



"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am."  
Psalm 39:4

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."  
Matthew 24:44

VOLUME 44

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NUMBER 1

# 1994

**"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

Matthew 26:41

## WATCH AND PRAY

Watch and pray that when the Master cometh,  
If at morning, noon or night,  
He may find a lamp in ev'ry window,  
Trimmed and burning clear and bright.

Watch and pray, nor let us ever weary;  
Jesus watched and prayed alone,  
Prayed for us when only stars beheld Him,  
While on Olive's brow they shone.

Watch and pray; the tempter may be near us;  
Keep the heart with jealous care,  
Lest, the door a moment left unguarded,  
Evil thoughts may enter there.

Watch and pray, nor leave our post of duty,  
Till we hear the Bridegroom's voice;  
Then, with Him the marriage feast partaking,  
We shall ever more rejoice.

Chorus:

Watch and pray, . . . the Lord commandeth;  
Watch and pray, . . . 'twill not be long;  
Soon He'll gather home His loved ones  
To the happy vale of song.

Hymns of Zion #121

*"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*  
1 Corinthians 15:57

*"... and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."*  
1 John 5:4

# MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

## BROKEN

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

When something is broken it is considered to be of no use. We try to get things fixed when they're broken so they will have value to us again.

Let's consider human beings who are broken. If our physical bodies are broken or ill, we try to get them fixed, the same as other things. If someone is broken and dependent in spirit because of sorrow or distress, we try to encourage them and we pray for them.

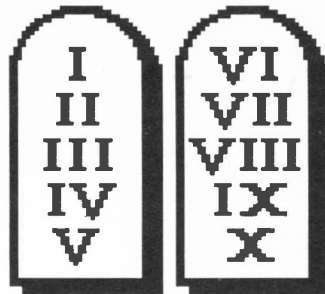
In society, it is often the people who feel they can do almost anything by themselves and by their own power who are the most successful and who get the most promotions. You don't hear much about them being broken.

The other Sunday I opened the Bible to Luke 20:18 where Jesus said, "Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken." He is speaking of Himself as "that stone." The alternative is to be ground to powder by the stone. This is certainly not desirable and the former doesn't sound much better to many people.

It becomes necessary to consider the merits of being "broken." To be broken, as Jesus spoke of it, means not to be self-sufficient but

to be completely dependent upon God. If we are broken, we do not have a personal ax to grind, or certain things which we refuse to give up, or certain things which we should do but which we refuse to do. Life becomes simple and therein lies spiritual strength. To be broken is to be weak in our own strength but strong in the power of God.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For when I am weak, then am I strong." He latched on to this idea from his own experience. The more we are broken the more we are God-sufficient and the less we are self-sufficient. In 1994 let's all be broken and see how much better we get along in our spiritual lives and with each other.



## 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.  
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(219) 627-2606 Home

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

## HURRICANE ANDREW PROJECT

We are still seeking work teams for the remaining winter months, to help rebuild storm damaged homes in South Florida.

Couples or small groups are welcome as well as larger groups.

It is an excellent opportunity to help the less fortunate and also enjoy Christian fellowship.

We have the facilities to house the feed the work teams during their week on the project.

Florida City is located 60 miles south of the Fort Lauderdale church.

Please contact Bro. Roger Sauder, (305) 584-0947 or Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (305) 472-1738 to make arrangements or to ask for further information.

### 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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Grabill, IN 46741

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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).*

## DYING UNTO SELF

We are taught in the Bible that the concepts of death and dying must be applied to certain matters other than the death of the body in order for salvation to be our ultimate lot in life. Though it is not an exact quote from the Scripture, "dying unto self," typifies the renouncing of self-willed and presumptuous conduct (2 Pet. 2:10). The principle of dying unto self is clearly founded in the Word, ". . . but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Rom. 8:13).

Jesus experienced a sequence of unpleasant events that were necessary to fulfill God's plan. They offered no comfort or advantage to Him, but His submission to them set a flawless example for us to follow. Each of the recorded temptations of Jesus in the wilderness resulted in denial of self. Had he satisfied His hunger at the devil's instruction it would have been self-service with no recognition of, nor involvement from God, somewhat like the Israelites who ". . . sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play" (Ex. 32:6). He could have easily ruled all of the kingdoms of the world, but again, it would have been serving self, and God wanted Jesus' kingdom to be ". . . not of this world" (John 18:36). Jesus could have been protected by angels in a fall from the pinnacle of the temple, but He would have been recklessly using God's resources to demonstrate what He could do for Himself, satisfying His flesh instead of honoring God. His "dying unto self" is also described in these Scriptures, "for even Christ pleased not himself" (Rom. 15:3), and "for in that he himself hath suffered being tempted he is able to succour them that are tempted" (Heb. 2:18).

In the same manner that Jesus personally accomplished the victory over his Adam-like nature, it is our personal responsibility to identify, teach, and practice selflessness. "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?" (Rom. 2:21). We can't ask others to do this for us. We are encouraged that Jesus, who won victory in this matter, is our helper if we

trust Him (Heb. 2:18). Some of the temptations that we must deal with are more easily definable than others: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Col. 3:5). Fornication is specific, but the possibilities for covetousness are highly varied and innumerable. We can covet (desire or use passionately) many things including money, property, power, authority, praise, and physical capabilities.

Are we guided by godliness or covetousness when we report our earnings, property, etc. for tax purposes? Are we content with being only legally correct or do we base our decisions on the moral law (as defined in the Word)? In business do we use unquestionable integrity in preparing invoices and statements which require payment from others? We must not confine our honesty to friends or brethren. "Provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Rom. 12:17).

Are we able to restrain ourselves when "self" seeks honor in everyday life? The Word deplores those who "love the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43). We all have satisfying successes in life, but the satisfaction is quickly diminished if God is not credited. Jesus said, "the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works," (John 14:10). When we hold an office or have an assignment in the church, or in church-related activities, in community affairs, or in an occupational organization, we inevitably become more visible and more influential than other people. Do we resist our human urging to promote ourselves? "Self" becomes difficult to subdue under those conditions. Dying unto self is one of the believer's greatest struggles.

When decisions are made among groups and our own sentiment is with the majority, do we flaunt it and create aggravations or do we pursue peacefulness? If our sentiment happens to fall with the minority, do we feel resentment and be-

come uncooperative, or do we contribute support toward success and peacefulness?

Do we willingly heed the advice of God-ordained church authority (Heb. 13:7, 17) or do we insist upon our own way? We may justify ourselves in the name of personal conviction or lack thereof, but perhaps it is selfish reliance upon our own opinions which is our guiding force. The Apostle Paul warned, "be not wise in your own conceits (opinions)" (Rom. 12:16).

Paul set an example for us by presenting himself as a weak brother (1 Cor. 9:22) instead of the capable, knowledgeable, and skilled apostle, teacher and communicator that he was. His unselfish approach was for the sole purpose of helping others to gain salvation.

The ease by which we can slide into selfish disobedience is demonstrated in Peter's error when he separated himself from the Gentiles (Gal. 2:11-12) because some Jews came from James, the apostle at the Jerusalem church (Acts, 21:18). Peter's error was dissimulation which is pretence or hypocrisy (Gal. 2:13). He also failed to apply the teaching that "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34) which had been revealed to him in a profound way. He had even used that lesson to present a very convincing case to that same Jerusalem church on behalf of full acceptance of the Gentile believers (Acts 11:2-18).

The rebuke from Paul was fruitful (Gal. 2:11-17). Peter later expressed respect for Paul by writing, ". . . even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you" (2 Pet. 3:15). If someone with Peter's experience can momentarily succumb to "self," it should be a lesson to us to be alert to our own conduct. No amount of experience, wisdom, faith, love, or any other virtue will exempt us from the need to guard against self-will. We should aspire to that self-less frame of mind portrayed by the Apostle Paul when he wrote, "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Phil. 3:8).

## EUROPEAN UPDATE By Bro. Andy Hunyady

"And behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Revelation 22:12

Greetings beloved brethren and friends!

As we cross the threshold of a new year, we do owe a great deal of thanks and gratitude to God for His abiding presence, His love and countless blessings. I am sure that during the Thanksgiving and Christmas days while assembled in the comfort of our homes with family and friends, our hearts went out in prayer to God in behalf of our many brethren and friends in the distant parts of the earth, who at this time of year go without food, proper clothing or shelter. Jesus, our Lord and Saviour taught us to love our fellow men even our enemies. Because you did love and do care and willing to share your God-given bounty, many hungry souls are being fed and clothed giving thanks to God for your kind generosity.

"For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God."

II Corinthians 9:12

How I wish to share some better news with you, our beloved, about the life conditions of our brethren in the former Communist countries! Despite of many changes, both political and economic conditions, are getting worse by the day, rather than to improve. Hunger, even starvation still the daily experience for a lot of people. Disease, especially cancer is wide spread (as the consequence of the Chernobyl explosion). Worker's wages and pensions of retirees is far from enough to provide proper living, due to the out of control inflation.

Conditions are worse in Romania, the Ukraine and Yugoslavia. With unusually cold winter weather coming early this year, many families are without sufficient fuel to keep their homes warm. Supplies are very scarce and when available, the cost is too high. Clothing and shoes are very costly and of very poor quality and average families cannot afford it.

Due to very dry weather in the later part of the summer, grain and corn crops were very poor in the areas where the countries of Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia come together, adding more to their economic woes. It is impossible to describe the situation that exists in the Serbian section of Yugoslavia. The economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations very

strictly enforced, caused the people to suffer far above our imaginations. United Nations inspectors at the borders refuse to permit any goods, food, fuel or clothing, other than what a person can carry. As an example, a Yugoslav citizen returning from Hungary with a sack of potatoes (about 15 kg) for his family, was returned by the United Nations inspector. Cars are lined up for miles and waiting six to eight hours to get cleared by customs.

Because of lack of fuel, most homes are cold and families huddle together in small rooms to keep warm. Gasoline and diesel fuel are also not available. Transportation, both public and private, is at a standstill. Some brave Hungarian brothers make frequent trips with their vehicle tanks filled to cross the border and meet with Yugoslav brethren and transfer the fuel into their tanks enabling them to deliver humanitarian goods to brethren in isolated areas.

The relief committee of the Yugoslavian brethren are negotiating with their government in order to obtain official permit as an independent relief agency, hopefully to receive outside help directly, without the intervention of other international agencies, such as the Red Cross, except for the United Nations, which must grant such a permit still.

But, there is a Silver Lining behind every cloud. In these very difficult times many suffering souls are turning to God for help and salvation. The elder brothers are very occupied with helping and counseling troubled, but repentant souls. Many new converts now in such areas where years ago churches existed, but under the severe persecution by Communists, most of the believers left the country, older ones died and a number of church buildings were left empty, totally abandoned. Some were sold and the money used for the upkeep of those in use. Now, however, some of the remaining buildings are needed to accommodate the new generation of believers. The elder body authorized the trustees to see that these old buildings are repaired and restored to be used as houses of assembly and worship. A

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## 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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"brigade" of workers were organized under the direction of an experienced builder and a number of these buildings have been restored. The workers were compensated for their work, thus helping to provide support for their families. Funds for this project are being supplied by the Apostolic Christian Church of America, Mission Fund.

We are saddened at the news that Elder Bro. Lajos Patyi passed away rather suddenly. On Sunday, December 12 he participated in baptismal services. On Monday he became very ill and died. He was known by many of our American brethren who visited there. He was present at our International World Relief meeting in Szege April 24, when the war broke out two years ago. He and his wife, Sis. Lidia, fled to Austria and lived there with their children for a short time, then returned to Zenta, as their home, now in Croatia, is under Serbian army control.

Today a number of such refugees live in the neighboring Hungary, Austria and Germany and no sign of ending the conflict that claimed so many innocent victims in Yugoslavia.

Please, let us continue to remember these suffering brethren in our daily prayers. May God grant that peace return upon this wartorn world!

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### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

December is a busy month here at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. Many residents like to shop, send cards and make gifts for their families. Early in December the Peoria Bible class invites as many residents that are able to attend a dinner and program at the Peoria fellowship hall. Each one receives a gift and thoroughly enjoys the evening. The evening is always a success and over the year our residents look forward to it again and again. Also early in December the Resident Council, a group of active residents, celebrate the season by going out to eat.

We also enjoy many groups that

come to Christmas carol. Our people enjoy the activity and some even join in with voice and some in sign language. We also have an annual Christmas dinner the week before Christmas where all enjoy a special meal and again receive gifts given by staff members.

Many van rides are taken to various Christmas sights in the area. We go to East Peoria to view the Festival of Lights and in Morton we are able to see a live nativity scene.

Christmas morning is also a special time for resident who are unable to be at home. Family members send packages for these residents to open and celebrate the birth of Christ.

February birthdays at ACHH; John Kamm (18), Lee Ann McKay (19), Virginia Reece (27) and Guy Masinelli (28). There are no birthday people at Oakwood, Main, Hazelwood or Wagler for the month of February.

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### GATEWAY WOODS

Jeff Thames

There was a short period of time in the disciples' lives when they appeared to be unsure of their purpose. They had just spent three years with the Lord, heard His teaching, seen Him crucified and beheld the risen Christ. What did they do next? Turn the world upside down by the preaching of the

gospel? No, they returned to the familiar surroundings of their fishing boats and the regular routine of their occupations. Hadn't Jesus called them from these very nets to follow Him and become fishers of men? Yes. So why weren't they out there winning souls and feeding the flock?

I believe in my heart that my selfish nature is more concerned about me and mine than Thee and Thine. I hesitate to obey for fear of what it may cost or for unwillingness to sacrifice my own comfort zone. I can easily remember the struggle that took place in my soul to allow the Lord his will in taking my family to work at Gateway Woods. I would later understand how much he loved me as He taught me to serve the children and staff at the Home. Now I can relate to the disciples as the Lord has come to me again while in a job I enjoy, with people I love, at a church which has been like family.

Jesus asks, "Lovest thou me more than these?"

"Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee."

"I have work for you to do."

The Lord told Peter that He had work for him to do that would carry him where he would rather not go. Sometimes the Lord asks us to do for His kingdom what we would rather not do in places where we

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## 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  
Box 151  
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Grabill, IN 46741  
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would rather not go. However, I can testify that after five years since the Lord called us to Gateway Woods, my family and I have been so abundantly blessed by God

since we followed His call. I can only trust His faithfulness in this new direction as well. It is my prayer that all of us can continue to follow where He leads.

## — NOTICE —

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

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

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

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

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

##### Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

First Year — August 1983 thru July 1984 — 13,890  
Second Year — August 1984 thru July 1985 — 10,812  
Third Year — August 1985 thru July 1986 — 18,247  
Fourth Year — August 1986 thru July 1987 — 23,048  
Fifth Year — August 1987 thru July 1988 — 25,969  
Sixth Year — August 1988 thru July 1989 — 25,509  
Seventh Year — August 1989 thru July 1990 — 25,501  
Eighth Year — August 1990 thru July 1991 — 32,677  
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
December 1993 —	2864	12,186

\*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

December was a very busy month at Gateway Woods! We said our winter goodbyes to Grandpa and Grandma Gramm. We pray that the Lord will bless their winter in Florida. A number of our young people helped the youth group buy and wrap presents for the children of prisoners and distribute food baskets to needy families in our community. The children enjoyed this service experience. Our young folks participated in the Sunday school program and reminded us of why there is Christmas. We had an excellent opportunity to a private tour of the General Motors Truck assembly plant here in Fort Wayne. The local union treated us with a trip through the plant, a pizza dinner, Christmas stockings and a generous donation. We had a campus Christmas dinner, the houses all had their exchanges and most of our youth had the chance to visit their families over the holiday. The New House family would like to thank you for your enthusiastic response to their Christmas tape "Glad Tidings." A few copies are still available if you would like one.

As we come to the end of another year, thank you for all of your support and prayers through 1993 and continue to pray as we move into 1994. Please remember, God needs ordinary fishermen who are willing to forsake their nets, follow Jesus, and catch men.

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

##### Ron and Ev Hoerr

"O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant." The resounding of its beauty was never more meaningful when sung by a full house for our Sunday school Christmas program.

A big thank you to all our dear children and teachers for a lovely program, done in Jesus' love. The singing was beautiful, so our future church has a good foundation to grow on.

On November 30 we were able to partake of holy communion. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler came from Wolcott, IN, to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich.

Along with our winter and holi-

day visitors were visiting ministers and wives. We enjoyed having Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bros. Loren Knapp, Nathan Leman (Tucson) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO).

We rejoice with the arrival of two new babies. Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy Blunier are first-time parents. Kaylea Marie arrived November 17. Her grandparents are Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Sylvia Blunier (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Kathie Knochel welcome a son, Derek Jon, born December 7. Little Amanda also loves him, as do grandparents, Bro. Herb and Sis. Johanna Knochel, and Sis. Helen Steffen (Bay City, MI).

It takes a tremendous amount of love and time to raise a baby.

With God's help, it is a joy like no other. There is always a niece, nephew, grandchild or little friend that needs love, and the giver is the one most blessed. It isn't just for mommies and dads.

Our sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena Furrer and family on

her father's death, Bob Sheldon (Remington, IN). May God comfort you at this tie.

Also, our sympathy to Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach, Sis. Doris Kokanovich and families on the death of brother-in-law, Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson (Kiowa,

## HAITI & JAMAICA WORK TEAM SCHEDULE

Project	Date	World Relief Area	Locations	Area Coordinators
School	12/10 - 12/18/93	#5 Bluffton & Indianapolis	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
Deaf Village	1/6 - 1/14/94	#8 Western IL	Jamaica* C.C.C.D.º	Mike Finley Box 176 Carlock, IL 61725 (309) 376-7301
School	1/7 - 1/15/94	#1, #2, #3 IL, OH, IN, VA, MD	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.*	Craig Emch 11856 Miller Road Sterling, OH 44276 (216) 939-4591
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 KS, MO, MN, IA, TX, CA	Haiti M.E.B.S.H.*	Tim Butikofer R.R. #2, Box 69A Elgin, IA 52141
Deaf Village	1/27 - 2/4/94	#8 Western IL	Jamaica* C.C.C.D.º	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 Hackenjos 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.º	Phil Isabel Route 2 Remington, IN 47977 (219) 261-3541

### HAITI UPDATE

The Caribbean Board has either cancelled or deferred all work teams to Haiti at this time due to the unrest and instability in the country.

The United Nations embargo has a devastating impact on the whole country and the poor in particular.

Fuel supplies are about to run dry making travel almost impossible, other supplies are also short, driving up the prices because of the demand.

The State Department has warned against unnecessary travel to Haiti and further action by the United Nations is imminent to force the military to allow the elected President to return to office.

We will only resume sending work teams when the people we work with assure us that travel is safe and supplies are available.

We still have the option of sending funds to help the ongoing projects.

We would ask that you remember Haiti in your prayers as they are in dire need of even daily bread and much more that a spiritual revival could continue in Haiti.

Bro. Roger Sauder, Chairman  
Caribbean Board

For more information, contact:  
Harold Witzig

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

\*Couples invited on this project

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

ºCaribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (C.C.C.D.)

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

KS). God's Word is full of comfort if we just avail ourselves to it.

The Lord knows our every need, and He was with three of our dear family during and since surgery. "Close To Thee" were Bro. Joe Dotterer, Sis. Toni Bentley and Sis. Dorothy Kraft. Sis. Josephine Martin and Sis. Linda Yackley were in for out-patient procedures. We continue to pray for our list of the homebound.

Bro. John and Sis. Donna Gerber send a "thank you" for all the remembrances received for their 40th anniversary.

Christmas caroling is this weekend but do remember, as believers, we can always have a song in our hearts and a pleasant countenance.

Whatever your need, for comfort, for encouragement, for words to praise Him, the book of Psalms has got it all.

"Delight thyself in the Lord."  
Psalms 37

The bright colored heads of several woodpeckers put quite a spark into our late afternoon tea time.

May God be with us, 'til next time.

### ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

On December 14, the home of Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk was blessed with the safe arrival of Holly Diane Funk. She will be well cared for by big brothers, Aaron and Adam, and big sister, Heather. Also anxious to help out are grandparents, Jim and Sis. Lou Ann Funk (Tucson) and Bro. Jim and sis. Joanne Fischer (Morton, IL). Holly is the only baby born in the Tucson church in 1993, so her arrival has been anxiously awaited!

This month we enjoyed our usual Christmas activities of carolling and the Sunday school program which are always enjoyed by young and old alike. We also had a good time making health and school kits for different World Relief projects. We found we had more seamstresses than we thought, even among the brothers!

Our Sis. Angie Bauer graduat-

ed this month from the College of Education at the University of Arizona. She has completed her student teaching and is ready to begin her teaching career. An open house will be held in her honor. Our congratulations and prayers are with Sis. Angie as she finishes one phase of life and moves to another.

### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Carol Graf

December was a busy month for us in Altadena. We hosted the World Relief meeting December 4. There were 21 couples here from our churches around the country. On Friday, December 23, our congregation was invited to attend a general presentation of the World Relief. We watched a slide show which showed how the World Relief money is being spent in many parts of the world. Looking at pictures of people in impoverished places made us realize how blessed we are. On Sunday we had many visiting ministers because of the meeting. They were: Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL). Also with us were ministering Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Andrew Hunyady (Columbus, OH), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, Ma). We enjoyed having the World Relief Committee and their wives in Altadena with us.

December 12 was our Sunday school Christmas program. The children read scriptures and sang songs relating to the themes of Christmas and praising the Lord. We enjoyed watching and listening to them.

Our Bro. Nathan Moser was in the hospital, but has gone back home and was able to come to church one Sunday. It was good to have him back with us.

Address Changed . . .

Give Your New and Old Address  
To Your Reporter

### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Rose Huetten

#### JOSEPH'S SONG

"How could it be?  
This baby in my arms,  
Sleeping now so peacefully,  
'The Son of God,' the angel said  
How could it be?"

"Lord, I know He's not my own,  
Not of my flesh, not of my bone.  
Still Father, let this baby be  
The Son of my love.

"Father, show me where I fit  
into this plan of yours.  
How can a man be father  
to the Son of God?"

"Lord, for all my life  
I've been a simple carpenter:  
How can I raise a King?  
How can I raise a King?"

"He looks so small,  
His face and hands so fair:  
And when He cries the sun  
just seems to disappear;  
But when He laughs it shines  
again.  
How could it be?"

"Father, show me where I fit  
into this plan of Yours.  
How can a man be father  
to the Son of God?  
Lord, for all my life I've been a  
simple carpenter:  
How can I raise a King?  
How can I raise a King?"

"How could it be?  
This baby in my arms,  
Sleeping now so peacefully,  
'The Son of God,' the angel said.  
How could it be?"

Michael Card

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA). We have been richly blessed and want to thank them and their families for coming and invite them to come back soon. May



the Lord bless each one for their labors of love in our behalf. Also, we wish to thank all our visitors for coming and to come often.

While Bro. Hartzel Kaisner and Bro. Jim Hoerr were visiting, we were privileged to see what is being done in World Relief and to see the story of World Relief through a slide presentation. It was very touching. Thank you brothers, and all those involved, for the work you are doing. God bless you.

We are excited and so very thankful that our new church here in San Diego has been completed. They are now working on the street improvements. This should be completed the first part of 1994 or soon after.

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### COLORADO, DENVER Jamie Grant

Grace and peace from us to you!  
My, oh my, has it ever been a busy month!

I was surprisingly reminded that I had gracefully aged another year this month, as I walked into the house, and found almost the whole Denver congregation in the living room. Not being raised in the faith, I think a surprise singing was absolutely one of the most precious gifts I have ever received. Thank you all; may God richly bless each one of you.

The month had yet another wonderful beginning with a visit from Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen, and his dear wife, Sis. Marilyn. We truly were inspired by the work of our elder brethren, and the power in the living Word, as we were read the memorandum.

The days continued on, and soon it was Thanksgiving. Oh, we have so much to be thankful for. We were especially thankful for traveling mercies and visitors, as many traveled out-of-state to visit loved ones.

The day after Thanksgiving we were saddened to learn that Bro. Verne Lehman had been hospitalized with heart and kidney problems. It seemed at first, he would be a sure candidate for a heart transplant, but now other obstacles have sprung up. We just pray for grace and strength for both Bro. Verne and Sis. Leona, to accept the

sometimes "non-understandable" will of our heavenly Father.

As the month of November came to a close, so did the life of a wayworn pilgrim, Bro. Joe Wagler, the first member to be baptized in the Denver church, died at the age of ninety-three. When answering the call to repent at the age of eighty-three, many asked him if he was now ready to die. His response was, "Why certainly not, I lived all these years for the devil, now I want to live a few for the Lord." We have been blessed by the ten years of service that Bro. Joe gave to his God, and his church.

Well, as I said, it has been a busy month for all here in Colorado. We trust all of you will have a blessed Christmas. It is such a wonderful time of the year. We sure enjoyed the Sunday school children's Christmas program. We also are thankful for our dedicated Sunday school teachers.

For now, I just want to leave you with one closing thought . . .

As a retail manager for one of the stores at our local shopping mall, I came across some interesting figures the other day. It was a memo encouraging mall employees to be courteous and park in the "back-eighty" parking spaces, during the Christmas rush. Why? Parking spaces mean dollars to merchants!!! This is what our mall figured. (November 26 - December 24) One parking spot per day = \$1,742. Multiply that times 3,300 parking spaces, then brings you to \$5,226,000 a day, times a total of 29 major shopping days, brings our Christmas season's total to an incredible total of \$151,554,000!!! I took a look at that and thought, Hmmm . . ., here's just one example, about one mall, getting ready for one holiday . . ., Christmas, a multi-million dollar commercialized event! Wouldn't it be great if everyone "spent" Christmas thinking about the "price" that this swaddled babe would soon pay for your sins and mine?

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### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Dawn Winans - Peggy Skipper

"And be ye kind one to another,

tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Ephesians 4:32

As a New Year begins, perhaps it is time to put away the old hurts and painful times, and pray for God to help us look ahead to a new year of forgiveness, joy and peace. It is so easy sometimes to let the devil form opinions or decide situations for us and not always realizing it is the work of him. Help us Lord to always forgive one another as Christ forgave us.

"And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia."

Acts 15:23

Recently we were blessed to have Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Duane Farney (Croghan/Naumburg, NY) to assist our Elder Bro. Kevin in reading the memorandum to the churches. May we always apply what we hear to our hearts and appreciate our brethren care enough for us to preach the Word and guide us as it is intended by our Lord and Savior.

Reminder: January is collection month for Rockville. \$9.00 is the current subscription fee. Also any corrections, or address changes should be noted.

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### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

During the recent holidays, our thoughts often turned to family and friends. We are so thankful for our church family, especially being so far from our loved ones.

During December our visiting ministers were Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) who was out here on business and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) who was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Lynell, and other family members.

If anyone feels they are being led of the Lord to relocate, prayerfully consider the Washington, D.C.

area. On a recent Sunday, there were 25 pages of help wanted ads in the local newspaper.

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 on 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, NORTH FT. MYERS Marvin and Rhea Steffen

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:13-14

As the multitude of angels proclaimed the blessed birth of our Saviour, what a joy went through the lands back then. In this present day, although it appears that many people seem unexcited about the Good News, during the Christmas holiday there does seem to be more good will expressed among men. People are often "more approachable" with the Gospel message. We pray every opportunity will be taken both this month and throughout the new year to share the "good tidings of great joy."

We were fortunate this month to have the following visiting ministers: Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). We thank these brothers and their wives for their service to us in His name.

Esther McNeal (San Diego, CA) passed away recently and our hearts and prayers go out to Bro. Les and Sis. Edna Meister. Esther was a sister to Sis. Edna.

Chip Stoller (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Maxine) graduated December 18 from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a degree in Aeronautical Science (pilot ratings). We congratulate Chip, who is currently residing in Daytona Beach.

Many of our winter residents are here now and we are truly enjoying the larger gatherings.

#### FLORIDA, SARASOTA

It's hard to believe how quickly 1993 is drawing to a close! We enjoyed our Sunday school students sharing the blessed news of Jesus' birth at their annual Christmas program. It's such a special time of year and reminds us that Jesus is truly the "Reason for the Season."

We all enjoyed sharing in the union of Sis. Katrina Streitmatter and Bro. Eric Haefli November 28. Our prayers go with them as they establish their home in Chicago, IL, and continue to serve the Lord together.

Once again, God has shown us that He is faithful and will always provide for us. We rejoice with Sis. Gala Gerber (Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN) on the announcement of her engagement to Bro. Marvin Wieland (Bro. Erwin and Sis. Nina, Bay City, MI). May they continue to feel God's direction as they look forward to becoming one-in-Christ March 27.

Our hearts are saddened to hear that Sis. Kristine (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Kevin Krieger are moving to the Atlanta area. As they strive to adjust to the changes, may they feel God's faithfulness. We look forward to having them come to visit often.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Paulette Cochran as she was in the hospital for a time. May she feel our love and prayers knowing our heavenly Father will provide for each one of us.

We're so happy to see our friends from the north once again, and look forward to getting reacquainted as each Sunday we see new faces. We are such a blessed people to have that common bond of love which ties our hearts together. God is so good!

"Christ was born on Earth below  
That we might be born from heaven above."

Our Daily Bread

#### GEORGIA, ATLANTA

##### John Brewer

You never realize how close you really are with someone until you have to part ways. Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz and their four children, Heather, Tommy, Tricia and Kristin, were an intricate part of our small congregation here in Atlanta. Through circumstances of a job transfer, they are moving back to the Detroit, MI, area. As they leave, they will be sorely missed by all in our congregation. They always had an open heart and love for our church here in Atlanta and their efforts while here will be terribly missed. But as they move back to Detroit we may have lost their presence, but we have not lost their brotherly love, prayers and friendship. Living in the Atlanta area for over eight years, I have seen people come and go in our congregation, but God never lets us lose our friendships with those that were here and He always provides exactly what we need and when we need it. All we can say is that we are thankful and joyful for the two years the Hitz family has been with us.

As one family does move away, another couple is moving into the area. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kristine Krieger have moved up from Sarasota, FL and Kevin will be attending Life College, a local chiropractic school in the metro area. We welcome them into our group and pray that new friendships will be established.

On December 12, our Sunday school class participated in this year's Christmas program. Their program this year focused on thankfulness for the miracles that God had allowed to take place to usher in His gift to us, His Son, Jesus. Not only thankful for the people He chose to bring in His Son, but also for the gift of salvation, It is amazing how much God loves us to allow His Son to come to earth and for Jesus to give His

life willingly 33 years later so that we may never have to fear dying, but look forward to be with Him forever.

As you read this article it will be no doubt 1994. What God has in store for us is unknown. For myself, it has been a roller coaster year with so much happening in one year. As we start 1994, my prayer is that each one of us has a new dedication to God and that we can be used willingly and according to His will and good pleasure. Deep down I feel a stirring from the Spirit that God has much in store for all of us. I pray for myself and others that we will rise to the individual tasks God has called us to do.

If you are passing through Atlanta on your way to the Sunshine State, visiting for business, or just enjoying the city for a few days, stop in to worship with us. We are currently holding services every Sunday starting at 10:20 with song service. We are meeting at the Renaissance Hotel which is located off I-85 and Riverdale Road, just south of the Atlanta airport. If you are in the area, please feel free to contact either Linn and Brenda Stoller (404-631-4554), Don Sellers (404-381-1395) or John Brewer (404-591-5432).

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### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

#### Peg Anliker

We wish to thank our visiting ministers that were with us. We are always blessed by those who are willing to serve. They were Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL)). We know sometimes brothers come and preach in Bro. Dean's absence, but we are thankful he can travel too. It's a blessing to visit other churches and find the same faith. May we encourage one another, and remember our ministers in our prayers.

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### ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

#### Debbie Grieco - Tudy Schmied

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Dan Koch, Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) were here for Sis. Erin Jennings' and Bro. Scott Stimeling's baptisms November 21 (mentioned in our November article). Elder Bro. Dan Koch again was in our presence for our December wedding along with Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL). We so appreciate the sacrifice of time and energy these dear brothers expend in their obedience to God's call to a life of service. However, there is a cost to each of these ministering brothers in terms of free time, hobbies, relationships and income as they have picked up the cross of Christ and obeyed his call to the ministry. Let us never take this for granted and remember these dear shepherds in our prayers daily. "But when he (Jesus) saw the multitude, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:36-38)

December has been a joyous month for our congregation. We welcome Bro. Eric and Sis. Katrine Haefli into our congregation as newlyweds. Their wedding service was held in Sarasota, FL, November 28 and we had the opportunity to greet them as husband and wife at a lovely reception in Peoria, IL, December 19.

We also rejoiced with Bro. Rick Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Shawn Hari (Bro. Everett and Sis. Beverly) as our congregation witnessed their union in marriage December 12. We enjoyed greeting these newlyweds at a beautiful reception in Gridley. We pray the Lord will shower both of these couples with his blessings as they build their new life together as one under the headship of Christ.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Blunier have been blessed with the birth of their first daughter, Sarah Marie. She is welcomed by her brother, Luke, and grandparents, Wayne and Sis. Marjorie Blunier (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts (Forrest, IL). How precious is this gift of life from God!

And finally we closed this reporting period out with our Sunday school celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Bethlehem 1993 years ago. Our children's voices were raised in song and praise as they retold the glorious story of that tiny baby born in the manger who would change the course of humanity forever by giving hope of eternal life. A lot of time and effort was spent in preparation for the program, presented December 19, but it all paid off as we received great spiritual blessing as each class from three-year-olds to Bible class, including the junior choir, lifted up His name in verses, scripture reading, and song. But let us not leave the babe in the manger. Let us not leave His gift to us unwrapped! Let us go with Him to His cross, pick it up and follow Him in a life of obedience to His Word. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (Matthew 16:24-25)

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

#### Les and Barb Fehr

We heard the announcement of Bro. Matt Kieser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma) and Sis. Tracy White (Sis. Gloria, Princeville). May the Lord be with them as they plan their life together.

During December we had our annual Sunday school Christmas program. What a blessing it was to hear our children remind us about the wonderful story of our Savior's birth.

We thank Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) for bringing us the Word of God. May the Lord bless him for his efforts.

## ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Margie Heintz

On the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, the Sunday school students and their teachers prepared food baskets for several needy families in our area. All the students were involved, from preschoolers to high schoolers. Some designed and decorated boxes, while others did the shopping and others packed boxes. They all delivered the boxes to the families and then returned to enjoy a pizza lunch together. The teachers and parents trust that the truth of Jesus' teaching about giving can begin to take on real meaning through an activity such as this. "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down . . . For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

The annual babysitting project in early December took place again this year, thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of many of the college students who worship with us here. Parents are invited to leave their young children at the church in the care of the students, so that parents can have a "free" day. The children are entertained with indoor and outdoor games, songs, cookie baking, stories and other creative activities. It is a delightful day for parents and children, as well as for the exhausted college students. It is one of the many ways that the students show their appreciation to their "church-away-from-home."

On Sunday, December 12, our annual Sunday school Christmas program was held. Through narration, songs and poems, the children told the chronicles of a king: from the Old Testament and the Jews' loss of God's kingship over them, through the birth of the newborn king, to the present kingdom. They showed us the joys of the coming kingdom in Revelation 7:13-17 and assured us that the King is coming again. We were truly taught by the students.

Following the program many visited and caroled at several local nursing homes. Everyone later reassembled at the church where a chili supper was enjoyed together.

God has provided so many blessings for us, especially the wonderful gift of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are thankful that Ed Scott has returned home from the hospital, where he is now convalescing under the dutiful care of his wife, Jane. Our prayers are with them that Ed will be up and around shortly and will be able to worship with us again soon.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN). We thank them and their families for coming and sharing God's truth with us. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15)

Contributions for the Silver Lining are due in January for Champaign. Please pay your reporter as soon as possible.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Kathy Schlatter

At a particular point of indecision, I had a cousin tell me to go ahead: If the choice was a rock, it would sink - like all rocks, but the rock would have been thrown. I really felt better after that. I sometimes hesitate to go ahead with what I believe is the Lord's will because I am concerned about the consequences, yet going forward in faith is required. The point often made from Joshua 3 is that the priests had to go forward with the Ark of the Covenant before the waters of the Jordan stopped. The people followed at distance of 2000 cubits (" . . . that ye may know the way by which ye may go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore." - Joshua 3:4) and all passed over on dry land. Thus I must obey. Before I go into the "waters," I must have checked the Lord's guidance (waited for 2000 cubits), but then I must step in.

"Behold upon the mountains of the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace!" (Nahum 1:15) We are, as always, grateful to our visiting ministers, Bros. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and Art Baurer (Princeville, IL).

May the Lord grant them His reward.

The Sunday school Christmas program, Saturday, December 11, was a blessing again. For the program, entitled, "Is Your Heart A Manger?", the children gave their preparation much energy and focus. The efforts of teachers, parents and audience combined with those of the children made us especially thoughtful. We appreciated the glory of praise to God that each one was a part of. May the Lord keep us in such a commitment of His Spirit throughout the new year. "My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever." (Psalm 145:21)

Each one who comes to our congregation fills a special spot, so it is difficult to let each one leave. For the continuation of their schooling, these students are moving on. Sis. Krista Banwart will be going to Iowa City, IA; newlywed Sis. Molly Witzig Walter will be traveling out east with her husband, Bro. Thad; Sis. Jill Baurer will be in Champaign, IL; and Duane Gude-man is transferring to Phoenix, AZ. Our hearts and prayers go with them, wishing them all His grace and guidance in their educational and spiritual endeavors. We are thankful for the time they spent with us. Bro. Jeff Strunk's work has transferred him to the Valparaiso, IN, area. We know he feels led. Therefore we are content with the Lord's direction, but we are sad for ourselves. We will miss Bro. Jeff but trust he will return for visits. We pray that the Lord will give him extra grace with the challenges ahead and send him with our love.

Why are we where we are? Always our answer must be that we are to be examples for the ungodly and ambassadors for the Christ whose name He allows us to bear. We are to be the embodiment of His voice, His hands, and His heart. Each one we meet He created. Especially those who are most difficult to love, He gives us our challenges. I recently read of a Christian pleading with George Washington to pardon a man. He had walked 70 miles to do so. At first

Washington refused his friend's request, thinking the Christian had come to plead for a friend. But no, the Christian was pleading for the life of an enemy. Then Washington, stunned, honored the request and pardoned the man. How many of our enemies have we brought to the Lord for pardon? Closer to home, a brother-in-faith found a neighbor taking grain from the brother's storage, stealing his possessions. And, following literally Matthew 5:39-41, the brother took a grain shovel and helped the thief fill his wagons. The Lord and His angels rejoiced as another soul was brought to repentance. It is said (selected), "Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you've got anyway." This is part of working out your soul's salvation here on earth, this perseverance, for the Lord is on the side of him who is obedient to His commandments.

I have had the privilege of working with many students, some extremely teachable and some much more resistant. I love them all; nevertheless, I know that those who are teachable have an easier time in their schoolwork and in their relationships with teachers and students. However, I do not always learn as I should. Those who know me best would call me generous, yet I sometimes do not want to give of myself, time or money. I look sometimes for easier choices. They would call me stubborn, and I agree for I even deny at times that I need to change and instead ask others to do so. I have to be careful of my desire to dominate and control situations and others when I cannot even exercise appropriate control over myself without the Lord's help. I must also fight pride in my demeanor and in my motives because I cannot be useful unless I am humble. Thus in this new year, I would try to listen more closely to the Lord. I need to be more pliable, yielding and submitting to the Lord's molding. Step by step, I can have a better relationship with Him and with my fellow sojourners if I remember the lesson my more-understanding students exemplify and look to Christ

to lead me in that direction. "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:52)

Jesus is the reason for all seasons.

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### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Cyndee Anderson**

**Anna Marie Reutter**

Our nation recently observed National Bible week (November 21-28) during which all Americans were encouraged to read and study the Bible. This Book tells us about the Best Friend we will ever have. It gives joy and meaning to life. It's contents are made up of 66 books that answer every question, yet there is much neglect in reading it and applying it to our own lives. Perhaps this new year of 1994 we could do a little better in seeking out God's will for our lives in searching the scriptures.

On the 19th and 20th of November, Bro. Bill and Sis. Marj Rinkenberger celebrated 50 years of marriage with their family and our congregation. The Lord has blessed them in so many ways and we congratulate them for their faithfulness in our assembly and to each other. Visiting ministers on this special weekend were Bro. Rich Sutter (Sis. Kathleen, Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN). On Thanksgiving Day, Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington) ministered to us. Elder Bro. Art Bahler spent a Sunday afternoon with us also. We appreciate each one.

On various Sundays between Thanksgiving and Christmas, our Sunday school and Bible class, along with teachers, delivered food and love baskets to needy families in our area towns. On the 21st of November our Bible class and teachers participated in ACYF at Gridley, IL.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita (Stock) Frank and their three daughters, Bethany, Bonnie and Belinda, have moved from Iowa City to our area and are now part of our congregation. We warmly

welcome them and are sure Iowa City feels a great loss.

Sis. Wilma Walder (late Bro. Charles) became a first-time grandmother when Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Hartman (Fairbury) were blessed with a son, Timothy Mark November 29. Other grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman of Fairbury.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sisters Lydia Moser, Patti Rudin and Esther Vogel. Sis. Lydia is presently at Heartland Health Care in Paxton.

There are also those who have suffered the loss of loved ones. We sympathize with Joanne and Vernon Clauss over the death of her mother, Virginia Cottingham, and also with Sis. Verena and Bro. Ralph Knapp in the loss of their brother-in-law, Bro. Martin Kipfer. We must continue to pray for the sick and bereft.

On December 12, the engagement of Bro. Greg Kaeb (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie) was made known to Sis. Shelli Kupferschmid (Eureka). She is the daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth.

Many of us enjoyed the blessings of singing Christmas carols to the shut-ins and aged, and we are all looking forward to hearing our children sing of the birth of Christ at our annual Sunday school Christmas program the Wednesday before Christmas.

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### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Beth Steffen - Sue Wiegand**

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

Hymns of Zion #150

May it be in the year ahead, we will strive to walk closer to God than the year before.

Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott, IN) was with us for a Sunday and brought God's Word to us. May God bless him.

We want to welcome Sis. Janelle and Tonya Scott from the Taylor, MO, congregation to our church and

community. We hope they will soon feel at home.

Our sympathy is with Jack Ott and Sis. Kathryn Zimmerman in the loss of their sister, Sis. Angela Rassi (Roanoke). May God comfort them at this time.

On Sunday, December 19, we heard of the engagement of Bro. Brad Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) and Sis. Carla Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH). We wish them God's nearness and blessings as they plan for their wedding.

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

St. Luke 15:7

There certainly is joy and many thankful hearts as one more sinner has answered the call unto repentance. We trust Daryle (Sonia) Kellenberger will find God's grace to be sufficient as he takes this most important step and learns the value and blessing of submitting his will into God's perfect will.

God's grace is sufficient not only during repentance but throughout life. We learn to appreciate the times of testing and view them as God working within us to purify and draw us closer and prepare us for what may be ahead. Several dear sisters met with illness and/or surgery this month: Sisters Laura Getz, Linda Steffen (Bro. Dave), Joyce Weiss (Bro. Paul) and Nancy Schambach (Bro. Ron). May God provide the healing for each and grace to await His time of restoration.

We thank the ministering brothers who visited us this month; Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). May God bless the efforts of each faithful brother who willingly expounds God's Word, untiringly.

"My hope is built on nothing less

Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

On Christ the solid rock I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand."

William B. Bradbury

Recently we were reminded of how unchanging, unmovable and solid a rock is within a body of water. While the water, sand, mud, river banks all continually change - the rock is firm. That rock is Christ in each of our lives and while the winds and storms of life continue to beat, it cannot move us if we are secured by the Rock. As we enter a new year, in an ever increasingly dark and sinful world, may we each diligently strive to keep the true faith. Let us take heed to make sure our soul is anchored and remains anchored on Christ, the Solid Rock, God then will surely grant us sufficient grace to faithfully walk, day by day.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5, 6

Solomon's words in Proverbs give us all a good guide for our lives as we begin another year. We certainly need the Lord's direction in all things.

Bro. John and Sis. Gloria Cottrell rejoice in the birth of their first child, Samuel John, born November 30. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman and Sis. Judy Cottrell and Bill Cottrell.

Feeling the leading of God's Spirit, Bro. Randy Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) and Sis. Debbie Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene) an-

nounced their engagement November 28. On December 12, Bro. Greg Kaeb of Champaign (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie, Cissna Park) and Sis. Shelly Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) also announced their engagement. We pray for both couples as God would direct them further through life together.

Bro. Chris Rinkenberger passed away Thanksgiving morning, November 25, at the age of 98. His wife, Alice, died this past May. We sympathize with his children, Verden, Bro. Cleo, Levern, Edward, Glenn, Wuanita Hirstein and Sis. Bernice Rapp.

We pray for Bro. Leland Zimmerman (Sis. Laurene), Bro. Thurman Hinrichsen (Sis. Laydene) and Sis. Caroline Moser who have spent time in the hospital.

"Thank you everyone for sharing with me at the time of my dear wife, Sarah's death. All the prayers, cards, flowers, gifts, phone calls and visits are so much appreciated. To my family and all of our nieces and nephews, I appreciate you so much. A special thank you to our ministers."

Bro. Lee Blunier

"A sincere thank you to all who remembered me with visits, prayers, cards and gifts while in the hospital and since I'm home."

Bro. Vernon Blunier

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

Still upward be thine onward course;

For this I pray today;  
Still upward as the years go by,  
And seasons pass away.  
Still upward in this coming year,  
Thy path is all untried;  
Still upward may'st thou journey on  
Close by thy Savior's side.

Still upward e'en though sorrow come,  
And trials crush thine heart;  
Still upward may they draw thy soul,  
With Christ to walk apart.

Still upward till the day shall break,

And shadows all have flown;  
Still upward till in Heaven you  
wake,  
And stand before the throne.

Streams in the Desert  
volume #1

An encouraging thought to all of us at the beginning of a new year . . . that we might continue to struggle "still upward" until we reach our goal. We never know what the Lord will ask of us in the coming year, but we know His grace will be sufficient. And we never know if, in this new year, we will finish our course and reach that goal.

Sis. Louise Sohn finished her earthly course November 27. She was 86 years old. We pray that God will comfort her sister, Sis. Helen, and the other relatives she leaves behind.

Caroline Schaffer (Christian, Forrest) passed away November 26. She was Bro. Warren (Sis. Louise) and Bro. Vernon (Sis. Pat) Hartman's sister.

Sis. Lucille Meiss's brother, Elmer Streib (Fairbury), passed away December 8. May the Lord be very near to the families and relatives of these loved ones.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them . . ."

Psalms 127:3-5

Timothy Mark, born November 29, is the first child of Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Hartman. Timothy's grandparents are Sis. Wilma Walder (Cissna Park) and Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman. Bro. Vernon and Sis. Pat Hartman and Bro. Eli and Sis. Della Meiss are his great-grandparents.

On December 5 we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Mark Edelman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosetta) and Sis. Karie Stork (John and Eunice). Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) shared many beautiful teachings and exhortations with us on this special day. May the Lord bless him for being used in our behalf

and may He bless Bro. Mark and Sis. Karie as they begin their new life together.

Other ministering brothers who shared the Word with us this month were Bro. Jim Byrd (Roanoke) and Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton). We wish to thank them also.

Hospital patients were Bro. Herb Fehr, Sis. Barb Meiss (Bro. Marion) and Kathryn Nussbaum. Sis. Darlene Bittner met with accident and has also been in the hospital. Our prayers are with her and those who are caring for her.

Am I sick and pressed with grief,  
No one near to give relief  
Jesus my Physician dear,  
And my Helper will be near . . .

Hymns of Zion #277

#### ILLINOIS, FORREST

##### Marlene Walter - Mary Bachtold

As the New Year unfolds before us like a clean slate may we strive to keep it clean by living a life that is pleasing to God.

Sis. Barb Edelman, Bro. Ernie Leman and Bro. Rob Anliker have been chosen for a ten-year term to teach our Sunday school children of God's love and the plan of salvation. May God grant them wisdom and understanding as they undertake this important work. We thank Bro. Terry Young for his years of service and know God will bless him.

We thank visiting ministering Bros. Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) for sharing God's Word with us. We are always thankful for brothers who are willing to minister to us.

Our hospital patients this month have been Bro. Eldon Waibel, Bro. Wilbur Wiegand and Eric Bachman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna). We are thankful they have been able to return home. We continue to remember Sis. Laura Kachelmuss in our prayers as she is still hospitalized. Sis. Leona Ricketts has recently found the need to make her home at the Helen Lewis Smith Pavilion in Fairbury. May she feel God's nearness as she adjusts to this change in her life.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Pauline Wiegand in the

recent loss of her sister, Lucille Rossiter, and her brother-in-law, Roy Rossiter, who died shortly after his wife. Also feeling a loss is Bro. John Schaffer and family in the death of his mother, Caroline Schaffer. May they feel God's comforting Spirit.

Bro. Fred, Sis. Brenda, Caleb, Seth and Reuben Leman are happy to welcome little Gabriel Lee into their family circle. His grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Laurene Zimmerman (Eureka) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna Leman.

#### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Barb Brim

"Who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,"

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas season, let us reflect on the purpose behind our Lord and Savior's coming. He who "by himself purged our sins", when He was finished "sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." What comfort we should take from these words. Jesus Christ, that little babe of Bethlehem, purged our sins, by Himself, for all time, and now sits at the right hand of His and our father, Lord God Almighty, awaiting our arrival home. Rejoice!

Our congregation in Goodfield rejoices at another birth this month. Bro. Gary and Sis. Laura Mussleman are the happy parents of a little boy, Mitchel Greg, who was born November 1. Along with Mitchel's three sisters, Michelle, Megan, and Molly, his grandparents, Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen Musselman (Goodfield) and George and Darlene Schultz (Galsburg), and great-grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Clem Joos (Goodfield), all praise God for this new addition to the Musselman family. Another star has been added to heaven's light.

Our Christmas program was once again a beautiful affirmation of God's love working in and

through our Sunday school. What more wonderful way could the story of His birth be told than through the eyes of these innocent children. May God abundantly bless the brothers and sisters who spend so much of their time teaching His ways and may God grow to fruition the seeds He has planted in the hearts of each and every one of these precious young souls.

To our hospital patients this month, Bro. Denny Martin, Audrey Rocke and little Mitchel Musselman, we send our special prayers that our Father in heaven will bless and speed your recoveries, and that you may all enjoy this holiday season at home with your loved ones.

We wish all of our brothers, sisters and friends around the world, a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year as we rejoice at His birth and look forward with great expectation to that glorious reunion on high.

#### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

The Christmas season has come and gone and the time of gift-giving and family togetherness was one of great blessing.

On December 12, the Sunday school Christmas program was presented to the church. The spoken pieces and choral presentations brought the vivid message of Christ's birth in a very inspirational way. At the end, one of our ministers spoke and reminded us that our focus during the Christmas season is much better spent on spiritual rather than secular aspects. The birth of the lowly Christ child far overshadows the commercialized parts of the secularized Christmas. In all, the Sunday school program was a wonderful time for the students, their parents and relatives, and a host of others.

On December 9, a son was born to Bro. Bernard and Sis. Joyce (Witzig) Ferneau. He was named Jonathan Luke. Bro. Ed and Sis. Dorothy Witzig are his grandparents. He is their first child.

Sis. Anna Miller was in the hospital with pneumonia. Also, Sis. Cassie (Ringger) Meiss was a surgical patient recently.

On December 19, Sis. Molly Witzig, daughter of Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig, was married to Bro. Thad Walter, son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita Walter (Fairbury). We wish them God's richest blessings and years of happiness. They left for Rhode Island where they will reside while Sis. Molly completes additional training in occupational therapy.

#### ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney  
Cheryl Wuthrich

We are so thankful and humbled that our heavenly Father has answered our congregation's prayers and has moved the heart of Bro. Ted Hirstein to be a willing servant to be used in the ministry. Our prayers and support are with Bro. Ted and Sis. Joyce as he ministers God's Holy Word to us.

Walter Heiniger (Tempe, AZ) was called into all eternity. He was a brother to Bro. Arthur Heniger (Morton). May God comfort and bless his family and friends.

We are thankful to God that He has called two more dear souls to work in His vineyard. We welcome Bro. Carl and Sis. Shirley Grieshaber into the family of God. They shared their testimonies of faith and we witnessed their baptisms December 8. May God richly bless them as they walk the narrow pathway of life.

December 12 was the Sunday school Christmas program. We wish to thank our young people for bringing the Christmas story through verse and carols. Thanks to the teachers and parents who helped to make it possible.

December 19 was our all church Christmas caroling. It was a blessing to sing carols to those loved ones who are shut-in.

We have those who have lost loved ones, those who are sick, and those who are shut-in. May we continue to remember them in prayer, with a telephone call, or with a note of encouragement.

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers we had this past month. We wish to thank Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bros.

John Grimm (Columbus, OH), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Art Bauer (Princeville, IL) and Gerald Sutter (Taylor, MO) for their labors of love. May God bless them and keep them in His care.

#### ILLINOIS, PEORIA Cara Nussbaum

It's a new year, a time when we think about starting fresh, making resolutions and hoping we can stick to them. It's a good time for each one of us to evaluate our lives and strive to walk closer to the Lord in the coming year.

Bro. John Hoerr and Sis. Serena Sauder are making a new beginning. They were united in holy matrimony Sunday, December 1. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr and Bro. David and Sis. Rita Sauder. We wish them the blessings of the Lord as they begin their life together.

We want to extend our congratulations to Brandon Endress, son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Cindy and Sonia Feucht (Washington, IL), daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Marge (Lester, IA). They have announced their engagement and will be married June 5.

Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) both visited Peoria recently. We thank them for ministering the gospel to us.

Our hospitalized patients were Sis. Doris Banwart and Sis. Martha Schaefer. We pray for God's healing hand upon them.

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

We appreciated having Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) with us Sunday after Thanksgiving. May God bless him for his labor of love on our behalf.

Believing that it is God's will for their lives, Sis. Tracy White (Sis. Gloria) and Bro. Matthew Kieser (Bradford, Bro. Gerald and Sis. Wilma) announced their engagement Thanksgiving Day and plan a February 13 wedding. May they look to God for guidance in this important step.



"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord. (Psalms 127:3) On December 11, Joshua David was born to first-time parents, Mark and Paula Feucht. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht and Norman and Pat Stahl. Also, thankful grandparents of Austin Lee Endress are Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller and Sis. Mildred Endress. His parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Endress from Washington. May they look to God to guide them in raising these precious children in the ways of the Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers are with loved ones who have been in the hospital and are thankful they are home again. They are Sis. Clara Marie Gerber (surgery), Bro. Leonard Menold (surgery) and Andrew Streitmatter (heart surgery). We are thankful little B.J. Elsasser (Bro. Brian and Sis. MaryBeth) is home after some serious heart surgery. My dear mother, Sis. Anna Siebenthal, fell and broke a bone in the shoulder.

May God be near each one and grant His healing strength.

Our annual Sunday school Christmas program was held Sunday, December 19. We thank the teachers and students for their time and effort.

Thank You: Dear beloved brothers, sisters and friends:

We want to thank each one of you who remembered us with prayers, cards, gifts, food, visits and memorials at the passing of our beloved one. May God bless each one of you.

The family of Herman Stahl

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
Cathy Hohulin - Annie Leman

**THE CLOCK OF LIFE**

The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power-  
To tell just when the hands will  
stop,

At late or early hour.

Now is the only time you own-  
So live, love, toil with a will.

Place no faith in tomorrow,  
For the clock may then be still.

Author Unknown

As we usher in another year, we reflect back on the years past and realize that we have failed the Lord in His work and ask that He will help us to be better lights to those around us and to spread His Word to seeking souls.

We rejoice in the engagement of our Sis. Peggy Leman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge) to Bro. Ted Schieler (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marci, Goodfield). May God bless them as they walk together for Him.

The Sunday school children and Bible class students brought to us the message of Christ's birth in song December 12. We appreciate the enthusiasm and love they showed and pray that God will keep them in the hollow of His hand until He calls them to be His.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Will Schieler (Milford). We are always thankful when they come and share God's Word with us.

Our Sis. Vi Gudeman was in the hospital and has returned to the Home in Roanoke. We pray that God will be near her and bless her as she resides in the home.

Little Heather Leman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie) was in Indianapolis for corrective eye surgery, and we pray it will be a blessing for her.

Card of Thanks: We would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers, prayers and kind words of comfort during Dale's illness and since his passing. May God bless each one.

The family of Dale Whitten

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Barbara Dill - Marsha Koch**

We're thankful for our visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), Wesley Knapp (Goodfield) and Harold Schmidgall (Gridley). May God bless them and their families.

We rejoice with Curt and Kerrie Bolliger on the birth of their daughter. Haley Christine was born November 30. May God bless them as they start their family. Grandparents are Sis. Alma Bolliger (and the late Bro. Jay) and Bro. Warren and Sis. Carolyn Prather.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Vera Aberle (Bro. Walt), Bro. George Lang and Jonathan Wagenbach. We're thankful they are back home and doing better. At this time Sis. Lucille Schweigert is still in the hospital. We wish her God's sustaining Spirit.

Our sympathy goes to Elmer and Dorothy Brunner and Katie Moser on the passing of Al Strunk. Palmer Bliss passed away and we offer our sympathy to his son, Bro. Floyd Bliss and his family. Our sympathy again goes to Katie Moser on the passing of her sister, Sis. Emma Springer. May God comfort each one in their sorrow.

We're thankful to have Sisters Lena Lewis and Jan Stoecker make Tremont their home church. We hope they have found and felt a warm welcome.

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**

**Sue Ruppert**

**Denise Romersberger**

It was late at night and my heart was heavily burdened. Many decisions needed to be made, cards needed to be sent and I was weary. At first I tried to analyze my problems, to look at them from all angles. Finally, I thought I had made a decision. Then I decided I better turn to God for His advice. It suddenly hit me that I had done the process backwards. God's council should be the first place we go. In Psalms 32:8 God says "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Proverbs 3:5-6 says "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

With this strong advice from God to turn to Him, why do we always try to do it by ourselves? Satan knows our selfish desires and uses it to lead us off the narrow path to God. Making decisions with God's leading is sometimes painful and not exactly what we want to satisfy our earthly desires, but God knows what is best for us. We need to remember that we can trust in

God's guidance because He loves us.

Gillian Mae Rocke, daughter of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine (Wettstein) Rocke, arrived safely and in good health. She was greeted home by sisters, Erin and Morgan, and brother, Galen. Grandparents are Harold and Loretta Wettstein and Bro. Norman and Sis. Doris Rocke.

Hospitalized were Sis. Anna Thomas, Sis. Janine and daughter, Gillian. We pray the Lord continues to bless all with continuing better health.

Guest ministers were Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). It is always a pleasure to set around God's Word with the brothers of the faith who willingly submit to the Lord's leading. Thank you, brothers, for your continued work in the Lord.

All church Christmas caroling was December 12. All those who attended felt a blessing from the Lord. Those who were recipients of the singing were overjoyed with pleasure and felt a little more of the Christmas spirit.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

##### Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

On December 1, Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie Tonner were blessed with a new son named Troy Curtis. His grandparents are Sis. Dorothy Gerber and Bro. Bill and Sis. Diana Tonner. Troy joins Travis, Tadd and Tiffani at home.

On December 2, Derek Blaine was born to Bro. Scot and Sis. Tami Shady. He is welcomed home by big brother, Jordan, and grandparents, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger and Budd and Gwen Shady.

Bro. Darryl and Sis. Jinny Gerber welcomed Philip Gene into their lives December 15. He joins brothers, Aaron and David, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara Gerber and Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann Gutwein (Francesville).

Our prayers and sympathy go to the families of two brothers who recently and suddenly went to be with the Lord. Bro. Glen Moser passed away November 23. His

wife, Sis. Dina Fae, and children, Sis. Rose, Sis. Laura Bertsch (Bro. Larry), Sis. Julie, Sis. Emily, Bro. David and Bro. Dan, miss him greatly.

On December 8, Bro. Martin Kipfer passed away. He is missed by his wife, Sis. Marguerite, and daughters, Sis. Mary Ann Gerber, Sis. Ruth Baumgartner (Bro. Keith), Sis. Lois Drayer (Bro. Jerry) and Sis. Elaine Kipfer.

Sis. Tammy Leyse and Bro. Michael Gerber have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky Leyse and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber. We wish this couple God's blessings as they plan their future together.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

##### Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

We thank and appreciate our visiting minister, Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton), for bringing the message to us. God bless him for his efforts.

We rejoice with Bro. Toby Steffen and Sis. Jayla Frauhiger as they were united in marriage November 21. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger.

We welcome three precious babies that were born this month. Russ and Jennifer Mounsey are the parents of Kayla Rose born November 20. Grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Rose Mounsey and Vernon and Becky Stone. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Leman were blessed with a daughter, Mary Lynn, November 9 and joins brothers J.D., Shawn, Bradley and Adam. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger and Wally and Sis. Marilyn Leman. Garrett Allen was born December 16 to Bro. Trent and Sis. Kelli Bucher. He joins brothers, Eric and Grant. Grandparents are Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher and Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat Moser.

On December 19, Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Gala (Sarasota, FL) to Bro. Marvin Wieland (Detroit, MI). His parents are Bro. Erwin and Sis. Nina Wieland (Bay City, MI). We

pray God's blessings upon this dear couple.

Sis. Sue Baller and Sis. Clarice Isch spent time in the hospital this month. We want to remember them in our prayers.

As we begin a new year, we want to remember those who serve in Sunday school teaching God's Word to our children. For those who are teaching now or may be entering Sunday school for the first time, let us consider it a privilege to share the Word and plant the seed in our children's hearts.

#### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

##### Val Gutwein

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12) We were reminded recently of the great advances man has made in light and eye technology. But it was shared that man, in all his knowledge, has never developed an instrument that can focus on two different objects at the same time. Applying that to our spiritual lives, we are told in the Word of our need to stay focused on Jesus Christ and His way. The things that are in our peripheral vision will remain, but won't be as clear as Jesus Himself. In this New Year, may each one of us examine our vision: is Jesus in focus and the world around us blurry? We need His grace to stay focused on Him.

The church in Francesville has said goodbye to a dear sister-in-faith. Sis. Pearl Getz has passed on into the arms of Jesus. Her funeral was November 1. She will be missed by all who have come to know and love her. We trust that God will strengthen those she has left behind.

Two more hearts gave testimonies to the church of their desire to focus their lives upon Jesus Christ. Bro. James Washburn (James and Debra) and Sis. Tanya Nuest (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane) were baptized November 30. The church is always renewed as more are added to the "army of the Lord". May God grant grace that more may come and taste of His goodness.

Sis Sally Wuethrich (Tim) and daughter, Grace, are both home and recuperating after involvement in an auto accident. We have all felt how God was watching over them, sparing them from serious injury and loss. Praise be to God. Our Sis. Verna Stedman and Sis. Helen Eshleman also have spent time recently in the hospital. May His healing strength be upon them both.

Each month we are thankful for those ministers who come and help in the work of the Lord. Special thanks goes to Elder Bro. Kurt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

May God bless each one of you who came to visit me in the hospital and since returning home. Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, gifts of love and prayers.

Sis. Helen Eshleman

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**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS**  
**Miriam Gudeman**  
**Gail Bradford**

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"

Ephesians 5:19, 20

During this holiday season we have much to be thankful for here in Indy!

We were blessed to have visiting with us this past month ministering Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville), Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and our dear Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott). May the Lord continue to bless and keep them for their many labors of love.

The weekend of November 13 and 14, we thoroughly enjoyed the singing and fellowship brought by the Chicago choir. How wonderful it was to hear all the voices blending to sing praises, glorifying God. Thank you, Chicago, for coming to share with us. God bless you for your musical tribute to Him.

We rejoice with our newest con-

vert, Nathan Freed, as he has decided to give his life to the Lord. Nathan is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy. We wish him grace and strength as he begins his new walk with the Lord, for we know that "joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:7)

Our hearts and prayers are with Sis. Maxine Novotny (Francesville) as she is recovering at home from surgery performed here at St. Vincents Hospital.

For some of us this year, Christmas won't be quite the same. It will be a time of remembering and sweet sorrow. We are going to miss our dear Bro. Greg and Sis. Bev Meyer, along with Kameron, Kole and Kayci as they move to Fort Wayne, but we pray for God's blessings as they settle into their new home. They have been a major part of our family for several years so their absence will be greatly felt. We also want to remember in our prayers with love and sympathy, those who have lost dear ones recently. Bro. Ron and Sis. Marcel Gress have felt the loss of Ron's father and now recently, his dear mother. Our Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich have experienced the loss of Dan's older brother, Larry. May God comfort these dear families as they gather together to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Lord.

Also, this holiday season we must not forget those who are in need. Sixty young people representing many of our churches were in Indianapolis November 20 and 21 to participate in the second semi-annual outreach weekend. On Saturday morning, they met at the church to pray for the program. Leaders described the Bible distribution outreach at Purdue University. We also learned about the importance of a personal mission statement and prayerful preparation for outreach efforts.

Then the young people went out in groups, accompanied by brothers and sisters from the Indianapolis congregation, to fourteen different sites, including homes of needy families, the Wheeler Mission, and the Broad Ripple Nursing Home. Activities included singing hymns, shopping for groceries and Christmas gifts for the needy families, Bible

study and sharing God's Word, housecleaning, yard work and excursions for the children.

After this Christian service, we gathered back at the church for fellowship, sharing of experiences and singing. We were thankful that so many young people devoted much time and prayer in carefully planning the program and devoting their weekend to the effort. We are also thankful for all the brothers and sisters who supported the outreach and made themselves available for the project. It was a blessing to all to be doing the Lord's work, as we are frequently exhorted to do!

Another outreach program is planned for March, 1994. Please contact Sis. Helen Metz, Bro. Ron Bollier, Bro. Ken Wuethrich or Bro. Bill Bradford for more information.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE**

**Judy Gudeman**

We are thankful for the ministers who visited this past month: Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL).

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Benjamin Hitz, as they must now continue on without him on earth. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Lena; and four children. His daughter, Carol Ailes (John) and her family also attend the LaCrosse church regularly. "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory . . . But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:54, 57) Bro. Ben had suffered illness for a month before his death and had physical difficulties since his bout of polio at age 6, but now his body is perfect! We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Emma Pfeiffer (Bro. Ernest) in the passing of her brother, Walter Heiniger (Phoenix, AZ).

We are happy to see Fern

Antrim assembling again with us, and recovering from a recent surgery. We are also happy that Sis. Mary Gudeman (Bro. Art) is improving during her hospitalization. Our prayers continue with her, that she may recover fully from her surgery and soon return home.

John and Lucille Heiniger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past month. A reception was held in their honor. "We wish to thank all those who sent cards, telephone calls, gifts, and those who helped in any way, and took their time to help us celebrate our 50th anniversary. May God richly bless you all. It was a day we will long remember. Again, thank you all. In Christian love, John and Lucille Heiniger."

We enjoyed the annual Sunday school Christmas program very much this year. Each of the students and teachers deserve our commendation. We were reminded that the baby Jesus was God's wonderful gift to mankind. Even as we, with anticipatory pleasure, like to see others enjoying and using the gifts we give to them, so also does God wait for us to make use of the Gift of His Son. ". . . 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, That sets the spirit free." (Hymns of Zion #36, v. 2) This beautiful hymn by our late Bro. Henry Beer eloquently expresses the importance of "using" the gift of salvation.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Doug Kellenberger**

We enjoyed a very well thought out and prepared Christmas program by our Sunday school. The extra preparations and efforts not only come across to the audience, but give a greater sense of worthwhile substance to the participating students as well.

On the same afternoon, the church participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for our new church building. Our Elder Bro. David Bertsch led in the scripture reading and then turned the first shovel of ground. Our oldest member attending, Sis. Sylvia Steiner, also took her turn. The building is under way.

On the same day, Elder Bro.

Phil Stettner visited us and ministered hope from the Word of God. Bro. Ron Bollier also recently visited and taught us as well.

Bro. Phil Schlatter is in the hospital. We wish him comfort and strength. Our Sis. Julia Simon has suffered a stroke. She is also a dear, loving soul and needs our prayers.

The Lord is still working in His miraculous and personal way at Christmas time. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carla Fritz gave birth to, and then eight hours later gave back to the Lord, a precious little girl Catarina "Trina" Louise. They are really rejoicing in the ways they found God so faithful.

Each new year signals the closer return of Jesus Christ. At that time we're going to have to give an account of how we used our life. As violence and persecution against Godly values increase in our country, thoughts of that striking us cause fear in our heart. But if we'd give up our life now for the sake of Christ, we won't have to worry about it being taken away in the future. (Romans 12:1)

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**  
**Marguerite Hoerr**  
**Judy Longcor**

Saturday evening, November 20, Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend) assisted Bro. Jesse Beer in reading the memorandum. We each were truly reminded of our duties toward God and man. May we each humbly and prayerfully examine our own lives and also with God's grace, fully support our elders, for they are the shepherds of the flock. We appreciate Bro. Bob coming and being with us.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever." (I Chronicles 16:34) Sunday, November 21 was our Thanksgiving program and we were once again reminded of how good God has been to us. May we always remember to count our many, many blessings.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." (Genesis 2:24) The engagement of Bro. Randy Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby) and

Sis. Deb Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene, Eureka, IL) was made known to us. We truly wish this couple God's richest blessings. They have chosen March 20 for their wedding date, Lord willing.

Sis. Kate Price (Bro. Glenn) was admitted to Goshen Hospital for a few days due to a heard condition. We are thankful for the wisdom that God gives man that Sis. Kate is doing better and is back worshipping with us.

Sunday, December 19 was our Christmas program. "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." (St. Luke 2:10) Through the children's recitations and songs throughout the program, we learned the true meaning of Christmas. May we all rejoice and praise God for the most precious and perfect gift of all, Jesus Christ.

This past year many of us received the blessing of worshipping with our dear ones at the Lakeland Nursing Home the Sunday after we serve church dinner. Sis. Flossie Harter (Bro. Elmer), Sis. Emma Haab, Bro. Ted and Sis. Helen Baumgartner are those of our loved ones there. Their warm smile truly radiates the love of God in their hearts. May God bless and be with them and their precious families.

At the beginning of this new year, remember: "in the beginning was God."

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**  
**Amelia Schini**

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God, And the peace of God, which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

We were thankful Bro. Virgil Metzger, wife, Mary, and their children, from Chicago, IL, visited us the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Thank you, Bro. Virgil, for your services. Please come again.

Our Sunday school students presented their Christmas program

Sunday, December 12. It would be so nice to be able to preserve the little children's enthusiasm to awaken them to Jesus' wish for them when they come to their accountable age.

That evening a great number met at our fellowship hall and enjoyed an evening of good food and really good fellowship.

When you read this the holidays will be past. We hope they have been good. May God grand us all grace to keep our eyes focused on Him through 1994.

Thought: He gives the very best to those who leave the choice with Him.

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

### Renee Mangold

Our children presented their harvest program to the church this month. We were reminded yet again how fortunate we are to have this time on earth in which we give thanks and praise to God, for the many beautiful blessings He has shared with us, for our children, for the lovely fall season. Our list of thanks seems endless.

We were fortunate to have with us this month Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse) and Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). Our thanks go to these devoted servants.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

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## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

### Ken and Cindy Susdorf

Greetings to all of our dear family and friends. Another busy month for us in Valparaiso just as we are sure it has been the same for all of you. Isn't it wonderful that things are like this and that we are not a dying church. Let's always pray that our church stays so busy in God's work that it just doesn't seem like we'll ever catch up.

We have just recently enjoyed our Christmas dinner in our fellowship room downstairs. (Such a blessing that room has turned out to be for all of us.) Then on a Wednesday evening, we were privileged

to go Christmas caroling. The Lord blessed us with fair weather and wonderful fellowship back at the church when the singing was done. We thank the food committee for serving us with food and drink on this evening. It's really encouraging to see all ages come and take part in this event.

Our Sunday school has been collecting food for their annual food give away. What we generally do is to put a Bible in each food basket and if the opportunity would arise, tell people about Jesus Christ and our church family. It's a great experience for our Sunday school children.

Also God once again used the Sunday school to bless us all with their Christmas program as they told and sang to us about the blessed birth. We are thankful God has blessed us with children for Sunday school. This weak one can remember a time when there was only one child in the entire Sunday school. Thanks be to God, we are doing much better.

We welcome Bro. Jeff Strunk into our congregation. Jeff comes from the Chicago, IL, congregation and is now living in the area.

Congratulations to our college graduates in mid-terms: Debbie Bucher (Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Karen Susdorf (Bro. Ken and Sis. Cindy). The Lord bless you both as you begin your occupations in life and may you be blessings to those around you.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Richard Nuest (Sis. Garnet). This is really a difficult situation for this dear family and we pray God will bless and give them much grace. Sometimes we don't understand why God lets certain things happen in our lives and all we can do is to trust in Him because He knows exactly what He is doing. We're just thankful that we know what our end result will be when our lives are ended here on earth if we remain faithful to our Lord.

Our sincere prayers for those who have lost loved ones in this past month: Sis. Esther Bucher's brother, Walter Heiniger (Tempe, AZ) has passed on. Also Bro. Willis and Sis. Eunice Feller's son-in-law, Richard Ponicki, who has been ill

for quite some time has passed on, and Sis. Dawn Ailes' grandfather, Bro. Ben Hitz (Sis. Lena, LaCrosse, IN). The Lord be with you as you are adjusting to these losses.

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for coming and sharing with us. We thank Bro. Dale for consenting to be our dear elder, as we are many miles apart and we realize how much effort it does take for him to tend to his sheep here at Valparaiso. We love you and are very confident that the Lord is going to richly bless you for your efforts for everyone. Also thanks to his dear family for being so loving to us.

The New Year will be upon us as we receive this issue of the Silver Lining so we would like to take this time to wish you all a blessed New Year. Don't forget to stop in and fellowship if you are in the area.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

### Lynell Blume

The angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repents. We are rejoicing with Marge Hofstetter who has begun a new walk with God. May He provide grace and strength each day that she may find that peace of heart with God and man.

November 27 was the wedding day of Melissa Minniear (Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna) and Michael Blanding (Glenn and Linda Berg). May God's love dwell in their hearts and home.

Joshua and Michelle Furrer are happy to welcome their new little sister, Laura Kay, who was born November 30. Thankful parents are Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa Furrer. Laura's grandparents are Richard and Lola Ponto and Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer. Little Laura was hospitalized for a couple of days, but we are thankful she is home and doing well.

Our Sunday school Christmas program was held December 15. What a joy it is to hear the true story of Christmas brought forth by youthful voices!

Many from our congregation sang Christmas carols to the elderly and shut-ins December 17. Even

though the weather was damp and cool, our hearts were warmed with the blessing we all received and with our Christian fellowship.

We appreciated the visits of Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Don Stoller (Remington, IN). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON**  
**Carolyn Wulf**

We recently enjoyed our Sunday school Christmas program. The verses and songs help remind us of what Christmas is truly about. May we be thankful always for God's most precious gift that brings salvation to all who will humbly seek Him.

There have been those in our congregation that have recently experienced afflictions of the body. We pray God will grant them abundant grace and peace to accept His holy will and the changes that affect our life here.

Days of suffering beneficial  
For the Master's brethren here;  
As the bodily afflictions  
Chasten those who God do fear.  
As the gold by fire is brightened,  
Also faith through trials drear,  
While our Savior thus enlightens  
And in this way draws us near.  
Zion's Harp #36, vs. 2

As 1993 draws to a close, may we count our blessings, even though it may have been a year with many trials and tests. May we continue on the straight and narrow path with a humble heart, looking for the day of eternal joy and bliss.

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**

As we are once again on the threshold of a new year, we can't help but wonder what lies before us. May we prayerfully leave that in the hands of God and trust Him to provide as our needs may be.

I recently saw this poem in the Bible of a dear sister-of-faith and copied it down to share with you.

**GOD'S WILL FOR YOU AND ME**

Just to be tender, Just to be true  
Just to be glad the whole day  
through,  
Just to be merciful, Just to be  
mild  
Just to be truthful as a child.  
Just to be gentle and kind and  
sweet  
Just to be helpful with willing  
feet.  
Just to be cheery when things go  
wrong  
Just to drive sadness away with a  
song.  
Whether the hour is dark or  
bright  
Just to be loyal to God and right  
Just to believe that God knows  
best  
Just in His promises ever to rest.  
Just to let love be our daily key  
That is God's will for you and me.

May we keep this little poem in mind as we journey through another year.

Looking back over the past month we were very thankful to have Bro. Fred Eberhart (Burlington) and his family with us Thanksgiving Day.

Our Christmas Sunday school program was much enjoyed by the congregation again. We appreciate all the effort put forth by the students and teachers so we can hear the yearly Christmas story in verses, song and scripture.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! We appreciate and enjoyed our visitors this month, including those who joined us for the Sunday school's Christmas program. Our sincere wish is that the story of Jesus' birth, as well as His perfect life and perfect sacrifice for our sins, will deeply impress each participant's and observer's heart and influence their lives when the memory of the performance has long since faded.

As we begin a new year of our Lord, we may have a variety of feelings. Do we sigh with relief that a particularly difficult year is past and hope for a better year in 1994?

Do we eagerly look forward to the year, wondering if it will be the year our Lord returns? Do we face a year of unknowns with apprehension, or in the glorious knowledge that our Lord will provide what is best for us, even if it is difficult at the time. God so graciously gives us intervals in which we can examine our lives, realize our blessings and our mistakes, and through His grace, begin anew with renewed zeal and thankfulness. Mrs. Charles E. Cowman expanded on this thought in her January 1 entry in "Streams in the Desert." Some excerpts from her thoughts follow.

"But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year."

Deuteronomy 11:11, 12

Today, dear friends, we stand upon the verge of the unknown. There lies before us the new year and we are going forth to possess it. Who can tell what we shall find? What new experiences, what changes shall come, what new needs shall arise? But here is the cheering, comforting, gladdening message from our heavenly Father, "The Lord thy God careth for it." "His eyes are upon it away to the ending of the year."

... Trust only. The Father comes near to take our hand and lead us on our way today. It shall be a good, blessed new year!

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

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

As the blessed Christmas season is upon us, we are especially thankful to learn of the peace in

man's heart and soul. We rejoice that Travis Knobloch has been announced that he has found peace with God and man.

We appreciate the efforts of our ministering brethren who labor for us unflinchingly. This month we had as visiting ministers: Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR), Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN).

November 21 was the day chosen for the wedding day of Bro. Aaron Schmidgall and Sis. Luann Metzger. Parents of the couple are Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Schmidgall and Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger. We wish God's blessings to the newlyweds as they make their home in Ames.

Mike and Sis. Donna Barber happily announce the birth of their first baby girl, Nicole Lee, born December 7. She is welcomed home by her three brothers and grandparents, Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch.

Let us always remember those who must endure sickness and hospitalization in our prayers. Those who required surgery this month and have returned home are Sis. Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra) and Bro. Silas Knobloch (Sis. Edith). At this writing Bro. Art Metzger (Sis. Kristy) is recovering from surgery for an aortic aneurysm and is reported to be doing well. We hope he will be home before long.

Silver Lining collection is in January for the Lester congregation.

### IOWA, OAKVILLE

Melody Steiner  
Debbie Wagenbach

Erika Lynn has joined big brother, Trevor, in the home of Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni Massner. Erika's grandparents are Bro. Virg and Sis. Barbara Massner and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz. Courtney Suzanne is welcomed home by her parents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Susan Gerst, and siblings, Carl, Rachel, Brenda and Rhiannon. Sis. Hilda

Gerst (late Bro. Carl) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt are thankful for another healthy grandchild. Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman are happy to report the birth of a new granddaughter in Mooreville, IN. Emma Leigh was born to Steve and Ruth Wegman Thanksgiving Day and has three sisters, Anne, Ellen and Audrey. How our entire congregation rejoices when a new little baby is born. May God grant wisdom, light and understanding to our young parents as they endeavor to raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

We welcome two sisters to our congregation. Sis. Luann Metzger became the God-given bride to Bro. Aaron Schmidgall November 21. She is the daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger (Lester). Aaron's parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Schmidgall. On December 5, Bro. Keith Pflum and Sis. Tami Grimm were joined in marriage in Taylor, MO. Tami is the daughter of Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm (Taylor) and Keith's parents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marian Pflum. We are thankful for the new additions to our church and may God bless them as they begin their lives together in Him.

After a lengthy battle with the physical afflictions of this life, our dear Bro. Earl Stoller was called home to the better land. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Ione; and four sons, Earl Jr., Bro. Danny (Rockville, CT), Bro. Ed and Bro. Steve. It was so encouraging to see how much Bro. Earl loved our precious fellowship. I'm sure it often took much effort for him to be there, but we are thankful that he was able to assemble with us until the end. We will certainly miss Bro. Earl and may God comfort the hearts of his dear family.

As the holiday season has once again come upon us, may we each be reminded of the priceless gift of love that God bestowed upon each and every soul by sending Jesus, His only begotten Son.

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

### IOWA, PULASKI Ernestine Wuthrich Carol Wettstein

#### WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THIS YEAR THAT'S SO NEW?

As we start a new year untouched  
and unmarred,  
Unblemished and flawless,  
unscratched and unscarred,  
May we try to do better and  
accomplish much more  
And be kinder and wiser than in  
the year gone before.  
Let us wipe our slates clean and  
start over again,  
For God gives this privilege to all  
sincere men  
Who will humbly admit they have  
failed many ways  
But are willing to try and improve  
these "new days"  
By asking God's help in all that  
they do  
And counting on Him to refresh  
and renew  
Their courage and faith when  
things go wrong  
And the way seems dark and the  
rough road and long -  
What will you do with this year  
that's so new?  
The choice is yours - God leaves  
that to you!

Our thoughts and prayers again go out to the Teubel family as Bro. Richard (Sis. Wilma) is in the hospital at this time. Also their son, Dennis, has spent some time in the hospital this past month.

We were grateful to have Bro. Don Wagenbach and his wife (Washington, IL) spent a Sunday with us.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger (Sis. Esther) and family in the passing of his father, Bro. Chris (Eureka, IL).

Chad Wuethrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ernestine) had the misfortune of breaking his leg while working in Nebraska.

As the Christmas season is upon us, we enjoyed our annual Christmas program as the children from the smallest to the oldest in high school told of Christ's birth. May God bless the teachers who spend much time teaching our dear children.

To our many prayerful brothers and sisters-in-the-Lord, we greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Only due to your prayerful support do we contribute to such a speedy recovery.

On November 9, several neurosurgeons did surgery to my back which lasted from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Their hopes were that radiation would dry up the cancer lesion on my back that caused paralysis from my waist down. The doctors told me yesterday, the most I can expect is to stand, but hopefully I will be able to care for myself in the future.

Again, thanks for your prayerful support.

Bro. Richard and  
Sis. Wilma Teubel

My address is: Richard Teubel,  
V.A.M.C., 1515 W. Pleasant Street,  
67CD, Knoxville, IA 50138.

### IOWA, WEST BEND

Mary Gerber - Lela Banwart

"Thus united and in concord, Let us walk the path of life. Hand in hand O may love bind us, For each other's welfare strive."

Zion's Harp #137

We pray God's blessings on two dear couples who have joined hand and heart in the Lord. Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi) were married December 5 in Silverton, OR. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Nora and hope she will feel at home among us. Bro. John and Sis. Wendy Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler) were joined as one December 12. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) was here for the occasion, and brought forth the Word with many teachings valuable to the newly married as well as to all of us. Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) was also present to speak God's Word to us. May God be with these young couples as they establish their earthly homes and walk in His ways.

Bro. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) also ministered to us recent-

ly. We are thankful first to God and then to the brothers who so faithfully fulfill their mission in the ministry.

Our Sis. Christine Schmidt fell and broke her hip. After spending time in the hospital, she has been moved to the West Bend Care Center. We hope she will feel at home in her new surroundings. Bro. Ervin Mogler (Sis. Elma) and Don Zaugg have both had hospital stays. We trust God will continue to heal the body as he sees fit. Bro. Lawrence Schneider continues to struggle with his health. We hope he and Sis. Ella can endure the cross placed upon them.

Jim and Sherry Schmidt are happy for a new granddaughter, Paige Ann, who was born to Doug and Tammy Hoch (New Hampton). Mandy also welcomes a new little sister. Benjy and Betty Banwart have been blessed with their first grandchild, Joseph Daniel, who arrived in the home of David and Angie Banwart at Rhein Main Air Force Base, Germany. May God bless these little ones, and be with the parents and grandparents as they care for these precious children.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Eli and Margaret Grimm and their daughter and son-in-law, Ed and Patty Origer (Ankeny), as they have spent many hours with Ed and Patty's son, seven-month-old Jeremy, in the Des Moines hospital. We are thankful he has improved considerably, and is now home continuing to make progress. We trust God will give strength to all as they face the future.

### A NEW YEAR PRAYER

Lord, we thank Thee for the many joys and blessings which have been ours this past year. As we approach the beginning of a new year, may we, by Thy grace, leave the pain of grief and hard trials behind, but keep the memories of loved ones ever close to our hearts, with the hope that, "Yes, we'll gather at the river that flows by the throne of God." Grant us, we pray, the strength and courage to go forward into the new year with hope, and with faith and confidence that

Thou surely does hold the key to all that is unknown before us, and will provide according to our needs.

### JAPAN, SHIODA

Toru and Junko Saigusa

From our Shioda church, we can enjoy seeing beautiful scenery of nature at all seasons. A few weeks ago the tops of most high mountains were covered with snow. Winter in Yamanashi prefecture is so cold, but it often gives us clear, blue skies and simple beauty of mountains. When we look at such charmed winter scenery, we remember God's love and great creation. Such remembrances refresh our dim feelings and we notice we are also created by our Lord.

Now here in Japan, some are rich and others are not, but most people don't feel poor in their daily lives. We wonder if we should be glad about the situation we have experienced now. Because in that situation we have continuous tendency to lose the sense of seeking spiritual things or the sense of danger. Today it seems that most people don't seek anything. Instead of seeking, they are satisfied. What are they satisfied with? They are satisfied with their present situations. They have no serious seeking, no internal interest. Our days are under poverty of thought. It is true that economic growth makes us happy but at the same time it makes us dull and empty in spirit.

"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41) We remember Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane. If our spirit gets weak, what will become of us? Please remember us and our Shioda church in your prayer.

### JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

Our Christmas program was held December 19, and we were very blessed again to hear many young voices tell about the story of Jesus' birth, and to dwell on the true meaning of Christmas as compared to the meaning we get from the world around us. Here in Japan, this season has been completely commercialized to the point



where many do not even know why they are celebrating.

At a recent ladies' meeting, we spent some time thinking about the same subject – the real meaning of Christmas. Several started wondering for the first time and asked, "Then what do trees, wreaths, Santa Claus, etc. have to do with Christmas?" It was a wonderful opportunity to share with seeking souls the Truths of God.

We were blessed to spend a weekend with Sis. Judy Kemp and her daughter (Forrest, IL) as she came to visit her relatives again after a long time of separation. It is really special to share fellowship with believers from all over the world.

We are thankful Sis. Shizuko Utsuki Okasan has been able to return home after being hospitalized for almost a month after a fall. Her condition is gradually improving.

Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki has recently moved and requests to include his new address: 101 Suzuki-so, 1-66-7 Shibasaki, Chofu, Tokyo 182.

#### KANSAS, BERN

##### Diane Kaeb - Donna Edelman

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Sam Huber (Sabetha), Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha). We thank them for bringing God's Holy Word to us.

Happy grandparents of Abigail Jo, born to Tim and Christine Moore November 27, are Clayton and Miriam Strahm and John and Barbara Moore. Bro. Faron and Sis. Jana Strahm were blessed with the arrival of a new daughter, Jessalyn Rose, December 13. Also welcoming her home is a brother, Clay. Grandparents are Clayton and Miriam Strahm and Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer (Sabetha).

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Florence Rokey (Bro. Melvin). Our prayers are with her and may she always feel God's love and nearness.

Congratulations and God's blessings are extended to Bro.

Adrian Strahm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia) and Staci Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois) as they have completed their college educations.

#### WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THIS YEAR THAT'S SO NEW?

As we start a new year untouched and unmarred  
Unblemished and flawless,  
unscratched and unscarred,  
May we try to do better and  
accomplish much more  
And be kinder and wiser than in  
the year gone before –  
Let us wipe our slates clean and  
start over again,  
For God gives this privilege to all  
sincere men  
Who will humbly admit they have  
failed many ways  
But are willing to try and improve  
these "new days"  
By asking God's help in all that  
they do  
And counting on Him to refresh  
and renew  
Their courage and faith when  
things go wrong  
And the way seems dark and the  
road rough and long –  
What will you do with this year  
that's so new?  
The choice is yours –  
God leaves that to you!

Helen Steiner Rice

#### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

##### Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn

Our thoughts and prayers were with Bro. Larry Bahr when he underwent surgery this month. We thank God for his quick recovery.

On December 19, we had our Sunday school Christmas program. We thank the students for their efforts and cooperation. As the Bible class sang, we hope that everyone can find room in their hearts for Jesus.

We rejoice with Clifton Beth (Darrell and Sandra Beth) and Trista Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart) on their engagement. May the Lord direct their hearts as they prepare for their life together.

Our hearts were saddened with the passing of Elder Bro. Ronald

Nelson (Kiowa). We share in the sorrow of those from our congregation who were originally from Kiowa.

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

Hymns of Zion #248

#### KANSAS, GRIDLEY Doug and Judy Kraft

We always appreciate those who come and worship with us. We are thankful Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) spent a Sunday with us and proclaimed God's Word.

Bro. Lloyd Kraft had the misfortune of a fall and has been laid up. We miss him in our midst and pray that God will once again strengthen and provide.

Our Sunday school children and their teachers went Christmas caroling December 19, then they returned to the church where we all enjoyed a meal together. Following our meal the children presented their Christmas program. It is such a blessing to hear them tell the blessed story of Christ's birth. We trust that the seeds planted early in their life will grow and bring forth fruit as the children grow to the age of accountability.

#### KANSAS, KIOWA

##### Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

#### CHOOSE THOU FOR ME:

Thy way, not mine, O Lord,  
However dark it be!  
Lead me by Thine own hand;  
Choose out my path for me.  
I dare not choose my lot:  
I would not, if I might;  
Choose Thou for me, my God,  
So shall I walk aright . . .  
The kingdom that I seek  
Is Thine: so let the way  
That leads to it be Thine,  
Else I must surely stray.  
Take Thou my cup, and it  
With joy or sorrow fill,  
As best to Thee may seem;  
Choose Thou my good and ill.  
Choose Thou for me my friends,

My sickness, or my health:  
Choose Thou my cares for me  
My poverty, or wealth.  
Not mine, not mine the choice,  
In things both great and small;  
Be Thou my Guide, my Strength,  
My Wisdom, and my all.

Horatius Bonar

Our congregation has deeply mourned the loss of our dear Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family. We are so thankful for all the love and kindness shown by all. May we all continue to trust the Lord to fill this void with His ever-flowing love.

We appreciate Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita) for lending himself to the work of the Lord. We always enjoy the fellowship of his family.

The birth of our Savior was celebrated this month, as we caroled in our community, spreading the message of hope, peace, and love. We also honor our Lord with a Sunday school program which reminds us of the greatest gift God gave to mankind. May the love of this season remain with us throughout the New Year and the Lord bless each of us to His service.

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**KANSAS, LAMONT**  
Jane Isch

We are so thankful Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker and their son, Tim, have felt God's direction to move back to our area. Their presence is truly appreciated in our church and community.

Our Sunday school Christmas program was held December 12, when the children told the true story of Christmas in verse and song. May God bless the efforts of the students and teachers. Following the program, we enjoyed an afternoon of Christmas caroling and then a supper at Bro. Bill Emchs.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker who recently had triple bypass surgery. We pray that he can feel God's nearness and the comfort of His love as he recovers.

As the New Year begins, may we always "strive aright" to live a life pleasing and acceptable to our Father in heaven.

**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
Mary Kay Wenger  
Sharon Strahm

We look forward to our Sunday school classes presenting their Christmas program this Sunday evening. May the story of Jesus birth and the reason He came touch each of our hearts; that He came to bring us salvation and share with us His gifts of love, peace and hope.

Our special thanks and appreciation to Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) who taught us from God's Word. We were reminded of God's lovingkindness and His faithfulness.

Kalynn Hartter was our only hospital patient. She had knee surgery and is now up and about on crutches.

We wish to thank our many relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and many gifts of love during Esther's illness and passing. May God bless each of you.

The family of  
Esther Steiner Grimm

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

F. E. Havergal

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**KANSAS, WICHITA**  
Emma Miller

We have souls in our congregation who are in need of prayer for their physical infirmities. Bro. Phillip Bowers underwent surgery to hopefully strengthen him so he can sit more erect in his wheelchair. Bro. Ernie Lambert was admitted to the hospital and then moved to a care home. We should also remember Sis. Nellie who has so faithfully cared for Ernie at home and Bro. Phil's family for their constant care for him. They testify that the Lord is their strength.

Members of the Sunday school classes met the second Saturday afternoon in December to practice for their Christmas program which was presented to the church Sunday evening, December 19. After the practice, they met in the kitchen to prepare food for the church

fellowship supper the next day. That was an opportunity for them to express to the church their appreciation for the church's support. Each class had an assigned purpose. The high school class prepared the stew, the middle school class was responsible for invitations, decorations and program, the upper elementary cut up the relishes, the lower elementary formed the bread dough into loaves, and the primary class decorated cookies. The spirit of the event can be summed up in this reading presented at the dinner the next day.

**THE WORLD'S BIBLE**

Christ has no hands but our  
hands to do His work today;  
He has no feet but our feet to lead  
men in His way;  
He has no tongue but our tongues  
to tell me how He died;  
He has no help but our help to  
bring them to His side.

We are the only Bible the careless  
world will read;  
We are the sinner's gospel, we are  
the scoffer's creed;  
We are the Lord's last message  
given in deed and work -  
What if the line is crooked? What  
if the type is blurred?

What if our hands are busy with  
other work than His?  
What if our feet are walking  
where sin's allurements is?  
What if our tongues are speaking  
of things His lips would spurn?  
How can we hope to help Him  
unless from Him we learn?  
Taken from "Tapestries of Life"  
by Annie J. Flint

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
Jane Grawburg

We want to welcome Sis. Darlene Goodwin (Rich; Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough) and Bro. Martin and Sis. Michelle Blough (Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite; Stanley and Eula Lenneman) into the family of God. Our love and prayers are with them. Bro. Curtis Frank (LaCrosse, IN) joined us at this time. We sincerely thank him for his labors of love.

More of our snowbirds are migrating south: Sis. Helen Steffen is at Phoenix, AZ; Bro. Elmer and Sis. Delila Schrenk are at Zapata, TX; and Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman will soon be in Sarasota, FL. We wish them God's blessings for the winter months and look forward to a joyful reunion in the spring.

Terry and Rose Watson (Linda Koehl; Bro. Elmer and Sis. Delila Schrenk) have moved to their new home in Dober, FL. May the richest of blessings be with them.

We experience a special peace and joy in our hearts as we celebrate Jesus' humble birth. Our children always enlighten us, by song and verse, of their simple understanding of the Christmas story. We appreciate their love for Baby Jesus, born in a lowly manger so many years ago.

Many from our Sunday school classes went Christmas carolling this year; some of our classes have collected food and clothing for the needy; and our smallest class shared a little bit of Christmas with some residents of a nursing home as they presented their part of our Christmas program for them.

1993 is coming to a close. Bro. Henry Beer in "My Garden of Verse" helps us to reminisce and look forward to "The New Year."

The years that come, the years that go,  
As volumes written plain,  
Are stored upon the shelf of time  
Where memories remain.

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

The great Librarian keeps the  
books;  
Our records are all true.  
And from the pages written plain  
Our lives we may review.

To childhood days our thoughts  
return;  
There memories abound.  
The life once free from care and  
toil  
Within these books are found.

Within these books of youth we find  
That toil and cares increase;  
The doubting heart and wavering  
mind -  
Yea, less of joy and peace.

Our youth is filled with joy and  
mirth,  
And, lest we would forget,  
The books record our wayward life;  
There's much we do regret.

When manhood days come into  
view,  
Our strength will scarce suffice  
To give us courage, purpose true,  
In trials, toil and strife.

And then the year eventful came,  
Most precious to achieve,  
When on the great Librarian's  
name  
We truly could believe.

The record of the past events  
Was all removed by grace.  
He then a book with pages fair  
Within our hearts did place.

We trust that He may now record  
Some deeds of truth and light!  
May goodness in our life abound  
To make the pages bright.

He knows the weakness of our  
frame,  
Our failings all, - no less.  
And for His love and mercy's sake  
Our hearts' book He will bless.

When once the Records all are  
made,  
Though few our deeds may be;  
If to my own these deeds you've  
done,  
You've done it unto me.

This year will come, the grand New  
Year;  
No bounds shall mark its days.  
Eternal life by merits won,  
We'll join in endless praise.

#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Marlene Mosher

Our beloved Lord and Savior has  
once again seen fit to bring unto  
our small and beloved congrega-  
tion, two new lambs to serve Him  
in our Lord's service, Bro. Glen Jr.

and Sis. Maria Ruegsegger (par-  
ents of Bro. Glen Sr. and Sis. Mar-  
garet Ruegsegger and Victor and  
Siyta Pena). We wish these new  
lambs and the many others who  
have turned their hearts to the ser-  
vice of our Lord and Savior, God's  
grace and blessings, especially in  
these times and this time of year.

Thanks to our Father in heaven  
for all of His love, grace and bless-  
ings in all things whether they be  
sickness, health, riches or poor  
times. All of these are blessings  
even though, at times, we might  
not think so, just trust in Him and  
all will be well. We wish all, this  
wonderful time of year to celebrate  
the birth of our blessed Lord and  
Savior so that He might be born to  
shed His blood for us, even though  
we are not deserving, we need to  
be thankful and believe and do His  
will.

With our sick and on the mend  
at this time, we wish our Lord's  
grace and blessings to Bro. Erwin  
Wieland (Sis. Nina), Bro. Alf Kaeb  
(Sis. Hermine), Bro. Gary Wright  
(Sis. Shirley) heart surgery, Sis.  
Lorraine Wackerle (Bro. Sam).

"And He changeth the times and  
the seasons."

Daniel 2:21

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT Holly Barton Marlene Reinhard

At this time of year everyone is  
busy rushing around getting ready  
for another blessed holiday season.  
Thanksgiving is past and Christ-  
mas is upon us with the new year  
threatening to overtake us.

We were privileged to have Bro.  
Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) assem-  
ble with us in December. May God  
continue to bestow His blessings  
upon these willing brethren.

On December 12, we held our  
annual Christmas program. What  
a joy it was to sit and listen to the  
story of the birth of our Lord and  
Saviour, Jesus Christ, and the true  
meaning of salvation. The follow-  
ing script was written by one of the  
Sunday school students for the pro-  
gram, Ben Denes:

## THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

At the heart of Christmas there lies a small gift. But not a gift any man can create. This gift to us cannot be wrapped in colored paper or placed under a tree smothered with the carpet of man's tradition.

This gift cannot be blinded by the thousands of lights blinking red and green, which come every year or are persuaded by the dark hearts of politics. These do not have anything to do with this gift.

At the heart of Christmas there lies a gift to us, a Child. An innocent, perfect baby, a gift of salvation. A gift that we can choose to accept; A gift that can only be given by God.

May we continue to hold our dear Bro. Guy Wieland up in prayer as he continues his battle against the afflictions of the body. We pray God will give Bro. Guy the strength for each day and the coverage to overcome.

Our congratulations is extended to Bro. Marvin Wieland (Bro. Erwin and Sis. Nina, Bay City) and Sis. Gayla Gerber (Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN) as they look forward to a March wedding. May God grant guidance and Godly wisdom to them as they become united as one in the Lord.

This past month we were grateful to have Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City) host the monthly Tuesday evening worship service at Wood-haven. On February 1, our Beverly Hills congregation is scheduled to minister to the residents at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

We want to extend a hearty welcome home to Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz and their children as they move back to the Detroit congregation after spending a couple of year in the Atlanta, GA. We know they will miss the loved ones in Atlanta, but may they have many fond memories to cherish in the coming years.

May we each one look forward to another new year filled with many blessings and much joy and peace. May we look back on 1993

and see the spiritual progress that we have made and know this was only possible by the grace of God. May we always know that the difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way a man uses them. May we turn our stumbling blocks into stepping stones toward heaven in the coming year. We wish you all a very blessed 1994.

## MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

During the Christmas season we have enjoyed caroling at Gillette Children's Hospital and at the homes of our "church family."

On Sunday, December 19, the Sunday school children brought forth the story of Christ's birth through verse, songs and Bible reading. We thank the teachers for all their labors.

As we enter another year, may we continue to pray for grace that we may live according to His will.

## MAKE THE NEW YEAR A STEPPING STONE TO GROWTH

Whatever the new year has in store  
Remember there's always a good reason for  
Everything that comes into our life,  
For even in times of struggle and strife  
If we but lift our eyes above  
We see "our cross" as a "gift of love" . . .  
For things that cause the heart to ache  
Until we feel that it must break  
Become the strength by which we climb  
To higher heights that are sublime . . .  
So welcome every stumbling block  
And every thorn and jagged rock,  
For each one is a stepping stone  
To a fuller life than we've ever known,  
And in the radiance of God's smiles  
We learn to soar above life's trials . . .  
So let us accept what the new year brings

Seeing the hand of God in all things,  
And as we grow in strength and grace  
The clearer we can see God's face.  
Helen Steiner Rice

## MINNESOTA, MORRIS

### Maxine Sauder - Debra Joos

Many prayers were uttered on behalf of our hospital patients this month. We are thankful that God has given a measure of health again to Bro. Dave Nohl, Gary Moser, and Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger.

Funeral services were held December 7 for Jonah Koehl. Even at the age of 66, Jonah was still one of God's special children. Jonah's favorite songs were "Jesus Loves Me" and "I'm Going Home" and many times when we caroled for Jonah we were touched to see him light up and get tears in his eyes when we sang those songs. He is survived by his brother and sister, Bro. Reuben and Sis. Eunice, who so lovingly cared for him in their home until just a few months ago, and by a brother, Bro. Ernest (Sis. Gladys), and by seven nieces and nephews. May the comforting hand of God be upon these dear ones.

On Thanksgiving, we were privileged to have several visiting ministers with us; Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS). Sharing words of wisdom, comfort and encouragement with us by the reading of the memorandum the weekend of December 18-19 were Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, KS) and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA).

Our Sunday school children brought the message of Christ's birth to us in verse and song December 19.

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every one for your prayers, cards and many kind deeds shown during our husband/dad's recent illness and hospital stay. May our heavenly Father bless you for your love and kindness.

The David Nohl family.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**  
**Kim Messner - Joleen Messner**  
 Greetings!

**ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING**

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

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

Hymns of Zion #150, vs. 1, 5

We had a blessed evening listening to the Sunday school children recite pieces and sing songs of Jesus' birth. We all enjoyed fellowship together after the program. The good we do is our gift to the Lord. May we all resolve to do better in the New Year of 1994.

We were blessed to hear the Lord's teachings through Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA). May God bless him and his family for their efforts.

Our patients recovering from surgery are Bro. Cornelius Messerli (Sis. Delores), Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia) and Bro. Roland Messner (Sis. Melva). We pray that God will provide strength for these dear loved ones as they deal with their bodily afflictions.

We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Geri Messner and family in the loss of her father, Franklin Biddick.

Reminder: February is collection month for Silver Lining dues.

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Martin Hohulin**  
**Carolyn Banwart**

On Sunday, December 12, we enjoyed the Sunday school Christmas program. It is always inspiring to hear the verses about Christ's birth and the songs of praise. It was impressive to hear our foreign exchange student, André Leal (El Salvador, Brazil) recite one verse of "Silent Night" in his native language. He is making his home with Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart and their family.

Our hospital patients this month were Gary Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Ruth Banwart (Bro. Art). Sis. Ruth had a valve replacement in her heart and we pray that God will bless and grant here health and strength again.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Marti (Kansas City, MO) spend a Sunday with us once again. May God bless him for his labors of love.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Rex Frieden as he was involved in a truck accident. We were so thankful that his life was spared and he was not injured.

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

Hymns of Zion #150

May we be thankful for all the blessings God has provided in this past year and in the New Year may we strive to live according to His way and will.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Betsy Schrenk**

Our visitors this past month include the following ministers: Bros. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL). Because of the many activities in December, our number of visitors is usually much smaller. We thank each one who spent a Sunday with us last month as we sang carols and read the old, old story to commemorate the birth of our Lord.

One morning we awoke to a shimmering blanket of snow covering all the dormant plants and grass, and I had to marvel that we can be as white as snow if we are washed in the blood of Jesus. Don't we wish for everyone to experience this "peace on earth"! For we know that a physical peace here on earth is only temporary - wars have been raging throughout history, and so many people today are suffering from war. The only true and lasting peace is what God's gift of His Son, and Jesus' sacrifice as the offering for our sin, gives.

**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:18

Although the many flood cleanup volunteers may feel that their efforts are unrewarding, we know the Lord will reward each deed of kindness. It is overwhelming and heartwarming to see the outpouring of love from so many of our congregations. We are greatly impressed with the many young people who are willing to give of their time in the seemingly unending cleanup job. The various Sunday school groups represented were Morton, Tremont, Bloomington, Congerville, Bradford, Eureka and Princeville, IL, and Bluffton and Francesville, IN. May God bless each and every person who has helped in any way.

Our prayers are with the Sutton family as little Mary Beth (six years old) continues her intervals of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. How comforting to know that the Lord will be by their side and help them through this difficult time.

We certainly will miss our dear Sis. Janelle Scott (the late Bro. Don) and her daughter, Tonya, as they have moved to Congerville where Sis. Janelle is seeking employment in her specialized teaching field. We wish them the Lord's guidance and richest blessings.

We extend our condolences to Sis. Barb Uppinghouse (Dave, whose father-in-law passed away very suddenly while shoveling snow.

Ministering brethren visiting us this past month were Bros. Art Baurer, Ben Wysong, Wayne Banwart, Kenny Dietz, Gary Endress, Dale Frank, Ron Joos, Jay Rinkenberger and Jon Schmidgall and Elder Bro. Joe Braker. What a privilege it is to sit under the sound of God's Word brought forth by our local ministers or visiting ministers each time we assemble in God's house.

Those going to Ecuador on a World Relief project from our congregation were Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer and children, Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser, Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy Adrian and Bro. Don Hoerr. They accompanied a group of brethren from other congregations and helped build a high school. May God bless each one who is willing to help those less fortunate. Bro. Dave Marquart had planned to go on the work project, but his plans were changed when he became very ill with pneumonia. We're so thankful he has recovered.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Shirley Nelson and her family (Kiowa, KS) in the sudden loss of their dear husband and dad who served as elder at the Kiowa church for 15 years. He was very special to many to us and will be greatly missed!

December 5 was a very special day for Bro. Keith Pflum, son of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marian (Oakville, IA) and Sis. Tami Grimm, daughter of Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona, as they were united in holy matrimony. Elder Bro. Joe Braker assisted Elder Bro. Roy Grimm in the wedding ceremony. May God bless Bro. Keith and Sis. Tami as they walk the path of life together!

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

Scott and Sara King, Ryan and Brandon (York, PA) welcomed a little girl, Jaclyn Nicole, October 27, into their hearts and home. Grandparents are Sis. Bernice Hirschey (late Bro. Leland) and Anna King (Washington).

Bro. Niles Farney was unable to assemble with us a short time with pain in his leg but shows improvement and was able to be with us on Sunday. We pray that he will continue to show much improvement. Sis. Lena Virkler is a patient at Lewis County General Hospital. At this time she will not be able to return to the East Road Adult Home as she requires a higher level of care. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she makes another adjustment in her life.

Our Sunday school children presented their program of song and verse Sunday, December 19. In the evening, the enjoyed Christmas caroling together.

As we begin a new year may each of us remember what we have been reminded of in the past week of the coming to earth of our Savior and then of His dying on the cross for our sins. May we live each day for Him.

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**OHIO, AKRON**  
Joyce Gasser

Best wishes to Melanie Gasser (daughter of Bro. and Sis. Don Gasser) as she and Christopher Lowenkamp were united in marriage. We trust they will make Jesus Christ the Lord in their lives.

Congratulations to Melinda Bako (daughter of Bro. and Sis. Zoltan Bako) as she received a Masters Degree in Library Sciences from the University of Texas.

Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty) and Bro. Gary Maibach blessed us with inspiring messages.

The past year our congregation was blessed with five new babies, two weddings, one baptism, and there were three funerals.

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**OHIO, COLUMBUS**  
Julie Grimm

What a blessing when we can take time from the hustle and bustle of the busy holiday season to quietly reflect upon God's goodness to us and to share His good tidings with others. We thank our Sunday school students and teachers for sharing the "true meaning" of Christmas at our annual Christmas program. We also enjoyed an evening of carolling at a nursing home and to others in our local congregation.

God has again blessed us with many visitors including Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL).

May our hearts be filled with joy and peace as we begin another year walking with our Lord.

**OHIO, JUNCTION**  
Sandra Manz

By the time this column is printed in January, Christmas will be a memory, but it was thrilling to awaken today to a fresh blanket of snow which had the likeness of a Christmas card. As we embark on a new year, we have special thoughts and prayers for those who by reason of ill health or other trials face uncertain futures in the months ahead. God's grace is sufficient for all suffering.

We are thankful for a quick recovery for Kevin Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen) who spent a few days in the hospital.

Bro. Bob Manz (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty) and Sis. Donna Teubel (Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilman, Pulaski, IA) exchanged vows and were pronounced man and wife in Latty November 28. Even the children were impressed as Elder Bro. Ray Sinn advised the new couple to "stick together like glue". We gladly welcome Sis. Donna to our congregation.

What a blessing to sit in the pews and receive the conference conclusions as brought out by our elder and visiting Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI). We were doubly blessed to have Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene stay over for Sunday services. It had been 20 years since he had occupied our pulpit on a weekend.

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

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

November 28 was the wedding day of our Sis. Donna Teubal (Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma, Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Bob Manz (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty, Junction, OH). We wish the Lord's blessing on them as they begin their life together.

We were privileged to have many visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Bros. Doug Schock and Russell

Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH). We so appreciate these brothers' willingness to be used to bring forth God's Living Word.

We are thankful that Sis. Beulah Stoller (Bro. Roy) is recuperating at home after a short hospital stay. Let us continue to remember her and Bro. Roy in our prayers.

On the evening of December 15, we gathered together to hear children of all ages sing songs commemorating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are thankful that there are brothers and sisters willing to work with the Sunday school students to make this evening a blessing for all.

Our recent converts have been Rick Klopfenstein (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Carol), Corey Gerber (Bro. Russell and Sis. Susie) and Teresa Claghorn (Tim). We offer prayers and encouragement as they begin their walk with the Lord.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee: yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isaiah 41:10) We pray those hospitalized will look to the Lord for their strength and help. They are Sis. Dula Heyerly, Bro. Claren Gehring (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Von Heyerly (Sis. Diane), Bro. Bob Reimschisel (Sis. Louise), Sis. Dorothy Fiechter (Bro. Wayne) and Bro. Charles Meyer.

We want to thank Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for sharing the Word of God with us this month.

"I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." (Psalm 16:8) As the new year is upon us, may we always allow the Lord to guide us.

God bless you in 1994!

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OHIO, MANSFIELD  
Carl Mann

#### ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

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

In working or in waiting,  
Another year with Thee.

Another year of service,  
Of witness for Thy love;  
Another year of training  
For holier work above.

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

Hymns of Zion #150  
verses 1, 4, 5

As we enter into another fresh, new year, let us each look for ways to be more faithful, more diligent and more useable in our service to our Lord.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above . . ." (James 1:17) "What do we consider 'good gifts'?" was the question Elder Bro. Aaron Steffan (Alto, MI) posed to us Thanksgiving Day. Do we each take time to count the "good and perfect gifts" we receive each day? We prayerfully thank Elder Bro. Aaron and his family for coming "home" to be with us over Thanksgiving weekend.

Our annual business meeting was held December 5. Bro. Dave Sauder (Sis. Joy) was elected to a five-year term as trustee. Sis. Sue Beer (Bro. Joel) was elected to a three-year term on the kitchen committee. Our thanks goes to Bro. Ron Rufener and Sis. Kay Rufener as they both conclude their terms on these respective committees. Sis. Sarah Rice concluded a three-year term on the World Relief Committee and was voted back in for another three years. Let us each remember to pray for those who have oversight of the business of the church.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2. On December 12, we rejoiced to hear that our friend, Tami Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen) has found peace with God and man. May she feel God's presence as she awaits baptism.

"Make a joyful noise unto the

Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." (Psalms 98:4) On the evening of December 12, I'm sure that God was pleased with the joyful praise He was receiving as our children lifted their voices to Him. It is always delightful and very touching to watch and listen as the Sunday school classes present their verses and songs during the Christmas program.

Our prayers go out to Bro. Frank Bertka as he has once again been hospitalized this month. He has returned home, but still is unable to assemble with us. We also pray for Sis. Mary Witschi who fell and broke her hip. She is on the road to recovery for which we are thankful. Often there are those who are ill, but not so seriously to require a hospital stay. We also offer our heartfelt prayers for God's healing power upon those loved ones who might fall in this category.

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OHIO, RITTMAN  
Linda Ramsier  
Marsha Hartzler

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." (Colossians 3:15) On Thanksgiving Day, we were privileged to hear the Word, once again, brought forth by faithful brethren. We thank Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis) for their labors.

We appreciated other visiting ministers, Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI).

Our prayers are with those in the hospital and those recovering at home. Our thoughts are with Bro. Dave Maletich (Sis. Mary) and Dave Plahuta (Sue).

November 28 was the wedding day of Bro. Tim Geissman and Sis. Shelly Jenkins (Sis. Clara). Our prayers are with these loved ones as they begin their life together.

Our thoughts are with Jerry Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane) as he begins his service in the military.

We wish Scott and Ruth Bach-

man many blessings as they begin their life together. October 30 marked their wedding day. Parents are Zane and Betty Bachman and Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ann Zollinger (Smithville). We rejoice with Scott and Ruth as they have begun their walk together in the Lord. We are thankful that Scott's mom, Betty, has begun her repentance, also. What a blessing to begin a new year with our focus on the Lord.

### OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

God has richly blessed our Sardis church this Christmas season. Within three days we were joined by two baby girls and heard how God was working in the life of one of our dear single sisters.

Staci Michelle came first. She joined the home of Allen and Janet Indermuhle. Amanda, Stephanie and Kurt have all been waiting for a new brother or sister. Grandparents are Sis. Martha (Bro. Delbert) Indermuhle and Richard and Roberta Martin (Claysville, PA).

He leadeth me! O blessed tho't!  
O words with heav'nly comfort  
fraught!

Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth  
me.

Zion's Harp #162

Believing it is God's will for their lives, Sis. Carla Indermuhle (Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Brad Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) have announced their engagement. There were tears of joy at that special moment. We are thankful that they have both put God first in their lives and look forward to witnessing their union.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Lisa Indermuhle also were blessed with a baby girl. Mariah Dawn is their first child. Also first-time grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle and Bro. Bill and Sis. Mariam Brake.

Singing Christmas carols a few evenings in the homes of many elderly people in our community was certainly time well spent again this

year. One of the highlights was watching the children join in praising Christ, the newborn King. Their enthusiasm at the Christmas program was a joy to see.

Another year has passed quickly. We rejoice in the Lord that He has kept us in His care and look forward to a new year serving Him.

### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Kim Stoller - Edith Miller

On December 12, our annual Christmas program was presented by our Sunday school children. Many meaningful songs were sung telling of the birth of our Lord Jesus. One of our ministers related the following story to our children:

#### A CANDYMAKER'S WITNESS

A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Jesus; and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness to the promises of God.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Saviour. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Dicksons, Inc. 1992

Two precious babies were born to loved ones in our congregation during the past month. On Thanksgiving Day, Bro. Wendell and Sis.

Kathy Dotterer welcomed Evan Martin into their family. Brothers and sisters of Evan are Lisa, Wendy, Shara, Alex, Wesley and Jenna. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger (Forrest, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer.

On December 9, little Rebecca Lynn was welcomed by Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb Maibach, along with brothers and sisters, Brad, Katie, and Emily. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Janet Maibach (Rittman, OH) and Don and Dorothy Boley. May God's blessings rest upon both of these homes.

Those who have spent time in the hospital this month were Sis. Lorene Blough (Bro. Elmer) and Bro. Larry Miller (Sis. Edith). May God bless both with returning health.

As we are on the brink of another New Year, we sincerely trust God's grace will accompany each one of you throughout the coming year.

### OHIO, TOLEDO

Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

"But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me."

Psalms 49:15

We are thankful for this promise of the Lord as loved ones leave this life. Sis. Mary Harmon passed on to her reward December 2. She is survived by her son, Bro. Howard (Sis. Colette, Toledo), as well as one other son and daughter.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Alpha Schlatter, who passed away December 9. May God be their Comforter.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis). As always, we appreciate those who are willing to speak the Word as often as they are called upon.

Jesse Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. GERALYN) was a recent hospital patient. We are thankful that he is home and recovering again. May we ever give praise to the great Healer.



**OREGON, SILVERTON****Peggy Schulz**

Greetings in our blessed Redeemer's name. We were so clearly reminded of the Christmas story last evening as the Sunday school classes shared with us through word and song. May our thoughts not stop at the manger but journey on to the cross where our Saviour died for us. November 27, was an exciting day for Michael and Megan Kuenzi, as they were blessed with new baby brother, Jared Lee. Their parents are Bro. Jason and Sis. Jo.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Vance and Sis. Liz Snook in the death of Vance's father, Cecil Snook. May the Lord comfort them in this time of sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Bro. Paul Dettwyler who is presently hospitalized. We pray he will have a rapid recovery.

We shared a blessed evening together with our Elder Bro. Art Nohl and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) as they shared with us the reading of the memorandum. May we take to heart the loving warnings we received. We also appreciated having Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) with us this month. May the Lord richly bless these brethren as they were spent on our behalf.

Sunday, December 5, was the wedding day of our Sis. Nora Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy, West Bend, IA). We will miss Sis. Nora very much but wish them the Lord's blessings as they set up their home in West Bend.

We are humbled and thankful to share with you that we have finally reached the end of our legal dealings and we have full approval to build our new edifice at the Howell Prairie/Silverton Road site. There have been many times we wondered why it has been so long in coming, and yet we know the Lord's timetable is never wrong.

As we begin a New Year in the Lord, may we stop and evaluate our priorities. Are we redeeming our time in His service?

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Have A Great Day in the Lord!

**PENNSYLVANIA,  
PHILADELPHIA****Franz Soni**

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, the law is within my heart."

Psalm 40:8

After much prayer and consideration for a new minister, God has answered our prayers. Bro. Shawn Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Doreen, Gridley, KS) will join Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman and Bro. Jerry Isch in preaching God's Word to us. Our prayers are with Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandra (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn Lanz) as he takes on this new responsibility.

The weekend of November 20-21 was special in that we had three visiting elder brothers. After a church supper Saturday, we heard the conference memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for being here with us and sharing God's Word with us. May they feel God's presence as they bring forth the Word of God and be richly rewarded for their efforts.

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

III John 2

Bro. Edwin Lanz (Sis. Marilyn) recently was hospitalized for a hip replacement. We are happy to hear he is making a good recovery. We pray for God's continued healing powers for Bro. Edwin and look forward to seeing him in church soon.

We said farewell to Sis. Kerin Holmes who will be returning to school in Illinois. Our thoughts and prayers go with her.

Our Sunday school held its Christmas program December 12. It is a joy watching the children willingly bring to us the story of the Christ Child. We thank them and their Sunday school teachers.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE****Gwen Leuthold**

Worship services for December were held on the 5th. Ministering Bro. Bruce Leman and his wife, Sis. Marjorie, as well as the Richard Isaia family (Roanoke, IL) were present with us. We enjoyed listening as Bro. Bruce proclaimed the Word of God and also enjoyed singing Christmas carols in honor of the newborn King. May God richly bless each one of you for your efforts in attending and all those who visited us during 1993.

Suddenly we find that the new year is once again upon us. We look forward to its coming with eager anticipation of what the Lord has in store. May we each consider a "new beginning" in the Lord with more love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

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 are planning to be in the Nashville area. Upcoming scheduled church service weekends are February 6 and March 6.

**TEXAS, DALLAS****Christine Kaiser****Kimberly Kaiser**

Our Dallas congregation was small, but the blessing were great. We had Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL) with us December 5. Many thanks to them and to our visitors! It was very uplifting to spend time with those of like-mind and faith at our Sunday service.

Our special love and prayers go out to Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Zeltwanger as Sis. Betty undergoes additional cancer treatments. We have missed their presence in church.

We wish everyone a blessed New Year in Christ Jesus and extend a special invitation to those traveling in the Dallas area to come and 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.

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**TEXAS, ZAPATA**  
**Viola Perdelwitz**

Now that a new year has begun, it is good to think of the following poem.

**A BRAND NEW TOUCH**

Yesterday had come and gone,  
 And now a new day is coming on.  
 I do not know what it may bring,  
 My heart may cry instead of sing.  
 It matters not what comes my way,  
 Lord, if you'll just touch me new  
 every day.

Lanny Wolfe

We welcome home all our winter residents. We are looking forward to greeting visitors, both newcomers and the ones that have visited us before.

Retired minister Bro. Elmer Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Delila (Alto, MI) are her for the winter month.

**Sermon . . .**

(Continued from Page 40)

of my system. Well, maybe it was good, but I took a chance by waiting. I should have insisted.

Because I was not a Christian, many great problems came into my life, just like they can come into your life. When I see these converts, thirty-five here in this church since the beginning of the year, oh, how we should rejoice!

You young people can take advantage of the Word of God and apply it to your life! You have heard the expression, "God said it and I believe it and that settles it." That is what you should apply in your life - you should believe the Word of God.

For you and I who are older, we still have temptations and trials, don't we? Satan just will not leave us alone. As Bro. Chuck quoted last night from the Scripture,

"... greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I

John 4:4) We had better put that to use, It is later than we think.

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." (I Thessalonians 5:4) I started to say a little bit ago, that if I were to one-on-one ask you and you were absolutely honest with me, or if Jesus would be face to face with you, "Is there anything that is holding you back?"

Are we examples, we who have been redeemed for so many years? Is our light still burning? Is it shining? It must be here in this community, Even in our little church at Fort Lauderdale, we have had tremendous growth. Some as young as twelve and as old as eighty-two.

The Spirit of God is moving! Don't quench the Spirit by your unbelief or thinking that it is just a coincidence that a group of brothers or a group of sisters or that the church is praying. God answers prayer!

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." (I Thessalonians 5:5) Do not creep back into that darkness.

We heard a testimony last night where a darkness filled a room. As the dear child was telling us about that, it even scared me. But she knew what to do. She was almost too scared to move, but somehow she knew that she had to find her way to her mother's room. She took her mother's hand and they prayed.

"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others;" Do you know what that is saying? Do not let it happen to you! "but let us watch and be sober," (I Thessalonians 5:6)

Let us put our priorities where they belong. We believe that we are a hard-working people and God has blessed us and given us many material things more than we deserve. Let us not put those things ahead of the spiritual things that are much more important.

"For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." (I Thessalonians 5:7-8)

Now I want to speak a little bit to someone who might be here who has not repented yet. We know that you are not strong enough to do this yourself. God does not require you to do it yourself. All He does is say that you must have enough faith to take one step and He will reach forth His hand and bring you along.

For some, it is so hard to take that last step. We see some who come so close and then Satan blocks them and tells them, "Don't take that last step." Because Satan knows that if you take that last step in faith, Jesus will provide that breastplate of faith for them.

God will instill in them a love that they have never known. He will put on them the helmet of the hope of salvation. No, we cannot do it ourselves. You are weak and I am weak. We mentioned last night that we have to work out our soul's salvation daily.

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ," (I Thessalonians 5:9) There is only one way. One way! Is that boyfriend or that girlfriend standing in the way of your hope for eternal life? You have to make a decision. It's in your hands. We can't do it for you. We can pray for you, but you have to move toward God.

"Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him." (I Thessalonians 5:10) We read in Revelations about the beauty of heaven. That is great . . . that is good, and we look forward to that. The streets are paved with gold. But the real reason that we want to be there is not to see those gold streets, but to see Jesus Christ.

Then we can look into His side and perhaps He will show us His hands where the nails went through. Then we will have to cry out, "My God, my God, how glad we are that Thou did not forsake us nor leave us."

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." (I Thessalonians 5:11). How do we do that? We do that through fellowship. The person you are sitting by, I do not know why you are sitting by that

person this morning. You just came in and sat down. If he is a brother or a sister, are you close enough to say, "I have got a problem. Will you pray for me? Will you kneel down and pray with me?" That is something that we need to do.

I have to think, as I was talking to Bro. Chuck the other day, about how Jehoshaphat, when he heard that there were armies coming to overtake him, do you know what he did? He got the men, the women and the children and he gathered them together and they knelt down and they prayed.

Would you do that? That gets results. That battle was the Lord's. It wasn't Jehoshaphat's. He won that battle and never lifted a sword. Are you close enough to Jesus Christ this morning that He will fight that battle all the way and you won't even have to have enough faith to believe that you won't even have to lift a finger?

You have an enemy coming after you just like Jehoshaphat did. Maybe it is not an army, but it is an adversary and he is a tough one. You cannot handle it alone.

Christian fellowship . . . you need it. We need it. Is there any other place in the world where you can walk in and give a brother a kiss and then ask him his name? It doesn't make any difference what his name is. We feel God's presence in that person because they went through the same repentance that we did. That is why we have closed communion. We could fill churches very easily if we would drop a lot of barriers that the world thinks are stupid, funny, queer or odd. But, thanks be to God, we have kept those traditions, doctrines and the faith.

"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men." (I Thessalonians 5:14) How is your patience? Do you think you are doing pretty well spiritually? How is your patience? That is what the Scripture is asking us here this morning. That is all that I am going to say.

"See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among

yourselves, and to all men." (I Thessalonians 5:15) It is not easy, is it? But it is a commandment; we don't have an option.

If you are a child of God, you don't have an option to do anything else, but to do what the Scripture says. If you are a person that will take liberties that you should not take, you will pay for it. You sow what you reap. It is the same for me, for Bro. Chuck and the rest of the brothers behind me and on the front row. We sow what we reap. We all want people to be lovely to us, but are we lovely to them? Think about it.

The Bible tells us to rejoice evermore. Why? Some of you might say, "I have problems in my life and I can't rejoice, I cry." Well, I feel like that sometimes, but I have to come back to the Word of God and I have to read it. I have to get myself lined up with this Word.

Listen, we sing in the Hymns of Zion, "Count your many blessings. Name them one by one." Why don't you do it? Why don't you count your blessings that God has given you, starting with salvation? Start with the Word of God, for nothing else makes any difference.

Look how good He is to us. He has provided for us food and raiment, but most of all, the love for Him and the love for our brothers and our sisters. How we rejoice when we can hear a testimony. Bro. Chuck is rejoicing with his converts. He loves the church. He loves you.

We asked one of the converts last night, "Do you pray?" She said, "All the time." The Bible tells me here, "Pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17) She already knew that. She knew that she had to do that, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thessalonians 5:18) Do you do that? Do you give thanks even for the things that upset us sometimes? Even for our physical disabilities? Even for our lack of memory sometimes?

Some of us slip fast, but oh, how we should give thanks in everything! When I look out and I see young ministers coming, I give thanks for that. Last week, at the conference, I saw young, new el-

ders. Some of them were very nervous at their first meeting, but they will get seasoned. The church lives. The church is moving forward. I can say that because I see results of prayer through repentance. We have to be careful not to quench the Spirit. (See I Thessalonians 5:19)

"Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thessalonians 5:20-23)

Now, I want you to hear this. "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." (I Thessalonians 5:24) That is a promise to you. "Who also will do it." That means, "Quit worrying. Quit being fearful."

The Bible tells us that God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love and joy and a sound mind. (See II Timothy 1:7) Quit worrying. Put it in the hands of God. It is God's battle. He keeps telling me that all week. It is true. It is God's battle, but we have to be at a certain level spiritually to give it to Him and leave it there.

"Brethren, pray for us." (I Thessalonians 5:25) Pray for us to preach the Word. We need it. We are weak, just like you. If you don't think that Satan gets after us, you have another thought coming. You just ask some of these ministers and elders. There is nothing that Satan would rather do than get into the elder body and tear it up and divide the pulpit. That is where it starts.

Paul says, "I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." (I Thessalonians 5:27, 28)

I want to read two verses, the first and the last of the Psalm . . .

"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid." (Psalm 27:1) Then, at the end, when it is all over, He says, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Psalm 27:14)

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# SERMON BY ELDER BRO. DARRELL KLOPFENSTEIN OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

**“The Helmet Is Our Hope Of Salvation”  
Psalm 27 and I Thessalonians 5**

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” (I Thessalonians 5:2) I don’t believe this morning that there is one of you who has gathered here that does not believe that. Is there a friend here this morning that knows that and is putting it out of their mind? Is there a Christian here this morning that has slipped a little bit, knowing these things that Jesus Christ could even come today . . . that He could come this very hour?

Is there one of us here this morning that does not realize that our next breath is in the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ? What assurance do we have for the rest of the day? Do we realize the importance of living for Jesus Christ and Him crucified?

Is there anything in your life that you are putting ahead of your salvation? Is there anything that is hindering you? Something of the world, or maybe even family? Maybe it is not getting along with a member of your family or a brother or a sister? Do not let the sun go down with those evil thoughts.

I do not know when and Jesus said He does not know when – only the Father knows when that day will come. It may be today. It may be in a hundred years. I do not know. You are not going to live a

hundred years and neither am I. We are a heart-beat away.

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”

I Thessalonians 5:2

If I would ask each one of you this morning (and I do not have that authority to do it), but if Jesus Christ were here this morning, face to face with you, would you ask Him for a little time to go make something right? Would you need a little time to go correct something? Or would you do something a little differently that you were going to do tomorrow? He is going to come!

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a women with child; and they shall not escape.” (I Thessalonians 5:3) Think of that.

When Jesus gave His life, when He shed His blood, and when that sword pierced His side, do you think that He was not like you and I if that happened to us? His pain was just as severe as it would be for you and me. Can you fathom this morning His love and what He has done for you?

When you were convicted, sure you went to the elder to confess

your sins as the Scripture tells us, but you really went to Jesus Christ, face to face.

We see the young being taken. We see our brothers and sisters falling by the wayside. Let me say to you young people sitting here this morning, “Time goes so quickly.” When there are so many drugs and so much alcohol in the world today, and all of you are in your automobiles and driving, things happen that you cannot control.

At home, on our twelve-lane highways, it is so common to hear everyday that cars went across the lane and two or three were killed. What about accidents other places? It can happen. These young people should not think, “It is not going to happen to me.” I know that when I was young, I thought I had time. I can tell you this. When I was sixteen years old I wanted to repent, but at that time, the church thought that I was a little bit young. We have changed our mind on that.

Time went on and time went on and I became an older man. I was thirty-six years old. Thank God, the Lord waited on me. I am not blaming the church, and I am not blaming the elders. My life showed them that I was not ready. I was very active in sports. They thought it was probably good if I got that out

(Continued on Page 34)