



"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Matthew 24:44

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

Matthew 24:42

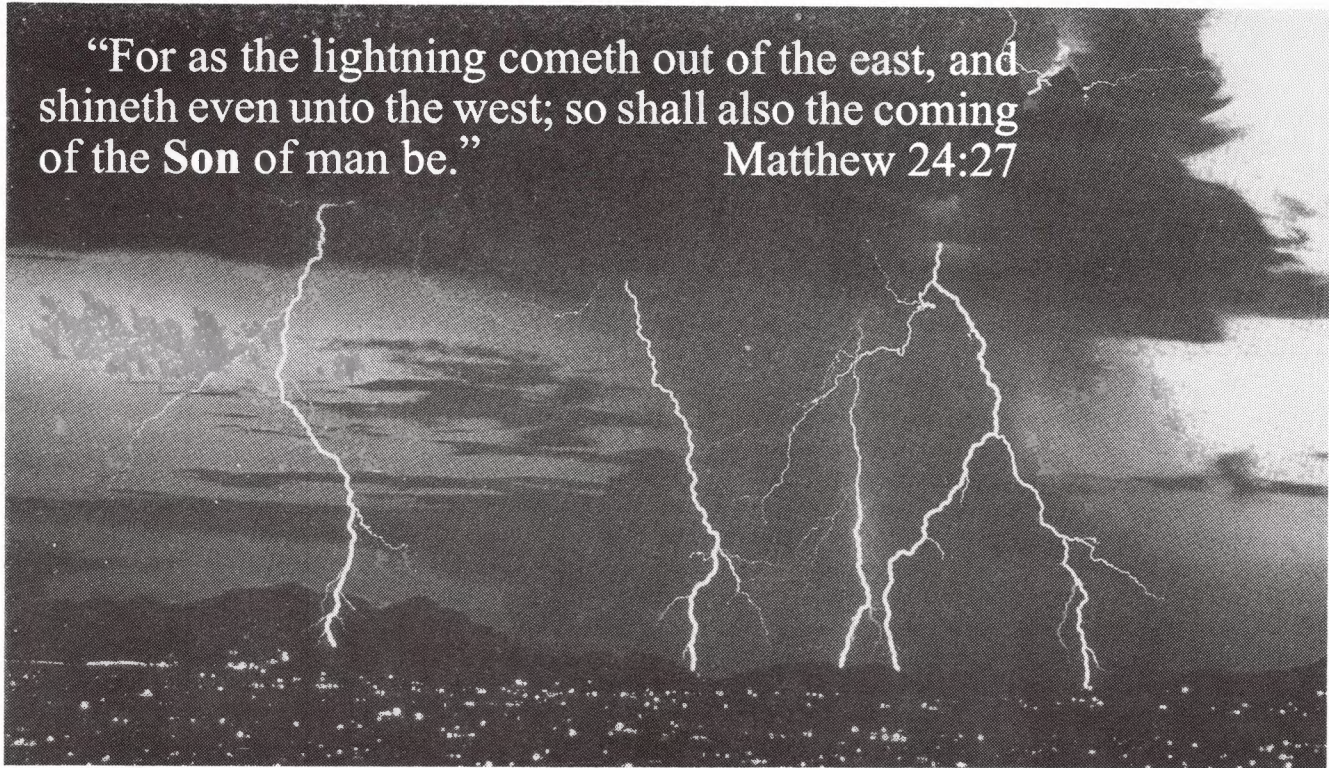
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New Year 1993

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."
Matthew 24:27



Are you ready, are you ready for the coming of the Lord?
Are you living as He bids you in His word?
Are you walking in the light? Is your hope of heaven bright?
Could you welcome Him tonight? Are you ready?

Are you waiting, are you waiting for the coming of the King?
Have you bundles of the golden grain to bring?
Can you lay at Jesus' feet Any gather'd sheaves of wheat,
There your blessed Lord to greet? Are you ready?

Have you risen, have you risen from the heavy midnight sleep?
Have you risen from your slumber long and deep?
Are your garments wash'd from sin, Are you cleansed and pure within?
Are you ready for the King? Are you ready?

Chorus:

Therefore be ye also ready,
(therefore) be ye also ready,
therefore be ye also,
be ye also ready,
for in such an hour,
such an hour as ye think not,
the Son of man cometh.

"Be Ye Also Ready"
Gospel Hymns #290

MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

THE ELDERLY IN 1993

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Many years ago as a young believer in our Lord Jesus Christ, I chanced to meet Bro. Henry Grimm from our Morton church, the father of our Elder Bro. Bob Grimm, who recently finished his course here on earth. Bro. Henry, although much older and wiser than I, spoke to me as an equal and encouraged me in serving the Lord. I have never forgotten it. Why? Perhaps it was because he made me feel that maybe God could use me for something. He was an older person speaking to a younger person and his influence was profound.

In thinking about the elderly in 1993, I wonder if encouraging those who are younger is not a good profession to be in. Everyone who has the ability to think and to speak can do it. "I believe God can use you," is a good phrase to memorize and share with others for God can use all who are dead to self and willing to be used. Many people out there are hurting and we want to

be used of God to help them. Trying to help others gets our minds off ourselves.

The church is spoken of as a body in I Corinthians 12:27, "Now ye are the body of Christ." In 12:22 and 23 we read, "Those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: and those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour." Those elderly who have passed their prime of life may be thought to be less honourable but it is upon them in particular that we are to bestow more abundant honour. Elderly, wherever you are, we honour you, love you, and think you are precious. But we are not going to stand here and feel sorry for you for being elderly. You have seniority and you are in a good position to encourage others. Pray about it and then try it, please. You may find it to be a very interesting ministry. "I believe God can use."

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 according 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." Isaih 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.

Tim Sauder, Administrator
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159, Office
(219) 627-2606, Home

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11520 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
(219) 627-2923

EUROPEAN UPDATE

Bro. Andy Hunyady

Greetings Beloved,

We still remember the world-shaking events that began in the Romanian city of Timisoara (Temesvar) December 15, 1989, when the Marxist political and economic system began to collapse; Ceasescu, the tyrant was executed. The whole world was taken by surprise, and hopes and expectation began to run high that soon a New World Order of peace, freedom and prosperity will come into being. Many changes have taken place, but with great disappointment. Former, powerful communists still control and run the governments. Their economics are a total disaster, unemployment, food and daily

(Continued on Page 4)

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
USPS 496780

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David Bertsch
Lester Stoller

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IN MEMORY – EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

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

THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION

The beauty of God's creation stands as a monument to the unfathomable and omnipotent power of the Almighty. To consider the complexity and perfection of heaven and earth, and all that is good therein, offers a powerful justification for belief in God. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are God's ways above our ways (Is. 55:9). The fact that God created the entire earth, and has authored the beauty of creation in its smallest details, stands as a firm testimony that He has no equal.

One can find many vantage points "to behold the beauty of the Lord" (Psa. 27:4). For instance, as one flies in a airliner across the ocean he can behold the beauty of the horizons, as they meet the blue hues of the mighty waters. Often in flight, as the airplane soars to great heights, magnificent cloud formations offer a majestic view. The clear blue sky above, and the whitened mass of clouds below give credence to a master hand that can create untold beauty. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork" (Psa. 19:1).

The beauty of creation, and God's exclusive hand in it exceed man's ability to comprehend it all. Evidences of divine creation shine forth in the form of the oceans, the snow-capped glory of the Alps, the Himalayas, and the Rockies, and in the broad expanse of the world's deserts and plains. All are unique, and often stunning in their special comeliness.

Added to the various geographical forms are the abundant fruits which come forth for the benefit of all mankind. In the Midwest, particularly, the wide expanse of crops—wheat, corn, soybeans and oats as well as verdant pastures and forests—provides a tapestry of beauty that can only originate from the masterful hand of God. "Many, oh Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which

thou has done" (Psa. 40:5).

The beauty and bounty of each year's crops truly come from God's benevolence: "Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enriches it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou has so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof" (Psa. 65:10).

It is customary in America to take vacations. During these times of relaxation a popular activity is to go "sight-seeing." While museums and historical places are often of great interest, probably one of the most uplifting forms of sight-seeing is to observe geographical beauty such as the mountains, the canyons, the streams, the seashores and the national parks. These forms of natural beauty have a powerful and inspiring effect on the observer.

The natural beauty of our beloved America is accurately portrayed in the popular, patriotic song, "America the Beautiful." "Oh beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain; for purple mountain's majesty, across the fruited plain." The author effectively describes the flowing beauty that hovers across the American landscape. We should always remember it is God that has created such miraculous beauty.

The Lord is worthy of all praise and honor for His creation. "He hath made everything beautiful in His time" (Ecc. 3:11). God's creation brings glory to His name: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained..." (Psa. 8:3). The psalmist was in awe of God's creative omnipotence, and was deeply impressed that despite the glory and power of God, He was yet mindful to create fallible man, and to mercifully love each soul He created.

When considering all of God's handiwork, the most beautiful aspect of His creation is that which is not seen by the eye of man. In this, He created the eternal plan of salvation, wherein the Lord Jesus, His only begotten son was sent to earth to die and shed His blood for our sins. God has exhorted us to set our affection not on the things which are seen, but on the things which are not seen (2 Cor. 4:18). That which is unseen is eternal, while that which is seen will some day perish. So while we marvel at God's created physical and geographical beauty, we should ponder in our hearts that some day (in all eternity) we will behold things which are far greater than any of this present earthly beauty.

In a secular sense, an artistic work (a painting, photograph, book, or piece of music) finds a deeper appreciation if one knows the artist or the author. The same is true as we observe God's handiwork in the form of both the spiritual and physical Creation. It should draw us toward a deeper respect for His power and for His Word. This will nurture love for Him and His ways.

From time to time, many of us declare, "Oh, what a beautiful day!" When we do so we should remember that God created the day which we are appreciating so much. He is the author of all things that are truly beautiful.

Earthly beauty is but as symbol of the eternal beauty that is to come. A glimpse of God is given already on this earth when we behold the breathless sights of His handiwork. May our appreciation for God's created beauty be the foundation from which a hope in our heart springs forth for that eternal homeland beyond the river Jordan, where "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor 2:9).

essentials are lacking, poverty and disease run high. Yet, there is some consolation. God had intervened and today the peoples of these lands enjoy full freedom of worship, which for the past 40-70 years was forbidden. The flame of faith has brightened and spiritually hungry and thirsty souls are now flocking to places of worship seeking their soul's salvation.

Attendance, in many areas have increased to the point that many

of the houses of worship, of our Nazarene brethren, had to be enlarged or new ones be built in order to accommodate the increased number of worshipers. This situation applies today to both, Romania and the Ukraine. Brethren are working very diligently to take advantage of the opportunities to get their houses of worship in good order, while the conditions are favorable. Of course, most of their financial support comes from the churches

in the United States, that is, you, our beloved brethren and friends through the mission fund.

Food, clothing and medications are still needed and shipments to Romania continue on a monthly basis. Brethren in the Ukraine, Bucovina District, continue to receive similar supplies through our brethren in Germany and Hungary, funded by the World Relief. Brethren in both countries express their heartfelt thanks and gratitude for all the help they receive. In response to our letter, placed in boxes in the August shipment, so far over 130 letters came and translation is being made as our time will permit. We plan to share excerpts from these letters with you, our supporters, in the Silver Lining. They are really addressed to you all.

Reports from the former Yugoslavia are not good. In mid-November, several brethren from Hungary, accompanied by two elders, visited the long isolated brethren in the city of Osijek (Eszek), in Croatia, who survived last year's fighting between the Serbian and Croatian armies, conducted worship services and witnessed the testimonies of new converts. Most of the homes and some of our churches are damaged or totally destroyed. About 120-150 brethren are still

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| | |
|---|--------|
| First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 — | 13,890 |
| Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 — | 10,812 |
| Third Year — August 1985 thru July 1986 — | 18,247 |
| Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 — | 23,048 |
| Fifth Year — August 1987 thru July 1988 — | 25,969 |
| Sixth Year — August 1988 thru July 1989 — | 25,509 |
| Seventh Year — August 1989 thru July 1990 — | 25,501 |
| Eighth Year — August 1990 thru July 1991 — | 32,677 |
| 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 |
| December 1992 — | 4629 | 19,754 |

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

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN 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.

holding on despite the severe poverty and hunger. Many of them had fled into Hungary, Austria and Germany are waiting for things to return to normal before returning to their homes. Relief goods are being delivered from Germany and Hungary, with World Relief providing some funds to support this program. According to the elder brother, who made the trip in November, the situation in Croatia is still very tense and there is great fear that fighting between the Serb and Croatian Armies could erupt any time as the Serbian Armies refuse to leave Croatian territories.

The economic sanctions against Serbia have created severe shortages of food, medicines and fuel, both for heating and for transportation. For the winter months, the situation looks very bleak. We have a close contact with our corresponding brethren both in Serbia and in Hungary who are near the border areas. Several thousand fellow believers and their families are affected in the former Yugoslav regions. So far, our efforts to send food and other needed Humanitar-

ian Aid, has failed. However, at this writing, December 21, our hopes were lifted as we received a phone call from Szeged, Hungary, that with the support of the Hungarian Red Cross, a shipment of food, clothing and medications can be taken into Serbia as soon as the brethren in Szeged can put together a shipment. Funds have been wired to Szeged for this shipment. Because no medical supplies are available in that country, the members of the Yugoslav committee plan to establish a supply storehouse to help the sick and those who are dependant on prescription medications. These supplies will be purchased in Hungary with funds provided by the World Relief.

Because of the Uncertainty of getting more aid to our suffering brethren in these war-torn areas, it is so necessary for us all that we bring our petitions before God in prayer, for by Him all things are possible!

May you all have a blessed New Year of peace and prosperity!

Enclosed are a few more letters and excerpts from letters from our brethren and friends in Romania:

"We can never thank you and brethren there, who continue to think of us and help us. Last spring there was a time when we literally waited for the packages to come as we could not find any rice, sugar or other basic food items in our stores. The medications are priceless and are most useful, so are the detergents and soaps and everything! We are just without words to ever thank God and you for providing all these good things . . . As we listened to the news reports about the hurricane winds and the damages it caused, we were concerned about you in America and prayed for you that God will protect you, your families and your churches from harm and damage. Our sincere greetings to all the dear believers there, (signed) Maria-Magdolna M."

"Dearly beloved and precious brethren in the Lord Jesus Christ!

I wish for you from our Heavenly Father every good thing for

body, soul and spirit. May His love and peace be with you and follow you on your life's pathways!

First of all, I would like to express - what is so difficult in plain words - my heartfelt thanks, to our Heavenly Father and you, who are so thoughtful of us, as you demonstrate it by your deeds of love, much labors and expenses to help us, especially me, the least worthy one, who came so late in life into the new way of life in 1988. It is such a good feeling to know that we have loving brethren of like precious faith in the distant country, who cannot be compared with those who are out in the world, and only now, can I see the difference. Even my family takes notice of it. My husband is 67 and we have two sons and daughters-in-law and a twelve-year-old granddaughter. I pray for them even as my dear parents and grandparents, I know, prayed for me. They were all in the faith early in life. I hope I can be but a "sheaf" among them . . . Tears came into my eyes as I read your letter. I thank you for taking such an interest in our well-being. The Lord did not cease to work in your hearts. The brotherly love did not cool nor did it diminish as you continue to work in behalf of others . . . God loves us and we just keep praising Him every day and I am sorry that I waited this late in life to come to Him. Again, we thank you for the much help you send us from the far country. The Lord bless you. We

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AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 7, 1993

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 Hackenjoss 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 Nerge) | 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.)

send our loving greetings to you and the holy congregations! Your least sister in faith (signed) Magda SZ. B."

"Dear brothers, sisters and friends and all those who listed to the Lord! We send our greetings over land and seas in the love of Jesus Christ and God, our Father. May this find you in good health both in body and spirit. Beloved brethren, we cannot see you and you cannot see us because of the great distance, but with heart and spirit we are near you. Not a night passes without mentioning you in

our prayers. Reminding us, that God, for such a long time has endowed you with wisdom, love and power, enabling you to send us help through the goodness and sacrifices of the brethren. The good Lord reward you according to His mercy!

Dear brethren, we greet you with peace from God and from the part of our holy congregation in the village of Tinca-Ripa, county of Bihor, (signed) Cireap GH."

"Dear brethren and friends!

Over land and sea we send Christian greetings, wishing you and yours the grace, peace and the

love of God with continued good health for both body and soul from two sisters in Romania, that is a mother and daughter, Slovca.

In the name of God and of Jesus Christ who is our Lord, we thank all the brethren across the sea, who work as a voluntary team to prepare and pack packages which we receive in such good order every other month with nothing missing. I, Sis. Stancov Cata, am retired and my daughter, Stanoiev Slovca, and her family live with me. My daughter and I are believers. At present, she is unemployed . . . with me also Stayes, a son-in-law, and my grand-

daughter, who is 24 years old and is a student at the faculty of economics in Timisoara. She also has no work . . . with thanks of gratitude from the bottom of our hearts for your love and care for the two sisters in the Lord in Romania, we send you greetings from all of us to all of you. (signed) Stanoiev S. and Stancov C."

Dear brothers and sisters, we send greetings and much wishes for good health from all of us here. You will know that we received your packages with much joy and we thank the Lord and you for everything . . . you will know that we are a few, four persons in the community, and can hardly wait for the Sundays to hear the Word of the Lord. I cannot see to write more, so I close my letter wishing you well! God bless you! (signed) Oarsa Floare."

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped Small Homes - Services and Facilities.

During the mid 1980's, it became apparent to the staff, administration, and board of directors that some of the residents would be better served if they were living in a smaller setting. These residents generally had no physical handicaps. They would walk, eat on their own, and were not in need of regular nursing services. It was obvious however, that they could not live on their own and still needed guidance and assistance in their daily life.

It was decided that a 16-bed facility called Oakwood Estate would be built. It was built in 1986-87 and went into operation in May of 1987. It is located about 1/4 mile northeast of the main facility at Morton, IL. The building has a central living area comprised of a kitchen, dining room and living room. Attached to the central living area are two bedroom wings, one for men and one for women. It is licensed by the State of Illinois as an Intermediate Care Facility for Developmentally Disabled. Oak-

wood Estate currently employs 16 people, some of whom are part-time. The equivalent number of full-time employees is 11.

This home provides for the residential and training needs of people who are developmentally disabled but not in need of a high level of personal and medical care. Since the residents who live there are fairly high functioning, there are only consultant and nursing services provided. Their basic needs are met through training for personal, social, leisure, community and domestic skills. Consultants offer support for residents who have special therapy needs. There is certified resident aide staff on duty 24 hours a day.

Almost all of the residents at Oakwood Estate moved there from the larger facility at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. Each was evaluated and determined that they would be better served in a small group home setting. All of the residents are either employed in the community, attend a community day program, or attend an alternate day program at Oakwood Estate for residents who are retired or employed part time. As at the larger facility, each resident is assessed as to their needs and a program is designed to improve their skills and overcome their handicaps as much as possible. Their progress is reviewed annually to make necessary modifications and assure maximum effectiveness.

In 1989, the Department of Public Aid determined that many of the residents at Oakwood Estate and a few at the larger facility were ineligible for continued funding due to their very high level of functioning. This also meant that if these ineligible residents stayed at these facilities, they could decertify the entire facility. In response, the administration and board of directors of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped decided to provide services for these ineligible residents in homes in the community which were the most appropriate setting for them.

A two-story, four-bedroom home located on the north side of Morton was purchased and remodeled to

suit their needs. Four women residents moved there in March of 1990. Each has their own bedroom and share the rest of the house as in a normal home. A two-story, six-bedroom home located on the south side of Morton was purchased next. After some minor remodeling, six men residents moved there in September of 1990. Again, each man has his own bedroom and they can share the rest of the house. In 1991, a two-bedroom home in Morton was rented and two women residents moved there. These homes make up another aspect of the Home for the Handicapped called Community Residential Services (CRS).

The homes in CRS are staffed and managed by the Home for the Handicapped. They serve residents who do not meet the state requirements for developmental disability but are not able to live entirely on their own and do not need some supervision. All of the homes are currently not licensed with the Department of Public Health and therefore no funding from the State of Illinois is approved for these homes. Instead, these homes are funded almost entirely through contributions from the Apostolic Christian Church. CRS currently employs 12 people, most of whom are part-time. The equivalent number of full-time employees is 6.6.

Each resident's training, services, employment and day program are individually planned. Most attend workshops or have jobs in the community and live fairly independently with supervision. The homes are staffed full-time.

The intent of CRS is to provide services for our current residents in the most appropriate setting for them. It is not the intent of CRS to move highly functioning people from other areas into the CRS homes in Morton. Instead, these people would be better served by small group homes in their current home city.

To help support this philosophy, the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped has provided partial funding for the initial development of two small group homes outside of the Morton, IL, area. The first of these is Lakeview Terrace in Sabetha, KS. It is a 12-bed, small

group home similar to Oakwood Estate and opened in 1991. It currently has ten residents and is planned to be filled in the near future. The second is a four-bed, small group home in Phoenix, AZ. Both homes are governed by their respective local churches and operate independently from the Home for the Handicapped. The Home also provides no funds for the operations of these "satellite" homes.

Birthdays at the Home in February are: John Kamm (18), Lee Anne McKay (19), Virginia Reece (27) and Guy Masinelli (28).

GATEWAY WOODS
Apostolic Christian
Children's Home
Dena Lewis

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5, 6

As we approach another new year and many changes, we can find it comforting to know that it is our consistent trust and faith in the Lord that is vital, not our ability to understand the way events unfold.

Before many of our children left campus to visit home during the Christmas break, all of our staff and children were able to celebrate Christmas together on campus. It was touching to see the efforts of the many staff members who were eager to share and teach our children about the true meaning of Christmas.

We are thankful for Bro. Gary and Sis. Stacey Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rosswurm (Latty, OH) who will be helping us out as substitute house-parents while Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm are in Florida. We are also thankful for Sis. Jan Stoecker who will continue to touch the lives of our teenagers in her special way by participating in our Foster Care Program. Sis. Jan plans to take Jennifer F. from the girls house into her care the first of the year.

Ron and Christie Bowie's home is our newest foster home as Denise S. from the West House and Dawn S. from the TLP house join their family.

Our Foster Care Manager, Sis. Judy Stoller, and her husband, Bro. Les, are thrilled new parents of their first child, Nathaniel Phillip, born December 22. We rejoice with them as this new life enters their home.

We welcome thirteen year old Christy K. in to the Baumgartner family. Christy came to be with us early in December. As we welcomed a new face on campus we also said goodbye to a familiar one. Sis. Amy Unsicker moved back to Peoria, IL. Sis. Amy and Bro. Dean Kaisner plan to be married this summer.

We continue to pray that God will direct the paths of those who are being called to work at Gateway Woods. We currently have an opening for a single sister in the East House and for an Office Manager. Finally, as the new year takes off, may we all remember "and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men." (I Thessalonians 3:23)

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Lisa Huetten

As the Christmas season brings its rush of shopping and baking, it should also bring times of quiet during which we can rejoice as the angels did over the birth of Jesus. We must never lose sight of that Babe in swaddling clothes, and yet we must continue to look to the cross every day.

December was a busy month for the Athens church. On December 12, the entire church gathered together for our yearly Christmas dinner. The following week, on Wednesday evening, everyone gathered again to go Christmas caroling. Our Sunday school classes also spent time together December 19 and then presented the church with its Christmas program the next Sunday. It's always good to hear our Sunday school children singing together and speaking their verses they memorized from the Bible.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Sis. Shirley Haggemmaker and O. C. Haggemmaker. May God be with them as they heal.

As many of us play to travel during the holiday season, empty spaces will be left at the Athens church. We look forward to the time we can all be gathered safely together again.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly - But his delight is in the law of the Lord."

Psalms 1:1-2

On December 6, Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach finished nearly 35 years as minister, 15 years as elder.

We are indeed grateful to Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara for many years of serving, giving and loving care. We pray the Lord's blessings on them as we offer our prayerful support and encouragement.

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Sis. Lorene came from Detroit, MI, for this special occasion. Bro. Ben and Bro. Richard shared the pulpit.

As God wills Bro. Richard's desire to retire, we give thanks and will keep praying for their less busy days.

A church supper and singing and much appreciation expressed made this a special day.

New officers are: trustee-secretary - Bro. Chuck Kieser; trustee-exterior building - Bro. Herb Knochel Sr.; Sunday school superintendent - Bro. Robert Baum; assistant superintendent - Bro. Erik Langhofer and usher - Bro. Brian Katich.

Doug and Susan Schmidgall became parents again December 3, when John Lafe was born. His brother is Matthew; grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall.

" . . . Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat;

this is my body . . . he took the cup, . . . saying, Drink ye all of it;"

Matthew 26:26-27

Holy communion is just that – holy – a time so special, taking the sacraments seems as you are one step closer on the heavenly highway.

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach was serving his last Lord's Supper before retiring in early December.

Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) was here to assist Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and Richard Schupbach.

Like elsewhere, the weather is wet. Some sunny days brought flickers, thrashers, two kinds of woodpeckers, Inca doves, hummers, finches and three kinds of sparrows. Walk, hop, fly or hover, they are God's gifts. We enjoy them – another delight.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson).

Our Sunday school Christmas program was just what Christmas is all about. The recitations and singing brought joy to all – if only it would last. We appreciate the efforts of the teachers.

Take time to be holy – speak oft with the Lord.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and his wife, Sis. Barbara, were with us for a Wednesday evening this month. It was our last opportunity to hear Bro. Richard share the Word on the pulpit. Sunday, December 6, marked Bro. Richard's last day of service in the ministry. Several in our church traveled to Phoenix for a supper to mark the occasion. We were blessed by Bro. Richard's service in the ministry for so many years. It will seem strange to not see him on the pulpit. We pray the Lord will continue to use Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara in ministries of different kinds. May God bless you both abundantly.

We were excited to hear about Corinne Hari as she has told of her desire to repent. Corinne grew up for the most part in Tucson and

attended Sunday school here. Many prayers over many years were answered by her repentance. May God be your Guide in the coming months.

1992 was a blessed year for the Tucson church. We had three beautiful, healthy babies and one marriage, no deaths and no baptisms, unfortunately.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Carol Graf

I neglected to announce the birth of Joseph Klotzle (better known as Joey to those in the Altadena congregation). He was born September 26 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle. Grandparents are Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena) and Bro. Herb and Sis. Johanna Knochel (Phoenix, AZ). He was welcomed by his brothers, Jimmy and Johnny, and his sister, Suzanne. We enjoy having a new baby to hold on Sundays and Wednesday nights.

In November, Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI) assisted our Elder Bro. John Klotzle in reading the memorandum. Another visiting minister, Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) shared the Word with us December 20.

December 20 was also the date for our Sunday school Christmas program. The theme of the program was hope – the hope that we have in Jesus Christ for eternal life. We could see the efforts of the students as they sang songs of hope, read about the birth of Christ, spoke about people in the Bible who displayed hope, and read essays they had prepared on the subject of hope – why we have hope, and what we hope for.

We have been worshipping in our new church facility since late October. It's very nice to have a church building, as we had been assembling in an elementary school auditorium while our new church was under construction. Needless to say, our new building is much more convenient. We are very thankful to all those who helped to make the new church building possible, whether you helped financially or with physical labor. It is truly a blessing that we have so

many brethren who are willing to help. We could really feel the love from our church family during this project.

Note: Our church address has changed. It is now 736 E. Calaveras, Altadena, CA 91001.

COLORADO, DENVER

Eric and Marcel Huber

The Denver church commemorated Christ's birth with a number of activities in December. On Saturday evening, December 12, we gathered at church for a meal and our annual Sunday school Christmas program. Once again, the students and teachers proclaimed our Lord's birth in verse and song. We traveled to Colorado Springs on a Sunday afternoon to sing carols at the nursing home where Sis. Katherine Ries resides. We also spent a Saturday evening caroling to those from our congregation who are unable to worship regularly with us.

Elections for trustee were held this month. Bro. Doug Hohulin will replace Bro. Eric Huber whose term expired.

We extend our thanks to the ministers who have visited us within the last two months: Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA).

With a new year upon us, we pray that God will bless each brother and sister-in-Christ and that we will have the courage and patience to serve Him amidst the immorality so prevalent in our world today.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Revelation 22:14

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Michelle Virkler

"Thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." (Isaiah 26:3) Our lives are made so much easier when we al-

low God to do His will. When we can allow Him to do what is best, there is such a peacefulness in our hearts.

Our hearts rejoice when our dear ones turn their lives toward the Lord Who can strengthen and shield us from all sin and cares of the world.

Those repenting are Kent Zahner (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally); Alice Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan); Dale Gerber (Bro. Everett and Sis. Phyllis); Steven Lanz (Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne); and Pete Skipper (Bro. Joe's brother). We pray their journey with the Lord will be filled with joy, peace and love.

We are comforted and uplifted by God's presence so often in our lives. "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:17) May we feel His love and comfort in our time of need and may He not forsake us when we are downtrodden.

Those not able to assemble with us recently are Sis. Muriel, our dear friend Russel Champ and Bro. Manny Kloter, who is in Florida recuperating from his recent surgery.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Andy Virkler in our midst during the Thanksgiving weekend and hear Bro. Andy deliver the Lord's teachings.

Just a reminder to Rockville congregation: Silver Lining dues should be paid during the month of January. If for any reason you would like your name deleted, please let your correspondent know. Also, additions, or changes will be accepted. \$9.00 is the annual subscription fee to receive your Silver Lining.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

As we begin the new year, it is often a time to reflect on our blessings of the past year. During 1992 we had services 31 times with 42 visiting ministers. We thank them and their families for their efforts and ask the Lord to bless them.

For our service the fourth Sunday in November, Elder Bro. Ed

Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) was our minister. Visiting ministers in December were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL). Other visitors this month were from Huntington, WV, Smithville, OH, and Peoria, IL. Many from our congregation spent Christmas with their families in their home congregations, so no services were held December 27.

It seems there are often comings and/or goings to report. This month we had both. We welcome Sis. Kerin Holmes (Tremont, IL) to our congregation. She has found employment in this area. We also bid farewell to Sis. Shay Nelson (Morton, IL). Our prayers are with her as she returns to Illinois.

The engagement of Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger and Bro. Matthew Mangold was made known to our congregation. Their parents are Sis. Diane Kellenberger (Morris, MN) and Mark Kellenberger (Leicester, NC) and Michael and Sis. Renee Mangold (South Bend, IN). Our prayers are with them as they begin their life together.

Services are held the first, third and usually the fourth Sundays of the month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located on Route 7, about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495). Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. Many meet for breakfast in the hotel dining room at 9:00 a.m. 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.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Terri Huber**

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) was a willing servant of the Lord. Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and his family visited, and God surely worked through Bro. Steve's sermon.

The Sunday school Christmas program was a delight. Many neighbors and family members that do not usually come to church were present. It was especially fun for me, as a "first-time" parent. My

child did everything expected - that is, made faces, fidgeted and said his piece too quickly! However, I know from comments he has made that the story of Jesus' birth has made an impression!

The annual Christmas carolling was a success. It seems to get bigger every year. It sure makes us feel good to visit the shut-ins, and we know the old hymns of Christmas struck a responsive chord in the minds of the elderly listeners.

**FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Marvin and Rhea Steffen**

As we have come through Thanksgiving, and approach Christmas, we are so thankful for all that God has done for us and given us, that we have to remind ourselves about those that the holidays may have a whole different effect on. Those that have lost loved ones in recent years, or those that may just be alone for any number of reasons. Within our precious faith, we have our Comforter, and we have our brethren, so we are never really alone. But there may be many that feel lonely, and even more so for those outside a fellowship such as ours. As we celebrate with our families, we need to set time aside to visit those who may be lonely, "... To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction ..." James 1:27

We were so fortunate to have three visiting ministers and their wives travel to spend the day being used by God to further His purpose. They were Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), and our Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale). They shared many teachings from God's Word that day, including these commands that say so much. Bro. Wendell quoted James 5:12, "... my brethren, swear not ... but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay ..." So important for those in the world to be able to take each of us at our word. Bro. Dave implored us, "To speak evil of no man ..." Titus 3:2. How many of us can say we truly, completely live those words? Bro. Darrell quoted Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am

God . . .," which, if taken to heart, leaves a lot less room for complaining and doubting, doesn't it? If we can live each of these teachings, we can be a better example for those around us in the world, including our precious children.

We look forward to our Christmas program December 20, when we will also have singing at two local nursing homes, and food boxes for the poor.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Suellen Ott - Gala Gerber

The holidays have stimulated many activities! Our church had its annual Christmas program. Such a joy to see and hear the youth lifting their voices up to heaven in song and poem! We were reminded that "Christ is the Heart of Christmas." If it wasn't for the Christ Child born so long ago, there really wouldn't be any Christmas at all! It's just not a holiday, it should be a holy day. Don't take the Christ out of Christmas!

Christmas caroling to homes and to the nursing homes is always such a blessing for all! "Jesus" can put a song in your heart!

"Health" is a gift we easily take for granted! We pray for Bro. Emmanuel Klotter who has undergone surgery and Sis. Linda Sabo who spent a few days in the hospital. We pray that the "Mighty Healer" would find favor to complete restoration, if it would be His will.

Bro. Harvey and Sylvia Banwart "want to send their heartfelt thanks to all; for your prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers, gifts and visits. All were greatly appreciated!"

We are always so thankful for visiting ministers who come and share the gospel with us! We pray for God's richest blessings to be with Bro. Dave Eisenmann (Fort Myers) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for being so willing to teach us God's precious Word.

Well, "1992" has slipped onto the pages of history, and each of us face a "new year." What does the year "1993" hold in store for us? - Let's ask our Father for His blessings!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Carol Steffen

"Ye sisters all, start on the way in service for the Lord, in watchful striving, fervent prayer, you'll find a rich reward." The Farewell Song, verse 5. Sis. Becky Heinhold had graduated from Northern Illinois University and plans to move back to Washington, IL. We wish her God's blessings and direction in her life.

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Gary Anliker, who came twice this month, Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL). We thank them and their families for taking time out of their busy schedule to serve us.

On December 12, our church had the privilege of going Christmas caroling. We sang at two resthomes in Belvidere, then sang at the handicapped home in Genoa. Afterwards, 13 handicapped people came to a church chili supper. Each one received a present and the joy on their faces was the highlight of the evening. Then on Sunday, December 13, our Sunday school children presented the Christmas story through verse and song! Oh, what simple faith and trust they have!

At a meeting recently, we discussed our church schedule. The Sunday services will remain the same for now with Sunday school for everyone at 10:00 a.m., the first service at 11:00 a.m., and the second service at 1:00 p.m. Our Wednesday evening schedule will be as follows: first Wednesday - services at 7:30 p.m.; second Wednesday - World Relief at church at 7:30 p.m.; third Wednesday - services at 7:30 p.m.; fourth Wednesday - singing at church at 7:30 p.m. We welcome visitors anytime. Also, we will now be having Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve services. Please call Bro. Dean Steffen (815-568-6086) for more information.

We wish each one God's richest blessings in the coming year.

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Debbie Grieco - Tudy Schmied

Thanksgiving Day services were held the morning of November 26 and we gathered to thank the Lord for His goodness. We are thankful for our forefathers who persevered in their faith and founded this great nation in Biblical principles. Specifically, we are thankful for the Pilgrims and the hardships they bore for the sake of Christ and for their quest for freedom to worship Him as they felt the Scriptures directed. We are also thankful for God's faithfulness in raising up a great nation from this handful of Pilgrims where His Word could flourish and from which the gospel could be sent forth. Are you actively teaching your children or grandchildren the true meaning of Thanksgiving? All references to God and His goodness have been removed from our textbooks in the public schools and children only read how the Pilgrims were thankful for their friends, the Indians. We can no longer solely rely on the schools to educate our children, but we must actively bring our dependence on God back into the history of this country. We must teach them that our nation can remain strong only if we acknowledge God's sovereign hand in the formation and preservation of this United States of America.

Our congregation was fortunate to have two visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) ministered to us December 13. On Saturday, November 21, Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) spoke at our annual day of devotion. The subject of the day centered around us as Christians living a life contrary to our carnal human nature and how this is only possible if we are truly born again. Even with this God-given new nature, we will to some degree continue to struggle with elements of our old nature, such as impatience, difficulty in loving those who are abusive to us, and harsh judgment of others. However, God will give us the power to overcome through the Holy Spirit who indwells us.

On December 21, our church re-

ceived an early Christmas present when our Sunday school presented their Christmas program titled, "Glory to God in the Highest." The songs and readings revolved around the Christmas story and how in the midst of this busy season we must worship Christ and not Christmas itself. As we look around us, we can see that many have lost sight of the true meaning of this holy season. This theme of focusing on the Christ Child, God's undeserved Gift to us, during the holidays was also presented by Bro. Dennis Kaufmann at a special Christmas Bible study earlier in the week on Wednesday evening.

Our prayers have been answered and we are thankful that Bro. Everett Hari's hip surgery went well and he is recovering nicely. We pray God's healing hand continue to be on him during his recuperation and period of physical therapy. We will be glad when he can again assemble with our congregation. Praise God for answered prayer and His faithfulness and attention to the details of our lives.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Les and Barb Fehr

We heard the engagement announcement of Sis. LaVonne Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) to Bro. Dale Schumacher (Bro. Robert and Sis. Charlene, Eureka). We wish them God's richest blessings and happiness as they look forward to a life together.

We rejoice with our two new converts, Sara Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen) and Ben Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky). May the grace of God be with them as they begin to live their lives for the Lord.

Thanksgiving Day we were privileged to have Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) with us. May the Lord bless him for his efforts in bringing us the Word.

Our prayers were with Bro. Alfred Hausmann when he was hospitalized this month.

Note of Thanks: I would like to thank all my family and friends who sent me such beautiful cards on my 80th birthday. It was a joy to

receive, also humbling. May God bless each one.

Sis. Margaret Tanner

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Margie Heintz

The annual Christmas program was held December 13. The children reminded us that Jesus was and is a Savior for all people, from all nations, young and old, ". . . black and yellow, red and white, they are precious in His sight . . ." Truly the message of Christmas brought, and continues to bring, joy to the world. We were encouraged to continue to bring, through our daily living, that message of joy and hope to all that we meet.

Following the program many adults and children went caroling at several local nursing homes and then returned to church for a chili supper. It was a day of shared blessings and fellowship.

Visiting ministers during the past month were: Tom Stock (Cissna Park), Greg Rassi (Chicago), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury) and John Hartman (Fairbury). We thank them for their willingness to serve the Lord by serving us.

Silver Lining payments are due for Champaign in January. Please pay your reporter.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

There is always at least one unusual gift. This year Grandma (!) gave sets of rhythm instruments to the families, and we heard from these presents. One nephew was experimenting with the triangle. First he laid it on a table and hit it - some sound, but clunky. Then he held one side in his fingers and hit it - virtually no sound at all. Lastly, he let the triangle swing freely and hit it - a sweet, clear tone. Spiritually, we ourselves are the triangle, I think, and the Lord is hoping to draw forth from us sweet tones. When we totally clutch at ourselves, hanging on, not wanting the Lord in our lives, He cannot get any music from us. Even when we let go somewhat but lean against some tangible object or activity

(perhaps we are caught up in our work, sports, other busyness), we are no true instrument for Him. Only when we allow ourselves to dangle by faith from His will, freely allowing Him to work in us, can we be led to striking beautiful music for Him.

Many gathered at Elgin Resthaven for a practice of our Christmas program for the residents on Friday evening, December 4. Then our Sunday school students retold the Christmas story in song and verse at church on Saturday evening. So many adults worked to have a program of significance and worth, and we are thankful to them. But the program only comes alive as the children contribute. They are so precious in our sight, our children, teaching us about ourselves when they do childish things, pointing us to more Christian reactions when they are childlike. On the next Saturday afternoon, we went carolling in some of the western suburbs. There we truly felt appreciated, no matter what kind of facility we carolled in. At one place, an older woman followed us, looking, she thought, for the foot doctor. Gently, we hope, we tried to let her know that she would have to check with someone else about that. Yet, as we came back up on the elevator, she spoke to us about our carolling. "You brought God right down to us," she said. And we were awed. Maybe she was confused about the past, some of the present, the future even. But she was aware of what was meaningful for the present. Do we do as well always?

Sis. Lynne Fischer and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) have sought the Lord's direction in their lives and are now engaged to be married. Sis. Lynne is the daughter of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer (Fort Scott, KS) and has been working in our area. Bro. Jeff is the son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL). As they plan the beginning of their lives together, we wish them the Lord's grace and joy.

We rejoice in the birth of a baby boy, Nicholas Michael Kaiser, December 11. He is the son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Kaiser, the

grandson of Bro. Roland and Sis. MaryAnne Young (Cissna Park); and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Lorraine Kaiser (Morton, IL). His big sister, Laura, welcomes him at home. May he grow "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52

I saw some lights at Christmas that pulsed, ringing their course with excitement. I saw others that were on, then dimmed and went off, to show the contrast. But the lights I liked best were the steady candles, glowing from each window of my brother's old farmhouse. Lord willing, may we show His light steadily and faithfully all through the year, not in an exciting way perhaps, but never dimming and going out. We need to visibly show that we are His by our lights because others are so in need. We have no right to deprive them of His glow.

There are three older men in a nursing home who enjoy playing dominoes together. One (#1) can't see very well, so another (with a lame arm) calls out the available numbers. He (#1) pushes out the domino needed and the third man (who can't talk) puts it into place. Lest we think this slows the game down, they played 27 games last Saturday morning. (They always play until one wins 10 games, and they were very close.) As these brothers in the Spirit work together in this game, may we as a church be so aware of our needs and possible usefulness that we will form such a solid working force for the Lord in 1993. Always we need each other, whether it is a brother who listened well, giving a song which accents the sermon; an older sister confined to her home but praying for the Word and its work in individuals; a friend staying close and giving dinner; an elder exhorting us at the conference. Each one is important to the Lord - and to us. May we be more prayerful and more thankful, needing spiritual tongues, eyes, arms for reaching out and drawing in.

It's a new year - but no matter what anyone says, remember it's 1993 A. (Anno) D. (Domini), the year of our Lord!

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Cyndee Anderson - Bev Knapp

"Quicken me, O Lord, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble." (Psalms 143:11) A number of our congregation have been afflicted with illnesses this month. Those hospitalized for surgery were: Sis. Twylla Beer, Sis. Violet Maul and Bro. Urb Bauer. Others who were hospitalized were Sis. Naomi Knapp, Sis. Jean Knapp, Bro. George Gudeman and Lawrence Kuebler. Also on the sick list were Sis. Aldene Kaufmann and Bro. Ezra Feller. We think, too, of our Sis. Anna Hari who is residing at the Iroquois Memorial Resident Home in Watseka. We pray these dear ones can be given an extra measure of patience to endure these afflictions.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Judy Walder (Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Charles) from here and Bro. Mark Hartman (Sis. Rosemary and Bro. John, Fairbury) as they announce their engagement. As they plan for their wedding and marriage, we wish them God's guidance and nearness.

Andrew and Aaron Kaeb are happy to welcome home their new little brother, Adam James, who was born December 10. Thankful parents are Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise Kaeb. We pray for them that they can experience God's blessings as they bring up their children to know of His ways.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. John and Sis. Jayne Conrad in the passing of his mother, Mary Conrad (Lakeville, IN). The Lord alone can fill the void when a loved one leaves us and we know He will comfort and provide.

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High:" (Psalms 92:1) What a blessing to be able to gather together and sing the beautiful hymns that tell of Christ's birth. As a church, we enjoyed singing carols to the shut-ins and aged December 17. We are also looking forward to our youth sharing the Christmas story with us at their program December 23.

We always appreciate the efforts of our dear Elder Bro. Art Bahler

(Fairbury) who labors among us so faithfully and patiently. We were thankful he could spend some time with us on the pulpit this month as well as with individuals on his weekly visits. May he be blessed for his tireless efforts.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Myra Steffen - Sue Wiegand

"Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee."

Hymns of Zion #150

May this be our thought each day of the year and may we strive to walk a closer walk with Him.

We are thankful Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) was with us and let God use him to bring the Word to us.

With his family at his hospital bedside, Bro. Bob Williamson saw paradise and Jesus beckoning him to come home. We pray that God would comfort his wife, Sis. Doris; his son, Vern (Jeannie); and daughter, Sis. Gail Leman (Bro. Ed). Our congregation will also miss him.

Just a couple weeks before, Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Leman were blessed with another little girl, Michelle Marie. Kari and Kelsey are glad for a sister. Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Williamson and Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman (Denver, CO) are grandparents. Sarah, Rebekah, Rosie, Martha and Andrew Hoerr are also looking forward to helping care for another sister. Rachel Mae has been added to the home of Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Mae Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Max and Sis. Katie Hoerr (Peoria). May God grant them His guidance and wisdom to raise them.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Nancy Schrock, Sis. Sarah Dietrich (Bro. Bill), Bro. Doug Knepp (Sis. Lynnette) and Art Miller (Lena). We wish them God's healing hand.

As a congregation, we were thankful the Sunday school children told us the story of Christmas Wednesday evening, December 16. Saturday, December 19, was our

evening to sing Christmas carols to our older brothers and sisters and shut-ins. What a blessing to be together to sing praises to our God.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:4) How thankful we are that our dear elder and ministering brothers are so faithful in carrying out the duties and responsibilities which have been laid on them. We are grateful for the blessed weekend November 22 when Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) came to be with us. God's Spirit was certainly in our midst and we trust the Lord will richly bless them.

Surgical patients for this month were Sis. Hilde Schumacher (Bro. Georg), Bro. Delbert Schmidt (Sis. Jeanette) and Bro. Don Schambach (Sis. LeAnn). God has once again granted His healing mercies, for which we are thankful.

"But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul." (Deuteronomy 4:29) We rejoice with the angels that Morris and Pat Young have found grace to seek their Lord in repentance. How thankful we are that God is yet calling souls unto Him and pray that He will grant grace as this dear couple begins their walk of faith.

His call we obey, As Abram of old,
Not knowing our way, But faith
makes us bold;
Wher-e'er He shall lead us, The
way He doth guide;
He knows best who rules us; The
Lord will provide!"

Zion's Harp #86, vs. 3

May Bro. Steve Schietlin and Sis. Marsha Stoller (Latty, OH) continue to feel God's direction as they plan for their upcoming marriage. Their parents are Bro. Al and Sis. Joan and Bro. Daryl and Sis. Iva.

There was also rejoicing as Johnathan Ward Cargill blessed

the home of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Crystal December 18. Thankful grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill and Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard (Fairbury). We trust God will impart the wisdom to these first-time parents, as well as all parents, to raise their family in the fear of the Lord.

We all enjoyed our family Christmas caroling this past Sunday evening. Such a privilege we have to share with those elderly and shut-in, as well as being reminded ourselves, of the true meaning of Christmas. We are looking forward to our Sunday school students bringing the old, old story to us in verse and song once again this weekend. How uplifting it is to see the innocence and sincerity they portray. May we always remember it is "not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free."

As we enter a new year, in a land with new leadership, not knowing what may lie in store for any one of us, may we intercede for a continued quiet and peaceable life, if God wills. Should His will be otherwise, may we each have the grace to stand fast in the true faith with our eyes clearly focused on the heavenly goal we are all striving for.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

"All the way my Saviour leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
who thro' life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well."
Hymns of Zion #21

As we begin another year we can take comfort that Jesus who has led us in the past will be with us "whatever may befall us."

The Eureka congregation again was blessed with three new little baby boys. In 1992 we had 13 new babies and 11 of them were boys. This past month Stephen Allan was born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary Getz. He has one brother, Robert. On November 28, Bro. Daniel and

Sis. Heidi Schumacher and their son, Cody, were glad to welcome Clint Daniel into their lives. On November 30, Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri Blunier gave birth to their first child, Cody Melford. We can be thankful for the wisdom and leading of God to help us raise our children.

Our prayers and love have been especially with Jason Kupferschmid, Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna, who is undergoing a bone marrow transplant procedure. We also wish a speedy recovery to Bro. Willis Stoller, Sis. Sarah Blunier (Bro. Lee) and Sis. Marlene Prather (Bro. Bob).

We rejoice with Rodney Kupferschmid, Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth, who confesses peace. May he continue to look to our merciful God for direction in his life.

We were thankful for the visits of Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago) who ministered to us.

Sis. Ruth Schumacher wishes to thank everyone for their love and kindness shown to them in the last eight years during Bro. Ben's illness and his recent death. May God bless each of you.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

"Another year is dawning
Dear Master, let it be
In working or in waiting
Another year with Thee."
Hymns of Zion #150

What a precious thought at the beginning of a new year! As we look on to the New Year celebrations around us, we see "the world is so dull and the world is so dead, with ribaldry, pomp and gain . . ." (Gospel Hymns #865) But we can look forward on New Year's Day to spending with the Master "another year of training for holier work above," knowing that He will provide for whatever may lie ahead.

We have three precious souls in our congregation that are beginning a new year and a new life with God. Darcy Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy), Chad Worthington

and Mark Runyon (Julie) have answered the call to repentance. We are so thankful for them.

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

Genesis 2:18

Our congregation is rejoicing with two couples whose engagements were announced to us recently. Sis. Crystal Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma) and Bro. Roger Miller (Chris and Betty, Congerville) are planning a January 17 wedding and Bro. Mark Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary) and Sis. Judy Walder (Sis. Wilma, Cissna Park) will be wed February 14. We wish each of them God's continued blessings as they plan for their lives together.

Two beautiful, little girls were born recently. Jessica Lynn, born December 1, is the first child of Sara and Kerwin Edelman. Thankful grandparents are Ray and Gladys Slagel and Levi and Donna Edelman (Forrest). Lunelle Emma was born to Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr December 4. Larissa, 3, and Kendall, 15 mos., as well as grandparents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr, welcomes her home. Let us all remember to pray for those with young children that the little ones may be raised in the fear of the Lord.

Ministering brothers, Glenn Rigenbach (Smithville, OH) and Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN) visited us this month. May the Lord bless them for their labors.

We extend sympathy to Jeff and Lisa Kilgus and family in the loss of her mother, Arella "Toni" Munz. Also to Sis. Lydia Nussbaum who lost two nieces, Toni and Helen Munz.

Hospital patients were Sis. Lucille Steffen, Bro. Glenn Fehr, Bro. Ben Zehr, Gilbert Ifft and Sis. Jeannie Bittner.

"Am I sick and pressed with grief,
No one near to give relief
Jesus my Physician dear,
And my Helper will be near . . ."
Hymns of Zion #227

To our dear loved ones, brothers, sisters and friends of the truth,

Words cannot express our deep and heartfelt appreciation for all the love shown us during our dear wife and mother's illness and since her passing. The many cards, visits, gifts of love, food, help, the many prayers lifted up on our behalf - for these we thank each of you from the depths of our hearts. We love you all. May God richly bless each of you for your many deeds of love.

Humbly, your least ones in faith,

Bro. Lloyd Moser
Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha

and family
Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie

and family
Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis

and family

Les and Sally
Bros. Doug, Kevin and Jeff

God saw you getting tired and a
cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around you
and whispered, "Come to Me."
With tearful eyes we watched you
suffer,
And saw you fade away
Although we loved you dearly,
we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
you're now at peaceful rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to
us, He only takes the Best.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Sherrri Kelson
Sandra Schneider

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

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace.
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;

Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee. Amen.

Hymns of Zion #150

May this be our prayer as we enter a new year.

November 27 was the funeral of Sis. Nathalia Honegger, 92, who was a resident of Fairview Haven. We extend sympathy to her sister, Sis. Kathryn.

We also extend sympathy to Sis. Ruth Wiegand in the passing of her mother, Sis. Marie Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

Bethany Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee), Bro. Rich Rieger, John and Barb Kilgus and Bro. John Bolliger required hospital care this month. May God keep them in His tender, loving care.

We appreciate Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke) for visiting us and lending themselves in God's service.

We are rejoicing that Norval Knapp (Wilma) and Craig Schaffer (Bro. John and Sis. Sally) are turning their backs on the world and starting a new life in Christ.

Jessica Lynn Ifft has joined the family of Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary, Theresa, Sarah, Lindsey and Beth. Grandparents are Willis and Joyce Alford (Fairbury) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma Ifft.

We wish God's blessings on the engagement of Darla Eisenmann and Brent Cottrell. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann and Sis. Judy Cottrell (Eureka).

We want to thank Bros. Paul Kelson and Marvin Bachtold for their ten years of service in Sunday school. We wish God's grace to Bros. Rich Wenger and Glen Steidinger who will take their place. It's truly a great responsibility and God's guidance is needed.

Bro. Byron and Sis. Neola Nussbaum want to thank all who remembered them with cards, gifts,

the various deeds of kindness and prayers on their 25th wedding anniversary. May God richly bless each and every one of you.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Trish Gerber

We rejoice with Al and Sis. Vickki Krizman as they welcome Jordan Fredrik into their home. Jordan was born October 29 and Brandy and Olivia welcome their little brother, too.

Thanks to our visiting ministers for their love, sharing and support in the past few months. Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Ed Ringger (Gridley) and Don Sauder (Roanoke). Also Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka) and Bro. Jim Rinckenberger (Bluffton, IN).

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

An author recently wrote that if we as a society cut ourselves off from our past, we will become diminished. That is, if we reject or forget the great principles of our nation, and ignore proved standards of morality and decent behavior, we will experience social havoc.

As we see our nation becoming more and more entrenched in a moral wantonness, and a willingness by some national leaders to give credence to aberrant standards of social behavior, we truly will become diminished. Our nations should not abandon a Christian sense of right and wrong.

The Lord's church, too, will become diminished if it would ignore its past and dwell solely on the present. We are instructed to keep the ancient landmarks which our fathers have set. The answer, of course, is to follow the changeless Word of God. By focusing our lifestyle patterns and foundational beliefs on God's Word, we can enrich the present by a strong link to the past. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Our hearts were saddened in late November when our dear loved one in faith, Sis. Verena Kuerth, 79, met an untimely death. On the day she was scheduled to move into

Sunrise Manor (next to the church), she fell down the stairs and died suddenly from head and neck injuries. She is survived by her brother, Robert Kuerth (Gridley) and several nieces.

Sis. Verena is deserving of a long eulogy, yet such is recorded in the mind of God, Who likely will reward her greatly. Suffice it to say that she had the special gift of a very gentle and kind disposition. She truly reflected the light of Christ.

She never married, but cared for her parents until each of them passed away. She then lived alone for many years. Somewhat frail, and a victim of diabetes, she nonetheless always had the kindest smile on her face, regardless of circumstances. She had high respect, both from among the brethren, and from the community of Gridley. Her presence will be sorely missed, but we rejoice in the confidence she has reached the land "that is fairer than day," which was her lifelong goal.

Sis. Minnie Stortz recently moved from her home on West Fourth Street to our church home in Eureka. We will miss her, but are glad she is able to receive the nursing care she needs.

Bro. Bill Romersberger was recently hospitalized for knee surgery, and has since returned home.

In this new year, may we all find the success that is beneficial to our soul, and our walk with God. The Greeks said, "Profound vision brings profound success." May our vision be on godliness, and our homeland beyond the River Jordan; and may all our successes be in the spiritual realm, to the honor and glory of God.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

The New Year finds many in our congregation faced with new circumstances in their lives. There have been deaths, births and rebirths, as well as many other reasons for joy and sorrow. In each circumstance we know God is with us and that His perfect timing abides.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy and Whitney Braker welcome Ashley Lynn into their hearts and home. Ashley was born November 28. Her grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn Garber and Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker (all of Morton).

Bro. Harold Krantz was called home. His funeral was December 3. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless his wife, Sis. Ruth; his two daughters, Sis. Mindy Leman and Melissa Jeschke; his two grandsons, Chris and Chad Leman; his two brothers, Robert and Bro. Jack; his nieces, nephews and many friends.

Bro. Scott, Sis. Kay and Kenneth Sinn are so happy to welcome home Michelle Kim. Michelle was born July 7 and came to live with the Sinns December 8. Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marvel Knobloch (Morton) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Ellen Sinn (Tremont).

Sis. Louise Stoller, at age 95, was called to her eternal reward December 14. She will be missed by her two brothers, Bro. Virgil (Gridley) and Bro. Elmer (Morton); and many nieces and nephews.

Linda Baum died December 17. We are so happy she was able to repent and make peace with God before she was called into eternity. May God's comfort surround her husband, Melvin; three sons, Kenneth, Kurt and Craig; her daughter, Melinda Baum; her brother, Robert Laney; her sister, Jane Wendt; her six grandsons; and her many friends.

We wish to thank Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering God's holy Word to us. We are always glad to have him and his family visit us.

We will miss Bro. Greg, Sis. Chris, Sis. Kim and Kelly Kaisner as they are moving to the Dallas, TX, area. We wish God's richest blessings on them and on the Dallas congregation. Our prayers go with them.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Jim David

Our Sunday school presented its

annual Christmas program December 13. Each class sang two Christmas songs, the pre-kindergarten through third grade recited their pieces, and a special group of third graders (Andy Hoerr, Brooke Hoerr, Amy Leman, Anna Ober, Holly Stickling, Karl Weyeneth) read a Christmas story in unison. We thank everyone who helped make the Christmas program a very blessed event.

Our Sunday school sixth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade, and Bible class students participated in an interesting project this Christmas. Each of these classes went grocery shopping, then delivered the food to needy families in the Peoria area. This was an excellent opportunity for our Sunday school students to observe firsthand the living conditions of the less fortunate, and to realize that Christmas is indeed a time for giving.

We pray God will grant a complete recovery for our hospital patients: Sis. Gloria Heiniger, Sis. Emily Tanner, Sis. Betty Purdom, Bro. Herb Schwenk, Bro. Ed Hoerr, Bro. Rudy Hoerr, Sis. Laura Koehl, and Bro. Les Wagenbach.

"A flower unblown; a book unread;
A tree with fruit unharvested;
A path untrod; a house whose rooms
Lack yet the heart's divine
perfumes;
A landscape whose wise border lies
In silent shade beneath the skies;
A wondrous fountain yet unsealed;
A casket with its gifts concealed -
This is the year that for you waits
Beyond tomorrow's mystic gates."

Horatio Nelson Powers

The start of a new year is always a time of anticipation. While we all have our own plans, hopes and dreams for the future, only God knows for sure what the upcoming year will bring. There will be many new opportunities, times of happiness and rejoicing, but possibly also some disappointments. One thing is certain, though; as long as we prayerfully seek God's counsel and follow His divine guidance, we can confidently face any situation, no matter what the circumstances. May 1993 be a joyful, prosperous, and blessed year for us all.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

We thank Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) for sharing God's Word with us November 29. May God bless him and his family.

God has blessed Bro. Darwin and Sis. Keri Blunier with a precious little boy. The happy grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. MaryAnn Herrmann and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Blunier.

We pray for those who have been hospitalized or confined to their homes that God will be near them and grant them His healing power. They are Sis. Helen Baer (surgery), Bro. Robert Herrmann (Sis. Esther), Sis. Deanne Knobloch (Bro. Jay) car accident, and little Steve Braker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey) broken wrist.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Bro. Herman Stickling (Lester, IA) and to the families of Bro. Wm. Elsasser (Bradford). Both had been a part of our congregation.

The annual Sunday school Christmas program was held Sunday, December 20. We wish to thank the teachers and students for their time and effort.

Thank You Note: We would like to thank all of the caring Christian brothers and sisters who have reached out to us in the death of our precious baby, Jayla Ranae, and also since my car accident. The love and support we have felt from everyone makes this difficult time more bearable. God bless all of you for your kindness.

Jay and Deanne Knobloch

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Cathy Hohulin - Annie Leman

As another year begins, we look back to review the past year and realize there are places we could improve and try to make the changes that are necessary to do better. May we look even deeper into our spiritual lives and ask God to grant us the needed grace to overcome our faults and to walk closer to Him.

On November 22, our annual Thanksgiving singing was held in our fellowship hall. It is a blessed opportunity to thank God for His

many blessings in each of our lives.

On December 6, Jenny Hohulin was added to our fold as a sister-in-the-Lord. We rejoice with her and her parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy.

Our hearts go out in sympathy to the family of Lester Pfister who passed away November 27. He will be missed by his brothers and sisters, Bros. Harvey and Marvin and Sisters Anna, Lois, Dorothy and Leona (all of Roanoke), Irma (Rockville, CT), Mabelle Rauhaus (Metamora) and Pearl Miller (Portland, OR). May God comfort their hearts and help fill the void they feel.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Mindy and Bro. Scott Leman in the passing of her father, Bro. Harold Krantz (Morton). We pray that God will be near them and their families.

We are thankful and ask God to bless our visiting ministers this month. They are Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Byron Stoller (Gridley).

We rejoice in the engagement announcement of our Sis. Dawn Harris to Bro. Dave Duckworth (Bradford). Parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda Harris and Bro. Donald and Sis. Delores Duckworth. A March 7 wedding is being planned. We ask God to bless them as they begin to walk together.

Our Sunday school program was held December 13. What a joy to see and hear such enthusiasm as these children have when they sing about the birth of our Lord. May they always feel the joy and love of our great God as they do now.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Louis Zimmerman and Sis. Janice Braker. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and we ask God to be near and bless them both.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Carolyn Bolliger Marsha Koch

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), Tom Stock (Cissna Park), John Steiner (Oakville, IA)

and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville). We thank them for ministering God's Word to us.

Sis. Rose Knapp and Sis. Royaldine Hodel (Bro. Robert) were in the hospital this month. We're thankful they are back home and pray for God's healing hand. Cindy Schaefer (Maurice and Sis. Marge) was involved in an accident. We're thankful she wasn't seriously hurt.

Jim Dill (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn) and Suzanne Richey (Joe and Michelle, Germantown Hills) have announced their engagement. May God bless them as they plan their wedding.

Emily Jo was born December 19 to Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner. Sister, Heather, welcomed her home. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bradford). Bro. Elmer and Sis. Darlene Kaeb have a new granddaughter, Lisabeth Michelle. Parents are Dennis and Michelle Kaeb.

December 13 was our Sunday school Christmas program. A very special thanks to all the students and teachers for one of the best programs we've had. The singing was beautiful as they reminded us of the birth of Jesus many years ago. May every one have a very blessed Christmas season.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger
Sue Ruppert

It started out as a normal Friday. We were busy at work. I asked about her mom, because she had suddenly become sick two days prior and had been in the hospital receiving tests. She said the tests had been negative and her mom was doing okay. Three hours later I was called by the office staff to tell me that her mom was in respiratory arrest, and that she was leaving to go see her. Within an hour I got another call to tell me that her mother had died. She didn't get there in time. Suddenly her life was changed. And I knew some of what she would go through and wished that I could spare her of it. But all I could do was pray for her and telephone her later to let her know I wanted to be there for her.

All that happened 3½ weeks ago. And now we're facing the holidays, and she's facing that awful empty feeling of knowing there will be an empty chair at the table. Today she cried when another friend stopped to offer condolences (because that friend remembered her own father's death). There was nothing for me to say, but I hope the hug helped. And again I prayed for her, as I will continue to do.

What would we do without the expression of prayer? How frustrating it would be to not be able to do anything and to not be able to turn it over to an all-seeing, all-powerful God. For He can do something, and He will. How thankful we can be for our loving, ever-ready-to-listen Father! He is the source of our strength in times of trouble.

Are we secure in God's promises for our lives? Today? Tomorrow may never come for us, or for someone we love. And although we shouldn't be fearful of what God will do tomorrow, we must live with the reality that life, as we know it, must end at some point. Have we turned our lives over to God while depending on His grace and promises? Or are we unprepared to face Him because we know that we have only our sins to answer for?

This month has quietly slipped by while we have started Christmas activities. Our Sunday school children again delightfully presented the story of Jesus' birth. Thank you to the children, their teachers and their parents for reminding us of God's gift to us. We also enjoyed the all-church Christmas caroling this past Sunday afternoon. It is such a joy to share in the hymns of Christmas. And it is such a joy to know that several hearts have answered God's call and have started on a new life with Him! The angels are rejoicing, just as they did that first Christmas night.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Jill Frauhiger - Mary Isch

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
Colossians 3:2

We were so joyful to have four

new converts. Sarah Caldwell, Tricia Fiechter (Bro. John and Sis. Shirley) and Grace Edington (Becky) have chosen to follow Christ and His teachings.

Grace Edington (Becky) and Mark Baumgartner (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn) will be joined in marriage January 2. We wish Grace and Mark God's richest blessings. Bro. William and Sis. Elizabeth Pfister celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary November 27. We pray for many more years of happiness for Bro. William and Sis. Elizabeth.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli Kaehr welcomed little Esther Elea into their family November 17. Esther joins Sarah, Jesse, Hannah and Lydia at home. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carlyne Isch and Sis. Pat Kaehr.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth Fiechter were blessed with a baby girl, Hannah Joy, born December 6. Hannah is welcomed home by brothers, Todd, Kurt and Lance, and sister, Rachel. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer (Milford, IN).

Lance and Vicki (Gerber) Roush are proud parents of a son, Drew David, born December 7. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Pat Gerber.

Even as joyful as we are to learn of new lives beginning, we are also saddened to have two dear souls pass on from this life. Bro. Ted Kipfer went home to his Lord November 21. Bro. Ted is survived by his wife, Sis. Theresa; mother, Sis. Mabel Kipfer; a sister, Evie Ivins; and a brother, Bro. John Kipfer. Bro. Ted will be missed by us all.

Erika Lynn, baby daughter of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kathy Bertsch, passed away November 30. Erika will be missed by brother, Caleb, and grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Joyce Neuenschwander and Sis. Frances Bertsch. May God be with these families as they continue on with their lives.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Mildred Schladenhauffen (Bro. Paul), Bro. Frederick Gerber (Sis. Margaret), Sis. Cathy Stucky (Bro. Rick), Bro. Don Gerber (Sis. Justine), Bro. Herman Bertsch

(Sis. Effie) and Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan).

We also wish to thank our visiting ministers this month who shared God's Word with us. They were Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North). We appreciate their efforts to take time to minister the Word of God.

We also rejoiced to hear our young people sing praises to God in the Christmas program December 13. It was beautiful.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

When we are partners with the
Lord,
Our work is not in vain;
Eternal blessings will abound,
His good will be our gain.

Sper

We greatly appreciate Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) for their willingness to come and help spread the Good News to this congregation. May God bless these brothers for their endless "labors of love" for us all.

Hospital patients for the month were Sis. Goldie Kipfer (Bro. Art) and Bro. Leroy Steffen (Sis. Elizabeth). We pray that God's healing hand would be upon them.

I have been through the valley of
weeping,
The valley of sorrow and pain,
But the God of all comfort was with
me,
At hand to uphold and sustain.

Anonymous

We wish to express our sympathy to Bro. Roy Haab in the loss of his dear wife, Sis. Lucy. Sis. Lucy will be greatly missed by our congregation.

We were also saddened by the death of little Erica Bertsch (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kathy). She did not have much time to spend here on earth, but the short time she was here she managed to touch many lives. Our prayer is that God will

bless these families with His comforting hand.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Val Gutwein

With the dawning of a new year comes hope and peace to those that are in Christ Jesus. With anticipation, each one of us looks forward to what God has in store for us in 1993. The Bible says we should "trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6) What a promise this is and what light it brings to our lives as the world crumbles in darkness.

We are thankful to hear that two more souls, Stephanie Gutwein (Bro. Rod and Sis. Donna) and Tanesa Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret) have peace with our Lord and are ready for baptism. The church rejoices as we see the youth seeking Him, and we pray more will heed the touch of the Master.

On the 9th of December, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) came and shared the reading of the conference letter with our Elder Bro. Wendell. It was a cold, snowy evening, but those who could attend found it to be a precious evening of exhortation.

On December 2, Chloe Joy made her arrival in the lives of Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Diane Vogt, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Huber. We also were glad to hear about the arrival of Austin Nicholas December 13. His happy parents are Steven and Michelle Putt. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette Putt and Maurice and Bonnie Kopka.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Norma Phledderer and Bro. Keith Putt. We are glad to hear that the Lord is blessing them with health again. We also received word that little Blake Nold underwent cranial synostosis surgery. He was hospitalized from December 11-15. His parents, John and Alexis Nold, are thankful to report that the surgery went well. Blake's

grandparents are Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann Gutwein.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN). We are always glad when these brothers come and share the good Word with us.

On November 21, Shelly Leman and Brian Collett were united in marriage. Shelly is the daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda Leman. Our love and prayers are with them for many happy years together.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Barb Troxel

In my daily reading, I read this little story that really made me think.

"A pastor was preparing a Christmas message and fell asleep in his study. He dreamed that he was in a world into which Jesus had never come. He walked out in the streets, but no church spires pointed to heaven. He was summoned by a weeping child to visit her dying mother, but on arriving he found that all of the New Testament, with its promise of heaven, had disappeared from his Bible. He bowed his head and wept in bitter despair, for he could offer her no hope beyond the grave. Suddenly he was awakened by the choir practicing the familiar Christmas carols. Joy filled his soul as he realized as never before the importance of Christ's coming."

"Our Daily Bread"
(December 20)

WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT JESUS?

He was born of a woman
so we could be born of God . . .
He humbled Himself
so we could be lifted up . . .
He became a servant
so we could be made heirs . . .
He suffered rejection
so we could become His
friends . . .
He denied Himself
so we could freely receive all
things . . .

He gave Himself
so He could bless us in every
way!

Author Unknown

"He that spared not his own Son,
but delivered him up for us all,
how shall he not with him also
freely give us all things?"

Romans 8:32

Two Christmas highlights were enjoyed by all. On Sunday, December 13, our Sunday school students related the story of Jesus' birth in poem and song. Then on Wednesday evening, December 16, we broke up into groups and went caroling. We returned to church for food and fellowship.

We also want to thank the following visiting ministers for sharing God's Word in its truth and sincerity: Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) on Thanksgiving Day and Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) on December 6.

INDIANA, LEO

Doug Kellenberger

The year has now become new, but it's consoling to know that Christ makes us, and all things for us, new and renewed everyday. Revelation 21:5; Lamentations 3:22, 23; II Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 11:19, 36:26, 27. He is the only one that can do that. We are blessed to have Him. May you be renewed with that faith in Him.

There is a new baby boy, Nathaniel Phillip, for Bro. Les and Sis. Judy Stoller. They are so thankful and appreciative to the Lord.

Sis. Elda Steiner is 98 years old this year. We wish her heavenly blessings for 1993.

Bro. Carl Wyss visited us from Washington, IL, and ministered God's Holy Word with the congregation.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner preached God's Word for us Christmas Day. We were reminded that no other physical births or genealogies were mentioned after that first Christmas morning. From then on, the only thing that mat-

tered was the new birth of one's spirit. Thank God for Christ. He is our Savior.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Gwen Steffen - Paula Haab

Watching the softly falling snow as I try to write, one can't help but think of the changing seasons and how only our great God can do this. Then I think how loving and good He was to send His only Son to be born in a manger to die on a cross for my sins and the sins of the whole world. The true meaning of Christmas seems to have been lost with lights, Santa, gifts and parties, but I was pleased to see a large billboard that read, "Christmas is Christ's birthday." On December 20, our Sunday school children so happily and enthusiastically, told us and sang to us about Christ's birth. May this always be the important part of Christmas for them.

We were able to be part of a blessed evening when our Sunday school children went to do their annual shopping for needy children of the community. Some of their offering from during the year is used for the gifts, and then the teachers have pizza for the Sunday school when the shopping and wrapping is finished.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie Beer are pleased with a new granddaughter. Laura Elizabeth was born December 4 to Phil Jr. and Kathy Beer (Indianapolis). Also excited about another granddaughter are Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer. Their daughter, Sis. Beth and Bro. Rick Fiechter (Bluffton) welcomed Hannah Joy December 6. Both of these babies are great-granddaughters of Bro. Theo and Sis. Naomi Beer. These girls will surely have good examples to follow and God bless them.

Once again, Bro. Lee Beer (Sis. Sandy) needed to have hand surgery. We pray God will grant him healing and the patience to wait on Him.

We enjoyed our recent visiting ministers and want to thank them and ask God to be their Rewarder. December 6, Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) came to be with fam-

ily, and we were benefitted by their ministry. On Saturday, December 12, Elder Bro. Don Sauder was willing to come and assist in the reading of the conference conclusions. An added blessing was that he spent Sunday with us also. Wednesday evening, December 16, we were pleasantly surprised to have Elder Bro. David Bertsch on our pulpit.

We wish God's blessings on the engaged couple, Todd Beer (Bernie and Peg) and Krys Walters. They are planning a spring wedding.

As we begin a new year, let's remember that God's promises are greater than life's problems and not worry about the whole year, but trust God to lead us one day at a time.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini

"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: With my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."

Psalms 89:1

Sis. Jenna Kilgus (Bro. Dan) had the misfortune recently to have a fall that resulted in a broken bone in her foot. The cast is off and she says she is well again.

It was exciting to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Kurt Bahler (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois) to Sis. Patti Knobloch (Lester, IA). Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary are her parents. A March wedding is planned. We surely will welcome you, Sis. Patti, and now we wish you and Bro. Kurt God's blessings as you plan and look forward to that day when you take the marriage vows.

Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler thanked us all (Wolcott and Remington congregations) for being willing to change our mid-week service from Wednesday night to Tuesday the 8th. The occasion was that Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) was with us. We thank you, Bro. John, for coming. We'll change our evening for service any time you come, so come again.

Our Christmas program was Sunday, the 13th. Don't we just love to see the little children with all

their enthusiasm speak their pieces and sing their songs? From the youngest to the oldest, there was something for all.

That same evening many gathered at our fellowship hall. Then they formed three different groups to go caroling to the shut-ins and elderly. After returning to the hall, there were refreshments and fellowship.

By the time you read this, we will be well into '93. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Revelation 22:21.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Renee Mangold

MAKE IT COUNT

The New Year is coming
With battles to be won;
At the close we remember what
We should have said or done.
Yesterday has said adieu;
We know not where it went,
All your troubles leave behind –
A new day God has sent.
As the year is swiftly passing,
In prayer we bow our heads
And take stock of all the things
We should have left unsaid.
Put the grudges all behind you,
Let the sunshine enter in,
Then you'll be completely ready
For the New Year to begin.

Mildred H. Bell

We do not plan to have services at our church Wednesday's during January and February. On the Wednesday 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
Marie Heinold - Cindy Susdorf

Just one life
T'll soon be past
Only what's done
For Christ will last.

What joy the Christmas season

brings. Everyone getting home for the holidays to enjoy the love and warmth of family. Also remembering loved ones and most of all glorifying our Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ.

We're apprehensive as new leaders take control in 1993 – but we know God is faithful to care for His own. He is all powerful and we pray He will lay His guiding hand on our leaders and bless this land of America.

Many prayers have been said for our dear Krisie (Kimerer) Poehlein and thankful to report she is slowly recovering. She is able to be home and go for treatment weekly at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago. Her parents, Bro. Joe and sis. Sue, also Brian's parents, with to thank all for prayers, love and the many concerns. They also ask for continued prayer.

We give thanks for our visiting minister, Bro. Walter Steffen and his companions.

"Soon in your hand will be placed a priceless gift. There is no price mark stamped on it. It cannot be weighed because no scale can balance its value. It's a gift for beggar and prince alike. It will be up to you to find the golden thread running through it. Guard it closely, lest through weak fingers it slip from your hands. Consider it a treasured possession. It is the Gift of the New Year."

Author Unknown

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Camille Vogt

On December 10, we had our annual Christmas program at Purdue. As we remembered the "Babe of Bethlehem," we praised God for the plan of salvation. John 3:17, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." The Lafayette children's group sang "Happy Birthday, Jesus." The song lyrics express how one feels when one's birthday is missed. How sad it must make Jesus when people He loves forget that Christmas Day is His birthday!

We appreciate that Bro. Wayne

Lehman (South Bend) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington) shared God's Word with us this past month.

Our future services will be held January 14 and 28, February 11 and 25, March 4 and 18, April 1, 15 and 29. A hearty welcome is extended to everyone. We look forward to having you worship with us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lynell Blume - Lorna Knapp

We have been encouraged and uplifted by the visits of ministering brothers. Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) shared God's Word with us.

Our thoughts and prayers have certainly been with little Jordan Brown (foster child of Bro. Lee and Sis. Melinda Rufener, Smithville, OH). Jordan injured his leg in a farm accident while he and Bro. Lee and Sis. Melinda were visiting Sis. Melinda's parents, Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler. We pray for the Lord's healing power as he continues to recuperate.

We are thankful to have Sis. Edna Kyburz and Rebekah Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita) assembling with us again after spending time in the hospital.

The Christmas story was again told to many brethren and friends at our program Wednesday, December 16. What a joy it is to hear young voices honor the birth of our Savior through verse and song!

On Friday evening, December 18, many from our congregation went caroling to the elderly and shut-ins. We all received a blessing from bringing a smile to their faces as we shared Christmas with them.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

"The land whither ye go to possess it is a land of hills and valleys and drinketh water of the rain of heaven. A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord are always upon it, from the begin-

ning of the year even unto the end of the year."

Deuteronomy 11:11-12

As we stand on the thresh-hold of a new year, ready to possess it, not knowing what it will hold, yet believing that God will be with us through the good times and the hard times from the beginning of it unto the end of it. In faith we take courage to press on.

At age 102, our dear Sis. Marie Butikofer could finally be set free from her earthly cares and go home to be with her Lord and Savior. We are thankful for the Christian example of love and faith she left us who continue to tread this path below.

Our sympathy is extended to her children and many grandchildren. Her surviving children are Rueben (Clermont, IA), Harry, Elder Bro. Paul, Bro. Bert, Bro. Al (all of Elgin) and Bro. Bill (Gridley, IL), Sis. Ruth Wiegand (Wilbur, Forrest, IL) and Sis. Shirley Nester (Gene, Lester, IA).

May the Lord bless Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) for conducting the funeral service for Sis. Marie.

Our thanks again to our Sunday school students for using their God-given talents to share the Christmas story unto us through songs and verses. This precious story is the same from year to year, yet never grows old.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We are thankful for the expressions of love and support from others throughout the year, whether it be in travelling to visit our congregation, in letters, cards, or phone calls from our loved ones from a distance, and most of all, in interceding to our heavenly Father for us.

We again were blessed in hearing the Christmas story – in the meditation of the Holy Word, in the Sunday school lessons, in the innocent recitations of the children at the Christmas program, and in the singing of carols at church and at the homes of those for whom we

sang. May the feelings of peace, joy and love that seem to overflow in this season continue to glow in our hearts into the new year.

May we also remember those who are struggling, for surely their trials must seem magnified in the aura of happiness and love that most of us experience at this time of year. As we lift our hands in thanksgiving to our loving Father, let us also stretch out our hands to those around us who need our love, our encouragement, and our prayers.

If you have gone a little way ahead of me, call back –
 'Twill cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track;
 And if, perchance, Faith's light is dim, because the oil is low,
 Your call will guide my lagging course as wearily I go.

Call back, and tell me that He went with you into the storm;
 Call back, and say He kept you when the forest's roots were torn;
 That, when the heavens thunder and the earthquake shook the hill,
 He bore you up and held you where the very air was still.

Oh, friend, call back, and tell me for I cannot see you face;
 They say it glows with triumph, and your feet bound in the race;
 But there are mists between us and my spirit eyes are dim,
 And I cannot see the glory, though I long for word of Him.

But if you'll say He heard you when your prayer was but a cry,
 And if you'll say He saw you through the night's sin-darkened sky –
 If you have gone a little way ahead, oh, friend, call back –
 'Twill cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track.

Selected

IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

"Another year is dawning,
 Dear Master, let it be,

In working or in waiting,
 Another year with Thee."

Hymns of Zion #150

We thank our ministering brothers for giving of themselves so unselfishly as the proclaimed God's Word. This past month Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) were visiting ministers.

December 6 was the wedding day for Bro. Lynn Mogler and Sis. Amy Feucht. Parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler and Ron and Sis. Sandy Feucht. We will miss Sis. Amy as they plan to take up residence in West Bend. May God bless their marriage together always.

On the same day we learned of the betrothal of Bro. Kurt Bahler (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois, Remington, IN) to our Sis. Patti Knobloch (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Ellen). May God bless them as they plan their November 7 wedding.

On November 30, Bro. Herman Stickling, 80, laid down his armor and passed on to his eternal reward. He leaves to mourn his wife, Sis. Evelyn; four children, Kristie Klingenberg (Colton, SD), Harold (Peoria, IL), Bro. Dale (Steen, MN) and Perry (Ellsworth, MN); and several brothers, half-brothers and half-sisters. Our sympathy and prayers go out to his dear family.

We also wish to express heartfelt sympathy to the family of Sis. Marie Butikofer (Elgin, IA), especially Sis. Shirley Nester of our congregation with the death of her dear mother.

Two precious babies were born this past month. Bro. Dan and Sis. Jeanne Knobloch welcome Sadie Lea born November 19. She has a big brother, Nate, and a sister, Josie, along with grandparents, Sis. Iola Knobloch and Bro. Bob and Sis. Rozella Metzger to welcome her home. December 12 is the birth date of Kyle Andrew Heyer, first-born to Ryan and Jodi Heyer. His proud and happy first-time grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer.

We pray for God's healing strength for those who spent time in the hospital. Those submitting to surgery were Sis. Jolene Metzger

(Bro. Marvin) and Bro. Howard Mogler (Sis. Lollie). We are thankful both are at home recovering nicely. Our Bro. Orvie Knobloch (Sis. Loretta) remains hospitalized at this time. May we remember him and his family at this difficult time.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach

"Now it is accomplished . . ." Zion's Harp #209. We welcome two new brothers into our precious brotherhood. Keith Pflum (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marian) and Rick Vierling (Betty) gave their testimonies of faith Saturday, November 21 and the following Sunday, we witnessed their baptisms. As we gather to hear provings, we are so uplifted. It also is a time when we reflect upon the goodness of God who called us out of this evil world unto a more excellent way. Let us heed the promptings of the spirit that we may remain steadfast and humble. We wish our new brothers the grace of God as they walk the straight and narrow way.

Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), as well as, Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) have recently brought forth God's Word to our congregation in Oakville. We thank them for the labors and may God be their Rich Rewarder.

Bro. Nathan Larson (Bro. Jack and Sis. Cathy) and Sis. Heidi Wagenbach (John and Sis. Marilyn) chose December 6, 1992, to be the beginning of their life together as one in the Lord. We rejoice with them in their happiness and we wish them God's blessings and care as they walk hand in hand through life.

Grant Emerson Stoecker made his entrance into the world, as well as, the hearts and home of Bro. Jason and Sis. Gayla Stoecker December 12. We are thankful that God has blessed them with this precious little bundle and may He continue to guide Bro. Jason and Sis. Gayla as they endeavor to bring up their son in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Happy grand-

parents are Sis. Jan Stoecker (Latty, OH) and Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo Metzger.

As we are about to begin a new government administration, let us remember to pray for our President and those in high places. I recently came across a quote that is so true regarding the abilities of a nation. "No nation is better than its sacred book. In that book are expressed its highest ideals of life, and no nation rises above those ideals." (quote by David Josiah Brewster). It behooves us to apply this to our own lives also. If we claim the Bible to be our sacred book, then we better be living according to each and every word written within its pages. May God grant us all grace to this end.

IOWA, PULASKI
Ernestine Wuthrich
Carol Wettstein

On December 13, we enjoyed a blessed evening when we had our annual Christmas program. May God bless the dear Sunday school teachers who so willingly teach our children.

Bro. Bernard Schaer is now residing at a nursing home and would enjoy getting mail at Route 1, Box 141, Bloomfield, IA 52537.

Recently one of our ministers mentioned that we should not refer to Christmas as a "season," but a "way of life." May we always have the Christmas spirit in our hearts all year long. We wish everyone a blessed new year.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Mary Gerber - Lela Banwart

A NEW YEAR'S WISH

What shall I wish thee this New Year?
 Health, wealth, prosperity, good cheer,
 All sunshine - not a cloud or a tear?
 Nay! only this:
 That God may lead Thee His own way,
 That He may choose thy path each day,

That thou mayest feel Him near
 always,
 For this is bliss!

Anonymous

Once again we are saddened by a death in the Zaugg family, as our dear Sis. Louisa Zaugg was taken from this life. This is the third time in five months that God has called a dear one from this family circle. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy go out to the brothers and sisters and their families: Bro. Ed and Sis. Helen Zaugg, Richard and Dorothy Zaugg, Don Zaugg, Eva Banwart, Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma Mogler, Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart, Bob and Ruby Besch, all of West Bend, and Leah and Ken Franck (Battle Creek, MI). May God comfort them in their sorrow.

**THE BLESSINGS
 THAT REMAIN**

There are loved ones who are missing
 From the fireside and the feast;
 There are faces that have vanished,
 There are voices that have ceased;
 But we know they passed forever
 From our mortal grief and pain,
 And we thank Thee, O our Father,
 For the blessings that remain.

Thanksgiving, oh, thanksgiving,
 That their love once blessed us
 here,
 That so long they walked beside
 us,
 Sharing every smile and tear;
 For the joy that past has brought
 us,
 But can never take away,
 For the sweet and gracious
 memories
 Growing dearer every day,

For the faith that keeps us patient
 Looking at the things unseen,
 Knowing Spring shall follow
 Winter
 And the earth again be green,
 For the hope of that glad meeting
 Far from mortal grief and pain -
 We thank Thee, O our Father,
 For the blessings that remain.

Annie Johnson Flint

Also, our sympathy is extended

to Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita Fehr on the death of her grandmother, Sis. Marie Butikofer (Elgin, IA). May God's Spirit comfort their hearts.

Bro. Earl Banwart is home after another hospital stay. May the Lord help him and Sis. Edna endure each trial that comes to them. Sis. Leah Traub is hospitalized following a stroke. We hope she will be able to return to her home soon. Joan Traub is a hospital patient following back surgery. We pray that she will soon feel much better and make a good recovery.

Tanner George joined Shon, Julie and Andrew Bruellman November 12. May he bring many blessings and much joy to their home. Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman and Dennis and Judy Besch are little Tanner's grandparents.

On December 18, Jake Donald arrived to brighten and bless the home and lives of his parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb Bruellman. Jill, Minny and Lena are thrilled to have a baby brother. Once again, Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman welcome a grandson to their family circle. May God bless the newcomer and all the family.

We are sorry we neglected to include the marriage of Doug and Marcia Eidahl in our October news. Marcia is the daughter of Joan Traub of our congregation. Our best wishes as we pray God's blessings on them in their lives together.

We rejoice with Bro. Lynn (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula) and Sis. Amy Feucht (Ron and Sis. Sandra, Lester, IA), who have been united as husband and wife in the Lord. Our prayer is that God will richly bless them. We welcome Sis. Amy to our congregation and fellowship.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Frank and Kathy Sauder

With the dawning of a new year, we look toward God for His direction. In these times of instability it seems difficult to make plans for the future. But God, in His Word, has already given us direction. "... but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things

which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14)

It is such a blessing to end each year with the celebration of the birth of our Lord. Christmas brings us back to the most important part of our life, our soul and the souls of our family and friends, in much the same way as we close each day by kneeling in prayer. The struggles of the past day, the past year, disappear as we come before God and ask Him for His help and direction.

On December 20, we had our annual Christmas program. Over 20 students (kindergarten - junior high) presented the Christmas story. Approximately 50 children from the surrounding area came to watch. We pray that in the future they too might be motivated to come to Sunday school.

After the Christmas program, a group from church went to the local hospital to Christmas carol and give a small gift to the patients. After singing several songs, an older lady quietly said to one of the sisters: "Did you see the tears in my eyes? The songs you sang made me feel so happy. Thank you so much for coming." May our lights shine not only at Christmas but throughout this new year, touching people with the love of God and creating a desire to know more about Him.

Sis. Haruko has not been feeling well recently and our thoughts and prayers are with her.

KANSAS, BERN

Diane Kaeb - Donna Edelman

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Pearl Meyer and her family on the death of her sister, Amanda Streit, who passed away November 17.

On December 5, we were privileged to hear the testimony of Dan Edelman. We welcome him as a brother-in-faith. Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha) assisted our Elder Bro. John Lehman in this endeavor.

Mary Beth Menold (Bro. Don and Sis. Pat) and Brendan Carver (Eldon and Elizabeth Carver, Morrill) were united in marriage

December 7. May God walk beside them as they walk down the path of life together.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Edward Lehman (Sis. Leola) for knee surgery, Matthew Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet) and Clay Strahm (Bro. Faron and Sis. Jana) for medical, and Bro. Leroy Meyer (Sis. Helen) for back surgery. We pray for each one and commit their needs for body and soul to God who loves them.

Once again, an old year becomes history and a new year lies before us. May we serve our Lord faithfully, watching and praying, as we wait for His second coming.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern) with us for our Thanksgiving service. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). May our Lord reward them for their efforts on our behalf.

Our congregation rejoices with Sis. Lynne Fischer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) on their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian (Fort Scott) and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth (Sarasota, FL). May the Lord guide and direct them as they plan their future together.

On December 13, our Sunday school presented their Christmas program. We were inspired through the verses and songs of the children. May God bless their young hearts and continue to be near them throughout their lives.

The Lord has again blessed the home of Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn with the birth of Matthew Ray December 18. Welcoming him home are Sis. Tammy, Sis. Rebecca, Chuck, Timothy, Sara, and Mark. Grandparents are Bro. Danny Sinn (Sabetha) and Milt and Mabel Yentes (Phoenix, AZ).

New Address . . .

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

KANSAS, KIOWA
Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

THE GIFT

The holidays are over now;
 The lights are packed away.
 No decorations deck the halls
 Proclaiming Christmas Day.
 The angels' song is hushed now in
 sleepy Bethlehem
 And the Wise Men journey
 homeward

As the star above grows dim.
 We have seen the baby Jesus
 And we'll never be the same . . .
 The joy of Christmas has begun
 As we exalt His name.

It's a time of commitment
 To be of one accord
 As we rededicate our lives
 To the service of the Lord.
 For that's the gift we give to Him
 That lasts throughout the year
 As we work to feed the hungry
 And dry the mourner's tear.
 Unless we strive to serve Him,
 There is no peace on earth
 For that's the gift we give to Him
 In honor of His birth

Clay Harrison

May our New Year's resolution
 be to rededicate our lives to the
 service of the Lord.

"Redeeming the time, because
 the days are evil."

Ephesians 5:16

Since all of our days are limited
 here on earth, let us live each day
 as though it was our last day to
 serve the Lord.

Our Sunday school has been
 working on a Christmas program
 to celebrate the birth of our Savior.
 We pray that it will bring glory
 and honor to our Lord in a time
 when so many are disregarding
 Him.

A group of people from our
 church went to the Mennonite Cen-
 tral Committee work center at
 Newton to help work on world re-
 lief projects. The blessings and fel-
 lowship we receive from this bian-
 nual trip always exceed the bless-
 ings we give.

Our hospital patients this month
 were Sis. Myrtle Rathgeber and
 Bro. Frank Kisling. May the Lord's

healing Spirit be upon them as they
 endure the trials of this earth.

May the Lord bless each of you
 in the coming year and may you
 see the beauty in God's creation.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Jane Isch

We were privileged to have our
 Sunday school students bring us
 the story of Jesus' birth in verse
 and song December 13. It is such a
 blessing to be reminded of his
 humble beginning in the lowly man-
 ger and how we should strive to
 live our lives in a humble way. We
 can never be thankful enough that
 God sent His Son into this world to
 die and not to live!

Visiting ministers were Elder
 Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and
 Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA),
 also Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS).
 We pray God will richly bless them
 in this life and then much more in
 that time to come!

Wishing each one God's near-
 ness and blessings in 1993.

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Mary Kay Wenger
 Sharon Strahm**

We were thankful for a visit
 from Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI)
 and his family, and for his minis-
 tering the Word to us in its truth
 and simplicity.

Several have been hospitalized
 with medical afflictions. They are
 Bro. Harvey Wenger, Bro. Nathan
 Grimm and Ellsworth Dobson.
 Doug Hartter underwent surgery
 for a neck injury. We pray God will
 heal each one according to His will,
 and grant them grace to endure.

A NEW YEAR'S WISH

To leave the old with a burst of
 song
 To recall the right and forgive the
 wrong.

To forget the things which bind you
 fast
 To the vain regrets of the year that's
 past,
 To have the strength to let go your
 hold

Of the not-worth-while of the days
 grown old.

To dare go forth with a purpose
 true
 To the unknown task of the year
 that's new

To help your brother along the road;
 To do his work, and lift his load;

To add your gift to the world's good
 cheer
 Is to have - and give - a Happy New
 Year.

Robert Brewster Beattie

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

We completed our final Bible
 study lesson for the fall series the
 first Wednesday in December. The
 following Wednesday evenings in
 the month were spent caroling to
 shut-ins. Another seasonal event
 was a Christmas dinner hosted by
 Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel
 December 6. After the dinner, we
 spent the evening singing tradi-
 tional Christmas carols.

The Sunday school presented a
 short Christmas program the
 evening of December 13. After the
 program, the students and guests
 met in the dining room to enjoy
 refreshments and fellowship.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Wayne and Becky Snodgrass

Once again we look back over
 the past year, and wonder where it
 went. As we look to the future with
 all its uncertainties, let us remem-
 ber that last year and every year
 since the beginning of time God
 has been in control, and provided
 for those who trusted Him. Why
 would He stop now? Let's take cour-
 age and "press toward the mark of
 the high calling of God in Christ
 Jesus." Philippians 3:14, and live
 one day at a time.

IN DAYS AHEAD

... "I will not yield to fates of earth
 That man decides by odds
 For all my hopes and prayers of
 earth

Are in the hands of God" . . .
Michael Dubina

God bless the dear ministering brethren who lent themselves this past month in our behalf. We appreciated them so much. They were Bros. Larry Wenninger and John Laukhaf (Latty, OH) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and their families. Also the many other visitors who worshipped with us. It is such an encouragement and blessing to feel the love and support of our brethren and friends. We want to extend a warm welcome to anyone who would have a desire to visit us sometime!

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Michelle Oesch - Denise Oesch
We were deeply saddened at the loss of our dear Bro. Ferd Grawburg who passed away last month. Sis. Jane would like to share a thank you letter with the many loved ones who helped the family through this:

Dear Beloved,

Thank you for your cards and your love and support you have so graciously showed throughout Bro. Ferd's illness and passing. Your prayers have been so deeply felt and have helped carry us through, one day at a time.

Love and God's blessings always,
Sis. Jane Grawburg,
Brian and Ceri

We can only hope we continue to support Sis. Jane and family through this and get comfort to know Bro. Ferd is no longer suffering.

We also were able to share with our children last month the story of our Savior's birth. To see so many young and eager faces gave our hearts such a lift and hope for the future.

Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) came to spread God's Word with us this past month.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Peggy Waibel

Recently, I spent some time piecing together a quilt. The pat-

tern I was following said to sew the seams as exact as possible. As I sewed, I began to get tired and bored and I began to stitch each seam a little less exact than the one before. I told myself that it was all right, one or two incorrect seams wouldn't show; whoever made up the pattern was just too picky. When each block was complete, I began to notice that my quilt was beginning to look shabby instead of beautiful as it was supposed to look. Very dejectedly I took out all of the seams I had just sewn, wishing all the time that I had stopped and made corrections sooner than this. This brought a thought to my mind. Life is like that. Before we know Christ we think that one little sin won't hurt; After all, it's just a little one, unlike murder or other things that "real" sinners do. That one little sin multiplies to more and more sins, each one more awful and devastating than the one previous to it. Suddenly the beauty that God had created us to possess looks shabby and ugly. Well, my quilt eventually got put together and in time for Christmas, and yes, it turned out beautifully. It still wasn't perfect; the incorrect stitching couldn't entirely be covered up, but it was still beautiful. This is just like our lives! When Christ comes in He reshapes our shabby hearts to be beautiful. Unfortunately though, sometimes our sin leaves behind marks on the material of our hearts and God, in His all-knowing wisdom, does not take them away. Each mark is a reminder of His grace and forgiveness. It reminds us of where we've been and where we have to go. May Christ work on the seams of your heart in this new year.

This month we said goodbye to a dear sister, Sis. Anna Magyar. After spending time in a nearby hospital, was moved to the Woodhaven home in Detroit. We will miss her, but we know that she is getting the care that she needs at the home. Our prayers are with Sis. Anna and we pray that she is happy and content in her new home.

Our congregation enjoyed our annual Christmas program Sunday, December 20. The children re-

ally did a nice job and the teachers obviously had put a lot into making each class's performance a success.

How exciting it is to be entering this new year. May God walk hand-in-hand with you throughout 1993 and may He be the guest of honor in your home each day.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton

Marlene Reinhard

We were thankful to have Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City) come and host the monthly Tuesday evening services at Woodhaven. Even though many of the residents are not from our Apostolic Christian Church, they seem to look forward to hearing God's Word proclaimed and lifting their voices in praise during the hymn singing. May God continue to bless the many willing ministers throughout the years that host services at Woodhaven and at our church here in Detroit. On Tuesday, February 2, Detroit will host services at Woodhaven at 7:00. Everyone is welcome to join us in worship.

With Christmas time speedily approaching, many wonderful opportunities come before us. We were inspired and filled with the wonder of God's love as we listened to the pre-school children on up to the choir sing carols and tell why we should have God's love in our hearts, at our Christmas program. Then, the well loved and eagerly awaited Christmas caroling evening is here again. Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas if we didn't stand outside, knocking on door after door, singing the favorite carols, and watching smile after smile crease the listeners faces when they realize Christmas is sharing with others what God has given to us, His most holy Son, Jesus Christ.

Following Christmas comes the end of another year and the dawning of a new year, another opportunity to do the best we can in living our lives for Christ and being available to let God mold us and make us after His will. We must take time to be holy . . . speak oft with

our Lord . . . let Him be our guide . . . be calm in our soul . . . and we soon shalt be fitted for service above. (Hymns of Zion #112).

"Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"

II Corinthians 5:17

Our thoughts and prayers are sent heavenward much lately on the behalf of two of our dear sisters, Sis. Ruth Gudeman and Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben). They both are experiencing chronic bodily afflictions and greatly need our prayers, love, and support. We also remember and pray for both families and may they each be comforted to know that God is in control and knows the needs of each of His lambs.

Lord Jesus, Thou our light now be,
And sentinel this night!
We place our faith and hope in
Thee,
Thy mercy, grace and might.

Therefore we praise Thy holy love,
Unspeaking and great,
That ever floweth from above
And free for all to take!

O hold us fast while we are here
Upon our pilgrim way,
Until our journey we complete
With Thee for e're to stay!
Hymns of Zion #265

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

On November 21, Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IN) in reading the memorandum. We thank them for sharing with us and with them God's blessings.

We have gone caroling at the Gillette Children's Hospital and Orvilla (a home for mentally handicapped adults). It is always uplifting to see the happiness it brings to the Orvilla residents to whom we sing every month.

Beatrice Miller is at home after spending a few days in the hospital.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Maxine Sauder - Debra Joos

We give thanks again to our visiting ministers. On Thanksgiving Day, Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) shared the Word with us.

The weekend of December 12 and 13, Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan was with us to share in the reading of the memorandum. It was such a blessing to listen as our elder brothers encouraged us and kindly admonished us to walk close to God and live an obedient life. We thank Bro. Kevin and his wife, Sis. Cheryl, and their traveling companions for such an uplifting weekend.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Orville Nohl and Sis. Anna Nohl. Bro. Mike Schmidgall and Bro. Larry Nohl both had knee surgery and are again able to assemble with us.

Note of Thanks: My heartfelt thanks to all who remembered me, with prayers while I was in the hospital and returned home, for cards, flowers, and food brought in. May God richly bless you all.

In Christian Love,
Mrs. Henry Nohl

As a new year dawns before us and our nation comes under new leadership, may our prayers continue to be that God's will be done in all things.

We read the headlines daily and listen to the news,
We shake our heads despairingly and glumly sing the blues—
We are restless and dissatisfied and we do not feel secure,
We are vaguely discontented with the things we must endure . . .
This violent age we live in is filled with nameless fears
And listen to the newscasts that daily fill our ears,
And we view the threatening future with sad sobriety
As we're surrounded daily by increased anxiety . . .
How can we find security or stand on solid ground

When there's violence and dissension and confusion all around;
Where can we go for refuge from the rising tides of hate,
Where can we find a haven to escape this shameful fate . . .
So instead of reading headlines that disturb the heart and mind,
Let us open up the Bible and in doing so we'll find
That this age is no different from the millions gone before,
But in every hour of crises God has opened up a door
For all who seek His guidance and we trust His all-wise plan,
For God provides protection beyond that devised by man . . .
And we learn that each tomorrow is not ours to understand,
But lies safely in the keeping of the great Creator's hand,
And to have the steadfast knowledge that we never walk alone
And to rest in the assurance that our every need is known
Will help dispel our worries, our anxieties and care,
For doubt and fear are vanquished in the peacefulness of prayer.

Helen Steiner Rice

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Kim Messner - Nancy Messner

The engagement of Sid Schmidt (Gene and Sis. Ella Mae) and Dulcie Woods was announced. They are planning a February wedding. May the Lord be near to them as they plan for their future together.

We would like to thank Bro. Eric Givens and his wife, Sis. Deb (Princeville, IL), for sharing God's Word with us. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season;" (II Timothy 4:2). May the Lord reward his willingness to be used.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch are rejoicing over their new baby girl, Kendra Jo, born December 16. Kendra will be welcomed at home by her sisters, Kami and Kirstin, and by her brother, Caleb. Grandparents are Gib and Sis. Vickey Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart (West Bend, IA).

Our Christmas program was held Sunday, December 20. We

heard the story of Jesus' birth through our precious children. We thank the children and their teachers for the effort put forth in giving such a good program.

February is Silver Lining month for Winthrop. Please give any address changes and your \$9.00 subscription to one of your correspondents sometime during the month of January.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Martin Hohulin
Janel Kellenberger**

Visiting minister for the past month was Bro. Glen Hackenjos (Altadena, CA). Bro. and Sis. Hackenjos were visiting a daughter and family in Arkansas.

Sis. Marilyn Luthi became seriously ill and required hospitalization. All her children were home during her illness. She has recovered and is able to attend church services.

A little bundle from heaven, Jason Dean, arrived December 12, at the home of Merle and Orpha Simrell (Walker, MO). He was welcomed home by John, Alan, Justin and Julia.

Note of Thanks: Sis. Vanessa Luthi expressed appreciation for prayers, gifts, cards, and visits during her hospital stay for back surgery.

How would Jesus handle the month of December?

Would He start looking for gifts early in October when the merchants announced the arrival of Christmas merchandise?

What gifts would He give to His mother, Mary, to Joseph and to his brothers that we read about in the Word?

Would He gather with the town carpenters of Nazareth at a Christmas party where every ate and drank too much?

Can we imagine Him going to the hills looking for a Christmas tree; bringing it home and decorating it for the centerpiece for the Christmas celebration?

Would there be stockings hung on His mantle in anticipation of Santa's coming in the wee hours of the morning? Or would He be, as this writer, who waited until the

last minute rush, hastily buying something, hoping for the right size, but then thinking, they can return it on the 26th if it doesn't fit?

Would He be faced with Christmas bills until late February?

If we are honest with ourselves, we know the answers to these questions.

The saddest word found in the account of His birth: "There is no room in the inn." Do we have room for Him in our hearts and in our daily lives?

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

We bid a fond farewell to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Robin Steffen and Clayton and Camille as they move to Atlanta for six months where Jeff is leading a special project in his work. May they feel God's closeness and love as they adjust to their new routines.

We thank Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) for ministering to us. We enjoyed the Sunday he and his family spent here in St. Louis. One of the thoughts he left with us: "People don't really care what you know until they know that you care."

Our little church received a Christmas blessing in December by "adopting" a family and giving them some gifts. The mother stated only the needs and simple desires of her two sons when I talked to her on the phone. When I pressed her for some things for herself, she protested. "Oh, I never get anything for Christmas. My parents had 12 children and they couldn't get us gifts." She finally came up with several things - a rug for her bedside, some gloves, a sponge mop . . . What a look of appreciation was on her face when she opened her gifts. They are a church-going family, and she especially appreciated the Children's Bible that we gave to the boys. She happily sang along with the Christmas carols. Her husband had left the family six years ago. She has a real challenge, struggling to keep out of welfare, needing to work, but strongly desiring to be home with her children after school and on weekends. She asked us to pray for her.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Ruthie Hoerr

"Tell me the old, old story of unseen things above; Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love. Tell me the story simply, As to a little child, For I am weak and weary, and helpless and defiled." From "Tell Me The Old, Old Story", Kate Hankey. This was the story we heard from our Sunday school children, told and sung so beautifully at their Christmas program. The Sunday school and others went caroling at rest homes and the Veterans Hospital afterward. We were especially moved at the emotions displayed by those who served our country that we might enjoy freedom; now dependent on someone to care for them. They did hear the old, old story and we trust it gave them hope of a more beautiful future.

The Taylor congregation hosted the December World Relief meeting and enjoyed the fellowship of many elders, ministers, and others that attended. Elders attending were Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City), Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Nathan Steffan (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN). Attending ministers were Bro. Douglas Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bro. Andy Hunyady (Columbus, OH), Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO). Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Art Bauer (Princeville, IL), Bro. Curt Heimer (Alto, MI), Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS). It would be nice to have them all come back one or two at a time. We did enjoy the messages we heard and pray they will all be blessed for their labors of love.

Vernon Huber had out-patient surgery and is recuperating nicely. We were also saddened to hear of the sudden death of Sis. Judy and Vernon's brother-in-law, Harold Krantz. May God supply His ever-ready healing and comforting touch.

Sis. Charlene (Dick) Sutter's mother went to her rest this week at the age of 92. Sharing her loss are two brothers, Donald and Floyd Bowen; two sisters, Mary Peter and Shirley Koch; many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren and friends.

As we look forward to a new year may we purpose in our hearts and seek His counsel to make our calling sure, that we can be counted worthy of eternal rest.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Franz Soni

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed."

John 6:27

We thank Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God richly reward him and his family for their efforts in being with us.

We are presently having services once a month at the Days Inn, 2750 Tonnelle Ave. (Route 109), North Bergen, NJ. For further information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (302) 478-7846 or Bro. Franz Soni (201) 835-3577. We encourage you to attend if you are in the area.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

November 25 was the wedding day of Noel Schneider and Christine Balash. Their parents are Betty and Bruce Richie and the late Emerson Schneider, and Francis and the late Patricia Balash. May God bless them as they begin their lives together.

Bro. Leland Hirschey, Sis. Bernice, and their families remain in our prayers as he is unable to assemble with us for the past few weeks. May they look to God for the strength and help at this time of sickness. We also think of many others at this season of the year

who are shut in their homes, nursing homes, hospitals or wherever they might be in their lives. May God always be near to them each day.

Bro. Chester O'Brien was called out of this life December 13 at the age of 99 years. He served his God and church faithfully for seventy years. His wife, Sis. Catherine, was taken from this life in 1985 and since that time he has been cared for by his daughter, Winifred, and her husband, Charles Christiansen. May God comfort them in this time of sorrow, and may He reward them for their care and concern. Charles' mother has reached the age of 100 years and is a resident of the Hallmark Nursing Center in Carthage.

Our Sunday school children will present their Christmas program of verse and song Sunday, December 20. This will show us what they have been taught about the birth and life of our Saviour, Jesus. May they carry these teachings deep in their hearts throughout their lifetimes.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

Our Akron church recently enjoyed a World Relief Family Night at church where we worked on health kits, school kits, quilts, cancer pads, and bandages. We appreciated the enthusiasm shown by young and old as we worked on the various projects for world relief.

Charlotte Kaufman and her daughter, Karen, recently returned from a trip to Africa, which included pyramids at Cairo, Aswan Dam, Luxor, and a safari in Kenya. Karen had hosted a lady from Cairo, and now they were guests of this lady and her family.

Sis. Bethi Graf fell, breaking her hip, and was hospitalized. We feel sorry for Bethi, and hope and pray for a good recovery for her. Sis. Janet Graf is recovering at home after her recent hospitalization, and we hope she continues to grow stronger. Sis. Marie Ritzman had cataract surgery and we pray for a good result. Sis. Kathryn Novotny has also been in the hospital, and we are glad she has been released. We wish for all of these dear sis-

ters God's continuing comfort and blessing.

We appreciated the visits of Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen and Joe Braker and Bro. Merrill Laukhuf. We are thankful for their faithful ministry of God's Word to us.

During the past year, we had four weddings, two births, one baptism, and one funeral.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Julie Grimm

We thank Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for bringing the gospel message to us this past month. Bro. Alan Stoller (Bluffton, IN) also came to minster to us but unfortunately he ended up in the hospital here in Columbus with surgery for appendicitis. Although he could not be in our midst, we appreciated the fellowship with those who traveled with him. Bro. Alan was able to return home the following Monday. May God continue to grant him renewed health and strength.

The Sunday school had an opportunity to help a needy family this Christmas season. May the Lord reward their efforts in sharing their blessings with others.

On December 13, we enjoyed hearing the Christmas message brought forth by our young people at our annual Christmas program. The young voices blended beautifully to bring praise and adoration to our precious Savior.

May we each one be renewed in our dedication to the Lord as we begin a new year!

OHIO, JUNCTION
Sandra Manz

... and another year has passed swiftly by. Did we meet last year's resolutions to live a better life in the Lord or have we slipped a little? There is always work to be done, isn't there?

Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz's daughter, Barb, was married to Rob Brink December 11. May God's hand of love touch their lives that they may seek His guidance as they establish their home.

Many witnesses were present to hear the testimonies and vows of Elizabeth and Wendell Spangler

(Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn) as they were added to the fold. Our thanks go out to Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) for his timely message and to Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for his assistance in carrying out this solemn but joyful ceremony. This thought was brought out during their testimony. If we're willing to spend several years in college preparing for an earthly vocation, shouldn't we be more than willing to put forth effort and spend time preparing for our high and heavenly goal?

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

The Christmas story was told in song and verse by the Sunday school. How appropriate to proclaim the birth of Jesus; "And when they (the shepherds) had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." (Luke 2:17)

Our friends, Frank Bertka, Melinda Zimmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara) and Dick Durkin (Sis. Dorothy's son) were hospitalized. Let us pray that doctors may have wisdom and courage as they meet the needs of the sick. ". . . I was sick, and ye visited me." (Matthew 25:36)

Elder Bro. Ken Sauder conducted the wedding service that united Bro. Ed Dawson and Sis. Judy Beer in marriage November 29. "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it . . ." (Ecclesiastes 3:14)

We have heard much of joy during the Christmas season; may the spelling of joy; J for Jesus first, O for others and Y for you last help us to keep our priorities in order throughout the new year. May God bless each one according to His will for our individual lives. ". . . the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto." (Deuteronomy 15:10)

OHIO, RITTMAN
Marsha Hartzler
Charlene Winkler

On November 20, Bro. Norman

and Sis. Betty Zollinger, welcomed another son, Chad Alvin. Older brother, Eric, and grandparents, Sis. Elverna Zollinger and Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler rejoice with the newborn.

We rejoice with Nathan Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) as he turns to the Lord in humble repentance. We pray that Nathan will look to our Provider each day for grace and strength.

We were blessed to have visiting brethren with us for our Thanksgiving service. Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron) brought forth the Word.

The weekend of November 28 and 29, we welcomed three dear sisters into our congregation. Our new sisters are Sis. Tricia Indermuhle (Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl), Sis. Natalie Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), and Sis. Deb Steiner (Mark). We appreciate visiting elders, Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) for assisting in this important work. Also ministering to us on the pulpit, was Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis).

We want to express our sympathy to Bro. Mitchell Baltic (Sis. Violet) on the death of his niece, Dianne Baltic.

We extend condolences to Jim Carmany and his family on the death of his grandmother, Elizabeth Harding.

We wish to remember with sympathy Sis. Martha Koehler whose sister, Mary Conrad, passed away. We pray each one will look to the Lord for comfort in this time.

Several from our congregation have been ill and in the hospital recently. We need to remember Sis. Delores Bauman (Marion), Jason Beery (Ralph and Cheryl), Amy Fugate (Dan), Larry Hanzie (Janet), Judy Hilty (Sam), Sis. Betty Keiper (Bro. Reinhart), Betty Marquart (Walt), Sis. Margaret Marty (Bro. Fred and Sis. Erma), and Sis. Ellen Weber (Bro. Ralph).

I once heard a beautiful saying. It read: "Jesus is coming, I wouldn't want to miss it for the world!" May we not walk with the world, but strive to walk close to the Lord.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

Janet Indermuhle (Allen) was hospitalized last month for surgery. We are glad she is feeling better and is able to assemble with us again.

STARTING A NEW YEAR

Faith, hope, and love are the expressions of this new year. God's care is very evident in life and resources. I think God's love is like the snow. It seeks so tenderly to mantle all who need His care and comes so silently.

Many of our blessings come to us without money and without price. Many of them are free ones by nature – the air, the sunshine, and the beauty of the countryside. I am filled with wonder at the many varieties of flowers and animals, and their purpose in our world.

When you are discouraged, look into the starry night when all is clear. We have so many opportunities, almost endless. Books have been written about the glories and beauty of all things in the out-of-doors. We cannot explain the reason for all endless creation, a wonderful world. When we are ill, we think of the great blessings of health; not until we are deprived of many of our blessings do we realize their worth.

So with our new year, if we do what's right, whatever comes or goes, I know we'll weather the storms. All of us have many things for which to be thankful. Thank God we face another year to live and love.

by Ann L. Bangham

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Stephanie Luginbuhl
Kim Stoller

We enjoyed hearing the children sing at the annual Christmas program. It is good to be reminded how Jesus was born in a manger, lived a sinless life, and then gave his life on the cross and rose again so we might have a hope in heaven.

"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saved such as be of a contrite spirit." (Psalms 34:18) We rejoice with Ron

and Carrie Gray who have turned to the Lord in repentance.

Our prayers are with Bro. Lee and Sis. Melinda Refener and little Jordan. He was injured in a farm accident and spent some time in the hospital.

We always appreciate the visiting brothers who so willingly proclaim God's Word unto us. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Mark Ramsier and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH).

On December 17, Wayne Emil Stoller was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim. His sisters are Lydia and Roseanna. Happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller and Sis. Lucille Blough (Rittman, OH).

My lifetime doth pass away;
Hourly to the grave I hasten,
And I know each fleeting day
My allotted span will lessen.
Think, man, death comes soon or late.

Tarry not, it will not wait!

Zion's Harp #253

Sis. Elda Indermuhle died November 30 at the age of 87. She is survived by her five children: Bro. Lloyd, Bro. Darrel, Bro. Galen, Bro. Dwaine, and Sis. Lilas Rufener; 21 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Sis. Martha Beery. Our prayers are with this family who will miss their sister, mother, grandmother, and aunt.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehklau
Edie Fetter

Let us thank the Lord for all
His many blessings.

**ALL COME AND THANK
THE LORD**

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands, and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

We were thankful for the visit

of our Elder Bro. William Schlatter. His service on our behalf is always appreciated.

We are glad that Sis. Minnie Fetter is able to assemble with us again after illness had confined her to her home.

Congratulations and wishes for God's blessings are extended to Sis. Gwen Stoller who recently completed her degree in elementary education at the University of Toledo.

January is the month for \$9.00 Silver Lining dues.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Elizabeth Klopfenstein

Above the stable shone a star,
And in a manger humbly lay
A lovely child, the Son of God,
Soft cradled in the fragrant hay.

His mother smiled upon the babe
And kissed his hands so tiny there.
How could she know that those
some hands
Would cruel nail prints meekly
bear.

O Holy One, we come today
Our adoration to proclaim
For thou art still the Prince of Peace
Who to the lonely manger came.

O guide us in Thy perfect light,
The upward path of life along,
For if we walk with Thee
Our hearts will ever be kept safe
and strong.

Dorothy Conant Stroud

Although the Christmas season has come and gone, its meaning continues to linger in our hearts. This poem, which the older Sunday school students recited in our Christmas program, brings out the true significance of Christ's birth and its importance in our lives today.

As God's children, it is crucial that every day is spent in serving Him in whatever activities we take part in. However, Sundays provide a special blessing as we all gather around God's Word in our house of worship. Our Portland congregation became especially aware of this

blessing when it was taken away from us December 6, due to a winter ice storm. This made the following Sunday extra special, it seemed. God has given us so many similar blessings in life that we also tend to take for granted, such as good health, plenty of food, warm homes, or, perhaps most importantly, the nearness of dear family members. Sometimes these blessings are taken away from us and, for reasons known only to our Lord, are not permitted to be given back as our Sunday was.

A loved one is perhaps the most difficult blessing to lose, and our heart ache for Sis. Pearl Miller who lost her brother, Les Pfister (Roanoke), November 27. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Pearl and Bro. Bob, and we trust that our dear Father in Heaven will comfort them in this time of deep sorrow.

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 Sherry 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.

This past month our congrega-

tion has been blessed with two little additions. Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand joyfully welcomed little Tiera Rose into their hearts and home November 21. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline Rocke (Eureka, IL). Bro. Jack, Sis. Janet, Justin, Jaclyn, and Janeen Kuenzi were very excited with the arrival of precious Juliana Marie December 2. Her grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Rosalee Kuenzi and Bud and Rose Rush (Gervais, OR).

We were thankful to have our Elder Bro. Leo Moser with us once again. While he was here, the Lord directed him in revealing to us the outcome of our ministry ballot. This God-directed responsibility has been given to Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michelle). May we always support them and all our ministers in sincere prayer that the Word may continue to come forth in all truth and clearness.

Our congregation enjoyed the fellowship Thanksgiving weekend as the single group hosted brothers and sisters from LaCrosse, Wolcott and Remington, IN, Tremont and Gridley, IL, and Rittman, OH.

We are glad to have Bro. Paul Dettwyler assembling with us once again.

What a blessing we received as our Sunday school presented to us the Christmas story in word and song. It is a story that never grows old. Evidence of the Lord's blessings became clear as the entire Sunday school faced us from the front of the sanctuary, approximately 60 in number. This is such an increase from a few years ago.

Visiting ministering brethren this month included Bro. Ed Knecht, Bro. Bob Miller, and Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland). May the Lord bless them for sharing His Word with us once again.

As the new year is dawning, may our zeal to serve our Lord be renewed, that we may be found victorious in the end.

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye."
Psalm 32:8

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Kimberley Lanz, daughter of Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn, to Charles Insigna, son of Charles and Sylvia (Churchtown, PA). May God be their guide in the days and years ahead.

Our Christmas program was presented Sunday, December 13, by our Sunday school. What a joy to see our young ones present the story of our Saviour. We thank the Sunday school teachers and their students for their efforts.

We recently said farewell to Sis. Kerin Holmes who has relocated to Washington D.C. We wish her God's blessings in her endeavor.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Don Sauder**

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

Another year is dawning
Dear Master, let it be.
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee.
Hymns of Zion #150

May we each day strive, that at the end of the day, on our knees we can say thank you Lord for another day with Thee. Another month was filled with blessings as loved ones from Eureka, Roanoke and Peoria, IL, Bluffton, IN, and Fort Lauderdale, FL, spent a Sunday with us. May God bless you as we shared His Word of truth together.

Our dear Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), was our minister, our elder, our brother and our friend. May God's blessings be with Bro. Lavoyd and all our ministers. We, at Nashville, wish all of you a Happy New Year as we count our many blessings. Please come

and worship with us. We love you all!

**TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz**

Bro. Lloyd, Sis. Joyce Nohl, daughter, Julie, their foster children, Frank, Reynaldo, Erica, Emma and Rosita, have opened up their hearts and home to another foster child, Patty, age 5. May God's blessings surround this home.

Retired minister Bro. Elmer Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Delila, have returned from visiting a new grandson in Brighton, CO. Their daughter, Alice, her husband, Tim O'Shea, children, Renee, Nicole, Tahnee, Johnathan, and Jacob welcomed Joshua born November 23.

SILVER THREADS

Why should our faith ever be
invaded by the ways of the
world?

Are we not be Christ like?
Is not the Lord the same
yesterday, today and forever?

Ours is a reference to that which
belongs to us.
Us is made up of more than one I.
So, am I allowing the world to
invade me?

Which brings us to concluding
question.
How could the world be seen to be
invading our faith
If all I's are holding fast to the Lord
and His ways?

Submitted by
Bro. Stan Wiegand
Bern, KS

**THE FATHOMLESS
LOVE OF GOD**

God is love . . . that love surrounds
me!
In His love, I safely dwell.
'Tis above, beneath, around me.
God is love, and all is well!

THANKS

We thank you Lord in Heaven on high,
for your great gift of love.
We thank you for the Son you sent
to us from up above.

We thank you for redeeming grace,
your gift to one and all.
We thank you for that still, small voice,
that answers when we call.

We thank you for the skies above,
the earth, the sun, the moon.
We thank you for the promise of
Christ's coming very soon.

We thank you for the saints of old,
the twelve disciples too.
We thank you for the words they wrote,
they teach us about you.

We thank you for the trials that may,
sometimes come our way.
We thank you for the patience
that you show to us each day.

We thank you for our brothers
and our sisters in the Lord.
We thank you for their fellowship,
their love in one accord.

We thank you for the joy we feel
when all is right inside.
We thank you for the truths you give,
they cannot be denied.

We thank you for forgiveness
when we ask on bended knee.
We thank you for your mercy
shown in answer to our pleas.

We thank you for the reward that waits
for us in heaven above.
But most of all, we thank you for
the abundance of your love.

Sis. Barb Baim
Goodfield, IL

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

He expects us to walk properly. This is what we read in the first few verses, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." II Corinthians 7:1

Who of us can say that we are perfect yet? Who of us can say that in our earthly walk that we have achieved perfection? But this is our striving. This is our goal.

Christ was perfect, and He is our pattern. To be a Christian means to be a follower of Christ. He was perfect and He should be the pattern that we follow.

We know that we are in flesh and blood and we know that we do not have the power. But the Word tells us that He will give us grace if we trust upon Him. He will give us grace sufficient so that we then can be overcomers. We are thankful for that and that is the hope that we have. That is what gives us courage to go onward.

He can give us grace and strength to be overcomers. When Satan would tempt us, we can do like Christ did, and say, "Get thee behind me, Satan," even if Satan offers us the world as he did offer unto Christ.

We need to know what is in the Word of God. We need to understand what His Word speaks to us. For that reason then, we gather together and at home take the time and effort that we might read in the Word and know what He expects of us.

The Apostle Paul was concerned for the church that it might not again become filthy. We so often speak of it. When we are cleansed by the blood of Christ, He gives us that new garment -- that white garment -- which is spotless and perfect. That garment will allow us to enter in at that wedding supper someday. While we walk here, we need to be sure that we do not again get that garment filthy by letting ourselves become carried about by that which the world offers, by becoming selfish and self-centered, by looking out only for those things that would please us without re-

spect to our fellow man.

This is the way Christ walked and this is what He expects of us. Christ's life was centered about His concern and love for those who were around Him . . . those that would hear Him and those that would not. He prayed for those who crucified Him as well as those who were His disciples. His prayer, as we can read in the gospel of John, also goes forth to those who would follow after, which includes us today.

Christ prayed for us, that He would keep us not out of the world, but from the world . . . that He would keep us, while we are here, from the dangers of the world, but leave us here while we have duties to perform where we might be lights and examples in this sinful, evil and dark world. (See John 17:15).

So often we say that the world is growing darker. I think we can all understand it. As we look out in an evening, as it grows darker, the stars can be seen faintly at dusk. As the night grows on and the darkness is darker, the lights glow more brightly when it is pitch-black. Then we can see the stars ever so clearly.

So it is, I believe, in this latter day and time, the way this church and the way the brethren -- those who believe in Him -- should be. We should be those who would shine out more brightly as the world grows darker. Truly this is a calling that we need the grace of God to do. We of ourselves are nothing. We can only reflect that light which God gives unto us. We know His light is brightness. His light is the light of the day, even as the noon-day sun.

His love is shone forth to us without measure. He expects us then to reflect a little bit of that light that we may be like the stars in the heaven and that we might show forth points of life here or there reflecting His love to those around and about us.

I was impressed one time when we flew through the air and looked down as the night grew on at dusk. We could see all the lights scattered below, here and there were lights. As it got darker and darker, the brighter they glowed. It reminded me also of how it should be

for us as time goes on. Our lights should grow brighter as the days grow darker. Sometimes we saw a light moving here or there. We saw some that were dim and some that were bright.

I wondered, how is it when God looks down upon the world? What does He see of our light as He looks down upon us? What kind of light do we show forth? As I looked down from the airplane, I wondered how it could be that God sees us. Are we a dim light? Are we a bright light? Are we a cluster of lights where there is a believing church? Are we scattered somewhere where God might find us where we do not have the privilege of a church?

We can believe that there are believing souls scattered here and there. They do not have the privileges of being brought up like we do in a congregation of loving brethren. Sometimes there is one here or there. God's hand is not short to reach out to such. He can strengthen them and they can be a very bright light.

What kind of light does God see on this church when He looks down, or on our church at home? What kind of light does He see across this nation? Have our lights grown dim? Can He recognize us anymore?

When we fly through the air, if we know the landscape, as we fly over the cities, we can tell where we are. If we know enough about the highways, we can see the lights going down the main freeways and we can tell just about where we are at. But if the lights go out, then we are going to be lost.

We wonder about our friends. What kind of lights do they see? What kind of lights do they see from the church? Is it bright enough to guide them that they might find a pathway of life? Are we a stumbling block or are we a stepping stone? Are we a hindrance or a help? Surely God wants us to be a help to those around and about us. That is our calling.

He leaves us here for a purpose after we are converted. Once we have been cleansed and He has bought us perhaps we would like to go home to heaven. But there is still a mission for us to do. We do

not know what it is. We heard this morning that we do not know what God's plan is. We do not know the final outcome of our life. We do not know what ways He will lead us.

As we heard, it is good for us. I can wholly concur with that. It is good that we do not know what tomorrow will bring. We are sometimes burdened enough by what we have today.

We can also rejoice in what we have today. Today, I think as we gather here, we can rejoice together. We can find a household of people that have dedicated their lives to God and are striving to please Him with their whole heart.

Truly, this is what God wants. Even as the Apostle Paul could go from church to church in his time, strengthening churches, we rejoice when we can go from congregation to congregation and find those who are of like mind and faith and are striving for the same goal, having the same Shepherd of their soul, striving to reach that goal. May the Lord help us each one that we would strive lawfully and according to His direction that we might then make that final destination.

While we are here, He leaves us for a purpose, and we know not what. We heard of the crosses this morning, how some bear more, some less. Sometimes it is obvious what the cross is. We see those that are physically afflicted, even in this congregation. We sometimes wonder if they are not the brightest lights and the strongest sermons. I truly believe that that is the case. Those then, who carry a light load, what opportunity do we really have to be a light?

Perhaps sometimes we fail in our duties. We can be thankful for each one who finds grace to endure, to continue to carry on, to be able to thank God, even when things go not as we would like them to be. It is going to be that way in our life for each one of us. There is going to come a time, I believe. I do not know if any of us will escape this life without having to go through some trials and tribulations, and some tough times.

We can be thankful, as we heard this morning, that we are never alone. We have One who goes with

us. We have a Shepherd who knows the way. We have a Shepherd who cares for the flock. We have a Shepherd who loves His sheep and leads them out by the still waters and the green pastures.

We can be thankful that He cared enough for us to come and die. He was not a hireling. He did not come and lead the flock out, and then when things got rough, give it up and leave them on their own. He endured it to the cross. He called His sheep and then He went to the cross.

Now He is calling out to you and to me. He wants us to follow Him, as He is Shepherd of the flock, a faithful Shepherd that wants nothing but good for the lambs and sheep of His flock. He wants us to benefit from what He has given us.

Those of us who have raised sheep, and there are some amongst us who have (I have had that pleasure in the past), we surely know how it is when we have a flock of sheep. We grow attached to them, if they are pets, so to speak. They get to know us. They know our voice, and they come.

We are so pleased when they have confidence and trust in the shepherd, that when we call, they come and will take the feed out of our hands. So, the ones that are trusting will come forth and eat out of our hands. They will follow us, trusting that we will lead them to something good.

But also, in the flock, we find some that do not have that faith or that trust. Some seem to want to hang back and are afraid to come up and receive that what the shepherd offers. I have to wonder if that is not like the friends. They sit in the back of the church. They have the desire, somehow, to be near the Shepherd. Yet they do not want to come forth. They do not quite have the faith to come forth and reach out for that which Christ wants to give.

If this is so in your life, examine yourself. See what the Word of God offers. Look at the two destinations. Realize that the Shepherd has nothing but good to offer. He wants to give those good gifts to those who will come. But the ones who receive the gifts are those who have

enough faith in Him to come to Him and receive that which He wants to hand out.

Surely it is a wonderful thing that we can look forward to having One who cares for us and provides for us . . . One who has promised to take us through to the end . . . One who has promised to lead us and walk with us when we go through that valley of the shadow.

Truly it is a comfort. As we grow older, we do not have to fear as the world does. I often have to wonder, how is it going to be for those, who are seeking pleasure for the body now, when they grow old and the flesh deteriorates? When the pains come in? When they no longer can go to and fro? What are they going to look forward to then? What is their promise? What is their hope going to be? It will be nothing but misery in the future.

But for us, it can be altogether different. As the pains and aches come upon us and as the flesh deteriorates, we should then grow stronger in faith. Also more joyful because we know that each day we walk, we are one day closer to that eternal reward. What a wonderful time! What a glorious hope it is that we can look forward to someday to see our Shepherd face to face where we can be like Him and to be with Him forever.

Surely this is our goal. It is worth the price that we paid. As was mentioned earlier, may it be that we would be willing now to pay whatever it costs that we might receive that reward. May we not be as those of the world who seek to live it up now and not worry that when the payment comes due, there will not be that blood of Jesus that will pay the price for them.

We can be thankful that the Word tells us that we can come in the first hour . . . the ninth hour . . . or at the eleventh hour. God will yet receive us. But we have no promise. We do not know when the eleventh hour is for us. We might think, "When we are seventy or eighty, maybe that is going to be the eleventh hour."

We know not that for us the twelfth hour, the midnight bell, may ring when we are ten or fifteen or twenty, twenty-five or

thirty. We know not. God does not promise us a long life, even though He tells us our life is threescore and ten. Yet we know that here and there one is snatched away in their youth.

If we have heard the Word of God and have heard the calling, if we know that Christ has died for us, if we know that we are separated from God by sin, then, that is calling enough.

We know that we have the time now. We have today only to turn to God. Tomorrow never comes and yesterday is past. If we do not come today, we are not going to make it.

May it be, when we hear the Word, that we would not harden our heart, but rather that we would come to this Shepherd who has so much to give. May we then be a sheep in His pasture, a sheep in His flock where He might look out for us, care for us and that He might feed us and provide for us in every way as long as we walk here upon this sod.

What a wonderful hope! What a wonderful opportunity! But also, what a terrible disappointment it shall be for those who waited for tomorrow . . . for those who wait and tomorrow is not given.

May it be that we would examine ourselves and see if we are ready. Are we ready to leave? Are we yet bonded to this earth? Are we yet desiring something that the world has to offer more than what Christ has to give?

We ought to consider the rewards. We ought to consider what seventy years means compared to eternity or eighty or a hundred years, whatever it might be. How can we compare that to eternity? We need to examine ourselves. We need to look into this mirror and see how we stand and ask ourselves, "Are we ready to meet our Maker?"

We know full well that our righteousness is as filthy rags. The best that we can do will not be sufficient to enter into that wedding supper. There is only one thing that is going to get us in, and that is the white garment which is purchased by the shed blood of the Lamb.

When we have applied the blood of Christ that we might be cleansed, and after we have been cleansed

and after we have been brought into the sheepfold, that we walk honestly, uprightly and faithfully, not as it says here, in filthiness, but rather, as it says, ". . . perfecting holiness in the fear of God." II Corinthians 7:1

Let us think of those words again, "perfecting holiness." Surely we have a lifelong occupation . . . a lifelong occupation to strive to be more as God would want us to be, and to be more as Christ was, to love one another, to forgive one another, and to overlook our faults and failing.

Surely we have to do that. We know that we do not always agree on everything. We know that sometimes, without wanting to, we offend one another. Yet we have to be willing to overlook and to forgive for the love of Christ toward us, because He who forgave us so much, expects us to forgive the little things that we see here.

May God give unto us that great love; and that great love, I believe, is that light that we spoke of earlier. The love of God is that light that should reflect from our life as we dwell here below.

The brightness of our shining will be, I believe, in proportion to our love towards God. Our love towards God will then be shown forth to our brethren and to our fellow man.

May God bless us and grant us that we might, in a greater fullness, show forth that love which He so wonderfully showed to us through the giving of His own Son.

The love that He showed to us, and the love that Christ showed to us by going to the cross, and paying the price, then we have a hope for everlasting life. Truly of all men, we are a most blessed people.

It says in the Word, "Unto whom much is given, much shall be required." (See Luke 12:48). Who amongst us can say that much shall not be required from us when He calls us from this life?

May God find us ready in a position to go home, and when we step on that balance, may we have the faith that Christ will step on it with us that we might then be found worthy. May God help us toward that end.

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SERMON BY BRO. ARTHUR J. METZ OF SILVERTON, OR

God's Love Shines Bright
II Corinthians 7

The Apostle Paul called himself "one not meant to be an apostle." He was the one who persecuted the church (see I Corinthians 15:9) and he was the one who had to become nothing that he might be something, as we could hear in this morning. He was very useful in the hands of God to spread the Word, and even unto this generation. Yet, we can enjoy the benefits of his writings as they are preserved for us in the Word of God.

He speaks here of things that we can understand about Godly sorrow. We know that it is good for us to sorrow in a Godly way, that we might then find joy. But as a Christian, we realize that the sorrow has to come before the joy. The labor is now; the harvest is later.

It seems to be so contrary to what we see in the world, so contrary to the conduct of the world. Everyone now, in this day and time, for the most part seeks to go out and entertain the flesh, seeks out the pleasures and worry about the consequences later. It seems to be a sign of the times. We see it in financial matters . . . enjoy now and pay later. Likewise, in the spirit, those who ignore what God speaks, they are going about to enjoy now, and the payment will come later. But when the payment comes

due, what is the price going to be?

If we can be as God wants us to be and consider that we have that Godly sorrow when we see that we have done wrong, when we see that we are separated from God, when we see that we had a part in the suffering of Christ upon the cross, and that our sins nailed Him there (it was not the Roman soldiers, but it was the sins of mankind, including ours), then we can sorrow.

When we can suffer a little bit for Christ, and if we can carry the cross that He lays upon us, and pay the price now, some day then, there is going to be that reward.

That is a clear distinction between us and those of the world who ignore Christ, those who want to enjoy life for a season and seek the pleasures that Satan would offer to acquire what the world can give with no thought of the payment.

We know that we could not pay for our sins. It is only the blood of Christ. But if we turn our back on Christ, that blood is not going to be there for us when we leave this life. We need to apply the blood now, while we have a sound mind, while we have strength, and while we have understanding. We can come unto Him and apply that blood and go through that Godly sorrow

and truly sorrow in our heart for the grief that we caused our Saviour.

Then, it says here, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of." II Corinthians 7:10. We will never have to regret that we have come to that point of life when we were able to humble ourselves and make right with man and God. Truly, it is a wonderful experience and truly, the rewards are great.

But we know that Satan would have it otherwise. Satan would have it appear to be a mountain in our pathway, as he tells our friends yet today, those who gather with us week by week and hear the Word and have a desire. It always seems that Satan will set a roadblock in the way. He will make it look like a mountain when it is nothing but a molehill, and will keep us from the way.

It only takes faith as a grain of mustard seed, as we can read in the Word, and then we can move mountains and God can work within us.

Once we have come in at the door, then He expects us to walk worthy of that calling. Once we have cleansed our heart and He has taken residence in our heart,

(Continued on Page 33)