His promise to live eternally!
Bro. Rodney Stoller



Sermon . . .

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and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever. And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house." (Luke 1:52-56)

As you read through that, there are a couple of passages of scripture that come to my mind that is in direct contrast to what Mary said. Let us look at them. Let us turn back to Genesis. I think this is the basis of pride that Mary was talking about.

Genesis 11, starting at verse 1, "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

"And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:1-4)

That is just a short passage, but do you see the contrast? "Let us make ourselves a name. Let us go forth. Let us do this." Does anything else in the Old Testament

come to your mind as an illustration, or even in the New Testament, opposite of Mary?

Mary said, "He" . . . it is God. These people said, "Let us."

Let us go to Daniel, chapter four. Remember Nebuchadnezzar? A great king, but a wicked king. He had to have been a great leader to have accomplished some of the things that he accomplished. Yet, he was a very cruel man, and a very self-sufficient man.

As can be read earlier, Daniel first interpreted his dream to save his life. Secondly, the three men were thrown into the fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar was learning about God. The first time he responded. The second time (when the three men were thrown in the furnace), he responded a little bit deeper. The Word and conviction of God went a little deeper. Yet, He was not ready to give His heart to the Lord.

Here he had a dream and saw the vision of the statue. Then Daniel came and interpreted that, and Daniel told him, "That is referring to you." Let us read there.

Daniel 4:24, "This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my Lord the king: That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

"And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility." (Daniel 4:26-27)

King Nebuchadnezzar said, "Yes, I will do that. I will humble myself. I do not want that to happen to me." I think that he probably set up a New Year's resolu-

tion, or sort of a New Year's resolution, because it lasted twelve months.

Look at verse 28, "All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?"

"While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men . . ." (Daniel 4:28-32) And Nebuchadnezzar was driven out. But as you know, this has a beautiful ending to it.

We have looked at David and David's heart acknowledged, "All things come from Thee and from Thy hand, O Lord. Both riches and honor come from Thee. God reigns over all."

Mary said the same thing. She said, "You have regarded the helplessness of myself as an handmaiden, and you have exalted me."

Those people at the tower of Babel said, "Let us do this. We can do this. Let us work together. If we get a committee, get this thing going and work hard together, we can solve our problems." They tried, and we know the end of that.

Here is king Nebuchadnezzar in the same condition. "This is the kingdom," as he strolled around. He was a great man and had a great kingdom. "Look at these things. Look at this unbelievable kingdom that I have built."

The Lord humbled him for seven years. It is sort of interesting that for twelve months he was faithful. For one year he was faithful. He drummed up enough self-power within himself that he was strong for a year. Then pride got the best of him.

It ends beautifully, too. It is a beautiful passage that goes hand in hand with I Chronicles. A beautiful section of praising the Lord.

Daniel 4:34, "And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and

mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” (Daniel 4:34-35)

Isn't that a beautiful passage? Here is probably one of the greatest kings in Old Testament times as far as power and might. In fact, he was the head in his dream. Daniel said, “You were the head,” if I remember right. Was not the head made of gold?

Anyway, for him to humble himself and say, “Thy kingdom is from everlasting to everlasting. Thy dominion does on forever for all the inhabitants of the earth,” including himself. What a contrast from what he had said seven years earlier! “All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing.” (See Daniel 4:34-35).

Isn't that really what Mary said, too? She knew that she was nothing, and yet God elevated her. Here is king Nebuchadnezzar humbling himself, and then God will re-elevate him.

“All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven.” (Daniel 4:35) Do you believe that? Do you believe God can control the angels? Do you believe God does what He wants with the angels and the spirits? I believe that.

Do you believe that God does what He wants among the inhabitants of the earth? I do not know. It seems like God would be a little more active in this situation.

“God, why don't you show yourself strong over here? God, there is an evil over here that I cannot believe that you are allowing it to go on. Why do you not just put an end to it?”

God does what He wants among the inhabitants of the earth. Again, as we learn this, meditate on it and think about it, what it does for me

is that it causes me to take my cares and put them at His feet.

This is a thing that we need to do regularly. This is a good reminder for me. I appreciate it. Obviously, we want it in our own hearts and then to share it as the Lord gives opportunity.

“All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” (Daniel 4:35)

We can say that. We can say, “God, why dost thou allow this to happen?” We can ask Him why. But king Nebuchadnezzar said, “Let us not do it. God is sovereign.”

“At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment; and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.” (Daniel 4:36-37)

What a beautiful summary! I think that as the message unfolds here, there is one thread that runs through the whole thing. Isn't that pride and isn't that humbleness? The contrast between pride and humbleness.

I think of different parts of our walk in our spiritual life, where at different places we feel like we are the cattle. We are like king Nebuchadnezzar, out with the cattle . . . our nails are growing, our hair is wild, we eat grass like an oxen, we lay in the dew in the morning, and our fingernails look like bird's claws.

After seven years of being in a pasture, we probably would look pretty wild, as king Nebuchadnezzar looked. Yet we sort of sense or think, “God cannot do anything with me. Look what I have just done. I am not sure if God is ever going to be able to use me. Is it not amazing what has just happened? Look what I just produced? How in the world am I ever going to ac-

complish that? That is so big. I am swamped. I do not know if I can handle that. I cannot believe I did that. That is amazing. Look at what I made. Look at my kingdom.

I think sometimes we do that and I guess that is why God included a story like this or prayers like these. He includes them for me . . . for me to read, review and remember.

A couple of other examples come to my mind of pride. Let's just talk about them for just a second.

Remember Satan in his discourse where he talks about the things he wanted to do? “For though hast said in thine heart, I will ascend in to heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.” (Isaiah 14:13-15)

Just in summary of this morning, and at least the message that God seems to be weaving in the fabric through this is that contrast. I guest the words of Nebuchadnezzar would be a good way to finish . . .

“Those that walk in pride He is able to abase.” (Daniel 4:37)

I think we need to regularly review. If God has blessed us and we are at a point of blessing right now, what should be on our hearts? (I Chronicles 29:12) “In thine hand is power and might.” In Thine hand . . .

Even as Mary said, “He hath shewed strength with his arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.” (Luke 1:51)

God blesses us at times and we need to thank Him for it. God humbles us at times. What do we need to do? We need to realize that He is still sovereign, in both cases. The thing that needs to always be in our heart is just that sovereignty of God. Whether we are helpless or whether God has blessed us, at all times, at all places, may we just realize that God is in control and that God is sovereign.

May the Lord just encourage us with that.

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The Word of God
I Chronicles 29:10-21, 26-30 and Luke 1:34-56

As you read through here, you see the contrast of humility and it almost seems like an error of pride. You think that Mary is almost proud in that she says that "all generations shall call me blessed." (Luke 1:48) Yet I think that she just had a total trust in the Lord . . . a total faith that without God, nothing would be possible.

Yet in verse 48, she says, "He hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden." Mary realized that without God, nothing was possible, as we read in verse 37. She believed that. She said, ". . . from henceforth all generational shall call me blessed." (Luke 1:48) That is not pride; it is her realizing that without God, she could do nothing.

Yet, with God, it is totally possible. God took the low estate of a handmaiden and raised her up to be called blessed of all generations.

We do that this morning, in a sense. She was a Godly woman that the Lord blessed. We, too, can just look at her character and bless the Lord and say to her that she was willing to humble herself to let God do a mighty work in her life.

I guess that more could be said at this point, before we read on. Sometimes we feel like that is our situation, that we are lowly handmaiden. What can God do through a person like me, or

through a person like you? We get feelings of inadequacy, feelings of doubt and we get feelings of, "How in the world could the Lord use me?"

Yet with that, if we really realize that in our strength we can do nothing, then God can elevate us to a point, even of Mary, and that all generations shall call us blessed, in a sense. Not in the same way, but in principle, God can raise us up and use us even in this day.

Verse 49, "For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree." (Luke 1:49-52)

Again, you sense the heart of Mary and you sense her trust in the Lord. You sense that humility and yet, it is not a false humility. It is just a beautiful, encouraging passage. Can the Lord use you? I'm just a school teacher, or a house wife, or a plumber, or a common worker." What do we think Mary was?

God had put in her heart a trust and a belief that God would be able to use her, and He did!

Verse 53, "He hath filled the hungry with good things: . . ." Notice as we read here, the words that are used. We will contrast this scripture with another scripture. What word stands out as you read through this? Let us back up and read through it again.

As we read through this, ask yourself, what word, or what is the Lord trying to bring out in this passage? Starting at verse 47, "And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

"For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts." (Luke 1:47-51)

You know, pride is one disease that everybody can realize you have except yourself. Pride is something that affects everybody else and it seems like sometimes we are the last ones to realize it.

Again, Mary was not elevating herself, but she was elevating the Lord. From verse 52, "He hath put down the mighty from their seats,

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