



"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God;

I John 4:7

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

I John 4:10

VOLUME 44

FEBRUARY 1994

NUMBER 1

Love

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest
Which the Spirit does bestow.
Though I had a voice like angels,
Lacking love, I truly know
That I'd be a tinkling cymbal
Or a wretched sounding brass;
For although the sound were present,
Lifeless through this world I'd pass.

O, Thou Spirit which has given
To me grace to seek my Lord,
Teach me to strive for love of heaven
And to love Thy precious word!
Love has mercy and is patient;
Hasty ways it does not own;
Humbleness of mind is present;
With true peace it has its home.

Love is of a friendly nature,
Does not selfish thought possess;
Love is not a sin partaker,
And is free from bitterness.
Love is truthful, not deceitful,
Does here ev'ry burden bear;
And, enduring, is so fruitful
In all trials joy to share.

Zion's Harp #37

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

I John 4:16

MISSION – WORLD RELIEF – WORKS PROJECTS

MAGNIFY THE LORD

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Sometimes people do not speak up for themselves. Even if they do speak for themselves, it is often needful for someone to speak on their behalf. In the case of our relationship with God, the Lord Jesus Christ not only speaks on our behalf, He died on our behalf. Even now, "He ever liveth to make intercession for them (us)." (Hebrews 7:25) Also, "The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us." (Romans 8:26)

This phenomena of individuals acting on behalf of other individuals is very common. Lawyers get paid for defending their clients.

You may have heard of the woman who managed to meet President Lincoln to intercede on behalf of her son who had fallen asleep while on guard duty during the war between the States. The penalty was death but the mother asked that he be excused. Lincoln reportedly replied, "It would not be justice to excuse him," to which the mother retorted, "Mr. President, I do not ask for justice, I ask for mercy." She made her point and the lad was excused.

In the Bible we read, "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

In the overwhelming concern that we have for loved ones, we can console ourselves through intercessory prayer. Some may not pray for themselves but we can pray on their behalf, asking that they might be repentant and that the blood of Christ would cleanse them from all sin. In I Timothy 2:1 we read, "I exhort therefore, that . . . intercessions . . . be made for all men."

It is our hope and we exhort to that end, that all people pray to God through Jesus Christ for mercy and forgiveness, and then live a holy life. If they find it difficult to pray in that way, we at least have the privilege of praying on their behalf, leaving the results with God.



We Have A Need!

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

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

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

David Bertsch, Counseling Elder
11520 Souder Road
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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David Bertsch, Phillip Stettner

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c/o David Bertsch
11520 Grabill Road
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).

MAKING DECISIONS ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

There are times when we find ourselves seeking direction from God to make a decision. There are also times when God seeks to be an influence in decisions that we are making, even though we haven't specifically asked Him to be. Often we don't mean to neglect seeking God's will, but our personal decision making becomes so routine that we don't take the time to seek God's will as we should. Or perhaps we become too self-sufficient to continuously seek His will, even in minor matters.

We should include in our prayers, "...not my will, but thine be done" (Luke 22:42). In doing so we are beseeching God to direct us in pathways that are pleasing to Him, and which are best for us in His sight. "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6).

The methods that God uses to impart His messages to us are numerous and sometimes unusual. Examples of the ways that the early believers received direction from God include: preaching and martyrdom, as in Stephen's sermon and subsequent stoning which impressed Paul (Acts 22:20) and spread the gospel by scattering the church; advice from a third party, as in the case of Paul's letter to Philemon; opportunity, as Paul's sermon at Mars Hill on the "unknown god"; reasoning together, as in the Jerusalem council, the conclusions of which caused the church to rejoice; and personal advice, as in James's recommendation to Paul to purify himself along with four brethren to conciliate the Jewish Christians.

These examples demonstrate that our submission and readiness are necessary if we are to benefit from God's special ways of helping us decide on important matters in our lives. The Word teaches, "now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will (of the mind), so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have (are capable of doing)" (2 Cor. 8:11).

It should not be difficult to make decisions about the doctrinal truths that serve as the foundation of our faith in God.

Teachings such as: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), and "no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15) are easily discerned. However, not every statement in the Bible is that conclusive. Believers must often make decisions about issues of life which are not addressed specifically in the Word. We are capable of doing this because "we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16), and because He has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth (John 16:13), and He has provided the church which is "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15) to assist us.

Some examples of issues that require us to make decisions regarding the application of doctrinal teachings include: When do I speak to my friends about the gospel? (Mark 5:19), Under what circumstances do I greet with a kiss? (1 Cor. 16:20), What qualifies as an adequate head covering? (1 Cor. 11:4-13), Where is my place in teaching all nations? (Matt. 28:19-20), How long is long hair for a man; for a woman? (1 Cor. 11:14-15), What is anger? (Eph. 4:26), What constitutes modest apparel? (1 Tim. 2:9). These and other items have been addressed by our church leadership by reasoning together, not unlike the Jerusalem council, and many helpful exhortations and guidelines have been given. They also involve individual decisions and performance under many different circumstances. Each person, however, has the responsibility to make decisions that show respect and concern for all of the brethren and not simply according to personal preference. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3). Making and keeping peace (Matt. 5:9) must also be included as a major ingredient in all of our decisions. In doing so we cultivate a deeper sense of unity and help to avoid schisms. "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19).

Decisions made in all aspects of our lives should be subject to the guidance of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13). Employers making decisions that affect their employees should do so with consideration and respect (Eph. 6:9). For employees, the decisions made in the work place should be done in true dedication to their employer (Eph. 6:5-8).

We must be very careful that we do not become so set in our thinking that we are not open to the voice of God through brotherly counsel in making decisions. We could get into a habit of thinking there is only one right way—which is our own way. The Apostle Paul listed the characteristic of being implacable along with other very serious sins (Rom. 1:31). If we are implacable, we are unyielding and cannot be reasoned with.

We should also not be so stymied that we can hardly make a decision for fear that there is only one choice which fits God's will. If we stay close to Him and are prayerful and sincere, He will help us along many different paths which we may choose as long as they do not violate His Word. When in retrospect we realize that we did make a poor decision, it is discouraging, but all is not lost. We should seek to learn what we can from the experience. John Mark recovered from his decision to desert Paul (Acts 15:38; 2 Tim. 4:11). Peter recovered from his decision to walk out on the Gentiles (Gal. 2:11-12) and grew from this experience. (See also Gal. 2:9 and Rev. 21:14.) Many of our most unforgettable lessons are learned this way and we grow in humility when we confess our fallibility.

God wants us to use our minds (2 Tim. 1:7) as well as His Word (2 Tim. 2:15) and good counsel (Prov. 11:14) in making a decision. Consistent prayer and diligent study of the Bible will refresh our memories and keep us alert to "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). The most important step in this entire process is the "renewing of our minds" so that we "may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

January always seems a good time to wipe the slate clean of all things from the past except the lessons we have learned. Paul said it so well in Philippians 3:13-14, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. (14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. When we sin, it is so important that we learn from the lesson we are taught, but then be able to forget and go forward, trying harder to live as He would want us to. January is a good time to take inventory of our walk with the Lord, too. Are we trusting in ourselves and the things the world has to offer or are we trusting in the Lord? Are we fearful of turning things over to God, thinking perhaps God won't handle the matter the way we have decided it should be handled? Recently I read that we have nothing to fear in the Lord's will or the Lord's timing. If we could just remember that much, perhaps life would not seem so hectic. God is still able to care for us.

Here at the Home there is much activity as we near completion of Linden Estate, another 16-bed facility. It is anticipated that we may be moving around April. This in itself will be a big project as we move 16 people into their new home. The Home for the Handicapped will then lower the amount

of people who live here as we will be taking more severely developmentally disabled residents into our home. There will be many changes for us in the coming months, but we know God's hand will be in all these changes and all will go well.

For activities, an excited group of men are planning to go to a motel to swim, eat out, and spend the night; and practice for Special Olympics basket ball and gymnastics is in full swing.

Birthdays for March are: ACHH - Bill Unsicker (2), Judy Grimm (6), Sheila Steffen (9), Margo Ebert (12), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Tom Christensen (20), Edna Haynes (23), Jon Wilhelm (26) and Nancy Meister (31). At Oakwood - Maretta Rokey (6), at 200 E. Hazelwood - Mike Bodtke (4) and Frank Kyburz (27). At 207 Wagler - Anna Eberhard (15).

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL Joan Reinhard

February of 1994! How quickly the times flies. Are we redeeming the time as the Bible tells us to? Because we work with children every day, we see them grow and change so quickly and it makes us a little more aware of how short this life is. Most of our students will leave our Preschool and go on to 13 years of public school. We just hope and pray that the Christian teaching and influence they receive here will someday bring forth fruit for our Lord.

Last month we talked about the themes of health, safety and care of the body, and this month we are learning about emotions, Valentine's Day and music. We also work continually on letters, numbers, shapes, colors and many other areas. We learn a Bible verse each week and every morning we sing "Jesus" songs and have a Bible story. As you can see, the Preschool is a very busy place, and we need, and ask for your prayer support as we go about our work here. Our staff this year consists of Sis. Doris Moore, Sis. Louise Hall, Sis. Linda Morrison, Retta Knobloch and Sis. Joan Reinhard. Please continue to lift each one up in prayer to our heavenly Father and we encourage anyone to come visit us here in Athens anytime!

GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Children's Home Nancy Messner

New on campus this month are Derrick, who has moved in with the Schrocks in the New House, and a family of three: Mary moved in the East House, and Jennifer and Joel are with the Fiechters in the West House. We welcome each with open arms.

We extend our best wishes and ask God's blessings to Kristy who graduated from high school. She has been with us four years and has moved home which is very exciting for her. In addition, Addie has moved home, and Melissa has moved to her Grandma's. We will miss each of them and pray that God will help our children make the right choices in life, and that they can remember to seek God's help with decisions. They need your prayers.

"IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING"

We walk in a world that is
strange and unknown
And in the midst of the crowd we
still feel alone,
We question our purpose, our
part, and our place
In this vast land of mystery
suspended in space,

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Home employs a variety of professional and paraprofessional staff. These are positions which open up from time to time and we seek people to fill these spots who are both qualified and committed to serving in a Christian facility. If anyone feels led to work at one of our facilities, they should contact us to see what opportunities there are and what is involved. We always encourage brothers and sisters from the Apostolic Christian Church to prayerfully consider these openings. Some of the openings which occur require a bachelors degree and some experience working with people with developmental disabilities. It also appears we will have an opening for someone with a degree in social work. We occasionally have openings for nurses also. If anyone has an interest please contact the Home for further information. We ask all brothers and sisters to pray that God will provide the right people to work at each of our homes.

We probe and explore and try
hard to explain
The tumult of thoughts that our
minds entertain . . .
But all of our probings and
complex explanations
of man's inner feelings and fears
and frustrations
Still leave us engulfed in the
"mystery of life"
With all of its struggles and
suffering and strife,
Unable to fathom what tomorrow
will bring—
But there is one truth to which we
can cling,
For while life's a mystery man
can't understand
The "Great Giver of life" is
holding our hand
And safe in His care there is no
need for seeing
For "in Him we live and move and
have our being."

Helen Steiner Rice

We rejoice with Doug as he has given his heart to the Lord in repentance. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9) May God give him grace and Godly wisdom as he begins to walk in His ways. Doug moved here from Peoria and lives with the Schrocks in the New House.

Our counselor, Bro. Jeff Schumacher, is working on his Master's Internship in counseling at another agency. He is with us part-time. May God grant him Godly wisdom and strength through this busy time.

We are thankful for our volunteers this past month: Bro. Dave Kieser (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Justin Meece (Goodfield, IL). We also had several volunteers from Bluffton who are reconstructing two bedrooms in our New House. Along with our volunteers who have helped fill in as substitute houseparents, we truly appreciate your help as we have been short staffed. May God bless you each for your labors of love and work of faith.

We currently have staff openings for a couple as alternate houseparents, and for a Childcare Supervisor. Anyone interested

please see the ads in this issue for details.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pamela Moore

The first weekend of January, we were blessed to share time with Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and again Sunday, to share the Word of God.

On January 23, Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer and his wife (Rittman, OH) were able to spend Sunday in Athens. We also had a singing on Sunday evening, spending time singing praises to God.

We rejoice with Nancy Chapman, who has committed her life to the Lord. It is always uplifting to see the Lord continuing to work in the lives of precious souls. We also look forward to the testimony of Charles Williams, who will be giving his testimony February 5. The Lord still moves!

We've had many hospitalizations this month. Sis. Shirley Haggenmaker is now recuperating at home. Sis. Hazel Vibbert has undergone surgery and is also at home now. Ricky Haggenmaker and Terry Haggenmaker have also been hospitalized. Please pray for their recovery.

Plans have been made to have the annual singing at the Tennessee fellowship area April 16 this year. We hope many will be able to

come and share the weekend with us.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust."

Psalm 18:2

As life keeps rushing by, our life is enriched with a closeness only God can give us. To know Him is to love Him.

Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) were our visiting ministers this month. We thank you for coming.

Christmas caroling is a great time to bring joy to many who are homebound. Sis. Helen Wuthrich was very happy to see and hear the many who visited her and Sis. Ruth and Sis. Elva.

In December, our World Relief volunteers undertook a special project. What a delight for those who can't do so much as "some yesterdays" to be invited to a holiday luncheon. A special "thank you" and God's blessings for a lovely outing.

Bro. Clarence Beyer had cataract surgery. Sis. Vera Jivan will have back surgery in late January. We pray for God's healing for our dear family.

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
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159 Office
(219) 627-2606 Home

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

Bro. Al and Sis. Joyce Yackley announce the marriage of daughter, Sandie to Brian Hunt (Mr. and Mrs. Don Hunt). They will exchange vows January 22. We pray God will bless them and their home. Our sympathy to Sis. Ora Schrenck on her sister, Sis. Angela

Rassi's, death in Roanoke, IL. Also to Sis. Martha Elsasser for cousin, Bro. Joe Rassi's wife, Sis. Angela's, passing. May all find comfort in Psalm 23. There just is nothing better than "I shall not want." (for He will provide!)

— 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
January 1994 —	1486	13,672

*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

Also, may the Lord comfort Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbra Schupbach and Sis. Doris Kokanovich on their maternal aunt, Salome Smith's, passing on to heaven.

Sympathy to their aunt, Betty Zeltwanger's, death is given to Bro. Gregg Gramm, Bro. Jim Meiss and Sis. Laurie Knochel.

We pray for God's healing to Kory Langhofer for a broken leg. His parents are Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy. Kory, we look forward to your recovery and being back to normal.

Sis. Emma Sanders has a cast on her broken elbow. May God give you much patience during the healing process.

As we have been assembling our news report, our prayers were for loved ones in the frigid Midwest to Ohio Valley. Three days later the California earthquake erupted. Dear God, if we've ever needed You, it is now. Let us hearken and draw closer to Thee.

How delightful to have visitors from near and far. We appreciate your coming and hope our 70° weather was enjoyable.

March is the time we will accept your \$9.00 offering for the Silver Lining. You may pay Bro. Ron

GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1994
CHILDREN'S HOME
AUCTION AND SALE

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 13, 1994

Hoerr or Sis. Julie Hoerr, or mail to Bro. Ron or Sis. Evelyn.

For thoughtful consideration: Would you treat your heavenly Father like you do your Christian brother or Christian sister?

If the Saviour was visibly seen inside your church, would you soften your heart?

Why not speak a smile at someone you always pass by? You will be the benefactor.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We are enjoying 70° weather as we listen to reports of severe winter storms in the Midwest and East. We pray God is watching over our brethren who live in these areas. Our winter visitors are certainly enjoying our sunshine.

We recently had a visit from

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

Bro. Wayne Stoller (Latty, OH) who served us on the pulpit on a Wednesday evening. We want to thank Bro. Wayne for his visit. We also had a visit from Bro. Kenny Knapp and his wife, Sis. Phyllis (Taylor, MO). Many thanks to Bro. Kenny for his services.

Sis. Rita Knoblock (Lester, IA) is with us for a few months. She will be working in Tucson for a short time. Welcome, Sis. Rita. We are glad to have you!

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.□	Mike Finley Box 176 Carlock, IL 61725 (309) 376-7301
School	1/7 - 1/15/94	#1, #2, #3 IL, OH, IN	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 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.□	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.□	Phil Isabel Route 2 Remington, IN 47977 (219) 261-3541

CANCELLED

DEFERRED

DEFERRED

FILLED

DEFERRED

For more information, contact:
Harold Witzig

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

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

*Couples invited on this project
*Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti (M.E.B.S.H.)
□Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (C.C.C.D.)

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Carol Graff

January has been a busy month for those of us in Altadena. Many of us were in LaCrosse, IN January 2 to witness the wedding of Bro. David Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Janelle Neust (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet). Two weeks later, January 16, a reception was held for Bro. David and Sis. Janelle here in Altadena and many came from the Escondido (San Diego) church to be with us. Also, Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) was here with his family for the occasion and served us from the pulpit as well. We ask God's richest blessings on this new family, and welcome Sis. Janelle to Altadena.

As well as Sis. Janelle, we have another newcomer to Altadena. Greg Schlatter (son of Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI). He arrived in mid-January. We are glad to have him here and hope that he is happy here.

It was quite a difference to be in the Midwest during the late part of December and early January for the wedding and to come home to weather in the 70's and 80's. We have been especially glad for the warm weather in the past week, as the 6.6 earthquake left many in our area homeless due to earthquake damage. We're grateful that many have been able to find housing now that the weather seems to be changing. Some, however, continue to stay in shelters and tents until they can find a place to live. No one from our church was hurt or had major structural damage to their homes. However, a few families had many items in their homes or businesses destroyed due to cupboards opening and things falling off of various shelves. This is another of those times when people are reminded of what the important things in life are. A friend of mine from work had damage in a quake about six years ago and she told me that now she realizes that possessions are just things and unimportant. It's a good lesson to all of us, even those who didn't have any damage.

We appreciate all of your prayers and the support which has

come through World Relief to help the victims of the quake. Please continue to remember the earthquake victims in your prayers as they rebuild their lives.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Rose Huette

SO LONG AS THERE ARE HOMES

So long as there are homes where
fires burn.

And there is bread;

So long as there are homes where
lamps are lit.

And prayers are said;

Although people falter through
the dark -

And nations grope -

With God Himself back of these
little homes -

We have sure hope.

Grace Holl Crowell

We extend a loving welcome to Bro. Tibor and Sis. Pearl Bozzay and son, Tom, from the Chicago church to our little congregation here in San Diego. Their daughter, Sis. Esther, and son, Steven, moved here earlier. We wish you many blessings. So glad you are here.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all the victims of the devastating earthquake which hit Los Angeles on the morning of January 17. May our Lord and Savior comfort them.

COLORADO, DENVER Jamie Grant

So many times when we think of the New Year, we think of what we'd like to change about ourselves in the forthcoming months. We make all sorts of resolutions; we resolve to lose that extra ten pounds, we endeavor to quit biting our nails, and we anticipate to drive the speed limit to and from work.

As Christians, it is our hope that our resolutions could sort of go like this: We resolve to spend more time at our bedside in prayer, we endeavor to be content in all situations, and we anticipate to reach our heavenly goal.

For the soul who has yet to heed

that call, our prayer to you is that just one day in 1994 would hold enough grace for you to repent. The Word tells us, "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold all things become new." (II Corinthians 5:17)

Just remember . . . "Becoming a Christian is not making a new start in life: It is receiving a new life to start with."

We are so thankful for our salvation through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Truly, "His yoke is easy and His burden is light." So many events in our little church this past month would have been so difficult if we had to rely on our own strength.

Bro. Verne Lehman had a lengthy stay in the hospital undergoing multiple tests on his heart and kidneys so doctors could determine if he would qualify for a transplant. For now, God has saw fit that Bro. Verne's name would qualify on the list of candidates for a heart transplant. Our prayers are still offered for his continued support both spiritually and physically.

Bro. Mark Kiefer and his son, Miles, survived a near tragic crash. Their airplane engine apparently stalled just minutes before arriving at their destination. Miles sustained no injuries, however, Bro. Mark was in the hospital for two days. Currently he is doing fine. Miracles definitely still happen today. We are so glad you're back home safely!

Sis. Diane Ebert and her family had gone back to Iowa over Christmas, and had the misfortune of being in a car accident. Thankfully, there were no serious injuries.

Salome (Frieden) Smith, originally from Kiowa, KS, passed away January 3. She was 95. Our sympathies extend to her nieces and nephews.

Despite our shaky start into the New Year, we can surely relate to the hymn writer's words: "Though troubles assail, and dangers affright; through friends should all fail and foes all unite. Yet one thing secures us whatever betide, this promise assures us: "The Lord will provide." (Zion's Harp #86)

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Dawn Winans - Peggy Skipper

November 4 was a blessed event for Fred and Julie Helinski, with the arrival of a son, Alfred John, "AJ". Jenna is his happy sister. Grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider.

December 25 was a blessed event also for Bro. Jason and Sis. Sue Kloter, with the arrival of their son, John Louis. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary Kloter.

Our prayers are with Bro. Edwin Aberle as he recovers from heart surgery.

Our congregation was blessed with visits from two ministering brothers, Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA).

Our sympathy and prayers to the family of Walter Welti, who passed away after being ill for some time. He leaves his wife, Sis. Ida (Gottier); a sister, Sis. Anna Heintz; a daughter, Sis. Harriet Zahner (Bro. Dale); and three sons, Chris, Donald and Rich.

Bro. John Ruch went to his rest after being in the nursing home for some time. He leaves a son, Erwin (Texas) and two sisters, Sis. Albertina Rumpf and Sis. Emma Ruch.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane) in the passing of his father, Bro. Earl Stoller (Oakville, IA).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

"For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth;"

Job 37:6

Due to the Christmas holiday, no services were scheduled for December 26. This decision was made several months ago. Early that Saturday evening, it started snowing. Later that evening, it took 3.5 hours to travel what usually takes 35 minutes to travel. We are thankful no one had to travel a great distance to serve us.

Ministers traveling to minister to our spiritual needs were Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA),

Bro. Floyd Graves, Jr. (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH). We appreciate these brothers and their families coming to visit us. Other visitors this month were from Mansfield, OH, Gridley, KS and Peoria, IL.

Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Many from the area meet for breakfast in the hotel dining room at 9:00 a.m. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. We often gather Saturday evenings for fellowship or singing and the other Sundays for a tape, so please let us know if you are in town. For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you will be in the area, please call Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624 or Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Marvin and Rhea Steffen

At the time of this writing (January 17), the death toll in the Los Angeles earthquake has risen to 20, with many more expected to be found. We view the destruction in the area, and feel such sympathy for all those affected by it. We seem to be witness to so many natural disasters recently, and also to so many armed conflicts of man. While troubling, all a believer needs to do is read St. Luke 21 to remember that all of this must come to pass before our Lord and Saviour we shall see ". . . coming in a cloud with power and great glory." (St. Luke 21:27) May we all be found faithful and working on that great and notable day!

We were so blessed to have several visiting ministers and their families this month. Bros. Jeff Streitmatter III, Doug Sabo and Ron Koehl (Sarasota) all shared with us. Also Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale) were used in God's service.

Eva Baurer, after serving her Lord from early in her life, went to her blessed rest. She was residing at the Apostolic Christian Home in

Peoria, and was a sister to Ben Baurer.

Brett Stoller (Bro. Ivan and Maxine, North Fort Myers) and Laurie Bradley (William and Jeannine Payne, East Peoria, IL) have announced their engagement. We pray that God will lead them as they look forward to life together.

We are looking forward to a church picnic next Sunday, and a clean-up day for the church building the last Saturday of January.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

"Greetings be to you, our brethren, To our sisters in the Lord, Here from far and near assembled, Gathered here in one accord. Welcome, welcome, All ye loved ones; Greetings in the Saviour's name."

Hymns of Zion #7

What a joy it is to welcome our brothers and sisters from the North. Fellowship with our brethren is such a "priceless gift." We thank our great God for this "treasured gift."

Our dear Sis. Minnie Nuest celebrated her 90th birthday January 2. Sis. Minnie came to Sarasota in 1977 and has truly been a pillar and devoted member of the church. She has kept our address book updated which is a big task with our continuous flow of seasonal residents. Also, she has been very instrumental in keeping the Thursday morning "Fellowship Breakfast" a place where one can meet our brothers and sisters for a couple hours of fellowship. May God's blessings continue to shine on her.

Believing it is God's will, Sis. Gala Gerber's engagement was announced December 19 to Bro. Marvin Wieland. Sis. Gala is a daughter of Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Marvin is a son of Erwin and Sis. Niva Wieland (Bay City, MI). We rejoice with Sis. Gala and Bro. Marvin, but are sad to see Sis. Gala leave our congregation.

We have again been blessed with a number of visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Dale Eisen-

mann (Chicago, IL), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Bro. William Brake (Sardis, OH), Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We wish to thank each of them for bringing us the Living Word.

In closing, we wish to offer prayer for all those who were affected by the devastating earthquake in California. Once again I believe we all have been reminded of the strength and power of God's might. The urgency of the hour is great. Praying that we all have been awakened by this tragedy and that it might encourage us to draw closer to Him!

As the Lord calls precious souls to repentance, we are thankful as Nathan, Chris and Melissa Sabo have responded to the call. They are the children of Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo (Sarasota).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Peg Anliker

We were blessed to have Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and our Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) minister God's Word to us. We are also thankful for the visiting ministers and all our guests. May we continue to pray for our ministers that they may always be filled with the Holy Spirit.

It was a joy to hear the children sing the Christmas songs and say their pieces. May these dear children and their teachers feel God's nearness and blessings. After the program, many of us enjoyed Christmas caroling.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Sarah Steffen (Bro. Aaron) on the death of her grandmother, Sis. Leona Ricketts (Forrest, IL). We know how special our grandparents are to us, yet we are thankful she is in a better place.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Debbie Grieco - Tudy Schmied

The beginning of a new year seems to be a time to look back on what the past year held for us and whether or not we met our resolutions. It is also a time for setting new goals for a fresh new year. We received much encouragement and guidance toward setting our spiritual goals through the help of two Bible studies on spiritual growth. Bro. Ron Heiniger chose five areas of spiritual growth to study:

Give - We were reminded of the ultimate example of giving: "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (John 6:51) We, as Christians, have received so many gifts - the Holy Spirit, the promise of His kingdom, His Son, and grace. We need to be sure that our giving is done not with show, not grudgingly, but with a glad heart. Our gifts should be gifts that carry value for the receiver - not just gifts of monetary value, but gifts of love and meaning.

Love - "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that spitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:44, 45) Our love for Jesus can be seen in the love we have for others. We don't love Jesus anymore than we love the least liked person in our life.

ObeY - "by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Romans 5:19) The Bible provides much wisdom on how God wishes for man to comply with or fulfill His commands and instructions. Matthew 21:28-32, Ephesians 6:1, 5, 6, Hebrews 13:17, II Thessalonians 3:14.

Read - If a Christian is to be "Christ like", how do we know what that is if we don't read the Word of God? The Word is a precious gift from God. "And that from a child thou has known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is

given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (II Timothy 3:15, 16) It would take less than five minutes a day to read two verses which would enable us to read the entire New Testament in one year.

PraY - Prayer provides a way of bringing God into focus within our life; a way of developing a personal relationship that is like no other. Praise the Lord! "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6)

Bro. Ron's challenge to us was to evaluate whether we are spiritually existing or spiritually growing, and to move toward greater spiritual growth in 1994.

We are very thankful for the loving service of visiting ministers who take time to worship with us. This month we were blessed to have with us Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN).

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Les and Barb Fehr

Our annual business meeting was held January 12. Bro. Jim Knobloch was elected as trustee and Bro. Don Duckworth as usher. We thank those brothers whose terms have expired and encourage those who have expired and encourage those who have taken on new responsibilities.

We thank Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign) and Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) for bringing us the Word of God. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

Those hospitalized this past month are Bro. Ed Gungrich and Sis. Ann Rumbold. We wish them God's healing spirit and comfort during this time.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

In Bible study, we were examining Ecclesiastes 11, and we spent a great deal of time with verses 1

and 2. "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight . . ." We were asked to ally Ephesians 4:28 with those verses, which tells us, ". . . let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good. that HE MAY HAVE TO GIVE TO HIM THAT NEEDED." (caps added) In all the seasons of the year, I believe we have constantly before us people who need us to give, and according to the Bible, we are exhorted to be those givers. One commented that the money of Apostolic Christians is continuously pooling around - going out and coming back. I truly hope so because it would seem that that is the purpose for which our money and earthly possessions are lent to us.

However, we often find it more convenient to give money than to remember and minister to other needs. For myself, I must confess that giving in other ways takes time -- and I do not know whether what I say or do is always the "right" thing. If I do not lean heavily on Him, whatever my ministry, I will not have His Spirit. Whenever there is a call for His power, I tremble, yet in faith, I try to step out. This past week, a sophomore at my large suburban high school committed suicide in her home. Though I did not know her, several of my students knew her very well and are devastated. I cannot tell them why, but we have spoken of the importance of giving now. In the Hymns of Zion, #163 speaks of "kind words," "sweet thoughts," and "true love." Those are gifts of the Spirit, from Him through our hearts. When there is pain, we cannot do everything, but perhaps we can be God's touch so that one still chooses life and thus there is hope remaining.

We appreciate Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) who visited us and was willing to share the Word given to him in the Spirit.

One of my Sunday school students knew exactly what I meant when I asked him what his family had given me for Christmas. I am using the calendar, but I was even more delighted with the candy cane and its story. He said, "Yeah, my

mom bought lots of candy canes and made tons of copies." And I said, "That's great, and I did, too." After Christmas, several of my students repeated the connection between Christ and the candy cane, remembering that better than some of their schoolwork. That is our mission, to help people make connections between Christ and the parts of their day-to-day lives. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matthew 24:14)

"Faithful and true would He find us here

If He should come today?

Watching in gladness and not in fear,

If He should come today?

Signs of His coming multiply,

Morning light breaks in eastern sky,

Watch, for the time is drawing nigh,
What if it were today?"

Tabernacle Hymns #144, vs 3

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Anna Marie Reutter

Cyndee Anderson

We apologize for not reporting the death of Walter Beer (Bremen, IN) in our last issue. We want to extend belated sympathy to his sister, Sis. Mary Bauer, of our congregation. May the love of God help fill the empty spot.

On Christmas weekend, we enjoyed the ministering of Bros. Denny Kaufmann and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Mark Gerber (Bluffton).

January 5 was our annual business meeting, with the election of new Sunday school teachers. Our prayers will be with Bro. Max Kaeb and Sisters Lili Koehl and Judy Bauer as they assume these important positions in the church. And our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Keith Knapp and Sisters Elsie Hoffman and LaNae Rudin as they finish up their terms. The year of 1993 brought to our congregation five new babies, four marriages, eight funerals and 13 baptisms, for which we are so thankful. We want

to thank Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand for being with us that evening.

Several in our congregation have had surgery this past month, including Sisters Loretta Baumgartner, Vi Greiner and Tillie Rudin. Bro. Alvin Baumgartner was also a hospital patient for a time, and little Mindy Stock (Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol) was in for pneumonia.

We appreciate the visits of Bro. Ken Schneider and Elder Bro. Art Bahler and hope they come back soon.

We also have the joyful news of three new babies in our congregation this past month. When you only average five babies a year, three in a month is pretty exciting! Bro. Greg and Sis. Patti Rudin, along with Jason and Elizabeth have received into their hearts and home little Micah Gary, born January 2. Then January 6, a son was born to Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin. Corey Joel is most lovingly welcomed by his sisters, Erica and Traci, and his brother, Brian. A week later, on January 13, Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Kaeb welcomed their first child, Amber Dawn. We rejoice with these three families and pray they will always look to the Lord and His Word for the guidance needed in raising these little ones He has so lovingly given them.

On Sunday, December 26, a size medium, tan, men's London Fog coat was accidentally taken from our church. Bro. Joel Hofbauer's name was on the label, along with his address and phone number. In the pocket were some deerskin gloves. A larger coat was left in its place. If you have any information about this coat, please call Bro. Joel or Sis. Cyndee Anderson, (217) 375-4474. Thank-you!

February is Silver Lining collection month for Cissna Park. Please turn in your \$9.00 to your reporters by the end of the month. Address changes, additions or deletions should also be given us at this time.

We are sorry this note was accidentally omitted from the January issue of the Silver Lining:

To our many brothers and sisters in faith, friends and relatives,

who remembered us on our 50th wedding anniversary with cards, gifts, love and prayers. We say a sincere "thank-you" and may God bless you in a special way.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Marj.
Rinkenberger

"I have been young and am now old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

Psalm 37:25

Occasionally we like to report on our older brothers and sisters in our congregation. This time you'll learn about our oldest sister, namely Naomi Knapp. Her parents were the late George and Lydia (Beer) Young. She was born July 16, 1901 and grew up in a large family in the big cement block home not far from church. When she was 15 years old, she worked for a time for the late Bro. Gus and Sis. Bertha Meiss. Then she kept house for her brother, Joe for a few years. She was converted at age 16 and eleven years later was married to Bro. Clarence Knapp. They established their home in the country and to this union were born five girls and three boys. Sis. Naomi recalls the big garden they had, and one year she canned 1000 quarts of vegetables, fruit and meat. She has had a good measure of health, other than being plagued by asthma since age 17, but she has graciously coped with it these many years.

In 1963 she and Bro. Clarence moved to Cissna Park where they purchased a lovely home. Bro. Clarence passed to his reward in 1971, being 71 years old. She still lives in this home, along with a daughter, Sis. Lucille Knapp.

One of her hobbies has been piecing quilts and quilting them for her children and grandchildren. She says I'd rather quilt than eat, but I'm beginning to feel my age now at 92. I've had my shortcomings, but I've tried to do the best I could in all things. I feel the Lord has blessed me and the most important thing in life is to live for the Lord." Another hobby is working in her flower beds that beautify the grounds surrounding their home.

She loves to read in the Bible, especially the Psalms, and her favorite hymn is #209 in our Zion's Harp. She remembers that hymn was sung at her baptism.

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

We thank Sis. Naomi for her willingness to share with us and her faithfulness and we wish her God's continued blessings the rest of her days.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Sue Wiegand - Beth Steffen

Our hearts are touched when we see the ways God has worked in our congregation within a month's time. We've experienced "a time to be born, and a time to die . . ." (Ecclesiastes 3:2), and we've seen God draw souls to Him and souls to each other. And we've been abundantly blessed with visits from several of His servants.

Little Mary Rachel was born December 25 to Bro. Danny and Sis. Gayle Virkler. Welcoming home their own special Christmas angel are siblings, Benji, Jonathon, David and Elizabeth. Thankful grandparents include Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Ben Stickling (Peoria).

The following week our dear Bro. William Dietrich Sr. completed his earthly pilgrimage. As much as we and his family will miss this quiet pillar, we're thankful he's asleep at Jesus' feet. Our prayers are surely with Sis. Sarah and her family who lovingly cares for and brings her to assemble with us.

"Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today, For a soul returning from the wild," (Tabernacle Hymns #202). We rejoice with the angels as John and Renae Dietrich have begun their walk in repentance. Their parents are Bro. William Jr. and Sis. Sheri Dietrich and Gary and Sis. Wanda Edwards (Good-

field). It's encouraging to see them pick up the armor of God. Grandpa Dietrich laid down when he was called to his heavenly home.

Believing it is the Lord's will, we were made known of the engagement of Bro. Dale Banwart (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Missy Furrer (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Shirley, Wolcott, IN). May God be ever near and bless them as they plan for yet another milestone in life.

Bro. Alvin Schrock has recently been able to return home to his duplex in Eureka after recuperating from stays in both the hospital and Eureka Home. We wish him and Sis. Irene God's continued providence.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our visiting ministers this past month. Leading us on the green pastures were Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign). We pray they each can feel our appreciation even though we can't all express it in person and hope they feel a brotherly welcome to return as frequently as the way opens.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

WE SHALL KNOW UP YONDER

Thro' a glass we now see darkly,
Our great God is on His throne.
We shall see and know up yonder,
As we'll then be seen and known.

Oft the way is rough and thorny,
Passing thro' this pilgrim land,
Tho' we trust with Him the
reason,
Over there we'll understand.

Tho' we may not see clearly,
All the things that God hath
planned,
Yet we'll know the reason
sometime,
When we reach the golden land.

So, whatever God may send us,
For His sake we'll gladly bear,

Knowing this, that if we trust
Him,
We shall understand up there.

Chorus:

We shall know up yonder,
Why we have grief and pain;
All the things that now perplex us,
By and by shall be made plain.

Herbert Buffum

Though our loved ones who have met with surgery or illness this month may not understand God's full intent or purpose, may they continue to find His grace sufficient and be assured that someday, we will understand. Included are Bud Bohlin, Sis. Gladys Weiss, Sis. Joyce Weiss (Bro. Paul), Bro. Don Schambach (Sis. Leann), Sis. Gert Kachelmuss, Ann Farney, Louise Foell and Sis. Leola Schambach (Bro. Charles).

Daniel, Maria and Angela Steffen are thrilled with new little brother, Timothy Lee, who arrived January 11. Thankful for his safe arrival are Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda, and grandparents, Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen and Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). May our continued prayers and support be felt by this family as a few remaining tests are performed on little Timothy.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord . . ."

Acts 3:19

The weekend of January 15 and 16 was certainly a time of refreshing as Andy Tobler (Sis. Madelyn) gave his testimony, was baptized and added to the fold. May Bro. Andy, as well as all of us, continue to grow in faith, day by day, as we wend our way towards that eternal goal. Present with us for this occasion was Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL). We appreciated the teachings and exhortations he, as well as our other visitors this month, Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) were inspired

to bring forth. May God bless each for their faithfulness.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

"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 passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6, 7

As life continually brings changes into our lives, we find the need to depend more completely upon prayer and supplication. We pray for Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa Knecht as they leave our congregation and move to Pulaski, IA. We will certainly miss them and their children, Landon and Carly, but wish them God's presence and guidance always in their lives.

Also experiencing change in their lives, Bro. Sam Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth) and Sis. Luann Rocke (Bro. Harry) announced their engagement January 9. We rejoice with them and wish for them the grace and blessing of our Father in heaven as they plan their life together.

"I wish to thank everyone who helped me, sent cards, brought food, and the lovely gifts and visits, since I broke my arm. May our God richly bless you."

Sis. Caroline Moser

Appreciating the ministry of our brethren, we thank Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke), Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield) for visiting us recently.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee;

The Lord make his face shine
upon thee,
And be gracious unto thee,
And be gracious unto thee,
The Lord lift up His countenance
upon thee,
And give thee peace. Amen.

Hymns of Zion #23

A dear couple, Bro. Eli and Sis. Della Meiss, observed their 60th wedding anniversary January 10. Our congregation had an all-church singing in their honor, at the fellowship hall Saturday, January 8. May God continue to bless them while they sojourn here on earth.

A goodly number of our congregation were present at Gridley December 19, when our Bro. Thadd Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita) was united in marriage to Sis. Molly Witzig (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary, Gridley). We wish them God's blessings as they start their walk of life together as one.

A sweet little girl was born December 20 to Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal Miller. Brooke Korin brings much joy to her grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma Fehr and Chris and Betty Miller (Congerville.)

We appreciate and thank our visiting ministers who shared God's teachings with us. They were: Bros. Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Brian Waibel (Champaign), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington).

Our annual business meeting was held January 10. Those newly elected were: Usher, Bro. Mark Runyon (Julie); Real Estate Assistant, Bro. Anthony Fehr; Chairman of Business Meeting, Bro. Henry Steffen; Secretary, Bro. Roger Miller; Song Announcer, Bro. Lloyd Moser. May we prayerfully support our brothers who have been elected to fill offices of the church for the new term. We wish to thank the brothers who served previously.

Our recent hospital patients were: Bro. Richard Walter (Sis. Colleen), Kathy Walter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen), Margaret Bachtold, Christine Steidinger, Bro. David Kaeb (Sis. Mary), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen), Ben

Kaisner (Kathryn). May God grant healing to all our loved ones.

Bro. Herbert Fehr, 79, passed away December 28. We extend our sympathy to his six daughters, four sons, three sisters and two brothers. May God be their comforter.

Sis. Lydia Munz Nussbaum, 100, passed away January 2. She leaves one stepson, Wilmer Nussbaum (Dayton, OH), three step-granddaughters, one step-great-granddaughter, many nieces and nephews. We all have precious memories of this dear departed sister in our precious faith.

Harvey Steidinger, 91, passed away January 4. He is survived by his wife, three sons and one brother. May they feel the Lord's nearness during this time of sorrow.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. William Streib in the loss of his sister, Sis. Leona Ricketts (Meredith, Forrest).

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

Revelation 21:4

In the year of 1993, our congregation reported 18 births, six weddings, ten baptisms, seven testimonies and 11 deaths.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold

Our hearts are saddened at the sudden passing of Sis. Leona Ricketts who had suffered from crippling arthritis for many years. She was an example to all of us who could observe her patience in enduring this cross. We sympathize with her husband, Bro. Meredith, who so devotedly cared for her. Also feeling a loss are her children: Bro. John (Washington), Mary Masters (Roswell, GA), Jeanne Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Bro. Nick. May they feel God's comforting Spirit. We thank Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) for sharing in the funeral services.

We enjoyed having Bros. Gary

Anliker (Elgin), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Brian Waibel (Champaign), and Bill Hodel (Roanoke) share the Word of Life with us. We are always thankful for visiting ministers and our home ministers who so willingly serve us.

Our hospital patients this month have been Sis. Alisa Ricketts and Bro. John Bolliger. We are thankful they have been able to return home. We are also happy that Sis. Laura Kachelmuss has gained strength enough to return home and we hope that she will continue to feel God's healing power.

Two families in our congregation have been blessed with baby daughters. Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie, Krystle, Joshua, and Kaylee Kaeb welcome Kara Elaine. Grandparents are Bob and Sis. Elaine Mueller and John and Adeline Kaeb. Shannon Marie has joined the family of Bro. John, Sis. Lavonne, Rhonda, Calvin, Jaylin and Kinsey Teubel. Her grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Walter and Mabel Teubel.

In the year 1993, we were blessed with 13 new babies, six boys and seven girls. We had 11 deaths in our church family and five couples were united in marriage. We rejoice that 11 souls could be added to our flock.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Barb Brim

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

"Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior;"

Titus 3:5-6

What a most wonderful revelation for all of us, our Father, because of His great love, offers us the free gift of salvation. A gift given not because we've earned it, or deserve it, but because He loved us enough to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the holy door leading

to our salvation, Who by faith cleanses us from the guilt of sin and gives us new life through the Holy Spirit. Believe and rejoice.

Our Goodfield congregation had many reasons for thanksgiving this past month. We witnessed the marriage of our dear Sis. Erica Hart (Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry) to Bro. Brad Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary, Bloomington) with joyful hearts and wish them all of God's love, mercy and guidance in their life together. "And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seem unto him but a few days, for all the love he had to her." (Genesis 29:30) May your love for each other be as complete and everlasting.

Special prayers are sent to our hospital patients this month, Bro. Jed Rockey, Sis. Frieda Grusy and Sis. Lorene Kloter. We ask a double portion of God's grace to speed your recoveries and bring you back to us safely.

Our church services were shared by many visiting ministers and their wives this month. How fortunate we are to be the recipients of their spiritual generosity. We extend many thanks to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marjorie Leman (Roanoke), Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger (Gridley), Bro. Steve and Sis. Donnalou Baner (Gridley), Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Gene and Sis. Delores Metzger (Lester, IA), Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari (Bloomington).

It is very sorrowful to lose our earthly fathers. We share the grief of our Sis. Marie Kieser (Bro. Alfred) upon the passing of her father in Bradford, and as we share the grief, we also share in the joy of knowing that our heavenly Father is waiting with outstretched arms for the passing of all of His saints.

Thank you: We wish to thank everyone for all the prayers and loving acts of kindness over the period of Edmund's illness and death. God bless each one.

Sis. Lorene Kloter,
Bro. Barry & Sis. Joyce Kloter,
Bro. Kent & Sis. Janell Kloter,
Darryl and Sandy

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

Already nearly two months have elapsed in 1994. As a new year begins, there is always a tendency to want to do better in our lives. Sometimes New Year's resolutions last, and sometimes they don't.

In mid-January, I began pondering about prospects for the new year. The word that came to my mind strongly was "extra." In this, I wanted to give a little extra in all phases of life. It seems we can all benefit if we give "a little extra," and such prospects can be widespread.

I resolved to seek extra prayer; give extra kindness to everyone; extra warmth to my children; extra helping around the house; extra courtesy in business; extra friendliness at church among the brethren; extra support for church and national leaders; extra cheerfulness in the community; and extra reading of God's Word. The little extra efforts we put forth will reap dividends. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye do it unto me."

Bro. Mike and Sis. Peggy Stoller received the blessing of a second child, Dustin Michael, who was born December 23. He has a brother, Derek Michael, who is 22 months old. Grandparents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Vyra Stoller and Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger, all of our Gridley congregation.

Sis. Anna Miller, 92, passed away January 9. She is survived by Sis. Mary Miller (with whom she made her home for many years) and Sis. Aline Stortz (both of Gridley). Sis. Anna was a content person who was always at church functions and appreciated the warmth and friendliness of our beloved fellowship.

Her parents were Bro. John and Sis. Kathryn Kilgus Miller. Both died fairly early in life, leaving behind a large family of ten children. Sis. Anna, the oldest daughter, took the lead (along with her brother, Bro. Rudy), in caring for these many siblings. I am sure the Lord will reward her accordingly for her many family efforts. She was a member of our church for more than

70 years.

Hospital patients recently were Sis. Ruth Gramm, Bro. Harold Stoller and Tony Dohman.

Sis. Ardean Romersberger's engagement to Bro. Larry Stoller was announced. Both had previously endured the death of their spouses, and now they can rejoice in the fact that God has drawn them together to share the future. The entire Gridley congregation rejoices with them, and wishes them much happiness.

ILLINOIS, MORTON**Phyllis Farney****Cheryl Wuthrich**

Bro. Melvin Rein was called into all Eternity. His funeral was held January 7. He has many surviving cousins. May our heavenly Father comfort and bless his relatives and friends who will miss his friendly smile and cheerful greeting.

Oscar Yentes died January 11 at the age of 98 years. May God bless and comfort his daughter, Imogene Harmon; his sister, Sis. Hilda Yentes; his grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and his other relatives and friends.

Sis. Ida Kaufman was called home January 20. She will be greatly missed by her sister, Sis. Marie Hauter (Chris), and her faithful nieces and nephews. May God comfort and bless them all as well as her many friends and other relatives.

We are thankful for the brothers and their families who came to share the Word of God with us this month. May God richly bless Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL).

Being a large congregation, we always have those who are hospitalized, those who are ill and shut-in, those who are in grief over lost loved ones, and those who have needs and sorrows that are unknown by many of us. Please remember to keep these loved ones in thought and prayer and minister to them when possible.

Give Your Old and New Address
To Your Reporter

ILLINOIS, PEORIA**Cara Nussbaum**

I recently had the opportunity to go to Colorado for a vacation. Once again I was struck by the beauty that God has created. The majestic mountains, snow covered and glistening, made me think of God's power and how awesome it is. How often do we give Him credit for all He really is and all He really does? I know I often take it for granted and need to thank Him each day for the wonders He has created.

One of the miracles I think is often taken for granted is the miracle of birth. I don't think there is a greater miracle. I have three to report this month. I apologize for one I missed last summer. William Hoerr was born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Andrea Hoerr July 9. William joins sister, Emily, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Irvin and Sis. Sharon Hodel and Bro. David and Sis. Harriet Hoerr.

More recently was the birth of Aubrey Hoerr, daughter of Bro. Scott and Sis. Brenda Hoerr. Aubrey's brothers and sisters are Amanda, Scott, Alec and Sydney. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr and Sandy Guingrich of Owensboro, KY.

And we rejoice with Bro. Keith and Sis. Diana Ifft, following the adoption of Alexander Keith, December 23. Alexander was welcomed at home by sister, Alyssa. His grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma Jean Ifft (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Al and Sis. Martha Wiegand (Oakville, IA).

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing." (Proverbs 18:22) Two couples from Peoria were united in holy matrimony this month. On January 2, John Hangartner (Tremont, IL) and Kim Schafer were married. Their parents are Sis. Barb Schafer and Keith Schafer (Chicago, IL) and Jerry and Sis. Melba (Tremont, IL). And January 16, Bro. Matt Waibel and Sis. Lisa Schock exchanged their vows. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Rich and Sis. Jan Schock. We wish both of these couples the blessings of the Lord as they begin their new life together.

Those who have been hospital-

ized recently are Bro. Roy Sauder, Bro. Les Unsicker, Sis. Dorothy Hohulin, and Bro. Leland Swadley. We pray for God's healing hand upon each one.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers to Peoria in the last month. We wish to thank Bro. Curt (Tremont, IL), Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) who spoke at our January Family Night, Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN) for lending themselves to proclaim God's Word.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Sis. Eva Bauer, Lydia Roecker and Sis. Anna Thomas, who have died recently. May God comfort the hearts of those near and dear to them

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Martha Jane Siebenthal

We were privileged to have many visiting ministers. They were Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington), Douglas Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Curt Heimer (Alto, MI), James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, KS) and Gary Endress (Bradford). We thank each one for visiting us and may God bless them for their labor of love. We wish we could have heard all of them, as many came for the wedding of Jean and Paul.

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing." (Proverbs 18:22) Sis. Jean Leuthold (Bro. John and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Paul Streitmatter (Sis. Pearline and the late Bro. Vernon) from Washington were united in marriage January 2. May they look to God for their help in this important commitment to marriage as they establish a Christian home.

"And the Lord God said, it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18) The engagement of Bro. Ronald Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane) and Sis. Lorie Kieser (Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha) was made known on Christmas Day. May they look to God in mak-

ing plans for this important step in life.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord. (Psalm 127:3) On December 21, Sara Marie was born to Bro. Douglas and Sis. Ann Stahl. Welcoming her home is brother, Joshua, and thankful grandparents, Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl and Bro. Dale and Joanne Sauder (Tremont). Bro. Jay and Sis. Deanna Knobloch were blessed with a precious baby girl, Jay Lynn Maria born January 13. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette Graham and Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch. Also, thankful grandparents of Jonathan Ehnle (Bro. John and Sis. Sara, Bradford) are Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht. May God bless these families as they bring up these precious little ones.

Our annual business meeting was held Wednesday, January 5. Our new trustee is Bro. Lavern Berthold (Sis. Joan), usher, Bro. Douglas Streitmatter (Sis. Cindy) and fellowship hall trustee, Bro. Larry Baer (Sis. Vera). May God bless those who have completed their term and may He guide and bless the newly elected.

May we remember our dear elders as they gather for the winter conference at Milford, IN. Our prayers are with them as they strive to preserve our precious heritage.

Our prayers for God's healing power for those who suffer the infirmities of the flesh. Bro. Ronald and Sis. Jackie Rumbold (both surgery), Bro. John Elsasser (knee surgery), Sis. Mildred Endress (surgery), Bro. Loris Kieser and Fred Schafer also have been in the hospital. May they look to God each day for the grace and strength.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Annie Leman - Cathy Hohulin

It was wonderful to see the benches full Christmas day. We were thankful to have visiting ministers, Bros. Art Bauer (Princeville) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

On December 26, we heard the testimony and witness the baptism

of Bro. Dan Leman. We rejoice with him and his wife, Polly.

Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Sylvia Blunier welcome a new granddaughter, Kaylea Marie Blunier. She was born November 17 to Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy Blunier (Phoenix, AZ).

Our prayers are with little Tyler David Duckworth, firstborn son of Bro. David and Sis. Dawn (Bradford). He was born January 8, and has undergone major heart surgery. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Delores Duckworth (Bradford) and Mike Harris (Boca Raton, FL) and Sis. Linda Harris (Roanoke).

We will miss our dear Sis. Angela Rassi, who passed away December 17. Among her survivors are her husband, Bro. Joe; son, Bill (Roanoke); and daughters, Sis. Pat Rassi (Peoria) and Betty Lindwall (Rockford).

We also wish to extend our love and prayers to Sis. Jan Sauder (Bro. Bob) in the passing of her mother, Mildred Monge (Roanoke).

A special thanks to the Goodfield choir for singing at our family hymn sing January 9.

Our annual business meeting was held January 12. There are many jobs in the church, and no matter how great or small, each one is greatly appreciated.

Sis. Ethel Rassi and Bro. Joe Aeschleman were recent hospital patients.

Note of thanks: I would like to thank everyone who remembered me in any way at Christmas. It was all greatly appreciated. May our heavenly Father bless you one and all for your loving kindness.

Sis. Frieda Schafer

The following poem was written by Kevin Braker in memory of his grandfather, Bro. Ben Braker, who passed away February 5, 1991.

THE GIFT

A man I've known a long, long time

Took a trip the other day,
And before he left he told me
These things he had to say;

Your grandma isn't feeling well
And it makes me very sad,

To think that this may be
The last trip we'll ever have.

A man I've known a long, long
time
Died the other day,
He was on a train in a foreign
land
Very far away.

The grief and pain I feel
Is never far away;
But the things that he left us
Are surely here to stay.

A man I've known a long, long
time
Died the other day,
And if he were here to talk to me,
This is what he'd say;

Be fair in all you do,
Work hard for your pay,
And no matter what life brings
you,
Thank the Lord for every day.

A man I've known a long, long
time
Died the other day,
And if he were here to talk to me,
This is what he'd say;

Be careful where you go,
Stay out of evil's sight,
'Cause nothing good my boy
Happens after midnight.

A man I've known a long, long
time
Died the other day,
And if he were here to talk to me,
This is what he'd say;

Don't bring shame to the family
name,
This is what he told me;
And when I did, you could bet,
That he was there to scold me.

A man I've loved a long, long time
Died the other day,
And if he could only talk to us,
This is what he'd say;

I really haven't left you,
I haven't gone away.
I hope I've left good memories
In your heart to stay.

A man I've loved a long, long time
Died the other day,

And he doesn't need to be here
For me to know what to say.

Grandpa,
The gifts you left are many,
The gifts you left are ample,
But the greatest gift you gave me
Was simply a good example.
K.R.B. August 1993

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barbara Dill - Marsha Koch

We received much "food for thought" through the efforts of our visiting ministers. Visiting us were Bros. John Steiner (Oakville IA), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Greg Rassi (Chicago) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). We heartily thank them for their labors of love.

January 2 was the wedding date of Bro. Jon Hangartner (Jerry and Sis. Melba) to Sis. Kim Schafer (Sis. Barb, Peoria). On January 16, Bro. Michael Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella) and Sis. Ivy Buster (Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid, Burlington, IA) were united in marriage. It is our prayer God will be near and bless these couples as they go through life together.

We have had the following loved ones who have recently spent some time in the hospital: Sis. Lucille Schweigert, Sis. Karol Holmes and Sis. Julia Sauder. May God continue to be with them and all those who are sick or shut-in, is our prayer.

Sis. Elizabeth Feldman was called "home" to be with our heavenly Father December 23. We extend our deepest sympathy to her nieces, nephews and many friends who will miss her. We also extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Sis. Minnie Sauder, who passed away quite suddenly January 4. She is survived by Sis. Doris Staker and LeRoy (Clifton, IL), a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The nieces and nephews of Sis. Elizabeth Feldman wish to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards and deeds of kindness shown to their "Aunt Elizabeth" while at Restmor Nursing Home and expressions of sympathy shown to them at the time of her death.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

"Who is my boss?" That is a good question for all of us to think about. Each one of us is working for someone in the work force, as well as in our own daily lives. Whether we have a good attitude towards work depends on how we like our boss . . . or does it?

Let us look at "Joe" who hates his work. For him, work is a necessary evil and nothing more. But, then let us look at "Mary." Inside her desk she has a small banner that reads simply, "Mary, remember, this is your mission field. Signed, the Lord." It reminds her that the smile on her face, the level of her performance and her attitude towards her co-workers all reflect on Christ.

Colossians 3:23 says, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." Our witness at work (or our lack of witness) depends largely on how we respond to the question, "Who is my boss?" Colossians 3 continues in verse 24 to say, "Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Those who serve the Lord as ministers of the Word indeed have special responsibilities and blessings. This month our visiting ministers included Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Dean Steffen (Belvidere), Chuck Sauder (Tremont), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield). We thank them.

The Washington congregation has had the joy of having two couples join in holy matrimony. On December 19, Sis. Denise Fritz married Bro. Dan Weerts in Washington. The bride is the daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally (Witzig) Fritz of Washington and the groom is the son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna Weerts (Cissna Park).

On January 2, we traveled to Princeville to witness the marriage of Bro. Paul Streitmatter and Sis. Jean Leuthold (both of Washington). Parents are Sis. Pearlina (Metzger) Streitmatter (and the late Bro. Vern) of Washington and Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold

(Princeville).

We wish both couples the special blessings of the Lord in their new lives together. We also feel blessed as both couples will continue to reside in the area and be an important part of our church family.

Our family continues to grow as two new little boys have been born in the past month. Nicholas Scott Steffen is the son of Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvella (Knobloch). Grandparents are Sis. Iola Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucille Steffen (Remington, IN). He arrived December 18 and was welcomed home by Layne and Amanda, who are proud of their little brother.

Daniel Wayne Hofstetter is the first born of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Ann (Huber) Hofstetter. Grandparents are Bro. Ted Hofstetter (Eureka) and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber (Fairbury). He arrived December 31 after mom was hospitalized for about one week. We are glad she is home and doing fine. Daniel remains hospitalized but is growing and will be home soon. We thank God that He has kept His protective hand on them both.

On December 15, Sis. Anna Thomas was taken from this earth to her heavenly reward after an extended illness. She had called Washington her home for several years before moving to Eureka. We extend our sympathies to her family for their loss, but rejoice that another saint has gone home.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

"There is beauty all around
When there's love at home;
There is joy in every sound,
When there's love at home.
Peace and plenty here abide,
Smiling sweet on every side,
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,
When there's love at home."

Hymns of Zion #64, vs 1

Bro. Doug Isch and Sis. Tonia Schwartz were united in marriage January 2. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz and Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch.

Sis. Rochelle Geisel and Bro. Rodney Gerber have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel (Bluffton North) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber. We wish these couples God's richest blessings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with loved ones spending time in the hospital. They are Bro. Millard Aschliman (Sis. Alice), Bro. Von Heyerly (Sis. Diane), Lori Belsley (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcia), Jordan Claghorn (Tim and Teresa), Bro. Ed Schwartz Sr. (Sis. Josephine), Bro. Roy Haab and Cory Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth).

"God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1

Our hearts were saddened by the death of Penny Frauhiger. Penny was the wife and mother of Kerry and Andrea Frauhiger. We pray that the family will feel the comfort of the Lord in their time of sorrow.

We want to extend a special thank you to Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for coming and sharing the gospel with us.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Susan Morris - Kay Steffen

We were grateful to have Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) with us Sunday, December 26. May God's blessings be with him and his family as they begin the ministry. We appreciate his message that was brought forth in truth and love. Bro. Ron told us how important the congregation is to him. As we sit in church he receives a feedback by looking at our faces. We think we are doing nothing by just sitting, but if we can be alert and attentive to the Word of God that will encourage the minister.

May the days ahead be happy ones for Sis. Rochelle Geisel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Rodney Gerber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn, Bluffton), as of January 2 were engaged and look forward to being united as one. May God's blessing be upon them.

We sympathize with our dear

family, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sandra Kipfer, whose son, Rex, passed away at the age of 35 December 29, from a car accident. Surviving are two brothers, Floyd and Tony. May they feel the prayers and support of the brotherhood at this difficult time.

Hospital patients during the past month have been Bro. Len Francesi (Sis. Mary), Bro. Roy Haab and Bro. William Stoller (Sis. Kathy). May we always remember them in prayer.

We worry about our tomorrows
Oft missing the joys of today.
Troubled about what may happen
Yet tomorrow, may not come our way.

Life's pathway is ever uncertain
"Right Now" is what's yours and mine.

The future is safe in God's keeping
We can live, but one day at a time.
Gert Holaday

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Bev Huber

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

As we approach the new year, may we find it comforting to know that our faith and trust in the Lord is important, not our own ability to understand the way events unfold.

On December 22 we partook of holy communion and it was a very special time right before Christmas. Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) came to share with us.

Sis. Catherine Neihouser, Bro. Keith Putt (Sis. Lorna) and Thomas Leman (Son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret) spent some time in the hospital. We trust they are doing better.

Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) visited us recently and shared the Living Word. We appreciate their labors of love.

INDIANA, LACROSSE**Judy Gudeman**

We were happy to witness the wedding of Sis. Janelle Nuest (Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet) and Bro. David Klotzle (Altadena, CA, Bro. John and Sis. Lois). We wish them many happy years together. Visiting ministers here for the wedding were Elder Bro. John Klotzle and Bros. Tom Luginbuhl (Altadena, CA), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Fredrick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). Other ministers visiting us this month were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

Our thoughts and prayers continue with the family of Bro. Richard Nuest (Valparaiso, IN) as they mourn his passing, just two days before his niece's wedding. He had had a struggle with cancer and is now relieved of his suffering.

Bro. Ralph Levy (Sis. Carolyn) and Sis. Lena Hitz have both been hospitalized this month and we are praying for their quick recovery.

INDIANA, LEO**Gudy Gehrig**

Catarina Louise Fritz, daughter of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carla went to be with the Lord eight hours after birth. Evan was her brother. Her grandparents were Otto "Junior" and Janice Bradtmueller and Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz. Bros. Marvin and Lynn Stieglitz held the service. A little angel goes home.

Bro. Jack Bollier (wife, Sis. Velma Norr) had Christmas services. After the service Bro. Jack announced he had a Christmas gift for all of us. He said he had been ministering for 37 years and felt it was time for a younger brother to take over.

How faithful our Bro. Jack has been to all of us. His quiet delivery, so many words of thought, so compassionate, tender and loving. May God grant him and Sis. Velma many years together serving their Lord and Maker. Thank you, Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma, for being our servants all those years.

We had our annual meeting Sunday. We thank the dear broth-

ers and sisters for lending themselves in the service for the Lord.

Our dear Sis. Lucille Frank had hip surgery. We pray she will feel the Lord's presence and our prayers.

We canceled Wednesday evening services because of our weather. One day the wind chill factor was -61°. It just proves to all of us that God is always in control.

We have another convert. Praise God he is still calling all who will come with a broken heart and contrite spirit.

I have moved and my mail needs to be sent to: Judy Gehring, 13428 Tile Mill Court, Grabill, IN 46741.

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

The annual business meeting was held the first Wednesday evening in January, 1994. We take this opportunity to thank the ones who so faithfully fulfilled their office requirements prior to this election. We ask God to bless those who were elected at this meeting. They are as follows: Bro. Phil Price, high school Bible class; Bros. Randy Beer and Bob Cockburn, elementary classes; Bro. John Lehman, trustee; Bro. Bob Hoerr, treasurer; Sis. Carol Haab, church secretary; Bro. Art Haab, World Relief representative; Sis. Kathryn Emch, World Relief sewing; Bro. Clark Schieler, speaker system.

Two of our young men have spent time in hospitals. Bro. Jeremy Price had surgery at an Indianapolis hospital. He's recovered and back at worship with us again. Chad Beer had medical treatment at a local hospital and is well again, too. We thank God for His healing powers.

Sis. Mary Gerber, following her hospital stay and hip surgery, has been released to Fountain View home, where she is sharing a room with her sister, Edna. She is recovering nicely and expects, very soon to be released and back in her apartment home at Greencroft. She lives there, with her sister, Tillie Kasbaum, who has been busy caring for her two loved ones. At this time, however, Tillie is recovering from the flu and from severe back problems, and has been confined to

home. We ask God to provide His tender care to these three courageous women who are such examples to all of us.

Bro. Matt Pamer was recently treated at our local hospital and has been released, pending the possible scheduling of surgery. May God give him successful healing.

Bro. Bill Troup is traveling from his home and is undergoing periodic medical treatments at a South Bend Hospital, and at home, by his wife Sis. Annie. The prayers in his behalf continue. He reports he's feeling fine and able to work regularly during this time.

A group of members and friends will be leaving for Juarez, Mexico February 2, to assist with home building in the colonies there. Those who are sharing their time, love and talents are: Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer, Bro. Brent Beer, Bro. Dick Steffen and his daughter, Monica; Bro. Tom Price and his son, Jim; Bro. Walt Steffen and his daughter, Caralee. Others, from South Bend and Bluffton, IN, Latty, OH and Goodfield, IL, congregations are accompanying them. We ask for God's richest blessings on their endeavor. Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherri Fiechter (Bluffton) are the team leaders for this undertaking.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Judy Longcor, whose father, Fred Schafer, has been quite ill, in an Illinois hospital. Judy and her children, Blessing and Matthew, just recently returned from Illinois, where Judy spent as much time as possible with her father. Reports are that he's making slow progress and we rejoice with them.

INDIANA, REMINGTON**Amelia Schini**

As I write this the weather is bitter cold here. Temperature is well below zero.

Our Bro. Edwin Bahler went to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, in December where he underwent surgery for a persistent sinus problem. After eight days or so, he returned home. Then after two or three days they left for Florida, their oldest son, Barry, being their

chauffeur for the trip. Somewhere in Tennessee they made a stop and Bro. Edwin had a painful experience of slipping on a patch of ice and falling. He got a bad cut over an eye that required stitches. The last report we have is that he is doing well.

Christmas morning we gathered in church to be reminded of what Christmas is all about.

New Year's morning the Wolcott congregation met with us. We were favored by having two visiting ministers. Elder Bro. John Klotzle and Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (both from Altadena, CA). We thank you, brothers and wives, for your visit.

On Sunday, January 16, a large group of us from Wolcott and Remington met at our fellowship hall for a World Relief report given us by slide presentation, showing us all the places where help has been given throughout the year; such as Mexico, the floods along the Mississippi River and the Ukraine. We thank the brothers for their time and efforts in putting this together.

At this time we are sorry to learn of the terrible earthquake in the Los Angeles area. We are sorry for all who are affected and can't help but think of those of our own faith in that area. We hope all are well.

As a closing thought: Edison failed 10,000 times before he made the electric light. Do not be discouraged if you fail a few times. (Napoleon Hill)

It has been said that "discouragement" is one of Satan's greatest weapons!

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

December was a busy and blessed month for our congregation. Instead of our regular Wednesday evening service, December 1, we sang for the residents of the Bremen Healthcare Center. They seemed to enjoy the hymns and carols very much and it was truly a blessing for us to be able to share God's love in song with them.

Saturday, December 4, was our annual adults Christmas dinner at a local Amish home. It is always a

special highlight of the holiday season as we enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship together.

On Wednesday evening, the 8th, we had our annual business meeting. Thirteen offices were filled as we looked ahead to the responsibilities of 1994. We wish to thank the brothers and sisters who held positions this past year and we appreciate their faithful service on our behalf. We also pray for those who are coming into office next year. Special thanks to our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer for lending his support and time to us that evening.

Many from our congregation enjoyed an afternoon of Christmas caroling at the nursing homes in Bremen and for Sis. Emma Lou Gerber. The children especially love this activity and look forward to it every year. A special thank you to the Sunday school teachers who provided a delicious lasagna supper at the church afterwards!

Our greatest joy of this holiday season has been the addition of a new convert. DeAnn Beebe (Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue) has answered the loving call to follow her Lord. May we ever hold her up in prayer as she begins her walk of faith.

Sunday, December 19 was the day of our Christmas program. The entire Sunday school and many adults from the congregation took part. Our children are truly one of our greatest treasures, and it is always a joy to see them worship the Lord in song and verse.

Special congratulations to Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Lehman on the birth of their first child. Sarah Elizabeth was born January 8. Proud grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Elizabeth Steffen (Bluffton North).

Saturday evening, January 8, was also the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Robert Beebe gave loving exhortation to the congregation. Illness and hospitalizations kept the number of members small, but those who were able to attend were blessed for their efforts. We praise God for giving us brothers who are willing to teach right direction from the Word of God.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Ken and Cindy Susdorf

In the holy name of Jesus Christ, we greet you all, and are very happy to have you as dear brothers, sisters and friends.

Visiting ministers in this last month have been Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). We thank these dear shepherds for their guidance and pray the Lord will bless them richly.

Also this month we said goodnight to our dear Bro. Richard Nuest as he has gone to be with the Lord. We pray God will give his dear wife, Sis. Garnet, and children the needed grace and strength to continue the good fight of faith. At the service the comment was made that if we know the Lord we can just say goodnight to our loved ones in faith trusting that we will see them again one day. Bro. Rich had a unique situation in that he knew ahead of time that he was about to die, and we believe he was at complete peace when he passed on. But let's also remember that many do not have this opportunity to prepare themselves for death. Bro. Rich was also in the prime of his life when he was taken, which shows us that we must be ready to meet the Lord at any given time. We are thankful that Christ came into this world and we have the opportunity to be with Him when our time on earth is done. Life would be so depressing without Him and that special love that He has shown us. Please, let's all just appreciate how wonderful the Lord is to us.

Just a reminder to our home church family that the Silver Lining subscription is due to be turned in by the first part of March.

May the Lord grant you all a blessed month. The thought occurred to us that when we take leave, we don't say goodbye, but farewell. It is so unique that we can say that because we know that if we remain faithful we will see one another again. Thanks be to God. So we say to you, "Fare thee well (Farewell) and come see us if you happen to be in the area.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Sheri Bahler -Missy Furrer

"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 41:0

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Mae Lehman and family upon the death of Sis. Verna Mae's brother, Bro. Rich Nuest (Valparaiso, IN).

New Year's Day services were shared with our neighboring Remington congregation. We were blessed with two visiting ministers. Elder Bro. John Klotzle along with Bro. Tom Luginbuhl, both from Altadena, CA, brought God's Word to us. May God bless these brothers for lending themselves. We pray God will grant us renewed zeal to do His will in this new year.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." (Isaiah 43:2)

Our prayers are with Sis. Marilyn Schieler as she is in the hospital. May God ever comfort her in her time of need.

We are thankful Sis. Rita Furrer (Bro. Don) is home again and doing well after her recent surgery.

Our annual meeting was held Friday, January 14. May each brother and sister with new responsibilities feel God's guidance and direction in their duties.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Lorna Knapp
Monica Eisenmann

Our prayers are with Sis. Gladys Vierling in the passing of her sister, Ada Drasil. We trust Sis. Gladys can feel God's comforting spirit during this time of sorrow.

We recently had our annual business meeting and we appreciate those who faithfully fulfill their duties to keep the physical aspects of church running smoothly. May God richly bless each one.

We welcome Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp and family who moved here in November. We are happy to have them attending our congregation and pray they feel God's guidance and grace as they adjust to this change.

On December 27, Heather Marie joined the family of Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn, Brett and Blake Wulf. What a blessing and miracle from God in heaven to experience the birth of a little human being. May we take our calling seriously in rearing our children to God's honor and glory.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

What a difference dying with a hope makes. Not only for the dying, but for the survivors as well. In his last week, my dad, Edwin Frieden, found the grace to turn to the Lord. We cannot thank our merciful God enough that He did not cease His calling and we can embrace a hope that we will meet again. Also sharing in the loss are mom, Sis. Joy; Bro. Floyd (Sis. Jan), Marsha (Mrs. Ronald Corbin); eleven grandchildren; and one sister, Ida Frieden.

We know not the day or hour when our life here on earth will end. An eleventh hour surrender may not be granted. In Hebrews we read, "Today if ye will hear my voice harden not your hearts."

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,
 His grace and truth with one
 accord

Go offer him that youthful days,
 and walk within the Savior's ways.
 Hymns of Zion

A blessed weekend was shared as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our two new sisters-in-Christ, Sandy and Heidi Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne). We are thankful that they have chosen to give their youthful days to the Lord. May God grant them the grace to be true and faithful till life's end.

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) for assisting our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer with this duty. Other vis-

iting ministers were Bro. Jim Knoblock (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Trent Meiss (Iowa City).

Also a special thanks to Bro. Fred Eberhart (Burlington) for sharing the Christmas story with us Christmas day.

Hospital patients this past month have been Paul Pulfer (Sis. Evelyn) and Ida Frieden.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues are due in February.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Dawn Moser - Laura Funk

God my hope and consolation,
 Ever Thou my refuge be!
 In Thy care I'll find protection,
 Though no other light I see.
 Oft on rugged road of sadness
 I find comfort joy and gladness;
 Guided by Thy hand alone,
 'Thine and not my will be done.'

In Thy hands I am committed,
 Father, with content repose;
 Ev'ry charge shall be acquitted;
 Turned to bliss shall be my woes.
 When at last from heaven's
 portal,

I review my life-path mortal,
 I shall utter deeply moved,
 'O how truly Thou hast loved!'

Zion's Harp #93

When brothers would pray stating they loved God more than life itself, I always thought there was something wrong with me. I could not say that. As time has gone on and trials have come and gone, and with them I began learning to depend on my Father to see me through. I have finally learned and am believing with all my heart, that my heavenly Father is worth loving far more than my earthly life. That is why I quoted the above hymn. We sang it here in Garden Grove a few weeks past and I could not finishing singing, because I was deeply moved and did utter "O how truly Thou hast loved!" That was a very comforting thought to my heart and soul. And now I pray that each one of you that reads these words will also someday be able to be assured of our heavenly Father's love and know beyond all doubts and fears that He does love

and care for you far beyond what you can even think and imagine. May you also be able to say, "O how truly Thou hast loved."

We have had joys and sorrows these past two months here. Some of the joys have been our visiting ministers. Again we would like to sincerely thank these brothers and their wives for travelling so we might be blessed with hearing the Word of God. The ministers were: Bros. Harvey Grimm (Bern, KS), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS). May God continue to bless them in their labors of love on His behalf.

Other joys have been our Sunday school Christmas program. Our young children were so excited they could hardly contain themselves. And the older children again read us the Christmas story and challenged us with how we thought of Christmas and to make sure we remembered it as the birthday of our Saviour and not just another holiday to see what we could "get".

Court Smith (Bro. Gene and Sis. Rachel) has graduated from high school and is now in Wyoming pursuing his dream of being a cowboy. We know his heart is full of joy! Our prayers go with Court and as he views those starry nights and hears the wind whistle through the grass and the cows calling to their calves, we pray he will remember his Creator and take time to allow Him to speak to his heart.

Another joy is that after three years without our own minister, we have prayerfully sought God's guidance and direction. Bro. Brad Funk has been given this responsibility. Our prayers of love and support flow from our hearts and minds to our heavenly Father on Bro. Brad's behalf.

Our sorrows have deeply moved each one of us here. Bro. Phil Webber's niece has been injured by sniper fire in Yugoslavia and is presently in the States awaiting surgery. That is the latest news I have on this and I am sure if any of you have questions and would like to know more details, Bro. Phil would be glad to converse with you.

We also had graveside services for Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Funk's stillborn son, Abida Daniel. We pray that God would continue to comfort them. They chose the name Abida because it means "God knows." They have taken comfort in that faith that God knows best and He will help them through this struggle.

"We would like to say thank you to all for the cards, phone calls, words of comfort and the many prayers spoken on our behalf since Brad was called into the ministry and the loss of our tiny son, Abida Daniel. We continue to need your prayerful support. May God bless each and every one of you."

Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Funk

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

"The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

Psalms 29:11

We rejoice with Rachael Metzger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella), who has been blessed with the wonderful gift of peace. Lord willing, we anticipate the provings and baptisms of Rachael Metzger and Travis Knoblock February 12 and 13.

We are thankful for our ministers who share the Word of Life with us. Visiting ministers include Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN).

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15) We share joy with the angels that Vern and Chalae Knobloch have decided to turn their back on sin and Satan and have begun their repentance. Our prayers are with them as they seek to build on the firm foundation.

On New Year's Eve we had the statistics for the year shared with us. In our congregation we had 12 births, four deaths and three baptisms. How glad we are that another

day of grace is here and God is still calling souls.

As God blesses us with joy, He also gives us strength to bear our crosses. We have many in our congregation who are suffering afflictions of the flesh. Hospital patients were Bro. Orvie Knobloch (Sis. Laurretta), Sis. Iola Knobloch, Lydia Moser, Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Sis. Marie), Sis. Naomi Knobloch, Sis. Emma Knobloch, Debbie Larson (Jerry) and Sis. Alice Wulf (Bro. Jacob). Our prayers are with them.

Our hearts weep with Kelly and Tammie (Haft) Leuthold on the death of their tiny son, Dalton James, whose presence blessed their lives for just three days. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi Leuthold. Private services were held for the family.

Our dear Bro. Jacob Metzger passed from this life January 16. We share our sympathy with his wife, Sis. Donna and his family. May the loss of our loved ones give us one more reason to strive for our heavenly goal.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

I Thessalonians 4:16-18

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We are thankful to have had quite a few visiting ministers this past month. We thank them for allowing themselves to be used in the service of the Lord. They were Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Duane Metzger (West Bend), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), John Powell (Burlington). Recently we had our annual business

meeting. Our prayers are with those who've been elected to serve on the committees concerning the physical care of our church. They include Bro. Ron Massner, trustee; Bro. Ron Lanz, cemetery committee; Bro. Troy Massner, fellowship center trustee; Sisters Bertha Lee Massner and Janet Lanz, Sister's committee; Sis. Martha Wiegand, World Relief sewing committee. We also want to thank those brothers and sisters who've completed their terms for being so willing to serve in these positions.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of our dear friend, Ada Drasil. After a lengthy illness, Ada has gone to rest. In our thoughts are her family including her sisters, Sis. Gladys Vierling, who so unselfishly cared for her sister for the past few years, Florence Davidson and her brothers, Bro. Herbert Kupferschmid (Sis. Virginia) and Melvin Kupferschmid. Our congregation was stunned to hear of the sudden passing of our dear Bro. George Kuntz. Bro. George was a faithful song leader in our church for many years and we'll miss his singing voice. Our prayers are with his dear wife, Sis. Hazel, as well as his daughter, Sis. Nelda Rowell (Bro. John); his son, Bro. Leon Kuntz (Sis. Doris); and also his four grandchildren; and three brothers, Clarence, William and Harvey. We just pray they can feel the Lord's strength and peace at this time of loss. May they find comfort in that some of Bro. George's last words were singing, which he loved so much.

IOWA, PULASKI
Carol Wettstein
Ernestine Wuthrich

"Real love is helping someone who can't return the favor."

Bro. Bernard Shaer was hospitalized for surgery and is recuperating at the Care Center where he resides.

Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich (Bro. Albert) and Derek Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) were hospitalized with complications from the flu.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Liza Knecht and children, Landon and Carly, have made, with prayer consideration, the decision to move to our community and become a part of our congregation. Everyone welcomes them and wishes them a blessed and joyous life here. They formerly lived in Eureka, IL.

We express our love and sympathy to Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Funk in the loss of their baby son. The grandparents are Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley Wuthrich.

Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht and Bill Schlatter were here to read the memorandum January 15. We appreciate the time and effort given by our elders and their wives and families in their many days away from home.

"Happiness is inward and not outward and so it does not depend on what we have but on what we are."

Henry Van Dyke

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber

We are thankful that the Lord always provides ministers to speak the Word to us. Visiting ministers were Bros. Jim Knobloch and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL).

Hospital patients have been Sis. Kathy Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne), surgical, Bro. Lawrence Schneider (Sis. Ella), Sis. Nima Fehr and Bro. Walter Banwart (Sis. Esther). Bro. Lawrence remains hospitalized while undergoing therapy. Sis. Leah Traub suffered a stroke recently and is confined to her room at the West Bend Care Center. Our prayers are with Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma Mogler, as Bro. Ervin has been confined to his home and unable to attend church for several weeks. Our Bro. Fahey Gress is now residing at the West Bend Care Center. May God grant each one the needed grace and strength, and His healing touch if it is His will, believing the Lord will provide in all trials.

God has blessed Shon and Julie Bruellman, Andrew and Tanner,

with little Anthony Arthur December 28. Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman and Dennis and Judy Besch, Anthony's grandparents are on hand to help care for him.

"Where God in truth abides, Where two join hand and heart, We find a three fold cord, not lightly rent apart." Bro. Jordan and Sis. Ann Grimm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr) were joined in hand and heart January 9. We wish them God's richest blessings and trust He will lead them as they have become one in Him.

Sis. Ida Fehr (93) was laid to rest January 9. When reviewing the church records, we find she was baptized in 1918. It is also recorded that 22 souls were baptized in the summer months of that year. Our dear sister walked with the Lord and was such a shining light to us all for some 76 years. We trust she has gained her eternal reward for all her labors of love in this life. Ida is the last of a large family to pass away. She is survived by many nephews and nieces.

Our sympathy to Jim and Sherry Schmidt and family on the death of her mother, Hilda Gifford, 101 years old. May God be with them in their loss.

We extend our sympathy to Benjy and Betty Banwart on the death of their sister-in-law, Luanne Crotts (Frank, Olwein, IA). May they look to the Lord for comfort and strength in their sorrow.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

As we start off this new year we pray that in the coming year our church, as well as churches throughout the world, would experience growth; first, in the faith of each one of the believers, and also, in the church as a whole. We are thankful that a young man, Takaaki Miyagawa, has been coming to church for this month and sincerely desires to be a part of our fellowship. He now makes up our young group here, and we heartily welcome any more to come over from the States.

I, Bro. Andrew Klaus, have been

given the added responsibility of ministering in Tokyo church from this month. I earnestly covet your prayers as I seek to be a better witness to the Japanese people, and to communicate with them effectively.

The other day I heard about a survey taken here of young people aged 18-24. It asked these people, "If you were to have a religion, what would that be?" Amazingly, 35% said they would choose Christianity. Sadly to say, that percentage does not reflect church attendance. In fact, society tells us the most accepted way is to not have any religion at all. But we know Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life, and the giver of peace that the world knows nothing about.

KANSAS, BERN

Donna Edelman - Diane Kaeb

Bro. James and Sis. Kristin Meyer and Travis welcome Darren John into their hearts and home. He was born December 16. His grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer and Dave and Virginia Mars.

Our congregation enjoyed hearing the voices of our Sunday school children sing praises to God December 19. We sincerely pray that every single one of our young people will someday become converted and baptized into our precious faith.

Our hearts are saddened by the passing of our dear Sis. Florence Rokey who passed away December 28. We pray the Lord will comfort the heart of her husband, Bro. Melvin and his children, Bro. Gary (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Galen and Don, their wives and families, and her brother, Bro. Paul Grimm. May God comfort these dear ones in the days and times ahead. We were thankful to have Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) with us for Sis. Florence's memorial services.

Those that have spent time in the hospital are Bro. Ed Lehman (Sis. Leola) and Sis. Lila Rokey (Bro. Joe). May God be by their side to uplift and comfort them during their afflictions.

On January 11, we held our annual business meeting. We appreciate all the efforts of the brothers

and sisters who have spent their time in the past years to serve our congregation. May God guide and bless each newly elected or reelected member as they take on new responsibilities.

January 9 we were privileged to hear the reading of the memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Sam Huber (Sabetha) for assisting our Elder Bro. John Lehman. May we strive more diligently to follow the admonitions that our beloved elders have so prayerfully brought unto us.

We also wish to express our sincere thanks to the other visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City) and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL). We always appreciate the time and effort each minister takes to help us worship and gain a deeper understanding of God's Holy Word.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Janelle Sinn - Tammy Sinn

On January 8, Michelle Smith (Joyce Sinn) and Bret McClendon were united in marriage. May God richly bless this union through each day to come.

Our thoughts and prayers were with Chris Kraft (Roger) in the loss of her grandfather. We hope she can feel God's comforting Spirit in this difficult time.

Our annual business meeting was January 19. Those elected to new positions were: Jerry Bahr, trustee; Don Banwart, usher and Sunday school superintendent; Rebecca Sinn, pre-school teacher; Jolene Sinn, Silver Lining reporter; and Teresa Bahr, foods committee. We thank those who previously labored in these areas and pray the Lord will continue to direct all those who presently labor in His service.

Bro. Harold Kraft's retirement from the ministry was announced at our annual meeting. Our hearts were deeply saddened at this news. However, we are extremely grateful for the fifteen years of faithful service of Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda. Though his sermons will

be greatly missed, we pray the Lord will richly bless him for his labors in the ministry.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY Doug and Judy Kraft

We were thankful to have Bro. Jeff Bahr, his wife and family (Kiowa, KS) spend a Sunday with us and minister to us out of God's Holy Word.

Our congratulations are extended to Bro. Barry Metzger as he has graduated from Emporia State in December. We will miss them in our midst as Bro. Barry and Sis. Gina have moved to Kansas City for employment.

KANSAS, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Wanda Grimm

The fall semester has flown by, Christmas break has passed, and we now find ourselves starting another semester here at Kansas State. We would like to thank these ministers for giving of their time and sharing God's Word with us, Bros. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS).

As a new semester begins, we all will miss Bro. Adrian Strahm, who graduated in December.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

TROUBLED WATERS

Is your head bowed down in sorrow,
As you come to the end of the day,
Is there no one you can turn to
And somewhere you have lost
your way?

*"Let not your heart be troubled,
Neither let it be afraid,"
Joys awaiting you tomorrow
Have merely been long delayed.

And whether you voice your
problem,
Or just meet Him in silent prayer,
God hears and He oft times
answers
In a way that we know He cares.

Come what may, you can endure
it,
If you will pray your way through
it.

Laura Baker Haynes
* St. John's 15, verse 27

Sometimes I wonder how those who don't know Jesus as their Friend make it through the rough times in their lives, because I talk to "Him" all the time and in troubled times beg for His strength and courage to keep me strong enough to keep going and not give up. I'm sure many of you also rejoice in the power of prayer and hope we may all pray for one another that God may ever be near our loved ones in their trials as well as in their joy.

Our dear Sis. Edna Reed was a hospital patient this month, and we truly missed having her smiling presence in our midst. May God bless her with returning health very soon. Have you ever just stopped and looked at our dear "older" brothers and sisters in faith, and thought about the trials and tribulations they have faced, and here they are still faithful and true to the vows they made so many years ago. In my trials I can look at the inspiration they present and say "Dear Lord, please let my life be the example to others that their lives have been to me." One more example of how very much we "need" each other in the Lord.

What a blessed "Lord's Day" we enjoyed recently, when ministering Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel and daughters, Sis. Jenny and Shawnda, were here to share services with us. It was a blessed and inspiring day of love and fellowship, and we truly appreciate having them in our midst.

Our annual meeting will be held this week, and in our small church sometimes we hold a position for several terms, but let's not forget what we do in the church is for the Lord's glory, and the love of the fellowship. If we don't do our part in a small church, someone has to do a double portion. May we work in the Lord, and show love and consideration to one another in all ways. Till God calls us home.

Kiowa Silver Lining dues are due in February!

Note of Thanks:

It is with grateful hearts the family of Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love shown to us during his illness and passing. Your cards, gifts, memorials, flowers and many kindnesses have all meant so very much. We are especially thankful for your prayers and concern during this difficult time.

Ronald loved his precious faith and "all" you dear ones across the land. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Shirley Nelson
and family

KANSAS, LAMONT
Jane Isch

The annual business meeting was held January 8. We appreciate willing brothers and sisters who carry out duties in the church. May they feel our prayerful support.

From all my heart, I would like to thank you all, brethren, friends and relatives, for the outpouring of love, prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers and gifts since my recent surgery. God has been so good to us. May He richly bless each and every one. What a wonderful support group we have!

Retired Elder Bro. Samuel
Anliker

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Sharon Strahm

Jerry and Christy Meeks rejoice in the birth of their first child, Lydia Marie, on December 20. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer.

Bro. Timothy and Sis. Charleen Hartter and Seth, John, Heidi, Maria and Micah welcomed the arrival of Rose Lois January 1. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter and Elder Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler (Remington, IN).

We miss Sis. Tillie Kellenberger who has felt God's guidance to move to an apartment in Elgin, IL.

Our prayers are extended to Bro. Joe Menold (Sis. Tillie) and Sis. Marian Kellenberger (Bro. Gene) who have been hospitalized as well

as Bro. Eli Meyer (Sis. Lois) who had knee replacement surgery. Also we remember Sis. Evelyn Steiner who is suffering affliction with her eyesight. We are grateful for God granting health and strength, and where there is a cross to bear, may He grant grace to endure.

We were blessed Christmas Eve with the presence of visiting ministers Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO).

We want to extend our prayers and sympathy to Sis. Irene Lehman (Bro. Andy) on the passing of her sister, Sis. Florence Rokey (Bern, KS) December 28. May God's blessings be upon each one in this time of sorrow.

Bro. Matt Aberle (Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte) was welcomed in as a new child of God on the weekend of January 8 and 9. Assisting Elder Bro. Sam Huber were Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL).

Sunday evening, January 9, we were privileged to hear the reading of the conference letter at Bern.

We rejoice with Sis. Karen Harter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Darin Edelman (Sis. Marjorie) whose engagement has been announced. May God continue to bestow his blessings upon them as they prepare to be united in holy matrimony.

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

Zion's Harp #236

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Last month I reported that Bro. Ernest Lambert had taken up residence in a care home. This month, I can report that he took up permanent residence in his heavenly home December 27. Ernest Charles Lambert was born February 16, 1904 in a country farmhouse in Frazier County, MI. The family moved to Illinois, to Portland, OR,

to Burlington, OK, and lastly to Wichita. Ernest became a member of the Apostolic Christian Church at age 20 and served in many ways in the interest of the church. He married Nellie Percy in 1931. He is survived by his wife, Nellie; two daughters and one son, Sally Dewey (Wichita), Bonnie Walker (El Lago, TX) and Andrew Lambert (Wichita); eleven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and his two sisters, Emma Davis and Lillian Thomas (Wichita).

Sis. Nellie gave me the following: "Having just said farewell to our dear husband, father and grandfather, Ernest Lambert, we can only say a heartfelt thank you to our beautiful Wichita church family, and all the dear friends and relatives from many of the churches who covered us so lovingly with cards, food, flowers and memorial gifts. What a comfort your love has been! Again, thank you."

Nellie Lambert and family
The family circle of Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer was blessed with an addition December 26 when their youngest son, Bob, and Misti Bolton were united in marriage. We wish God's blessings on this new family unit.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Wayne and Becky Snodgrass

Greetings from Lexington! We have heralded in the new year with record low temperatures and a lot of sickness. But we still have so very much to be thankful for. We at least have a warm home and plenty to eat. A lot of people don't. This past week we had ten inches of snow and down to -20° That is very unusual for Kentucky, so it caught a lot of people unprepared, including us. When we went to go out, we found ourselves hunting all over the house for boots and gloves. It just reminded me how human we are. The radio told us it was coming and it is wintertime. But we always got by before. Isn't that the way Judgment Day is going to be? A lot of people panicked and bought gallons of milk and groceries after the snow started. Satan has a way of keeping our time and minds full of things of this life

so often, that we don't really pay close attention to our spiritual communication line to God, and on Judgment Day there won't even be time to do anything even in panic, let alone make our calling and election sure.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"

II Peter 1:10

I know it's an old story, but Christ really will come back any day. So much prophecy has and is being fulfilled so rapidly. That just as the ice and snow came silently in the night, so shall His return be.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

II Peter 3:10

So with this new year, let us try and be more watchful and prayerful than ever before, that we not be caught unprepared.

We want to thank each of our dear ministering brothers and their families for sharing with us in the past two months. They were Bro. Jim Vierling (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). May God richly bless each one!

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Jane Grawburg

I visited with a very dear cousin after church today. While talking, she mentioned our weather - the earthquakes in California, the extreme cold here in Michigan. She went on to say she believes God is telling us something. What do you believe?

Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen are vacationing in Phoenix, AZ. We pray that God will watch over them in their travels and that they will enjoy the warmer temperatures.

Bro. John and Sis. Stephanie Schlatter and Victoria (Bro. Ott and

Sis. Pat) will soon be moving to their new home in South Bend, IN. We wish them well and pray that God will bless them in their new home. Our love and prayers go with them.

We've learned that Sis. Elizabeth Waibel (Bro. Joe) of Bay City (Bro. Wally and Donna Gerst, local) is hospitalized. Our love and prayers are with her and Bro. Joe as she recuperates.

Dennis Koehl has also been hospitalized for a short time and our prayers are with him.

We want to welcome Ramona Snyder and Jalen (Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst) back to Alto. They had been living in Davenport, IA. We are very glad for their return.

Alto held its annual business meeting a few weeks ago. Many have either retired their jobs or have assumed new positions. Bro. Duane Schrenk (Sis. Cathie) was replaced as trustee by Bro. Ron Erismann (Sis. Penny). Bro. John Schlatter (Sis. Stephanie) was replaced as usher by Bro. Otto J. Schlatter (Bro. Ott and Sis. Pat). Sis. Liz Blough (Bro. Marv) was replaced on the tape committee by Bro. Otto J. Schlatter. Sis. Sandy Schutte (Steve) was replaced on the kitchen committee by Sis. Julie Blough (Bro. Jim). Sis. Sandy Steffen (Bro. Ted), Sis. Kristen Plattner (Bro. Howard) and Sis. Laurie Steffen (Bro. Terry) all stepped down from the World Relief committee. They were replaced by Sis. Marguerite Blough (Bro. Noah), Sis. Luanne Kaeb (Bro. Curt) and Sis. Margaret Jackson (Bro. Paul). Those reappointed to study expansion were Bro. Curt Heimer (Sis. Sue), Bro. Curt Kaeb (Sis. Luanne), Bro. Jim Blough (Sis. Julie), Bro. Otto Schlatter (Sis. Pat) and Bro. Wally Gerst (Donna). Re-elected to our church cleaning committee were Sis. Margaret Wingeier, Sis. Christine Wingeier and Sis. Cathie Schrenk (Bro. Duane). Bro. Marv Blough (Sis. Liz) and Gordon Blough (Tricia) agreed to continue with their snow removal and yard maintenance duties. Sis. Jane Grawburg will continue as Silver Lining correspondent. It demands a lot of time and effort to keep our churches operating

smoothly. We thank our brothers and sisters for their labors of love.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

We were blessed to have with us ministering Bro. Howard Plattner and Sis. Kristen from the Alto, MI, congregation.

Sis. Mae Guenzel has returned home from her stay at the nursing home. We wish her God's grace and blessings.

Bay City has not started out very well in the new year of 1994 with illnesses. We know our Lord has a plan and purpose for each and every one and we wish His grace for our contentment and acceptance in whatever He places upon us.

Bro. Elias Schlatter (Sis. Ella) has spent time in the hospital and is now home and gaining.

Sis. Betty Schlatter had surgery and is gaining health again.

Katherine Wackerle (Ronald) was hospitalized and is now home recuperating.

Bro. Edwin Wieland had surgery and is now at Bay Shores Nursing Home recovering.

Bro. Earl Ramseyer (Sis. Mary) has spent time in the hospital and is now gaining.

Sis. Elizabeth Waibel (Bro. Joe) is in the hospital with a broken hip and not doing the best. We wish her our Lord's blessings.

Sis. Marlene Mosher has had surgery and is now gaining strength.

We wish our Lord's blessings to all in His will and way for His plan is perfect whatever it might be.

Joined in the holy union of marriage were Kim Virkler and Mary Rachel Stickling. Parents of the couple are Bro. Andrew and Sis. Maxine Virkler and Ben and Sharon Stickling. We wish the Lord's blessings on the union.

Our annual meeting was held the first Wednesday of 1994. We wish our Lord's blessings on this undertaking.

The annual 1994 World Relief meeting will be held at Bay City, MI, the second Saturday in November 1994.

Re-elected for three years as secretary, Bro. Rod Wieland, elected for three years as trustee, Bro. Eugene Meylon and elected were Bro. Lee Schambach as treasurer, Sis. Beth Kent to the dinner committee and Bro. Jay Schlatter as funeral director assistant.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Marlene Reinhard

Holly Barton

Amidst the holiness of the Christmas season, Bro. Doug Reinhard (Detroit) and Sis. Elizabeth Spangler (Junction, OH) exchanged wedding vows in Junction December 26. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Garden Grove, IA) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Spangler (Junction). Bro. Doug and Sis. Elizabeth are living in Toledo, OH, while both attend school, and though we wish they could worship with us on more than just a visiting basis, we trust the Lord will bless their home and make their lives a glory to Him.

Did you make any New Year's resolutions at the beginning of 1994? Have you kept them so far? We know that the best of intentions will remain simply that if we do not rely on the power of God to help us. We are thrilled to know that Ben Denes (Bro. Frank and Sis. Sanche) and Scott Reardon (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) have resolved to leave the world behind and begin a new walk with Christ. As they submit their lives to the Lord, we trust He will give them the sustaining and overcoming power they need. They can also be encouraged by two souls here who once stood where they do now but who, through God's grace, have found peace and have made a covenant with their Lord. Sis. Diane Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Brenda Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) were baptized January 9. We warmly welcome them and pray for continued fruit in their lives.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ann Tachar and Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz, who have been ill, and with Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis. Rosie) as he is undergoing treatments. We

also remember Sis. Martha Gleichman (Bro. John), whose mother, Marie Cannon, passed away December 20.

Our annual business meeting was held January 12. Bros. Doug Maibach, Troy Schrock, John Gleichman and Von Ringger will serve as ushers. Sis. Janelle Ringger will assist with church dinners, and Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth Knochel are our new singing coordinators. In addition, several brethren were reelected to serve in different capacities. May all our efforts, whether or not we have been elected to an office, be for the honor and glory of God.

Congratulations to Annette Peterson (daughter of Diane) who is engaged to Jeff Johnson (California). We wish them the blessings of God in the days ahead.

We wish to welcome Tim and Michelle Merritt (Toledo, OH) to our area and to our congregation. May they feel the Lord's guidance through this change in their lives.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue Heimer (Alto, MI) were with us for our monthly Woodhaven service. They have given of themselves many times for this ministry and we appreciate them very much! Our next service is scheduled to be hosted by Toledo, OH, March 1.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Delores Sauder

We are thankful when loved ones feel directed by God to move to the Minneapolis area. We welcome Bro. Duane Rocke (Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth, Eureka, IL) as he has found employment here. Sis. Tammy Banwart (Bro. Leo) is experiencing God's healing power as she is recovering at home following hand surgery. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherri Fritz as their newborn granddaughter lived only a few hours. May God comfort their hearts.

So often we take for granted assembling together for worship and fellowship. Due to weather, we had services canceled Sunday, and the day seemed so empty. We certainly miss this opportunity when it is taken away.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Deb Joos - Maxine Sauder

Passing into a New Year, we often reflect back on the year past. In our Morris congregation during 1993 we had 16 births, three baptisms, three marriages and seven deaths.

"But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works!" (Psalm 73:28) It was a joyous evening to hear two dear souls declare the working of God in their hearts and lives. We welcome Sis. Amy Schmidgall and Bro. Kevin Koehl into God's family. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. June Schmidgall and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Wilda Koehl.

Those requiring hospitalization this month were Sis. Minnie Kuzzatz, Bro. Ferd Tohm, Ruby Luthi, Micah Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy), and Doug Nohl (Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie). We pray for God's continued healing and strengthening.

We are thankful for the following visiting ministers: Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA). It was good to have their wives and families worship with us. May God bless each one.

"One of Thy children are traveling home; Open Thy merciful arms." (Gospel Hymns #784) With sadness we bid farewell to our dear Sis. Betty Zeltwanger, but we also entrust her to the merciful arms of Jesus. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her husband, Bro. Bill; and her three daughters; Sis. Lyn Wuethrich (Bro. Ken, Indianapolis, IN), Sis. Judy Metzger Bro. Merlyn, West Bend, IA) and Sis. Susie Neihouser (Bro. Jeff, Francesville, IN). May God comfort all her family and those whose lives she touched.

Special Thank-You

A sincere thanks to the families and friends for the many cards, gifts of money, and your visits during my stay in the hospital and then at home; especially for your kind words and prayers. They will al-

ways be remembered. God bless you all.

Bro. Leo Dogotch

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Kim Messner - Joleen Messner

Greetings! Some of our "snow-birds" have left or will be leaving for warmer climates. We miss them and look forward to their return.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Celina Schmidt, Sis. Florence Messner, Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia) and Sis. Rose Alice Howk (Bro. Roy). May God provide His healing hand to each one.

Thank you: I want to thank all of you for the many cards, telephone calls, prayers and gifts while I was in the hospital and at home recuperating. May God richly bless each of you.

Bro. Roland Messner

Reminder: February is collection month for the Silver Lining dues.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

Many thanks to Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) for sharing God's Word with us. May God bless you for your labors.

We want to extend our best wishes to Ed and Sis. Louise Wreath as they have moved to the Apostolic Christian Village in Sabetha. They will be missed here in our congregation but we hope that they will soon feel at home in their new apartment.

We want to welcome Bro. Barry and Sis. Gina Metzger (Gridley, KS) as Bro. Barry has accepted employment in our area.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Gary and Marty Rokey and family in the death of Bro. Gary's mother, Sis. Florence Rokey (Bern, KS).

Sis. Wilma Farney (Bro. Joe) recently had knee replacement surgery. We pray she will recover and soon be assembling with us again.

On Sunday, January 9, we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Don Braker was elected trustee, Sis. Jamie Marti, was elected to the food committee, and Bro. Joe Fehr was elected as treasurer.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Carolyn Banwart Becky Marti

We have enjoyed many visitors this past month. We especially appreciate Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) being willing to lend himself to minister God's Word to us.

We recently held our annual business meeting. Bros. Curt Kellenberger and Roy Braker and Sis. Janese Kellenberger were chosen to serve as Sunday school teachers. Bro. Roy Braker was chosen to serve as trustee. May they feel God's grace as they fulfill these new duties and may each of us remember that we all have a part to do in the body of Christ.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

We were encouraged one Sunday to consider the blessing of having the Bible so readily available. Most of us have numerous Bibles in our homes; our church sanctuaries and Sunday schools have an abundance of Bibles. When something is so easy to obtain, it is human nature to take it for granted. ". . . For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required . . ." (Luke 12:48)

Our visiting ministers this past month were the following: Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and our own Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor). We thank them, their wives, and all the visitors who braved the winter weather to travel to worship with us.

Another Sunday we were reminded that heaven will be filled with people who have made mistakes, people who have fallen and skinned their knees, scarred people . . . but who have turned to the Lord for help and salvation. We know that there are just two groups of people: sinners and sinners saved by grace. For those of us fortunate enough to have chosen the path of grace and salvation, we need always to reach out in love and encouragement to those around us. So many people put on a good front, but are filled with hurts that Jesus would heal if they would just take

that first step. Sometimes our fellowship with other converted people can be so enjoyable and comfortable that we can overlook opportunities to reach out to those outside of that circle. The following is a poem I once heard Corrie ten Boom recite:

When I enter that Beautiful City,
And the Saints all around me
appear,
I hope that someone will tell me,
"It was you who invited me here."

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Rusty Adrian

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

Luke 2:11

On December 12, the Sunday school presented their annual Christmas program, singing songs and quoting Bible verses. Reminding us of the real reason for the season in the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. After the program everyone enjoyed caroling at the nursing homes in Quincy, IL. The Sunday school then returned to the fellowship hall for pizza.

We're thankful for God's traveling mercies as our local brethren returned home from their work project in Borbon, Ecuador. We had the privilege of being able to see the high school completed. It truly was a blessing to be able to work with brothers and sisters from other congregations. Only with the common bond we all had in Jesus Christ was this opportunity accomplished with such peace and harmony. Truly His presence was with us every step of the way.

Our annual business meeting was held January 5. Those who took on new responsibilities were Bro. Shon Haerr - trustee, Sis. Lois Sutter - food committee, and Bro. Rusty Adrian - Silver Lining reporter. Holy communion was set for March 19.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep."

Romans 12:15.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Dave and Sis. Lori with the passing of their father, Joe Marquart January 14. Also Sis. Betty Zeltwanger (Bro. Bill, Dallas - Fort. Worth) passed on to be with the Lord. She was an aunt to Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb Heimer. We pray that God would strengthen and keep each one who has suffered the loss of a loved one.

At this time we do rejoice with Bro. Don and Sis. Tricia Grimm as the Lord has blessed them with a new son, Kyle Lane. He was born January 14 and will be greeted at home by his sister, Stephanie (2 years). Happy grandparents are Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marion Pflum (Oakville, IA).

On January 16, after a blessed day of worship, a reception was held for Craig Jackson (Bro. Jim and Sis. Pam, Wichita, KS). He graduated from high school in December and plans to enlist in the Air Force. May God be with Craig as he makes these important decisions in life.

Visiting minister this month was Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN). It truly is a blessing to have faithful brethren who are willing to be used each week in order for the Word to be spoken. May God richly bless each one for their efforts.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Franz Soni

"It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."

Lamentations 3:26

We thank Bro. Everett Gerber and Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) for sharing God's Word with us these past two months. We thank these brothers for the efforts they put forth in preaching God's Word to us. May God richly reward them both for their efforts.

Services are held the second Sunday of the month. We encourage those who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are held at the Days Inn Hotel, Ambassador Room, 2570 Tonnelle Ave., North Bergen, NJ. For more information please call Elder Bro.

Edward Aeschleman (301 478-7846, Bro. Bob Feller (201) 680-8169 or Bro. Craig Schafer (908) 248-6616.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

On New Years Eve we gathered together for a covered dish meal and church service. May we look to God for strength and guidance for each day of the new year. In 1993 we reported seven births, two weddings and one death.

Todd Farney and Danielle Turck were united in marriage January 15. Todd's parents are Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen, and Danielle's parents are Gary Turck (Castorland) and Sue Kelley (Lowville). May they look to God for their guidance in this important step of their lives.

Sis. Lena Virkler is a resident of the Lewis County Extended Care Facility in Lowville. As of this writing her health is not very good and we pray that God will continue with her in her remaining days as He has in the past years. May she always feel His nearness to her.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser
Diane Jarrett

Greetings to all from Akron. In recent weeks, our congregation was blessed with messages from visiting ministers, Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), John Grimm (Columbus), Glen Riggenbach (Smithville) and Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman). Thank you for your willingness to travel to Akron with your wives and families, and to bring forth God's Word in its truth.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. Thanks to those brothers and sisters who faithfully completed their terms in office. Those newly elected include: Bro. Steve Pamer, Sunday school superintendent; Sis. Alma Graf, kitchen committee; Bro. Wayne Klotzle, usher; and Bro. Art Graf, board of trustees for the Apostolic Christian Home of Rittman.

On January 9, we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Vicki Palitto (Bro.

Ron and Sis. Lynell) to Bro. Gary Schar (Rittman, Bro. Rowan and Sis. Judy). It is our wish that this union of hearts with God's presence would be "a three-fold cord not lightly rent apart." We will miss Sis. Vicki as the couple establishes their home in Rittman.

January 14 was the wedding date of Melinda Bako (Bro. Zoltan and Sis. Bonnie) and Michael Dermody (Hugh and Kathy) in Texas. Melinda and Michael are residing in Alamogordo, NM. We wish God's blessings on this union.

We are thankful for evidence of God's healing touch. Brianna Palitto (Bro. Bryan and Sis. Lisa) fractured her leg and Joe Miller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn) underwent recent out-patient surgery. Our prayers are with them as they complete their recovery.

Sis. Gyongyi Bako (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy) will be traveling overseas to begin a year of study in Budapest, Hungary. It is "Our Wish in Parting" (see Zion's Harp #114) that God would protect and keep Sis. Gyongyi.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Julie Grimm

We are grateful to the visiting ministers who have shared God's Word with us this past month. They are Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH).

January 16 was our annual business meeting. Those accepting new responsibilities are Bro. Larry Banks (Sunday school superintendent), Sis. Jenny Banks (Sunday school teacher), Bro. Bill Sauder (Trustee) and Sis. Karen Laparo (kitchen committee). May they feel God's blessings as they lend themselves to the service of the church.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Ministering Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) joined our congregation December 26 to share in the joy as Bro. Doug Reinhard (Detroit, MI) and Sis. Elizabeth Spangler took the second most important step in their lives. We thank Bros.

Randy and Doug as well as Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for helping to make this wedding day a special day for all of us. May the Lord richly bless Bro. Doug and Sis. Elizabeth as they enter this new phase of their lives and as they both pursue their college education.

Bro. Dave Manz (Sis. Kathy) was elected for a six-year term as song leader in charge replacing Bro. Roger Gasser (Sis. Sue). Heartfelt thanks to Bro. Roger for his years of service

OHIO, LATTY

Lane Stoller - Kathy Sinn

The Latty brethren began the new year by assembling in the house of the Lord. After services, our annual business meeting was held. It was reported that our Latty congregation had two deaths, eight births, six weddings, one baptism and three converts during the year of 193. May the Lord continue to bless our group of believers as we travel toward that heavenly home. The voting results for the job openings were announced the following weekend. They include brother for church trustee, Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Jodi); brother for fellowship hall trustee, Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette); brother for Sunday school, Bro. Mark Stoller (Sis. Shirley); sisters for Sunday school, Sis. Pam Stoller (Bro. Todd) and Sis. JaNahn Sinn (Bro. Stan); sister for World Relief sewing, Sis. Shirley Stoller (Bro. Mark); sister for kitchen, Sis. Tam Stoller (Bro. Jim); brother for secretary/treasurer, Bro. Bruce Rosswurm (Sis. Amy) and brother for cemetery records, Bro. Rex Plummer. May these brethren prayerfully fulfill the duties of their positions. Many thanks to those who have completed their responsibilities.

Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) gathered with us during the month. He exhorted us to be a true reflection of God's Light. May God ever bless his family.

Many of our local brethren have traveled South for the winter months. May they feel God's presence and blessing during this time.

Several of our brothers and sis-

ters have been sick or in the hospital. They include Bro. Roy Rager (Sis. June), Bro. Charles Dunham, Sr. (Sis. Laura), Bro. Ray Stoller (Sis. Carol) and Sis. Esther Schlatter. May they continue to improve as the Lord wills.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

We were blessed to have Bro. John and Sis. Julie Grimm (Columbus, OH) with us Christmas Day. As Bro. John shared the story of Jesus' birth with us, he reminded us that even the wise men's gifts foretold of what was to come. The gold represented the royal line from which the Baby Jesus descended and would ascend to. The frankincense was used by the priests in the Old Testament and therefore signified that the Baby would one day be our High Priest. The myrrh was a spice used for anointing at burial, indicating that Christ in the flesh would one day die. It is amazing that in so many small seemingly insignificant ways, God showed the people of those times what was going to happen. It is the same with today, God is showing us what is going to happen. Are we paying attention?

"THIS IS THE WAY"

"This is the way," the ads display,
With scenes of glowing health;
"This leads to happiness and
fame,
Security and wealth."

"This is the way," some peers may
say,
"Your happiness depends
On tasting all the thrills of life
In company with friends."

What heartaches line the passing
years
For those who follow ads and
peers!
With sharp regrets they find the
way
Is paved with thorns the ads don't
say.

No happiness will follow dawn
When money, friends and health
are gone,

When thrills taste bitter to
extremes,
And vanished are those youthful
dreams.

"This is the way," some preachers
say;
"It's not just like you've heard.
With changing standards in our
World,
We must adjust the Word."

Blind leaders of the blind are
they,
And sad the end of a man-made
way
When lives, like houses built on
sand,
Collapse in storms they can't
withstand.

"This is the way," the Scriptures
say,
With weight of truth behind it,
"Though straight and narrow is
the road
And few there be that find it."

But all who choose what most
pass by
Are blessed with joys that satisfy,
And gain what others never find -
Security and peace of mind.
Merna B. Shank

"Furthermore then we beseech
you, brethren, and exhort you by
the Lord Jesus, that as ye have
received of us how ye ought to walk
and to please God, so ye would
abound more and more." (I Thess-
alonians 4:1) Elder Bro. Ray Sinn
(Latty, OH) joined Elder Bro. Ken
for the reading of the memoran-
dum on the evening of January 8.
We were each encouraged to hold
fast to that which has been handed
down to us and to ever strive to
stay on that straight and narrow
path. We are thankful that Bro.
Ray and Sis. Ann could be with us
for the evening and pray that God
will richly bless them.

The year has not started out
the best for Sis. Becky Vent (Dick)
as she has undergone surgery al-
ready. We are thankful that she is
recovering at home. We pray that
every day she will feel stronger and
remember that God's healing hand
is upon her.

Our prayers are with our breth-

ren and their families and friends
from one side of the nation to the
other. In the East, record breaking
cold spells are taking their toll and
in the West, earthquakes and af-
tershocks are causing destruction
beyond imagination. As we each
deal with whatever our particular
"storm" may be, may we each re-
member that God will not allow
more to happen to us than we are
able to bear.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Marsha Hartzler
Linda Ramsier

Those who ministered unto us
recently were Bros. Dean Messner
(Winthrop, MN), Ron Palitto (Ak-
ron), Paul Gasser (Akron), Randy
Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Fred
Domka (Mansfield). We thank
these brethren for their efforts.

We rejoiced with Bro. Gary
Schar and Sis. Vicki Palitto (Ak-
ron) as they were united in mar-
riage January 9. Their parents are
Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar
and Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell
Palitto.

Several of our loved ones who
have been in the hospital recently
are Sis. Mary Ellen Bauman, Cody
Matie (Chris and Lisa), Bro. Harry
Gasser (Sis. Marguerite), Sis. Linda
Stoller and Dave Plahuta (Sue).
May they feel God's love and care.

May God extend His grace and
comfort to Bro. Mike and Bro.
Novko (Sis. Julie) Atanasov in the
death of their grandfather.

Several of our congregation have
agreed to serve in various positions
in the church. Those who have been
elected are Bro. Dale Everhard (Sis.
Margaret), trustee; Bro. Darryl
Rufener, usher; Sis. Karen Hartzler
(Bro. Richard), kitchen help; and
Bro. Leon Rufener (Sis. Lori), fel-
lowship hall director. May the Lord
bless these brothers and sister as
well as those who have served dur-
ing the past year.

OHIO, SARDIS
Renee Miller

The annual business meeting
was held in January. Positions re-
filled with the brothers currently
holding them by a vote of confi-

dence were treasurer, Bro. John
Figel and trustee, Bro. Bob Inder-
muhle. Elected to the kitchen com-
mittee was Sis. Terry Zollinger. It
is a blessing when brothers and
sisters work together to do the nec-
essary tasks to keep the physical
house in order.

Large amounts of snow and ex-
tremely cold temperatures made
January 1994 a month we will talk
about for a long time. The first week
brought about two feet of snow and
just as we were getting over it we
got nearly the same amount again
with temperatures as low as 20 -
30 degrees below zero. We are
thankful everyone made it safely
through the times without electric-
ity, heat, and/or water.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Edith Miller - Kim Stoller

"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."

Psalm 127:4, 5

God blessed David and Michelle
Marty with a little girl, Catherine
Michelle, December 18. Her sister
and brothers are Amber, John, Ben,
Cory and Marc. Bro. Norman and
Sis. Audrey Beery and Bro. Dean
and Sis. Martha Marty are the
grandparents.

On January 7, Natalie Rose
joined the family of Bro. Jay, Sis.
Marsha, Alissa and Erin Maibach.
Her grandparents are Bro. Leon
and Sis. Janet Graf (Akron, OH)
and Sis. Helen Maibach (the late
Bro. Alpha).

Bro. Ed, Sis. Elaine and Brian
Marty also welcomed a newborn
into their hearts and home. They
adopted Bethany Elaine. Bro. Jeff
and Sis. Velma Rufener and Dale
and Sally Marty are the grandpar-
ents.

"I was glad when they said unto
me, Let us go into the house of the
Lord."

Psalm 122:1

We enjoyed our visiting minis-
ters, Bros. Brian Webb (Fort Lau-

derdale, FL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH). We are also thankful to have ministers at home who preach God's Word each week.

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

Psalm 133:1

Those who have been elected to positions are: Sis. Gail Riegenbach, kitchen help; Bro. Steve Dotterer, usher; and Bro. Harvey Landis, church trustee. We thank those who have faithfully served in the past.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Joy Beard - Edie Fetter

We are thankful to have had with us Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis) and his family to share in the Word. May the Lord richly bless him for his labors.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward." (Psalm 127:3) On December 26, Tom and Nancy Schreiber's home was blessed with a new little boy, Austin Jeffrey. Nolan welcomes his new baby brother. Austin's happy grandparents are Bob and Dorothy Stevens.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER

Laura Baxter

"Bless ye the Lord, all ye hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

"Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion: Bless the Lord, O my soul."

Psalms 103:21-22

The Lord has blessed us much and caused many joys to come upon us. We want to thank our visiting minister, Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) for coming to minister God's Holy Word to us in November. We are also very thankful for the group of brethren and friends who came with Bro. Ben as we enjoyed the weekend of fellowship. We welcome each and every one who is interested to visit us in Kitchener.

Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher are rejoicing with the angels in heaven, along with the rest of our congregation, as their granddaughter, Virginia Schlauch, has turned her back on sin and had decided to give her life to Jesus. Virginia's parents are Sis. Astria and Henry, who are also rejoicing.

Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret are also excited with the birth of a new granddaughter, Julie Rose Zollinger. Julia's happy and thankful parents are Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Jim Baxter's father, Earle Baxter, was recently involved in a snowmobile accident and is in the hospital with some minor complications. Although Earle does not assemble with us, we believe he would appreciate the prayers of our brethren as he will probably be unable to work for a few months.

Anyone who would like to visit us in Kitchener should contact Bro. Wladimir Fortenbacher (519) 699-4133 or Jim Baxter (519) 599-5081.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Lori Martin

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour."

Ephesians 4:31-32, 5:1-2

As we have to make many decisions day to day concerning jobs, homes, families and within our congregations may we be reminded to pray to Him for guidance.

We were privileged to have Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) with us. Thank you for your labor of love. We are thankful to have Sam Feucht worshipping with us once again after his operation.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

We rejoice with Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer (Mueller) Kuenzi in the birth of their second daughter, Lorraine Rose, January 13. Little Nicole will now assume a big sister role.

At Home 'tis well. There shall the Pilgrim tarry

When tired and worn by sorrow, grief and strife.

In Heaven when the hard race of earthly life is run

The longborne load no more he'll carry.

Our lives here contain joy mixed with sorrow. Our sympathy and prayers are with our dear Sis. Michelle Zollinger (Todd), Sis. Sherri Kuenzi (Troy), Bro. Kurt Metzger (Koreen) and Sis. Cindy Metzger in the loss of their grandfather, Bro. Jacob Metzger (Lester, IA). May we strive daily maintain our first love that we may in heaven one day meet our loved ones who have gone on before us.

Both little Matthew Kaufman (Keith and Carol) and Vonn Leman (Mike and Lisa) recently underwent minor surgery and are bath doing well.

We are thankful that after a nearly four-month hospital/nursing home stay, our dear friend, Verna Bolliger (Elmer), has been able to return to her own home. We still miss her quiet smile and pray she may soon assemble with us again.

Card of Thanks: A sincere thank you to my dear friends for all the lovely gifts, cards, visits and food while I was in the hospital and since returning home. It was so humbling to have so many care.

Verna Bolliger

PENNSYLVANIA,

Philadelphia

Franz Soni

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

"Who comforteth us in all our tribulations, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any

trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." II Corinthians 1:3, 4

Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn Lanz would like to thank the acts of Christian love, prayers, visits, cards and encouragement offered to them during Bro. Edwin's recovery from hip replacement surgery.

We welcome all who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you need more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (301) 478-7846.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

Greetings of love from the chill south. This past week of January 16 found the frigid zero temperatures, freezing rain, snow and ice usually associated with Northern winters here in the South. Hazardous travel conditions were felt by all and schools were closed most of the week. Thankfully, things are expected to thaw this weekend with temperatures climbing into the 50's. What a change a week can bring.

Services scheduled for January 2 here in Nashville were canceled. Three of us travelled to worship with the Athens, AL, congregation.

In the December edition of this publication I wrote that special services were held September 12 for a group travelling from Rockville, CT, Goodfield and Tremont, IL. The date was actually October 24. I apologize for this error.

In closing, I would like to share some verses that I encountered while reading Psalm 19:

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

"The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

"More to be desired are they

than gold, yea, than much fine gold: . . ."

Psalm 19:7-10

We wish to once again extend an open invitation to all to visit us in Nashville. Services are usually held the first Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m. March 6 and March 27 are the next upcoming scheduled services. Please contact one of us if your plans allow you to worship with us or you would like more information. Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-1081 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

TEXAS, DALLAS Christine Kaiser Kimberly Kaiser

". . . Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

". . . This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:24 & 25

The Dallas and Houston area brethren were blessed and humbled to take communion together in January. We are grateful for the service of Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX). A sincere thank you also goes out to the ministers' wives and our blessed visitors. God gave us a wonderful weekend of Christian fellowship and love.

Our hearts are deeply saddened by the death of our dear Sis. Betty Zeltwanger, wife of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger. We pray God will comfort Bro. Bill, his three daughters, and their families. May their sorrow and emptiness be filled with wonderful memories of Sis. Betty, God's peace and the blessed hope of God's promises. Our love and sympathy go out to all of Sis. Betty's family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

We extend a special invitation to those traveling in the Dallas area to come and worship with us. Our services are held on the first and

third Sundays of each month at the Holiday Inn in DeSoto, TX. Service times are 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Please contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp (214) 867-4074, Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102, or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Our visiting ministers, elders and their wives this month were: Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Athens, AL), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sis. Jeryl, Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH), Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO).

Bro. Doug Grimm showed us slide pictures of some of the World Relief projects. We wish to thank him and his family for their visit.

The four visiting elders read and spoke on the memorandum. We wish to thank them and pray we can all heed their warnings. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr is our elder, replacing Elder Bro. Leo Moser.

For many years Bro. George Kuntz and his wife, Sis. Hazel, have been winter residents in Zapata, TX. Last year, because of health problems, they could not come here. We were saddened to hear the news that Bro. George was a song leader and always willing to help were he could. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Hazel and family.

Bro. Alvin Klopfenstein was hospitalized in Laredo, TX, this month. After his stay in the hospital, Bro. Alvin and his wife, Sis. Ellen, went back to Latty, OH. We will miss them and hope Bro. Alvin will receive strength so they can come back to Zapata this fall.

SILVER THREADS

GOD PROMISES TO BLESS
YOUR HOME

BLESSINGS ". . . but he
blesseth the habitation of the just."
Proverbs 3:33

PROTECTION "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Proverbs 1:33

PEACE "And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isaiah 32:18

A CANOPY OF GLORY "And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence." Isaiah 4:5

LASTING BLESSINGS "Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord God, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever." II Samuel 7:29

HEALTH "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." Psalm 91:10

SALVATION "And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house forso much as he also is a son of Abraham." Luke 19:9

PERSONAL SAFETY "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:8

GOD'S PRESENCE "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20

GOD GIVES US VICTORY

Victory Over Evil Influences

"Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us." Psalm 44:5

Victory Over Persecutions

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Romans 8:35, 37

Victory To Overcome

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father."

Revelation 3:5

Victory over Sin

"Whosoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

I John 5:4

Victory is in Jesus!

Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)
enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6:6)

How does God reward us openly? It is very evident how He can reward us openly.

How many of you, and I take for granted that most of you do, pray for your families, pray for your children and pray for your loved ones? I do not think that we need to cease doing that. We hear of souls who have reached in their older years of life, and some of their prayers have been answered.

Even after they are gone, many of those prayers are answered. They hold a recognition before God. We have not had a selfish prayer if we have prayed for someone else.

Many out here in the congregation have lives that are different than others. We have a number of loved ones this year who have seen their life's partner laid to rest. This makes life different, but the Lord is faithful and He will stand by.

Some of you have been widowed for a number of years, maybe two,

three or even thirty years or more than that, but God is faithful. As you pray, God can hear your prayers.

We have seen some of you mothers who have raised your children. The Lord was favorable unto you and heard your prayers. Many of those children have repented and become converted. That is an answer to prayer. God hears these petitions. God knows.

He said, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions . . ." We have to be careful of that. ". . . for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him." (Matthew 6:7, 8)

Then He gives a model prayer, the Lord's Prayer. If we count the words or sentences or verses, it is not very many. But let us read it over again and see how much is included in this Lord's prayer:

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." Matthew 6:9-13

It is not very long, is it? There is a lot included in that prayer. "Hallowed be thy name" is the first thing in this prayer.

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Is that what we really want when we pray to God? Do we really have that in mind when we pray to God, that "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven?" Or do we like earth too much to have our mind in heaven?

"Give us this day our daily bread." How many did not have breakfast this morning? Maybe some by reason of their own choice didn't have breakfast, but how many were in want this morning, or yesterday, or in the day gone by didn't have meals provided for you?

God provides for us. We are not

looking real far ahead, as it says, "Give us this day . . ." If we look too far ahead of us, we become maybe discouraged. But day by day we go on in life, and God provides for us.

The next thing He says is, "Forgive us our debts." I don't think that He just means our financial debts. If you went to the banker and said, "Please forgive my debt," that would not work very good, would it?

But I think we have a debt to one another. Maybe we owe someone else an apology, if we have done something that was not the way it should have been. He asks us to forgive one another. We ask our neighbor, or our brother, or whoever it is to forgive us.

It says, "As we forgive our debtors." Do we do that? Do we forgive those who transgress against us? Or do we get bitter and say, "I can't do it."

"And lead us not into temptation." I don't believe that it is God's will that any of you be led into temptation. We can read in the first chapter of James and it will tell us what will happen if we allow ourselves to become involved in something or lust after something.

If we do this long enough, we become enticed, and before long we become involved, and before long we become sinful. It says, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

We know that the world has a lot of things upon it that are evil. We are just on the threshold of maybe the temptation that is very close to us. We could become a part of this if we allow ourselves to be tempted.

When He says, "Lead us not into temptation," I don't think that it is God's will that He will lead us there, but He will help us if we want Him to. He is just as near as prayer.

If at anytime any of you are in a real strong temptation, just stop and say, "Help me, Lord! Remove me from where I am at." Don't you believe that God would hear that prayer?

If you turn your mind from your own thoughts, and turn your mind to God, then God can hear that prayer and He will honor It.

"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever." That wasn't a very long prayer, was it? We can memorize it real quick. We can recite it very often.

The problem is that when we recite something from memory, we really don't think about it very much, do we, as a rule? We run something through our mind and it is over with and we go on again. But if we read it over very slowly and think about it and what it is, there is where the blessing comes from and there is where the strengthening comes from because we have God to help us.

He said, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." If you do that. "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14, 15)

Now is there anyone among us who says, "I can't do it. I can't forgive someone. They have done something that really offended me and really hurt me and I can't forgive." How will you stand before God on Judgment Day and say, "I just could not forgive that person?" Then the Lord will say, "Then I can't forgive you either." Wouldn't that be a sad account?

It talks about fasting. It says to not appear like you are fasting. "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." (Matthew 6:16)

The Lord said how to fast. Don't let people recognize it. "But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6:17, 18)

The Lord sees us gathered together this morning. He sees each one and knows our every need. Some of you may be fasting out there . . . I can't observe it on your face. You may be fasting. If we are, we maybe have something on our heart or our mind that is bothering us. Something that we would like to have removed from us.

God can help us when we are sincere in fasting. "The Lord will reward thee openly." He said it again . . . and He says it several times in what we read this morning.

He talks about the treasures that we have in life. We can have treasures on earth that we put a lot of emphasis on . . . a lot of weight on. But he mentioned here to, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

You know, when you visit with someone, it does not take long to figure out where their treasure is. People know us by what we talk about and by what is mostly on our heart. That can be where our treasure is.

Today, as we are in God's house, let us have a spiritual mind. There are times out in the world that we talk about earthly occupations and earthly labors, but by the grace of God, let us lay that aside for the hours that we spend together today.

Think of that spiritual heart . . . that spiritual mind of where our treasure really is. We sing in that hymn about Christ the resurrected . . .

"Jesus bore our transgressions there upon the cross, And for us endured the anguish, as a meek lamb suffered loss. Therefore He won for me and thee, life and joy eternally."

Do we have that in our heart? Can we really say we have that in our heart, that Jesus bore all for us? That we have submitted ourselves unto Him? Can we say that we have resigned the old life and said, "Here I am Lord. From this day forth, my faith is in Thee?"

That is where my treasure is. My treasure is where my heart is. May your heart be with the Lord.

MAR 02709 RF
GORDON GREENBANK
11000 N CAVE CREEK RD
PHOENIX AZ 85020

SERMON BY ELDER BRO. HENRY DOTTERER OF RITTMAN, OH

"Forgiveness Brings Peace" Matthew 6

There are really a lot of things covered in this beautiful chapter. We would not have had to read all of this chapter. There is so much contained that we will probably overlook a lot of it.

But as we come to the last couple verses in this chapter, He brings things out the way it really is. It says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33) Isn't that good advice? The Lord knew how to bring this out.

He brought a beautiful message here. First of all, of how we do our alms. Today we have a collection for the Bible Fund. I don't believe any of us are going to stand up and say, "I put in so many dollars . . . can you match it?" I don't think we are going to do that. There is really no blessing in it.

What He is trying to say here is that when we do our giving, "Do not even let the other hand know what you are doing." I believe what he means by that is, "Do not tell your neighbor. You don't want to do that. You don't want to receive the rewards of men. It is God that gives the blessing."

You know, we hear so much, or can hear so much, about those seeking office, how one runs the other one down. Very negative thoughts come out. Here the Lord is trying

to bring something out very positive.

If you do that which is God's will, we will look for the blessing from God, not from men. All honor comes from God. If we exalt ourselves and put ourselves on a pedestal as we walk the pathway of life on earth, we may receive honor of men, but maybe not of God.

We have record in the Bible that we use as a reference. The Old Testament has many, many different kings who came and went. Some held the position of king for a long time and some not very long at all. Some God could use and some He could not use.

The Lord is the One who really puts it in hand. The Lord gives and the Lord can take away. So let us just commit it unto God.

Here we find how Christ could bring it out in this part of the Sermon on the Mount. He talked about the alms. He said, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 6:1)

Let us look at rewards. I think that most people, even children, are rewarded when they do something that is beneficial or honorable. Maybe they worked hard in school, and maybe they get some kind of reward, or something for their efforts.

People are that way. If we accomplish something, even with God's help, we may think, "Well, I ought to get a bonus for this." But the Lord looks at it this way: if we just do this to have honor of men, we really are not blessed.

"But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6:3, 4)

Haven't we many times been blessed so abundantly from God, more than our deserving? God would expect us to use these blessings in an honorable way. I believe the message we had here was for us today.

In the next part of this chapter, He talks about the true spirit of prayer. What is our prayer like? Quite often we seem to follow a pattern in our prayers. Words come easy for those things that we repeat many times.

He said, "When thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." (Matthew 6:5) You don't want to be that way.

"But thou, when thou prayest,
(Continued on Page 34)