



"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

Matthew 2:10

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

Luke 2:10

VOLUME 43

DECEMBER 1993

NUMBER 12

Silent Night - Holy Night

Silent Night

Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour, is born,
Christ, the Saviour, is born.

Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

"When they heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the **star**, which they saw in the east, **went** before them, till it **came** and **stood** over where the young child was."
Matthew 2:9



MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

MAGNIFY THE LORD

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

At this Christmas season, let's explore the statement made by Mary when she said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord." (Luke 1:46) Her cousin, Elisabeth, had just confirmed what the angel had told her, that her expected child was the Son of God. Elisabeth had called Mary, "The mother of my Lord." (verse 43)

What were Mary's feelings about all this? She rejoiced and was somewhat enthusiastic about it. However, she did not build up herself but magnified the Lord.

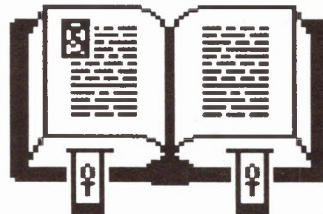
We all know what a magnifying glass is. It enlarges whatever we are looking at. What Mary meant is that she would give the Lord God more praise and honor and glory in her own life. God was to have a bigger say and more influence in her life. But she didn't know the future – she simply had to take one day at a time.

When we think of God as the Creator of the universe, we realize that He deserves to be magnified. He should be given much more recognition. To avoid the responsibility that goes with this recognition, there are theories available which present the idea that creation was just an accident which happened

on its own. That seems much too hard to believe. We recognize God – therefore, we should magnify Him.

When the wise men found the Christ Child, they "fell down and worshipped Him." (Matthew 2:11) They did this because they recognized Him as the Son of God, God's Representative on earth. They magnified Christ and by so doing they magnified God as Mary had done.

At this Christmas season we celebrate the birth of Christ in accordance with the customs of our own culture. However, our church has its own sub-culture, as we do not wish to be swallowed up by an un-Godly culture. Let's make magnifying God and the Lord Jesus Christ the major part of our Christmas celebration.



We Have A Need!

Gateway Woods has a need which only two committed couples from our entire national church family will meet. A need to serve troubled young people who haven't had the stability of a good family life or a Christian home. The positions involved are the Alternate Houseparent openings. The duties include substitute houseparenting for the regular houseparents, along with maintenance and other tasks. The most important ability to possess in order to do this work is an availability to go where the Lord would lead in order to further His kingdom. It would also be beneficial to have experience with young people and a sincere desire to help them grow.

Please contact one of the brothers listed below to learn more about the details of this opportunity.

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

David Bertsch, Counseling Elder
11520 Souder Road
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(219) 627-2923

HURRICANE ANDREW PROJECT

It has been a year since the devastating hurricane hit South Florida and there is still much work to be done.

Since our first request for volunteers, we have had 275 respond to the need. We want to encourage more people to come and help for a week or longer, during the fall and winter.

We have the facilities to house and feed the work teams. Those that have volunteered expressed that it was a rewarding experience, with good Christian fellowship.

For further information, please contact Bro. Roger Sauder, (305) 584-0947 or Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (305) 472-1738.

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.

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IN MEMORY – EDITORS:
HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

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

RETAINING ONE'S FIRST LOVE

Our "first love" has its inception when, as condemned sinners, we look in faith to our crucified Saviour and feel His mercy, compassion and forgiveness. We are overwhelmed by our unworthiness and the amazing power of this genuine, heart warming love of Christ. Our regenerated heart overflows with love toward Him and toward our fellow human beings. We are eager to fulfill any request our Lord may ask of us. This is our "first love."

Retaining our first love becomes a lifelong goal, lest we someday hear words of disapproval such as those spoken to the church at Ephesus, "I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Rev. 2:4). This would have grave consequences unless we repent and regain our first love (Rev. 2:5).

The biblical usage of "first love" is far beyond natural human love for family or friends, or feelings for any secular object or experience. Our first love is in response to God's love to us (1 John 4:19). From the time of that response this love should grow in its expression toward God and each other as described by John, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (1 John 4:7).

One function of the new testament church is to furnish spiritual direction and support for each soul that achieves first love. This was exemplified by Christ's account of the Good Samaritan who "... took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee" (Luke 10:35). As hosts, whatever we spend more, Christ will supply. Motivated by a growing first love we must be willing to spend and be spent for one another (2 Cor. 12:15), to submit to one another in the fear of God (Eph. 5:21), and to contribute sincerely to the likemindedness and unity of beliefs of the Brotherhood (1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:2). As Christ has nourished us, so also should

we willingly nourish each other by utilizing the resources of His Word and the Holy Spirit which He has left in ample supply.

The church at Ephesus was commended for many good things, but they had left their first love (Rev. 2:4). Thinking they were implementing God's commandments to the utmost, the Ephesians sought to expose false apostles (teachers) and doers of evil (Rev. 2:2). They were correct in these efforts but became obsessed with enforcement and with their own accomplishments while neglecting their roles as evangelists and teachers, as well as failing to fulfill other important duties for the edifying of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-12). Jesus had admonished the Pharisees for a similar overemphasis on certain works and neglect of other important matters. He told them, "... for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgement (what is right) and the love of God: these ye ought to have done and not to leave the other undone" (Luke 11:42). The Ephesians may have developed an attitude of self-righteousness based on their many good works. If first love is to be retained, a believer's justification must rest entirely on what Christ has accomplished on Calvary's Cross. So serious was the error of the Ephesians that they were called "fallen" and were advised that their candlestick (holy standing) would quickly be removed if they didn't repent (Rev. 2:5).

The church in Thyatira was acknowledged as having retained a measure of its love and good works, but it was tarnished by neglect (Rev. 2:18-29). They had allowed the teachings of Jezebel to enter in which caused some of the brethren to be misled and fall. God then gave them an ultimatum: either repent or suffer spiritual death (vs. 22-23). If they would have prevented the false teaching and taught sound doctrine instead, they would have avoided the ultimatum and strengthened the believers so they could overcome the temptations of Satan.

The responsibility of the church regarding maintenance of the first love of its members is to encourage each one to function as an active, vital component of the body of Christ. We, as members of the inn, are the ultimate beneficiaries of the pence (spiritual resources) which are generously given by Christ. We then should be good providers to others, nourishing and strengthening the personal relationships that exist between each of us and our brethren (Eph. 4:15-16).

A very important checklist for evaluating our first love is in the "love chapter," (1 Corinthians 13). The major ingredients are patience, a caring attitude toward others, humility, chaste behavior, endurance and joy in the truth of every passage of God's word (vs. 4-7). Absent from first love is envy, boastfulness, unstable temperament, selfishness, enjoyment of evil, and distrusting any part of God's word (vs. 4-7). As we compare our life to the scriptural virtues we should look for the strengths of the attributes, rather than simply their presence. If we notice any negatives, we must seek to eliminate them.

"Follow after charity (pursue love), and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy (teach and assist)" (1 Cor. 14:1). This Scripture emphasizes teaching and helping as being complementary to pursuing love and as being more favorable than desiring spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are given to us by God, but the teaching and helping we do for others is mostly dependent upon our use of the pence (resources) that God has provided. "And let us consider one another to provoke (stimulate) unto love and to good works" (Heb. 10:24). Assistance toward the spiritual welfare and maturity of another person is one of the most loving acts that anyone can give. If motivated by genuine love for Christ and appreciation for His sacrificial love, it is an excellent indicator that our "first love" has been retained and is flourishing.



ROMANIA FALL/WINTER OF 1993

By Elder Bro. Phil Stettner

As the cold winter months come upon us, we are mindful of the dilemma our brethren are facing in Romania. Available fuels are very expensive, wood and food supplies are scarce. The national economic situation is, by our standards, unbelievable. It is very common for several generations of a family to be living in one small house, sharing heat, food, taxes, outhouse, water, well and stove . . . yes trusting in the Lord, that He will provide their physical and spiritual needs for one more season. The very

thought of a car is out of the question, relying solely upon public transportation in most cases.

The efforts of our Apostolic brethren in assisting these folks is greatly appreciated. Through various facilities and services, food and clothing are continually being sent. With clothing articles and shoes in high demand and short supply, native Romanians can scarcely cope on their own. Do we really comprehend a winter coat costing a month's wage? Can we, here in America, truly sense the continual fear of a neighboring country (Yugoslavia) being at war, having already lost an estimated 200,000

people, including some from the faith?

With thousands of poverty stricken families struggling against the elements, expressions of love, help, concern and prayer from America are welcomed with open arms, through tears. Through our Apostolic Christian Church Mission Committee and World Relief Committee efforts, some of the needs have been addressed, but the hunger and cold continues.

The mission committee, with the support of brethren and friends, have contributed to the building of churches and providing a source for Bibles and Zion's Harp Hymn Books printed in the Romanian language. Communism is gone, but to rebuild churches is nearly prohibitive, considering other physical and/or housing needs.

One of the newly completed church buildings is located in Arad, a rather large city, with approximately 80 members in attendance. Recently, Bro. Andy Hunyady (Columbus, OH) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) were present for the dedication. Believers from seven countries were in attendance, along with local and governmental officials. The hunger for the "Bread of Life" is prevalent, along with the hunger for the "natural bread".

As we find ourselves very comfortable living in America this winter, may we all be mindful of hurting people, such as brethren and friends in Romania, that rely heavily upon the prayers and giving of essential goods, both for body and soul.

Winter Works Project

Gateway Woods has an excellent works project for the winter months. We need a mature couple to come and serve as **part-time alternates** for the regular Houseparents. This would include substituting in our homes for the full-time Houseparents' scheduled days off as well as routine maintenance and household chores. This project would be an eternally rewarding way to spend the time between harvest and spring planting; sowing seed for our Lord Jesus Christ in the hearts of needy youth. Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth Gramm have done this for over five years and they would be glad to talk to anyone about their work here at Gateway Woods. (As a note of explanation, Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth are planning to spend the winter in Florida after Bro. Art's knee surgeries.)

Please contact one of the brothers listed below to learn more about the details of this Winter Works Project.

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(219) 627-2606 Home

David Bertsch, Counseling Elder
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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The festive holiday season is fast approaching with lists being written, cookies being baked, cards being sent, and shopping being done. Let's all pause for a moment to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas . . . For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor the Mighty God, the Everlasting Fa-

ther, the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

As we reflect on each of these descriptive words, we are reminded of the purpose of Jesus' birth, life, and death. "Be not content this babe to know, nor stay at Bethlehem. But go with Christ to Calvary's brow, beyond Jerusalem. 'Tis there men learn to know the Christ. For there He bore man's sin. Then open wide the door of heart. And let the Savior in. ("The Babe of Bethlehem)

At ACHH, Oakwood Estate and Community Residential Services, our purpose is to glorify God and to provide a Christian home with the best possible services for people with disabilities. You have helped us meet this purpose with your prayers, your many hours of volunteering, and your financial support. These acts of caring have not gone unnoticed and we wish to thank everyone for without you we could not meet our goal. May God bless each of you this holiday season.

All of the people are anxiously anticipating Christmas . . . a time to be with family and friends. We always feel a joy for them when we see there so full of happiness and excitement.

January birthdays at ACHH are Edith Wagenbach (8), Mary Schramm (13), Karen Blunier (14), Bruce Steffen (19), Jackie Willett (19), John Eddy (27) and Tom Sides (31). At Oakwood: Max Honegger (22) and Laverna Zobrist (25) are

celebrating their birthdays. At 540 N. Main: Rhonda Gerst (12) will have a birthday celebration. Naturally, all our residents love cards and mail, and we thank everyone for thinking of the people at our facilities.

GATEWAY WOODS Art and Ruth Gramm

"A CHRISTMAS POEM"

The Lord Jesus came to stable low,
when He was born in
Bethlehem.

He didn't arrive in a big Cadillac or
a fancy new Trans Am.

He came down from heaven, so
pure, where He left His Father's
throne.

Though He came as a babe, He
knew the pain of the poor, the
lost, the alone.

The foxes have dens, birds have
their nests, but He had nowhere
to lay His head.

We have it all, houses and land,
silver and gold, fine linen for
our bed.

He was beaten and bruised, He bore
all our sins, He did it for me and
you.

He asked for so little, why is it so
hard, to do what He asks us to
do?

At a recent staff meeting our Administrator gave us a quiz about the background of Gateway Woods. Some interesting facts were discovered.

Gateway Woods opened the doors to its first child in November of 1976. Next November we will become "of age" (18 years). There has been much growth and progress since that time. Many programs have been added such as, resident and family counselling, education, foster care, staff training, etc. We have also expanded the campus to include a third home, and a social services building to meet the growing amount of paper work, social services and educational needs.

One thing that has remained just too constant, however, is the turnover of houseparents. These are the folks who are on the firing line 24 hours a day. They bear the brunt of the problems these children come with. While much has been done to alleviate the stress, such as private living quarters, days off, etc., houseparents with children of their own find it stressful at times to deal with troubled teens and their problems, without if affecting the lives of their own children.

There are however, special rewards and satisfactions that houseparents receive. We are very thankful for the opportunity to teach the love of Jesus and the story of salvation to the youth we

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**1994
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE**

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 13, 1994**

MIDDLE MANAGEMENT OPENING

Child Care Supervisor at Gateway Woods

We have an opening for a key leadership position at Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home. The Child Care Supervisor's responsibilities include supervision and support of all Houseparents, recruiting and training child care staff, supervision of maintenance and resident intake coordination. This critical member of the management team must have experience with children and supervisory ability. Salary is commensurate with training and experience and benefits are excellent.

Please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information, job description and application process.

Tim Sauder, Administrator
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Grabill, IN 46741
(219) 627-2923

serve. It is a privilege to help provide a safe place for children who have known fear. We are very thankful to all of the brothers and sisters who remember to pray and

encourage the staff here. Many times just knowing an extra prayer has been uttered, gives us the strength and courage to continue to do what God has called us to do:

— NOTICE —

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

We're continuing to send used books overseas. Almost daily we receive requests in the mail for Bibles. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

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

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 —	13,890
Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 —	10,812
Third Year — August 1985 thru July 1986 —	18,247
Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 —	23,048
Fifth Year — August 1987 thru July 1988 —	25,969
Sixth Year — August 1988 thru July 1989 —	25,509
Seventh Year — August 1989 thru July 1990 —	25,501
Eighth Year — August 1990 thru July 1991 —	32,677
Ninth Year — August 1991 thru July 1992 —	39,608
Tenth Year — August 1992 thru July 1993 —	41,755

Bibles Distributed — Eleventh Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1993 —	1509	1509
September 1993 —	1661	3170
October 1993 —	3572	6742
November 1993 —	2580	9322

*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.

NOTICE

Due to the lack of requests for "Zion's Harp," "Hymns of Zion" and other hymn books, we ask that you not send us these until our surplus is used up. We'll submit a NOTICE when we need more. However, continue to send us your used Bibles which are greatly needed and appreciated.

Thank you,
Phil and Gloria Grant

to help sow the seed of Christ's love and salvation, and to help heal the wounded hearts and souls of those who are in need of love and guidance.

We would encourage any of you semi-retired brothers and sisters to give a few short years or even months to this, "work of faith and labor of love." It is a wonderful opportunity to add meaning and dimension to your spiritual life and retirement. If God is calling you to do a good work, don't be afraid to step out in faith. Our God is so great! He can open doors and make provisions for us that are far beyond our finite understanding.

It is with mixed emotions that we leave for Florida for a few months without a definite couple to fill the part-time position of alternate houseparent, but we are trusting God to provide a replacement, to love the children and relieve the houseparents. Have you prayed about it?

Another change in the wind is the planned departure of Bro. Jeff Thames, who serves so well as our Child Care Supervisor. We begin the difficult job of seeking a replacement for this key position as Jeff and his family relocate in central Illinois. Jeff will certainly be hard to replace, but God is faithful. Please pray with us.

A special thank you to all who have contributed gifts to make this Christmas special to Gateway Woods. May God bless you.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING

Cedar Creek Retirement Complex will be hiring a director of nursing for the 42-bed, intermediate care, plus 20-apartment complex. Planned opening date is January 1, 1994. For more information please contact, call or write:

Bro. John Klopfenstein
15028 Reservoir Road
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-3934

or

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

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pamela Moore

The last weekend of October was the time for the Apostolic Christian Preschool Board Meeting in Athens. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) share Sunday school with us in the morning, and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) to share the Word of God during the church service. Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) was also able to come for the week-end.

The next weekend, the first weekend of November, the Sunday school held its annual fall festival. We all met in at the fellowship hall to enjoy a typical fall meal of chicken stew and then had Bible-related games and activities for the children and adults to participate in. We were happy to have many visiting children from the community come to participate with their friends. On Sunday, we said farewell to Bro. Eric Huber (Denver, CO). He had been worshipping with us in Athens while he was temporarily placed in Memphis, TN, with his work. We enjoyed his fellowship for a short time.

The date for the spring singing at the Tennessee fellowship area has been set for April 16 and 17, with the bi-annual Preschool Board Meeting being Friday, April 15. This date was chosen, rather than Memorial Day weekend, so that both of these events could be held at the same time, to accommodate busy schedules.

Carolyn Lewes, the daughter of Sis. Corrine Thomas-Williams, has been in intensive care at Huntsville Hospital, due to a fall which fractured her skull. She is home now, but would appreciate your prayers as she recovers.

As we enter into the busy holiday season of Christmas, let's remember the "Reason for the Season," which is the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. As parents, it is our responsibility to teach our children the importance of Christ in this holiday.

Give Your Old and New
Address To Your Reporter

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"He cares for you."

I Peter 5:7

Rainy weather the last five days does cause us to give thanks for

our sunny weather. Our Sunday school picnic was a great fun time, appreciated by all. God gave us a sunny day; our teachers gave the fun activities for the children; food at a picnic is so good. The children's singing is a real delight. Our "thank you" to all who served the

HAITI & JAMAICA WORK TEAM SCHEDULE

Project	Date	World Relief Area	Locations	Area Coordinators
School	12/10 - 12/18/93	#5 Bluffton & Indiana	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.*	Bill Stoller 1050 N. Main St. Bluffton, IN 46714 Ho. (219) 565-3291 Off. (219) 824-4686 Fax (219) 824-4719
CANCELLED				
Deaf Village	1/6 - 1/14/94	#8 Western IL	Jamaica* C.C.C.D.□	Mike Finley Box 176 Carlock, IL 61725 (309) 376-7301
School	1/7 - 1/15/94	#1, #2, #3 T, OH	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.*	Craig Emch 11856 Miller Road Sterling, OH 44276 (216) 939-4591
DEFERRED				
Nursing Home	1/21 - 1/29/94	#7 E. IL	Haiti* M.E.B.S.H.*	Jim Walter 26 Timber Ridge Fairbury, IL 61739 (815) 692-3158
School	1/27 - 2/4/94	#9 & #10 K, MO, MN, IA, TX, CA	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.*	Tim Butikofer R.R. #2, Box 69A Elgin, IA 52141
FILLED				
Deaf Village	1/27 - 2/4/94	#8 Western IL	Jamaica* C.C.C.D.□	Mike Finley Box 176 Carlock, IL 61725 (309) 376-7301
School	2/4 - 2/12/94	#11 & #12 CA, AZ, OR, CO	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.*	Glen Hackenjoes 10564 Haverly El Monte, CA 91731 (818) 442-4957
Deaf Village	5/19 - 5/27/94	#4 & #6 N. IN, MI, W. OH	Jamaica* C.C.C.D.□	Phil Isabel Route 2 Remington, IN 47977 (219) 261-3541

For more information, contact:
Harold Witzig

**HAITI-JAMAICA
WORK TEAM NEWS**
(See Page 33)

308 N. Second Avenue
Morton, IL 61550
HO. (309) 266-6263
OF. (309) 263-2041
FAX (309) 266-7644

*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.)

Lord for this fine event.

Welcome back to our winter residents and we do enjoy all visitors.

God's Word was brought to us by visiting ministers: Bros. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL). We are grateful for your messages.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Earl and Sis. Emma Sanders on her brother, Lou Farney's, death. Also to nephews, Bro. Bob Farney (Sis. Janet) and Bro. Bill Sanders (Sis. Sue).

Our Lord's healing hand touched Bro. Melvin Miller (surgery) and Sis. Dorothy Wenger (ill).

There are several in our congregation unable to join us Sunday. Sis. Lena Vege is added to the list. A card will reach her at 5037 E. Broadway, Mesa.

Our changeable weather brought pretty flickers, sapsuckers and woodpeckers. Inca doves sunbathed on pine branches and hummingbirds are ever present.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and our deacon, Bro. Loren Knapp, served us holy communion October 31. This is always a good opportunity to examine ourselves and to greet all our brothers and sister-in-faith. We thank Bro. Jon for his efforts to travel to Tucson to serve our needs.

We had two visiting ministers this month in addition to Bro. Jon. Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) were with us for Wednesday evening services.

Our Bro. Jay Bertsch passed away. Bro. Jay had lived in a nursing home here in Tucson for several years after living alone in his Tucson home. We pray that his family in Indiana and Tucson will feel God's comfort at this time.

The Tucson church hosted the San Diego, CA, church recently for a weekend of fellowship. Everyone benefitted as two small churches joined together to form a large group for fellowshiping, singing and worshipping the Lord. We

thank them for their efforts to be here!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Carol Graf

November has been a busy month for Altadena! This month we were privileged to have five visiting ministers. They are Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bro. Peter Petrovic (Escondido, CA), Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ). May the Lord bless them for being willing to share with us. We were surely blessed.

We heard the testimonies of Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov November 6. Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn and their family have been attending our church for some time, and have now been added to our brotherhood. We wish them God's blessings.

I'm sure you have all heard about the fires in our community. We are thankful for all the prayers that were said on the behalf of those whose houses were in danger. Although our retired Elder Bro. Carl and Sis. Margaret Kinsinger were evacuated, God spared their home and they were able to return to it a few days later. It was an amazing sight to drive home in the dark on that first Wednesday night of the fires and see flames leaping on the mountains some miles away. It looked like the burning coals in a bonfire, except it was miles away from where I was driving. It also was strange to get up in the morning and find the air heavy with smoke, since we live about ten miles from where most of the fires were burning. God truly was watching over Southern California. Although hundreds of homes were lost, only a few people out of the thousands who were in danger lost their lives. While those who were killed are important, it could have been much worse. A disaster such as this one made us think about what is important in our lives. How difficult would it be for us to lose the material possessions in our lives? Where are we putting our trust? In our belongings? or in our God?

On a more cheerful note, the

engagement of Bro. David Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle, Altadena) and Sis. Janelle Neust (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Janet, LaCrosse, IN) was announced Sunday, November 14. We welcome Sis. Janelle as she leaves her home in Indiana to become part of our congregation. They are to be married January 2, 1994.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huetten

"Love, that is God"
Hearts that open to the love,
That is God,
Feel loved in loving
And served in serving.

Edward A. Gloeggler

The weekend of November 19 and 20 was beautiful and inspiring for us and our many visitors as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new brother, Michael Howell. We welcome him into our membership as he has given his life to Jesus and will strive to walk in His footsteps. Visiting ministers with us were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Elder Bro. John Klotzle and Bro. Glen Hackenjos (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL).

Recently a group of us traveled to Tucson, AZ, for a wonderful weekend. It was so special. We all felt God's love from everyone. Thank you, Tucson, and God bless you.

On the same weekend, we were privileged to have visiting minister, Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), visit us. Many good teachings were heard and God's love was so near as those here were led by His Word.

COLORADO, DENVER

Jamie Grant

Greetings extend to the east and west, and to all in between, who are so dear to us!

Well the beauty of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly, is no less intriguing than the ground turning from autumnal foliage, to a blanket of white snow. And yet a greater mystery is how the sinner's

cold heart is warmed by God's love, and is converted to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. May it be the prayer of all of us, that not one soul should perish.

It has been a real exciting month here in Colorado. I find myself constantly anticipating what I will learn from the upcoming Sunday or Wednesday service. We have been taught, how in one sense, the flesh desires to please itself. An example Bro. Mike Leman used was how most of us "live to eat," but how many less fortunate, "eat to live." That should give us something to think about as we gather around our fruitful tables this Thanksgiving. However, on the following Sunday, he spoke of how the body works unselfishly together to function properly. We were instructed how a "healthy" church body should live. Is our church really healthy, or does it have a touch of the flu?

Praise God for our dear brothers who preach the Word, and for the privilege to speak it freely!

We were grateful to have Bro. Wayne Lehman and his wife visit us. We enjoyed singing precious hymns, as a 75-mile radius of travelers, narrowed into the warm home of Bro. Verne and Sis. Leona Lehman, for a wonderful evening of fellowship together!

We have so much to be thankful for, yet there are those who are afflicted by the body. Bro. Joe Wagler has been bedfast for a number of weeks now. I am sure he would appreciate our prayers as well as any cards sent to the following address: Brianwood Health Center, 1440 Vine Street, Room 405, Denver, CO 80206.

For now, farewell to all. May everyone have a blessed Thanksgiving!!!

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Michelle Virkler

Bro. Steve and Sis. Janice Moser welcomed their newborn daughter, Rebecca Marie into their family November 9. David also was delighted to see his new sister.

How precious is the birth of a newborn child. As we approach the Christmas holiday season, may our

thoughts turn to the birth of Jesus Christ and how He would choose our life to be with Him.

Bro. Burt Wheeler (Burton and Margo) and Sis. Cherinne Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma) were united in holy matrimony Sunday, October 31.

"When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united,
The light of hope beams forth
In radiance far and nigh
Invites us to partake
The blessings from on high
(Zion's Harp #79)

Just as a new life comes into the world, souls pass out of this life. It is never easy for the family members left behind.

"How shall it be?
Oh, what this mortal vision
Can neither see, nor hear, nor understand
Of happiness and glory shall be given
To those who pass into that promised land!
Then onward, brethren! Let us hasten thither,
'Tis worth the hardship and the pain we bear
To climb this path, for there shall never wither
The blest inheritance which we shall share!
(Zion's Harp #146)

Sis. Elizabeth Hoffman, age 97, passed from this life November 10 at a local nursing home. Born in Ellington, the daughter of the late Frederick and Eliza (Yost) Hoffman. She is survived by her sister, Sis. Frieda Hoffman, and many nieces and nephews.

Lillian Erismann, age 78, passed away October 26. Born in Switzerland, she was the daughter of the late John Erismann and Elizabeth (Zurburg) Erismann. Besides her mother, she is survived by her sister, Margaret Capello (Vernon) and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by two brothers, Erwin and John.

Anna (Samplatsky) Hunt, age 79, passed away October 22. She

was the widow of Harold Hunt, Sr. She leaves a son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Harry and Sis. Joyce Hunt; a daughter and son-in-law, Cathy and Richard Morris; a daughter-in-law, Ruth Hunt; a sister, Doris Kelly; a brother, John Samplatsky; a sister-in-law, Doris Samplatsky; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A son, Tim Hunt, died earlier.

Those that have been under the care of a physician during this past month have been Sis. Martha Schneider.

As another year comes to an end, may our wish be:

"I wish to love my Savior more sincerely
And not to grieve him Who loved me so dearly;
For this would bring much grief and much affliction
In my direction."

"Pour deep into my soul from
Zion's mountain
Thy love so pure, a living, flowing mountain
That e'er shall flow from my heart,
fresh and vernal,
To life eternal!"
(Zion's Harp #232)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee."

Numbers 6:24

This is our prayer for Sis. Kerin Holmes as she returns home to attend school in Illinois after two years in the Philadelphia, PA/Washington, D.C. area. She will be missed by both congregations.

We welcome June Ringger from the Bluffton, OH congregation. She is employed by a traveling nurse organization with an assignment in this area.

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, . . . and healing all matter of sickness.

Matthew 4:23

While the Great Physician is no

longer walking about healing as He did in Bible times, He does restore health by enabling doctors and others to help those who are sick. Bro. Matthew Aeschleman and Sis. Ginny Stoll were both in the hospital this past month.

Visitors this month were from Silverton, OR, Lester, IA, Bluffton, IN, Rittman, OH, Huntington, WV and Naumburg, NY. Ministers coming to serve us were Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Glen Riggenbach (Smithville, OH). We really appreciate the time these brothers and their wives give to our small congregation.

Some of the Sundays when services are not scheduled, we have been gathering to listen to the tapes of the brotherhood conference.

One thing our church is known for is the fellowship among the churches. Our small group is so spread out we usually do not come in contact with others except on Sundays unless there is a special reason. Anyone in town for business or vacation would be considered a special reason. You may not get to meet all of us, but we would try for an evening of fellowship.

Services are held the first, third, and fourth Sundays of the month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Many from the area meet for breakfast in the hotel dining room at 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. We often gather Saturday evenings for fellowship or singing and the other Sundays for a tape, so please let us know if you are in town. 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.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Caroline Hejja

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. George and Sis. Katherine Fulop and their family. Bro. George's brother (Bro. Sandor Fulop) passed away recently in Hungary. He had visited the United States several times, and many

in our congregation knew him quite well. Our prayers were with Bro. George as he flew to Europe to be with his relatives during that time.

The Fort Lauderdale, Sarasota and North Fort Myers churches spent a weekend together at Lakewood. Our Sunday school children enjoyed themselves while they participated in classes, singing and recreational activities. The adults were blessed, also, as we participated in discussions and shared in song with each other. Sunday morning church service was attended by all. The time spent fellowshiping, singing praises to our Lord, and eating meals together as a group was, perhaps, just a small foretaste of the time to come when those who have been redeemed by the Lord, Jesus, will spend eternity together. We truly appreciate the efforts of those who planned, coordinated and ministered during this special weekend.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Marvin and Rhea Steffen

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

Matthew 5:43-44

The loving instruction Jesus gave the disciples is sometimes a real struggle for many of us to live by today. There are many of us to live by today. There are many opportunities today for a soft answer to turn away wrath, "whether it be where we make our living, on our dealings with others we know for various reasons, or even in our own homes. We are exhorted to love, bless, do good to, and pray for them that hurt us.

We had a potluck supper at Bro. Vic and Sis. Dottie Beer's that the whole church was invited to. We all enjoyed the food, fellowship and fun at a family park near the Beers. We were treated to a slide presentation on some exciting missionary

work going on in Papua, New Guinea. Lani Schock (Bro. Norm and Sis. Virginia, Elgin, IL) showed us some highlights of the work she is involved in, which is reaching many different peoples in New Guinea with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will certainly pray for her continued effectiveness in her ministry, and for God to continue to watch over her.

We had our annual Sunday school trip to Lakewood the weekend of November 12. As in past years, it was a wonderful strengthening of the "whole armour of God" that we Christians are exhorted to put on in Ephesians 6, "... that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11) We had Bible study and different seminars for singles, newly marrieds and families. Topics ranged from faith to praise, and we learned how to exercise them more. It was just an inspiring, joyful weekend of gathering our families together for fellowship in the Lord. We want to thank the dear brothers and sisters that work so hard each year to organize this, and offer it to our churches.

Any of you that have been considering attending that haven't yet, we cannot urge you strongly enough to try it next year, especially if you have children.

We were privileged to have Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota) and his family travel to be with us. We thank Bro. Doug for sharing God's Word with us, and also thank the six ministers that were used in His service on the Sunday school trip.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Lorane Martin - Gala Gerber

With the coming of fall, we welcome the cooler temperatures and also our "winter residents" and vacationers. It is so good to see the pews gradually filling God's house! We pray that as you journey to Florida the Lord may guide you with safety.

Once again our Father provided us Florida churches with a blessed weekend of family, friends and fellowship. To those that could come, we met in Brooksville, FL, for our

annual Sunday school trip. I believe we all experienced a sweet communion with our Father as we fellowshiped one with another. It is times like these that one is strengthened and we want to offer a word of thanksgiving and praise to our Lord for allowing this weekend to become a reality.

We have had several from our congregation with sickness and injuries and are thankful that each one is recovering and can again enjoy the blessings of attending our Father's house.

So precious are the "little ones!" Joseph Lyle, son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer, entered life early but so thankful for God's wondrous provision! Thank you, Father, for Thy miraculous ways and may You continue to nourish and strengthen the babe who is so dependant on Thee and his parents.

We want to thank our visiting ministers for taking time to share God's Word with us during their travels. Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Arthur Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). God bless each one.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Cindy Hitz

The past couple of years there have been different phone calls placed to some of us here in Atlanta from loved ones expressing interest in moving here. Our church here has continually prayed for growth and we would welcome anyone moving here with open arms and a thankful heart.

There is much to be said for our little Atlanta congregation. About 30 of us assemble every Sunday and 12 of the children attend Sunday school. Everyone in this church without exception, members, friends and children, is very needed. I have cherished the feeling of truly being needed.

We have a loving, close knit

church which enjoys singings, potluck dinners, picnics, going out for dinner and just being together. We have organized potluck dinners every other month in each others homes. In October we had 18 adults in our home for a wonderful evening of potluck dinner and fellowship. On November 13 there were 35 of us down by the river enjoying a wiener roast and a singing. December 12 we look forward to our Sunday school Christmas program and a gentle reminder of the true meaning of Christmas and God's infinite love for us.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to get, and a time to lose."

Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 6

In April 1991 when we were asked to relocate from Detroit, MI to Atlanta, I was most unhappy. I was born in Detroit and it had been my home for 36 years. I had the security of both my family and my husband, Tom's, family in the Detroit area. I had the security of our loving and established church in Detroit. Our four children had the same securities. Now I was being asked to leave and go to a city 12 hours away where there would be no family and a very small church. It was like being asked to go to a foreign country.

After a couple of weeks of much prayer, consistently wet eyes, a crushed heart and a weakened spirit . . . I accepted the inevitable. We were moving to Georgia! As time went on, my peace grew stronger. There became no question in our minds, Atlanta was where God wanted us to be.

Two short but wonderful years have come and gone. We have fallen in love with the Atlanta church and the truly beautiful area and climate here. This is where I wanted to spend the rest of my life. Now we are faced with a transfer back to Detroit December 20, and leaving Atlanta is much harder for me than coming here was.

We pray that others will be led to move to Atlanta and experience the same wonderful love and God's blessings that we have experienced.

Being here has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life. It is with heavy hearts and many tears that we leave our home here and those who have become our family. Although we will be separated by many miles, please be assured that our hearts will be with you always.

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain.
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Peg Anliker

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who have given of themselves to be used by the Lord in our service. Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bro. Cary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) and their wives were with us recently. We are so thankful there are brothers who are willing to stand before us.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg Anliker are the thankful parents of a baby girl, Jill Lanae, born October 22. "Big" brother, Derek, and happy grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Cary and Sis. Edie Anliker (Elgin, IL) welcome Jill.

We also welcome Cole Talbot born November 2 to Bro. Dirk and Sis. Deb Steffen. His big brother is Cameron and thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene Steffen (Goodfield, IL). It's a joy to have these little ones in our congregation. May God give wisdom to these parents as they raise their children.

November 13 was the wedding day for Brent Knobloch and Michelle Hayenga. Their parents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy (Bradford, IL) and Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Hayenga (Mt. Morris, IL). We're happy they're assembling with us and wish them God's blessings.

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

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:4, 6, 7

We rejoice in the peace that has been found by Bro. Scott Stimeling (Bro. George and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Erin Jennings (Bob and Carol, Arlington Heights, IL). They were baptized November 21. We welcome them into God's family. Please remember our converts in your prayers. Many have recently accepted God's invitation.

On Saturday, November 13, our congregation enjoyed a Day of Devotion. Bro. Marshall Heinhold (Washington, IL) shared God's wisdom on the topic of "Our Duties as Neighbors in the Community and as Citizens of the Nation." It is so good to be able to go to God's Word for guidance of our everyday walk.

We are very thankful for the loving service of visiting ministers who travel a distance to be with us. This month's visitors included Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), and Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Edward Lanz (Oakville, IA), Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA).

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Luke 1:31-33

What a joyous time of year as

we consider the wonder of the miraculous birth of our Lord and Saviour.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Les and Barb Fehr**

We rejoice that the Word of God is still calling souls to repentance. Alisa Pyles (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky) has answered God's call. May the Lord's guidance be with her as she begins her walk toward that heavenly home.

On November 6, we heard the testimonies of four dear souls. They were Sisters Julie Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen), Jennifer Pyles (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky), Kara Leman (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane) and Emily Slutz (Richard and Marilyn). We were uplifted in spirit during this blessed weekend as we heard of God's love and tenderness toward each of us that answers the Lord's call.

We want to give a hardy welcome to Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Kupferschmid as they have moved to Bradford and will be worshipping with us.

We thank Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Joe Stoller (Princeville) and Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville) for bringing us the Word of God. May the Lord bless them for their labor of love.

Sis. Lucille Kieser was recently hospitalized for surgery and is home recovering.

Our sympathy is with the Ed Guingrich family in the recent loss of their son and brother, Larry Guingrich.

Note of Thanks: We want to thank each one for all their kindness, words of comfort and prayers that were shown to us in the sudden death of our son, Larry.

In Christian love,
Ed and Doris Guingrich
and family

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Margie Heintz**

We extend our sympathy to John and Mary (Greiner) Tucker over the sudden death of John's mother, Florence Tucker (Palos Verdes Estates, CA). May God bring comfort

and fill the void that has been left.

We are rejoicing over two souls who have recently answered God's patient calling. Gretchen Hanson (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan) and Kara Banwart (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen) have given their lives to the Lord, and in repentance are beginning their walk with Him. What a joy for our church family!

Our thanks go to the many visitors who have worshipped with us and encouraged us in the past month, along with ministering Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park) and Gary Brown (Forrest). We appreciate their willingness to share God's message of love and salvation with us.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter**

The craziest things happen, don't they? Well, at the time they seem strange. But then, the Lord says, "Think about it." So, I don't want to tell you about the difficulties I had getting the right mindset for having Sunday school kids and choir to practice for the Christmas program (the practice was fun) or the week which seemed to take every ounce of energy I had (though the Lord was truly faithful). No, it's about the ice cube tray Friday afternoon. I was emptying one in order to fill it again. No matter how I twisted, it only dropped a couple of ice cubes out at a time – so it took at least five bumps, squeezes, jerks, and twists to let them all out. And there was a bit of a light on it after I, in frustration, got the last one out. How many times does it take all manner of nudges, hints, inspirations, songs, whole sermons, until I am willing to let go of – a pet project, a secret sin, resentment at someone else, or a twinge of envy? The Lord so much wants to refill me – and I'm hanging onto the dregs of ice already formed.

"It Is Well With My Soul." We enjoy this song with our whole heart, and singing it after communion the evening of October 23 was a true foretaste of heaven's delights. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) helped our Elder Bro.

Dale Eisenmann administer this sacrament with which we renew our covenant and spirit. Other visiting brothers include Elder Bro. Curt Frank and Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN); and Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville) and Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL).

Those new to our congregation bring so much with them. We welcome Randy Fessenden, living with Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter. He comes from Lake Station, IN, is working and attending College of DuPage. May we, as his church family, enjoy him and pray for him as he walks among us. The Lord doeth all things well. Once again, a small one has also been added to our congregation. Azame and Sis. Rose Yahy have been blessed with Sam Sandor, born November 18. He is surrounded by Leila and Aaron, appreciated by grandparents, Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako (Akron, OH) and Baya Yahy Algiers, Algeria. We plead with the Lord that we may be good examples and a loving support to this special family.

We recognize a momentous occasion in the lives of two of our couples. Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl and Bro. Jake and Sis. Jeanne Plattner have both been married for twenty-five years. Norm and Gloria have spent all of their married life in our Chicago church; Jake and Jeanne, the last fifteen years. Both brothers have been active as trustees and Sunday school teachers; Bro. Norm is the church treasurer. Both sisters have served on the kitchen committee and as Sunday school teachers. We are grateful for the love and energy they have expended in the Lord's service, specifically in our church family. May He grant these warm, precious couples many more years to walk and talk together, bound by His threefold cord.

Bro. Miklos and Sis. Aranka Bozzay have filled a difficult position very well for the past four years. We appreciate beyond words their loving care of the physical facilities of our church. Now that they have moved further away (though still in the Chicago area), Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane Steffen have taken on that responsibility.

And we are grateful to them for their willingness to do so; may we be supportive to them in their duties.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl, their children and grandchild upon the death of his mother, Sis. Marie Stahl (Princeville, IL). Yet as her passing was orchestrated by the Lord, working until the eleventh hour, we are grateful for her saintly example. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalms 116:15)

A sister once gave me excellent advice, though I hope you may follow it better than I have. She had a notebook. In it she listed requests for prayer and undoubtedly many other spiritual notes. The one I remember was the prayer for someone recently bereaved. Not only did she put that name down close at hand; but she also listed them several weeks later and periodically, for she said that the one who was grieving would be at least as needy then and others might not remember this person's grief as much later. She planned to be especially available - in prayer and in visits, calls - to them in their need because she had made the notes ahead for that time.

I am always telling my students two things: to prepare ahead of time and to use the resources that they have, never giving up. The other morning at choir practice I found myself unable to mark information on my music for I had no pencil/pen. About halfway through, I glanced over and saw my purse, always a receptacle for writing instruments. I had not only not prepared, neither had I looked around to search for and use the resources available to me close at hand! If it were only in choir where it happened, it might be a small instance. Instead, I need to take my own advice. I need to read, sing, listen, and pray daily to prepare ahead for tribulation. When I am "caught," I need to look around and use the Lord's way out - more prayer, a thoughtful statement, whatever it takes - because He has promised it will be there.

Why do we love this season? Because we are promised Him in hope:

"No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings
flow

Far as the curse is found, . . .

He rules the world with truth and
grace,

And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, . . .

Verses 3-4, "Joy to the World"

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Anna Marie Reutter

Cyndee Anderson

As the joyous season of remembering the birth of Jesus approaches, our thoughts often turn to the many beautiful carols that we reserve especially for this time of year. Doesn't it just warm the heart to hear (or sing) the lovely strains of "Silent night, holy night" or the triumphant tones of "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"? It reminds me of an excerpt I once heard of the spiritual benefits of beautiful music.

"The devil hates music because he cannot stand gaiety. Satan can smirk but he cannot laugh; he can sneer but he cannot sing. Music is a fair and glorious gift of God. I would not for the world forego my humble share of music. Singers . . . smile through their troubles in song. Music makes people kinder, gentler . . . and more reasonable . . . The devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God."

Martin Luther

Let's not forget to often use this remarkable "tool" God has given us to fight off Satan in the many ways he comes to us.

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the stroke and then the passing of our friend, Art Laub-scher. His funeral was November 5 here at the Cissna church that he was so faithful in attending. Our prayers are with his wife, Grace; two sons, John (Karen, Cissna Park) and Alan (Evelyn, Crescent City); and one daughter, Shirley Weidner (Bud, Monticello, IN).

Also hospitalized this past month were Bro. Stan Gudeman

for surgery and Melvin Knapp. Bro. Melvin is now receiving dialysis treatments at home and we hope in time to have him back among us. Until then, may we keep them in our prayers.

Nine of our brethren were privileged to spend some time in the Taylor/Quincy area this week helping with cleanup. Do we appreciate enough the blessings of our brotherhood? Are we doing what we can to preserve it?

We are thankful for the willing service of four visiting ministers this past month, in addition to the always-welcome visits of our Elder Bro. Art Bahler. May the Lord be the rewarder of Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington), Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington), Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville), and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest).

Moving into the Fairview Haven Rest Home in Fairbury this past month was our dear faithful Bro. Jacob Funk. May we all keep him in our prayers and remember him occasionally with cards and visits as he makes this not-always-easy transition.

We are also happy to announce the birth of our new little son, Joseph Jon, born November 9, to Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee Anderson. He's already brought much joy into the lives of his family, which also includes Zachary, Stephany, Nathan and Whitney. As with all believing parents, it is our greatest wish that "... all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Isaiah 54:13)

The family of Arthur Laubscher expresses their thanks for all kindness shown to them during their recent bereavement. A special thanks to the ministers, singers, undertakers, ushers, and those who prepared and served the meal at church. God bless each of you.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Sue Wiegand - Beth Steffen

Yesterday, the majority of us celebrated Thanksgiving Day by assembling with our church families around God's Word and then enjoying the fruits of the earth with

loving families. But for many in the world, a church, abundant food and happy family relationships are not a way of life. It reminded me of Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz's discussion at our past conference. We are so fortunate to be a part of such a precious heritage - our numerical chances were so great to be born into a different situation. I know I'm not thankful enough. As I scraped the Thanksgiving dinner scraps down the garbage disposal, I realized somewhere a hungry person would be so happy just to have what I was throwing away, no matter how unappetizing it looked all scraped together. Let us strive then, too, in this country of prosperity, to be more spiritually hungry for God's crumbs falling from His table.

Melissa Miller (Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis) and Bro. Alvin Schrock (Sis. Irene) have both been patients at Eureka Hospital. Melissa has returned home and to school and Bro. Alvin is regaining strength at our Apostolic Home in Eureka. Bro. Glenn Knapp (Sis. Jeanette) has also been a surgical patient. We pray for God's healing touch on all of them as well as those who suffer illnesses at home. It's easy to get "down" spiritually when we're suffering physically.

Our Sunday school Bible classes spent a Saturday in the Taylor area helping with the leaf cleanup. We thank the Taylor brethren for their many efforts providing food for these young adults as they experience the feeling of helping others in overwhelming need. Although the flood of 1993 has receded from the land and our daily newscasts, let it not recede from our minds that many still face an aftermath of despair. How much harder it must be for those to rebuild homes, farms and towns without a supportive brotherhood like we share. Our high scholars also recently participated in the ACYF singing at Gridley, IL. We pray these events help develop Godly friendships in our heritage as well as a closeness with Him.

"Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,
which we

Partook, that joined in heart and
hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on."

Communion Hymn
Zion's Harp #200, vs. 5

On October 27, we were privileged to partake of the Lord's Supper after being reminded of our Saviour's suffering and supreme sacrifice. We so appreciate the feeling of brotherly love that comes from participating in this holy act. We're thankful to Elder Bro. Wes Knapp and his wife (Goodfield) for coming and sharing the duties with our Elder Bro. Bob Walder. We also extend our prayerful support to Bro. Wes as he now has these important duties laid upon him.

Our congregation is looking forward to Christmas carolling December 4 and our Sunday school program December 15. As the holidays grow closer, we must try to keep the beautifully simple coming of our Lord and Saviour from becoming overshadowed by the glitter of this world.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

"For thou O God hast heard my
vows; thou hast given me the heri-
tage of those that fear thy name."

Psalm 61:5

We were blessed October 23 and 24 to hear the testimony of our friend, Elvis Kellenberger (the late Gail), and to witness vows as he erected a covenant with God. How thankful we should be for the heritage of believing parents that sometimes leave this life and don't have the privilege of witnessing the vows of their children. May God be near and guide Bro. Elvis throughout his sojourn here below. Visiting ministers for this blessed occasion were Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). Also serving us this month were Bros. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI). May God reward the labors of each brother who willingly fulfills the duties entrusted to them.

We also have two sets of thankful grandparents in our congregation who are rejoicing over the birth of a new grandchild. Les and Jan Spohr have a new granddaughter, Samantha Lee, born to Jeff and Sherry Luscher October 19. Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker, along with big brother, Derek, welcomed Jill Lanae to the home of Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg Anliker (Belvidere, IL) October 22. We know that grandparents have an important role and trust that they will help to bring these new little bundles up in the fear of the Lord.

"Be not dismayed what-e'er be tide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.
No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one upon His breast,
God will take care of you."

W. S. Martin

What assurance we have that no matter what life may hold, God will provide and care for our every need. May our prayers and continual support be felt by Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Weiss and their dear family as they face the uncertainties ahead with Sis. Joyce's health.

An evening of fellowship was enjoyed as many brethren and friends, attaining to the age of three score and ten, were gathered for the annual dinner, prepared on their behalf. God bless the efforts of all who labored to make this possible.

It is always uplifting to see our Bible class making and renewing friendships with visiting Sunday school students. Such was experienced as they recently hosted the young people from Morton and Peoria. We hope and pray the seed planted by acquaintances may blossom into deeper friendships as one by one they find the grace to heed God's call and become part of the family of God.

"Far away in the depth of my spirit
tonight,
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
In celestial-like strains it
unceasingly falls,
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.

What a treasure I have in this
wonderful peace,
Buried deep in the heart of my soul;
So secure that no power can take it
away,
While the years of eternity roll.

Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father
above;
Sweep over my spirit forever, I
pray,
In fathomless billows of love."
W. G. Cooper

Each of us who have experienced peace understand a little deeper just what a treasure we have. Our friend, Andy Tobler (Sis. Madelyn), confesses to be at peace with man and God and now awaits the time when he can bring his testimony before the church and, Lord willing, be added to the fold. May Andy continue to feel God's goodness, His grace and always maintain the humble childlike attitude that God is so pleased with.

On November 12, Bro. Ernest Kellenberger (Sis. Tillie) was called home to be "forever with the Lord". Bro. Ernest and Sis. Tillie were currently living in the Sabetha area, however the funeral service was held here since they had lived in our community for quite some time in years gone by. In addition to Sis. Tillie, the remaining family includes Sis. Shirley Nohl (Morris, MN), Jean Schietlin, Adair Wuthrich, Sharon Carison, Lorna Erickson, Ernie, John, Chuck, Tom and Mark. Also one sister, Sis. Rose Moser (Lester IA), and 149 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May God's comfort be felt by each and may we all "make sure of heaven" so someday we may be reunited with those who have gone on before.

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

Isaiah 9:6

As we enjoy the season during
which our Saviour's birth is com-

memorated, may we make the time to quietly reflect on the true purpose of Christmas and not allow it to be drowned out by the rush or festivities of the world around us.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

"As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee."

Hymns of Zion #14

May we go through this Christmas season with gladness always remembering Jesus, our Saviour.

We rejoice with Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Schumacher in the birth of their daughter, Rose Marie, November 15. Rose has one brother, Cassidy.

Exchanging wedding vows November 21 were Bro. Rodney Kupferschmid, (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) and Sis. Cynthia Luginbuhl (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol, Roanoke). May God bless and direct their lives as they now serve Him together.

We were all saddened at the death of Sis. Sarah Blunier, wife of Bro. Lee. Sis. Sarah died at home November 12. May God give comfort and courage to Bro. Lee in the days ahead. We also sympathize with Sis. Judy Cottrell who lost her brother, Larry Guingrich (Owensboro, KY) October 22, and with Sis. Connie Hoerr (Bro. Norm) whose father, Bro. Ray Steffen (Forrest) died November 7.

We appreciated the ministry of our visitors this month. They were Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont), Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), Bro. Will Schieler and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), and Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke).

We remember Bro. Dan Hartter (Sis. Dorothy) and Sis. Anna Wettstein (Bro. Ben) in our prayers as they have spent time in the hospital.

"Thank you for the prayers, gifts, cards, and visits while I was in the hospital, and also at the time of the death of my daughter, Sis.

Jane Martin. God bless you for the love that you have shown to me.
Sis. Clara Bach

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

The blessed story of the Christ
The babe of Bethlehem
Is worthy of our song and praise
And stirs the hearts of men
The fullness of God's love divine
Surrounds the Christ so mild
Alas, how many only know
The Saviour as a child.

Hymns of Zion #36

As we remember the wonderful story of the Christ Child's birth this holiday season, let us be thankful for our many blessings.

We ask God to richly bless the visiting ministers who proclaimed His Word to our congregation. They were Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Ed Fritz (Washington), Ted Witzig (Morton) and Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL). Thank you, we appreciated your service.

On October 24, our Bible class hosted Princeville and Congerville Bible classes. We thank Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park) for speaking to the classes. May we always pray for our youth.

On October 31, the engagement of Bro. Mark Edelman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosetta) to Sis. Karie Stork (John and Eunice Stork) was announced. As they plan their wedding, may they look to God for His guidance.

God has blessed Bro. Douglas and Sis. Dixie Steidinger with a precious little girl November 16. Anna Elizabeth is welcomed home by her happy sisters, Rachel and Ellen, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Fosdick and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma Steidinger.

Bro. Edmund Kloter (Goodfield), a minister for 16 years in our church, passed away November 13. Our congregation sympathizes with his wife, Sis. Lorene; sons, Bro. Barry (Eureka), Bro. Kent (Goodfield), Darryl (Orlando, FL) and relatives.

Bro. Ben Steffen passed away November 14. He was a life-time resident of the Fairbury-Cropsey area until January 1992, when he moved to the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Nina; daughter, Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein (Peoria); son, Walt (Cropsey); sister, Sis. Kathryn Steffen (Peoria); and six grandchildren.

Hospitalized this month were Melvin Zimmerman (Ardella), Bro. Ben Zehr and Trent Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne). God bless each with a speedy recovery.

Sis. Lena Zehr would like to express her thanks and appreciation for all who remembered her 92nd birthday with cards, letters, etc.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold

October 23 and 24 was a blessed weekend as we could hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear souls. Our new brother and sisters-in-faith are Chad Lemman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy), Marsha Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Rebecca Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida), and Sarah Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee). We thank Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville), Art Bahler (Fairbury), Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), John Stoller (Leo, IN), and Dale Stoller (Fairbury) for sharing in this most precious time.

We also appreciate Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) for sharing God's Word with us.

Sis. Rosetta Stoller and Kevin Ifft (Warren and Sis. Betty) have spent time in the hospital and we are thankful they have returned home. May Sis. Laura Kachelmuss feel God's healing power as she remains in the hospital at this time.

Our congregation has been saddened by the recent loss of two dear loved ones. On November 6 funeral services were held for Barb Kilgus. We extend our sympathy to her husband, John; sons, Joe (Oska-loosa, IA) and Tom; her sister, Sis. Leona Lemman; and brothers, Leonard and Bro. Les of our congregation. Funeral services were

held for Bro. Ray Steffen November 10.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Sis. Doris; daughters, Sis. Connie Hoerr (Eureka) and LaRae Walter; and his sister, Sis. Edith Zimmerman. May the families of these loved ones feel God's nearness and His comforting Spirit.

During this Christmas season, may we all remember the true reason for celebrating. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Barb Brim

"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the Angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them: and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old."

Isaiah 63:9

How beautiful it is to know that the angel of His presence is still saving us, redeeming us, bearing us, and carrying us throughout all our days. What a reason for thanksgiving!

Our congregation at Goodfield has been abundantly blessed this month. God's grace and lovingkindness has been evident to all of us through the baptisms, engagements, births and also the passing of a beloved brother. Who can doubt his mercy as we witness these events through His Holy Spirit of love.

Our hearts were brought to remembrance of the beginnings of our own life in the Lord through the provings and baptisms of two dear souls this month. Sis. Ruth Wiegand, daughter of Dale and Sis. Friedora Wiegand (Eureka), and Bro. Michael Kieser, son of Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie (Goodfield) were joyously added to the fold of God's children. We are grateful to Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign) for aiding our Elder Bro. Wes Knapp in performing this most special of all ceremonies.

The wedding announcements of two of our young brothers is also cause for celebration. Bro. Doug Hart, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry (Goodfield) has announced his engagement to Sis. Jenni Rieke, daughter of Dean and Julie Rieke (Goodfield). Joining him in his departure from bachelorhood is our Bro. Ted Schieler, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcella (Goodfield) to Sis. Peggy Leman, daughter of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman (Roanoke). We extend our best wishes for a long and happy life together walking in the light of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A new little light has been added to our congregation this month. Drew Bauman, second son of Sis. Holly and Bro. Dave, made his arrival just in time for Thanksgiving. Older brother, Jed, along with Drew's grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene, had an extra reason to be thankful this holiday season. May his light always shine among the stars in heaven.

We were saddened by the passing of our dear Bro. Edmund Kloter this month, but rest assured that his light will never dim in our hearts and memories. He's shining in heaven now, safe in our Father's arms. To all of his family, Sis. Lorene, his wife, who has been seriously ill but is now making some progress toward recovery, and his children, Bro. Kent and Sis. Janell, and Bro. Barry and Sis. Joyce, we extend our deepest sympathy over the loss of your husband and father, but rejoice that his journey is over and he is at home.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our congregation was deeply saddened at the passing of Bro. Virgil Stoller, 84, October 12. Still a vigorous man at his age, he had lost his life in a tragic accident on returning home from a trip to Connecticut to visit a daughter and her family.

Bro. Virgil had stopped his car to take some pictures of the beautiful fall scenery. As he crossed the

highway he was struck by an oncoming car and fatally injured.

He is survived by his dear wife of 54 years, Sis. Hulda. Also by four children: Richard (LaCanada, CA), Joanne Stern (Aspen, CO), Susan Steffen (Avon, CT) and Ann Stoller-Lee (Colorado Springs, CO); and seven grandchildren.

Bro. Virgil's friendly presence will be missed among us. He had a love for people, and also for being active in the Lord's work. He and his wife volunteered three days per week for many years at an area hospital. They also had a weekly route of picking up leftover soap at area motels that was packed and shipped to World Relief.

Sis. Matilda Alt, 95, died October 11 at a nursing home in Overland Park, KS. She had lived in her home in Gridley for many years and was able to be self-sufficient until just a few months previous to her death.

A widow for 21 years, she is survived by a son, Eugene (Leawood, KS); and two daughters, Adeline Salisbury (Moraga, CA) and Gladys Higgins (Walnut Creek, CA). She is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Sis. Matilda was an energetic person who loved to be surrounded by people. Her love for people, and her interest in them, was noticeable. We will miss her in our fellowship.

Several births have been recorded here in Gridley. On October 12, a first child was born to Bro. Curtis and Sis. Cassie Meiss. He was named Gabriel Curtis. Grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss, and Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger, all of our Gridley congregation.

On October 13, a son was born to Eric and Amy Kiefer. He was named Jesse Lee. He has a twin brother and sister, Kody and Haley, 17 months. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Kiefer (Gridley) and Bob and Jan Myers (Westmont, IL).

Bro. James and Sis. Jeanette Lavallier rejoiced over the birth of their first child born October 18. A girl, she was named Jenae Rose.

Her grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Gridley) and Irene Lavallier (Chenoa).

On November 7, five souls were taken into the fold. Counted as members of Christ's body are Sisters Kate Baner (Bro. Steve and Sis. Donnalou), Megan Ringger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla) and Taunia Witzig (Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine). Also, Bros. David Ringger (Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie) and Neal Wettstein (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda). They are all sophomores in high school - what a blessed witness in this day and time!

Ministers here for our blessed weekend were Elder Bro. Wes Knapp, and Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington).

As of this writing (November 15), Bro. Kenneth Meiss remains seriously ill and currently resides in a nursing home in nearby El Paso.

Troy Kaupp and Kay Kuerth were married Saturday, November 6. Her parents are Kenneth and Diane Kuerth (Gridley). He is the son of Sis. Wava Kaupp and the late Bro. Harold.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Sis. Mary Grimm was called into all eternity. Her funeral was November 2. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless her two sons, Dan and Bro. Milt; her daughter, Suzanne; her sister, Helen Heiser; her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her many other relatives and friends.

We wish to thank Bro. Gene Lehmann (Wolcott, IN) for bringing the World Relief Ukraine slide presentation to our congregation. It was good for us to see the plight of others in the world and to learn how we might help them through prayer and material goods.

The annual Bible Class Benefit Dinner was held November 14. Those attending were treated to a delicious meal and to glorious singing. The proceeds will go to local charities and Taylor flood relief.

We wish to welcome Bro. Kirk and Sis. Heidi Florey and their two daughters to our Morton congregation as they begin worshipping with us.

The family of Robert Ackerman would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy shown to them during the loss of their loved one. Your prayers, cards, and many loving deeds are deeply appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Cara Nussbaum

Five more dear souls have answered the call of salvation and found peace with their God. On Saturday, November 13, we heard the testimonies of Dana Suttor (Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam, Morris, MN), Jenny Honegger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane), Chad Herman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth), Kari Meister (Bro. Paul "Spark" and Sis. Rhonda) and David Sceggel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy). They were all baptized the following day. We rejoice with them and pray that they can always stay close to God each and every day.

Peoria was privileged to have many visiting ministers for the testimonies and baptisms. They were Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA). We thank each of these brothers for visiting and ministering to us.

We also want to thank Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) for speaking at our November "Family Night." He spoke about the dangers of gambling.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Larry Guingrich (Owensboro, KY). He and his wife, Sandy, and children used to assemble in Peoria. We extend our sympathy to each one in his family. Larry is the father of Sis. Brenda Hoerr and brother to John, David and Bro. Richard Guingrich of the Peoria congregation. His parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Guingrich (Bradford, IL).

The family wishes to thank ev-

eryone for their kindness and prayers following Larry's death.

Sandy and children,
Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris
and family

We want to welcome two new babies this month. The first, which I'm sorry to say I missed in July, is Rebecca Darlene, born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Aimee Moser. She joins Matthew Jonathan at home. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr and Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Moser (Morton, IL). The second is Luke Kendall Hoerr, born November 15 to Bro. Jack and Sis. Judy Hoerr. He is welcomed at home by four brothers, Wes, Samuel, Andy and Kurt. His grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel (Peoria). May God bless these little ones and their parents as they are so fortunate to have Christian parents who will bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Marie Schafer, Bro. Wilbur Hoerr and Bro. Leland Swadley. We pray that they may each be blessed with good health once again.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Martha Jane Siebenthal

We want to thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton), Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Rick Plattner (Peoria) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH). We appreciate their efforts and labors of love.

"Lo children are an heritage of the Lord". (Psalms 127:3) God has blessed first-time parents Bro. David and Sis. Leann Berchtold with a precious bundle from heaven. Lynell Rose was born November 3. Happy and thankful grandparents of Lynell Rose are Bro. Lavern and Sis. Joan Berchtold and Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress (Bradford). Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara Wagenbach have been blessed with their first girl, Stacy Beth, born November 17. She has two brothers, Keith and Kent, to welcome her home and thankful grandparents, Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagen-

bach and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtberger (Morris, MN). May God bless these families as they bring up these precious little ones.

Our prayers are with Bro. Brian and Sis. Mary Beth Elsasser. Their small son, B.J., underwent serious heart surgery. May God's will be done.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Sis. Esther (Steiner) Grimm. Her funeral was November 6 at Princeville. She had made her home in Sabetha, KS, for the last several years at the church home. She had lived in Princeville for over 20 years. She was the stepmother of Sis. Alvina Streitmatter and Bro. Earl Grimm from our congregation.

My dear Aunt Sis. Marie Stahl passed away suddenly November 7 at the age of 89. She would have been 90 December 26. She became ill in church (she helped with the dishes at noon), was taken to the hospital and passed away Sunday evening. What a wonderful way to go, the Lord was certainly very good to her even though it is a shock to the family. She leaves to mourn Sis. Bernice Stahl and Harvey Stahl at home, Sis. Verla Hausmann (Bro. Alfred, Wyoming), Bro. Lyle Stahl (Sis. Betty, Wyoming) and Bro. Norman Stahl (Sis. Gloria, Chicago), eleven grandchildren and five great-grand children. Her husband, Bro. William, passed away June 1986. Also, surviving are three sisters, Sis. Elizabeth Kieser (Peoria), Sis. Natalie Feucht (Bro. Daniel) and Sis. Anna Siebenthal, three brothers, Bro. David Kieser (Sis. Ruth), Bro. George Kieser (Sis. Esther), all of Princeville, and Bro. Sam Kieser (Sis. Lucille, Wyoming). May the Lord fill the vacant place with His love and mercy and grant both families many precious memories of their departed loved one. Our sincere sympathy to both the Grimm and Stahl families.

In this Thanksgiving and Christmas season, may we be mindful of the Giver of all things and thank Him not only now but every day of our lives.

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?"

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

A gay holiday filled with merry
good cheer?
A season for presents – both taking
and giving?
A time to indulge in the pleasures
of living?
Are we lost in a meaningless,
much-muddled daze
That covers our minds like a gray
autumn haze?
Have we closed our hearts to God
and His love?
And turned our eyes from “The
Bright Star Above?”
Oh, Father in heaven, renew and
restore
The real, true meaning of
Christmas once more,
So we can feel in our hearts again
That “Peace On Earth, Good Will
To Men”
Is still a promise that man can
claim
If “He But Seeks It In Thy Name.”
Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Annie Leman - Cathy Hohulin

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

Matthew 1:21

Dan and Mary Jane Steffen are
the happy grandparents of Kayla
Sue Steffen, born October 12. Dave
and Sandra are the first-time par-
ents, and her maternal grandpar-
ents are Vilas and Rose Ulrich.

On October 15, Nicholas James
was born to Nate and Chris Fehr.
His grandparents are Bro. Ben and
Sis. Helen Fehr, and Roger and
Sandy Herbst.

We witnessed the baptism of Sis.
Jill Hoffman October 24. Her par-
ents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy
Hoffman.

We extend our sincere sympa-
thy to Sis. Jane Schumacher in the
passing of her mother, Virginia
Unsicker, September 28.

Sis. Emma Legel also has our
prayers in the passing of her broth-
er, Lewis Legel, November 6.

At the young age of 24, Dale
Whitten passed into eternity No-
vember 16. Among his survivors
are his twin brother, Bro. Dave;

and his parents, Bro. Gene and Car-
ol Whitten. They have our love and
prayers.

November 13 was our annual
sale to benefit the Roanoke Apos-
tolic Christian Nursing Home.
Thanks to all who contributed to
this worthwhile cause.

Sis. Cindy Luginbuhl and Bro.
Rod Kupferschmid were united in
marriage November 21. Their par-
ents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol
Luginbuhl (Roanoke) and Bro. Rich
and Sis. Mary Beth Kupferschmid
(Eureka). We wish them much hap-
piness as they establish their home
in Eureka.

A special, all-church singing was
held in honor of Thanksgiving the
evening of November 21. “To God
be the glory - great things He hath
done!” (Gospel Hymns #831)

Our visiting ministers this
month were Bro. Erik Givens
(Princeville), Bros. Rick Plattner
and Mike Reiker (Peoria), Bro.
Marvin Leman (Bradford), Bro.
Everett Hari (Bloomington) and El-
der Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka).

This month, Matt Feucht (Bro.
Randy and Sis. Carol) was hospital-
ized, as well as Doris Aeschleman
(Bro. Lawrence).

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barbara Dill - Marsha Koch

We wish to thank our visiting
minister, Bro. Dale Frank (Oak-
ville, IA). May God bless Bro. Dale
and his family for his efforts on our
behalf.

Our Sis. Royaldine Hodel (Bro.
Bob) was called home November 4.
We extend our sympathy to her hus-
band, Bro. Bob; and daughters, Vera
Walsh (John) and Joyce Clark (Wil-
liam) and their families. Our sym-
pathy goes to our Sis. Christine
Koch (Bro. Terry), Sis. Elizabeth
Wagenbach (Bro. Ron) and their
families in the loss of their mother
and grandmother, Iris Gschwind.
May God grant those who are sor-
rowing His comforting Spirit.

With joy we heard the engage-
ment of Bro. Michael Steiner (Bro.
Joe and Sis. Marcella) to Sis. Ivy
Buster (Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid,
Burlington, IA). Our prayers are
with them as they prepare to be-
come one-in-the-Lord.

How thankful we are to hear
Elmer Brunner (Dorothy) is home
from the hospital again. May God's
healing power be with him.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

Sis. Sonia Feucht, daughter of
Bro. Roy and Sis. Mary Feucht
(Lester, IA), was announced to Bro.
Brandon Endress, son of Bro. Dale
and Sis. Cindy Endress (Peoria,
IL). We pray the Lord's blessings
on this couple now and in the fu-
ture.

Sis. Jill Wagenbach, daughter
of Bro. Don and Sis. Marie
Wagenbach, was announced to Bro.
Chris Hartter, son of Bro. Neal
and Sis. Evelyn Hartter (Bern,
KS). It is after a lot of prayer and
with faith in God that these two
young couples have prepared for
their future marriages. We pray
for long and happy lives together.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine
heart; and lean not unto thine own
understanding. In all thy ways ac-
knowledge him, and he shall di-
rect thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Blake Allen Wagenbach was
born safely and with good health.
Praise God! He is the son of Bro.
Ken and Sis. Laura (Wagner)
Wagenbach. He was welcomed by
his three sisters, Rebekah, Clare
and LaNae. Grandparents are Bro.
Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach
and Bro. Dave and Sis. Lucille
Wagner.

This month's Bible study was
given by Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton,
IL). The topic of discussion was
“Vigilance.” Thank you Bro. Jon
for the time and effort you put
forth in presenting this thought-
provoking message.

Guest ministers were Bro. Tom
Schrenk (Athens, AL), Bro. Randy
Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO)
and Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville,
IL). We thank each one for being
submissive to the Lord and allow-
ing themselves to be His vessels.
We enjoy and appreciate having
guests. The Lord bless you for your
efforts.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Chris Ledford, Sis. Shelli Schumacher and Sis. Sue Ruppert. We pray the Lord's healing hand continues to touch their lives.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

Our hearts rejoice when souls find victory over sin. On the weekend of November 14, we witnessed the baptisms of four souls. They were Bro. E. J. Frauhiger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie), Bro. Kent Gilliom (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Marie), Bro. Trent Gore (Roger and Phyllis), and Bro. Ross Frank (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy).

November 21 was the wedding date of Sis. Jayla Frauhiger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie) and Bro. Toby Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta, Bluffton North). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Leman over the birth of their daughter, Mary Lynn. Mary was born November 9, and joins her brothers, J.D., Shawn, Bradley and Adam. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger and Wally and Sis. Marilyn Leman (Bluffton North).

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Bill Longenberger (Sis. Betty), Sis. Mabel Kipfer, Bro. Phil Kaehr (Sis. Gloria), Sis. Stephanie and Chad Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee), Sis. Mary Speheger, and Kennan Schwartz (Bro. Steve and Sis. Julie). We pray that the Lord will bless each one with renewed health.

"That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love,"
Colossians 2:2

We want to extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Gary Barger (Sis. Sharon) in the passing of his brother, Kevin, November 6.

We also want to remember in our prayers Bro. Herman, Bro. Laurin, Bro. Leonard, Bro. Oscar and Bro. Walter Bertsch, Sis. Gladys Lantz (Bro. Dan) and Sis. Beulah Schwartz (Bro. Howard) in the passing away of their brother, Bro. Jay Bertsch (Tucson, AZ).

We are grateful to the visiting ministers who have shared with us this month. They are Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North), Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North).

To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen mother mild; this little child, of lowly birth, shall be the joy of all your earth.

Now let us all with gladsome cheer, follow the shepherds and draw near;

To see this wondrous gift of God, who hath is only Son bestowed.

Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us his Son hath given! While angels sing with joyful mirth A glad new year to all the earth

Gospel Hymns #851,
vs. 2, 3, 6

As this hymn states that God gave us His Son, let us all remember that "it is more blessed to give than to receive".

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

Christmas greetings go out to all with happiness and blessings that last the whole year through. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). We thank him for preaching God's Word and sharing the testimonies and baptisms the weekend of October 30. It was uplifting for us as our congregation heard the testimonies of five dear souls and could witness their baptisms Sunday, October 31. We welcome Bro. Benjamin and Sis. Bethany Maller (son and daughter to Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda), Bro. Neil Shorb (Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy), Bro. Eric Craighead (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay) and Bro. Len Francesi (wife, Sis. Mary [Baumgartner]). We are thankful to have them in our "family" of faith.

Bro. Andrew L. Hunyady (Columbus, OH) and Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner from our congregation

made a nine-day journey to dedicate a church at Arad, Romania. They had the opportunity to visit with brothers and sisters that showed them so much love and thankfulness for sharing their special day. May God bless their church.

A harvest buffet was held November 20 for the Christian Care Retirement community. It was attended by many and enjoyed by all.

We are looking forward to hearing our Sunday school children sing and tell of Christ's birth at our annual program December 19. May we all let the true Christmas spirit fill our hearts and minds.

THIS CHRISTMAS . . .

Give Time:

Remember an old friend. Share a meal with someone lonely.

Give Hope:

Live joyfully. Raise the spirits of a child.

Give Peace:

Forgive an enemy. Set difference aside.

Give Of Yourself:

Perform acts of kindness. Give love, and Christmas will be forever!

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Bev Huber

Seeking the Lord's will and believing that includes each other, Bro. Chad Huber and Sis. Pam Gudas were united in marriage November 7. Their parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber and Algrid and Erica Gudas (Winamac, IN).

We welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Kelly Zeltwanger and their three sons into our congregation and trust they may feel His love and nearness. Bro. Dave has accepted employment in this area.

Our prayers are with Sis. Pearl Getz (Parkview Haven) and Sis. Maxine Novotny (Bro. Art) as they have spent time in the hospital.

As we gather together with our friends and families over this Thanksgiving season, may we remember the sick, lonely and less fortunate in our community, and thank Him for our many blessings.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Judy Gudeman

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (I Corinthians 13:13) We rejoice with Sis. Janelle Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet) in her engagement to Bro. David Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA). May God be with them as they make plans for their marriage.

Our prayers continue with those currently and recently hospitalized. Sis. Lucille Nuest is doing well since her surgery and has again been assembling with us. Fern Antrim and Karen Heiniger have also been discharged to home since surgery and continue to recover. Bro. Ben Hitz (Sis. Lena) is still hospitalized since a fall.

"In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour."
Zion's Harp #46, v. 1

The Thanksgiving season is almost here. Thanksgiving is an important holiday for Christians to remember, as we have so much to be thankful for. Although Christmas is also important to us, it seems a shame that Thanksgiving is usually completely lost to the nation while the "commercial Christmas" goes into effect by mid-October. May each of us take time every day to thank the Lord for all that He has done for us.

INDIANA, LEO Judy Gehring

As our families get together for the Thanksgiving season, let us all be thankful to our heavenly Father for sending His only begotten Son to redeem us all that one day we all can meet face to face. Let us all count our many blessings.

What a blessed weekend when four dear souls were baptized. They were Shane Stieglitz (son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane), Jaret Wieland (son of Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda), Kevin Stoller (son of Bro. John and Sis. Patsy) and Rebecca Kellenberger (daughter of Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue). Jaret's grandfather, Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger, partici-

pated in the testimony and baptismal services with Elder Bro. David Bertsch and deacon John Stoller.

Visiting ministers that weekend were Bro. Tom Schamback, Kevin Stoller's uncle from Elgin, IL, Bro. Randy Gasser, Shane's uncle from Detroit, MI and Elder Bro. Edwin and Bro. Earl Ringger from Gridley, grandpa and uncle of Jaret Wieland.

Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso) spent a Sunday with us. He has a special place in his heart for Gateway Woods and he and Diane have fostered 30 children. Bro. Andy is a nephew to Bro. Art and Ruth Gramm.

Let us remember the sick, aged and those who cannot get in and out as we do.

Elder Bro. Jesse Beer assisted Elder Bro. David Beer and deacon John Stoller as we shared the blessings of communion. Bro. John Stoller had the closing prayer.

Bro. David Bertsch, our elder, has been ill with a cold and has missed church for two Wednesdays and two Sundays. May we all pray one for another.

INDIANA, MILFORD Judy Longcor Marguerite Hoerr

We were privileged to host a wedding in our Milford church November 14, when Sis. Jenny Beer and Bro. Jason Furrer made their promises before God to be true and faithful throughout their lives to each other. Jenny is the daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford). Jason is the son of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Furrer (Francesville). The young couple will make their home in the Wolcott area. We ask God to richly bless their future, their marriage and the new home they will establish.

We were privileged to have four visiting ministers the Sunday of their wedding. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) assisted with their marriage. Accompanying him from Wolcott was Bro. Neal Widmer. Also favoring us with a visit was Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend).

Earlier in the month, Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) shared the Word

of God with us. We're grateful to God for the love these brothers all showed us by their visits.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Don Beer on the death of his brother, Walter Beer (Bremen). "Walt" has inspired special thoughts and prayers from Milford people, because he was one of our local boys who spent a number of years in a German prison camp in World War II. His homecoming from that experience was viewed as an answer to prayer by those of us who shared his family's concern during that time.

Several loved ones from our congregation were treated in local hospitals this past month. Bro. Herman Weisser, Sis. Mary Gerber and Rachel Beer (daughter of Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby) were there simultaneously. We're thankful to report they are well again, and able to worship with us.

Sis. Betty Beer fell in her home and suffered a broken ankle. Doctors were unable to put a walking cast on at this time, so she's confined to a wheelchair in her home. In speaking to her over the phone, we found her, as usual, patient and accepting of this unfortunate happening.

At the current time, Bro. Bill Troup is undergoing medical treatment, Sis. Millie Beer is returning home from Indianapolis St. Vincent's Hospital where she has again received medical treatment.

Simon Beer, son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie, had sinus surgery this month, and has endured a secondary infection since then. This is the second time he's undergone this unpleasant and painful surgery. He's been a brave boy in accepting his numerous surgeries and medical treatments. He manages a bright and cheery smile for anyone who sees him.

Sis. Martha Wuthrich had cataract surgery. Sisters Ruth Beer and Paula Haab also underwent surgery this past month. In all of these cases the surgery was successful and satisfactory recuperation has been granted.

Bro. Ted Baumgartner was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia from his home at Lakeland Loving Care. He has been treated

and released to his room that he shares with his loving wife, Sis. Helen.

These numbers of people who were ill or who underwent surgery, reflect a large percentage of the membership in our small church in Milford. We are so very grateful for the healing powers God has granted and for restoring them to us.

In one of our morning home worship times, we read an article about "What if God granted us one request, but would only honor that request if it was a good one?" The article goes on to say, "He would probably be pleased if we longed to be Christ-like". Longing to be Christ-like and truly achieving it are two different things, but what a lesson it is to us when we observe a Christ-like nature in one of our fellow travelers. We then determine to try harder and to lean on the grace and love of God more fully to achieve that goal.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

On Saturday evening, October 23, we were privileged to meet at church to hear the memorandum of the August Conference. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) were here to assist our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler. Then on Sunday, Bro. John Lehman was here for our forenoon services, going to Wolcott that afternoon.

Also, Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend) was here and had the afternoon services. We enjoyed many blessings that weekend.

The weekend of November 6 and 7 was a much "looked forward to" weekend. On Saturday evening, Heather Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vickie) and Jason Getz (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene) gave their testimonies. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner from (Bluffton North) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler.

On Sunday, our church was filled with many welcome guests. Visiting ministers were Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Bro. James Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Bro. Walt Steffen

(Milford, IN). It was a most blessed day. The Word was given in rich tones! Brothers and visitors, you are all welcome to come back again.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Lee Blunier (Eureka, IL), whose wife, Sarah (Waibel), passed away suddenly. The funeral was Sunday, November 14. Lee came here to Remington a little over 21 years ago to take Sarah to Illinois as his bride.

Thought for the day: The teeth may be false, but let the tongue be true.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Ken and Cindy Susdorf

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

Christmas Treasures

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

Luke 2:14

Our church once again enjoyed our annual harvest supper. We were blessed by the beautiful singing from the Prairie Choristers (Roanoke, IL) and it seemed the Holy Spirit was extra strong. A special thanks to all who took part in any way.

In this past month we have been listening and receiving much encouragement from the conference tapes. We thank God that He has given us our church shepherds and that they let the Spirit have free course as to the direction we are taking in this life. God bless and keep all of you and your dear families.

We have been blessed this month with the following visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN). Thank you, brothers, for your

labors. The Lord bless all of your labors.

We, here at Valparaiso, bid you all blessed holidays. We look forward to the Christmas dinner, caroling and the making of the food baskets. Let's all make an extra effort to see that all understand what Christmas is about. A birth of a Baby that helps us all to keep on keeping on. We thank Thee, Lord.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Lynell Blume

Our faith was renewed and strengthened by the reading of the memorandum October 24. Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) shared this work with our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler. How necessary it is to be aware of the dangers that face God's children in these latter times!

Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) visited us November 7. We thank each one of these brothers for feeding us from the Word of God.

Bro. Jason Furrer (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis, Francesville, IN) and Sis. Jenny Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) exchanged wedding vows November 14. We wish them much happiness as well as God's guidance in their lives together. We warmly welcome Sis. Jenny!

Funeral services were held for Andy Hofstetter November 17. We pray his dear wife, Marge, can feel God's comfort and nearness. Even though Andy had not yet been baptized, his desire to repent and live for the Lord had been fulfilled.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Dorothy Lehman and family in the death of her sister, Annetta Wagler Henry (Massachusetts).

Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) shared with us much food for thought at our Bible study November 17 titled, "The Fields White Unto Harvest." Even as the farmers make preparations to harvest their fields of ripened grain, so must we prepare our lives and our hearts for God's great harvest of the earth.

We will certainly miss Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp and family as they have moved to Iowa

and will be attending the Burlington church. They have been a part of our church community for ten years. May the many friendships and the Christian love bind our hearts together. We hope they will visit us often as we remember each other in prayer.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Carolyn Wulf

“But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife. And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

St. Mark 10:6-9

What a blessing to be able to trust God for guidance in this second most important step in life. We pray Bro. Jerome Metzger and Sis. Jana Massner will continue to seek our Father's guidance as they became one-in-Christ November 7.

We are thankful for the many visitors who traveled to be with us for this special occasion and especially the ministering brothers, Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester), Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville). May God reward these brothers richly for their willingness to bring the Holy Word to us.

We also rejoice with Sis. Ivy Buster (Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid) on her engagement to Bro. Michael Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella, Tremont, IL). May the Holy Spirit ever abide with them as they plan a future together.

We recently had two sisters celebrate birthdays in our congregation that I think are worthy of acknowledgment. Sis. Tillie Frank turned 90 November 11 and Sis. Ruth Reiman will be 87 November 20. We surely have a precious faith that the young and old can feel a oneness through Christ. We are thankful for these examples of faith and appreciate their wisdom of past experiences.

Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell have a change in address and phone

number; it is now P.O. Box 454, Medapolis, IA 52637. Their new phone number is 319-394-3852.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

How shall it be? Oh, what this mortal vision can neither see, nor hear, nor understand, of happiness and glory shall be given to those who pass into that promised land!

As we bid farewell on earth to two of our faithful sister-in-the-Lord, we can't but rejoice with them that their earthly battles are over and though we will miss their presence here, we are thankful for the Christian examples they have left us.

Sis. Esther Broker passed away October 29 and Sis. Adeline Lehman November 13. Neither sister ever married and had families of their own, but both were lovingly cared for by nieces and nephews. Our sympathy goes to each one in their loss.

We also extend our sympathy to Ida and Edwin Frieden in the loss of their brother, Harry Frieden, who passed away November 13.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ruth Schupbach as she is to undergo surgery for a hip replacement. May God rest His healing hand on her and grant her a speedy recovery.

We rejoice with Heidi Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne) who has found peace and forgiveness and now looks forward to baptism.

As we come to the close of another year and can look back and feel and know that God has certainly been faithfully by our sides as we faced each trial and test it gives us courage to press on trusting in His promises: “My grace is sufficient for thee” and “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Dawn Moser - Laura Funk

Again, we would like to thank our visiting ministers for sharing God's Word with us. They are Bros. Charles Marti (Lamar, MO), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Elder

Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and our own Elder Bro. Sam Huber, who has been with us twice this past month. Thank you for your time and efforts on our behalf. May God grant each one of you blessings.

“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”

Matthew 2:10

A popular phrase today is, “Wise men still seek Him.” May we be as diligent as those wise men of old and seek Him, our Saviour, born King of the Jews.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! As we approach another holiday season, we find we have so many reasons to be thankful. We are thankful for all of our visitor support throughout the year, including ministering Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) this month. We are thankful for each friend, convert, and member who regularly worships with us – each one of your contributions are so important. And we are thankful for those who pray for us.

At the close of a year that has been trying for many, we can see how God provided for each of us, and how He could take seemingly difficult and detrimental circumstances and work them for our good. How true the verse “All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to this purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

As we enter the season of gift-giving, may we always keep in mind the greatest gift we've ever been given – the gift of our salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. How much our heavenly Father loves us! May our love for Him inspire us to surrender our whole life unto Him in obedience to His Word and in service to others.

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

We have so many things to be thankful for. One of our most treasured blessings is the word of life which is shared with us so freely. May God bless our ministering brethren who willingly labor on our behalf. Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO).

We congratulate Sis. Sonia Feucht (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marge) on her engagement to Bro. Brandon Endress (Bro. Dale and Sis. Cindy, Peoria, IL). Sis. Sonia was formerly from our congregation and now lives in Washington, IL.

We also rejoice with Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana Metzger who were united in marriage on November 7. Jana is the daughter of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington, IA). We welcome Sis. Jana. May God bless both of these dear couples.

Hospital patient this month was Andy Leuthold. Our prayers are with him.

We were saddened to say our earthly farewells to Bro. Alvin Leuthold, who died unexpectedly October 30. We pray that God will be near and comfort his wife, Sis. Estelle, and his family including his sons, Jerry (Winthrop, MN), Alan, Dennis, and Stuart; his daughters, Sis. Sandy Feucht (Ron), Sis. Pam Bosch (Tony), Lois, and Melissa Bass; his brothers, Wilburt (Onaga, KS), Andy (Elsie), Bro. Paul (Sis. Betty); his sisters, Anna Knobloch (Otto) and Sis. Ella (Bro. Ernst); and his 25 grandchildren and a great-grandson.

We also extend sincere sympathy to Bro. Delbert and Sis. June Knobloch and June Knobloch and Jeff and Jill on the death of Sis. June's grandmother, Dora Visser. May we all be reminded to strive the harder to reach our heavenly home.

We are encouraged and so thankful to hear that Lance Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie) has found the grace to repent. Our prayers are with him.

"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."
Zion's Harp #47

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We want to thank those ministers who've visited us this month, allowing the Spirit to work through them in preaching to our congregation. Visiting were Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Bro Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF MY DAD, JESS GRIMM

It's been a year since my Dad has died
And oh, so many tears have I cried
It's hard to lose someone you love
so
In my life he taught me so much,
you know
He was a good Dad to me
He taught me all of how life would be
He might have done too much for me
But that's how he wanted it to be
"Little Jimmy" is almost three
The apple of Dad's eye you see
When we played a tape and heard
Grandpa's voice
Oh, how did little Jimmy rejoice
He was Grandpa's boy Dad would say
And a year ago God took him away
I miss you dad,
Can you see
How much you mean to me
There will come a day
Maybe so many years away
We will be together again
Dad I promise

I love you,
Your daughter, Marilyn

May we never forget as we are in the Christmas season, to really reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

"No room for Him," the keeper said
That night so long ago,
"My inn is crowded, don't you see
The rooms now overflow."

"It's just a Child," he must have thought,
"A family, poor and plain;
My inn is filled with paying guests,
How could I dare explain?
And thus, he turned aside from One
Who chose a humble birth
To enter into human form
And save all men on earth
But lo, the shepherds in the hills
Were called, the Babe to greet;
They followed then the brilliant star
And worshiped at His feet!
"No room for Him," cry men today
As through the world they plod;
"My life is crowded, don't you see?
I have no room for God.
How could I dare explain to all
My friends who question me,
That Jesus came to save my soul,
From sin, to set me free?"
O God, forbid that we become
As keeper of the inn,
And have our lives so crowded
That we have no room for Him.
But now may we, Thy children dear,
Unworthy though we are,
Become as shepherds long ago
And follow now His star!

Kathryn Slasor

IOWA, PULASKI
Carol Wettstein
Ernestine Wuthrich

The Sunday school enjoyed a special weekend with the Garden Grove Bible class.

The young groups from Oakville and West Wend, IA, Taylor, MO and Bern, KS were here the same weekend. There are always many blessed memories when young and old can fellowship together.

Bro. Richard Teubel (Sis. Wilma) is receiving treatment in an Iowa City hospital. Their son, Dennis, is also receiving treatment as an out-patient. Many prayers are being given daily for Bro. Richard and his family.

Sis. Karoline Wuthrich (Bro. Russell) was hospitalized for observation. We wish to express our prayers and concern to her and her family.

In our "busyness" of the holiday season, let us not forget the reason for our celebration and remembrance - the birth of Christ and His preparing a way of salvation.

IOWA, WEST BEND**Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber**

We were blessed with visits from two ministers this past month, Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL). May God bless them for their service in bringing us God's Word.

We are happy for those whose engagements were announced recently. They are Bro. John Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Wendy Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula); also Bro. Jordan Grimm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose) and Sis. Ann Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy). As both of these couples believe God has led them in this matter, may He also lead and guide them as they make their wedding preparations.

God has blessed three homes with bundles from heaven. Brent, Tammy and Ashely Metzger, along with grandparents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth Metzger, welcomed Jennifer Elaine October 21. Dylan Marc was born October 29 to Bro. Dave and Sis. Missy Zaugg. To help care for him are big brother, Colton, and grandparents, Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg. First-time parents, Bro. Frank and Sis. Dawn Schmidt, welcomed Amber Dawn November 7. Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt are Amber's grandparents. We wish each one of these dear ones the Lord's nearness as they guide these tender little hearts in His way.

On November 9, we bid our Sis. Lydia Wilson (86) farewell. She was such a precious sister who always had a welcome into her heart and home for others. Sis. Lydia is survived by two daughters, Ruth Anderson (Gordon) and Esty Steil (Mike), both of West Bend; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

We extend sympathy to the loved ones of Sadie Banwart. Reuben and Louisa Anliker and Sis. Lena Grimm and a host of nieces and nephews of our congregation. Likewise, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Amy Mogler bid farewell to grandpa, Bro. Alvin Leuthold (Lester). We wish each one the nearness and comfort of the Lord.

Bro. Gale Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Jason Getz

(Remington, IN) and Sis. Gladys Knobloch (Lester) have all joined our church family for a season. We hope they will each one feel the love and blessings of the Lord for as long as they assemble with us.

Let us always remember:

C is for the Christ Heavens Gift of Love;

H is for the Holy One who left His Home Above;

R is for Rejoicing because of Jesus Birth;

I is for Immanuel God who came to Earth;

S is for Salvation the Father's Gift to All;

T is for the Tiny Child resting in the stall;

M is for Mercy that's Freely found in Him;

A is for Atonement that Frees us from our Sin

S is for Savior the Lamb, the Righteous King . . .

December is Silver Lining collection time in West Bend.

JAPAN, SHIODA**Willis and Lois Ehnle**

Today, October 19, 1993, I received a telephone call from a man who wants to work for the Lord. For some reason, he wants to work with a foreigner, hence his call to me although he lives far from here, near Yokohama. He has done some research and knows something about our church. I encouraged him to visit our church in Tokyo which is much nearer to him than is Shioda. Jesus said, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into the harvest." (Matthew 9:38)

On the Shioda church grounds where we live in a small house beside the church, there are two nut trees. One is an English walnut tree which hulls itself as it falls from the tree and which is easily cracked. The other tree is a Japanese walnut tree and they have to be hulled by hand and they are so hard that they have to be cracked with a big hammer against a good sized stone. Yet we favor the hard nuts because they have a better flavor. Why is it that things with a

high quality and a good flavor require so much more effort and self-discipline? In the life of faith, too, it is the life of self-denial that has the most flavor. Evidently, this is a universal principle which God created Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23) The search for a way to do whatever you feel like doing, with no bad effects, is doomed to failure.

Congratulations to the Silver Lining for 50 years of faithful service.

KANSAS, BERN**Donna Edelman - Diane Kaeb**

October 17 was the annual Apostolic Christian Home meeting. We appreciate the labors of the board members and thank the visiting ministers Bros. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa), Al Langhofer (Wichita) and Don Braker (Kansas City) that were with us that Sunday.

Our congregation is rejoicing over six dear souls who have found peace with God. The weekend of October 30 and 31, we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Roger and Sis. Michelle Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Edelman and Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda Rokey) and Holly Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey). Assisting Elder Bro. John were Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Sam Huber (Sabetha) and Bro. Ben Wysong. The following weekend, November 6 and 7, we again observed the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Carla Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet), Bro. Ryan Hartter and Sis. Jananne Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn). Helping Elder Bro. John were Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Sam Huber (Sabetha) and Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). May they be blessed for their many efforts that they put forth. We welcome our new brothers and sisters-in-faith.

On a recent Wednesday evening in Manhattan, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach taught and reminded us of the importance of our commitment. Many from our congregation plus the junior and senior Bible

class attended with the college students. We are thankful to Bro. Ben and his wife Sis. Lorene, for taking of their time to share with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the many loved ones who are experiencing the afflictions of the body. Sis. Kaye Meyer (Bro. Steve) had ankle surgery and is back assembling with us on crutches. We are thankful that Vance Strahm (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cynthia) has recovered following a swing set accident. Kristen Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) broke her arm and Sis. Anna Ulmer had cataract surgery. Sis. Darlene Stoller (Bro. Arden) is in the hospital at this time of writing. May God give them the grace to bear their pain, and heal them according to His good and perfect will.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Marie Grimm whose step-mother, Sis. Esther Grimm, recently traded her life here on earth for an eternal one in heaven. May God comfort Bro. Harvey, Sis. Marie and their family, Greg, Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharon in this time of sorrow.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19) Liz Brey (Roger) has turned her back to the world and has begun the pathway of repentance. May God grant the needed grace each day.

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing." (Proverbs 18:22) Believing God has lead them to each other, Bro. Chris Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Jill Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie) have made their engagement known. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare to walk life's pathway together.

"Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright" – Sleep in heavenly peace. May we allow the peaceful strains of this carol to help us worship and sing alleluia for God's "redeeming grace." May all have a blessed Christmas!

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." (Psalm 127:3) Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner (Chicago, IL), are the happy parents of Anissa Lynn, born September 30. Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner and Bro. Norman and Sis.

Gloria Stahl (Chicago, IL) are the happy grandparents.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn

During the past month, we have been blessed to have ministering Bros. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA) and Max Reimschisel (Wichita) in our midst. How precious it is to have brothers who are willing to stand and preach the truth. May the Lord bless all those who labor in His service.

In this holiday season may we keep our focus on the true meaning of Christmas and not get caught up in the spirit of the world. Let us always remember the heavenly gift of Jesus Christ which is available each day of the year.

The blessed story of the Christ, the babe of Bethlehem,
Is worthy of our song and praise,
and stirs the hearts of men.
The fullness of God's love divine,
surrounds the Christ so mild.
Alas, how many only know the
Saviour as a child.

Our saving hope is all in vain, if
here our love should cease,
For in the man of Galilee, we find
the gift of peace.

'Tis not the babe, but Christ the
man, Who walked in Galilee,
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,
that sets the spirit free.

Be not content this babe to know,
nor stay at Bethlehem.
But go with Christ to Calvary's
brow, beyond Jerusalem.

'Tis there men learn to know the
Christ, for there he bore man's
sin.

Then open wide the door of heart,
and let the Saviour in.

Hymns of Zion #36

KANSAS,
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Wanda Grimm

The fall semester at KSU is well under way. We are all busy with classes and are looking forward to the end of another semester.

We are thankful for all those

who have come to worship with us especially ministering Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, KS), Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), and Bill Emch (Lamont, KS) and Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI). May God bless each of you for sharing your time with us.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

Not now, but in the coming years
It may be in the better land;
We'll read the meaning of our tears,
And there, sometime, we'll
understand.

God knows the way, He holds the
key,
He guides us with unerring hand;
Sometime with tearless eyes we'll
see;
Yes, there, up there, we'll
understand.

Then trust in God thro' all the days;
Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand;
Tho' dark thy way, still sing and
praise,
Sometime, sometime, we'll
understand.

Hymns of Zion #165

Sometimes it is so hard to understand why our loved ones have to suffer the way they do, but when we read the words to this precious hymn, we realize everything is in God's hands, And He will always be there for us, no matter what we face, and someday we will know why. So, for our dear shepherd, Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson, who recently learned of cancer within his system; and our dear Sis. Elizabeth Diel, who fights an ongoing battle with cancer. Our dear friend, Edna Tucker, who suffered a sever heart attack; and our dear Sis. Mildred Frieden, who was hospitalized for a short stay recently, we lift our hearts in prayer for God's grace, mercy, compassion and undying love, in their suffering. We also pray for His abiding strength

for their families, who suffer with them.

Wednesday night services were reinstated again and we are in the process of listening to the tapes from the conference. If our hearts and minds are open to God's guidance, there are so many valuable lessons to learn for our everyday lives from the inspiring talks given by our elder brethren through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Praise be to God for those who care enough to try to keep the faith true through these evil times; But let's do our part, too, by being faithful, and sharing in God's work through our attendance and love for one another. "But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22)

There was joy in the presence of the angels this past week as a faithful soul was called from this life to share in the eternal rest her Lord has promised. Sis. Myrtle Rathgeber passed away in her sleep at the Friendship Manor at the age of 89 yrs, 5 mo. and 11 days. Sis. Myrtle was the mother of Bro. Larry and Sis. Millicent Frieden (Hazelton) and Betty Frieden Wiley and Parker (Kiowa). She will be greatly missed by five grandchildren, seven step-grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild, plus many neighbors and friends. But she is in such a happy place that we are looking forward to a time when we may one day be together again.

To all who helped at the Manor for services this month - thanks - the singing was beautiful.

The birthday of our Lord will be celebrated in December - let's not let slip the fact that Jesus is the "only" reason for the season.

KANSAS, LAMONT Jane Isch

Our congratulations and God's blessings to Julia Anliker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean) and Todd Pyle (Mr. and Mrs. Gary Pyle) who were married October 30 at Pittsborough, KS, by retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Julia's grandpa.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. David Sinn (Fort

Scott) and Jeff Bahr (Kiowa). We appreciate visitors very much and pray God will bless them for their efforts.

KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger Sharon Strahm

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Bro. David Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) as visiting ministers.

The home of Bro. Lafe and Debra (Bauer) Bailey has been blessed with the birth of their son, Landon Nolan, November 8. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Linda Bailey and great-grandparents, Bro. Lou and Sis. Tillie Wenger.

Sis. Esther Grimm was a patient in the hospital prior to passing away November 3. Sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Joseph Steiner (Sis. Clara), Sis. Matilda Steiner and Sis. Lena Steiner. Services were held at our funeral home and burial at Princeville, IL.

Bro. Ernest Kellenberger was called to his rest November 12. We remember his wife, Sis. Tillie, who was often with him in his time of need. Services were also held at our funeral home with burial in Elgin, IL.

May God comfort these families and help fill the lonely days ahead.

We are in one of the most special times of the year. As we remember the birth of our Savior may we likewise have Jesus with us through the coming year.

"I need Jesus, my need I now
confess;
No friend like Him in times of deep
distress;
I need Jesus, the need I gladly own;
Tho' some may bear their load
alone, Yet I need Jesus.

I need Jesus, I need a friend like
Him,
A friend to guide when paths of life
are dim;
I need Jesus, when foes my soul
assail;

Alone I know I can but fail, So I
need Jesus.

I need Jesus, I need Him to the
end;
No one like Him, He is the sinner's
Friend;
I need Jesus, no other friend will
do;
So constant, kind, so strong and
true, Yes I need Jesus.

Chorus:
I need Jesus, I need Jesus,
I need Jesus ev'ry day;
Need Him in the sunshine hour,
Need Him when the storm-clouds
low'r;
Ev'ry day along my way, Yes, I
need Jesus.

Tabernacle Hymns #17

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

On the evening of October 22, our congregation was blessed to have Elder Bros. Wendell Gude-man, Edwin Ringger, and Ed Lanz and their wives in our presence. The brothers shared the memorandum with us. We have reasons to be thankful that our elders have a concern for our families and we certainly realize that they lend themselves for our benefit at the expense of time with their own families. May God continue to counsel them and us. "The counsel of the Lord stands forever." (Psalm 33:11)

Much mention was made in the memorandum of the role of grandparents in the family. I am reminded of verses 25-26 in Psalm 37 where the psalmist observed that the descendants of the righteous are blessed. What a promise for us as grandparents to claim! Two sets of grandparents have been blessed with another grandchild to nurture. Dwaine and Sis. Rose Ann Reeves welcome Grace Rosemary, born to Sandy and Craig Smith October 14. Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian Bowers welcome Seth David born to Jim and Marsha Bowers October 23.

Dewey Brunt, father of Sis. Lillian Bowers, was a hospital patient this past month and is now confined to a care facility. Sis. Lillian's acceptance of her role as a

care-giver is a witness of her trust in His almighty lovingkindness as she ministers not only to the needs of her father but to her son, Bro. Phil, who is experiencing untold medical complications. Our prayers are for God's mercy on all concerned.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Wayne and Becky Snodgrass

Greetings of love from our Lexington congregation! We had a very memorable weekend last weekend. We had our annual business meeting and reading of the memorandum Saturday, and we partook of holy communion Sunday. It makes you really stop and think how blessed each and every one of us are to have a church like ours to go to every Sunday and Wednesday evening. A church that follows the Bible in these days are few and far between. Therefore we all need to consciously do our best to hold fast to what we have and uphold the precious doctrines and traditions of our beloved faith.

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word or by our epistle."

II Thessalonians 2:15

Jesus asked whether or not there would be faith on the earth when he came again. I firmly believe that if we can all work together to preserve our fellowship as our forefathers did, He will find faith when He comes back again.

We are once more coming into the holiday season. A season Satan is desperately trying to twist and turn away from the real meaning of Christ's birth. A time when Santa (isn't it ironic it's got the same letters as Satan) is given as much and most of the time more thought and attention than Christ. I was struck with the realization of this once again when I went to buy Christmas cards. There was two tables piled high with boxes. I was only able to find three with Christ on them, in all the boxes. But many, many with Santa and the Christmas trees. The Christmas trees are beautiful, but do we spend more

time fixing and admiring it, then we do in actually worshipping the Christ whose birthday it is? Do we spend more time and money getting gifts for our children and each other to make sure they like them, then teaching them the biggest lesson of Christmas, in giving of themselves and ourselves from the heart? So many things may not be wrong to do at Christmas. But isn't it just like Satan to just take our focus off of where it should be, if only just a little. You can't turn a wheel even a fraction of an inch without eventually getting completely off the road, if it's not turned back.

This Christmas, let us rejoice in the birth of our Saviour, and be of good cheer for He will also care for us.

The results of our business meeting are as follows: Sunday school teachers will be Bros. Doug Germann and Wayne Snodgrass and Sis. Barb Huber. Sunday school superintendent will be Bro. Doug Germann. Secretary/treasurer is Rebecca Germann and trustee is Jan Neokumm. We wish them much grace to fulfill their duty's as unto the Lord. We appreciate our ministering Bros. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Glen Dill (Tremont, IL) and Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) also our Elder Bros. Wendall Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) who ministered unto us this past month. May God richly bless them for their deeds of love. We want to extend a warm welcome to all who wish to visit us. The parsonage is still available and the invitation is still open for anyone who might feel lead to support our small congregation.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

"... Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17

When Jesus began His public ministry, He did it with a call to repentance. Answering that call are Nathan and Susan Steffen (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta; Ron and

Kay Jenkins). During repentance, Jesus encourages us to change our values and goals, and our allegiance to Him. In doing so, Martin and Michelle Blough (Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite; Stanley and Eula Lenneman) and Darlene Goodwin (Rich Goodwin; Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough) have found their peace and await baptism. Our prayers are with each one.

We want to thank Bro. Randy Gasser and Bro. Leonard Hitz (Detroit, MI) for sharing Wednesday evening with us and enlightening us with news about Woodhaven, our senior citizen facility in Detroit. We are glad for the work being done there and appreciate your labors of love.

Our Bible class and older Sunday school students hosted a supper and evening of entertainment for our senior adults. We appreciate their efforts. A good time was had by all.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier are the first of our Snowbirds to head south for the winter. We pray for a safe journey and that God will be with them, and that we will be able to meet again in the spring.

With the advent of winter, we begin thinking of Christmas and the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In Matthew 2:23-25 we read:

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

"Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

"And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus."

Merry Christmas!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

The Lord joined together two dear souls as one flesh Sis. Heidi Broquard and Bro. Trent Schrock. Their parents are Sis. Carol and Bro. Duane Broquard, Sis. Mary

and Bro. Byron Schrock. Grandparents are Sis. Irma and Frank Bragiel, Sis. Martha and Bro. Charles Rinkenberger. Many friends and relatives were with us to celebrate this blessed occasion.

Among those with us for the wedding celebration were ministering Bros. Kurt and Sis. Sue Heimer and family (Alto, MI) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL).

On our sick list this month were Bro. Gary Wright (Sis. Shirley), Nettie Knochel (parents Sis. Leonore, Bro. Norman), Rosemary Wackerle, Sis. Margaret Ruegsegger (Bro. Glen), Katherine Wackerle (Ronald), Mildred Wackerle (Clyde), also Sis. Doris Knochel resided again in the hospital and Sis. Mae Guenzel is still recuperating at the nursing home.

We wish the Lord's grace, blessings and comfort for a measure of health if it be His will.

Sis. Laura (Clara) Mudge passed on to be with the Lord November 11 after a lengthy stay in the nursing home.

Sis. Laura is survived by her daughter, Yulonne Nochols; her son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Nadine Mudge; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A brother and three sisters-in-law, Bro. Erwin and Sis. Nina Wieland, Florence Wieland and Esther Wieland. May our Lord comfort those who are left behind.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Marlene Reinhard
Holly Barton

This has been a rather quiet month for our congregation. For some, it has been a time of sorrow. We have also had a period of exhortation and encouragement. We have spent time with our families and paused to thank our Lord for His many provisions. And now, we anticipate the blessings of the Christmas season. It may have been quiet, but maybe that is what we need in order to refresh our souls and draw closer to God at this very special time of year.

"I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren." (I Thessalonians

5:27) Our congregation recently listened to the exhortation of the memorandum, the "epistle" from the annual brotherhood conference. At the school where I teach, there is a big conference folder that contains handouts from conferences and workshops that teachers have attended; it is a way of sharing the information with those who did not attend. We are always eager to gain new insights and strategies, either from conferences attended personally or from others who went. Whether or not we, as brothers and sisters, were able to attend the brotherhood conference, we have an opportunity to hear what was discussed. Do we look forward to this? Are we eager to put aside any ineffective "strategies" in our lives and practice what the Lord tells us will be successful in our Christian walk? We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for coming to assist in this endeavor.

The family of Sis. Esther Orcsik (Bro. John) is grieving over the death of her brother, Bro. Sandor Fulop (Dunavecse, Hungary). May the "God of all comfort" console them in their sorrow. (II Corinthians 1:3-4)

They all were looking for a King
 To slay their foes and lift them
 high:

Thou cam'st, a little baby thing
 That made a woman cry.

George Macdonald

While shopping for Christmas cards, I saw one designed like a birth announcement. It looked something like this:

Announcing the birth of: Jesus
 Christ

Born to: All the world
 From the home of: Mary and
 Joseph of Nazareth

From the heart of: God in Heaven

Not many celebrated the birth of God's Son that first Christmas day, even though it was announced by the angels, shepherds, and wise men. But this "birth announcement" was not given merely that we could rejoice with the parents. It was truly God's Christmas card - and Gift - to us. May each of you

find joy and peace in Him this Christmas!

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

Mason Todd has brought much joy and happiness into the lives of Bro. Dick and Sis. Gail Metzger. He was born October 21. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall (Morris) and the late Bro. Emil and Sis. Florence Metzger (Lester, IA).

Our prayers are for Sis. Sheryl Luthi as she is in the hospital. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Arletta Bragg with the death of her father.

We had the privilege of gathering together to listen to the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) were here for the occasion and were assisted by Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). We thank them for their labors of love.

With the Christmas season approaching, we need to take time to remind ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas and not get involved in the "worldly celebrations."

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Deb Joos - Maxine Sauder

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"Lord, may this celebration of
 Christ's birth renew our faith in
 Thee,
 That we might seek Thee with the
 humility of the shepherds, the
 zeal of the wise men -
 That we might join the alleluias of
 the heavenly host,
 And let the light of Your star shine
 forever in our lives."

Cherie Rayburn

Celebrating the birth of their first child are Carter and Deb Moser. Tyler Daniel was born October 14. His grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Norene Moser. May God bless their little family.

We always appreciate when Elder Bro. Joe Braker returns "home" to visit. He challenged us to live our lives in the light of Romans 12.

What a difference we could make in our families, church, and world by embracing these Biblical principles in our daily living.

As Marie Feuchtenberger kneels at the foot of the cross in repentance, we lift her up in prayer with rejoicing. May she know that God is near.

Among those hospitalized were Bro. Leo Dogotch, Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger, Marie Feuchtenberger, Bro. Noah Nohl, Sis. Corrine Schmidgall and Wilbert Spohr. May God's healing hand continue to be upon each of them.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of dear Bro. Ernest Kellenberger who has recently passed from this life. Bro. Ernest and Sis. Tillie lived in Morris for many years before moving to Sabetha, KS. Many of us remember Bro. Ernest as a Sunday school teacher and gifted song leader. Their children include Sis. Shirley Nohl (Morris, MN), Jean Scheitlin (Elgin, IL), Adair Wuthrich (Gelleana, IL), Ernie Jr. (Elgin, IL), John (Fort Myers, FL), Sharon Carlson (Orange City, CA), Charles (Cape Coral, FL), Tom (Homburg, NJ), Mark (Leicester, NC) and Lorna Erickson (Alexandria, MN). Preceding their father in death were Richard and Sis. JoAnn Knobloch.

We rejoice with Bro. Albert and Sis. Edith Joos as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past month. May God continue to bless them.

Thank You: We want to thank our children and grandchildren for providing a special 50th wedding anniversary celebration for us. The memories from that evening are like golden treasures which we'll always hold in our hearts. We also want to thank our family and friends for the cards, gifts, and most of all for your love, support, and friendship through the years. May God bless each one of you and keep you in His care.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Edith Joos

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Kim Messner - Joleen Messner

"All praise and thanks to God
 The Father now be given,

The Son and Holy Ghost,
 Who dwell in highest heaven.
 The one eternal God,
 Whom earth and heav'n adore,
 Who is and shall survive,
 Now and forever more."

Zion's Harp #236

As the holiday season is now upon us, let's be thankful and remember that Christ is the reason for Christmas and that we not only worship Him during the season, but all year through.

The Sunday school hosted our annual "Over 55" Supper. The Sunday school students put on a small program asking the guests what they were thankful for, memories from childhood and what our first church services were like in the homes. It was a nice time enjoyed by the young and the old.

Walter and Sis. Bonnie Eskuri were blessed with a precious little one. Raija JoAnn was born November 1 and is welcomed by grandparents, Bro. LeRoy and Sis. JoAnn Messner and Walter and Lois Eskuri, plus many aunts and uncles. We trust God's wisdom will be imparted, that all parents, who are recipients of a bundle from heaven, will raise them in the fear and adoration of the Lord.

On November 13, Derrick Schmidt and Ruth Ehlke were united in marriage. May God stand by their sides as they join hand and heart. Parents of the couple are Bro. Darrel and Darlene Schmidt and William and Dorothy Ehlke.

We wish Sis. Florence Messner (late Bro. Walter) God's healing strength as she recovers from surgery. She is now home and on the road to recovery.

Many in our congregation are suffering bodily afflictions and seeking medical attention. We pray for God's healing hand on each one.

We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch in the passing of their grandfather, Ernst Kellenberger (Sis. Tillie, Sabetha, KS).

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti
 We are thankful to have Bro.

Jesse Delph (Sis. Sophie) back with us. He has been homebound since having hip replacement surgery several weeks ago.

On October 30, Julia Anliker and Todd Pyle were united in marriage at Pittsburgh, KS. Julia's parents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker (Denver, CO). We are thankful they will still be assembling with us in Kansas City.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Martin Hohulin
Carolyn Banwart

October 15 was the 95th birthday of Sis. Anna Marti, our oldest sister. Her daughters from Oakville and Goodfield visited her on this important date. We regret this news item was missed in the October writing.

Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) assisted our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi in the reading of the memorandum letter Saturday evening, November 13. He brought the messages Sunday.

Missy Stratton (Taylor) has taken employment in Springfield, MO. She has been attending services in Lamar. More recently, she has responded to the Lord's call to repent. We welcome her to our church family. We wish her the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, as she seeks to become a child of God.

By the time this account goes to press, the year of 1993 will be in its closing days. As we become older, time seems to pass more rapidly. Are we prepared for the eternity that is ahead?

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands . . . Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise . . . For the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalms 100:1, 4, 5

As Christians, our lives should be continuous in thanksgiving. This short chapter instructs us to sing our praise to God and it reminds

us of His goodness. Even those of us who have not been blessed with beautiful singing voices find encouragement to lift our voices in song.

Thanksgiving? It is surely more than a day in November designated by our government as a holiday to celebrate the harvest. Christmas is a special time of thanksgiving. As is Easter . . . and Mother's Day . . . Memorial Day . . . Father's Day . . . What a great God we have, deserving of our daily praise and thanksgiving.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN). In one message brought to us, we were reminded that at any time, very quickly, our lives can change. Are we ready? Have we done enough for the Lord? How are we choosing to spend our time? What priorities do we have?

We thank these brothers and their supportive wives for so willingly serving the Lord by coming and sharing His Word with us in our little Saint Louis church. Among the blessings for which we thank God are these faithful brothers and sisters.

I heard someone question what would happen in each of our lives if all of the blessings for which we did not thank God would be removed. When something bad happens, it is so easy to say, "Why me?" But do we humbly thank God and ask, "Why me?" for the countless good things with which we are blessed?

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Ephesians 5:20

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Tami Grimm

How exciting to be able to report that another soul is seeking repentance! Missy Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) has decided to turn her back to the world and her eyes toward the cross. I am reminded of the words of the song, "I Have Decided" (Country & Western Hymnal): "When the world sees you begin to change, don't expect

them to applaud. Just keep your eyes on Christ and tell yourself I've become the work of God." Our thoughts and prayers will be with Missy during this time. As we all can testify, Satan doesn't leave us alone once we give our lives to the Lord; but God's grace never fails if we humbly accept it.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month; Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL).

Although it may be repetitious, we would like to express our thanks again to those who have helped with flood cleanup. We've had many come to lend a hand, while others have helped financially, through prayers, or in many other ways. It's been encouraging to see the large number of Sunday schools who have come to volunteer their time. A special thanks also to those from our home congregation who have spent many hours organizing volunteers, planning and preparing meals, helping with overnight accommodations, etc. Although some may seem to have a thankless job, the Lord will bless each one for their efforts.

Ann Wiegand's (Steve) brother, John Hummel (Quincy, IL) was seriously injured after coming in contact with a high-voltage power line. We are thankful for a remarkable recovery and pray He will continue to recuperate. We also are thankful for an answer to prayer that Bro. Don Hoerr (Sis. Elaine) is out of the hospital and able to attend church with us again following hospitalization due to severe head injuries suffered in a fall. Bro. Ralph Knapp (Sis. Linda) is recuperating after injuring his back. Bro. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marje) and Bro. William Cottrell (Sis. Ruth) both underwent surgery. We pray God's healing hand will be with each one.

Our thoughts and prayers have almost unceasingly been with Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton and their family, ever since a malignant tumor was found on six-year-old Mary Beth's spine. Although it is so hard to understand why God allows some things to happen, we know that He has a divine purpose in everything and that "My

thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8) How heartbreaking it must have been for Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene to hear their daughter ask "If God loves me, why does He let me suffer so much?" But we must think of our heavenly Father who loved His own Son with a true father's heart, yet allowed Him to suffer, though blameless, on the cross for each of us. How God's heart must have ached when He heard His precious Son plead "Oh my Father if it be possible, let this cup pass from me . . ." (Matthew 26:39) We know God could have spared His Son's life, but how thankful we are that Jesus finished the prayer, ". . . nevertheless, not as I wilt, but as thou wilt" and that God was willing to allow His Son to die for us.

We pray God will stand close to the side of Bro. Tim, Sis. Verene, Mary and Sam as Mary undergoes radiation and chemotherapy. In the midst of their trials, a bundle of joy was brought into their lives. On November 12, Timothy James was born. What an uplift he must be to each of them as well as his happy grandparents, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola VonTobel (Francesville, IN) and Lynette Landreth (Phoenix, AZ).

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY Franz Soni

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah."

Psalm 68:19

Our small congregation welcomes Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller and their children, Austin, Natasha and Celise. We also welcome Bro. Craig Schafer who also will be worshipping with us. We are encouraged by having these Faithful brethren here to worship with us. May God bless them.

We thank Bro. Jerry Isch for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God bless him and his family for being with us.

Services are held the second Sunday of the month. We encourage all who are in the area to come

worship with us. Services are held at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Days Inn Hotel, Ambassador Room, 2570 Tonnelle Ave., North Bergen, NJ. For more information please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (301) 478-7846 or Bro. Franz Soni (201) 835-3577.

**NEW YORK,
 CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
 Alice Virkler**

CHRISTMAS CAROL

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

From heaven, in the dark of night,
 He came and brought eternal
 light.
 Behold now how this light divine
 Throughout this pilgrim's dale
 doth shine.
 Hallelujah!

And in the Father's image pure
 He came earth's trials to endure.
 He leads us with a gentle hand
 To that long cherished, happy land.
 Hallelujah!

He, who in glory there doth reign,
 Did dwell on earth as humble man;
 That through His noble sacrifice,
 We find the path to paradise.
 Hallelujah!

And when our days here are
 complete,
 As brethren, we our Lord shall
 meet,
 And be transformed before His
 sight
 To glory and celestial light.
 Hallelujah!

Zion's Harp, Hymn #7

The words of this beautiful hymn tell us about Jesus' life from the day He was born in the humble manger, to His sacrifice for our sins upon the cross.

It also reminds us that when our days on earth are complete we shall join Him in the home in heav-

en that He has prepared for us if we are true and faithful to Him and His teachings.

We are happy to report that God has called another of His children here on this earth to follow Him. May Lori Herzig (Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor) receive a portion of God's continued love and grace as she begins her walk of repentance. It is our prayer that many more will answer this most important call.

Bro. Niles Farney (Sis. Polly) has been able to assemble with us again following hip surgery. His recovery seems to be going well. Mary Schulz (Norman) has been unable to be with us following hospitalization in Syracuse for surgery and hospitalization in Lowville for further medical treatment. She has returned to her home and we pray her recovery now will be rapid and complete. Our thoughts and prayers are for each one who cannot be out of their homes or places of residence wherever that might be.

We were glad to see Gertie Herzig (Bro. Ted) in our assembly following many weeks at home recovering from a back injury.

**OHIO, AKRON
 Joyce Gasser**

We were privileged to host the annual Eastern World Relief Review on the weekend of November 13-14. We thank all our guests for coming. This was an interesting program, and we appreciate all who participated in making this an interesting and informative event. It is very impressive to consider the many ways our brothers and sisters serve in helping to meet many needs of less fortunate people in many parts of the world. We are fortunate to have an organization such as our World Relief groups to help channel efficiently the assistance that our church people are able and willing to give. Surely there are many opportunities to serve in this way.

Our Akron church enjoyed a Family Night at which all our congregation were invited to come and participate in various projects for World Relief.

We appreciated our visiting min-

isters who were willing to serve us in ministering the Word. These were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen, Bro. Sam Schlatter and Bro. Kenneth Schneider.

Sis. Ruth Taylor returned from Hawaii as her son, Fred, and his wife, Nancy, took their mothers for a Hawaiian vacation.

Charlotte Kaufman and her daughter, Karen, returned from a trip which included Paris and Greece and surrounding countries and islands.

Sis. Evelyn Walker had cataract surgery. Sis. Katherine Reis has returned to the nursing home from being hospitalized.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
 Julie Grimm**

We recently enjoyed having the Sardis Sunday school and Single Member Group spend a weekend with us. May the bonds of friendship that were formed continue to grow and keep our youth close to God and to our precious faith. We thank Bro. Bill Brake for his labor in the ministry and the other dear brothers and sisters who worshipped with us from Sardis.

Other ministering brothers visiting our congregation have been Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH). May they feel God's blessings as they bring forth the beautiful Gospel message.

Sis. Theresa Hunyady has recently been hospitalized and is now recovering nicely at home. May God be near her and continue to restore health and strength.

Sis. Sara Adam has returned home after a five-week visit to family in Canada. Also, Bro. Andy Hunyady traveled to Eastern Europe for church dedication in Romania. God's traveling mercies were felt and we are thankful to have them safely home.

May we rejoice in the love of our heavenly Father and the beautiful plan of salvation as we commemorate the birth of our precious redeemer. "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)

OHIO, JUNCTION**Sandra Manz**

In this world of violence and hate
and greed
Where men lust for power and
scorn those in need
What could we hope for and where
could we go
To find comfort and courage on
this earth below
If in Bethlehem's manger Christ
had not been born
Many centuries ago on that first
Christmas morn
For life everlasting and eternal
glory
Were promised to men in the
Christmas Story

Helen Steiner Rice

Several months ago a child remarked to her mother "Mom, the calendar says this Sunday is Children's Day. Are we going to get a gift?" Without thinking the mother replied, "Just wait until Christmas. That's Children's Day." To which the child responded, "No, it isn't. That's Jesus's Day." Children, often our greatest source of earthly joy can also be one of our greatest sources of humbling.

On Sunday, November 21, a proud brother stood at the church entryway to announce to everyone that he had a new baby sister named Jenna Mae. Her parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser and siblings include Brad, Greg, Trent, Melinda and Christa. Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz and Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bertha Gasser (Rittman, OH) welcome their new granddaughter.

We thank Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) for his words of exhortation November 7. We appreciate how the Lord works through different personalities to bring the Words of Truth to us as prompted by the Holy Spirit

OHIO, LATTY**Lane Stoller - Kathy Sinn**

Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) gathered with us to assist Bro. Ray with the reading of the conference letter. May we heed the warnings which were sounded. May the Lord bless the elder broth-

ers, as they fulfill the duties which have been placed upon them.

During the month, Ben Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) was given the opportunity to give a testimony before the congregation. On Sunday, he was baptized by Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). Other visiting ministers were Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH).

Several of our brethren have been hospitalized during the month. They include Bro. Dave Stoller (Sis. Irene). Sis. Tootie Sinn, Dave Keysor (Elaine) and Sis. Elizabeth Wieland (Bro. Clemens). May the Lord grant His healing mercies.

We would like to extend deepest sympathy to Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman and their family in the passing of Bro. Dick's brother. May the Lord be near during this time.

As we approach the Christmas season, let us ever remember the true reason of the season. The coming of the Lord is far too important to be forgotten.

December is the month to collect for Silver Lining dues. Please pay \$9 to one of your reporters.

OHIO, MANSFIELD**Cari Mann****MARY'S DREAM**

I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They'd decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the

top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him. I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so full of cheer, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus - not to be wanted at His own birthday celebration. I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real.

This Christmas season, may each of us keep the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts. Without the birth of the Christ Child, there would have been no death of the Man Jesus on the cross. Let us each remember that the birth was only the beginning of God's great plan of salvation wherein lies our true joy and hope.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) The Eastern World Relief meeting in Akron brought us a visit from Bro. Edwin Bahler and his wife, Sis. Lois (Remington, IN). We pray for our ministering brethren and those on the World Relief Committee. May they receive special grace from our Father as they strive to preach the Word both here at home and across the oceans.

Recently Bro. Wally and Sis. Helen Ramsier, Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ann Farney (Wichita, KS) and Martha Oesch and Ben Oesch were involved in an auto accident. Sis. Dorothy Durkin was also involved in an accident. Our praise goes to God that none were seriously injured. We must count our blessings when we think of all the things our heavenly Father spares us from. This alone could keep us busy thanking Him for a very long time.

With the coming of colder weather, it seems that more people seem to not be feeling well. Our dear Sis. Catherine Armstrong has not been

feeling up to her usual perky self. We pray she will soon be assembling with us again. Also, two of our beloved sisters have spent time in the hospital recently. They are Sis. Christine Dotterer (Bro. LaVern) and Sis. Freda Beer (Bro. Ben). Our prayers are with them for speedy recoveries from their respective surgeries.

On behalf of the Mansfield congregation, we pray that each and everyone will have a safe and blessed holiday season. May each of you feel His special presence every day of your lives.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Marsha Hartzler
Linda Ramsier

We are thankful to have ministering brothers to teach us from the Word. Visiting Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Bill Schlatter (Junction) and Ray Sinn (Latty) have spoken to us recently.

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

Revelation 3:20

What a blessing to know that God is still calling souls to repentance. Eric Maibach (Jeff and Elsie) has turned to the Lord, and we wish him God's abundant grace.

On October 3, Alyssa Marie joined big brother, Drew, and parents, Bryan and Kim Keiper. Grandparents are Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty Keiper and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Flak.

Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb Zollinger became first-time parents with the birth of Julia Rose November 1. Julia's grandparents are Sis. Elverna Zollinger and Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ontario).

Wendy Lanae, the first child of Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler, was born on November 7. Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron) have also awaited their new granddaughter.

Taylor Elliott was born November 11 to Ross and Lori Maibach.

Big brother, Evan, is glad for a playmate. Taylor's grandparents are Dale and Dixie Maibach and Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter.

Edward Imhoff passed away November 16. He will be sadly missed by his dear wife, Mildred, and his brother and sisters, Ben (Lynette), Sis. Martha Jane Rigggenbach (Vernon), Sis. Joann Widmer (Bro. Robert), Sis. Jeanette Stoller (Bro. Dale), Sis. Delores Bauman (Marion), and Sandra Franks (Denny). May God be with each one.

Those who have recently been hospitalized are Martha Jane Rigggenbach (Vernon), Sis. Marguerite Gasser (Bro. Harry), John Marty, Sis. Caroline Marty and Bro. Bert Gasser (Sis. Lucy).

We are thankful that Eugene and Debby Winkler's little 4¹/₂-year-old daughter, Jennifer, is doing well after her liver transplant several weeks ago. We pray that she could continue to get well, Lord willing.

OHIO, SARDIS
Renee Miller

Visiting ministers sharing the Word with us late October were Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH).

Cardboard homes, not enough money to buy even a loaf of bread, only a hoe to work the soil . . . the list of conditions that are normal for so many people goes on and on. We were reminded of the annual World Relief meeting, held by the Akron, OH, church this year, of the many opportunities we have in our neighborhoods and across the world to give. This Christmas let's all make a difference in someone's life that is lacking in material needs, and pray that God will fill their spiritual needs.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Edith Miller - Kim Stoller

“The Lord reigneth; Let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.”

Psalm 97:1

We are rejoicing with the angels over two souls, Scott Indermuhle (Patti - son of Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet) and Dan Zollinger (Bro. John and Sis. Marge), who have turned their hearts to the Lord. We wish them God's grace.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie Stoller and Lyn are rejoicing as they welcome Marcie Renee into their home. She was born October 25. Her grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz (Junction) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Stoller.

On the weekend of November 6 and 7, we enjoyed hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Bro. Ron and Sis. Carrie Gray. We wish them God's grace to stay true and faithful throughout their life. Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), and Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) were her to help out.

We pray for Bro. Roger Bauman (Sis. Jennifer), Bro. Lloyd Indermuhle (Sis. Vera) and others who are hospitalized at this writing. May they feel God's nearness.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

We are thankful to have had Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) with us recently. Bro. Randy shared with us the plans for a new addition to the Woodhaven Home for the Aged. May the Lord richly bless him for his work.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. May Fetter. We are thankful she is able to be with us again.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Mary Berg - Lori Martin

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where with he loved us. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7

We were recently reminded of these beautiful, comforting words by Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton). May God bless him for his work in the ministry.

We want to thank all those from Silverton who worship with us from time to time. What a blessing to have a few more gather with our small congregation.

As the holidays approach and we become so busy with entertaining, shopping and our busy schedules, let's stop and consider, is all our preparation for the holidays really necessary? Does God look approvingly on all the hustle and bustle that's involved with Christmas? Perhaps he simply wants us to give our whole hearts to Him in thanksgiving for His most precious gift to us, Jesus Christ.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

Christmas greetings to each one. As we celebrate this holy season once more, may our hearts meditate upon the true meaning of Christmas, the beginning of the blessed plan of salvation.

We were thankful to have Bro. Ed Knecht and his wife, Sis. Judy (Portland) spend a Sunday with us and minister to us out of God's Holy Word.

Many of our congregation are on one of the various committees for building our new edifice. We want to thank each one for their efforts and time, especially the brothers serving on the main building committees as many of their evenings are spent away from their families.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 1:11

We thank the young group from Rittman and Smithville, OH, for

visiting with us on the weekend of October 30 and 31. After a church supper on Saturday, we had a period of fellowship and singing. It is so special when we can share times like this.

We welcome back Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz, along with their children, Tyler, Travis, Emily, Breanna, Christopher and Abigail. It is good to have them back. We also welcome back Bro. Craig Schafer. Bro. Craig has completed his master degree and will be worshipping with us here and in Union City, NJ.

We appreciate all the visitors we've had lately and welcome all to visit and worship with us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

Ministering Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) meditated on this scripture when he and his family visited us October 31. Also on this Sunday, we were blest to have quite a few other visitors with Christian love and greetings given from Roanoke, Eureka and Tremont, IL; Mansfield, OH; and Francesville, IN.

On September 12 we were privileged to hold special services as a group of approximately 20 traveled from Rockville, CT; Goodfield and Tremont, IL. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) ministered to us. We sincerely thank each one of our visitors for coming to worship with us. May God in His almighty power grant all of you His love and peace.

As the holiday season once again approaches, may we all take time to reflect upon our true treasure

that this is where our heart may be.

Upcoming scheduled services are January 2 and February 6, 1994. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615)373-8928, Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-1081 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940 if you plan to be present with us.

TEXAS, DALLAS

Christine Kaiser

Kimberly Kaiser

Christmas is when we received the greatest gift of all time – our Savior, Jesus Christ – from our Father in heaven. As children, we view the birth of the baby Jesus with innocent wonder. But as we grow, we become more aware of the magnificent gift of love bestowed to all mankind. May our Christmas celebrations be filled with the awesome and humble love given to us by our Lord God. Exalt praise and thanks to our wonderful Father!

Recently, we have been abundantly blessed as three visiting ministers joined us in Dallas. In our midst were Bro. William and Sis. Susan Emch (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft (Gridley, KS). Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) gave us our communion exhortation. We greatly appreciate the time and effort our visitors spend to come here. We are truly blessed by the loving service and fellowship each one exhibits.

We extend a special invitation to those traveling in the Dallas area to come worship with us. Our services are held the first and third Sundays of each month at the Holiday Inn in DeSoto, TX. Service times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Please contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp (214) 867-4074, Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102 or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Viola Perdelwitz

Sis. Renee Bauer (Princeville, IL) moved to Del Rio, TX. She accepted the position to teach children of migrant workers in Del Rio.

She will attend church in Zapata.
We welcome Sis. Renee.

Our winter residents are beginning to return to Zapata. Retired Elder Bro. Paul Fehr and his wife, Sis. Anna (Morris, MN) and our trustee, Bro. Alvin Klopfenstein (Latty, OH) and his wife, Sis. Ellen, were some of the first to come this season. We look forward every Sunday to greet those that come each week.

The Lord called Bro. Ernest Kellenberger to his heavenly home November 12. He died in Sabetha, KS, where he was residing at the Apostolic Christian Church Home for the Aged. His funeral was in Elgin, IL. Bro. Ernest and his wife Sis. Tillie were some of the first members to start the church in Zapata. They came every winter for over twenty years. They were not able to assemble with us the past few years because of health problems. We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Tillie and family.

SILVER THREADS

POWER OF PRAYER

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Mark 11:24

The God who stopped the sun on high (Joshua 10:12, 23)
And sent manna from the sky,
(Exodus 16:4-15)
Laid flat the walls of Jericho
(Joshua 6:20)
And put to flight old Israel's foe
(Joshua 10: 9 , 10)
Can He not answer prayer today
(Luke 1:37)
And drive each stormy cloud away?
(John 15:14)

He turned the water into wine
(John 2:3-11)
And healed a helpless cripple's spine;
(Luke 13:11-16)
Said to the tempest, "Peace, be still"
(Mark 4:39)
And hungry multitudes did fill
(John 6:9-13)

His power is just the same today
(Hebrews 13:8)
So why not labor, watch, and pray?
(Matthew 26:41)

He conquered in the lions' den
(Daniel 6;16-22)
Brought Lazarus back to life again;
(John 11: 38-44)
He heard Elijah's cry for rain
(I Kings 18:42-45)
And freed the sufferers from pain.
(Matthew 8:16, 17)
If God could do these wonders then
(Exodus 14:21-31)
Let's prove our mighty God again!
(Malachi 3:10)

Why can't the God who raised the dead,
(I Kings 17:17-22)
Gave David great Goliath's head,
(I Samuel 17:32-51)
Cast out the demons with a word,
(Matthew 8:28-51)
Yet sees the fall of one wee bird
(Matthew 10:29)
Do signs and miracles today
(John 14:12)
In that same old-fashioned way?
(Acts 5:12-16)

God can! He's just the same today
(Ephesians 3:20)
If we believe it when we pray.
(Mark 11:23, 24)
He's no respecter now of men:
(Acts 10:14)
He'll do the same as He did then!
(John 14:12)

LEAVE THE MIRACLE TO HIM

John 2:5

"Whatsoever He bids you, do it,"
Though you may not understand;
Yield to Him complete obedience,
Then you'll see His mighty hand;
"Fill the water pots with water,"
Fill them to the very brim;
He will honor all your trusting –
Leave the miracle to Him!
Bind your Isaac to the altar,
Bind him there with many a cord;
Oh, my brother, do not falter,
Can't you fully trust your Lord?

He it is who watches o'er you,
Though your path may oft be dim;
He will bring new life to Isaac –
Leave the miracle to Him!

Face to face with hosts of Midian,
Gideon's men are sifted out;
Forth they go, these chosen heroes,
With no sword the foe to rout;
Do you wonder if the victory
Can be gained by band so slim?
See, Jehovah's sword is gleaming,
Leave the miracle to Him!

Bring to Christ your loaves and fishes
Though they be both few and small,
He will use the weakest vessels,
Give to Him your little all.
Do you ask how many thousands
Can be fed with food so slim?
Listen to the Master's blessing –
Leave the miracle to Him!

Oh, ye Christians, learn the lesson!
Are you struggling all the way?
Cease your trying, change to trusting;
Then you'll triumph every day!
"Whatsoever He bids you, do it,"
Fill the water pots to brim;
But remember, 'tis His battle –
Leave the miracle to Him!

Christian worker, looking forward
To the ripened harvest field,
Does the task seem great before you?
Think how rich will be the yield!
Bravely enter with your Master.
Though the prospect may seem dim,
Live the Word with Holy fervor –
Leave the miracle to Him!

MY HIGHEST GOALS

To Know Christ . . .
"This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."
John 17:3

To Be Like Christ . . .
"Beloved, now are we the sons

of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." I John 3:2

To Be With Christ . . .

"For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." Philippians 1:23

PRAISE

Praise is due God on account of:

His Sovereignty; The Grandeur Of His Person —

" . . . Him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation."

Daniel 4:34

His Majesty —

"They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord." Isaiah 24:14

His Glory —

" . . . for great is the glory of the Lord." Psalm 138:5

His Excellency —

"Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven." Psalm 148:13

His Greatness —

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable." Psalm 145:3

His Holiness —

"Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy" Psalm 99:3

"One cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." Isaiah 6:3

His Wisdom —

"Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever; for wisdom and might are his." Daniel 2:20

"To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, domin-

ion and power, both now and forever." Jude 25

His Power —

"Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength; so will we sing and praise thy power." Psalm 21:13

His Goodness —

"Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness." Psalm 107:8

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 118:1

His Mercy —

"Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever." II Chronicles 20:21

"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever." Psalm 89:1

His Lovingkindness —

"Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee." Psalm 63:3

His Truth —

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth; for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." Psalm 138:2

His Faithfulness —

"O Lord, thou art my God: I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." Isaiah 25:1

His Salvation —

"Let the God of my salvation be exalted." Psalm 18:46

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord . . . for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation." Isaiah 61:10

His Wonderful Works —

"Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness." Psalm 150:2

His Consolation —

"For I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance." Psalm 42:5

His Judgment —

"I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing." Psalm 101:1

His Fulfilling His Promises —

"Blessed be the Lord . . . according to all that he promised; there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised." I Kings 8:56

His Pardon Of Sin —

"Bless the Lord . . . Who forgiveth all thine iniquities." Psalm 103:1, 2

His Healing Power —

"Bless the Lord . . . who healeth all thy diseases." Psalm 103:1, 2

" . . . I am the Lord that healeth thee." Exodus 15:26

His Deliverance —

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36

His Protection —

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Psalm 91:11

His Answering Prayer —

"I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation." Psalm 118:21

The Hope Of Glory —

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory . . . which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27

SLEEP IS A DIVINE GIFT

His Beloved Receive Sleep . . . "It is vain for you rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep." Psalm 127:2

The Labouring Man Has Sweet Sleep . . . The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep." Ecclesiastes 5:12

God Sustains You While You Sleep
 . . . "I laid me down and slept: I
 awaked; for the Lord sustained me."
 Psalm 3:5

Dwell Safety While Sleeping . . . "I
 will both lay me down in peace,
 and sleep; for thou, Lord, only
 makest me dwell in safety."
 Psalm 4:8

Lie Down And Not Be Afraid . . .
 "When thou liest down, thou shalt
 not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie
 down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."
 Proverbs 3:24

Sleep Is Sweet . . . "Upon this I
 awaked, and beheld; and my sleep
 was sweet unto me."
 Jeremiah 31:26

Receive Guidance And Direction
 While Sleeping . . . In a dream, in a
 vision of the night, when deep sleep
 falleth upon men, in slumberings
 upon the bed; Then he openeth the
 ears of men, and sealeth their in-
 struction."
 Job 33:15, 16

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 40)

“. . . for his seed remaineth in
 him: and he cannot sin, because he
 is born of God. In this the children
 of God are manifest . . .” (I John
 3:9-10) It is made known . . . the
 children of the devil or the children
 of God. It comes forth from our life,
 even by the conversation of our life.
 It is made known and is manifest-
 ed.

Let us not deceive ourselves, for
 it is going to be made manifested
 whom we have yielded our life
 thereunto . . . whether we have
 yielded our life unto Jesus Christ
 and unto righteousness, or wheth-
 er we have yielded our life unto sin
 and unto iniquity.

It will be readily apparent in
 our life. It will be manifested, the
 Word so speaks. How true it is!
 When we look out into the world,
 often even in our neighbors and
 maybe those with whom we work
 with and come in contact with, it is
 made evident. We can see the truth
 of God. It is made manifested who
 a person yields his life unto.

But surely that does challenge
 and speak unto the believer that
 our life would give forth the testi-
 mony of Jesus Christ, and that it
 would be manifested that we serve
 Jesus Christ and that He is the
 Lord and the Master of our life.

We do not serve sin, but we en-
 joy the path of righteousness and
 that our lives bear forth the fruit of
 the Spirit, and that from our life
 there is evidence -- there is that
 fruit -- that we are His, and that
 we are Jesus Christ's. It is readily
 available.

Let us truly understand that we
 cannot deceive those around about
 us. It will be manifested. Some-
 times, maybe for a season, maybe
 even for a due time, we can deceive
 those around about us, but as time
 goes on, over that time, I believe it
 will be made manifested even as
 the Word does speak unto us.

We think of these things and
 how important it is that we do not
 deceive ourselves, but that we truly
 heed the Word of God and that
 we follow our Master, and our Lord
 Jesus Christ. We do not serve sin,
 but may our life truly reflect His
 righteousness, His goodness, and
 His love in our life and to those
 around us.

“For this is the message that ye
 heard from the beginning, that we
 should love one another.” (I John
 3:11) Over and over, as we read the
 New Testament, we read how we
 should love one another. Even
 Jesus Christ spoke unto us that we
 are first to love our God and our
 Father which is in heaven.

Then we should have a genuine
 concern one for another. We think
 of the love that we should have one
 for another. Surely we would not
 want to hurt one another. We would
 not want to grieve one another. We
 would not want to offend our broth-
 er or our sister.

Dear ones, even as the message
 does come forth, may we take cour-
 age in the Word of God. May we
 strive to do better. I think of the
 Apostle Paul as he wrote unto the
 Thessalonica church, he encour-
 aged them, even though they loved
 one another, that they might in-
 crease in the love of God. (See I
 Thessalonians 3:12) So the mes-
 sage comes forth.

We need to increase in the love
 that we have one for another.

“Not as Cain, who was of that
 wicked one, and slew his brother.”
 (I John 3:12) It was brought forth
 and made evident in his life be-
 cause his own works were evil and
 his brother's works were righteous.
 We can see even from that exam-
 ple in the early creation of Cain
 and Abel how their works were
 made manifested and how Cain was
 evil, and his brother Abel was right-
 teous.

“Marvel not, my brethren, if the
 world hate you.” (I John 3:13) So
 we can see if we are truly living for
 Jesus Christ, and if we have sepa-
 rated ourselves from the world,
 then there is going to be a hatred.
 Jesus spoke unto us of this matter
 because they hate the truth. They
 hate Him.

This is the condemnation that
 light has come into the world. Even
 Jesus Christ, Who is the Light,
 show men's deeds were evil and
 they did not want to come unto the
 Light. So we can see that there is
 this hatred that the world will have
 for the true believer.

We should not marvel at these
 things, but we should understand
 them and realize that because their
 deeds are evil, they do not want to
 hear the truth and that they will
 hate those who want to follow the
 truth and want to follow Jesus
 Christ.

“All that will live godly in Christ
 Jesus shall suffer persecution”, we
 read. (II Timothy 3:12) So let us
 realize that if we are truly living
 for Jesus Christ, then there will be
 that cross as we separate ourselves
 from the world, and that the world
 will hate us.

“We know that we have passed
 from death unto life, because we
 love the brethren. He that loveth
 not his brother abideth in death.”
 (I John 3:14) So he speaks further
 unto us of the love that we should
 have one for another. If we do not
 love our brother, we even abide in
 death and be even as a murderer.
 With such strong words, the apos-
 tle writes unto us to encourage us
 to love our brother and our sister.

“Hereby perceive we the love of
 God, because he laid down his life
 for us.” (I John 3:16) We see even

again how he refers Jesus Christ and the love that God did have for us in sending His Son and how He gave His life to die for us on the cross.

We can see the parallel or the love that we should have one for another in the brotherhood. We should be willing to submit our lives, even lay down our lives, for the brethren and for the church. We should give our lives completely for the church, for it is the body of Jesus Christ.

Let us willingly surrender our lives, lay down our lives, humble ourselves one unto another and submit ourselves in the fear of God. This is the love that God would want in the brotherhood . . . the unity and the oneness that should be in the brethren.

Surely this can only be if we are willing to lay down our lives and be willing to submit ourselves one unto another. We can see how, if we raise ourselves up, even by pride, if we would raise ourselves up above the brethren, we can see that this is the opposite of what the apostle writes unto us In the sense that we are to . . . humble ourselves . . . lay down our lives and . . . give ourselves completely for the church.

Then he gives us an example of the love that we should have one for another. "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (I John 3:17) So we see that if we love one another, we will help one another and encourage one another. There will be that genuine concern one for another.

As we see a need in our brother or in our sister's life, therein we will enter in and that we will help one another. If we become selfish and resist and shut up the bowels of compassion, He asks the question, "How dwelleth the love of God in him?" (I John 3:17)

"Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." (I John 3:18) It is so easy in this life to speak words, but let us in actions prove our love one for another as the apostle speaks unto us that it must be in deed and it must be in truth.

"And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him." (I John 3:19) In another place in the writing of the apostle of John he says, ". . . because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4)

For in the heart of the believer dwells the spirit of God. Therein the spirit of God can speak unto the believer and we can have that assurance. We can have that confidence in Jesus Christ that we are walking in the ways of the truth, and that we are walking in our Saviour's ways.

That is the assurance that God wants the believer to have, the confidence that we should have in Him that we dwell in Him and that we abide in Him.

"For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." (I John 3:20) Beloved, if our heart condemns us not, then we have confidence toward God and whatsoever we ask we receive of Him because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (See I John 5:14-15)

So we can see the necessity of prayer, because it says, "whatsoever we ask." (I John 5:15) The apostle writes unto us and encourages us to pray. Often I think back to those early men of God and how they were such praying men.

Often, the Apostle Paul, as he wrote unto the different churches, and unto the different believers, had a prayer for them. He encouraged them and reminded them that He was praying for them. Surely, it is a beautiful avenue of communication that we have with our heavenly Father. We can even fall upon our knees and we can ask of God and communicate unto Him in spirit.

God does hear and answer prayer.

He encourages us to ask, ". . . in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6) He encourages us to ask. So, in our prayers, let us ask of God.

Surely we do receive of Him. He blesses us and provides for us, even

far more in abundance than we could even ask or think. (See Ephesians 3:20) He surely does shower unto us His blessings and His grace day by day. He provides for us over and over again.

When I think of the goodness of the Lord, even in my own life, I also can relate unto these words, that surely we have received of Him and He blesses us and He guides us.

He directs our paths and provides each and every day that which we are in need of. He encourages us then to keep the commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

So we are exhorted unto obedience and to the keeping of the commandments of God. Often it is that we do need to be reminded, for we are so weak. How often it is that we come to the Word of God and read therein. We need the Word of God.

The Word of God speaks unto our hearts and encourages us to walk in the ways of our Lord and Saviour and to keep those things which He has given unto us.

So, as the Word comes forth, we are encouraged again to walk in the ways of the Lord to keep His commandments . . . to be doers of the Word . . . to do those things which are pleasing unto Him . . . to keep His commandments and to walk in His ways.

We should believe on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Let us, as we have shared these passages of Scripture together, let us believe on our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us surrender our lives unto Him wholly and fully and completely.

I often have to believe, as I relate unto my own life, that the truest test of believing on Jesus Christ is that of surrendering our life unto Him and that we can give up control of our life and put our faith, put our belief, and put our trust in Jesus Christ.

So let us surrender our lives completely, and give our self-wills unto Him. Then let us walk in His ways. May our lives then be pleasing unto Him, by His grace.

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SERMON BY BRO. JOHN E. GRIMM OF COLUMBUS, OH

“Love God And One Another” I John 3:8-24

As we consider the Word that we have shared together in the writing of the Apostle John, he speaks unto us, “He that committeth sin is of the devil.” (I John 3:8) Surely that is a very simple statement, for each and every one can surely understand that if we commit sin, that we are of the devil.

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” (I John 3:8) So herein the Apostle John writes of the plan of salvation and the giving of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to free man from the bondage of sin.

It is important for us to realize how sin entered into the world. Even early in the Garden of Eden, the devil came unto Eve and tempted her there. Adam then also sinned and because of that sin, even the sin of Adam, sin fell upon all mankind. All mankind became sinners.

But for this purpose was the Son of God manifested. In the writings of the Apostle Paul we read, “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8) So although we were yet sinners, God sent His love toward us.

He manifested His Son upon the face of the earth, the Lord Jesus Christ, and herein the works of the devil could be done away with, that they might be destroyed. Dear ones,

then we also have become benefactors of the great love that God has shown unto mankind.

In this day and in this time, it is the gospel of salvation that is brought forth. It is the day of grace where man no longer has to be in bondage of sin, but man can come unto the knowledge of the truth. Man no longer has to serve the devil, but he can come to repentance and regeneration of heart and mind, receive forgiveness for sin through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ and be reconciled unto God.

So we see the work of God, that He has destroyed the works of the devil and has brought a new and better way, even the way of the everlasting covenant. This way is in Jesus Christ. So let us also recognize that as we have shared this passage of Scripture together, that in this life there are only two masters that we can serve.

This is clearly evident in this passage of Scripture that we have shared together: either we are serving sin and serving the devil or we are serving Jesus Christ.

So let us realize the importance of whom we are yielding our life unto. When I think back before I was converted, I would often hear the call of God, but yet resist the call. It was because of self, and I could not surrender my life unto Jesus Christ.

Yet I truly could not fathom that

I was serving sin. Then after God so mercifully did over and over again call me and granted grace unto repentance, then I began to truly understand that in my unconverted state, I served sin and that I was a true sinner. Sometimes it is hard for us to truly understand when we are unconverted.

Dear ones, as the Word does speak unto us, it is very clear. There is but One Way and that way is Jesus Christ, to be freed from the bondage of sin.

He speaks further unto us that, “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.” (I John 3:9) So if we have experienced the regeneration and the transformation of God, if God has come and dwelled in our hearts by the power of His spirit and converted us, then we should no longer even have a desire to commit sin. There should not be sin in our life.

We realize that we are weak and that we make mistakes. We often do stumble and fall, but as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are to overcome sin. We are to be overcomers, by the grace of God.

There should not be sin within our life. So we can see the distinction – the difference – that God does make between the sinner and the believer. It is readily apparent and should be evident in our lives.

(Continued on Page 38)