



"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

Psalms 51:7

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

Isaiah 1:18

VOLUME 43

FEBRUARY 1993

NUMBER 2

# WHITER THAN SNOW

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;  
I want Thee forever, to live in my soul;  
Break down ev'ry idol, cast out ev'ry foe;  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Gospel Hymns #82

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11



## MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

### WHEN DID YOU KNOW?

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Several months ago, it appeared to be an ordinary Wednesday evening Bible study in our church but it turned out to be something I will never forget.

In Mark 10:33, and 34, the Lord Jesus Christ speaks of His impending suffering and death. This raised the question as to just when Jesus first knew He would have to be crucified. Of course, we can reason that He knew it before He left heaven – it is for that purpose that He came to earth. As to when He first knew it as a human being, He probably knew it at the age of twelve years when He stayed in the temple and talked with the teachers there. That is when Jesus said, "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:49

So far so good but then came the question that I had never been asked before in my whole life. "When did you first know that you

would have to be crucified?" Of course, I thought that the person asking the question, who is a sincere seeker, had misspoken or that I had misunderstood. I spent considerable time trying to get the question reworded to ask when I first knew when Christ first knew He would have to be crucified. The questioner calmly persisted in inquiring as to when I knew I would have to be crucified.

I collected my composure and replied that at the time of my repentance and conversion my Elder Bro. Schupert, asked me if I was dead to sin inasmuch as it is not good to bury anyone in baptism before he or she is dead. So I reasoned that I knew about it at that time. However, I added that after being baptized I realized that I had to be crucified if I was to be of any service to God. In this way I hope to have answered the question satisfactorily.

When we talk about being crucified with Christ, maybe we don't think deeply enough about what it really means.

### HUMILITY AND FAITH Keys to Salvation and All Spiritual Blessings

By. Bro. Robert Miller

"By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). "God resisteth the proud but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6). Most of us remember hearing these basic and fundamental scriptures all our lives. They tell us that the grace of God brings salvation to any contrite, repentant soul, who has "faith toward our Lord Jesus (Continued on Page 4)

## GOD-GIVEN TALENTS

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

Matthew 25:14-15

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

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

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

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

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

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

### THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741  
USPS 496780

#### EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch

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

Published Monthly By The Apostolic  
Christian Church of America

Counselors: Loren Stoller,  
David Bertsch, Phillip Stettner

#### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining  
c/o David Bertsch  
11520 Grabill Road  
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Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741. The subscription rate is \$9.00 per year. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

#### 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).*

## WAITING PERIOD FOR CONVERTS

We have a long standing practice of allowing a convert plenty of time to become established spiritually before baptism and the laying on of the hands are administered. This is not typical in nominal Christendom where infant baptism or spontaneous baptism upon a verbal declaration of acceptance of Christ are widely practiced. There is a sound basis for the practice of allowing time for a thorough conversion experience, not only from the stand point of encouraging spiritual growth, but also from precedents in the Scriptures. Establishing a covenant is a significant part of the culmination of the conversion process. God used covenants in the Old Testament to indicate special times of progress and/or commitment in the unfolding of His plan of salvation.

If we consider the diligence that we apply in drawing up secular covenants (contracts), how much more prudent is it to exercise diligence in our spiritual contract with God. The success of a secular contract depends both on how well every issue is addressed and mutually understood beforehand and how well the performing parties execute each item. In like manner the success of our spiritual covenant depends upon what kind of foundation is laid and then how well we understand and follow through, knowing that God, who is the other party in our covenant, is incapable of defaulting.

First and foremost we must have faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ which will save us from our sins (Eph. 2:8). Among the issues that we will then be motivated to act upon are: confession of sins and restitution, replacement of anger with love, replacement of questionable practices with total honesty, replacement of scorn with a pleasant disposition, replacement of worldly entertainment with contentment in God's Word, and replacement of uncontrolled desire for worldly knowledge with desire to learn about God's will. We will not achieve absolute perfection

in everything, but a sound beginning is essential.

The Apostles and other believers of their time had special powers given to them, hence perhaps the apparently short time involved in some of the early conversions, such as the eunuch from Ethiopia and Paul, himself. Even so, it is also recorded that in one case an individual was apparently baptized prematurely. His spiritual blindness was soon revealed and Peter had to tell him, "Thy heart is not right in the sight of God" (Acts 8:21). In addition, the eunuch's baptism was preceded by a time of preparation. His trip to Jerusalem to worship was long and he used that time to read the Scriptures. He was definitely a seeking soul.

One of the exhortations of the Apostle Paul to Timothy was to "lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins" (1 Tim. 5:22). Timothy was exhorted to first recognize in someone the evidence of spiritual fruit before laying on of his hands.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). This Scripture implies that conversion is not impulsive since seeking involves a period of time. However, we cannot put a specific length of time on conversion since God deals with each soul on an individual basis. The parable of the good Samaritan helps us understand the responsibility of the church in receiving one whom Christ has rescued and brought to the church for further care.

In the Old Testament we find some valuable lessons in the manner by which God enacted covenants with His people and what was required before the time was right to put them in place. Noah was an example of diligence for many years. He was first required to spend a long time building the ark, then enduring the flood, and finally being disappointed by the message from the raven before he was given satisfaction by the mes-

sage from the dove. It was after all of this that God put the bow in the sky as a covenant to Noah and to all the world.

Abraham was called to relocate twice to distant lands. He was then proven by the strife between his and Lot's herdsmen which he handled superbly. These and other acts of faith and diligence were followed by his very peaceful encounter with Melchizedek and his unsolicited tithing, before God established in full His covenant with him. The covenant with Abraham differed somewhat from the one with Noah in that it included a life-long human commitment (Gen. 17:7). Abraham's continuation of faith (Gen. 15:6) was his commitment to God, and God's commitment to Abraham and his posterity was continuation of his providence, signified by the ceremony of circumcision.

The length of time that Noah and Abraham proved themselves is not meant to be comparable to the length of time that a convert takes to prepare himself for making a formal covenant with God. The dedication of his daily life is, however, very relevant to the convert's progress prior to the establishment of the covenant. Noah and Abraham persevered without even knowing that something special lay ahead for them. A convert looks forward to making a covenant and to reaping the glorious reward of Heaven, which awaits the faithful.

Our commitment must be evidenced by righteousness which results from true faith (Rom. 10:4), then we experience the ceremony of baptism (Matt. 28:19) as a public testimony of a mutual commitment between God and man. During the time between the first genuine commitment of the heart by a convert and the time the covenant is sealed, God is faithful in helping to achieve the victory. As with Noah and Abraham, He will reveal His wishes for the timing of the establishment of the covenant in the baptismal waters.

Christ" (Acts 20:21). It is evident no soul will receive the saving and sustaining grace of God without humility. So how can we acquire and retain humility? We sing, "Behold Jesus, he was humble," in Zion's Harp #186. And Hebrews 12:2 speaks of "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Only our great Savior is our great example. We are exhorted to have the mind of Christ in Philippians

2:5-8, with its description. In Philippians 2:3, we are told to "let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11:29). If we deny self (Luke 9:23) and look to and learn from Jesus daily, we will conform to His image (Romans 8:29). We

will enjoy walking "humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8). Warning: It is possible to take pride in humility, which would be false humility. God forbid! The self-righteous Pharisees seemed to have this kind of pride which Jesus condemned (Matthew 23:13-39). Jesus said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). Little children are a perfect example of meekness and humility, and as we're told in Psalm 149:4, "God will beautify the meek with salvation."

Faith follows humility. We all should be aware that "without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6). Most of us know what the definition of faith is: "Faith is the substance (assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). The dictionary tells us faith is a confident belief and trust in God. We began with the scripture "by grace are ye saved through faith." How do we acquire faith since it is so essential

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

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### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

#### Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 — 13,890  
Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 — 10,812  
Third Year — August 1985 thru July 1986 — 18,247  
Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 — 23,048  
Fifth Year — August 1987 thru July 1988 — 25,969  
Sixth Year — August 1988 thru July 1989 — 25,509  
Seventh Year — August 1989 thru July 1990 — 25,501  
Eighth Year — August 1990 thru July 1991 — 32,677  
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
January 1993 —	2419	22,173

\*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.

## WORLD RELIEF — RIDE THE BUS

### Western Area Apostolic Christian World Relief and Sewing Groups Meeting March 13, 1993

#### Bern & Sabetha, KS

Jerome Witzig, coordinator for the meeting, in conjunction with Noah and Evie Herrmann, is chartering a bus from Central Illinois to the Western Area World Relief meeting Saturday, March 13, at Bern and Sabetha, KS.

The bus will leave from the Fairbury Apostolic Christian Church Friday morning, March 12. Passenger pick-ups from Central Illinois churches and Taylor, MO, will be made along the route to the Kansas churches. The bus will return Sunday, March 14, after church services.

The cost of the trip from Illinois is \$50.00 per person, plus meals.

Please direct all inquiries to:

Noah Herrmann  
211 Ostrom Avenue  
Princeville, IL 61559  
(309) 385-4872

for our spiritual life and survival? "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). In Acts we read the Berean believers were more noble than those of Thessalonica, "in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). We cannot overemphasize the importance of feeding our inner man from the Word of God daily, for our spiritual survival and growth. The psalmist said, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). Faith is the victory that enables us to overcome the world (I John 5:4). We are justified by faith in the precious blood of Jesus (Romans 5:1, 9). "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7). A believer's heart is "purified by faith" (Acts 15:9). Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure

in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). The Holy Spirit is promised to all who repent and are baptized (Acts 2:38). We receive the Holy Spirit by faith (Galatians 3:26). Once a believer receives the fullness of the Holy Spirit, he is endowed with power (to overcome sin), love, and a sound mind (II Timothy 1:7). "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:56). Let us be careful not to grieve (Ephesians 4:30) or quench (I Thessalonians 5:19) the Holy Spirit, which every true believer needs so desperately to be victorious. Through faith, Christ's followers inherit the promises of God, (Hebrews 6:12), which are "exceeding great and precious" (II Peter 1:4). One excellent example of faith is Abraham, known as the "father of faith." He staggered not at the promises of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform" (Romans 4:20-21). This is how we can bring glory to our God. Every true believer in Christ is "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Peter 1:5, I Corinthians 2:5). "By faith ye stand" (II Corinthians 1:24). Through humility and faith every seeking soul is eligible to receive the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8) which will pay unlimited dividends beginning now and for eternity!

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**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
HOME FOR  
THE HANDICAPPED**

As a continuation of information about the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped, we will be discussing the operational details of the Home.

**A. Applications for Admission/  
Interviews**

1. All applications and admission to the 100-bed and 16-bed facilities are processed through the Social Services Director. Applications are given out for people who are a part of the Apostolic Christian Churches and are eligible for

the services offered. All other inquiries are kept on a waiting list and are given applications as openings occur and with the approval of the Board of Directors. When there are openings, the guardian or family are asked to give the necessary information to the Home and an interview is arranged. The recommendation of the admission committee is sent to the Board of Directors who make the final determination. They are also referred to a state agency which must determine if they are eligible according to state and federal rules. If all of these determinations are positive, the admission is arranged.

**B. General Operational Costs  
Per Resident**

1. Figures are as of June 30, 1992. The total operational costs for the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped and Oakwood Estate for the 116 total residents was \$3,214,734. This equates to \$27,642 per resident per year or \$75.53 per resident per day. A breakdown of the operational costs is as follows: Employee wages, 62.5% and employee benefits, 17.8% for a total of 80.3% staff related expenses; supplies and other operational expenses, 13.3%; general administrative expenses, 2.3%; and depreciation 4.2%.

**C. Capital Expenditures**

1. In the past six years, \$840,200 was spent for establishing Oakwood Estate, a 16-bed ICT-DD home, 540 North Main, a four-bed home in

# Church History

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A history of the  
Apostolic Christian  
Church of America

only

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## GATEWAY WOODS

*Apostolic Christian Children's Home*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**1993  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
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
#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.)

the community and 200 E. Hazelwood, a six-bed home in the community. An additional \$463,800 was spent for general capital maintenance.

### D. Funding/Budgeting

1. Funding Sources - Our major source of income for the Home is Medicaid. 114 of our residents are on Medicaid with only two being private pay. Other incomes include contributions (mainly from our churches), memorials, and bequests.

2. Budgeting - Our projected income for the fiscal year 7/1/92 - 6/30/93 is approximately \$4,000,000. This includes contributions of \$391,000. Projected expenses for this period are estimated at \$3,700,000.

3. Current Financial Challenges - Some of our current financial challenges include delayed payments of Medicaid funds which can be delayed from 75 to 150 days from date of services. Also, at this time the low interest rates on invested contingency funds brings in less income. Another challenge would be the charity funds required for those living in the community. These people are not eligible for the Medicaid program and yet in need of supervised housing. The contributions we receive help provide this.

At this time we would again wish to express our gratitude to all who have so willingly contributed financially, prayerfully and physically to enhance the efforts of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped and facilities to provide the best services possible for the developmentally disabled population.

Some activities have been going overnight to area motels, basketball games, swimming and Special Olympics gymnastics practice. The usual shopping excursions and horseback riding offer some more needed outing for the closed in winter months.

Birthdays at ACHH (2125 Veterans Road) for March are: Bill Unsicker (2), Judy Grimm (6), Sheila Steffen (9), Margo Ebert (12), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Tom Christensen (20), Edna Haynes (23), Jon Wilhelm (26), and Nancy Meister (31). At Oakwood (2213 Veterans Road) Maretta Rokey (6). At 200 Hazelwood, Mike Bodtke (4) and Frank Kyburz (27). At 207 Wagler, Anna Eberhard (15). There are no March birthdays at 540 N. Main.

### GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Marilyn Walder

We started the New Year by welcoming Jodi C. into the East House. She is thirteen years old. Welcome Jodi. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames welcomed Steve A. into their home as a foster child. Steve had formerly lived with the Thames' when they were houseparents in the West House. We pray that the adjustments will go smoothly.

Many thanks go to our volunteers who spent time here over their college semester break. Those who volunteered are: Bro. Brad Leman (Congerville, IL), Sisters Kathy Bradle and Jami Rumbold (Roanoke, IL), Becky Wettstein (Gridley, IL), Krista Banwart (Champaign,

IL), Tammy Zimmerman (Chicago, IL) and Susan Keiser (Bloomington, IL). Your help, love and smiles are much appreciated. God bless you!

The Social Services building addition is making progress. The office staff have been very flexible in moving to temporary offices and putting up with extra noise and colder temperatures. We are all looking forward to the completion of the project and more permanent headquarters.

As I was reading in my daily devotions a few days ago, what I read really hit me and made me stop to think. It said, "Beware of anything that competes with your loyalty to Jesus Christ. The greatest competitor of true devotion to Jesus is the service we do for Him. It is easier to serve than to completely pour out our lives for Him. Are we more devoted to service than we are to Jesus Christ Himself?"

Working in a place such as Gateway Woods gives me many opportunities for service every day. But am I willing to do whatever is asked of me? Am I serving with gladness as Psalms 100:2 says? Am I giving the glory to God or am I serving for the notice and acknowledgement of others as Ephesians 6:6-7 indicates? These were a few of the questions that I had to ask myself. It is so easy to do good for our own pleasure and sense of accomplishment or for the acknowledgement of others. My prayer is that we can all glorify God by willingly doing what He asks each day with the right attitude, "and whatsoever ye do, do it heartedly, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord

Christ." Colossians 3:23-34. Let's be loyal to Jesus!

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### ALABAMA, ATHENS

**Lisa Huette**

This month has been a rainy one for us here in Athens. And yet each day of rain makes us just that more thankful when the sun finally shines through. We are reminded of this in Isaiah 55, verses 10 and 11; "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither . . . so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void." God always has a purpose for each thing that occurs in our lives.

We are thankful to have Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore as well as Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard back in our congregation. All three have recently spent time in Haiti assisting those down there with the various work projects.

We'd like to welcome Eric and Retta Knobloch to our church family. Eric and Retta have recently moved down from central Illinois to make Athens their home.

Our thoughts go to the family of Alfred Perry who has suffered illness. We pray that God's will be done in his life.

Once again, we'd like to thank all of those who visited Athens in the last month. We appreciate each effort made!

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### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."

James 4:8

We truly have seen many prayers answered and are thankful many of our sick are improving. Also, that the devastating floods did not claim any lives in the valley.

Everywhere - there are multitudes of problems. There is much comfort to be found in the Bible. Let us pray for His sufficient grace (II Corinthians 12:9) to endure each day. There is power in prayer - so

let us be about our Father's business, and pray even more.

Despite bad weather, we are enjoying our dear visitors.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN).

Bro. Tim Rumbold graduated from A.S.U. mid-year and has returned to Illinois.

Our sympathy to Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum and Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Mauer on the death of Linda Baum. They attended funeral services in Morton, IL, for their sister-in-law.

Bro. Floyd Banwart was hospitalized.

Sympathy is also extended to Bro. Gaylord Blunier and Ray Blunier on their sister-in-law and aunt's (Annabelle) death. They attended services in Roanoke. May the Lord comfort each family.

Our drenching rains broke some 70-year records. There is much loss of worldly goods but our dear heavenly Father watched over His people. Oh! If folks would acknowledge His power and give thanks.

Our hummingbirds were more numerous than usual during the rains. Quite similar, knowing to go to a feeder as we believers know "where can we go but to the Lord!"

The book of James is known as a practical guide to Christian life and conduct. There is a lot of good teaching in every chapter.

Your Silver Lining offering will be collected in March.

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

**Carol Graf**

Saturday, January 16, was the date for the Open House for our new church building. We gave tours of the building in the afternoon. An evening meal was provided for the many people who attended, followed by a singing. The next day, Sunday, January 17, was the Dedication Service for the church building. Visiting ministers who attended were: Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Henry

Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ); retired Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ); and Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Peter Petrovic and Doug Wagenbach, both of Escondido (San Diego), CA.

Sunday church services in Escondido were canceled so that all who normally attend there could be with us for the dedication. Besides these visitors, there were visitors from many other churches in the United States as well as some visitors from Hungary. Also, many friends who don't usually attend our church came for the special service. The ushers reported over 240 people attended the dedication service held Sunday afternoon. For a church which averages about 70 on a Sunday (counting children), and seats 112, that was quite a crowd. It was wonderful to have loud and enthusiastic singing fill our church.

Near the conclusion of the dedication service, Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) spoke about the parallel between the church building and our hearts as the temple of God. Our church, being in earthquake country, had to be built to certain structural standards in order to be able to withstand the shocks of an earthquake. Likewise, the temple of God inside each of us believers must be built solidly enough upon the foundation of Jesus Christ to be able to withstand the spiritual storms, or earthquakes, that sometimes come our way.

Something else that Bro. Gene Marti spoke about was when the Israelites came back to Jerusalem after having been exiled for many years. The beautiful temple of God had been completely destroyed, so they began to rebuild the temple. When the foundations was laid, many people shouted for joy. However, many of the older people, who remembered the temple the way it had been before it was destroyed, wept loudly. Although our old church was demolished by people in the construction industry rather than by enemies, many of us could relate to those who wept. While we are very happy and grateful to God for providing us with this new struc-

ture, we have many precious memories of the old building.

The weekend was a very busy and uplifting weekend. The church building has been dedicated to the Lord. May we continue to remember that we have given it back to Him and use it to His honor and glory.

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### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Marian Petrovic

January 17 was a day that will long linger in our memories. Our San Diego church had the opportunity to attend the dedication of the new Altadena church. What a special blessing to witness another house of prayer and worship dedicated solely to God and for the purpose of bringing lost and searching souls to the knowledge of saving faith. We wish them God's richest blessings and growth, both spiritual and physical.

Many visitors came our way these past couple of months. Amongst them were Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Curt Kaufmann (Tucson, AZ), Glenn Hackenjos (Altadena, CA) and our Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). Praise God for faithful servants who humbly submit to God and faithfully proclaim His powerful Word to us.

Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy Fulop were blessed with a precious little girl January 19. Little Elizabeth Joy was four weeks early but nevertheless heartily welcomed by her parents and two brothers, Bobby and Dennis, and sister, Linda. May God ever be near them as they look to Him for guidance in raising their dear children.

It was our joy and privilege to welcome Bro. Louie and Sis. Kathy Bikadi to our brotherhood. We are thankful that the Lord has led them to our small church. Already they are such a blessing to us. May they always feel the love and warmth of God flow from heart to heart as we together strive to more faithfully serve Him.

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Give Your Old and New Address  
To Your Reporter

### COLORADO, DENVER Eric and Marcel Huber

Bro. Lenny and Sis. Lynne Martin have moved to Denver from Roanoke, IL. We extend a warm welcome as they become part of our church family.

Visiting ministers for this month were Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN). We offer our thanks to these brothers for spending time with us in worship and prayer.

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### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Michelle Virkler

"Lord, Thou Creator, glorious is Thy kingdom!

In all the world, we sing of Thy great fame.

The hosts of heav'n with all the true and faithful

Eternally, shall praise Thy holy name.

Thou art exalted, there in heaven's splendor,

And kings and powers shall to Thee surrender."

Zion's Harp #118

There are so many times in our lives we have no idea what our Lord has in mind for us. May we always have patience to wait for His will so that His plan might be accomplished.

Our dear retired minister, Bro. Al Schneider, has had recent surgery, and although he is gaining very slowly, we all pray that he might be able to assemble with us once again.

Our annual meeting was held Sunday, January 10. May the Lord be with those who have been chosen to take on new responsibilities.

"O blissful hour and holy,  
When in God's covenant truly  
Through Christ's blood I did pass  
There was I blest for ever  
From Satan's realm was severed  
Then when I took that holy bath."

Zion's Harp #222

Those who have been unable to assemble with us recently are Sis. Lydia Luginbuhl, Sis. Virginia

Bahler and Sis. Caroline Hartmann. Our thoughts and prayers are with these dear sisters and brothers.

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### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON

#### Henrietta Meyer

As this article is being written, excitement is high around town - a new president is taking office. Whether we agree with him or not, we are told by the apostle Paul to pray for all in authority. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Our ministers for January were Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). We ask the Lord to bless these ministers and their wives for coming to minister to us.

We welcome Bro. Ken and Sis. Jill Martin to our congregation.

One of our visitors this month was Sis. Bernice Hirschey (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). She was in the area to get acquainted with her new granddaughter. Other visitors this month were from Peoria, IL, and Philadelphia, PA.

Our prayers are with Ken Belsley as he has had back surgery. Our prayers and sympathy go to Bro. Matt and Sis. Jill Aeschleman at the death of his grandmother in Roanoke, IL.

Spring usually comes earlier here than to the Midwest. We invite you to come visit us. Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of each month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located on Route 7, about one mile west of I-495. Many from the area meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. We often meet for a tape on the other Sundays, so please let us know if you are in the area. 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. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

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### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Terri Huber

Visiting ministers in December and January have been Bros. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Bill



Waibel (Bay City, MI), Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL).

In addition, Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) was present to assist Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein with four testimonies and baptism January 23 and 24. We joyfully welcome Matt Graf, Aaron Webb and Roy and Delores VanNorman as brothers and sister in the Apostolic Christian faith!

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

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

Matthew 1:21

As we celebrated Christmas, it was just natural for we, as believers, to remember and to teach our children, that Christ was the greatest gift ever given. Did we also take advantage of every opportunity to share this wonderful news with those who do not yet know Him personally?

Sis. Kaye Eisenmann had surgery and is recovering at home. We look forward to her being able to gather with us again.

Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) shared God's Word with us this month. We thank him and his family for traveling the miles to share with us.

We will be having a church picnic January 17, and are going to hold our annual business meeting January 24. We will be looking at some of the issues of putting on a building addition, and then prayerfully moving forward with this project.

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

One more year has been penned and recorded in the "Book of Life." As each of us inventory our past year, do we rest in peace with what has been written? Have we put forth great efforts to make plans

for our many tomorrows? What lies in store for each of us - God only knows!

Our hearts ache at the passing of our dear Bro. Homer Reineck (Dorothy) and Bro. Urb Bauer (Mary). We pray for God's comforting Spirit to be ever-present to each one's wife and family. Once again we find encouragement in knowing God's promises to those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb! We are so thankful Bro. Homer and Bro. Urb had experienced the blood of our Saviour!

The many prayers, all the planning, the many efforts and the abundant love and great support of the brethren have been answered. Our "fellowship center" of the Sarasota Apostolic Church has been completed and dedicated to the honor and glory of our great God! We want to thank all who supported us monetarily or in prayer and pray that you might be blessed for your charitable love! Our desire is that this "fellowship center" might be a blessing to all!

We are thankful Sis. Linda Sabo has been strengthened back to better health after a short stay in the hospital and recuperation at home. Our hearts are grateful to God also for favoring our dear Bro. Emmanuel Kloter with a successful surgery and a speedy recovery! God is so good!

With a year-end rotation that brings new offices available into the church, we pray the Spirit might have full reign with those who are filling new positions and also for those who continue on to fulfill their term. Lord, please bless each one who has fulfilled their responsibility and opportunity in serving You this past year!

Once again we would like to thank our ministering brothers: Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL), Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for rendering their services to us here in Sarasota. We pray for God's richest blessings to be with them and their wives for willingly sharing God's Word with us! We also thank God that our Elder Bro. Ben

Maibach and his wife, Lorene, have been down to share with us!

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**  
**John Brewer**

As the new year begins, we are blessed with good news to start out the year. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Robin Steffen and family from the St. Louis, MO, area have moved down for the next six months. We hope their stay is as blessed as their presence is in our congregation. A new family in our congregation is always a big jump in our attendance.

We are thankful for the ministers who have come down to minister and fellowship with our congregation. Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Bro. Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. William Waibel (Bay City, MI) came down the past month and are thankful for their time and love.

Our church meets every Sunday and for those who are traveling back and forth from Florida, we love the company and fellowship. We meet at the Ramada Renaissance on Riverdale Road and I-85, next to the Atlanta Hartsfield Airport.

Our song service begins at 10:20 and worship services at 10:30. If you have any questions or need more information, please call either Bros. Linn Stoller (404-631-4554), Tom Hitz (404-642-1221) or myself (404-591-5432).

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**ILLINOIS,**  
**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**  
**Tudy Schmied - Debbie Grieco**

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Dennis Brummitt whose father, David Brummitt (Hudson, IL), died December 22; and also with Ray Bauer who lost his father, Bro. Urban Bauer (Cissna Park) December 27.

We are grateful for the service of our visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL).

The walls are up on the new

Sunday school addition to our church. The constant progress reminds us of how God has blessed our congregation with a growing church.

We are thankful God's loving hand is still reaching out and calling souls unto repentance. Several young people have accepted the call and are growing spiritually with the love and guidance that our Lord provides those who seek Him. "Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Luke 11:9)

The Christmas season provides many opportunities for giving. Blessings abounded for those who shared the gift of singing Christmas carols to residents of local nursing homes; for those children who helped provide gifts for children of prison inmates; and for those who heard the little children tell of the birth of Jesus Christ in song and verse at the children's Christmas program.

Let us not forget to pray for our new government leaders. It seems that as a nation of people we are gradually forgetting that the pilgrims came to this new land in search of religious freedom and that our government was founded by persons who believed "in God we trust." Our leaders need our prayers more than ever as we strive to remain "one nation under God."

### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

**Les and Barb Fehr**

Our best wishes are with Bro. David Duckworth (Bro. Don and Sis. Delores) and Sis. Dawn Harris (Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda, Roanoke) who recently announced their engagement. May God be their Guide as they make their marriage plans and anticipate a life of happiness together.

We rejoice with our new convert Elizabeth Kimble and pray God will be near her during her repentance giving her everlasting peace.

There were several from our congregation hospitalized this month. They were Sisters Bonnie Kieser, Lois Endress and Mardell Dietz.

A love one, Bro. Bill Elsasser, was called to his heavenly home.

Our sincere sympathy and prayers are with Sisters Vi, Diana, Suanne, and Sis. Charlotte Sahl and family who have spent the past years lovingly caring for their husband/father.

During the last month our visiting ministers were Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO).

### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

**Kathy Schlatter**

This time of year for me as a teacher is less the beginning of a new year than it is the ending of a semester. More and more, I have three divisions of students at semester's end: those who have failed, those who have done work but not enough for me to give them a grade yet (they receive "incompletes," which will become passing grades if they finish what is required, failing otherwise), and those who have passed - some barely, others with high honors. Spiritually, I see my delineation of students as the Lord's divisions. Those who have failed and those who have passed are people who have already gone to their rewards, having died without the Lord or within Him. Their choices are made. Those who are conditioned are those of us who live. We have a great deal of work to do. First, our Lord requires that we acknowledge our sins and come to Him to be converted. That process of spiritual change in one sense becomes complete, yet in another takes the rest of our lifetime here on earth as we are expected to work out our soul's salvation. Only at the end then does the Lord actually "put in the grade change" - pass or fail. May we all strive to be His scholars. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Jeff Streitmatter (Fort Lauderdale, FL) have been blessings as they led us in worship by the spirit of God. We pray for extra showers of mercies upon them.

Melissa Pulfer (originally from Tremont) is repenting. We are joy-

ful the Lord has called her and she has answered positively. We pray for her new beginning and would be an encouragement and example to her as we welcome her in yet another way to our church family.

Sandy Pelaez B. (Mexico City) and Ross Meyer are engaged to be married in early June. We appreciate the Lord's work in their lives and pray His blessings upon their union.

We are happy that Roanoke is lending us special people for our church family. Lora Braker has returned to Northbrook, working as a dental assistant. Jeff and Bro. Andy Hodel are in a co-op program. May they enjoy our fellowship as we enjoy theirs. We are prayerful for their welfare and covet their prayers for ours.

Gene Lehman and Bro. Ray Young have had serious operations. We are grateful for the Lord's protection and pray that He would hold them securely in the palm of His hand as they recuperate. May they be strengthened by His might and serenity.

We are told that troubles come to make us strong, but we can only become strong the more we depend on the Lord. We are told to love those who are unlovable, but we can only do that through Christ's love. We are told to believe what seems unbelievable, and again Christ lends us His eyes of faith, so that even though we cannot see, our faith can. In a world where strength of character and love and faith seem so sadly lacking, we are the children of a King, the siblings of the Savior. Does the world know?

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Anna Marie Reutter**

**Cyndee Anderson**

"God does not comfort us only to make us comfortable. He comforts us so that we may also become comforters."

HSR

We wish the comfort and grace of God for the many dear ones who have not been well this past month. Spending time in the hospital were Sis. Violet Maul, Bro. George

Gudeman, Sis. Aldine Kaufman and Sis. Ida Laubscher. We also wish to remember retired Elder Bro. Ezra Feller, Sis. Mattie Bauer and Bro. Steve Walder, who haven't been able to assemble with us lately due to various afflictions.

Many hearts were saddened by the passing of our Bro. Urban Bauer Sunday, December 27. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Mary; his daughter, Elaine Young (Cissna Park); and his son, Bro. Ray (Marcia, Bloomington). Also in our thoughts and prayers have been his brothers and sisters, Sis. Ernestine Eisenmann and Sis. Helen Janssen, and Bros. Elmer, George, Herman, Aaron, Kenneth and Andy, all of the Cissna Park area.

Coming "home" to Cissna around Christmas time were ministering Bros. Kevin Knapp, Dennis Kaufmann and Mark Gerber. We appreciate their willingness to be used in this service.

At our annual business meeting this month, it was reported that there were four baptisms, five weddings, and eight funerals in our congregation in 1992. We also are thankful for five new babies coming to church since this time last year. We want to take this opportunity to thank each one who helped with the various duties and responsibilities it takes to keep our church running smoothly and in Godly order; and we especially thank all who give of themselves in prayer and in the many "small" services that are voluntary. Being willing to serve in areas where we may not be noticed is a sign of true charity in action. Our prayers will be with Bro. Jim Walder and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger who have been elected to Sunday school, and also Bro. Les Maul, our new trustee.

On the weekend of January 9 and 10, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four young souls who have yielded their hearts to the call of God, and their lives to His service. We welcome to our fellowship Bro. Dan Weerts (Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna), Bro. Nathan Young (Sis. Kate and Harvey), Bro. Greg Kaeb (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Denise Rinkenberger (Sis. Velma

and the late Elder Bro. Steve). With us for this joyful occasion were Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Bob Walder (Congerville), and our own Elder Bro. Art Bahler. How refreshing to come away from our humanistic society and be reminded once again of the wonderful work of conversion that only God can do.

Then on January 16, we were again saddened to learn of the passing of our Sis. Cora Scharlach, who had been residing at the Fairbury Nursing Home. And yet we rejoice that her earthly cares are over and she has at last gone "home." We extend our sympathy to her sisters, Sis. Mary Anderson and Sis. Nettie Scharlach; and to her brothers, Harry Scharlach (Hoopeston) and Aaron Scharlach (Centerville, IN).

Another special occurrence this month was the 96th birthday of Bro. Jacob Funk, the oldest member of our congregation here at Cissna. We want to take this opportunity to wish him God's continued blessings in his remaining lifetime and also to thank him for his faithfulness in attending church, even though confined to a wheelchair. He has been an inspiration to many with his positive attitude, his sense of humor and his faith in God. Bro. Jake was born January 8, 1897 at Morton, IL, to John and Sophia Lenhard Funk. His grandparents, George and Elizabeth (Herr) Funk first lived in Baden, Germany, where George farmed and was a minister of the Apostolic Christian Church. In 1866, after their oldest son was called into military service, they sailed to America with eight of their nine children and settled in Illinois where Jake's father, John, became a farmer. At age 19, Jake began working away from home, and at 22 he answered the call of the Lord to repentance, along with several other young people. He was baptized in a trough at Roanoke, where he was working at the time. He later moved to LaCrosse, IN, and on February 12, 1922, married Sophia Farney at Cissna Park. Two years later, Bro. Jake and Sis. Sophia moved to Fountain Creek where they ran a grocery store for 1½ years. He also farmed awhile

before opening a welding shop in East Lynn around 1933-34. By this time, three daughters had been born to this union: Sis. Irene Stoller and Sis. Iva Jean Stoller (both of Latty, OH) and Sis. Melba Steffen (Cissna Park). Around 1967, Bro. Jake retired and sold his shop and he and Sis. Sophie continued living in their home in East Lynn where Jake took up woodcarving, a craft that filled many enjoyable hours for him. After Sophia passed away in 1985, Jake remained in East Lynn, caring for his home and garden until moving in with Bro. Eldon and Sis. Melba Steffen in November of 1990. Bro. Jake had always wanted to travel to Germany, and this desire was realized in 1990, when Jake was 93. In closing, we wish to encourage Bro. Jake, and all our older brethren to remain true and continue to trust all to our loving Saviour, who died for us. They are such an important part of our fellowship, and it always gives us encouragement to greet and return the smile of a dear older brother or sister who has remained true through a lifetime of earthly cares and trials.

"Thus our duty is made plain,  
Trusting and in God abiding,  
Faithful to thy Lord remain;  
Till your eyes in light beholding,  
See prepared there for the blest  
Shining crowns of righteousness."  
Zion's Harp #105

Reminder: February is Silver Lining collection month for Cissna. Please pay your \$9.00 subscription fee to your reporters. Thank you.

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Sue Wiegand - Myra Steffen

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts . . ."

Isaiah 55:89

May we ever trust God's wisdom and mercy, in joy or sorrow.

We rejoiced to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Brent Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria). We wish him God's continued grace and guidance.

Following God's leading, Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft and their family have moved, and will be assembling with the congregation at Forrest. We certainly will miss them here. We are thankful two of their children, Bro. Brent and Kristi, will continue to assemble with us in Congerville. We commit them all to God's guidance and care.

We were saddened at the death of Clarence Schlipf January 17. Our sympathy and prayers are with the family: Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice Ruegsegger and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Emily Wettstein. May God comfort them.

David McClure (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon) sustained a serious fracture of his arm requiring surgery. Bro. Charles Rinkenberger (Sis. Martha) had outpatient surgery. We are glad both are recovering and thankful for God's healing hand.

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers this month: Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka), Charles Sauder (Tremont), retired Elder Bros. Walt Anliker and Leroy Huber (Eureka), also Bros. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Jim Vierling (Eureka), Gary Endress (Bradford), Elmer Witzig (Gridley), Ed Fritz (Washington) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke). We appreciate their willingness to serve.

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

Praised by the Lord who gives us strength,  
who leads and gives direction.  
My brethren, when you kneel in pray'r,  
For me make intercession.  
"Twill not be vain; Pray'r as a chain  
Binds us in God together,  
And when we part, unites each heart,  
In Jesus' name forever."  
Zion's Harp #195, vs. 8

Believing God has directed, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus, along with their three daughters, Amber, Natalie and Krystin, recently left us to make their home in the Forrest area. Though they will be missed, we know prayer knows no boundary, so trust God will abide with them, bless them and keep them.

We thank the following ministering brothers for their willingness to serve us; Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). May each of us strive to not only be hearers, but more importantly doers of the timely exhortations given.

Two family circles within our congregation have been broken by the departure of dear ones. Madeleine Talasse, Montreal (sister of Bro. Morris [Sis. Nina] Willaert) and Bro. Kenneth Schmidt, Minnesota (brother of Bros. Art [Sis. Alma] and Delbert [Sis. Jeanette]) have crossed the boundary of life. It is our earnest hope and prayer that these family circles, as well as each of our own, will someday be unbroken in all eternity. May God's comfort be felt by these families.

Loved ones spending time in the hospital this month included Sis. Mary Leuthold, Mary Lindoerfer (Bro. Ken) and Bro. Albert Schietlin Jr. (Sis. Joan). We trust God's healing mercies will soon be felt by them.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

"In the calm of the noon-tide, in  
sorrow's lone hour,  
In times when temptation casts  
o'er me its pow'r;  
In the tempests of life, on its wide  
heaving sea,  
Thou blest "Rock of Ages," I'm  
hiding in Thee."

Gospel Hymns #574

As Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) closed his morning sermon quoting this song, it seemed to cap-

ture our attention and inspire us to depend upon the "Rock of Ages" through temptation and tempest. He had read and meditated in the Psalms about David's struggles through the sorrows and temptations of life. He reminded us of how David learned from those experiences and it drew him closer to God. We felt especially blessed by Bro. Bob's visit as well as our visitors, Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA).

We always want to remember those who have undergone surgery in our prayers, especially thinking of Sis. Eva Rocke (Bro. Dave) and Bro. John Hartter (Sis. Bev).

Bro. Loren and Sis. Mary Zimmerman gave birth to their fourth child, Larae Suzanne, December 30. Larae has one brother, Adair, and sisters, Malinda and Betsy. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman and Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Lou Hartman (Congerville).

We sympathize with Bro. George Saathoff (Sis. Thelma) in the loss of his mother, Sis. Rachel Saathoff (Fairbury). She passed away December 18.

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

#### A CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE IS SPECIAL

There's something very special in  
a marriage built on Christ -  
Something only Christian couples  
know

It's love that's never proud, but  
very patient, kind and good,  
With roots that hold on firmly as  
they grow.

It's faith, not just in Christ,  
But in the partner that you chose,  
For you know it's really He who  
made the choice,

It's hope that in the darkest times  
His light will still shine through  
So, in good or bad, your hearts  
can still rejoice . . .

It's joy in going hand in hand

Together, and with Christ, that  
reminds you  
He's a part of all you do,  
It's assurance that throughout  
your lives,  
The Lord will never be  
Any more than just a prayer away  
from you!

Author Unknown

On December 27, Sis. Kara Meiss and Bro. Bryan Stoller were united in holy matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss and Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra Stoller.

Sis. Crystal Fehr and Bro. Roger Miller were united in holy matrimony January 17. Their parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr and Chris and Betty Miller (Congerville). We wish these couples God's richest blessings for their new lives together in Him.

We rejoice with two souls from our congregation: Sis. Sally Fehr (William and Helen, Forrest) and Bro. Mark Edelman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosetta) as their engagement was announced to us January 17. We wish them continued guidance and blessings from God as they plan their April 18 wedding.

"Flourishing youth, thou our hope  
and our fond expectation  
Hark to the voice that is calling in  
kind invitation  
That hand obey Which oft has  
pointed the way  
To the dear Saviour's salvation."

Zion's Harp #168  
"Tarry Not!"

There is joy in our congregation as we have dear souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance. Our converts are Ryan Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary), Sarah Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Delores), Betsy and Wendy Slagel (Raymond and Gladys), Walter Jr. and Lori Edelman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosetta), Kim Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra). Our prayer is that an abundance of God's love and grace be showered upon the dear souls in repentance.

We pray for God to bless our visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), Bros. Paul

Gasser (Akron, OH), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest), Frederick Knapp and Michael Rinkenberger (Congerville). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

Our singles group traveled to Latty and Junction, OH, the first weekend in January. We thank the hosts and may God bless them for their hospitality.

Our annual business meeting was held January 11. Those newly elected were: trustee, Bro Reuben Huber (Sis. Marie); usher, Bro. Anthony Fehr (Sis. Lila); funeral director, Bro. Kenneth Fehr (Sis. Linda); personal property aide representative, Bro. Roger Miller (Sis. Crystal); hail aide representative, Bro. Randall Fehr (Sis. Janis). We offer our prayerful support to those who have been elected to fill these new terms of office. Thank you to those that served in these offices previously, so willingly giving of themselves in God's service.

There have been several hospital patients this month with various afflictions: Bro. David Kaeb (Sis. Mary), Bro. Ben Zehr, Sis. Barb Meiss (Bro. Marion) and Joan (Stoller) Gaston. We wish for all God's nearness and strength and, where possible, a complete recovery. Sis. Ruth Hofstetter is confined in the skilled care unit at the Fairbury hospital. We wish her courage to endure her affliction.

Our congregation will miss Sis. Esther Kaupp assembling with us. She has moved to Gridley, IL. We wish her God's blessings. Sis. Lydia Eisenmann has moved to an apartment at Fairview Haven. Sis. Louise Sohn is a resident of Fairview Haven nursing home. May she feel our prayers.

Our prayers and sympathy go to Sis. Della Meiss (Bro. Eli) in the loss of her sister, Anna Harms. We also extend our sympathy to the many relatives in our congregation in the loss of Clemens Edelman (Sabetha, KS).

Our dear Sis. Rachel Saathoff, 95, passed away December 18. She is mourned by her loving family: Bro. George (Eureka), Velda Swigart (Farmer City), Connie Haag (Cullom), Mary Streitmatter

(Forrest) and Barbara Hurt.

Beyond the sunset  
O glad reunion  
With our dear loved ones  
Who've gone before  
In the fair homeland  
We'll know no parting  
Beyond the sunset  
Forevermore.

Hymns of Zion #172

In the year of 1992, our congregation reported 11 births, eight weddings, nine baptisms, two testimonies and six deaths.

### ILLINOIS, FORREST Sandra Schneider Marlene Walter

Our hearts are filled with joy and thankfulness that many souls are seeing the need to turn their hearts to the Lord. They are Tamara Bachman (Keith) and Kendra Ifft, daughters of Warren and Sis. Betty Ifft, Todd Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy), Tami and Lori Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane), Marsha Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Sarah Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee), Adrian Bachman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna), Adam Zimmerman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki), Daniel Steidinger (Bro. James and Sis. Marlene), Paul and Dawn Stork, Clint Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy) and Michael Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra). The prayers of the congregation are with them.

We would like to thank visiting ministers Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Merrill and John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Gary Anliker (Elgin), Doyle Frauhofer (Bluffton North, IN) and Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) for faithfully serving us in the past month.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus and Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft and their families, who have recently moved into our community. We look forward to having them worship with us.

Our sympathy is with Walter and Bro. Joe Metz in the passing of their sister, Anna Harms.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill Wenger, along with Ryan, Jenny and Jodi, welcome Rollin Richard into their family circle. His grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vi Bachtold (Fairbury) and Sis. Nathalia Wenger.

Also welcoming a new bundle of joy are Bro. Ken, Sis. Deb, Nicholas, Jonathan and Zachary Roth as Olivia Veronica joins their family. Her grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota Byrd (Roanoke) and Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Roth.

Sally Broquard (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta) and Brian Bennett (Bill and Linda, Windsor, IL) have announced their engagement and are planning a June wedding. We wish them God's blessings.

Once again we are thankful to God for His great mercy as He spared the lives of four dear young souls. Jeff Aberle (Doug and Connie), Charity Mueller (Ron and Loida) and Scott and Andy Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) were involved in a serious car accident. We commit them to God to be healed according to His will.

Bro. Rich Rieger, after suffering much pain, underwent major surgery to remove his foot and a portion of his leg. Our prayers are with him and his wife as they deal with the adjustments that lie ahead.

As William Fehr and Charity Mueller (Ron and Loida) also spent time in the hospital, we hope they feel God's nearness.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Marian Rieger wish to thank each and every one who remembered them in any way during his recent hospital stay. For many cards and gifts, the many get-well wishes and especially for the prayers offered on their behalf, they humbly say thank you.

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**  
Barb Brim

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

I John 4:7

We have surely felt God's love

in our Goodfield congregation this month. As we strive mightily to love one another, let us rejoice in the certainty of our Father's love for us, and use it as our standard in achieving an ever increasing oneness with Him.

Our flock has been increased twofold this month. Sis. Karen and Bro. Brad Wiegand are the happy parents of their first-born son, Zachary. Sis. Marilyn and Bro. Mel Blunier, and Sis. Mary Ellen and Bro. Steve Wiegand are Zachary's grandparents. Our other little lamb is Brent Wiegand, son of Jenny and Greg Wiegand. Brent's grandparents are Jeff and Linda Barrick (Mackinaw) and Sis. Mary Ellen and Bro. Steve Wiegand. Congratulations to all the new parents and grandparents. God's blessings are truly wonderful!

His love was also shown to us this month in the life of our new sister, Shelly Jones. Thru her testimony and baptism we are once again reminded of the continuing grace of our Father in gathering souls to an eternal life with Him.

We send our thoughts and prayers to our hospital patients this month, Bro. Hans Hinrichsen and Bro. Ted Taufer. May our love one for another strengthen the bonds that bind us together as God's children.

We have had a fullness of blessings thru God's Word this month brought before us so lovingly thru many visiting ministers. Our thanks goes out to Elder Bros. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker (Morton), and Dan and Sis. Carol Koch (Tremont), Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig (Morton), Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Martin (Eureka) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for sharing His love so graciously with us.

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**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**  
Perry A. Klopfenstein

The weekend of January 2 was a wonderful one for our congregation as two more souls were added to the fold. Following their testimony Saturday evening and bap-

tism the following day, Perry Klopfenstein, Jr., 15, and Heather Martin, 18, became our new brother and sister-in-faith. He is a freshman at Gridley High School and she is a freshman at Illinois State University.

Bro. Perry is the son of Bro. Perry, Sr. and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein. Sis. Heather is the daughter of Byron and Sis. Katie Martin. It was a pleasure to have Sis. Heather's uncle, ministering Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) present for the occasion. Equally joyous was the presence of ministering Bro. Robert Miller (Portland, OR), grandfather of Bro. Perry, Jr. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) was here to assist Bro. Edwin Ringger in this special work. The other minister here that weekend was Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington).

"Strive aright when God in mercy,  
His compassion turns to you.  
That your soul so long o'er  
burdened,  
Freed from sin might live anew."

The above words, so gorgeously written for the Zion's Harp hymnal, clearly summarize the miracle of conversion, and the hope and peace found in the Lord Jesus. May God bless our new loved ones in faith!

The time of testimony is precious for the church. As the Spirit leads a soul in describing the specifics of his or her conversion, a special quietness – indeed a hush – engulfs the church. As a common conversion experience unfolds a special binding entity is unleashed from on high, and the unique love of Christ draws the convert and the brethren into our special Bible-guided unity: A unity wherein we purpose to serve the Lord in a manner that finds us "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment," "fitly framed," and "in one accord."

During the laying on of hands, the elder prayed that each of the new converts could find their "rightful place" in the household of faith. May that occur for our two new babes in Christ that they can grow in grace and in the knowledge of God; and may the light of Christ

shine forth in their everyday lives, for His glory.

The term "rightful place" is one for all of us to ponder as we examine ourselves and our individual role in the church. We are "set in the body" as it pleases the Lord. Are we redeeming the time, recognizing that our days are numbered? "The fields are white unto harvest and the laborers are few." May God grant each of us grace to utilize our talents, and our life's focus, on eternal things in an effort to draw those who are still lost in sin.

As we labor in the Lord's vineyard, may we remember the hymnwriter's words:

"Strive with zeal and passion  
glowing,  
In the strength of your first love.  
Break the bonds of earth that keep  
you  
From your bright abode above."

#### ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney  
Cheryl Wuthrich

We enjoyed a church potluck December 27. There was blessed fellowship and delicious food.

Benjamin Hauter was called into all eternity. His funeral was January 6. May God comfort and bless his wife, Dorothea; his son, James; his brother, Arthur; his sister, Sis. Laverne Heiniger; his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and his other relatives and friends.

Bro. Dave, Sis. Krista and McKenzie Ploussard welcome into their hearts and home, Lindsay Ann. She was born January 4. Her happy grandparents are Sis. Aldeine Witzig and Gene and Mary Ploussard.

Sis. Alice Knapp wished to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts of love while in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless all who were so kind.

We appreciate and thank Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) for sharing his slides of his trip to Eastern Europe January 9 at our fellowship hall. May our heavenly Father richly bless him for his labors of love as he ministered God's

precious Word unto us Sunday, January 10.

We are thankful God has called four more dear souls to work in His vineyard. We heard their testimonies January 16 and witnessed their baptisms January 17. We welcome our sisters-in-faith, Becky Fischer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joann), Erin Mott (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) and Stephanie and Geana Roeschley (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynn). May our heavenly Father continue to bless, guide and keep them as they now walk the narrow pathway of life which leads to heaven. With us for this special and blessed weekend were Elder Bros. John L. Lehman (Bern, KS) and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS). May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

May we continue to uphold those in prayer who are in the hospital, nursing homes, shut in and/or sick in their homes and those who have lost loved ones. May God bless, comfort, heal and strengthen according to His will.

We wish to thank Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

#### ILLINOIS, PEORIA Cara Nussbaum

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

Deuteronomy 11:11-12

As we embark upon a new year we can take courage in the fact that God is always there for us. Life is a series of hills and valleys and it is a privilege to let Him lead us in the good times as well as the bad. How comforting to know that we do not need to carry heavy bur-

dens. We have a wonderful Saviour to carry them for us. Only trust!

We extend our condolences to Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley Klaus, as well as brothers, Ron and Tim, and sister, Carol, following the death of their mother, Sis. Vera, who went home to be with the Lord. We pray the Lord will comfort them.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Ken Plattner, Sis. Donna Ferrero, Sis. Rachel Hoerr and Sis. Caroline Schmidtgall. Our prayers are with them as we hope they are all restored to a full recovery.

We rejoice with Sis. Amy Unsicker and Bro. Dean Kaiser (Champaign, IL) who have announced their engagement. Amy is the daughter of Sis. Carole Unsicker and the late Bro. Melvin Unsicker. Dean's parents are Brian and Colleen Loschen (Champaign, IL) and Robert and Cheri Kaisner (Fairbury, IL).

We were pleased to have Bro. Glen Hackenjos (Altadena, CA) minister to us in December. We thank him for his efforts and ask God's blessings upon him and his family.

Peoria recently held their annual business meeting. Elected as Sunday school teachers were Sis. Diane Honegger, Sis. Connie Woodcock and Sis. Myrna Hoerr. Bro. Carl Hoerr II was elected to serve on the board at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home while Bro. Tom Rieker will serve on the board of trustees for the church. We want to thank these brothers and sisters for their willingness to serve.

The Peoria congregation is thrilled that nine high school students have made decisions to follow the Lord recently. We wish them much grace and pray that many more hearts will be touched.

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Marvin Leman (Bradford). May God bless them for their labor of love.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Gerst were blessed with another boy, Jake. His grandparents are Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst and Sis. Phyllis Knobloch, both of Oakville, IA. Little Jake had spent several days in the hospital. Thankful he can be home.

We have had several spend time in the hospital. Sisters Helen Baer (surgery) and Joyce Streitmatter (Bro. Norman), surgery. Helen Streitmatter is now at the Parkhill Nursing Home. Bro. Robert Hermann (Sis. Esther) and Bro. Walter Christ (Sis. Doris) had hip surgery. Tanya Rumbold, 12-year-old daughter of Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Jackie had some plastic surgery from being hit by a dog. Little Matthew Braker, age 3, son of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Audrey broke his arm. May God be near each one and grant His healing powers.

Our annual meeting was held January 6. New trustees are Bros. Ronald Baer and Rolland Joos, ushers, Bros. Doug Hermann and Doug Stahl. Sis. Joyce Streitmatter is in charge of funeral dinners. May God bless the ones that their terms have expired and direct and bless them with new duties.

Jill Elsasser (Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen) and Keith Teubel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise-Washington) were married December 19. May God bless their marriage.

We want to remember our elders in prayers as they prepare for the winter conference in February.

### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

#### Annie Leman - Cathy Hohulin

December 23 was an inspiring evening as the Prairie Chorus presented a program of Christmas songs in the fellowship hall to honor and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Day we were thankful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Art Bauer (Princeville). Then on New Year's Eve, Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) and Robert Miller (Portland, OR) were with us. We appreciate their visits.

Our Family Hymn Sing was held January 10, and we were privileged to have Zion's Praise, an octet from Gridley. May God bless

them for their willingness to share their talent with us.

Bro. Tom Hoffman presented an informative and timely Bible study on the topic of "The New Age" January 8.

Our love and prayers go with Bro. Lenny and Sis. Lynne Martin, as they have moved to Colorado and will be attending the Denver church. We wish them God's richest blessings in their new home.

We have a number of new babies to report. Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr got two new granddaughters in December. Megan Kathleen was born December 10 to Cam and Tim Leary of Bloomington. Her big brother, Patrick, and her other grandmother, Carol Leary, welcome her too. Matt and Sis. Krista Fehr rejoiced in the birth of their third daughter, Leah Kristine, December 30. Morgan and Becca are her sisters, and her other grandparents are Larry and Dixie Vogel and John and Mary Pinkham.

December 19 is the birthday for John Matthew Luginbuhl, son of Andy and Kim Luginbuhl. He has a sister, Sara, and his grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Luginbuhl, and John and Cheryl Weber.

Laura and Timmy Schwind have a new sister, Kristen Noel. She was born December 31 to Bro. Denny and Sis. Rita. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary Schwind and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila Pfister.

Tom and Sis. Marsha Durand are the happy parents of Brandon Wayne, born January 15. Brittney is his big sister, and Don and Sis. Helen Brown, and Don and Linda Durand are his grandparents.

Congratulations to you all, and may God's loving hand guide these precious little souls throughout life!

Our dear Sis. Annabelle Blunier, aged 64, passed away January 3. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Ed; her son, Ed (Houston); daughter, Jan (Austin, TX); four grandchildren; a brother, Bro. Jim Martin; and two sisters, Sis. Winifred Martin (Roanoke) and Sis. Nancy Hermann (Peoria). Her presence will be missed.

On January 15, Sis. Rose Sauder, 90, passed into eternity. Her survivors include two sons, Bro.

Jack and Gary; daughters, June Huschen (Roanoke) and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA); a sister, Mary Lawless (Peoria); 16 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Sincere love and prayers are extended to those who have been hospitalized recently: Bros. Harlow Blunier and Wilmer Fischer, Sisters Cindy Leman, Martha Bowald, and Dorothy Sauder, and Dale Whitten.

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

#### Carolyn Bolliger - Marsha Koch

Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka) visited our congregation this month. We thank him for preaching God's Word to us.

Fern Clueck (Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda) and Mark Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie, Washington) have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessing as they plan their March 27 wedding.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Alvin Beutel, Galen Huetter (Bro. David and Sis. Susan), Sis. Vera Aberle (Bro. Walt), little Emily Steiner (Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel), little Kasi Crumbo (Ron and Amy), Sis. Ida Musselman, and Sis. Kathy Pflederer (Bro. Ron). We are thankful God has watched over each one and they are on the road to recovery.

Our congregation has been blessed with four babies this month. Jeff and Marla Rose had a baby boy, Brandon Lee, January 4. Grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill and Al and Christy Rose from Edwards. Paige Nicole was born January 7 to Bro. Dean and Sis. Trudy Bolliger. Grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Nancy Sauder and Ben and Rose Bolliger. On January 8, Levi Daniel was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth Kaiser. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner. Also January 8, Ashley Jean was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita Kilgus. Sisters, Nichole and Janelle, and brother, Dustin, welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Fairbury), and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck. We wish



them all God's richest blessing and guidance with the little ones God has entrusted in their care.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON  
Susan Ruppert  
Denise Romersberger

A PEACEFUL NIGHT

The night was long and I oppressed  
With sorrow, sin and woe.  
With burdens of the day worn down  
I know not where to go.

I took a walk beneath the stars.  
Their radiance was so bright;  
And wondered how and when and  
why  
God made this world so right.

To there a man upon this earth  
Who can create a single tear.  
Remove a son, replace a hand  
Or mend a time worn ear?

Replace a heart or grow some hair,  
Or mend an eye grown dim?  
I walked along and then I knew  
All things were made by Him.

A God with love and power and  
might,  
Who sent His Son to die  
That we might set our lives aright,  
And pray to live on high.

I laid my burdens at His feet  
And knew all things were right,  
And slowly walked the road to  
home,

It was a peaceful night.

Milton Ruppert

God is so merciful and loves us  
so much. It is true all things were  
made by Him and oh, so perfect. It  
is so easy to become super busy  
and forget to take the time to walk  
and talk with God. When we do  
take the time to commune with  
God, we realize God's peace and  
love.

Many of us have weaknesses of  
the flesh. We may think our suffer-  
ing is too much to bear, but God  
knows our plight and has planned  
each step. So trust in God for His  
perfect ways as we lay our burdens  
at His feet.

Bible study was given by Bro.

Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park).  
He gave us a lot of food for thought  
concerning events leading to the  
end times.

Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Di-  
ego, CA) was again visiting and  
provided us with words spoken with  
submission to the Lord. We always  
enjoy his visits to our church.

Sis. Marty Schlatter was hospi-  
talized for a few days. We pray for  
a speedy recovery. Bro. Phil McVity  
was also in the hospital. Our  
prayers go out to him daily.

We were blessed to have two  
baptisms. We witnessed the true  
conversions of Kirk Florey, and  
Andrew Martin. What a joy to be  
part of this special occasion. God  
bless you both. Kirk Florey is the  
husband of Sis. Heidi Florey. An-  
drew Martin is the son of Bro.  
Harvy and Sis. Sharon (Meiss)  
Martin.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON  
Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

"Lo, children are an heritage of  
the Lord."

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Karen Isch  
welcomed little Kyle Jeffrey into  
their lives on Dec. 22. He joins his  
brothers, Kevin and Jason, at home.  
Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis.  
Carolyne Isch and Bro. Walter and  
Sis. Joyce Neuenschwander  
(Bluffton North). Bro. Shawn and  
Sis. Marci Reinhard became first-  
time parents when Colten Lynn  
was born January 4. Grandparents  
are Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene  
Gillion and Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni  
Reinhard. Also January 4, Bro.  
Stan and Sis. Genny Isch became  
the happy grandparents of Helen  
Joy born to Bro. Frank and Sis.  
Gail Szabo (LaCrosse, IN). Bro.  
Dennis and Sis. Kathy Meyer were  
blessed with a little girl, Paige  
Allison, January 8. She is wel-  
comed by big sister, Alyssa and  
grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis.  
Violet Meyer and Bro. Don and Sis.  
Vyra Stoller (Gridley, IL). Bro. Dan  
and Sis. Sherry Pfister (Bluffton  
North) welcomed a third son Janu-  
ary 8 when Conner William was  
born. Grandparents are Bro. Ted

and Sis. Rose Pfister and Bro. Gary  
and Sis. Nancy Stoller (Bluffton  
North). We wish these parents  
God's guidance and His richest  
blessings.

On January 2, Mark Baum-  
gartner and Grace Edington were  
united as one. Parents are Bro. Tom  
and Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner and  
Becky Edington. We wish them  
many years of happiness together.

Our congregation was saddened  
by the deaths of Bro. Lewis Gerber  
December 20 and his son, Bro.  
Frederick Gerber, December 24.  
Surviving Bro. Lewis are his chil-  
dren, Bro. Harry W., Sis. Marie  
Kipfer, Sis. Devona Longenberger,  
Bro. Wilmer and his step-children,  
Sis. Wanda Gerber, Bro. Russ  
Moser, and Sis. Joyce Troxel (Ft.  
Lauderdale, FL). Surviving Bro.  
Frederick are his wife, Sis. Marg-  
aret; and his children, Mrs. Myra  
Zoll, Bro. Greg, Bro. Gordon (In-  
dianapolis, IN) and Mrs. Madelyn  
Clark.

Those hospitalized this month  
have been Bro. Bob Aschliman (Sis.  
Ida), Billy Gerber (Bro. Bill and  
Sis. Carolyn), Bro. Harold Geisel  
(Sis. Ellen), and Sis. Becky Leyse  
(Bro. Mike).

We are thankful for the visiting  
ministers who were willing to share  
with us here at Bluffton. They were  
Bro. Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit, MI)  
and Bro. Eric Givens (Princeville,  
IL).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH  
Terri Mueller - Lora Kieser

Our congregation was blessed  
to hear the ministering words of  
Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS).  
We appreciate this labor of love  
shown to us.

Grandparents, Bro. Walter and  
Sis. Joyce, rejoiced in the birth of  
grandson, Kyle Jeffrey. His par-  
ents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Karen  
Isch. Kevin and Jason were happy  
to welcome their little brother  
home.

Other grandparents in our con-  
gregation that are celebrating a  
new birth in the family are Bro.  
Clem and Sis. Joni Reinhard. Bro.  
Shawn and Sis. Marci Reinhard  
(Bluffton) are the happy parents of  
Colten Lynn.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry Pfister rejoiced in the birth of a son, Conner William. Anthony and Brett were happy to have a new brother to play with.

We have several from our congregation who have had to spend some time in the hospital this month. They are Sis. Gretchen Kaehr, Cindy (Floyd) Kipfer, Bro. Randy (Sis. Kathy) Shriver and Sis. Goldie (Bro. Art) Kipfer. We pray that God would heal them and grant them the grace needed to make it through these trying times.

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

#### Bev Huber

On January 9 and 10, we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of eight dear souls: Janell Anliker (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel), Heather Gutwein (Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen), Marie Gutwein (Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol), Stephanie Gutwein (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Donna), Tricia Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice), Sharlin Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie), Tanessa Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret), and Eric Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy). Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) came to share in this blessed weekend.

Sis. Wendy Gutwein, Sis. Lynne Wuethrich, and Sis. Lena Ward have spent some time in the hospital. We are grateful they are doing better.

Visiting ministers this past month were: Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We appreciate them sharing God's Holy Word with us from time to time.

### INDIANA, LACROSSE

#### Barb Troxel

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

On January 3, our dear Sis. Bertha Clauss went to her eternal rest

after a short illness and hospitalization. She will be greatly missed by those who knew her. We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Heiniger, Sis. Martha Peters, and Lydia Heiniger, her immediate family members, all from the LaCrosse congregation.

We also want to extend our sympathy to the Gudeman families in the passing of Sis. Ruth Gudeman, their sister and daughter-in-law. May the Lord grant His strength to these families in their losses.

On January 4, a daughter, Helen Joy, was born to Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail Szabo. Pierre and Moonlight also welcome her into the family. Her grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Jenny Isch from the Bluffton congregation.

We want to thank Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) for sharing God's Word with us Christmas Day and December 27. We enjoyed having them and their families visit during the Christmas season.

Rachel Heinold, daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie, is studying in England this semester. We wish her the Lord's nearness and blessings.

It is good to be able to report that Sis. Karen Feller (Bro. Todd) as been granted God's healing mercies after having the misfortune of falling and injuring her knee and foot.

### INDIANA, LEO

#### Thelma Schlatter

Someone tells the story of an artist who was once asked to paint a picture of a decaying church. To the astonishment of many, instead of putting on the canvas an old tottering ruin, the artist painted a stately edifice of modern grandeur.

Within the entrance was an offering box, and it was here the artist's idea of a decaying church was made known. On the offering box were the words, "For Missions," and right over the slot through which contributions ought to have gone he had painted a huge cobweb.

Test yourself. When was the last time you . . .

1. Prayed for a lost soul?
2. Witnessed to someone?

3. Were kind to an unsaved person?

4. Brought someone to church?

5. Pointed a soul to Christ?

6. Gave sacrificially that the Word could be carried to those who have never heard?

7. Served your church?

8. Helped a Christian some way?

9. Had a prayer answered?

10. Counted your blessings and praised the Lord?

11. Read your Bible diligently and prayed faithfully?

12. Freely forgave someone?

We can grade our own tests. We are either going backward or forward with Christ.

We are thankful for the faithfulness of our home ministers, but too often fail to express our appreciation. We do thank you and our visiting ministers, Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Mark Gerber and John Reinhard (Bluffton). Do come again.

Sis. Sylvia Steiner has been hospitalized, but is able to be home again.

Jim Williams is also in poor health. Sis. Julia Simon has been confined to her home. The sick and their caretakers as well need prayers, cheerful visits and encouragement. How true are the words of the son, "I Need the Prayers of Those I Love!"

Jesus taught that God looks deeper than the outside. He knows our motives, thoughts, attitudes and intent of the heart. Along this line of thought, I choose to reprint an article from a 1979 Silver Lining. (Yes. I was writing then and before.)

### WHICH DISTURBS YOU MOST?

"Which disturbs you most? A soul that is lost or a scratch on your new car? Your missing a day in the house of God or missing a day at work? A sermon ten minutes too long or lunch a half hour late? Your Bible unopened or your newspaper unread? A church now growing or your garden not growing? The millions who do not know Christ or your inability to keep up with the neighbors? The cry of the

multitude for bread or your desire for another piece of German chocolate cake? Support for God's work decreasing or your income decreasing? Which really disturbs you most?" (G. Christian Weiss)

#### Bits of This and That:

You will never really enjoy things money can buy until you enjoy what money can't buy.

If Christianity doesn't work at home, it doesn't work anywhere.

If you must whisper in church, whisper a prayer.

A smile: a curve that can set many things straight.

Wishing each reader the Lord's blessings, and thanking you for allowing me to share some thoughts during these little "visits" through the years. I now invite another to pick up the pen.

#### INDIANA, MILFORD Paula Haab - Gwen Steffen

##### EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Thru the ages of time immortal,  
Thru the pages of history,  
God has summoned into His  
service  
Everyday people like you and me.

Why He did not select the mighty  
Is for many a mystery;  
God has chosen for His  
appointments  
Everyday people like you and me.

Who unworthy to bear His  
sandals,  
I will serve Him unflinchingly;  
I'm so thankful that God still uses  
Everyday people like you and me.  
by Joe E. Parks

We are so thankful, though unworthy, God has chosen just everyday people for His service. During our annual business meeting five brothers and four sisters were chosen to fill needed positions within the church. Serving in Sunday school are Bros. Fred Beer, Bill Feller and Dick Steffen, and Sisters Rachel Beer and Kathy Price. Our new trustee is Bro. Alvin Haab. Taking care of the needs of our

speaker system is Bro. Jon Haab. Sisters Marguerite Hoerr and Judy Longcor will be our Silver Lining representatives.

We were sorry to hear Ryan Mikel (son of Russ and Sis. Pat) slipped on a patch of ice and broke his leg. It was necessary for Emma Rock to undergo cataract surgery in December. We are thankful once again for the healing touch of the Master.

We ask God's special blessing upon a newly engaged couple. Sis. Michele Lehman (daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Pam) and Bro. Clark Schieler (son of Bro. Will and Sis. Sue) have announced their engagement and are looking forward to March 28, their wedding day.

Our love and sympathy reaches out to Bro. Don and Sis. Ruth Beer whose brother-in-law, Bro. Urb Bauer (Sis. Mary, Cissna Park) was called home December 27. (Milford was Sis. Mary's home church). Those of us who knew him, loved him. Bro. Urb was such a joyful person to be around and will surely be missed in his little family circle.

Great concern spread throughout our congregation when we heard about the Sunday morning accident of Bridgett (Reid) Piper and her two children, Ryan and Andrea. The Pipers were on their way to church when an oncoming car lost control on the icy road and slid into their path. Bridgett and Andrea were hospitalized for a short period of time. We were thankful their lives were spared though our heartfelt sympathy reaches out to the family that lost two children that morning. We trust God for the answers to the questions we ask.

January 15 became a special day for Brian and Marlene Stewart, for a precious baby boy, Dustin Lee, was entrusted into their care. Thankful for this little blessing are grandparents, Stan and Sis. Ginger Price, Melvin Stewart and Arneal Dillion.

Another milestone will soon be here for our retired Elder Bro. Theo Beer, for January 23 he will celebrate his 95th birthday. We appreciate the love and faithfulness he continues to show Sunday after Sunday.

We also are thankful for the visiting ministers who continue to serve us. We look forward to the love and encouragement they bring. Our congregation was blessed this month by the visit of Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo) and Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend).

In our little congregation alone our prayer list grows longer each day. Our thoughts and prayers continue with those who are still searching for the Lord, those who have found Him and have started to repent, those facing treatment for cancer, those who have met with accident, those who have recently lost loved ones, those who continue in the service of our country, not knowing what the future holds, and those who are confined to the hospital, nursing home and other institutions. Our late Bro. Henry Beer penned these words, "How sweet the privilege of prayer, when we our cares and sorrows share with Him who understands." Prayer is not only a privilege but a duty. Let's continue to lift up our friends and brethren to "Him who understands."

#### INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Proverbs 15:3

It seemed like a normal morning Tuesday, December 22 in the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller. There was the usual "hurry and scurry" activity until the children were off to school, all excited because the next day would be the Christmas program at school and then dismissal for Christmas break. But the children weren't gone long when the phone rang; the message was that there had been a school bus accident. It seemed a young man lost control of his vehicle and hit the front end of the bus, causing it to make a complete 'roll-over' ending back on its wheels. Can you imagine books, pencils, etc. flying around plus the children themselves! One child said it felt like it

rolled over eight times. Lea Stoller ended up with a broken arm, Amanda injured her tailbone and Evan had stitches in his head. All the children were spared any serious injury. How true that the "eyes of the Lord are in every place."

We are thankful Loren Wilson (Sis. Velma) has returned home from a week's stay in the hospital.

Saturday night, January 9, was a rather blustery night, high wind and five or six inches of snow which by Sunday morning had roads drifted shut. As a result, our church services were canceled.

Thought for the day: Repentance may be old-fashioned, but as long as there is sin, it will never be outdated.

#### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Renee Mangold

Accepting the position of head trustee is Bro. Rich Gramm.

Our prayers for solace are with Sis. Helen Martin, whose brother, Steve Inglehart, passed away this month.

Everyone received a blessing when our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) was able to come for a Sunday service this month.

One of the readings that came to us one Sunday morning this month was Psalm 27; in particular, verse 4:

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple."

and verse 14:

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

These verses from the living Word of God encourage so clearly and beautifully the need for each and every one of us to seek after the Lord daily, and, in that seeking, the promise of God will always be there to strengthen and encourage us in our daily walk of faith.

We pray that dear souls everywhere would grow in faith, hope and charity in the coming year.

#### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Cindy Susdorf - Marie Heinold

We were once again blessed at yet another Christmas program presented by our precious Sunday school children and teachers. It seemed to be one of those special days when the Spirit seemed to give an extra portion to all. We are so thankful that when Jesus ascended to heaven He left us with this heavenly helper.

Also during this Christmas season we had a special church Christmas dinner as it was our first one in our fellowship hall. It is so wonderful to be able to have a dinner and not have to worry about what the atmosphere will be when we get there.

And then we also had the privilege to sing Christmas carols to some local families around our church area. The blessings we are sure worked both ways and then afterwards we went back to the church for refreshments and fellowship with one another.

Hospitalized this month were Dorothy Claussen, Bro. Ed Lester (Sis. Caroline), Sis. Bev Miller (Bro. Terry) and Becky Susdorf (Bro. Ken and Sis. Cindy). We are thankful that all seem to be recovering well. We pray that the Lord will bless them and their families during their time of convalescence.

We thank Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) for coming and sharing God's Holy Word with us. May the Lord continue to give him the strength and courage to carry out His services.

A reminder to our congregation, the Silver Lining dues will be collected in March.

May the Lord watch between us all in the good times and the bad times, for we know for certain in this world we will all be most certainly tried. Thank God He has given us a way to overcome until we will all one day be with Him! We love you and come visit with us some day.

#### INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Camille Vogt

##### THE NEW PAGE

He came to my desk with a quivering lip.  
The lesson was done  
"Dear teacher, I want a new page," he said.  
"I spoiled this one."  
I took the old page, all stained and blotted,  
And gave him a new one, all unspotted.  
And into his sad eyes smile,  
"Do better now my child."

I went to the throne with quivering soul.  
The old year was done.  
"Dear Father, hast thou a new page for me?  
I spoiled this one."  
He took the old page, all stained and blotted,  
And gave me a new one, all unspotted.  
And into my sad heart smiled,  
"Do better now my child."

Author Unknown

On January 14, Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) spoke to us with a father's heart. He gave us advice on being Christians on Purdue's campus. Reading from II Peter 1:1-10, we were encouraged to keep the faith, demonstrate moral excellence, have self-control, grow in knowledge of Jesus, and show Christ's love to others. The following evening we enjoyed a singing and fellowship with brothers and sisters from nearby college campuses.

#### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

##### Lorna Knapp - Lynell Blume

The Lord's hand has guided Bro. Steve Hofstetter to Boston, MA, where is attending MIT. We enjoyed having him back home for a short while and pray God's blessings upon him as he journeys on.

Believing God has led them together, Bro. Mike Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) and Sis. Jody Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS) have announced their

engagement. We rejoice with them as they anticipate the blessings of serving God as one, and we extend a warm welcome to Sis. Jody to our congregation.

We are so thankful that God saw fit to spare the life of Bro. Brian Furrer (Sis. Lorene) in a grain bin accident in which he was buried under three feet of ear popcorn. "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." Psalms 107:1

Bro. Gene Lehman showed us his slide presentation of his recent trip to the Ukraine. It stirred in us a deep love and compassion for those brothers in such plight and inspired a greater thankfulness for God's abundant blessings bestowed upon us, which we so often take for granted. Surely we, who have been given so much spiritually as well as materially, will be held accountable for how we have used what we have been given.

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Jana Massner - Carolyn Wulf**

We appreciate so much the visits of our faithful brethren and ministers from our churches across the land. May all who visit feel God's Holy Spirit and His unity with love.

We thank Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) for bringing the Word of Life to us this past month. May we seek earnestly to do God's will each day by praying and reading His Word.

Our annual meeting was held January 3 and Bro. Milo Weissinger is the new trustee and Sis. Charity Scheitlin will be on the woman's committee. We pray God will help them in these new responsibilities.

Be still my soul; the Lord is on thy side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change, He faithful will remain.  
Be still my soul: the best thy heavenly Friend,  
Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Hymns of Zion #191

May God ever help us to live true and faithful through whatever changes come in 1993.

#### IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

George Washington

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

George Washington

"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book."

Abraham Lincoln

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go . . ."

Abraham Lincoln

Above are quotations of two former U.S. presidents who are remembered during the month of February. May the leaders of this land always look to God and His Word in leading this nation.

We would like to sincerely thank you very much for all the cards, gifts, visits, phone calls and offers to help in other ways that we received the last six months during Heidi's surgeries this summer and also now during her chemo sessions.

Most of all we appreciate your prayers and concern. We know that prayer does make a difference.

Heidi Butikofer

Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne  
Butikofer

Reminder: February is Silver Lining collection month for the Elgin, IA, congregation.

#### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Dawn Moser

We would like to thank the many visiting ministers and their wives who have made the extra effort to

be with us Sunday after Sunday. We have been without a minister on just a few occasions because of the holidays and the bad weather we've been having. We appreciate you more than we can ever say in words. May God bless you richly!

Our thanks are extended this time to Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and ministering Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), ARnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Dale Frank Oakville, IA), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and special thanks to Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) for being with us Thanksgiving and Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) for being with us Christmas Day. My apologies also to Bro. Pat Zaugg for omitting him in my last writing.

#### IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We greatly appreciate all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), and their families. God bless your efforts in traveling to worship with us and your willingness to minister the Word to us.

As a new semester begins, we welcome back the students who were able to go "home" over break, and bid "farewell" to Bro. Christopher Eland, who has transferred to UNI in Cedar Falls, IA. We trust God will bless his studies, will be his constant Guide and Companion on campus, and will protect his traveling on the weekends, which, hopefully, will quite often be to Iowa City!

Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce Eland and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank and their families rejoice with their father and grandfather, Bro. Bob Frank (Oakville, IA) and welcome Sis. Mildred Scheitlin (Oakville, IA) into the family, as God has directed their betrothal. All of us in Iowa City look forward to their visits in the future and

wish them God's richest blessings in their life together.

We were reminded in a recent sermon not to forget to praise God. In telling Him all of our burdens and "making our requests known before God," may we not forget to "hallow His name." The author of the song, "Song of Praise," (Hymns of Zion #235) felt the Spirit of praise and expressed it as follows:

Praise ye in His sanctuary  
Him who does such wondrous  
deeds!  
Who to His eternal glory  
All His ransomed children leads!

Laud ye Him with tears of  
gladness,  
Praise Him now with harp and  
song!  
Let us crown Him highest rule,  
Sound the chorus loud and long!

Then rejoice ye in His glory  
Who from death to life arose!  
Who a white and glorious garment  
And rich gifts on you bestows!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,  
Amen!

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

"Another day of grace is here.  
O, Lord, I pray be ever near."

On New Year's Eve we heard the statistics for 1992. In our congregation we had 15 births, three deaths and five baptisms. By now the new year is well underway, and already we have felt God's presence. We don't know what 1993 will hold, but we have the assurance, "There, safe and free from all alarms, I'll rest within my Savior's arms."

We are rejoicing with our friend, Paul Metzger, who has answered the call of repentance. Our prayers are with him as he seeks to begin this new walk of life with the Lord.

The Word of Life has been shared freely with us by our home ministers and several visiting brothers. We thank them for allowing themselves to be used as vessels for the Master's use. Visitors include Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi

(Lamar, MO), Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO).

Bro. Ernie Metzger was a hospital patient. It's good to have him in our midst again.

On January 10, many friends and relatives traveled to Morris, MN for the wedding of our Bro. Brad Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki) to Sis. Michelle Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam). We hope Sis. Michelle will feel at home here, and with them both God's richest blessings.

Brad and Linda Klostergaard received a special blessing January 15 when their little daughter, Carmel El, was born. Also welcoming her are siblings, Angela and Bryce, and grandparents, Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch.

As we journey on our pilgrim way, let us strive to do our best and to ". . . earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 1:3)

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
Debbie Wagenbach  
Melody Steiner

"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

We rejoice with our dear Sis. Mildred Scheitlin, who was recently betrothed to Bro. Bob Frank. May the Lord ever be near them as they plan for their life together.

We recently had our annual business meeting. Our prayers are with each one who was elected to carry out the various physical duties of our church. We also thank those whose terms have ended for their many labors.

Our dear Sis. Nettie Rothlisberger has gone to be with her dear Saviour. Our sympathy is with her husband, Bro. Leo; also her son, Ray; grandson, Brad; and her sister, Sis. Bertha Cordill (Bro. Bill). Also her nieces and nephews. We know many prayers were offered on their behalf.

## **IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber**

We are always grateful for visiting ministers who bring us the gospel message. Those who ministered to us during the past month were: Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA). May God richly bless them for their work of love in the Lord.

We are thankful Bro. Silas Metzger is home again, and in our midst, after a car accident which resulted in a hospital stay. God has been good to spare him serious injury. Bro. Byron Fehr is also healing after surgery and a short hospital stay. Bro. Earl Banwart has again needed to be hospitalized. May he and Sis. Edna feel the nearness of the Lord.

We welcome Mike and Patty Fehr and little Allison back amongst us. May they always feel welcome in our fellowship.

Our sympathy goes out to Alfred and Annette Fehr and family as they said a final goodbye to his grandmother, Lydia Greinert, last week. May God comfort each heart as only He can.

## **JAPAN, SHIODA**

**Frank and Kathy Sauder**

As we pulled up to church New Year's Day, a large crowd was gathered at the Shinto Shrine across the street. Many neighborhood people had come to offer prayer to the Shinto gods for help and guidance for the year. My heart felt sad as I thought about the emptiness of their religion, for most of them are unable to articulate what they really believe in. Throughout the year, I have yet to see a person come to the shrine to pray, but today a host of people had come together because of tradition - a very empty tradition. As they were leaving, about 30 church members and friends were arriving at the Shioda church to worship the One True and Living God. What a contrast between the two groups of people. The people across the street were so close to being able to hear the Truth, but chose to stay on the other

side of the street with their shallow and empty belief in the gods of the Shinto Shrine. Today, it would not be so difficult for them to cross to the other side to hear the Word. Only a little street separated them from the Truth, but in the future if they are not ready to meet God when they pass from this life, they will never be able to cross over. "... between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence." (Luke 16:26) Now is the time for us to reach out to others.

On January 3, a meeting was held after church to set up the calendar for 1993 and to assign responsibilities.

Two car loads from Shioda traveled to Tokyo for singing practice. We thank the Tokyo church for hosting the event. It has been a blessing for everyone to become more familiar with hymns and to work on singing in parts. It is also a special time of fellowship.

From time to time we have several visitors who come to worship with us. Recently, we have had people from Iran and Brazil. We are encouraged when we see God bringing people to church whom we have never met, but have heard of us through their employers or acquaintances.

We are thankful that Sis. Haruko Saegusa has recovered from her recent illness. She wishes to express her appreciation for the prayers which were said for her.

#### KANSAS, BERN

##### Donna Edelman - Diane Kaeb

Bro. Paul and Sis. Katie Grimm are rejoicing at the birth of their first grandchild, little Emma Marie, born to their daughter, Martha and Ross Montgomery. Emma's other happy grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ed Montgomery. We wish God's blessings in the lives of little Emma and her family.

"At Home, 'tis well! Then let us hasten thither  
Through pain and death on to our  
homeland shore!

On, boldly on! When this short life  
is o'er,  
New life will bloom for us and never  
wither.

Zion's Harp #170

Sis. Julia Metzger was relieved of her earthly suffering and pain December 16, when she was called to her eternal reward. May God comfort her dear husband, Bro. Wilhelm, their son, Bro. Doug and Sis. Betty (Sabetha); and daughters, Willa Steiner and Marjorie Whitfield and their families. May God reward each one of them for all the care and devotion they so lovingly gave to her.

On January 8, Sis. Louise Meyer passed from this life to go to her heavenly home. Sis. Louise and Sis. Julia were sisters. We extend sympathy to their loved ones.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Tim and Sis. Margaret Edelman and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene Edelman and their families in the death of their father and brother, Clem Edelman, December 27. May they feel God's comforting hand in their time of sorrow.

Our prayers have been with those who have been in the hospital, Bro. Rueben Moser (Sis. Stella) and Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori). May they feel God's nearness and healing power as they are forced to pause a moment in their busy activities of life.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no  
longer mine;  
Lord, I will forever and always be  
Thine,  
For Thou hast created and  
purchased me too,  
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou  
makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

On January 9 and 10, we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of a dear soul. We welcome Bro. Alan Meyer (Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne) into our church family. Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha), Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha) spent the weekend with us and we appreciate their labors of love.

January 9 was the wedding day

of DeAnn Edelman and Jim Buser. Their parents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene Edelman and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Buser. May they look to Him as they walk life's pathway together.

#### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

##### Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn

Our congregation was blessed to have Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) with us this past month to minister from the Word. We truly appreciate his effort on our behalf.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) with us to assist our elder in reading the memorandum. We were grateful for the kindly exhortations and appreciate the efforts of each elder brother.

January 20 was the date for our annual business meeting. Positions filled were: trustee - Bro. John Sinn; Sunday school teachers - Bro. Larry Bahr, Sis. Janelle Sinn and Sis. Tammy Sinn; food committee - Sis. Juanita Sinn; usher - Bro. Jerry Bahr; song leader - Bro. Lonnie Banwart; and brotherhood assistance treasurer - Bro. David Sinn. We thank those who previously labored in these areas.

#### KANSAS, KIOWA

##### Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

#### THOU ART WITH ME

Thou art with me, blessed Savior,  
Every moment, every hour;  
I adore Thee for Thy mercy,  
And Thy wondrous keeping power.

O'er my life, Thy love presiding,  
Step by step, my way is guiding;  
In the Rock my soul is hiding -  
"Rock of ages, cleft for me."

I am resting on Thy promise,  
I am trusting only Thee;  
And rejoicing in the fullness  
Of Thy grace that makes me free.

Thou hast led me, O my Savior,  
And Thy hand will lead me still;  
Through the valley and the shadow  
I shall walk, and fear no ill.

Fanny Crosby

Fanny Crosby was blind, but her life was such an inspiration, that I feel ashamed when I complain about my lot, or think that I have too much to bear. Satan tempts all of us, but when we have the love and fellowship of one another, it's such a help in our trials. We must never give up, but keep trying and encourage one another as Fanny has in her lovely words of faith: For God "is there" and will always be there till He calls us home. So let us also "walk and fear no ill" for "His hand leads us still!" Praise be to our precious Lamb!

Hospital patients this month included: Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson, Sis. Elizabeth Diel, Sis. Myrtle Rathgeber and Sis. Alice Tanner. There were several of our loved ones unable to worship with us due to health or bad weather. Also we feel greatly the absence of them in our midst, praying God is with them as He is when we are able to come together to worship.

We have had a lot of snow in our area and it is hazardous, but it is so beautiful: clean and fresh and white and new, kind of like this new year we are starting, a brand new pace, a fresh start. And how we handle it is entirely up to us. Will we allow Satan to enmesh us in the hazards of this life, or will we keep our eyes on Jesus and see and walk in the beauty all around us on God's beautiful earth? Have a safe and happy new year in Christ.

Silver Lining dues for Kiowa in February.

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### KANSAS, LAMONT

Jane Isch

We are very thankful that Jennifer Isch has found the grace to repent and turn her back to this sinful world. It is our prayer that God will continue to grant her the grace to make a complete and unconditional surrender to Him. Jennifer is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane.

Sis. Jody Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Mike Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla, Wolcott, IN) made known their engagement January 3. We wish them God's richest blessings in their walk of life together. We will miss Jody in

our congregation and also at home, but know that our loss will be their gain.

Our annual meeting was held January 17. We are thankful for all those who have fulfilled their duties by serving in the past and pray God will bless them for their labors. Also pray that He will direct those who have taken on new responsibilities.

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### KANSAS, SABBETHA

Mary Kay Wenger  
Sharon Strahm

Our Sunday school Christmas program was held December 20 when the children told the true story of Christmas in verse and song. May God bless the efforts of the students and teachers.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Lena Steiner and Sis. Evelyn Wysong. Bro. George Lambert (Sis. Elsie) of the Apostolic Christian Home suffered a stroke. May God comfort, encourage and heal each one according to His will.

We are thankful for our visitors this past month and especially thank our visiting ministers and their wives. Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) brought forth the Word in its truth and sincerity.

We are thankful our Sis. Louise Meyer has been called home to her reward. She passed away at the home January 8 after being hospitalized. Services were held at the Bern church and she is survived by nieces and nephews. Bro. Doug Metzger is a nephew. We also extend sympathy to Bro. Doug and his family as his mother, Sis. Julia Metzger (Bro. Wilhelm) passed away December 16.

We also extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Marjorie Edelman in the passing of her husband, Clemens Edelman, December 27, and to his children, Sis. Julie, Sis. Loretta and Sis. Regina Edelman (Kansas City, KS), Sis. Lisa Meyer (Brent), Sis. Jana Gruber (Todd, Morrill, KS), Bro. Tim (Sis. Margaret), Bro. Loren and Bro. Daren Edelman. We missed seeing Sis. Marjorie in church while she dedi-

cated many hours to care for her husband in his time of illness.

"God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help indeed; He in the time of trouble sends His grace to meet our every need."

Hymns of Zion #4

We rejoice with Colleen Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Sally Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) who have found peace and plan to give their testimonies January 23.

Smile and let the love of Christ show forth!

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### KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Jimmie and Sis. Pam Jackson are the parents of a beautiful baby boy, Cameron Ray, born January 13. He has three older brothers, Craig, Derek and Drew. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith (Prescott, AZ).

Recent hospital patients have been Bro. Milton Bowers, D. H. Brunt and Derek Jackson. We are thankful they have returned to their homes.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). Thank you, Bro. Wally, for your labor of love. We always look forward to your and Sis. Helen's visits with family, Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ann Farney.

Word has just come to us that our dear Bro. George Lambert passed away January 15. Bro. George lived in Wichita most of his life and ministered here many years. He and Sis. Elsie were among the first to move into the Apostolic Christian Congregate Apartments in Sabetha in 1983. I asked Sis. Nellie Lambert for her memories:

When Alfred and Bertha Lambert moved to Wichita from Oklahoma with their seven children, George was their middle child of the seven and about ten years old. At age 15, he quit school to go to work to help support the family. At age 18, he went to work for the Bell Telephone Co. working there until he retired at age 62. Also at age 18 he became a child of God. With no church here, devotional services



were held in the homes of members and friends where George took an active part in song leading, scripture reading and prayers. Soon after his marriage to Elsie Beer (Milford, IN), our first church was built in Wichita, the year 1938. He was put to work in the church as song leader and Sunday school teacher and eventually was appointed to the ministry where he served until he retired at about 75 years of age. He loved his Lord, his family, his church – and he loved people. He was a faithful and devoted visitor of the sick, holding their hands and praying with them as they crossed through the last valley. He helped promote and support the active choir director, Earl Carter, for many years here in Wichita, singing and traveling with them. When we rebuilt the church we now have, he took over the landscaping of the grounds, planting trees, grass, watering faithfully until it became a thing of beauty. When Bro. George and Sis. Elsie decided to move into one of the church apartments in Sabetha, KS, the last ten years of his life, it again opened up a new field of opportunity for service. George held a Bible study class once a week for almost five years, even playing in a music trio with that beloved Traub couple -- Viola at the violin, Joe at the organ, and George with his harmonica. How he loved and delighted in that. He spent hours visiting amongst the bedfast and wheelchair patients reading to them, cheering them until he finally became one of them. Surely this dear man never wasted a talent and truly he had a God-given gift for living and loving.

He is survived by his wife, Elsie (Beer); one daughter, Earlene Yergler; one son, Donald; and six grandchildren; one brother, Bro. Ernest Lambert; two sisters, Emma Davis and Lillian Thomas, all of Wichita, KS.

#### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

**Wayne and Becky Snodgrass**

Greetings of love in our precious Lord's name! Doesn't it humble us to know that if it wasn't for the Lord's love for us we wouldn't be

able to give such a greeting one to another! Humbleness is an essential virtue to each of us. James 4:10 says: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up." Which means not only do we need to feel humbled, we also need to portray humbleness in apparel and demeanor. We must be careful how we dress and how we act everywhere we go. God asks us as His children to be a light to the world, dear ones, so may we always be careful.

We, here in Lexington, have our arms open to receive any and all who would like to visit our small congregation. It humbles us to feel the love of our brethren and friends nation-wide, through all who come and fellowship with us.

We began this new year, by listening to the reading of the memorandum and partaking in the serving of communion. What a blessing it was to refresh ourselves in this way. Serving us on that blessed occasion was our beloved Elder Bro. Wendall Gudeman, along with Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). May God richly bless them for once more sounding the trumpet and sending out a warning for all the pitfalls Satan places in our path. May we each take to heart what we have heard. A special thank you is also extended to Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) for also bringing the Word to us this month, and the many brethren and friends who have blessed us with their presence.

May God richly bless our friend Michelle Huber (Morris and Monica) and John Cropp as they begin a new life together as husband and wife, and may they also look to Him each day for guidance in their lives.

#### MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Jane Grawburg**

"For somehow,  
Not only at Christmas  
But all the long year through  
The joy that you give to others  
Is the joy  
That comes back to you."  
John Greenleaf Whittier

Sharing their joy with us are Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen as they announce the engagement of their son, Nathan, to Susan Jenkins (daughter of Ron and Kay Jenkins, Plainwell, MI). Our thoughts and prayers are with Nathan and Susan as they prepare in anticipation of their wedding day.

Every new year brings a time for us to refresh our recollection of the past year's business, to discuss future plans, and to elect or appoint new officers at our annual business meeting. Positions filled this year are: trustee - Bro. Tom Oesch, kitchen committee - Sis. Myrna Steffen, usher - Bro. Ed Sanders, World Relief committee - Sis. Kristen Plattner, Silver Lining correspondent - Sis. Jane Grawburg.

We thank Sis. Margaret, Sis. Christine Wingeier and Sis. Cathie Schrenk (Bro. Duane) for the many long hours spent cleaning our church building. We thank Bro. Marvin Blough (Sis. Liz) and Gordon Blough (Tricia) for continuing with snow removal and yard maintenance. We extend special thanks and appreciation to Sis. LaBeth Dunham as she leaves the kitchen committee, and to Sis. Denise Oesch (Kenneth) and Sis. Michelle Oesch (Bro. Tom) as they leave their positions as Silver Lining correspondents. May God richly reward them for their labors of love.

It is our prayer as we begin another year that God will richly bless each one according to their own special needs, not forgetting those with heavy burdens or crosses to bear, those experiencing life-threatening and mental illnesses, and those having recently lost loved ones.

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed . . . nothing shall be impossible unto you."

Matthew 17:20

God be with you.

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Peggy Waibel**

On Wednesday, January 20, we announced to the world that we

had a new president. With this announcement, many of us, I am sure, were left with a real burden in our hearts for the new administration. Sadly, we said goodbye to an administration that had done its best to support conservative Judeo-Christian values. Now, less than one week later, we hear talk of homosexuals in the military and lifting the ban on abortion. We also hear stories of a dictator trying to rise against this nation and of a people, an American people, that are considered to be in a "post-Christian era." It is very tempting to be distressed, to become depressed and fearful. It is almost natural to want to hang our heads in defeat and to question what God has in mind. But brothers, sisters and dear friends, there is no need to let Satan destroy our peace, to feel so defeated that we doubt in God's ability to clean up this filthy world if He so chooses. His Word says, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20) Isn't it comforting to know that He is with us always?

We had the privilege of enjoying two visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and his wife, Sis. Loretta (Alto, MI) joined us in the reading of the memorandum and Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue Heimer (Alto, MI) also blessed us with their time and support. We are grateful to these two brothers for dedicating their lives to the cause of the gospel. May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

Recently, a crew of ten men from our congregation went to South Florida to help rebuild the homes that were devastated by hurricane Andrew. These ten men were: Bro. Bill Waibel, Bro. Dean Pashak, Bro. Bob Knochel, Bro. Victor Knochel, Bro. Norman Knochel, Al Wackerle, Bro. Sam Wackerle, Bro. Glenn Ruegsegger, Bro. Earl Ramseyer and Gerald Meier. They all agree

that it was an excellent experience and acknowledge the fact that South Florida still needs our prayers as well as our hands and bodies to be used for physical labor.

We were very excited when Glenn Jr. and Maria Ruegsegger made the commitment to serve our Lord and Savior. As happy as we were, it was hard to believe that the angels were even happier. It is wonderful to watch Glenn and Maria growing spiritually and it is also wonderful to know that their children are being raised in a God-fearing home. We pray that God will continue to extend His grace and love to Glenn and Maria as they continue on in their repentance.

We are pleased to report that after several months at the hospital, Sis. Emily Rechsteiner has returned home. She has done a lot of healing, but has a lot more to do. Your continued prayers on Sis. Emily's behalf would be greatly appreciated.

Bro. Erwin Erismann and Ron Wackerle have both had physical ailments this month. Bro. Erwin has been receiving treatments for cancer and they often make him ill. We pray that God will support Bro. Erwin and his wife, Sis. Della, in this time of sickness. Ron Wackerle spent time in the hospital this month due to a knee operation. We pray that the Lord will bless him with a full recovery. Both of these men need your prayerful support and continuing words of encouragement.

In this last month, we said goodbye to our dear Sis. Ruth Gudeman. Our love and sympathy are extended to Bro. Eli and Sis. Ella Schlatter and their family as they work through this big loss. The following is a note from Sis. Ruth's family.

The family of Sis. Ruth Gudeman wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all of the cards and letters of condolences, prayers and gifts of love sent to us during the sickness and death of our beloved daughter, sister, mother and grandmother.

The family of Sis. Ruth Gudeman  
May God go with each of you in

the coming month. "I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." (Psalm 16:8)

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Marlene Reinhard**  
**Holly Barton**

"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."

Romans 14:8

"I depart from life as from an inn, and not as from my home."  
Cicero

This month we have had two dear ones leave the "inn" of this world and travel to their Home. Though their departures leave behind much sorrow, we are thankful that as they "lived unto the Lord," so they are His in death.

Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH) passed away December 26. His dear wife, Sis. Dorothy, was a vital part of our congregation for many years, and we enjoyed frequent contact with them after she moved away. May the Lord comfort and sustain Sis. Dorothy and the family.

On the same day that Bro. Homer was laid to rest, our beloved Sis. Ruth Gudeman answered her Father's call to come Home. Sis. Ruth battled cancer for many years, and we believe she looked forward to putting off her old body. Yet her passing leaves such a void in our congregation, particularly in the lives of her family. We can only pray for the Lord's peace and healing upon Sis. Ruth's sons, Bro. Keith (Sis. JoAnn, Detroit) and Eric (New Milford, CT); her parents, Bro. Eli and Sis. Ella Schlatter (Bay City, MI); and her sister, Sis. Mary Gudeman (Bro. Don, LaCrosse, IN).

We had many supporters here for Sis. Ruth's funeral, including Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and ministering Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) shared a message with us Christmas Eve, and we also appre-

ciated Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) visiting us recently. We thank these brothers for their Spirit-inspired messages.

We recently held our annual business meeting, electing a few new officers. New ushers are Bro. Ernie Weigele and Bro. Dana Knochel. We thank Bro. Jim Barton and Bro. Keith Gudeman for their past service. Sis. Dorine Kurkowski replaces Sis. Mary Weigele on the kitchen committee. Sis. Arlene Belsley has been elected to serve on the World Relief committee. Replacing Bro. Dan Knochel as our Gateway Woods representative is Bro. Dana Knochel. Thanks to all who have given of their time, and we encourage those who now shoulder the responsibilities.

Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) kindly gave of himself and his time to minister to the Woodhaven residents January 5. Our next monthly meeting service at the home is scheduled for March 2 at 7:00. Toledo, OH, will be hosting this service.

#### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

Bro. Ken and Sis. Vera Schmidt were remembered December 19, as they celebrated their 40th anniversary.

"Bro. Ken and Sis. Vera Schmidt wish to thank all who sent cards, gifts of love, and prayers to help us celebrate our 40th anniversary. May God bless you for your kindness."

I was reminded how we are to be childlike as we witnessed the Sunday school children bringing forth the story of Christ's birth with their whole heart. Following the program we enjoyed lunch and a time of fellowship.

Our small congregation is enjoying the presence of Bro. Leo and Sis. Tammy Banwart (Elgin, IA) as Leo is in a three-month residency program at St. Paul Ramsey Hospital.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." (Matthew 5:4) Our hearts were saddened when Bro. Kenneth Schmidt was called to his eternal home January 4. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Vera; sons, Randy, Daniel,

David, Ronnie and Kevin; and daughters, Kathy Carlson and Colleen Prokort, all of this area. He is also survived by ten brothers and sisters, including Sis. Ethel Bednarski of our congregation. We certainly will miss his smiling face and helping hands.

#### MINNESOTA, MORRIS Debra Joos - Maxine Sauder

As we stood on the threshold of 1993, a parallel was drawn between Ruth and Niomi returning to Bethlehem; and entering into another year. Both can be seen as new beginnings, new opportunities to serve, or another opportunity to respond to the call of our beckoning Lord. Let's go forward with a new zeal to do all things to His honor and glory.

New beginnings are anticipated in the lives of several of our congregation as engagements have been announced and wedding plans are being made. May 30 has been chosen by Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger and Bro. Matthew Mangold to become one in the Lord. Both are presently living in the Washington, D.C. area. Sis. Diane Kellenberger of our congregation, and Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold (South Bend, IN) are their parents. Lane Koehl (son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen) is engaged to Beth Plummer (Martinez, CA). Their wedding date is June 19. Lori Luthi (daughter of Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte) and Mark Mattson have also announced their engagement. They have not set a date for their wedding. We pray that each one may seek God's direction as they make future plans.

Committing their lives to God and to each other, Sis. Michele Schaefer and Bro. Brad Leuthold exchanged wedding vows January 10. Parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer, and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold (Lester, IA). Bro. Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL) offered Biblical advice to help establish a loving relationship and Godly home.

Along with those just beginning their lives together, we celebrate and praise God with those who have reached a 50-year anniversary

mark. Those couples are Bro. Ben and Sis. Martha Griener; and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall. We are so thankful for their Godly examples.

The birth of a new baby certainly is acknowledged as a new beginning. Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise Schaefer rejoice in the birth of a son, Mark Alan. Steffanie and Darren will welcome him home; as will grandparents, Bro. Anton and Sis. Esther Warner (Lester, IA). There are times God chooses to close a chapter before it has hardly begun. We offer prayers and encouragement to Bro. Jim and Sis. Twyla Wulf in the death of their baby.

At times it seems God allows pain and suffering in our lives to remind us to depend on Him. Those hospitalized were Ruby Luthi, Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale), Wilbert Spohr, Sis. Lillian Koehl, Bro. Orville Nohl and Sis. Joan Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby). Sis. Edna Zeltwanger (Bro. Ken) and Mike Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) have sustained injuries requiring costs. We pray continued healing for them all.

Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis), Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabatha, KS) joined our home ministers in proclaiming the Word of God, for which we are thankful.

#### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Nancy Messner - Kim Messner

We were very blessed the weekend of January 16 and 17 as Elder Bro. Leo Moser and Dennis Warner were here to bring forth the memorandum. We want to thank them for their labors of love.

Jerry and Melissa Isaacson were blessed with a precious bundle of joy as God brought forth a little girl to them. Samantha Kathleen will be welcomed by sister, Vanessa and brother, Tyler. Grandparents are John and Sis. Dorothy Jacobson.

We would like to take this time to apologize to the families of Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda Messner on the reporting of Bro. Rick's grandmother passed away. It is suppose

to be Sis. Brenda's grandmother. Please accept our apology.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues of \$9.00 are due for the Winthrop congregation in the month of February.

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

#### Lanette Meyer

Ron and Sis. Diane Smith welcomed the arrival of Nicolas Frank November 12. Nicholas has two brothers, Matthias and Nathanael, and a sister, Rebekah, to welcome him. Grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene Esslinger (Bern, KS) and Hazel and the late Frank Smith (Topeka).

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Gina Edelman whose father, Clemens Edelman, recently passed away. May God's comforting guidance be with her in the days to come.

Thanks to Bro. Karl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) who have been our visiting ministers in recent months.

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR

#### Carolyn Banwart Martin Hohulin

We regret that we missed reporting the birth of Brent Alan Luthi September 21. He came to make his home with Elder Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Sandra Luthi and brother, Eric, age 4, October 23. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn Luthi and Bro. Charles and Sis. Alice Marti.

Each time we hold one of these precious creations of God, we have to marvel at the miracle of life. Our hearts are torn when we realize that so many of these precious babies are destroyed before they ever see the light of day.

On Sunday evening, December 13, our Sunday school children presented their Christmas program.

January 12 was the evening that Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi conducted our annual business meeting. Bro. Larry Schmidgall and Sis. Carol Braker were selected as Sunday school teachers replacing Bro.

Jerry Braker and Sis. Martha Kellenberger. Bro. Leonard Marti replaced Bro. Dale Marti as a church building trustee. Bro. Jerry Braker is the new church treasurer taking Bro. Leonard Marti's place. Outgoing cemetery trustee, Bro. Roy Braker, was replaced by Bro. Calvin Luthi. Sis. Vera Frieden takes Sis. Carolyn Banwart's place on the church food committee. Bro. Orlan Kellenberger takes the place of his brother, Bro. Curt, as a church usher. Sis. Carolyn Banwart is welcomed as the new Silver Lining reporter taking the place of Janel Kellenberger.

We appreciate the many efforts and the time spent by our outgoing brothers and sisters. These duties are necessary for the well being of the church. We pray that they will be rewarded. A welcome, and our prayerful support is extended to those who were chosen to fill these positions.

Hospital patients were Jack Thieb and Sis. Marilyn Luthi and Bro. Leonard Braker.

In these days of interstate highways, huge shopping centers and a fast food restaurant on every corner, a traveler can become quite weary of humanity's rush when going across our country. It was our privilege to visit congregations in Indianapolis, IN, and Sarasota, FL. Quite often we are not acquainted in some of our churches and possibly we do not know anyone that assembles there. It is indeed a blessing to enter the church on a Sunday morning; then to be met by brethren who bestow their love upon us with the holy kiss. We are not strangers very long. It was our prayer and our desire that we might receive a blessing in these places. We were not disappointed.

Our forefathers endured many hardships as they carved out an existence in the early days of our country. They were deprived of those comforts that we take for granted. They did have a fervent desire to serve God and to preserve the faith. Are we doing the same for the future generations? Or are we seeking to widen the way and water down those things which they left for us.

### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

#### Betsy Schrenk

Visiting ministers serving our little church are Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL), and our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor). We benefit so much from the messages brought forth by these dedicated brothers from the fellowship with them and those who accompany them, and from the children's participation in Sunday school.

The sun was shining brightly one Sunday morning. It had snowed the week before, and snow remained only where it was shaded from the sun. We were encouraged to expose any cares that we had brought along to church to Christ, the Son, and let them melt away, to allow the Word to fall on a cleansed, uncluttered heart.

"No more warnings!" As a parent, I sometimes hear myself saying that as we are driving along and there is bickering among the children. I have asked for peace several times, but the squabbling keeps breaking out. "No more warnings!" usually achieves the desired effect, because no one wants to face the consequences of continued fighting when Mom has had "enough."

A minister here said that phrase recently when he was referring to the return of Christ. When we hear the trumpet and look up to see Christ returning in the clouds, each one will stop where he is - no more warnings. How we pray for our children, friends and loved ones to heed the warnings of the Bible now, before God decides that it is enough . . . no more warnings.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

#### Ruthie Hoerr

January and February seem, to me, like the longest months of the year. We have just come through the holiday seasons when we make special efforts to remember the harvests and blessings of God; and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, bringing family and

friends closer to the Lord and each other, we hope. Now we have a couple of months of quietness and reflection before we can get excited about the coming of spring and the promise of new life it offers, especially a new life in Christ. We are more comfortable with activity, than quietness and reflection because we don't have to see us as we are and realize we have to make some effort for improvement. The following is a writing I scribbled down some time ago but forgot the title, written by Graham Kings; Embu, Kenya. It portrays how to make those improvements in a daily way. "I leave aside my shoes - my ambitions, undo my watch - my timetable, take off my glasses - my views, unclip my pen - my work, put down my keys - my security, to be alone with You, the only true God. After being with you, I take up my shoes to walk in Your ways, strap on my watch to live in Your time, put on my glasses to look at Your world, clip on my pen to write up (convey) Your thoughts, pick up my keys to open Your doors.

Two happy events this month were the births of two sons to two happy families. Bro. Joe and Sis. Jerilyn Yackley are the parents of Garrett Jerome born January 12. Welcoming him home are brothers, Carson and Austin; sister, Rita; and grandparents, Sis. Clara Yackley (Taylor, MO) and John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach (Oakville, IA).

Erin and Andy Johnson welcomed their first child, Alex Ryan, born January 14. Grandparents are Debbie (Heimer) Barkley (Quincy, IL), Myron Barkley (Taylor, MO) and Ron and Mary Johnson (Durham, MO). We wish both families God's blessings and the love and inspiration needed to raise children for the Lord.

Sis. Marie Butikofer was hospitalized for medical problems and Sis. Ruth Cottrell for foot surgery. Many have been ill with the flu. May God speed their recovery and provide for their needs.

We were happy to have Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) visit us this month. May God richly bless him and his family for serving Him so faithfully.

**NEW YORK,  
Croghan-Naumburg  
Alice Virkler**

In sorrow and pain Thy trust do  
retain  
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.

When burdened with care, When  
thou wouldst despair,  
Then call on thy loving Redeemer.

He'll lighten the load, And level  
the road  
And bear thee on hands of  
compassion.

He's gentle and kind, Rich  
blessings thou'lt find;  
His Word gives thee peace  
everlasting.

He'll shield and defend His child  
to the end;  
No suffering or death shall appall  
thee.

Keep Him for your gain, Earth's  
pleasures are vain;  
Sweet rest is found only in  
heaven.

In patience then bear All trial and  
care;  
Above streams of bliss will refresh  
thee.

"The Best Refuge"  
Zion's Harp #46

This beautiful hymn was sung at the funeral service of our ministering Bro. Leland Hirschey who was called from this life December 19. We can be assured that Bro. Leland found much strength to carry on in his days of illness as he was a faithful servant of our God and now he has found that sweet rest in heaven where he is free from the pain and suffering of this lifetime. He served his God for 48 years after having answered God's call to him, and faithfully served in the ministry for 42 years, many of them in the Naumburg church. We thank Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for being in our midst for the funeral service to assist our ministers, Bro. Duane Farney and Bro. Andy Virkler. Our deepest sympathy and love is ex-

tended to Sis. Bernice and their family. May each of them be comforted by the words that were spoken and the life lived by their loved one. It surely is a great loss to our congregation and we pray that God will strengthen each of us at this time and provide for us in the future. Surviving Bro. Leland are his wife, Sis. Bernice; nine sons, John (Lowville), Ronald (Watertown), Bruce, Martin, Daniel and Loren (all of Castorland), Michael (New Bremen), Randall (Oneida) and Norman (East Amherst); six daughters, LuWenda Mohrman (Richard, Orchard Park), Sara King (Scott, York, PA), Martha Cuilla (Joseph, Melrose, MA), Rebecca Himmelstein (Martin, Hanover, NH), Kristina Panowicz (Timothy, Manassas, VA) and Laura Villanti (Samuel, Stoneham, MA); 33 grandchildren; three brothers, Wilbur (Boonville), Raymond (Lowville) and Ralph (Croghan); and two sisters, Beatrice Bachman and Mae Jackson (both of Carthage).

On New Year's Even, we gathered together for a covered dish meal and church service. As we begin the new year, may each of us look to God for guidance. In the year of 1992, we had one birth, one baptism, one wedding and three deaths.

Sis. Lovina Farney and Sis. Elvera Martin (Bro. Bernard) have been able to return to their homes after being hospital patients. We were happy to see Sis. Elvera and Bro. Bernard in church on Sunday. Sis. Lovina has been confined to her home for several years. May God be with her each day.

**OHIO, AKRON  
Joyce Gasser**

"Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Peter 3:18. An incident of growing in the knowledge of Jesus is revealed in John 9 with the blind man that Jesus told to wash in the pool of Siloam. This incident also reveals the difference between the ritualistic Pharisees and the obedient blind man. The Pharisees evidently thought the keeping of their rituals was holiness. When the blind man came

seeking, they questioned him. He said it was a "man" called Jesus, and later he called him a "prophet." The Pharisees did not want this man teaching or witnessing for Jesus, so they cast him out. Jesus helped him grow in knowledge, and the man said, "Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him." (John 9:38) There is a growth: He went from calling Jesus a "man," to a "prophet," to "Lord," and "worshipped Him." The man was cast out, but Jesus was with him. Jesus implied that the ones doing the scribe's law were spiritually blind; but the man who had been blind could now see physically and spiritually, and grew in knowledge of Jesus.

Bro. Tibor and Sis. Esther Zsoldos were blessed with a baby girl they named Maria. They have two boys named Jonathan and David. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Sandor Bako.

Sis. Bonnie Bako was hospitalized, but is now home again. We wish for her a speedy recovery.

We appreciated ministering Bro. Mark Steiner who spoke to us at our Sunday school Christmas program. We are thankful for all who participated, as well as all who were present.

We wish to thank those who have completed their terms for various duties: Bro. Don Gasser, trustee; Bro. Todd Graf, usher; and Bro. Art Graf, Sunday school teacher. We appreciate the willingness of the following to serve during the coming terms: Bro. Carl Graf, trustee; Bro. Mark Graf, usher; Bro. Bryon Palitto, Sunday school teacher; Sis. Gail Spangler, kitchen committee; Sis. Mercy Graf, Sunday school teacher; Bro. Eric Graf, Home for the Handicapped representative; Bro. John Schambach, Gateway Woods representative; and Sis. Joyce Gasser, nursing home auxiliary.

### OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

Our small congregation grows even smaller over the Christmas and New Year's holidays as many of us travel to spend time with our family and loved ones.

We missed assembling around the Word of God January 10, due to ice conditions. Several mentioned how incomplete the day seemed without church services. So thankful we can be that we have this blessed freedom and privilege to worship and attend church here in America. As a new administration takes office may we continue to remember the leaders of our land in prayer that we may remain "a nation under God."

### OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

The angels are rejoicing with us as another soul answered the persistent and gentle call of the Savior. Pete Hurd, who has attended our church now for 17 years, has expressed his need for repentance and his desire to turn his life over to the Lord. We wish him abundant grace and joy, and hope that many more will take this important first step.

Thanks go out to Bros. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) for their services of ministry to us. May God grant courage to all our ministering brethren. We do appreciate them all!

Our annual election brought these results. Bro. Russell Manz and Sis. Sheila Schlatter are our Sunday school teachers; Bro. Ray Schlatter, trustee; Sis. Sheila Schlatter, kitchen committee; Bro. Dave Manz, secretary-treasurer; Sis. Henrietta Manz, World Relief sewing committee; Bro. Ken Manz, cemetery clerk; and Bro. Roger Manz, usher. May each use his differing gifts to serve the church and the Lord.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16) What a comfort at this time of transition of government leaders.

### OHIO, LATTY

Rhonda Stoller - Kathy Sinn

On December 12, Bro. Kurt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) assisted Bro. Ray Sinn in reading the memorandum. May we ever hold fast to the wonderful traditions which have

been passed down to us through the years. Our actions should prove as a support to our elder brothers as they stand to warn us to keep the faith for the next generation.

On December 16, we listened to our Sunday school children relate the Christmas story through songs and verses. Let us never forget in our minds and actions the true meaning of Christmas.

Throughout the last month we have been extremely blessed by the many visiting ministers. They include Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH). We pray for God's richest blessings to each of these brothers and their families for all of their labors.

Little Taylor Marie was born to Pat and Sis. Wendy Baumle during the month. She will be welcomed into the family circle by grandparents, Robert and Sis. Janet Williamson and Bob and Fran Baumle.

On January 1, we gathered to begin the new year with the Lord. As He has guided us in the past, we ask for His help in the upcoming year. We then held our annual business meeting. During the meeting, we cast our ballots for the offices in the church. The results were announced the following Sunday which are as follows: Bro. Kirk Stoller (Sis. Eileen), Sunday school; Sis. Deb Wenninger (Bro. David), Sunday school; Sis. Carol Eisenmann (Bro. Bill), Sunday school; Bro. Kevin Wenninger (Sis. Della), fellowship hall trustee; Bro. Tom Sinn (Sis. Kim), church trustee; Sis. Wanita Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain), World Relief; and Bro. Willis Stoller (Sis. Elaine), Gateway Woods representative. We ask for God's close guidance for each of these brothers and sisters as they strive to serve the Lord through each office. We thank the brothers and sisters who have been relieved of their offices and may the Lord reward them now and much more in eternity.

During the meeting, Bro. Ray listed for us the following statistics

for the year of 1992. In our Latty congregation, we had six deaths and eight births. We gathered for seven testimonies and baptisms. We rejoiced with two souls as they began their repentance.

On January 10, our church witnessed the wedding of Sis. Sue Stoller (Sis. Irma) and Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane, Rittman). May God's richest blessings be upon this couple as they begin life's pathway together. We really enjoyed the many visitors who also gathered with us. We prayed for a safe journey for each one.

On January 3, Bro. Merrill Laukhuf related to the church of his retirement from the ministry. We were saddened by the loss on our own pulpit, but are thankful for all of the many ways Bro. Merrill has served us in the past. May God be ever near to Bro. Merrill and Sis. Dolly throughout the remainder of their years.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger in the death of Sis. Joyce's sister-in-law, Sis. Ruth Gudeman. May God be near throughout the time of the loss of this loved one.

#### OHIO, MANSFIELD

##### Linda Morrison

Bro. Richard Banks has been hospitalized but is home again at this time. Our prayers support him and there is much comfort in the promise: "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, . . ." (Psalm 145:18)

Our love and prayers are extended to Ella Erhart in the death of her brother, Walter Beer. I apologize that I failed to report the passing of Elma (Sauder) Kiser, sister of Bro. Charles Sauder, Sis. Miriam Bird and Sis. Wilma McCuthchen. "God is our refuge and our strength; a very present help in need."

Caleb James was born January 9 to Bro. Doug and Connie Boliantz. Joshua, Erica and Jesse are happy to have a new brother. May God bless their family. "Kindly heaven smiles above, When there's love at home; All the earth is filled with love, When there's love at home."

Visiting ministers were Bro. Art

Ingold (Rittman) and Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville). May God bless them and their families for their efforts on our behalf.

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:3, 4) May our prayers continue for those in authority in our country; for the unsaved and especially for the children growing up in today's society.

#### OHIO, RITTMAN

##### Marsha Hartzler Charlene Winkler

Visiting ministers that have labored in our midst recently were Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH). May they be blessed for their many efforts that they put forth.

Those that have needed hospital care recently are Bro. Alpha Maibach, Sr. (Sis. Helen), Bro. Edward Riggerbach (Sis. Anita), Sis. Martha Jane Riggerbach (Vernon), Sis. Esther Saylor and Bro. Richard Steiner (Sis. Pat). May God be with each one that has to endure pain and suffering.

We were saddened by the death of Jason Beery, 20-month-old son of Ralph and Cheryl Beery. He was a precious little boy loved by all. We know that he is "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." (Hymns of Zion #218) Loving grandparents are Sis. Ruth Beery and Mr. and Mrs. Milan Labik.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Sue Stoller (Sis. Irma, Latty, OH) were

united as one in the Lord January 10. We welcome Sis. Sue into our Rittman congregation.

Randy Saylor and Deborah Snodgrass have made known their engagement and upcoming wedding February 20. Parents of the couple are Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma Saylor and Mr. and Mrs. Milan Labik.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Monica Bauman, along with their daughter, Brooke, welcome a son, Brandon William, born January 12. Brandon's grandparents are Marion and Sis. Delores Bauman and Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder (Akron, OH).

First-time parents are Dan and Amy Fugate, with the birth of Nicholas Daniel, January 13. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fugate and Rex and Carol Young.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Darlene Acker welcome a daughter, Maria Darlene. Big brother, David, as well as grandparents, Boyd and Barbara Acker and Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Steiner, will love and help care for her.

Several brothers and sisters have willingly accepted various responsibilities in our church. Those who have been elected are Bro. Dwaine Indermuhle, trustee; Bro. Wayne Hartzler, song leader; Bro. Dwight Steiner, usher; Bro. Vince Hartzler, nursing home director; Sis. Joan Indermuhle, kitchen help; and Sis. Hope Gasser and Sis. Marian Hartzler, nursing home auxiliary. May the Lord bless these brethren as well as those who have served during the past year.

#### OHIO, SARDIS

##### Rene Miller

Our annual business meeting was held mid-January. Filled positions were trustee, Bro. Eric Indermuhle; usher, Bro. Robert Figel; and assistant usher, Bro. Eric Indermuhle. It is evident that our small, growing church has been abundantly blessed by God this past year and we are thankful for that. We read in the sermon before the meeting that "His mercy endureth forever" (Psalm 136). Isn't it encouraging to know that?

**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
Gwen Stoller - Kim Stoller

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

Isaiah 41:10

As we begin a new year, let us put our trust in the Lord.

We rejoice with Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene Stoller as they welcomed Lynell Joy January 8. Doyle is her big brother and grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller (Rittman) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lilas Rufener.

Sis. Martha Riggenbach and Bro. John Zollinger (Sis. Marge) were hospitalized this past month. We pray that God will bless them with His grace as they are laid up.

We want to thank Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty) for proclaiming God's Word to us December 20.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
Josephine Rehklau  
Edie Fetter

"The Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Deuteronomy 31:6

We were saddened by the sudden death of our retired minister, Bro. Homer Reineck. Our sympathy and prayers for God's blessed comfort are extended to his wife, Sis. Dorothy; and children, Bob, Don, Marge Lubiowski and Diane Hughes.

Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis) recently visited and brought forth God's Word. We appreciate his service on our behalf.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Colleen Harmon welcome two new grandchildren to their family circle. Juliette and Jenna Hebert arrived to bless the home of Nathan and Gayle Hebert, and their son, Brady.

Bro. Rolf Kaeppler (Sis. Verena) was a recent surgery patient. We wish him full healing from God and were glad to see him in church again.

Our Christmas program was held December 20 with songs and recitations by our Sunday school classes. We were reminded that the plan of salvation was made possible by the birth of Jesus who came to earth as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. May we give praise to God for His great love for you and me.

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**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
Elizabeth Klopfenstein

The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star,  
And reaches to the lowest hell.  
The guilty pair, bowed down with  
care,  
God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled,  
And pardoned from his sin.

Hymns of Zion #289

We are so thankful that Mark and Louisa Gallup have found peace with God and plan to give their testimonies and be baptized February 6 and 7. We are all looking forward to a blessed weekend.

January has been an unusually cold month for Oregon and we have had lots of snow and ice. This brings about especially hazardous driving conditions with all of our hills, keeping some from our congregation home on Sundays. Yet we are thankful for the Lord's protection as we daily go to school and work.

We welcome home Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb Moser, who have spent over a month in Florida helping with a World Relief project (reconstruction after Hurricane Andrew) and visiting their daughter and family.

We also want to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) for spending a Sunday with us and sharing thoughts and scripture on the importance of preparing for holy communion.

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**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
Becky Gudeman  
Peggy Schulz

Greetings of love to each of you.  
We are happy to announce the arrival of two new, beautiful ba-

bies. Art and Mary Beth Kuenzi, along with their children, Rachel, Brad, Jordan, Landon and Derrick, are excited to welcome little Shane Leo into their home. Bro. Keith and Sis. Carol Kaufman, Philip and Samuel welcome their new adopted brother, Matthew John. We rejoice with these two dear families and with them and their new bundles God's richest blessings.

We have been very thankful to have had Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr and their family (West Bend, IA) with us for a visit. May God bless all your labors on our behalf.

Our yearly meeting was held and offices have once again been filled by very capable brothers and sisters. Filling Sunday school positions are Sis. Shirley Sinn (Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian), 4-7 year-olds and Bro. Tom Sinn (Sis. Edith), Bible class. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) We wish you much grace as you undertake this duty. We also want to thank our new minister, Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) for his work in the Bible class and Bro. Jim Dietrich (Sis. Joan) for taking Bro. Todd's place.

Our thanks go to Bro. Bob Kuenzi (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) for their work on the building committee. Our new committee members are Bro. Richard Kraft (Sis. Marianne) and Bro. Nick Kuenzi (Sis. Mary). Bro. Richard Kuenzi (Sis. Rosalee) has completed his term as trustee and Bro. Bill Luthi (Sis. Kris) have been selected to take his place. We wish you God's wisdom and grace as you undertake the responsibilities laid upon you.

Our new usher will be Bro. Chuck Walter (Sis. Karen). Bro. Chuck is taking the place of Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa). Bro. Mike will be taking Bro. Bob Kuenzi's (Sis. Linda) place with the sound/tape system.

Again, we all wish to thank each of you who has so aptly served in the past and those who are willing to serve in the coming years. God alone can grant the grace and blessings that will be due each of you.

March is Silver Lining month



for Silverton. Please give any address changes and your \$9.00 subscription to your correspondent sometime during the month of March. Thank you!

This note of thanks was unintentionally left out of a previous issue — we apologize.

Greetings to you in our most precious Saviour's name. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who helped us during Marilyn's surgery and recovery. From those who took time from their busy schedules to sit prayerfully with us during surgery to those who gave anonymously to help out and to everyone in between, we thank you ever so kindly and pray that God will richly bless you and keep us all in His tender care.

Humbly your least ones,  
Bro. Nick, Sis. Mary  
and Marilyn Kuenzi

#### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

On January 3, we were blest to begin the new year with ministering Bro. Don Wagenbach and his wife, Sis. Marie, visiting from the Washington, IL, congregation. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marie Banwart (Morton, IL) were also in attendance, as well as Sis. Jeanie Hangartner and Cindy Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL), Sis. Joyce Kaiser (Tremont, IL), and Sis. JoEllen Wettstein (Washington, IL). May God richly bless all of you for your efforts in attending.

Those of us in Nashville would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our visitors during the past year for all of your love, prayers and support. We have certainly been able to feel God's presence.

We extend a warm welcome to all who are traveling in the Nashville area to visit us during the coming year. Services are held on the first Sunday of each month starting at 10:00 a.m. at Bro. Don and Faye Sauder's home. Please call if you are planning to attend. We also welcome calls if you are in the area on other weekends other than this first Sunday. We could be willing to get together for a tape ser-

vice. Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Don and Enid Miller (615) 384-1081, Sis. Gwen Luethold (615) 352-3940.

#### TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

We enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship with many brothers and sisters of like faith that visited Zapata this month, also the winter residents that have returned for the season. It was a special blessing to have so many with us when we partook of the blessed sacrament of holy communion. It was served to us by Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and retired Elder Bro. Paul Fehr, a winter resident of our church. We want to thank Bro. Ray and his wife, Sis. Ann, for their visit.

Other visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Tom Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Joan (Athens, AL), Bro. Charles Sauder and his wife, Sis. Miriam (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Elmer Schmidt and his wife, Sis. Hazel (Winthrop, MN). We are so thankful these ministers brought us the Word in all its truth and purity. May God bless them and their families as they continue their service to the Lord.

Correction: Retired minister Bro. Elmer Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Delila, have returned for the winter.

Bro. John and Sis. Viola Perdelwitz 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 welcome Joshua, born November 23.

## SILVER THREADS

### IT'S NATIONAL HUG DAY

It's wondrous what a hug can do.  
A hug can cheer you, when you're blue.  
A hug can say, "I love you so,"  
Or, "hate to see you go."  
A hug is "Welcome back again."  
And "Great to see you! Wher've you been?"

A hug can soothe a small child's pain  
And bring a rainbow after rain.  
The hug, there's just no doubt  
about it  
We scarcely could survive without it!  
A hug delights and warms and charms;  
It must be why God gave us arms.  
Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,  
Sweet for sisters, swell for brother;  
And chances are your favorite aunts  
Love them more than potted plants.  
Kittens crave them, puppies love them;  
Heads of state are not above them.  
A hug can break the language barrier  
And make your travels so much merrier.  
No need to fret about your store of 'em;  
The more you give the more there's more of 'em.  
So stretch those arms without delay  
And give someone a hug today!  
Author Unknown

January 21 was National Hugging Day.

submitted by  
Princeville, IL

### FAITH

Faith is the key that will open the door,  
Leading to promise of life evermore;  
Faith is belief in a faith above,  
Who can redeem with His infinite love!

Faith is what saves you, redeems you from sin,  
Trusting in Jesus, a new life begin;  
Faith in God's Word ev'ry hour of the day,  
Gives you His peace as you trust and obey!

Faith can be seen by the way that we live,  
Shown by our deeds and the love that we give;  
Faith lifts us up over trial and care,  
Knowing our Father will answer each pray'r!

Faith is essential, a shield in God's  
Word,  
Giving protection and strength in  
the Lord;  
Faith to hope for those things not  
yet seen,  
Trusting in God while on Jesus  
you lean!

Faith is the key that will open the  
door,  
Leading to heaven and life  
evermore.  
Faith is the key that will win  
victory!  
Faith is the answer for you and  
for me!

Bro. Rodney Stoller

### COURAGE

There's nothing wrong with  
falling down,  
It's staying there that spells  
demise,  
As the evening sun dons its gown  
For a night of rest, then ready to  
rise.

New hope beams forth from the  
eastern sky,  
Take courage, my friend, and  
cease to weep.  
The sun's bright rays your tears  
will dry  
As you look toward God and  
courage keep.

Courage to serve Him 'til day is  
done,  
He promised grace, enough for  
today,  
All sin and temptation to  
overcome  
To those who will His laws obey.

Bro. Irvin Leman  
Morton, IL congregation



"Thy word is a lamp  
unto my feet, and a light  
unto my path."

Psalm 119:105

### MY FRIEND JESUS

If ever I'm discouraged or weary  
from life's day,  
When faced with disappointment  
along life's rugged way.  
If ever I would worry when faith  
is small and frail,  
'Tis then I turn to Jesus, His  
strength will e'er prevail.

When night seems long and dreary  
and peace seems far from me.  
If burdens are so heavy that joy I  
cannot see.  
When troubled by the tempter,  
whose goal is to deceive,  
'Tis then I lean on Jesus, in Him I  
will believe.

When e'er I am afflicted with  
sickness or in pain,  
If everything seems hopeless and  
health I can't regain,  
When sorrow is my portion and  
grieves my soul each hour,  
'Tis then I seek my Saviour, His  
grace and healing pow'r.

No matter what my lot is, no  
matter come what may,  
I'm in His care and keeping, He'll  
lead me all the way.  
I'll walk and talk with Jesus, He'll  
see me to the end,  
With grace I serve my Saviour, my  
ever faithful friend.

O wonderful Redeemer, my Hope  
and Guide and Stay,  
An ever present comfort, He's  
faithful ev'ry day.  
My rock and my Salvation, a  
counsellor to me.  
O wonderful Redeemer, my  
Friend He'll always be.

Bro. Rodney Stoller

### Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

his own self to do it. He is a brother  
that I dearly love . . . a simple man  
. . . a man that you would not think  
really has much in life. Yet the  
wisdom that is there comes from  
God, and it is refreshing!

It speaks here of the simplicity  
that is in Christ, and it really is  
simple. It really is a simple plan, a  
simple way of salvation. The world  
which we live in today, loved ones,

seeks to make it complicated. It  
wants you to question and not be  
able to accept it in such simple  
terms. It seems like the world to-  
day must have an answer for ev-  
erything.

We are told in God's Word, and  
if we have faith to believe that God's  
Word is true, (as I believe each and  
every one of us do), we are told that  
on this side of the grave we see  
through a glass darkly. (See I  
Corinthians 12:12)

So, in simple faith, submitting  
ourselves unto the heavenly Father  
and unto His will, we will be given  
the keys to the kingdom on high.  
His will is that we recognize the  
sin that is in our life, go to that  
cross, and look upon the dying Sav-  
iour.

We must recognize that that is  
our sin there that caused Him to  
die . . . to feel that remorse and  
that sadness and to accept that  
cleansing blood that flowed from  
His side. Then to be converted, to  
be baptized and to live a life that is  
pleasing unto Him. That is His will  
for each and every one of us.

He says, "For though we walk  
in the flesh, we do not war after the  
flesh." II Corinthians 10:3. The  
devil may try you young people un-  
til you say, "Well, I couldn't stay  
true." I guess that no truer words  
were ever spoken because we can-  
not of our own selves stay true.

It says here, "For though we  
walk in the flesh, we do not war  
after the flesh: (For the weapons of  
our warfare are not carnal, but  
mighty through God to the pulling  
down of strong holds.)" II  
Corinthians 10:3-4. So all it takes,  
then, is that grace from on high,  
and we are given much power.

"Casting down imaginations,  
and every high thing that exalteth  
itself against the knowledge of God,  
and bringing into captivity every  
thought to the obedience of Christ." II  
Corinthians 10:5

Submission. It is a word that  
the very oldest needs to embrace  
down to the very youngest, and that  
is submission to Christ. We will  
never go wrong. We will never fall  
by the wayside in any way, shape  
or form, if we submit ourself to  
Christ and to His Word.

"And having in a readiness to

revenge all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's." II Corinthians 10:6-7

Do we look after things that are of outward appearance? That is what our carnal eyes see, loved ones. We have not been given the ability to look into the heart of man. Oh, we do feel what comes from the heart, do we not? But I think that as we read this Word together, we really need to be careful. Because by some it is used as an excuse to run after the world, and that is not the way the Apostle Paul wanted it. The Lord has the direction and the way in which we should live.

"For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed." II Corinthians 10:8. The Apostle Paul went to them and he spoke in authority, the authority that was given by God. Oftentimes that is so misunderstood. He tried to clarify it and said, "It is not for your destruction."

The first thing the devil wants to do, when God's authority comes into our life, is to say, "He is trying to destroy you. He is trying to suppress you. He is trying to make you feel like there is nothing to life." That is what the devil will tell you. He will tell you that as a friend, and he will tell you that as a brother or sister-in-faith.

The authority of God, loved ones, is only for edification, for God does not want to destroy. He wants us to live eternally with Him.

So, He sent these letters to them. We read of the struggles that the Corinthian people were going through. There was sin that entered again into the fold, and those things needed to be purged out. The Apostle Paul spoke of those things to them.

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among

themselves, are not wise." II Corinthians 10:12

I am getting on the wrong chapter here, but I think that it all fits. So, the Apostle Paul spoke then of the rudeness of speech. He spoke in clear terms so that they would understand. People were offended; yet, when we stop and think and we realize the life of Christ, he did the very same thing.

He spoke in terms that they would know and understand. We read of them that were offended of the words of Christ. He said, "Have I committed an offense in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?" II Corinthians 11:7. The Apostle Paul said, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound." Philippians 4:12. He was able to change the circumstances that were around him.

"As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia. Wherefore? Because I love you not? God knoweth." II Corinthians 11:10-11. He was tempted and tried with those thoughts that he did not love them. That was the thought that arose in the hearts of those people that heard his word. They said, "You do not love us anymore or you would not speak to us this way." He said, "God knows."

Aren't we thankful that God knows the very thought and the very intent of our heart? These things and our life are an open book before God. He spoke of the false apostles and false ministers. Loved ones, it happens in the world all around about us. I think it is even more prevalent today than years ago when you did not hear so much about religion on the radio or different forms of media. Today it is really out there.

You know, there are just a lot of false teachings out there, to where you find that even the virgin birth is disputed and that Jesus Christ is just considered another man, though a great man, just a man. They are convincing.

Dear friends of the truth, and to each and every one of us, we just need to be careful. We all need to come to the Word of God to receive

our strengthening and our substance, the spiritual manna that we really need. We need to come right here and do not think it strange that Satan would transform himself into angels of light.

Paul spoke of the things that He endured for the work of the Lord. Not a one of us, I believe, have been called upon to suffer in such ways. He did it out of a love for the Father. He did not become discouraged, but kept his eyes fastened upon that goal, realizing that this is but a short time on this earth . . . a short time compared to that never-ending eternity.

So, loved ones, I just trust that we will be able to glean in some small way. We are not all going to become "Apostle Paul" overnight. We are not going to be given that desire or that ability, though we would desire it.

It is a good desire to be able to stand up and have that perfect love that the Apostle Paul had. That is something that we can cultivate into our life and work on. God can help us and give us that grace unto that end that we would be willing to stand and to be counted worthy to suffer for Christ.

It may come to that, but we do not know. We do not know what is in front of us and it is a good thing. I believe, loved ones, that the devil is so able to come in deceptive ways. We may be being tried and we do not even know it, oh, in such small and minute little ways in our everyday life.

I really believe, loved ones, that we need to strive to draw close to His Word so that we are not deceived. That was some of his last words, "Watch and pray," that in those last times we be not deceived. It is only by our adherence to the Word and our humble submission to the Word that the Holy Spirit, the right Spirit, is going to be in our life. It speaks here of the false prophets and of the many different spirits.

Loved ones, there is only one Spirit that leads to heaven above. Let us embrace it. Let us try them and know the fruits, and in doing so, God will be gracious and He will show us the way to heaven above.

FEB 02602 LK  
CHARLES WALDER  
PO BOX 96  
EAST LYNN IL 60932

## SERMON BY ELDER BRO. CURTIS L. FRANK OF LACROSSE, IN

### Follow In the Steps of Jesus II Corinthians 11

Loved ones, when we read the writings of the Apostle Paul, I think we have to understand Paul. I believe this chapter really gives us some insight into the life of Paul. Perhaps if we do not understand, (as I have heard it said by brothers), then we do not really appreciate the writings of Paul because it seems that he was proud in some of the things he spoke of. Loved ones, there is nothing further from the truth.

The Apostle Paul kept first and foremost his Lord and his God. We read of what the apostle went through. He was here upon this earth for one purpose and that purpose he fulfilled, in that he wanted nothing more than for the hearers of the gospel, which he was bringing forth, to know and to understand what they must do to inherit life eternal.

He was willing of himself to, as it says here, speak as a fool. In other words, he was excusing himself. He was excusing the words that he was going to say because he knew that was what they wanted to hear. He knew that they would be impressed by that. He was not taking it upon himself. He was not glorying in the fact that, "This is something that I did." He did it because of love for our heavenly

Father . . . a love, loved ones, that I do not know if I have been given the opportunity to exercise or develop that kind of love.

I trust that the Lord would grant each one of us grace that that love and that service could even be developed in our life. Paul said, "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you." II Corinthians 10:1

He wanted to appeal to the Corinthian people through the meekness and the gentleness of Christ. Loved ones, that is really the beauty of our Lord and Saviour.

Meekness. What is meekness? Meekness does not mean he was weak. Meekness means that he was fully submitted unto his Father's will. He came to do nothing more than to fulfill the will of the Father.

Gentleness. I think each and every one of us has an idea of what gentleness is. That is how Christ calls and beckons each and every one of us. He calls and beckons each and every one of you, dear friends of the truth, gently.

Lovingly. He wants to give unto you a heavenly home. He wants to give unto you something that is far

above what you could ever desire here in this life. He knows. He was been there.

He knows what the world is because He walked here. If you think for a moment, "Well, that was so long a time ago, He doesn't understand," loved ones, He understands! It is no different today than it was back then.

We read how the devil came unto Him and tried Him in any way and in every way to deceive and to rob Him. He went through every trial that you have ever faced, young people. Every trial and every temptation, He endured for you, but He overcame. It takes that power from on high and it takes that grace from on high to overcome those trials and those temptations.

I spoke with a man this week that was not raised in our faith and was as far from it as anyone could be. At a very, very young age, he was involved in the world. Then he came to understand what life was really all about and he came to church. He came under conviction and repented. He said, "I was able to lay all those things aside. I am convinced that there is a Higher Power."

Why? Because he knew himself that he was not capable of able of  
(Continued on Page 33)