



# *The Silver Lining*

*December 1994*

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,  
from whence cometh my help.*



"Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence"

Isaiah 64:1

"Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."

Isaiah 56:7

Volume 46

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Number 12

***Yea, a sword shall pierce through thine own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.***

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger;"

*St. Luke 2:7*

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

*St. Luke 2:11*



"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

*St. Luke 24:45-47*

When I view the majesty of the great mountains of this land, I rejoice that the Creator of these regal mountains also seen fit to send His Son to be born, to die, and rise again for the needed sacrifice to give opportunity for us all to someday be in Heaven. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the Highest.

At this blessed season we are acutely aware of God's grace and the precious gift of His only begotten Son.

The humility that He endured to come from Heaven and the great splendor which surrounded Him there, even before the foundations of the earth were laid, was more than anyone can ever comprehend. Joy fills our heart as we approach this season of love, gift giving, and fellowship.

Why then is this considered the season of depression and sorrow?

When we take our eyes off of the true purpose of this blessed season and begin to look at ourselves, we can begin to pity ourselves. Maybe we are separated from our family, or maybe we must endure this blessed season without a loved one, and we begin to think everyone else is so happy.

The world is portrayed as happy, out joyfully buying presents for the family and for some reason, we may not feel

that same "holiday spirit".

No one will have a magic answer except to keep our focus on the Lord and the true purpose of this season. Sometimes children can get a warped view of Christmas and begin to think about gifts. Teaching them that Christ is the most precious gift of all time and that He is given to all of us for our salvation is more important than any message we can pass on to them.

We cannot emphasize enough the sacrifice the Lord made for us and thus our heart should be prepared to pass on that message to our youth.

Do we take time to read the Bible story of the birth of Christ?

Do we visit around the table or in front of the warm fireplace about the good and most important things in life?

Do we take our children Christmas caroling?

Maybe you have found a unique way to portray God's love; if so, share that thought with loved ones.

There was a story written by a brother in the Roanoke church and presented to the Sunday School at the Christmas program a few years ago. This story has been reprinted in the Silver Threads section. While this is

just a story, based on real life experiences, it does carry a lesson which might be beneficial to us in keeping our focus on Jesus this Christmas season.

From the cradle to the cross, our Saviour walked. The journey took 33 years, but the purpose will last into eternity.

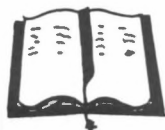
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Writings based  
on God's Word

# Light From The Word

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

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Parables are easily understood stories that use earthly circumstances to convey spiritual meanings. A parable may have one or more intended applications. Sometimes certain parts of a parable can also be used as teaching aids, but not every detail of the earthly circumstances in a parable has direct application to our lives.

The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) is an excellent model of a person's spiritual life. The believers make up the inn (church). The unconverted are on the road to Jericho in the form of priests, Levites, thieves, citizens of Jericho, or if they are fortunate, they are personified by the man who was robbed.

His point of origin, Jerusalem the holy city, indicates the innocent beginning that we all have. The direction of travel toward Jericho, the city of self-reliance (Num. 13:28,29), is symbolic of the path that we all place ourselves on as we grow out of innocence. On that path we yield to the temptations in the world around us, allow our sinful nature to take control and bring on full responsibility for our sin.

The thieves represent the deception of the world: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Col. 2:8) and "Let no man beguile (rob) you..." (Col. 2:18).

The brief duration of the assault in the parable doesn't always fit the reality of the assault of the world upon our faith (1 John 5:4). Instead, it is by Satan's design perpetual, sometimes subtle, and always attractive to our natural mind. The ruthlessness of the thieves, though, is a very accurate depiction of the tenacity of Satan, who never retreats from drawing as many people as possible into his clutches.

The victim's condition after the assault is

typical of our condition as we become choked by the "care of this world" (Matt. 13:22), still having some life (half dead—Luke 10:30), but being unfruitful (Matt. 13:22). We too are stripped when our innocence departs and is not naturally replaced by virtue, and we become wounded (afflicted) by a growing acceptance of, and cooperation with, the ways of the world. The Word teaches that "the friendship of the world is enmity with God" (Jam. 4:4).

The priest who looked on the victim and passed by could be seen as representative of the false doctrines and false teachers that exist in our time as well. The Levite could represent the masses that support and practice those false doctrines (Matt. 7:13). Since these men were not harmed by the thieves it seems that false doctrine (priest and Levite), worldliness (thieves), and unbelief and self-reliance (Jericho) all cooperate as arms of the adversary in ways that disguise their treachery. Together they pose an overwhelming force. Jesus, however, has never been overwhelmed by this worldly force. We are encouraged by the truth that "greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Likewise, "thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57).

The assaulted man should not be considered as one having no choice. He found the mercy of God and became willing to be healed. He submitted to the healing and cleansing (oil and wine) (Luke 10:34) of the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7). His change from serving the world to serving God occurred openly, for anyone to see. Likewise, conversion marks our beginning of publicly separating ourselves from worldliness and giving our lives into the service of the Lord.

The inn that received this sin sick soul is

a place that welcomes strangers (see Luke 17:15-18). The inn (church) must provide guidance through God's Word to help nourish faith in Christ and love for the Saviour and for all mankind. When the Lord brings any broken contrite soul to the inn, we dare not refuse him (Acts 11:9) but as workers together with Christ must receive him with tender care.

Each member is included in the work of providing care for needy souls. "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous" (1 Peter 3:8). The Word also teaches "that the members should have the same care one for another" (1 Cor. 12:25). We cannot pass off the responsibility of the keeping of the inn to any one person or any group (such as elders and ministers). The host (elder/ministers) did accept on behalf of the inn the nourishment necessary for the church to grow in faith and number by "holding (fast to) the Head (Christ), from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God" (Col 2:19).

Part of our work in the inn is to maintain separation from worldliness. This provides many benefits to the believer. It also demonstrates to unbelievers a clear distinction from, and a rewarding alternative to, their current lifestyles. A member of the inn that becomes lax and reclaims some of the image of the world causes confusion in the brotherhood and makes it difficult for the seeking soul to identify the inn. The care that should be thriving in the inn is addressed in Titus 3:8: "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works." "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17).



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN World Relief

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10



he concept of the church reaching out to the less fortunate may be found in the sixth chapter of the book of Acts. A situation arose in which the disciples were accused of neglecting the widows in need, and instead of leaving the spiritual work, they advised the brethren as follows:

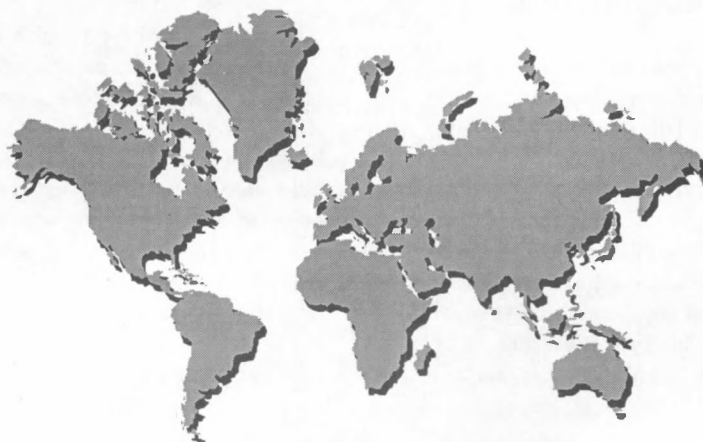
*"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."* ACTS 6:3

This was an initial effort toward humanitarian aid in the early church, and it is in the same spirit that the Apostolic Christian Church continues to help those in difficult situations. Since its beginning, the World Relief Committee has searched out and ministered to human needs. From a modest initial effort, we are now assisting people of many diverse cultures over a wide international area.

Our brethren feel that by the grace and mercy of God, they have reaped many spiritual blessings through these efforts. Many brothers, sisters, and friends have made experiences that have altered their priorities in life and brought new appreciation for the teachings of Christ. Unconverted volunteers witnessing human suffering have come under conviction to seek their soul's salvation. The World Relief Committee works in cooperation with the Mission Committee to meet humanitarian and spiritual needs around the world.

### This We Believe...

- ◆ Meeting human needs and serving others are integral parts of the life of a child of God.
- ◆ Earth's resources were placed here by the Creator to be shared with all people.
- ◆ When natural or manmade disasters occur, it is our reasonable service to address the needs which result.
- ◆ It is essential to help others by teaching and helping them to help themselves.
- ◆ Our efforts need to be coordinated through established church organizations, providing a channel through which volunteers can perform services or help financially to alleviate human misery.



*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.* MATTHEW 5:16



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

### Church Dedicated in Szeged, Hungary

Szeged, a Hungarian city of about 200,000, is situated very near the point where the countries of Romania and Yugoslavia meet. Over the decades, many Nazarene congregations grew in the trination area, some in each country. Today, Szeged remains not only home to a growing congregation, but also a point of meeting for our brethren in Europe.

In the latter part of the 19th century, Hungary and Austria became equal monarchies in the same empire and our faith experienced very rapid growth. By the end of the century, there were over 200 congregations with tens of thousands of members, Szeged included.

The congregation in Szeged purchased property in 1860, and have used the building on this property until the present time. Two World Wars plus Communism caused much suffering, but today another period of growth and building seems to be evident. In recent years there have been many converts, and as the congregation grew, the church building became very crowded.

With over 200 members, and large families, it became necessary to enlarge the facility. The old location did not lend itself to the needs of the new, plus it was in an expensive location. They were able to sell the old property to another denomination. As is often done in the USA, the brethren relocated on the outskirts of the city, still maintaining access to public transportation as many have no cars. Looking toward the future, they also decided to include a retirement and care center into the same structure. This large, well-constructed building was dedicated on the 13th of November, 1994.

Inasmuch as there has been considerable support from the brethren in the USA, an invitation to this event was extended to us. Brothers Ben Maibach, Andy Hunyady, and Wendell Gudeman, plus Bro. Wendell's wife, Sis. Marcella, left the USA on November 3 to attend this dedication and to visit churches in Hungary and Romania. A report of this visit will appear in a future Silver Lining article.

### Breidenbach Congregation Gets a New Facility

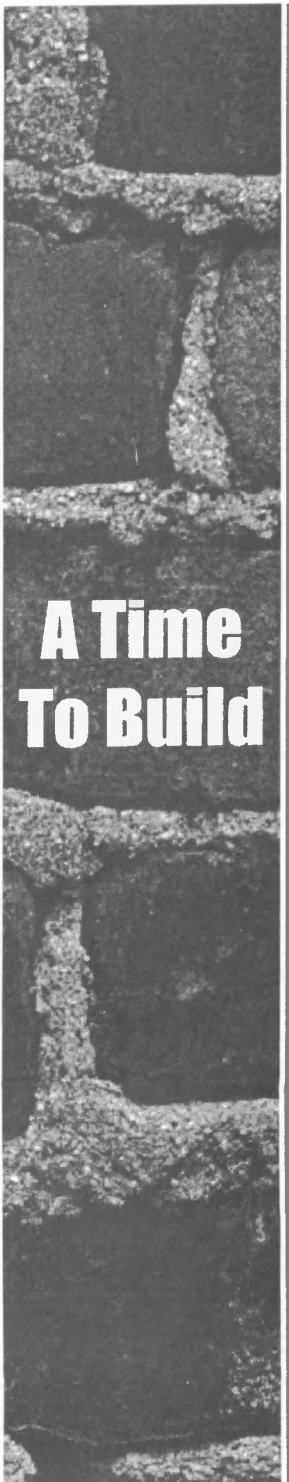
Nestled into the rolling hill country of west central Germany lies the village of Breidenbach. This thriving town has been home to a growing congregation of our brethren since about 1946. There are about 100 members, plus many friends and about 150 children. In the latter days of Communism, and since its fall, the World Relief and Mission Committees have worked very closely with the Breidenbach brethren to alleviate suffering and bring vital assistance to our struggling brethren throughout Eastern Europe.

Over the years, many refugees from Eastern Europe swelled the size of the congregation. In about 1991, they voted to build a new church, and at that time sent an appeal to us in America for assistance. Through the generosity of our brethren, we were able to share in its cost. Each time assistance arrived, tears were shed in the Breidenbach congregation as they felt and appreciated this great love offering.

The new facility will seat over 400 people on the main floor plus the balcony. Current plans are to hold dedication services in December, with our brethren hoping to attend.

The lower level of the new building includes an apartment for the caretaker family, plus two large rooms for storage of goods for relief work. Each room will hold an amount equal to a full semi trailer. This provides a valuable base for our use in bringing assistance to brethren throughout Europe. The pews were purchased and shipped from the US, and we were fortunate enough to be able to fill the extra space in the pew container with new and used clothing which will be held in the church and taken into Ukraine and/or Romania in the Spring of 1995.

It has been a year of growth and building in Europe, and thanks are given first to God and then to all who helped make it possible. Your reward will be in eternity.



**A Time  
To Build**

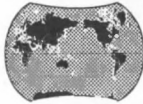
**- NOTICE -****Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books,  
Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books**

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 181 C, 307 W. First St.  
Congerville, IL 61729  
(309) 448-2416

or

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

**HAITI - JAMAICA  
Work Opportunities****JAMAICA**

Three projects are currently planned for the upcoming year. These will utilize 40 volunteers each, and are scheduled for:

- **Montego Bay** **January 4-12, 1995 (FILLED)**  
Coordinator - Bro. Mike Finley - (309) 376-7301
- **Deaf Village** **February 2-10, 1995**  
Coordinator - Bro. Mike Finley - (309) 376-7301
- **Deaf Village** **May 19-27, 1995**  
Coordinator - Bro. Phil Isabel - (219) 261-3541

**HAITI**

The dates are subject to final approval of an evaluation team from the Caribbean Board of World Relief scheduled for early January.

- **School Project #1** **January 27-February 4, 1995**  
Coordinator - Bro. Glen Hackenjors - (818) 442-4957
- **School Project #2** **February 10-February 18, 1995**  
Coordinator - Bro. Jim Walter - (815) 692-3158
- **School Project #3** **February 10-February 18, 1995**  
Coordinator - Bro. Tim Butikofer - (319) 426-5486
- **School Project #4** **February 24-March 4, 1995**  
Coordinator - Bro. Craig Emch - (216) 939-4591
- **School Project #5** **March 4-March 11, 1995 (FILLED)**  
Coordinator - Bro. Bill Stoller - (219) 824-4686

Anyone wishing to participate in these projects should contact the Project Coordinator listed above for details.

For additional information, call:  
Bro. Harold Witzig - (309) 266-6263

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION**

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches  
Eleven Years --- August 1983 thru July 1994 --- 286,620

Bibles Distributed --- Twelfth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1994 --	2,740	2,740
September 1994 --	2,982	5,722
October 1994 --	2,317	8,039

\*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 -****TEXAS, ROUND TOP**

Sandy Darlington

Services for the Houston area are no longer being held in the Holiday Inn. We are now meeting in the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top, Texas. We will continue to be helped by ministers from various congregations on the last Sunday of every month. If anyone is in the Houston/Austin area and would like to join us for services, please contact Bill Zeltwanger at (409) 249-5102, or Sandy Darlington at (409) 297-8301.

**AVAILABLE:**

Polyester clothing for quilts and lap robes in 50lb. bales.

*(In conjunction with World Relief)*

Call or write:

Evelyn Hangartner  
RR 1 Box 102  
Roanoke, IL 61561  
1-309-923-7289

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

Silverton, OR Church  
Building Project

The edifice is closed to the elements, with the roof completed. The current needs include:

- A. Brick masons for work on the exterior of the building,
- B. Electricians for electrical and sound system wiring,
- C. Drywall installers,
- D. Painters

While the need is in the sequence listed, any interested volunteer should make contact for latest work schedule.

Bro. Orin Rufener has been directing the project. Local project manager is Bro. Loren Dettlyer. If he cannot be reached at the job site phone, 1-503-873-2582, phone his and Sis. Marlene's home, 1-503-873-4853. For accommodations phone Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi, 1-503-873-4853.

## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

Time passes so quickly, doesn't it! Someone once said that nothing remains the same for very long. Neither the black clouds nor the silver linings are permanent. Of course, we would all prefer the silver linings. However, it is the black clouds that seem to teach us more of what we need to know to give us lasting trust and faith in God. Even though the situations that brought the black clouds may always be with us, with God's grace we are able to live with what we must, and we accept His divine judgment of what is best for us. The very burdens that seem so awesome can bring us so close to the hand of God. Being close to God always brings joy and peace despite life's turmoils. Since this is the season of Thanksgiving, let us be thankful for all things, especially the faithfulness of God and the beauty of His promises.

As we near the Christmas season, we cannot help but be thankful for the greatest gift and sacrifice of all time...the birth of our Saviour. So much for which to be thankful!

Our residents remain busy with various activities. Horseback riding, swimming, water aerobics, dining out and, of course, shopping are among the many activities. Thanksgiving dinner, with turkey and all the trimmings, is scheduled for November 17 in order not to conflict with family plans. The resident council is planning their annual holiday outing. This is usually an exciting event.

January birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH - Steve Penn (8), Edith Wagenbach (8), Karen Blunier (14), Bruce Steffen (19), Jackie Willett (19), John Eddy (27), Tom Sides (31). OAKWOOD - Max Honegger (22),

Laverna Zobrist (25). LINDEN - Mary Schramm (13). 520 MAIN ST. - Rhonda Gerst. None at 200 E. HAZELWOOD or 207 WAGLER. Birthday cards are always welcome.

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## **GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Todd and Carol Schrock**

As I am writing this, we are anticipating Thanksgiving. We are thankful for many things that have, are and will be happening here at Gateway Woods!

At the Schrock home we are thankful that Cathy G. has joined our household. She is a pleasant young lady we are enjoying getting to know. We are also thankful Christy K. is home again with her mother and keeping in touch. Kevin and Brenda Fiechter have recently welcomed Mark L. to their home. We trust God to add the increase in the lives of the young people we serve.

We, as a staff team, are thankful for a campout we had together. It was a time of bonding and sharing as we walked, talked, sang, ate and laughed together in the great outdoors. God provided ideal weather and we thank Him for choosing to do that for us.

Campus wide we celebrated another good harvest. Our harvest was an evening of fellowship and food that everyone seemed to enjoy. Thanks to Andria, Deb N. and Deb G. for the great job of planning and preparing.

Recently we had two outings. One to Princeville, IL and one to the dentist! Thanks to the families in Princeville who invited us and did so much for us. We had a great time with you and are thankful for the new friendships created as well as for the old friendships sharpened and renewed.

The outing to the dentist was both pleasure and pain for us! Some of us were thankful to be given a brighter smile while others weren't sure (because of nasty drills). We really appreciate the volunteer dentists and their helpers for the time and talent spent on our behalf.

In mid-November we had the great opportunity to host the Leo Jr./Sr. High School faculty for an in-service. It was beneficial to have them on our campus to increase empathy, understanding and communication concerning our children and the various aspects of their school and home life.

We are also thankful for our Heavenly Father who is faithful! We trust Him to provide in every way. There are a number of openings for a variety of positions on our staff. Pray that our faith will increase every day and that God will lead us all to do His will. Whether in Alabama, at Gateway Woods or in whatever place or neighborhood He chooses, we are reminded to never fear, only trust and obey.

Now in this Christmas season, we praise our God for the gift of His Son! May all people everywhere be encouraged with the birth of Christ Jesus and may our hearts be filled with Thanksgiving forever!

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## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Doris Fischer**

"Father, we thank Thee for the night,  
And for the pleasant morning light,  
For rest and food and loving care,  
For all that makes the day so fair...".

So begins the mealtime prayer

we say here at preschool. Sometimes even at playtime the children will start to recite this prayer. It gently reminds us of the direction in Ephesians 5:20 of "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Our themes for the month of November were Thanksgiving and nutrition, as well as the color brown. The children enjoyed a Thanksgiving "feast" with the older class acting as Pilgrims and the younger children posing as Indians.

We held our annual fund-raising Trike-A-Thon in which the children receive pledges or donations for riding their tricycles around a course. We had great weather and the children pedaled hard; many of them had to be stopped after their 40th lap!

We are grateful for God's provision of a new teacher for our youngest children. We welcomed Sis. Beci Fischer (Morton, IL) and wish her God's grace in her new teaching position. Unfortunately, as we gain one staff member we lose another. "Miss Retta" Knobloch and her family are moving back to Illinois in the first part of December. We will miss Retta, but trust that as God has led, He will also provide.

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### ALABAMA, ATHENS

#### Pam Moore

November is the month for the Apostolic Christian Preschool Board Meeting. We were privileged to have Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and ministering Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Lyn Klopfenstein (Leo, IN). We thank God for allowing them to bring the Word of God to us on

Sunday. We also had our monthly potluck lunch the same Sunday.

We are so thankful to have Sis. Shirley Haggenmaker worshiping with us in church again. Sis. Shirley is still recovering from a long hospitalization and still needs our prayers for recovery.

We were saddened by the death of Sis. Joan Schrenk's father in October, and pray that God will comfort their family through this difficult time. We came to know Joan's father, Maxell Bennett, when he spent time with them in Athens.

Sis. Anais Perry has also spent time in the hospital this past month, and would appreciate your prayers.

The third Saturday of November, the Sunday School held its annual fall festival. Adults and children alike enjoyed a hot dog supper and various activities of the fall season. Fall Festivals are a tradition in the South.

We look forward to visitors as many make their journey to the South for the winter. For anyone in our area, we hold services on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m.

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### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

#### Ron and Ev Hoerr

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

*Romans 10:9*

The weekend of October 29 and 30 we heard the testimonies of Jeff, Scott and Todd Klopfenstein and Matt Roth and witnessed their baptisms. We welcome our new brothers into God's family and pray for their steadfast love and devotion. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klop-

fenstein and Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Roth. All four sets of grandparents were present. Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) came to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich. This was our first time to baptize three in one family. Many enjoyed a "home cooked" beef burgundy and noodles fellowship dinner and singing in the evening.

One of any church's largest get-togethers is the yearly picnic. His love is flowing abundantly and we are all partakers, young and old. After a picnic supper, the children and the chorus sang to us. A special thanks to the teachers and spouses for a great event.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS). We are thankful for the inspiring messages. May God bless you.

We welcome Bro. Jake, Sis. Wanda, Franz, Anneliese and T'Kya Hoerr back to Phoenix. They have been in Iowa three years where he was in school. May God bless you and direct your pathway.

On November 13, we heard Jill Dotterer has peace and is looking forward to giving her testimony and baptism. Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne are her parents.

Our hearts are filled with joy when those who have been on the absentee list can worship again: Sisters Vera Jivan, Josephine Martin, Gerry Beyer, Ora Schrenck, Shirley Blunier and Quill Barna.

We need prayers for Sis. Emily Greenbank (broken arm), Erin Metzger (new arm casts), Bro. Clarence Yackley (skin cancer on nose), Bro. Jerry Emch and Bro. Ron Hoerr (surgery). Sis. Helen Wuthrich and Bro. Alvin Laukhuf were hospitalized for studies.

Our sympathy to Sis. Emma



Sanders, Bro. Bill Sanders and Bro. Bob Farney on their brother and uncle's death, Bro. Harvey Farney, of Wichita.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON

**Lisa Knapp**

We were blessed with another opportunity to partake of Communion on Sunday, November 6. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and our Deacon, Bro. Loren Knapp, served us communion on this special Sunday, giving us the chance to meet and greet each other in a renewed spirit. We thank Bro. Jon for traveling to serve us, both in Communion and on the pulpit.

Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) visited us recently on a Wednesday evening and also served us on the pulpit. We would like to thank Bro. Al for making the trip to Tucson. May God richly add His blessings.

We gathered together Saturday, November 5, to complete various projects for a World Relief mission to Juarez. Soap, health kits and prenatal kits were all made to be sent to Juarez in December. That same evening, we enjoyed a meal and a talk by Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich on our responsibility to our church. It was a blessed day all around.

mindful of our Lord's humble birth in a lowly manger, and that it was the dawn of our Redeeming Grace. What joy floods the soul who has experienced that redeeming grace almost 2000 years later. How thankful we should be that our precious Lord took on flesh and blood to fulfil the plan of God, and now is interceding to His Heavenly Father on our behalf.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Paul Messer Sr. who passed away on November 12. May the Lord comfort them in their time of sorrow.

Our Bro. Nathan Moser, who suffered a heart attack in October, has now moved into a convalescent home and is slowly recovering. Our prayers are with him as he relies on the "Healer" for strength and upliftment. He really appreciates the many prayers, cards and visits.

It's so wonderful to have our Sis. Blanche Coldeen worship with us on Sunday mornings. After many months of not being able to, it's a joy to see her smiling face in our congregation.

We do appreciate our elderly brothers and sisters and their wonderful examples to us, and we do miss them when they cannot attend regularly.

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

**Joy Nenadov**

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

*Isaiah 9:6*

Greetings!

As we approach the season of our Saviour's birth, we are re-

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### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

**Rose Huette**

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and  
worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn  
King.

*Hymns of Zion #41*

Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and our Elder

Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). Thank you so much for coming and for your labors of love. Also, thanks to all our visitors. Come back soon.

We recently held our church potluck and were richly blessed to have some come from Altadena to join us. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and the singing was beautiful.

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### COLORADO, DENVER

**Jamie Grant**

Why is Christmas so depressing for many? Is it because many of our loved ones are kept separated from us due to the miles in between us, or because some have passed away from this earthly life and are unable to spend these treasured Yule moments with family? Is it because we are constantly bumping into Santa on every corner, or because someone always returns the gift you gave them because they "didn't like it"?

Whatever the case may be, may we recognize that Satan will use anything, even our very natural desires to feel love by others to distract our focus on Christmas day to exclusively celebrate and praise the birth of our Lord and Saviour. May it be a "Holy" day as we say "Happy Birthday" Jesus.

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

*Eccles. 3:1-2*

Our sympathies go to Margaret Romersberger (Meeker, CO) and family due to the passing of a husband, father and friend, Orville Romersberger. Also, to our Bro. Chuck Wiegand and his family with the passing of his grandfather, Bro. Ben Wettstein (Eureka Apostolic Christian Home). May

we all long to see our loved ones and the face of Jesus as we strive for eternity.

We rejoice with Brad Hays (Patricia Hays, Chicago, IL) who has felt that this is the time and season to turn his life around. Brad has found faith to believe that Jesus Christ has died for his sins and has turned to God in repentance. May we ever do our part in prayerful support and in encouraging him.

"Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,"

*Ephesians 5:24-26*

We rejoice in the engagement of Bro. John Elder (George and Charlotte, Arlington Heights, IL) and Sis. Joleen Messner (Sis. Julie, Winthrop, MN). We wish them God's richest blessings and are anxious to have Sis. Joleen join us in Denver.

The Denver congregation wishes all a very blessed Christmas.

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

Bro. Vern and Sis. Jean Bahler rejoiced in the birth of a son, Eric Joseph, who was born on November 6. His sister, Carly, welcomes him. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Aline Bahler and Bro. Joe and Sis. Alma Skipper.

We are happy that our hospital patients are convalescing; Sis. Julia Bahler and Sis. Louise Bally. May God be with them.

Believing it was God's will, Bro. Ed Garrow (Bro. Bernie and Marie) and Sis. Cindy Stomberg's

(Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy) engagement was announced on October 16. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Joe Koch (Sis. Sandy) in the passing of his mother, Sis. Myrna Koch (Tremont, IL).

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

#### Henrietta Meyer

As you read this, we have just celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday. How thankful we should be our government sets aside a special day for remembering and thanking God for all our blessings.

We enjoyed getting acquainted with Bro. Doug, Sis. Sarah and Taylor Wettstein from Gridley, IL. Bro. Doug had a seminar in the area for a couple of weeks.

Visiting ministers this month were: Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL), and Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA).

The Sunday that Elder Bro. Joe was here, he and Elder Bro. Ed shared the Memorandum with us. May we all take heed.

Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT and Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Bro. Matthew Aeschleman's latest trip to the hospital has lasted about two weeks. As this is being written, they are planning to go home later this week. Our prayers are with Bro. Matt and Sis. Jill and their parents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy and Bro. Gene and Sis. Delores Metzger (Lester, IA).

Services are held the first, third, and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west

of the Beltway (I-495). Some from the local congregation meet at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast in the hotel dining room. Services are at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you will be in the area, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749, Bro. Ed Stoll (301) 258-5001, or Bro. Matthew Aeschleman (301) 863-9624.

### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

#### Mary Ann Klaus

We want to welcome Bill and Emily Hall into our area. They have moved to Lantana, FL where Bill is a dive instructor, and are formerly from Rockville, CT. We look forward to fellowshiping with them.

In order to have more fellowship with our senior citizens, we are planning to have a luncheon at the Fellowship Hall every two weeks. We will take turns preparing and serving the food and then spend the afternoon reminiscing and becoming better acquainted with our "seniors". The first of these was held on November 17; we had a good time and are looking forward to the next one.

Our sympathy is extended to Kaywin Martin and Sis. Terri Huber in the death of their father and grandfather, Bro. Orville Martin (Roanoke, IL). May He be especially close to them in the coming days.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

May God bless all of those who remembered me during my hospital stay and since returning home for recuperation from surgery. I was overwhelmed by the love shown through cards, gifts and prayers.

*Sis. Joyce Banwart*

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

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

*Psalm 100:4-5*

As we approach the day that our nation celebrates the Thanksgiving holiday, we realize that we, as a nation, have much to give thanks for this year. We have embraced the people to lead our government that hold fast to Christian, pro-family values. We look forward to a reversal of the moral decay our nation has been facing. We have a continuing duty to hold our leaders up in prayer, that God will be glorified, and our nation will continue to be blessed. May we also hold up our church leaders in prayer, that His will may always be done in all things.

We were blessed to be fed from His Holy Word by three visiting ministers this month. Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Darrell Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) all shared with us. May God bless them, along with their families, for their untiring service.

We also enjoyed a potluck supper at Vic and Dottie Beer's this month. The food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

## **FLORIDA, SARASOTA Jeff and Gloria Fischer**

The Sarasota church has been reminded in recent days, "Behold I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: Is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27)

Do you know anyone living in

Florida who has absented themselves from Sunday worship...family members, friends of the truth? Jesus bids us to go out into the highways and byways and to call them in for He has prepared a feast. He has required us to help out with the invitation list. We are instructed that the fields are white unto harvest, but that the laborers are few. If He lays someone on your heart, prayerfully submit their name and address to:

Glenn and Sandra Price  
2304 Ringling Blvd.  
Sarasota, FL 34237-6132  
(813) 955-7027

Bro. Ernst Koehlert was hospitalized for respiratory problems. He is stable and should return to the nursing home in a few days.

Sis. Kathryn Schroeder is bright and cheerful. She does, however, experience lonely moments. She tires easily and therefore rarely leaves home. She would appreciate hearing from friends this holiday season. Miss Schroeder, 3749 Sarasota Square Blvd., Apt #311, Sarasota, FL 34238-5565

## **GEORGIA, ATLANTA John Brewer**

We were blessed to have three ministers this past November to share the Word with us. Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). We appreciate these brothers and their families to take the time and be with us on Sunday.

This fall has been a stark contrast to what our summer was like. Unlike this past summer which was wet and damp, this fall has been dry and warm. It is amazing how God balances everything out when nature is concerned, with dry weather to offset the constant rain experienced last

July and August. God puts the same type of balance in our lives. When going through the storms of life, Jesus becomes that dry ground we look for to stabilize our footing. As we all go through our individual storms, I am thankful that Jesus provides the warmth to weather the storm. And as always, it does eventually become warm and sunny again.

If you are in Atlanta on business, visiting for vacation, or passing through on your way to Florida, please stop in to worship with us. We meet every Sunday at 10:20 at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located on I-85 just off the Riverdale Rd exit just south of the Atlanta airport. If you are stopping in, please give either Bro. Linn Stoller (404) 631-4554, Bro. Don Sellers (404) 381-1395 or Bro. John Brewer (404) 502-8629 a call.

## **ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Peg Anliker**

We are thankful once again for the visitors who have assembled with us; especially ministering Bros. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), and Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL). Surely it's not an easy task to stand before a congregation. We do appreciate the brothers' willingness to be used of God to feed the flocks. May God richly bless each one.

We're rejoicing with Karen Spencer who has found peace with God. What an encouragement to have dear ones turn to the Lord in repentance! May God's name be praised and may many more be gathered in before the day of grace is over.

As we remember Christ's humble birth this time of year, may we also remember His cruel suffering and His triumphant resurrection.

**ILLINOIS,  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Janice Horner - Debbie Grieco**

Guest ministers this month were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner, and Bros. Doyle Frauhiger and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). We thank each one for being submissive to the Lord and allowing themselves to be His vessels. We enjoy and appreciate having guests. May the Lord richly bless you for your efforts.

On November 13 we witnessed the baptisms of Jill Bauer (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marcia) and Sharon Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser). Heaven smiles as more children are added to the fold.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Paula Knapp, Sis. Carol Sauder, Sis. Anne Marie Young, and Beth Harrell. We pray that each may be blessed with good health once again.

God's plan fulfilled as He had  
willed,

Then came the Christ on earth  
The star so bright in deepest night  
Foretold his blessed birth.

The angels throng with joyous  
song

Appeared to shepherds meek  
The angel's word the shepherds  
heard

Then went they forth to seek.

*Hymns of Zion #35*

As we focus on the wonderful story of the Christ Child's birth this holiday season, let us be ever so grateful for the many blessings He bestows on us, and concentrate on the true meaning of Christmas.

*Note of Thanks:*

Thank you to all our dear ones who remembered us throughout the past months and also for our 25th anniversary. May God bless

each one of you, as He has blessed us.

*The Lynn Young Family  
(Matthew 25:40)*

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**

**Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and though we should always be thankful for all God has given us, it's good to have a day to remind us of His goodness and to reflect on His blessings. With Christmas near, we are reminded of God's greatest gift to us. That gift is His Son who came to die for the sins of all men, and may we never forget that it's "not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free".

Bro. Fred and Sis. Sue Hausmann were blessed with the arrival of their first child, Amy Jo, on November 9. Her grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Verla Hausmann and Bro. Noah and Sis. Evalyn Herrmann (Princeville, IL).

We rejoice with our new sister-in-the-Lord, Heather Wohlrab. She was baptized in Champaign on November 13. We are thankful she assembles with us in Bradford when she is home from school.

On November 6, Bro. Matt Zimmerman and Sis. Sara Ringger were united in the Lord. Parents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Laurene Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Ringger. We wish Bro. Matt and Sis. Sara God's richest blessings now and throughout their life together.

Bro. Harold Tanner had a misfortune when he broke his leg this fall. We are thankful he is recovering.

This month we were blessed again with a number of visiting ministers. They were Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), and Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit,

MI) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). May God bless them for their labors.

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN**

**Margie Heintz**

On the last weekend of October a singing/shower was held to welcome a new couple to our congregation. Bro. John and Sis. Lisa (Schneider) Walder were married several weeks earlier in Remington, IN. Now they are returning to John's home church to begin their life together. We are thankful that they are here and we pray that they will feel God's blessings and that together we will "...consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." (Hebrews 10:24).

We all extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Justin Koch in the sudden death of his mother, Sis. Merna Koch, of Tremont, IL. Although he and Sis. Marcia and little Ben miss her very much, we know that they are rejoicing with the angels because another victory has been won. We know they are comforted by the knowledge that Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:" (John 11:25). Sis. Merna lived her life in that belief.

On the weekend of November 12 and 13, we were privileged to hear the testimony and to witness the baptism of Heather Wohlrab, daughter of John and Bev Wohlrab of Kewanee. She is another living testimony of a life changed by the power of God's Spirit. We are thankful for the many visitors who came to rejoice with us and to welcome her into our fellowship. May she (as well as each of us) grow closer to God through diligent prayer and reading in God's Word, as we were encouraged to do. "Through thy

precepts I get understanding..." (Psalm 119:104).

Following a meal at church and time for fellowship, the evening ended with a family hymn sing at which the college students shared several hymns that they had recently sung at college weekend.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), and Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). We thank you all for serving God and us so faithfully.

Reminder: Silver Lining subscriptions are due for Champaign in December.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Kathy Schlatter

"The world is too much with us late and soon...We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!" (Wordsworth) As the choir was practicing, we had noise and activity from the hall taking our concentration and attention. An adult in charge shut the doors and now we were removed from the distraction, free to focus. That is what it takes in my life then---to figuratively shut the doors on---well, that is the hard part, isn't it? For me, it would be easy to name some tasks I'm not so fond of, part of which are in my job description and I am paid to do. It would also be easy to name some tasks I find hard to do, or some people with whom I find interaction more difficult, and I could shut the doors on them. But, no, I think I need to try another direction. First of all, my focus must be to "prefer nothing whatever to Christ". Secondly, my manner must be the Lord's combination of truth and love: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord,

my strength, and my redeemer." (Psalm 19:14). Thus, it seems that I must reverse this "shutting-the-doors" process, opening the world's access to me, "my doors", only after I have spent time shut in with Him, only after my words and my heart are concentrated on Him. Then impatience will not be with me, nor resentment, nor envy, nor feeling "put-upon". Instead, I will have "acceptance-with-joy" and "bearing-in-love" (from Hind's Feet in High Places), flowers--attitudes--to remind me that the world is not too much with me unless I forget to prepare behind closed doors.

We are a most privileged people, blessed by the visits of brothers from various congregations. Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Ben Wiegand (Columbus, OH), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) have been used of the Lord to stir up our pure minds and remind us of our gifts and His expectations from us. Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) also exhorted us. Elder Bro. Ben, along with our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann, served us Communion in the Lord's name on Saturday, October 30. Though we are not of ourselves worthy, we are to stretch forth the hand of faith and sup with Him as we have claimed His sacrifice. How blessed it is to receive of the Lord's goodness!

Bro. Dale and Sis. Pam Steiner are the happy parents of Natalie Brooke, born November 16. Natalie's grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Shirley Steiner (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm (Gridley, IL). Her great-grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Charlotte Steiner and Sis. Louise Gramm (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Caroline Gudeman (Cissna Park, IL). This tiny new

miracle is a joy to each of them and to our church family. May we pray for Natalie and her parents and be willing helpers in her life directly and indirectly, as the Lord sees fit to use us.

Sis. Frances Schrenk, 83, passed away in Pontiac, IL. Her funeral was November 19 in Fairbury, IL and her burial in Lexington, OH. Though she was a resident of Fairview Haven, she was previously in Chicago and Phoenix, AZ. She is survived by her brother, Bro. John Schrenk, and her sister, Sis. Martie Grivet, both of the Chicago church; nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Sis. Frances had her trials, but she always had a sweet smile. May the Lord who took her Home comfort her family that is left behind.

I'll never forget a particular church visit when my husband was fielding a host of "Schlatter-connection" questions with NO, until a brother said, "There was a Schlatter that married a Rassi", and Jim said, in a very surprised tone, "That's me." Finally, he had found a niche. We were very well taken care of there; I do not mean to imply otherwise. Sometimes, however, perhaps our words do not express what we truly feel. Have I not been guilty of making people uncomfortable by my words of introduction? What if I ask about a person's relationship to others (the "family tree") in the church, and he/she doesn't have any? Won't he/she feel left out? Or what if there is some concern about parent(s) or living arrangements this person would rather not reveal to my questioning, to me --- the "not-so-perfect" stranger? With my students I always want to know them individually, regardless of their siblings or parents. Should that not also be true of those I meet in His church? Small towns are famous for their

coziness and warmth because everyone knows everyone else, but infamous for their gossip and often-closed hearts to outsiders, because everyone knows everyone else. Our church body can be famous or infamous in the same way---welcoming or closed. Through His Spirit, we can look into each heart and see his potential, knowing Christ has not only died for this person, but He has also brought us into contact with them for a purpose. I have much pondering to do so that I may greet each one as He would.

"It Is Well with My Soul" was sung at my aunt's funeral recently. Hearing it, knowing it was true, was so special. Aunt Martha repented at the age of 82, two years ago. But what I was struck by in the service was an answer to my frustration: Aunt Martha had a friend for perhaps 60 years, whose death was an impetus in her repentance. Here I was, becoming discouraged because I have spent seven years with a particular friend who knows little of the Lord and shows no signs of searching deeper. Undoubtedly it will take more time...ten years? fifteen? twenty? Ah, it is not how long repentance takes for my friend, but how faithful my prayers and my life are for my friend. Lord, send down Thy grace in rich measure on us as Christian friends, on each person's Christian friends the world around, that Thy harvest may be full.

*"When He Shall Come"*

When He shall call, from earth's  
remotest corners,  
All who have stood triumphant in  
His might,  
O to be worthy then to stand  
beside them,  
And in that morn to walk with  
Him in white!

**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**

**Anna Marie Reutter**

**Cyndee Anderson**

Our congregation was once again saddened by the loss of a dear brother. Bro. Alph Eisenmann passed away on November 3 at the hospital in Watseka. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Ernestine, and his daughters, Vera (Roger) Knapp, and Virginia (Floyd) Keating, of Phoenix, AZ, as well as foster daughter, Karen Sue Kiger of Linden, IN.

At Home, 'tis well! Then let us  
hasten thither  
Through pain and death on to our  
homeland shore!  
On, boldly on! When this short  
life is o'er,  
New life will bloom for us and  
never wither.

*Zion's Harp #170*

We enjoyed visitors from many places on Sunday, November 6, and especially ministering Bros. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). The next Sunday, the young group was host to several visiting young groups. Having the front benches of our big church filled with young people is so inspiring to all of us. The singing was so beautiful. It is our prayer that these young believers can gain strength and inspiration from these weekends of fellowship, to be a light in our darkening world. Also here that day was Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) who served us from the pulpit. We appreciate his willing service.

Visiting us at other times this month were Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). Both of these brothers are always welcome.

We want to extend our sympa-

thy to Sis. Isabelle Bauer on the death of her brother, Glenn Feller, Forrest, IL. Our life is truly a vapour that "appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14)

The Bible Class and teachers spent the day in Fairbury on Sunday, October 30. It was a day enjoyed by all, with good food provided for the soul and the body, and warm fellowship with friends old and new.

On Sunday, November 13, the Bible Class and teachers sang for several of our shut-ins and on the 20th they plan to attend the ACYF in Congerville. May the efforts of all involved bring joyful fruit in the future.

We rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie Waldbeser in the birth of their first child, Kaleb Frederick, born November 3. His grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn Edelman (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser.

We wish God's blessing of healing for Sis. Shirley Krumwiede as she is home recuperating from foot surgery.

Our World Relief group has been busy making comforters and doll clothes this month, and our Sunday School, grades 3rd through 8th, hope to deliver Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families in the area this coming Sunday. As what we call the "holiday season" approaches, may we take time first of all to make someone else happy. Then surely the true happiness of Christmas will be ours as well.

*Notes of Thanks:*

The Helen Lackey family would like to thank everyone who remembered her during her stay at the hospital and the nursing home. The kind words, deeds, and prayers were very much appreciated.

We sincerely want to thank everyone for the many prayers, visits, cards, flowers, food and memorial donations for our dear father while he was in the nursing home and at his death. We will always remember your acts of kindness and sympathy.

*The family of Jacob Funk*

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Beth Steffen - Arlene Banwart**

Ye sisters all, start on the way,  
In service for our Lord,  
In watchful striving, fervent  
prayer,  
You'll find a rich reward.

*Zion's Harp #143*

A large group of single sisters graced us with their presence last month and we were reminded of their special function in the church body. Our appreciation goes to them as well as Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) who labored for us the same Sunday.

Ministering Bros. John Hartman and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) also brought forth the Word this past month. They, their families and accompanying visitors helped make the day a blessed one with an all-church potluck and singing held that evening.

With great joy and thankfulness we report that our dear friend, Marie Eglin, has turned to God in repentance. She has been a faithful attender of our church for years and we wish her God's grace and direction on this new pathway. Marie's father, Bro. Ed Eglin, served in the Congerville ministry for over 40 years after moving here from Morris, MN in 1916. Since a recent fall, Marie has been residing with her nephew and family, but is able to assemble with us again.

Sis. Naomi Schrock submitted

to surgery and recuperated satisfactorily with a short stay at the Eureka Home. Sis. Jeanette Knapp (Bro. Glenn) has been transferred to the Eureka Home for physical therapy after sustaining critical injuries in an auto accident in September.

We wish God's blessings on Chris Miller and Michelle Gastman as they have announced their engagement. Parents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis Miller and John and Sis. Barb Gastman of Roanoke, IL.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

*Psalms 127:3*

We welcome the safe arrival of three babies this month and seek God's blessings on them and their families. Reuben William Knobloch was born October 25 to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Knobloch and big brother, Russell. Grandparents include Bro. Orvie and Sis. Lauretta Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Eldon and Irene Stahl (Princeville, IL).

Jacey Gail, born November 3 to Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree Hartman is also welcomed by sister, Perri, and brother, Nathan. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Lou Hartman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Taufer (Morton, IL).

On November 9, Logan John was born to John and Renae Dietrich and daughter, Hannah. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri Dietrich and Gary and Sis. Wanda Edwards (Goodfield, IL). Sis. Sarah Dietrich is Logan's great-grandmother.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock also welcome another grandchild, Kolton Michael, born to Mike and Jenni Merritt on November 14.

November 6 was another blessed day for our congregation

as we added two lambs to the fold and joined in Holy Communion that evening. Grant Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) and Brian Walder (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) became our dear brothers-in-faith. We also sincerely thank Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) for taking part in the Saturday evening services. Elder Bro. Art spent the entire weekend with us and we're grateful to him for assisting our Elder Bro. Bob as we solemnly partook of the cup and loaf. May our brotherhood be knit together in love by praying for each other as we go to our separate battlefields in life.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank everyone for the love and concern shown to us since the accident; especially for the many prayers, encouraging words, cards, flowers, and gifts of love to our families. May the Lord bless each one for their thoughtfulness and love.

*Sis. Jeanette and Bro. Glenn Knapp and family*

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**

**Renee Anliker**  
**Debbie Sauder**

In true repentance, die to sin,  
In Jesus' name believing!  
Baptized into His death with Him,  
Full pardon be receiving!  
Who dies with Christ will with  
Him rise,  
A new life's way before him lies,  
The road of life with Jesus.

*Zion's Harp #106*

How grateful we are for each sinner that can heed the call to true repentance, die to sin and surrender their life to Jesus. We rejoice, with the angels above, that Matt Schambach (Bro. Tom

and Sis. Connie) has found grace to take the first step of faith in repentance. May he, in time, find that full pardon only Christ can offer.

November 5 and 6 was the weekend Mark Gasser (Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary) shared with us how God had wrought a new way in his heart and life. We trust God will continue to guide Bro. Mark along the road of life, and provide for him every moment of every day. Present with us for this blessed occasion was Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Neal Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). Other visiting ministers this month included, Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). May God continue to inspire His servants to preach the true Word, without fear nor favor of man. As we, His children, are then hearers of that true Word, may God grant each of us the inspiration to be obedient unto the same.

Once a year a special meal is prepared for our aged brethren and friends, 70 years and older. It was again an evening of blessing for the guests, but also for those who made the evening possible. May God bless each one!

Precious moments were abundant this month, not only for the old, but also for the young. The Sunday School hosted fellow students from Belvidere, Chicago and Princeville, IL. We are thankful for the evidence of them enjoying time spent together. May we each be more fervent in prayer, on their behalf, that the desire to truly fellowship with God's children grows stronger, until, by God's grace, they can be drawn unto repentance.

Hospital and surgical patients

this month were Sis. Edna Boliger, Sis. Rose Eurich and Ed Schifferer (Sis. Dorothy). May God, who is the Healer of both body and soul, restore our loved ones as He certainly is able.

May God also comfort Sis. Nancy (Bro. Ron) Schambach in the loss of her aunt. How fleeting this lifetime really is, but what a joy to arrive at the end of life---prepared.

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

*Matthew 1:23*

We can all testify that God indeed has been with us throughout another year. As the season approaches, in which we commemorate our Saviour's birth, may we bear in mind the unwavering faithfulness God has shown unto us, and honor Him every day with an obedient, self-sacrificing walk of life, which is only our reasonable service.

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dori Blunier**

"And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

*Luke 1:46-47*

This Christmas season, may we rejoice in our Lord and Saviour even as Mary did of old.

We rejoice with Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Bro. Leland and Sis. Laurene) and Sis. Sara Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen of Bradford, IL) who were married on November 6 in Bradford. Our prayer is that they will always look to God for their guidance and direction in their life together.

We sympathize with the family

of Sis. Edna Stoller who was called from this life on Tuesday, November 1. We extend our sympathy to her brothers, Bro. Willis and Bro. Melvin of Eureka, Bro. Lester of Peoria, Clarence of Marquette heights, Bro. Vernon of Burlington, IA; and her sister, Sis. Stella Zimmerman, of Morton. Sis. Edna's family wishes to extend their thanks to everyone for their love and kindness shown to them at the time of her death.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Clara Huber whose sister, Sis. Martha Wuetrich, of Milford, IN passed away on November 15.

Our prayers are with Sis. Alvina Rocke who recently spent time in the hospital and is now back at the nursing home.

We were thankful for the recent visits of ministering Bros. Greg Stoller and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL). We were reminded how important it is to have Jesus as the foundation of our faith. It was so pertinent to think about a strong, solid foundation even as we have started the new addition to our church building.

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### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel**

God's plan fulfilled as He had willed,

Then came the Christ on earth,  
The star so bright in deepest night  
Foretold His blessed birth.

The angel's throng with joyous  
song

Appeared to shepherds meek  
The angel's word the shepherds  
heard

Then went they forth to seek.

*Hymns of Zion #35*

May God bless each one as we remember the birth of our precious Saviour.

We wish to thank our visiting



ministers: Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Glenn Riggenschach (Smithville, OH) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH) for bringing us God's Word. Also, on October 30 we hosted several Bible classes and Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) ministered to us at morning worship and to the Bible classes in the afternoon. May God richly reward them.

David Slagel (Ron and Sis. June) and Kristi Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne, Forrest) were united in Holy Matrimony on August 27. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their lives as husband and wife.

We are happy to welcome Bro. Jeff and Sis. Crystal Cargill and son, Jonathan, who will be assembling with our congregation. They will be an asset to our church family. Sis. Crystal's parents, Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione Broquard, are thankful to have them living so near.

We have had two hospital patients this month: William Van Antwerp (Sis. Anna Lou) and Jeff Moser (Bro. Lloyd). Also, two met with accident: Bro. Lloyd Moser and Craig Davis (Mark and Elaine). May God restore healing to all of them.

"...there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying..."

*Revelations 21:4*

Sis. Lena Hohulin, 96, passed away on October 17. Our sympathy is extended to her brother and sister, Bro. Ed and Sis. Lillie Luthi (Morris, MN), and nieces and nephews.

Evelyn Rigsby, 69, passed away November 2. Our sympathy is extended to her husband, Arnold; son, Steve Drach; and sisters and brothers.

Luella Sohn, 86, passed away

November 7. Our sympathy is extended to her son, Larry; two granddaughters; and two brothers, Clarence Hirstein and Kenneth Huette (Forrest, IL).

*Notes of Thanks:*

Many thanks for your prayers and visits during my hospital stay and since my return home. God bless you all.

*William Van Antwerp*

We wish to thank all of our brothers, sisters and friends for the love they have shown us on our 50th anniversary of our joyful years with each other and God. A special thanks for the many beautiful cards, gifts and loving words. We feel so humbled and unworthy. May God bless you all.

*Bro. Reuben and Sis. Louise Bach*

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**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Marlene Walter**

**Mary Bachtold**

At this Christmas season, we enjoy our Sunday School program where the children tell of God sending His most precious gift, His only begotten Son, as a babe in a manger. As we remember the birth of our Saviour, may our lives be filled with peace, joy and thankful hearts.

On October 30, the engagement of Sis. Kristen Kupferschmid (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Wanda) and Bro. Stan Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida) was announced. We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings as they make plans to become one in the Lord.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month. May God bless Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) for

their willingness to share His Word with us.

"In days of youth seek ye the Lord" (Hymns of Zion #135). We are thankful that Laura Steidinger (Bro. James and Sis. Marlene) has heeded God's call and turned to Him in repentance. May she build a firm foundation on the solid rock, Jesus Christ.

On November 5, Dutch Pruitt (Jim Pruitt, UT, and Ron and Vicki Schaffer) and Kelli Quinley (Dennis and Jennifer, Gibson City, IL) were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings and much happiness.

Several loved ones from our congregation have spent time in the hospital this month. May Sis. Peggy Young, Bro. Dave Schmidgall, Sis. Leah Honegger, Julie Shambrook (Mark), and Sis. Jean Ricketts feel God's nearness.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Lillie Moore in the death of her aunt, Sis. Lena Hohulin (Fairbury, IL); to Maurice and Joy Zimmerman in the loss of his sister, Evelyn Rigsby (Fairbury, IL); and to Sis. Judy Kemp and family in the passing of her mother, Sazuko Tsujita (Osaka, Japan). May God comfort these loves ones in their time of sorrow.

*Note of Thanks:*

Thank you for all the beautiful cards, memory slips and gifts we received for our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless each of you.

*Bro. Norval and Sis. Wilma Knapp*

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Barb Brim**

"Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided

for it."

*Psalm 65:9*

What a blessed reminder of where our thanksgivings should be focused this holiday season.

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

*Psalm 68:19*

Our Goodfield congregation has again been blessed with many reasons to give thanks. We all join Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kelly Eastman in welcoming Anna Marie into their young family. Grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma Eastman (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Meece, are all doubly thankful this season for their newest family member. Also rejoicing upon a new arrival are Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Heinold who are very pleased to welcome little Marla Sue into their growing family. Marla Sue's happy grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Mildred Heinold and Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice Wuthrich (Congerville, IL). May God bless and keep all of our dear children and grant them grace to walk in His footsteps.

Five new souls were added to the Book of Life this month. Through their repentance and conversions, these young men have displayed their willingness to walk in God's footsteps as well. We rejoice at their addition to our church family. Our newest brothers-in-faith are: Bro. Tadd Gerst (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie), Bro. Shane Knapp (Bro. George and Sis. Fern), Bro. Joseph Beer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan), and brothers Chad and Nathan Kloter (Bro. Barry and Sis. Joyce). What an inspiration they are to all of us to appreciate the faith that we share and the promise we hold near to our hearts. Let us all be thankful.

Many prayers were answered when our dear Bro. Willis Wiegand returned home from his stay in the hospital. We all miss his smiling face and look forward to seeing him in church. God is good!

We extend our sympathies to our Sis. Sandy Hohulin and her husband, Bro. Sam. Sis. Sandy's father, Bro. Orville Martin (Roanoke, IL) was called home this month and we know the loss of a loved one is painful, but yet the assurance is given us that the better part is waiting, the hardships are over and he's resting with Jesus now.

Our thanks are offered to the visiting ministers and their wives and families who shared the Lord's Word with us this month. Thank you, Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht (Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller (Leo, IN) for being so generous with your time and talents in the Lord.

May we all have a joyous and thankful holiday season. Selah! Think about it!

#### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

The weekend of October 30 was a wonderful one as three souls became a part of Christ's body, the church. A minister appropriately reminded us that the Lord Jesus came to "seek" and to "save" that which was lost. Often, it seems, we focus on the "saving" aspect, rather than the fact that He "seeks" those that are lost. That the Lord seeks those that are lost is a wonderful testimony to His love and mercy toward us.

Our new followers of the Lord Jesus are Bro. Shannon Witzig (Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine), Sis. Angela Cellis (Bro. Jerry and Sis.

Ada Christensen), and Sis. Claire Witzig (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary). Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) was here for the occasion.

As we gather for testimonies, it is a time of great gain for all of us. The gems of truth given through these discourses, along with our intensity in listening allows us to benefit by the richness of God's miraculous work in the heart of a seeking soul. A convert related he didn't want to "rub shoulders with the world" any longer. That is a very descriptive phrase, and also instructive for all of us who propose to follow Christ. We often encounter a deceiver who makes us prone to wanting to do this.

Bro. Tom Miller gave his testimony and was baptized on October 19. The gentle prompting of the Spirit came to his heart and instigated a conviction that all was not well with his soul. After an all-night struggle and many tears and prayers, he informed his mother at breakfast that he was repenting. Bro. Tom is the son of Sis. Hermine Miller and the late Bro. Henry.

Our dear sister-in-faith, Esther Yergler, 88, passed away this fall. She had resided in a nursing home for the past few years. She is survived by her sister, Verna Boliger, of Silverton, OR. Although she never married, she nonetheless was a very resourceful person in caring for her parents. She was diligent in her faith, very meek and kindly, and possessed a wide, endearing smile whenever one greeted her at church. Her life was strengthening to the church.

Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) showed World Relief slides on Saturday, October 22, at our fellowship center. The growth and scope of World Relief and Work Projects was an eye-opener, and is surely a glory to God. The slide presentation, produced by Apos-

toloc Christian brethren (with background music from our church's hymnals), was very impressive. May God bless all those who give to, and work through, the World Relief channels.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller became the parents of their fifth child, Olivia Leigh, on October 28. She has four siblings welcoming her home: Rachel (16), Bradley (15), Lisa (11), and Kristin (3). Grandparents are Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie Stoller.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Krista Steffen are the parents of their first child, Dylan Lee, born October 30. May God bless them as they rejoice over their firstborn child. Grandparents are Roy and Sis. Connie Roth (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Emmy Steffen.

We had several visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) on October 9; Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) on October 30; Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) on November 13; and Bro. John Zeller (Morton, IL) on October 23.

Bro. Sam Witzig recently moved to the Restmor Nursing Home in Morton, IL. Also, Bob Kuerth moved to the Home in Eureka, IL. Sis. Laura Martin suffered a stroke and was hospitalized. She is back home. Sis. Lucille Stoller fell and broke her hip. She had surgery and is still in the hospital as of November 19.

Sis. Heather Martin was announced to be married to Bro. Justin Meece of Goodfield, IL. She is the daughter of Byron and Sis. Katie Martin. His parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Meece of the Goodfield congregation.

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**ILLINOIS, MORTON**  
**Phyllis Farney**

### **Cheryl Wuthrich**

Bro. Walter Schupbach was called Home on October 25. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless his wife, Sis. Emma; his daughter, Margaret; his son, Stan; his brothers, George and Edwin; his sisters, Clara Kaufman, Esther Reutter, Rosalia Bauer, Anna Gudeman, Freida Schupbach, Lucille Steffen; his four grandchildren and his other relatives and friends.

Our Bible Class hosted a pancake and sausage supper and bake sale on October 29. The donations went to various church charities. It was a blessed evening with good food and sweet fellowship. We wish to thank our young people for the effort they put forth.

May God bless Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for bringing the Word to us. Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) joined us for the reading of the Memorandum on November 16. May the Lord richly bless those who travel to visit the Morton congregation.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Bro. Walter Schupbach would like to thank everyone for their loving support shown through their prayers, food, cards, and other gifts during the time of his passing.

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### **ILLINOIS, PEORIA**

#### **Cara Nussbaum**

Three families in Peoria have blessed new additions. Bro. David and Sis. Rachel Sauder happily announce the birth of Jessica Rae, born October 20. Jessica has two brothers, David and Caleb, who have welcomed her home. Her grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister and Bro. David and Sis. Rita Sauder.

On November 2, Zoe Rae was born to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Rachel

Waibel. Her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb Geyer.

On November 14, another boy, Seth Andrew, was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg Hoerr. Seth joins Chad, Natalie and Ellie at home. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marj Sutter (Taylor, MO).

On Saturday, October 31, a "Spaghetti Feast" was held at the Peoria Fellowship Hall to raise money for the new Alzheimer's wing at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home. We want to thank everyone who helped organize this benefit dinner and those who came to support it. God bless you all.

The weekend of November 5 and 6 was special for Cara Herman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan), Carissa Klopfenstein (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol), Michelle Herman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth), and Molly Meister (Bro. Paul "Spark" and Sis. Rhonda) as they gave their testimonies and were baptized. We extend to each one the richest blessings of our Lord and Saviour.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL). We thank these brothers for sharing the precious Word of God.

We extend our condolences to the family of Sis. Nettie Owens who went to her rest recently. Sis. Nettie was a resident at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home.

Those hospitalized recently have been Sis. Donna Fererro, Bro. Herb Schwenk, Sis. Viola Herman, Sis. Clara Schubert, and Sis. Vera Irions. We pray that

each one is recovering and feeling God's healing hand of mercy.

*Notes of Thanks:*

I want to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, calls, visits, gifts, flowers and prayers after my car accident on October 10. All was deeply appreciated. God bless you all.

*Sis. Viola Leman*

I thank all those who remembered me with prayers, gifts, cards and visits while I was in the hospital and then also during my stay at the Apostolic Christian Home in Roanoke. May God bless and reward each and every one.

*Sis. Mildred Hoerr*

May God bless all of those who remembered me during my hospital stay and since returning home and recuperating from surgery. I was overwhelmed by the love shown through cards, gifts and prayers.

*Sis. Joyce Banwart*

**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Martha Jane Siebenthal**

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. John Stoller and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). May God bless them and their families.

God has blessed two families with precious grandchildren. Amy Jo Hausmann was born November 9 to Bro. Fred and Sis. Sue Hausmann (Bradford, IL). Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Evalyn Herrmann and first-time grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Verla Hausmann of Bradford. Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen Elsasser are happy grandparents of a granddaughter born to Jay and Kim Elsasser. First-time parents of a baby boy are Greg and Ann (Pridemore) Smith. May God bless these dear families and

grant the wisdom and guidance to raise these precious souls to His honor.

We welcome Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser from Bradford to our congregation. May they feel at home here and in their new home.

Jane Knobloch, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Frances married Brad Foffel on October 29. May God's blessings be with them as they begin life's pathway.

We express our sincere sympathy to Andrew and Bernice Streitmatter, as her brother, Dan Stickling, passed away suddenly.

We pray for God's healing hand to our loved ones in the hospital and in their homes. Bro. Herman Baer (Sis. Mary), surgery; Sis. Lucille Knobloch (Bro. Ed), Sis. Mary Ann Hermann (Bro. Howard), surgery; and Marian Riley (Kenny), heart. Bro. Ronald Rumbold (Sis. Jackie) had a farm mishap which could have been serious. We are thankful to God for His protecting hand. Special prayers go out to Bro. John Leuthold, his dear wife, Sis. Shirley, and family. Bro. John has been diagnosed with acute leukemia. Let us remember all of our loved ones in our daily prayers.

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

*Isaiah 41:10*

It is humbling to realize God will never leave nor forsake His children during times of illness, sorrow, etc. Many dear ones lean heavily upon this precious promise.

As we celebrate the Christmas season, may we all remember that it is not the Babe in Bethlehem, but Christ, the Man, that sets us

free from sin and gives us the promise of eternal life. This should be foremost in our minds and be our guiding light throughout the new year ahead. Let us share this gift of love with others; not just one day a year, but every day of our lives.

**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Annie Leman**

**Jana Gastman**

We rejoice that two more souls have given their hearts to the Lord: Jessica Hodel (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) and Vi Hinthorne, mother of Sis. Janet Knepp. We wish them God's grace in their new walk with Him.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Dawn Duckworth, along with big brother, Tyler, welcome home Dallas Christian. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Delores Duckworth (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Linda Harris, and Mike Harris of Florida.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman announce the engagement of their daughter, Cheryl, to Jim Wacker, the son of Bev Eden of Roanoke and Rudy Wacker of East Peoria.

Michelle Gastman and Chris Miller are planning an April wedding. Their parents are John and Sis. Barb Gastman and Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis Miller (Congerville, IL). We wish both couples God's blessings as they begin their life together.

October 23 was the wedding day for Jill Sauder and Rick Wilhelm. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Sauder and Arthur and Clara Wilhelm of Mascoutah. We wish them God's love in their new home.

November 12 was our annual benefit sale for our nursing home. Thanks to all who donated their time and talents for the betterment of our home.

Our visiting ministers this

month were Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Art Baurer (Princeville, IL). May God bless all of these brothers for sharing God's Word.

Our congregation has been saddened by several deaths this month.

Bro. Jacob Funk (Cissna Park, IL) passed away October 17 at Fairview Nursing Home in Fairbury. He was a brother to our Sis. Lena Martin.

On October 19, Sis. Edna Sauder passed away at her home. She is survived by her husband, Curt; two sons, Les and Bruce; and one daughter, Sis. Pat Sauder, all of Roanoke.

Sis. Merna Koch (Tremont, IL) passed away on October 25. She was the daughter of our Sis. Marie Blunier and the sister of our Bros. Harlow, Wilmer and Ed, and Sisters Erma Moser, Mardell Bowald, Ann Sauder and Rachel Leman.

Our Bro. Orville Martin passed away on November 13 at our home in Roanoke. He was the husband of our Sis. Jackie and the father of Kaywin (Boca Raton, FL), Dale (Winston-Salem, NC), Glen (Roanoke) and Sis. Sandy Hohulin (Goodfield, IL).

Sis. Elizabeth Fehr passed away November 15 at our home in Roanoke. She was the sister to our Sis. Margaret Hodel.

Our Sis. Dorothy Beer passed away November 16 at our home in Roanoke. She was a sister to our Sis. Elsie Beer and Florence Bucher.

Sis. Martha Wuthrich (Milford, IN) passed away on November 16. She was a sister to our Sis. Til Legal.

We pray that God will be near these loved ones and fill the void left in their hearts.

Our hospital patients this

month were Sisters Linda Steffen and Mary Hoffman.

*Notes of Thanks:*

We wish to thank all who helped in any way with prayers, flowers, gifts, food, cards, and words of comfort during the illness and death of our beloved wife and mother. May God bless each of you.

*The family of Ruth Knepp*

The family of Edna Sauder extends their sincere thanks for the many deeds of love shown to them in the passing of their loved one.

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb**

We are thankful for the visiting minister who came to share the Word of God with us this month. Visiting us was Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae) and their family (Minneapolis, MN).

October 23 was the wedding day of Bro. Nathan Koch and Sis. Sandra Stoller, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Patricia Stoller of Leo, IN. Bro. Nathan is the son of Sis. Nancy and Bro. Cleo Koch and the late Bro. James Koch. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they begin their life together.

Our congregation was deeply touched and saddened by the sudden death of our Sis. Merna Koch on October 25. She is greatly missed by many of us. We extend our deepest sympathy to her dear family; Bro. Vernon, and their children, Bro. Joe (Sis. Sandra), Rockville, CT; Bro. Justin (Sis. Marcia), Champaign, IL; Jill (Bro. Greg) Wagner, Goodfield, IL; Judy (George) Miller; the grandchildren; her sister, Sis. Melba (Jerry) Hangartner; her mother, Sis. Marie Blunier, Roanoke, IL; five brothers and nine sisters in the area. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Lee Pflederer (Bro.

James) and their family in the passing of Sis. Lee's mother, Sis. Nettie Owens, of Peoria. May God fill those sorrowing hearts and lives with His love and grace.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Ivy Steiner are parents of a baby boy, Mahlon Michael, born October 26. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster, Burlington, IA.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Mary Baurer, little Levi Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth), and Curtis Musselman (Pat). Our thoughts and special prayers go out to our hospital patients.

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**

**Denise Romersberger**

**Sue Ruppert**

This month we enjoyed hearing several visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) spent a Sunday with us to lend of their time and talents and to fellowship with us. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) also visited us for recent Wednesday night services. Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) spoke to us for our monthly Bible Study, which was held on a Wednesday night for the first time, this month. Thank you, Brothers, for your efforts.

We are so thankful to be able to be taught the truth from the Word of God. We should remember that others may not enjoy this privilege that we so often take for granted. There are so many people who are hungry for a stabilizing force in their lives, but who have not been exposed to God's Word in the way that we have. Though people may go to a church almost every Sunday, they may not hear the whole truth. Instead, only the easy part of the Bible is spoken on. For instance, God's

love is emphasized, but no mention is made of the fact that God hates sin. Another example is that people are told of the saving power of Jesus' blood, but not of the need to turn away from sin to live a life of following His commandments. We need to remember to pray that the Apostolic Christian Church ministers can continue to speak the whole truth of the Bible, through the power of the Holy Spirit. May we be receptive to that truth and may we be willing to share the precious blessings we have with those around us.

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast 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: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

*II Timothy 3:14-17*

We rejoice that God's hand has been with Sis. Elizabeth (Putt) Herbst throughout her recent surgery. She is now home from the hospital and recuperating well. Our Bro. Joe Herman was hospitalized for several days, but is now back home at his residence at the Peoria Nursing Home on Skyline Drive. Our prayers are with him and his family.

A farewell dinner was held for Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Feucht. Though we will miss them and their family, we wish them God's blessings in their new home at Lester, IA. We who are part of a small congregation really do feel family ties among our numbers.

A little part of us goes with them, leaving a tender spot in our heart. May God go with them.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

#### Jaci Gerber - Jill Fiechter

We rejoice with Bro. Kent Gilliom and Sis. Mary Isch who have announced their engagement. Parents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Marie Gilliom and Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch. May they feel God's blessings as they look forward to a March wedding.

We need to keep in our prayers those who have been hospitalized that they may feel God's nearness at this time of need. They are Bro. Ivan Frauhiger (Sis. Sylvia), Sis. Helen Stoller, Sis. Mary Ann Fiechter, Sis. Pauline Gerber (Bro. Larry), and Harold Baumgartner (Anne).

Bro. Roger and Sis. Tara Steffen were blessed with a son on October 21. Andrew Jay is welcomed home by his brothers, Matthew, Timothy and Jonathan. Grandparents are Ted and Elaine Liechty and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Della Steffen.

Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene Isch became new parents on November 4 when Keelin Mary was born. Her grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Carole Isch and Bro. Karl and Sis. Donna Westfall (Francesville, IN).

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger welcomed a new granddaughter on November 8. Lydia Marie was born to Bro. Toby and Sis. Jayla Steffen (Bluffton North).

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

*II Corinthians 9:15*

Our congregation rejoices with our new converts. Sheri Klopfenstein and Jamie Johnloz have opened their hearts to accept

God's gift of salvation.

May God comfort and heal the hearts of those who must let go of their loved ones. Bro. Don Reinhard went home to be with the Lord on November 2. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Sarah, and children, Bro. Doyle and Sis. Marcia (Bro. Bob) Steffen.

On November 11, Sis. Evelyn Ely passed away. She is missed by her husband, Jack, and sons, Tim and Troy.

We warmly thank Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) for sharing the Word of God with us.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

#### Susan Harris - Kay Steffen

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

*Luke 2:13,14*

With the Christmas season upon us, let us keep the true meaning of the holiday in our hearts. All of the hustle and bustle of gift buying and cooking seems to drown out the birth of our Lord.

We were blessed with three visiting ministers: Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). May God bless these brothers and their families for sharing and encouraging us in their messages.

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

*James 4:8*

With thankful hearts, we rejoice in a soul who is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God richly bless Jadon Rauch (Bro.

Jerry and Sis. Kathy).

Blessed with a new bundle of joy on November 8 were Bro. Toby and Sis. Jayla Steffen. Little Lydia Marie was eagerly anticipated by grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen and Bro. Charles and Sis. Marie Frauhiger.

Sis. Evelyn Ely, 65, was laid to rest on November 8. Being a sister for nine years, she had a gentle spirit with love and joy in her heart. She will be greatly missed. God be with her husband, John, and the family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Stan Geisel (Sis. Cindy) as he has spent time in the hospital this past month.

Everyone enjoyed the Family Hymn Sing on November 5 at our fellowship hall. We enjoyed the inspirational hymns sung by the sisters group called "Heart to Heart" from Bloomington, IL.

At this Christmas season, may these gifts be yours: The Gladness of Hope, The Spirit of Peace and The Warmth of Love.

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#### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Stefanie Wuethrich

"The Highway of Holiness", what a perfect theme for College Weekend '94. Our church had the honor of hosting the annual event this year. Lots of time and preparation by the young group went into the weekend. It was such a beautiful sight on Sunday, seeing 33 churches being represented by over 300 single, God-fearing believers all gathered in one place to learn more about God's holiness. Purdue is actually where the first "College Weekend" took place back in 1966. At that time, it only involved those who attended Purdue. Through the years, it has become a nationwide event. Many visiting ministers traveled to play a part in the "blessed" weekend. Each one had an appro-

priate message concerning holiness. May God bless each person who attended and pray that the tradition will continue, for it surely brings delight to the Lord.

We also want to thank visiting ministers, Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for sharing God's Word with us this past month.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*

Another flower has been picked for the Lord's bouquet. It grieves the hearts of all who knew him, our Bro. Mike Gutwein (Sis. Melody), who died on November 17 from injuries resulting from a car accident that occurred the week before. Bro. Mike will be greatly missed. He was such an asset to our congregation. This past January he retired from 17 years of service in Sunday School. He has touched so many lives and made such a difference to those who knew him. It's hard to understand why God takes our loved ones from us, but we have faith that it is all part of His plan and that someday we will understand. We know that Bro. Mike is in a far better place that doesn't compare to here, but for the loved ones left we want to uphold in prayer; especially his wife, Sis. Melody; their children, Bro. Aaron, Anthony, Allison and Adrienne; also his parents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Yvonne Gutwein, and their other children, plus many other relatives.

We pray for God's healing mercies upon those who have been in the hospital this month: Sis. Lorna Putt (Bro. Keith), and

Hilda Messmore (Wayne).

#### *Note of Thanks:*

I want to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all you loved ones for the lovely cards and phone calls since I've been recuperating from a broken shoulder. May God bless you all is my prayer.

*Priscilla Anliker*

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#### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Melissa Baumgartner Sandy Lichtle

On November 5, we were privileged to gather together to hear the Memorandum read to us by our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). It was a blessing to be humbled and encouraged as we heard the kind and loving words spoken to us. May we all keep "Looking to Jesus" in our daily walk of life as we face trials and temptations.

Other visiting ministers this past month were: Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Jaye Rinkenger (Goodfield, IL) and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN). We appreciate the ministers for their faithfulness and willingness to serve God and our congregation.

As we celebrate the Christmas season with giving and receiving of gifts, may we always remember the greatest gift given to us from our Heavenly Father---His beloved Son, Jesus.

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#### INDIANA, LACROSSE Judy Gudeman

Although the harvest is not completed yet in this area, there is so very much to be thankful for. We have been blessed with rains throughout the summer that have pushed the crops to a full yield. However, we have just been reminded of our short time in this

life by two tragedies in our neighboring communities, one of which gained national recognition when a plane crashed into a freshly harvested soybean field. Sixty-eight lives were instantly lost. Even closer to home, two men were killed in tragic accidents when they stopped to help the victim of a car accident. We can only hope that these souls were able to make peace with their God before their lives were taken.

As this article is being written, we are approaching the Thanksgiving season, yet at the time of publication, if the Lord delays His coming, we will be preparing for Christmas time.

"...there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel..."

*Numbers 24:17*

The coming of our Lord was prophesied already in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15). The fall of man greatly grieved God, yet He did not lose His love for us. Nevertheless, a sacrifice was required, and nothing was good enough save God's only Son.

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God...And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it...He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

*Isaiah 40:1,5,11*

As it was foretold by the prophets, God sent his Son to earth to redeem the world of its sins. It is no wonder then, that the angels joined in singing praises to the Lord on that first Christmas Day!

Glory to God in the Highest!  
In remoteness and near by us  
Ruleth He with might and grace.  
Let us bring our thanks and  
praise!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*Zion's Harp #9*

### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Lo, He anoints my head with oil  
And heals my wounded spirit;  
He stays my soul, and after toil  
He never fails to cheer it.  
He makes my cup to overflow  
That I, refreshed, may onward go.

*Zion's Harp #116*

Sis. Thelma Schlatter, a former correspondent, is very appreciative for successful cataract surgery. She plans to have surgery on the other eye on November 21.

Our four oldest members in the Leo church were taken home to glory in 1994. There are still some in their nineties. One is Sis. Sylvia Steiner who has many memories to share with those who visit her. She has been going through her sister's belongings which include poems composed by Sis. Elda. Here is one entitled "Snow Drifts".

Some are high, some are low,  
Depends on how the wind may  
blow  
To create various kinds of scenes,  
Like what you may have seen in  
dreams.

Here a peak, there a ridge,  
Over yonder, too, a bridge,  
Here an elephant, there a bear,  
Maybe a statue or a chair.

On the level, that first snow  
Beautiful, clean and white,  
Was to children, adults too,  
Truly a delight.

But time and traffic change the  
scene;

Soon it is soiled and rough,  
It's then that most of us agree  
That we have had enough!

*By Elda R. Steiner*

Sis. Emma Levy, who now makes her home with Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Pfister, recently spent a few days at our nursing home "The Cedars". She requires a great deal of care. Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon became grandparents of a baby girl on November 3. Sis. Sharon spent a few days with her daughter, Mary Clark, and little Larissa Joy.

Sis. Lucile Frank is in the Parkview Hospital following hip surgery on November 3. She is making good progress, but is required to stay off of that limb for three months. She does not know when she can leave the hospital. We have been lifting her up in prayer.

We appreciated the ministry of Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) on November 13. His family came to help their daughter and son-in-law, Bro. and Sis. John Jackson, move into their home at 5202 Mars Ln., Ft. Wayne, IN.

On Wednesday, November 16 we were grateful to Elder Bro. Curtis Frank in helping Elder Bro. David Bertsch and our deacon, Bro. John Stoller, in reading of the Memorandum from the 1994 Elder Conference.

### SMILES

A smile is quite a funny thing, it  
wrinkles up your face  
And when it's gone you never find  
its secret hiding place.  
But far more wonderful it is to see  
what smiles can do;  
You smile at one, he smiles at  
you, and so one smile makes  
two.  
And that one smiles because you  
smiled, and then that one



smiles back,  
 And that one smiles, until in  
 truth you fail in keeping track,  
 But since a smile can do great  
 good in cheering hearts of care,  
 Let's smile and smile and not  
 forget that smiles go  
 everywhere.

*Author Unknown*

## INDIANA, MILFORD

**Judy Longcor**

**Marguerite Hoerr**

Visiting ministers who have favored us with their visits and blessed us with God's Word are Bros. Doug Harman (Toledo, OH), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Howard Plattner (Alto, MI). The Milford congregation is grateful for their sharing.

Chad Beer, son of Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy, has returned home after a lengthy hospital stay. Chad, who celebrated his sixteenth birthday recently, has been an example of patience and courage to all of us. We continue to remember him and his family on a daily basis. His brother, Marc, for a short time, was a patient in the same hospital section as Chad, when he submitted to hip surgery this past month. Marc is able to be back in school on crutches.

The Milford Sunday School Bible Class was host to the Alto, MI; Bradford, IL; and Wolcott, IN Sunday School classes this past month. On a personal note, these forty-plus young people visited my father, Bro. Theo Beer, and also Bro. Jesse Haab after church. I was privileged to be present at my father's and witnessed what a blessed time it was for him to have all these young people come, introduce themselves, and shake his hand. The age difference between the Sunday School children and the two brothers spanned four generations.

Bro. Ted Baumgartner went to be with the Lord this past week. He and his wife, Sis. Helen, had shared a room at Lakeland Loving Care for a number of years. Our deepest love and sympathy goes out to her, and to his two sons and their families. We also remember his sisters, Helen Funk and Sis. Edith Baumgartner, with our love and sympathy. Ted was a lifelong member of our Milford community and was well known and liked by everyone.

On October 21, we received the joy of a new little granddaughter into our family. Her name is Mariana Isabel. Jeff and Rocio Hoerr of Canton, OH are the parents. Her big sister and brother are Rebecca and Robert. Hilda Eljaiek, her maternal grandmother from Cartagena, Colombia S.A., is visiting in their home and helping. Once again, we thank God for His bountiful blessings.

## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Amelia Schini**

"Be not wise in thine own eyes:  
 fear the Lord, and depart from  
 evil."

*Proverbs 3:7*

We have had many kind teachings this past month from visiting ministers as well as our own ministers. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and wife and family visited us, along with Bro. Curt's father and mother, retired Elder Bro. Ed Frank and Sis. Leah.

On October 30, Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) were here to read the memorandum. It was a good reminder how deceiving the enemy is and would like to "woo" us away from God. Thank you, Brothers, for your love.

On Sunday, November 6, we had many visitors, as it was couples' guest time. It is such a refreshing time to meet fellow "pilgrims" from various places, to rejoice in the Lord together.

On Saturday evening, November 12, we gathered at church to hear the testimony of our dear friend, Mary Bobbitt. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) was here to assist our Bro. Alfred. Bro. Jesse could not stay for Sunday when we could witness Mary's baptism and welcome her as a lamb into Jesus' fold.

We are sorry to learn that our Sis. Anna Beckley who resides at Parkview Home in Francesville has been in the hospital very ill. We pray God will hold her hand as He leads her along.

Thought for the Day: All loves should be stepping stones to the love of God.

## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Gigi Schafer - Carolyn Frank**

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

*John 14:2*

These comforting words were spoken at the funeral of our dear Sis. Helena Martin, 88, who passed away on November 6. Sis. Helena was preceded in death by her husband, Frank; three brothers, John, Noah, and Steven; and a sister, Elizabeth Fehr. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. We offer our sympathy to her family.

We warmly welcome Joe Klotzle, who is working in our area for several months. He comes from the Altadena area (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois). We hope he will soon feel "right at home".

We were blessed this past month with several visiting ministers: Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and our own Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). We thank each of you for sharing the Word with us, and extend a hearty invitation to you and your families to come again soon.

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**  
**Ken and Cindy Susdorf**

Greetings to our dear ones no matter where they may be. May this find you all in good spirits and full of joy. No matter what happens, we can rejoice just in the fact that we have Jesus as our wonderful Redeemer.

This is always a special month for us, for it is this time every year that we have our harvest program and supper. We thank the Chicago Choir and Bluffton singers for their songs and traveling to be with us. Also to anyone who had part in this day. Certainly, all parts are necessary to have a blessed day.

Visiting ministers for the month were Bros. Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). Thanks for sharing the Word. May the Lord continue to bless you and all ministers proclaiming the Word so that all may have the opportunity to serve the Lord.

The Lord has been merciful to Sis. Aldene (Bro. Roy) Frieden who was seriously ill in the hospital. We are very thankful she is able to assemble with us again. She is another dear anchor in our church.

We were pleased to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Jim Bucher (Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Kimberly Braker (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha, Roanoke, IL).

Once again, Christmas and the new year are fast approaching. We would certainly want to extend our hope for a blessed holiday season for you all. Why not try and bring some special friends to church during this time? What a wonderful beginning this could be for all of us.

Until next month, fare thee well. May the Lord bless and keep us all.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**  
**Sheri Bahler**

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

*Hymns of Zion #36*

With Christmas well upon us, we must carefully consider the words in this hymn, lest we lose our focus of the true meaning of the season.

We were grateful to have Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) with us this past month to bring forth God's Word. May the Lord richly bless him for his labors of love.

We enjoyed listening to the teachings and instructions brought to us with the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bros. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) assisted Bro. Alfred in this duty. Bro. Charles was also with us on Sunday to preach the Word. May God bless these brothers for their willingness to share His teachings.

In an unfortunate mishap, Kent Bahler (Steve and Sis. Elaine) broke his wrist. We are thankful that he is recuperating well.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, flowers, and visits during our hospital stays and our recovery. May

God bless each one for your love and concerns.

Bro. Glenn and Sis. Norma Blume

**IOWA, AMES**

**Luann Schmidgall**

On October 23, Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) ministered God's Word to us, and Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) shared the Word with us on November 13. We are thankful for their labors on our behalf. We were also blessed to have visitors from several of our churches with us.

We rejoice and are thankful that Jeff Schmidgall (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) has turned his heart to the Lord in repentance. We wish him God's grace and blessings.

The first service of the spring semester will be held on January 29.

**IOWA, BURLINGTON**

**Lorna Knapp**

**Monica Eisenmann**

Once again we were blessed with a number of visiting ministers. May God richly bless Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA) and Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) for their labors.

Graveside services were held in Burlington for Sis. Nettie Owens of Peoria, IL who formerly lived here for many years. May God be with her family and help to fill the void that has been left.

May we all have a prayer of Thanksgiving in our hearts for all the Lord has so willingly done for us.

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

What a blessed season of the year we are in as the Christmas carols and Nativity scenes again remind us of the birth of our Saviour, who left the glories of Heaven to live among sinful men who He knew would mock, scorn, beat and even crucify Him. Yet He returned this abuse with the greatest gift of all---salvation. How great His love for mankind!

May our gift giving also be prompted by love. An expensive gift given from an unloving heart doesn't compare with a gift of no monetary value given from a heart of love. The giving of ourselves and our time is not always the easiest gift to give but often the most appreciated.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas season and God's guidance and grace as we venture into the unknown of another new year.

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Laura Funk - Dawn Moser**

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

*Romans 10:15*

Visiting ministers over the past few weeks include: Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Roy Ehnlé (Bradford, IL), Alphai Moser and Harold Gramm (Morris, MN), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS). We heard glad tidings of good things from these dear Brothers. We thank you for coming to be with us and feeding us God's Word.

There's a tumult of joy  
O'er the wonderful birth,  
For the virgin's sweet boy

Is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire  
While the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem  
Cradles a King.

*Gospel Hymns #854*

As the season draws near that we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we not only remember His birthday, but also the price He paid for our sins.

Sis. Jan Webber's mother had the misfortune of breaking her hip. We wish her a speedy recovery.

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

Greetings to all!

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

*Psalms 133:1*

Our entire congregation was blessed with the deeply humbling, sincerely edifying, and greatly uplifting experience of witnessing the ordination of our dear Bro. Joe Gerst. As we listened to the Elders' exhortation and loving instruction regarding the duties of Ordained Deacon placed upon Bro. Joe, as well as the responsibilities of his wife, Sis. Connie, and the congregation in this special relationship, each of us felt the great love of God in providing this relationship for us, of the Elders in executing the process, and of Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie as they willingly give of their time and effort for us. We hope they can feel our sincere love and prayerful support as they undertake this blessed but responsibility-laden task. We certainly want to thank all of those who have fulfilled this responsibility for our congregation in the past, including our current Elder, Bro. Paul Butikofer

(Elgin, IA), our previous Elder, Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and the countless other Elders who have assisted these Brothers in the past.

We were thankful that Bro. Paul and Bro. Ed, as well as Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and their wives were willing and able to share this special weekend with us. We are also thankful for the others who traveled to be with us, including Bro. Joe's brother, ministering Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and his wife, Sis. Judy, and ministering Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and his wife, Sis. Edie. There were so many others who supported us with food preparation, their presence and their prayers. May God bless you all!

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

We rejoice with four souls who shared with us the testimony of peace in their hearts. On October 23 we witnessed the baptisms of Lance Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie) and Melissa Van Whye (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan). On November 5 we witnessed the baptisms of Larry and Emily Peterson. We welcome them as our brethren, and wish them God's grace to remain ever faithful.

We pray that God will bless the Elder brothers and ministers who labor in our behalf. Our visitors include, Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), and Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), and Steve Martin (Eureka, IL).

First-time parents Bro. Troy and Sis. Donna Knobloch thankfully welcomed their son, Chad Jay, on November 2. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knobloch and Bro. Harvey and

Sis. Wilda Koehl (Morris, MN).

We extend sympathy to Sis. Mary Metzger (Bro. Harvey) on the death of her brother-in-law.

Our heartfelt prayers are with all those who have been hospitalized or suffer bodily afflictions. Bro. Bill Wulf, Bro. Ed Roemen, Sis. Jana Metzger and Karen Glammeier were all hospital patients. Our thoughts are with Tammie Leuthold who remains hospitalized at this time.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Debbie Wagenbach**  
**Melody Steiner**

We are thankful for the visiting ministers that were willing to be used by the Spirit in our congregation this past month. They included Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer and Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL). May the Lord richly bless them and their families for being in our midst.

No room that night was left at the Inn,  
 No place could be found for a stranger.  
 Two weary travelers who turned from its din  
 Found rest at last in a manger.  
 In the manger that night a baby was born  
 To those whom the Inn turned again'  
 And the Shepherds afar came there in the morn  
 Bringing gifts to the Saviour of men.  
 No room in the hearts of many today  
 No place for His love will they make.  
 He knocks at the door, they turn Him away  
 And neglect Him for other guests' sake.  
 Other guests of ambition of pleas-

ure and pride,  
 Of selfishness and getting of gold.  
 Forgetting the cross and the wound in His side,  
 And the nail-pierced hands they might hold.  
 Oh, Bethlehem Inn, full of music and light,  
 With your guests decked in brightest array,  
 Had you given them room, turned into the night  
 Your fame had gone forth to this day.  
 Oh, soul, fling open your windows and door,  
 Let the Bethlehem Stranger come in.  
 For the baby 'twas born in the manger of yore,  
 Came from God to save from sin.  
*Homer J. Williamson*

May our hearts ever be full of the love of Christ at this blessed time of year.

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**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**Ernestine Wuthrich**

After many months of pain and suffering, Dennis Teubel has passed from his earthly toils. Dennis was the son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Wilma Teubel. Surviving are his wife, Carolyn; children, Eric and Holly; two brothers, Bro. Paul (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Kenny (Gridley, IL); four sisters, Janice Johnson (Bloomfield, IA), Sis. Donna Manz (Cecil, OH), Nancy Teubel (Bethesda, MD) and Sally Santi (Austoria, NY).

*I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
 I'm following the path God laid for me,  
 I took His hand when I heard Him call  
 I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day  
 To laugh, to love, to work or play,  
 Tasks left undone, must stay that way  
 I've found that peace at the close of day.  
 If my parting has left a void---  
 Then fill it with remembered joy  
 A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.  
 Ah yes, these things I too will miss.  
 Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
 I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
 My life's been full, I've savored much  
 Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch;  
 Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
 Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
 Lift up your heart and share with me  
 God wanted me now; He set me free!

*Anne Davison - 1974*

As we make our holiday preparations, take the time to reflect on the reason for our celebration: Christ's birth preparing for our salvation, made possible by His crucifixion and resurrection.

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**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Lela Banwart - Mary Gerber**

We were blessed to have two visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN). How grateful we are for God's Word that comes forth through His faithful servants.

We are so thankful that Dave and Diane Gerber (Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber and Mark and Laura Montag) have surrendered their lives to Christ and have found that wonderful peace. We look forward to witnessing their

testimonies and baptisms in the near future.

Roy and Angie Metzger welcomed Chyan Rose on November 6. Big brothers, Dallas and Luke, are excited to have a baby sister. Grandparents, Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger and Verda Chrishilles, are also on hand to help care for this precious blessing from above.

*God's Gift of Love*

Our Father up in heaven long,  
long years ago  
Looked down in His great mercy  
on this restless world below,  
And He saw that folks were lonely  
and lost in deep despair  
And so He said, "I'll send my Son  
to walk among them there...  
So they can hear Him speaking  
and feel His nearness, too,  
And see the many miracles that  
faith alone can do".  
And so though centuries have  
passed since Jesus walked on  
earth,  
Time has not dimmed the wonder  
of the Holy Christ Child's birth,  
And through the countless ages  
this Son of God above  
Remakes the lives of sinful men  
and saves them with His love.

*Helen Steiner Rice*

**KANSAS, BERN  
Diane Kaeb  
Donna Edelman**

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

*Psalms 127:3*

Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy Strahm, along with Almanzo, Hans, Fritz and Sheila, welcomed little Peter Marti into their hearts and home October 20. Grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm and Leslie and Leora Baumgartner.

The home of Bro. Tim and Sis. Margaret Edelman was also blessed with the arrival of Sarah Nicole on October 28. She has a brother, Kyle, and a sister, Britany. Grandparents are Jack and Mary Ann Koch and Sis. Marjorie Edelman (Sabetha, KS).

We have other grandparents in our congregation with new little ones in the family. Bro. Dan Edelman welcomes a granddaughter, Erinn Ruth, born October 5 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn (Silverton, OR). Bro. Leroy and Sis. Helen Meyer welcome a grandson, Dylan John, born October 17 to Jeri and Darcy Meyer, Salina. Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn Edelman welcome a grandson, Kaleb Fredrick, born November 4 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL).

Bro. Rich Aberle (Altadena, CA) gave a Bible Study at Kansas State University the evening of November 4. We were also privileged to have him minister to us the following Sunday.

On November 12 and 13 we had the privilege to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new sister-in-the-Lord, Jeanette Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda). Elder Bro. Sam Huber was with us for this special weekend.

Other visiting ministers this month were: Retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), and Bros. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). May God bless each one for their labors in His vineyard.

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for ne-

cessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me."

*I Corinthians 9:16-17*

Our prayers and support go to Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Kaeb and their children, Jody, Derek and Darcie, as Bro. Jim is called into the ministry. May they feel God's love and almighty power.

At Home, 'tis well! There shall  
the pilgrim tarry,  
When tired and worn by sorrow,  
grief, and strife;  
In heav'n, when the hard race of  
earthly life  
Is run, the long-borne load no  
more he'll carry.

At Home, 'tis well! Then let us  
hasten thither  
Through pain and death on to our  
homeland shore!  
On, boldly on! When this short  
life is o'er,  
New life will bloom for us and  
never wither.

*Zion's Harp #170*

Sis. Ella Hartter went to be with the Lord on November 15. Her funeral services were held on November 18. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). May God put his arms of comfort around her husband, Retired Elder Bro. Lester Hartter; her brother, Bro. Joe Marti; her daughter, Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard); her sons, Bro. Steve Hartter (Sis. Lois), Lynn Hartter (Barbara), and Bro. Neil Hartter (Sis. Evelyn); her 18 grandchildren and her 9 great-grandchildren.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Emil and Sis. Grace Strahm on the death of a brother, Oreon

Strahm, on October 30. Our prayers are also with Arlene Bauman on the death of a niece, Joyce Wagner; and to James and Ann Moser, Nick and Amber on the death of Ann's mother, Betty Bucher, on November 15. May God give comfort to each one.

Hospitalized this past month was Sis. Kaye Meyer (Bro. Steve) for surgery. Sis. Leola Lehman (Bro. Edward) and Bro. Wayne Miller (Sis. Pearl) are both hospitalized at this time and we pray that God may provide the needed grace and strength upon their afflictions.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"

*Ephesians 5:20*

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

After Thanksgiving we will discontinue having our Sunday evening singings. We will then begin our Wednesday services.

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

**Joleen Sinn**

Trista Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb) and Dave Miller (Mr. and Mrs. Ron Miller) have announced their engagement. We pray that they will look to our Heavenly Father for direction and that He will bless them with His love.

Sis. Rebecca Sinn (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) has had oral surgery. We are thankful that all has gone well and that she is home recuperating.

### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

**Doug and Judy Kraft**

We were privileged to have sev-

eral visiting ministers with us recently. They were Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Charles Marti (Lamar, MO), Bill Emch (Lamont, KS) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS). May God bless and reward the brothers for their willingness to bring the Holy Word to us.

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

*Hymns of Zion #36*

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

### KANSAS, KIOWA

**Janice Bahr**

**Darcy Kisling**

My Lord an offering do I bring;  
My heart I give to Thee.  
I gladly give this heart of mine,  
Which Thou dost ask of me.

Thou sayest, "Child, give me your heart!"

O what a sweet request!  
It shows the way that we must  
take to life and peace and rest.

O now, my Saviour, do thou take  
My heart and make it Thine;  
I'll follow Thee, a servant true,  
Within Thy fold divine.

En clothed in all Thy righteousness  
And innocence I'd be,  
That I might stand before my God,  
From sin made pure and free.

*Zion's Harp #163*

As there is "joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sin-

ner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10), so must their joy, as ours, have been doubled on November 5 and 6 when Kelly and Jenny Stewart brought their testimony of repentance and conversion before our congregation that we might share the peace and love God has brought into their lives. Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), and Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), plus their families, were in our midst to share a part in this very special weekend. We are so grateful to our wonderful and merciful Lord that He is still calling souls to His fold, and fervently pray that many might yet be called before the day of grace is forever closed. Many friends and relatives were in our midst to share in this "first day of the rest of Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny's lives" and we pray that our precious Lord and God who so filled our little church with His presence will be ever present in their lives to guide and direct them in all they do.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Rachel Kraft at the passing of her dear brother, Oreon Strahm, of Sabetha, KS. We also extend sympathy to the family of Bro. Harvey Farney who passed from this life this past month in Wichita, KS.

If we hold our loved ones up to the Father in prayer, our list should have been lengthy this month. Our dear friend, Verda Tanner, Bro. Huber Farney and Sis. Florence Guthrie all faced eye surgery; Sis. Nelda Ott, back surgery; and Sis. Matilda Schupbach and Alice Allenbach were hospital patients. Sis. Kathryn Miller is still recuperating at the Share Home in Alva from a badly broken leg. For those who are able to be in our midst again, we give thanks to the Lord; and to those unable to be in our midst, whether named

herein or those unable to worship with us for other reasons of illness that we are unaware of, we pray that the Lord will bless and keep each one and grant a measure of returning strength, according to His blessed will.

We have resumed Wednesday night services in Kiowa and are at the present time listening to the tapes of the Conference. It makes us so appreciative to realize how much our Shepherds care for the flock and the preservation of the church that the next generation may know the same truths that led us to repentance when we came under conviction of sin. May we as sheep be faithful and not be the cause of unrest for our dear loving Shepherds.

We had a wonderful turnout for Rest Home services again this month and truly appreciate the support we have for so many church gatherings.

Christmas is just around the corner and may we remember as we hurry and scurry about getting ready for this beautiful time of year just what makes it so wonderful. Our precious Lord and Saviour was sent as a Babe to live and love and die on a Cross so that you and I might someday, if we come to Him with a contrite heart, be able to share eternity with Him in a much more beautiful place. Let's keep Christ in Christmas. After all, it's His birthday!

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#### **KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Mary Kay Wenger  
Sharon Strahm**

We are thankful Donald Strahm has found grace to repent. May God help him to build a firm foundation. Don is in the hospital recovering from surgery. Sis. Evelyn Steiner also is in the hospital. We wish them God's nearness and healing power.

We appreciated the Word of

God brought forth by visiting minister Bro. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA).

After Thanksgiving we will begin our Wednesday evening services, alternating with Bern, and discontinue our Sunday evening singings.

In this holiday season, may we always be mindful of the greatest gift which is available to us each day of the year.

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#### **KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Jeanne Aberle**

The semester is rapidly progressing, and we students have been enjoying the Christian fellowship we often take for granted. We find much encouragement in evenings of singing or listening to tapes and appreciate the friendship and support we feel from each other.

However, it's always an extra blessing having visitors worship with us. We're thankful for all those who have taken the time to show their kindness. Visiting ministers include: Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Bros. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Don Braker (Kansas City, KS), Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), and Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA).

On the weekend of November 12-13, we were blessed to witness the testimony and baptism of Jeanelle Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda, Bern, KS) in Bern.

As classes wind down, we are looking forward to Christmas break. May each of you have a joyous holiday season, remembering the precious birth of our Saviour.

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#### **KANSAS, WICHITA**

**Emma Miller**

Again, we in the Wichita congregation have had an opportunity to witness God's healing

power. Timothy Funk, youngest son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally, had the misfortune to break his leg. He is well on the way to recovery and we know he looks forward to laying aside his crutches and returning to normal activity.

Also, on October 26, God permanently healed Bro. Harvey Farney of his infirmities when He called Bro. Harvey to his heavenly reward at the age of 79 years. Harvey is survived by his wife, Sis. Ann, and their children: Jerry Farney of Perryton, TX; Karlene Young, Larry Farney, Roberta Reimschisel, Sis. Judy Reimschisel, and Dr. Terry Farney of the Wichita metropolitan area. Twenty-six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and a sister, Sis. Emma Sanders of Phoenix, AZ, also survive. While we cannot wish Bro. Harvey back to continue in his infirmities, we can savor the memories of his devotion to the Scriptures and of his willingness to lend himself to the upkeep and operation of the church building.

On October 30, Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) ministered to us. Our church was filled that day with those who were gathering for Bro. Harvey's funeral the following morning.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, which will be far past when you read this, we in the Wichita area can rejoice in the beautiful fall foliage. At this date, November 15, we still have not had a killing frost and the leaves have developed the rich autumn colors we so often miss when we have severe weather early in the season. It reminds us that in God's predictability of the seasons, He also provides variety as He unfolds our future. We know He provides for us in all things so we never have to be weary in waiting for His revelation.

## KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

### Doug and Rebecca Germann

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 blessed us on our way,  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

*Zion's Harp #236*

With the Thanksgiving season here and Christmas close by, no doubt many are busy with preparations and plans. We are a fortunate people to have so much to be thankful for. At the end of each day, certainly we have much to communicate with our Father in Heaven about. Yet, sometimes these "blessings" take up so much time we forget to thank the Father above for what He has done. I have to think of the ten lepers, and though they all were excited about being healed, only one returned to say thanks.

We here in Lexington are very thankful for the time and effort that Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy Steffen extended on behalf of our congregation. In addition, a special thanks to all who came to be with us last month from Smithville, OH and Morris, MN.

Our Sunday School students enjoyed a Saturday evening together on November 12. The students enjoyed games, a pizza dinner and a Bible Quiz Bowl on the Book of Acts. Our evening was concluded with a hymn and a prayer.

We extend a hearty welcome to all who will be traveling through the Bluegrass on their way South to stop and fellowship with the brethren here. Your presence is very much appreciated!

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**

## Jane Grawburg

Elder Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer (Milford, IN) were with us for a review of the Memorandum. Again, we were reminded just how necessary it is to look to Jesus every day. We want to thank Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley for the love they so graciously shared with us throughout the entire weekend.

We want to express our sympathy and love to Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier and their family in the passing of Sis. Bertha's sister, Sis. Freida Grusy (Goodfield, IL); and also to Bro. Lloyd (Sis. Elouise) and Bro. Noah (Sis. Marguerite) Blough and their families in the passing of their brother, Ervin Blough (Empire, MI). May God carry you through these difficult times.

Carl Wheeler (Sis. Kate) is not well. Our prayers are with him and Sis. Kate as she continues to care for him at home.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier are the first of our Snowbirds to go South for the winter. We pray that God will be with them while they travel and will provide for a blessed stay in Sarasota this winter.

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:"

*Psalms 92:1*

As Thanksgiving is almost here, we should take time to look back over the past year and to thank God for the many blessings He has given us. May this Thanksgiving be a special blessing to all.

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## MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Marlene Mosher**

Lori (Pashak) Arbour underwent emergency gall bladder surgery and she is doing well. We

wish Lori and daughter, Mallory, our Lord's blessings and send up our prayers for her. Lori's parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak.

We have in our prayers Bro. Glen Ruegsegger Sr. (Sis. Margaret) who underwent open heart surgery. Bro. Glen is up and around and we wish him our Lord's grace and blessings for his recovery.

We were blessed to host the annual Eastern World Relief meeting the weekend of November 12. This time of being updated on what World Relief does was such a time of blessings and renewal of things we can do to help and also a renewal of meeting old and new friends and family. What a wonderful thing to be a child in the Family of God.

We were also granted the blessings of having with us Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), and Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). What a blessed preview of being together in our Lord's Kingdom.

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## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Marlene Reinhard**

**Holly Barton**

In this season of rejoicing we have much to celebrate in Detroit! Two young men, Curt Kaisner and Tommie Hitz, are seeking God's promise of "peace on earth, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14) and have begun their repentance. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner and Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz.

It also warms our hearts to welcome Bro. Joe Szilagyi (Sis. Martha), Bro. George Popp, and Sis. Katherine Losiewicz back to church after illness and hospitalizations. Bro. Mike Gutwein



(Francesville, IN) has been hospitalized in our area after suffering serious injuries in a car accident. We pray for the Lord's care and protection.

We extend our sympathy to Dorothy Leman (Charles) on the death of her sister, Sis. Myrna Koch (Tremont, IL), and to the Martin and Hohulin families on the passing of Bro. Orville Martin (Roanoke, IL).

The Open House and Dedication of our new Alzheimer's wing at Woodhaven was held on November 13. We pray that this endeavor can be of service to the church and community and a glory to God.

We appreciate Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) for his ministry at Woodhaven this month. The residents do look forward to the services held there!

I am often struck by the difference between the holidays of Halloween and Christmas in America. One celebrates darkness, the other light. It is obvious who the "master" of each holiday is, isn't it? In this season of love and light, may Jesus truly shine brightly in our hearts and lives. Remember, the deeper the darkness, the brighter the light!

The Light of the World is Jesus  
The whole world was lost in the  
darkness of sin,  
The Light of the world is Jesus;  
Like sunshine at noon-day His  
glory shone in,  
The Light of the world is Jesus.

Come to the Light, 'tis shining for  
thee;  
Sweetly the Light has dawned  
upon me,  
Once I was blind, but now I can  
see:  
The Light of the world is Jesus.  
*Gospel Hymns #626*

## MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

### Delores Sauder

The Christmas season is approaching and the busier we get, the more frequently we must remind ourselves, "Are we keeping Jesus first in our lives?"

On November 5, we gathered together and listened to the reading of the Memorandum. Our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) was assisted by Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). We appreciated their love and concern for the church and thank them for their labors both Saturday and Sunday.

## MINNESOTA, MORRIS

### Linda Schmidgall

### Maxine Sauder

"O come let us adore Him...". Yes, come in humble adoration; with reverent rejoicing. May melodies of praise fill our hearts as we consider the wonder of God's gift of the Christ Child.

We are grateful for those who preach salvation in this Christ Jesus, and want to thank our visiting Elder brothers this month: Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). May they be encouraged to continue to preach God's Word.

Two couples have committed their lives to each other in marriage. Mindy Fehr (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Judy) was united in marriage to Shawn McClard. Ranee Burnham (Allan and Sis. Ilene) joined Wayne Grunklee in marriage. We pray that God abundantly blesses their lives together.

Prayers are also offered up in behalf of those hospitalized recently: Bro. Ernest Koehl, Bro. Dennis Joos (Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Edith) and Bro. Gottlieb Joos. May their strength be restored.

## MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

### Jan Messner - Joleen Messner Greetings!!

"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."

*Luke 1:30-31*

As we celebrate the Christmas season, let us remember that Jesus is our most precious gift.

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

*Psalms 103:21*

How thankful we are that Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) so willingly labored for us this past month. May God bless Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine for spending time with us.

As I travel on life's pathway,  
Know not what the years may  
hold,  
As I ponder, hope grows fonder,  
Precious memories flood my soul.

Precious memories, how they  
linger,  
How they ever flood my soul,  
In the stillness of the midnight,  
Precious, sacred scenes unfold."  
*Heavenly Highway Hymns #208*

The Winthrop single group was privileged to have several single groups in for a weekend of singing and blessed fellowship. May God bless those that came to visit our small congregation.

Our Bible Class recently hosted an Over 55 Supper. It was an evening of sharing special memories from times past. We can learn so much from our older brothers and sisters in the exam-

ples that they set. May God continue to grant them grace to carry on our precious heritage.

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

*Genesis 2:18*

Believing that the Lord has directed their lives, the engagement of our Sis. Joleen Messner (Sis. Julia and the late Bro. James) to Bro. John Elder (George and Charlotte, Arlington Heights, IL) of Denver, CO was recently announced. May they ever rely on God's guidance as they walk life's pathway together.

Our hospital patient was Trent Messner (Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois). We are thankful that he is home and doing well. We also have some loved ones undergoing testing for bodily afflictions. We pray that God's healing hand can rest upon them.

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#### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

##### Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

On October 22-23 we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Marty Rokey (Bro. Garry). Sharing the weekend with us was Elder Bro. John Lehman and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS).

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

*Luke 2:7*

As we near the Christmas season, may we keep the true meaning of Christmas in the center of all that we do.

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#### MISSOURI, LAMAR

#### Carolyn Banwart

##### Becky Marti

We rejoice that four dear souls are at peace with God and man and we look forward to hearing their testimonies in the near future. They are Dorothy Heimer (Bro. Stan), Ulista and Jonathan Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn) and Kristen Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller).

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Stan and Dorothy Heimer in the death of Dorothy's mother. May they feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

*Hebrews 13:17*

We appreciated the loving instructions and admonitions given us as Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Lawrence in sharing the Memorandum and ministering God's Word to us. May the Lord bless Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy for their efforts on our behalf.

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#### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

##### Betsy Schrenk

We have again been richly blessed by many visitors, including the following ministering brothers and their wives: Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), John Zeller (Morton, IL) and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). The blessings are multiplied when we can get together on Saturday with our guests. Please call us so we can make arrangements for fellowship if it fits into your plans. And now that our son, Peter, is repenting, we would especially appreci-

ate having other young people who love the Lord spend the weekend with us.

We have Wednesday evening services once a month. The dates for the next few months are as follows: January 11, February 8, March 15. Sometimes people are here on business or are traveling through during the week, and are welcome to join us at 8:00 p.m.

As another year draws to a close, we look back on the many blessings we have had and the wonderful support given us by so many throughout the land, and we thank God. The Apostolic Christian fellowship is a treasure that we love and appreciate so very much. We know that many have held us up in prayer, and we beg you to continue your prayers and we also will pray for you.

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#### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

##### Rusty and Amy Adrian

As the holiday season approaches us, may the love of God shine through each of us. Many years ago, our forefathers landed here in this land so that we could worship and praise our most precious Saviour without being persecuted. While we have the wonderful opportunity to travel from church to church and meet and greet each other in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us be thankful for the freedoms in this land that God has provided us. May each of us take the time to reflect on the reason the holiday seasons are so special.

Our Sunday School youth enjoyed getting together several times this past month. On Sunday evening, October 16, they went to the Lake of the Oaks for a fall picnic. Fellowship was enjoyed, songs were sung, and hot dogs were roasted. Truly God's beauty could be seen in the countryside setting that was around

us. On October 22 and 23, the Bible Class was invited to Pulasqui, IA for worship and fellowship. What a privilege it is as our youth have the opportunity to fellowship and to make new relationships together. Realizing that our youth will some day be the future church, may we as believers encourage them to participate as often as possible with other Apostolic Christian youth across the land.

Four of our brothers traveled to Silverton, OR in November to help work on their new church building. They enjoyed working with other brethren and the fellowship was very rewarding.

Mary Beth Sutton continues to receive chemotherapy treatments in St. Louis.

Sis. Clara Yackley was injured in a fall. She is able to be in church again.

Sis. Elsie Knapp (Bro. Ben) is very ill. We pray the Lord will be near them during this difficult time.

Sis. Loida Hodel is spending much of her time caring for her husband, Henry (Hank), due to his declining health.

A number of our families that lost their homes to the flood last year have been living temporarily in mobile homes. Several have now been able to move to permanent homes which they greatly appreciate.

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

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the  
years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; And  
gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels  
keep Their watch of wondering  
love.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently The  
wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming; But  
in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive  
Him still, The dear Christ enters  
in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, De-  
scend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be  
born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell,  
O come to us, abide with us, Our  
Lord Emmanuel.

*Hymns of Zion #37*

The words of this beautiful Christmas hymn tell us of the lowly birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus where it says that meek souls can still receive Him and He will enter into their hearts and cast out sin. Anna Mellnitz has experienced this very thing and has received God's peace in her heart. We look forward to her testimony and baptism in the week ahead.

As we approach the Christmas season, may each of us remember the quiet, loving life of Jesus and may we strive to follow Him more faithfully each day of our lives. May we always remember the true meaning of Christmas and not get involved with the many traditions of the world at this time of year.

We are happy that Sherry

Sturtze (Virgil) has been able to assemble with us following major surgery. Our thoughts and prayers have been with her and we pray that she may be completely healed of bodily afflictions through God's healing hand. We are also glad to report that Wini-fred Christiansen (Chris) is making satisfactory recovery following hip surgery and our thoughts and prayers continue with her.

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**OHIO, AKRON**  
**Diane Jarrett**  
**Joyce Gasser**

We rejoice that Joe and Esther Grossenbacher have turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that they will grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Robert Kaufman is back at his home in the Assisted Living wing of the Home after being hospitalized. May he feel the Lord's presence and grace to be very real to him.

We thank Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN) for visiting us and giving us inspiring messages recently.

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**OHIO, COLUMBUS**  
**Julie Grimm**

We are trusting God to bless the labors of those who serve in the ministry of the Word. Our visitors have included Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN).

Bro. Andy Hunyady traveled again to Eastern Europe for the dedication of the Szged church. We thank the Lord for his safe return.

May we be reminded this blessed Christmas season of the love God gave in His Son, Jesus. As our thoughts are drawn to Bethlehem, may our hearts be

drawn closer to Him.

## OHIO, JUNCTION

**Sandra Manz**

Many of us left church the evening of November 5 feeling convicted that we had much room for improvement in our work for the Lord. But we were thankful that Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter, Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) could without reservations bring forth the Conference conclusions in such a loving and concerned manner. We must be on guard.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Miller lost nearly all of their earthly possessions in a house fire one night last month. We are so thankful that they were spared from injury and that they are coping well. They have expressed their thanks to all who have helped them in any way.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz and part of their family were involved in a car accident one Sunday evening on their way home from church services in Columbus. We are sorry that Sis. Carolyn is still feeling some of the effects of the accident and pray for a full recovery.

We were sorry to hear that Bro. Alvin Manz, Jr. (Bud) was leaving our area for the Forrest/Fairbury area and will be attending Forrest church. We know how much the brethren will enjoy his friendly and joyful personality. Bud has a real love for the Lord, and we wish him many blessings in his new home.

We express our sympathy to Sis. Donna Manz (Bro. Bob) and her family at the loss of her brother, Bro. Dennis Teubel. There is sorrow and rejoicing as we know that he had found peace with the Lord, but he leaves behind a bereaved family and

friends. May God console them.

Christmas---a time of sharing and caring and giving thanks. May the joy of sharing time with family and friends and strangers in church or in homes or nursing homes or hospitals and singing sweet Christmas carols and sharing of earthly possessions override the frustrations and hectic pace also associated with this special time of the year. May God's greatest gift have special meaning to each of you this year.

## OHIO, LATTY

**Lane Stoller**

**Kathy Sinn**

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers in our congregation during the month. They include: Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), and Bros. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Chris Wuethrich and Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Ben Manz, Sam Schlatter, and Don Manz (Junction, OH). May these brothers continue to preach and support the truth of God's Word.

During the month, Chris Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia), Lori Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie) and Sandy Sinn (Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee) gave their testimonies before the congregation and were baptized on Sunday.

We were also blessed to listen to the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) were here to assist Elder Bro. Ray. We heard of the concerns of the church.

The Elder brothers from the eastern states met in Latty during the month to discuss concerns and other matters of consideration.

Stacy Jo was born to Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni Wenninger. Her sis-

ter, Jessica, welcomes a new playmate at home. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger and Lennis and Lula Saylor.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette Sinn welcome home little Natalie Joy. Her grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Feucht (Lester, IA). May the Lord give wisdom to these parents as they raise their girls in the fear of the Lord.

Bill McClure has answered the call of repentance and begun his walk with the Lord. May God richly bless him during this time and further on.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Lee Eisenmann and his family in the passing away of Lee's brother, Alpha. May God comfort this family during this time of adjustment.

May God's presence also comfort Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn and family in the passing of their nephew, Bro. Mike Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

## OHIO, MANSFIELD

**Cari Mann**

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."

*I Corinthians 2:4*

This month our visiting ministers were Bros. Merle Hartzler and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH). We enjoyed having both brothers and their families with us for services.

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

*I Corinthians 2:12*

Bro. Wally and Sis. Helen Ramsier wish to thank God for all the years of life they've had and especially for the 50 years of married life. They also thank God for all the people who helped them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

*Mark 10:7-9*

October 22 was the wedding day of Steve Robertson and Melinda Zimmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara). We pray that they will continue to grow in love for each other and for God.

"And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise."

*I Chronicles 16:35*

On October 30, we gathered together for our annual fall outing. As we did on that day, let us always remember that where two or three are gathered in His name, He is there also. (Matthew 18:20)

When one of our congregation has a loved one pass away, we all share the pain of their departure from this earth. This month we shared the sorrow with Sis. Helen Ramsier (Bro. Wally), Sis. Emily Went (Harold), Mart, Ben and Bob Oesch in the passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Harvey Farney (Sis. Ann, Wichita, KS). We also are sorrowed by the passing of Sis. Ann Maibach (Bro. Ken, Smithville, OH) who was a sister

to Sis. Pam Sauder (Bro. Dan). Our congregation will definitely miss the presence of these two dear souls as they and their spouses were frequent visitors to our church. May these loved ones treasure the promise of God, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18)

Recently we were having trouble with our garage door opener. You would push the button to put the door down, it would start to go down, catch, stop and go back up. One night, I came home from a singing only to have this happen several times. I was getting rather frustrated because I could not get that door to go all the way down and stay there. After awhile, my father came and said "You go to bed, I'll take care of it." Before too long, he got the door down. As I was preparing for bed, I could not stop thinking of the countless times my Heavenly Father has in a sense said "You go to bed, I'll take care of it." As I thought back, it came to me that in His own time, He has taken care of everything that frustrated me, as long as I let Him do His will. As I trusted my earthly father to take care of the door, may we each trust our Heavenly Father to take care of such small things, all the while knowing He will also take care of the big things.

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Marsha Rufener**  
**Linda Ramsier**

How thankful we can be of our many blessings. Trevin Arthur is the new son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Hartzler. Also awaiting this little blessing on October 20 were grandparents, Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marian Hartzler and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane Stoller (Latty, OH). Trudie, Tyson, Tobin, and Trenton are glad for a

new playmate.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa Hartzler were blessed with a little girl on November 11. Shelby Lynae's grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler and Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jeannie Stoller.

We rejoiced with our new Bro. Scott and Sis. Ruth Bachman as they were baptized on October 30. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted Bro. Henry in this important work. Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) ministered unto us lately.

We are so thankful that souls can yet come to the Lord in repentance. Michelle Dotterer felt called to turn her back on the world and accept His will in her life. Michelle's parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardel Dotterer.

Those who have been hospitalized recently are Sis. Wilma Ramsier (Bro. Kenneth), Sis. Mardel Dotterer (Bro. Robert), Bro. John Calame II (Sis. Jody), and Laura Ramsier (Bro. Steven and Sis. Karen). May they feel our love and prayers.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Ken Rupp (Sis. Lillian) in the passing of his dear sister. May he also feel our prayers and support.

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Renee Miller**

Julia Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mim) gave a testimony of her faith and was baptized. We are overjoyed to welcome her as our sister in the Lord. Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) came to assist this Holy act.

Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) recently shared the pulpit with our local ministering brothers. We are thankful for his family's visit.

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**

**Edith Miller  
Margaret Blough**

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord."

*Psalms 105:1-3*

There is much in this life to keep us busy, often leaving time for little else. Let's remember to pause and consider often all the things He has done for us that our hearts may be truly thankful.

We enjoyed sharing the Word with ministering Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and his family this past month.

Many from our congregation have been hospitalized recently: Ted Beery (Sis. Rhea) had open heart surgery; Bro. Herb Bauman (Sis. Bernice) with knee surgery; Bros. Darrel and Dennis Indermuhle (Sis. Janet and Sherri) fell from a scaffolding; and Sis. Bertha Gasser (Bro. Arthur) was in overnight. May God touch each one with His healing hand.

We mourned the loss of our dear Sis. Ann Maibach, who passed away on November 8. Our deep sympathy goes to Bro. Ken; Ann's parents, Everett and Dorothy Martin, Universal City, TX; and all of her family and friends. Our hearts are saddened, yet we find joy in knowing we will see her again in heaven if we remain faithful!

We would also like to extend our sympathy to Andy and Elizabeth Fetzner at the passing of Elizabeth's grandmother. May the Lord comfort your hearts.

A new little blessing has been

added to the home of Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose Dotterer. Tim, Craig, and Curt are also excited about their new sister, Rachel Mary. The happy grandparents include Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer and Sis. Ruth Hilty (Rittman, OH).

We regret not mentioning earlier that Bro. Andy and Sis. Cyndi Figel have relocated and are assembling at the Sardis church. May God continue to bless and guide them.

**OHIO, TOLEDO**

**Edie Fetter**

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."

*Proverbs 25:25*

We heard the good news of salvation from God spoken to us by Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) who recently visited our congregation. May their efforts be blessed by God and bring forth fruit in our lives.

**OREGON, SILVERTON**

**Peggy Schulz**

"What glorious state to be a Lamb of Jesus...". On November 12 and 13, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our friends, Adam Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) and Tamara Kuenzi (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane). Our Elder Bro. Leo Moser was assisted in this by Bro. Clarence Dietrich. We truly appreciate Bro. Leo's willingness to travel the many miles to serve the Lord on our behalf.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Gloria Kuenzi who has just undergone a total knee replacement. We pray she will have

a speedy recovery and much less pain afterwards.

Once again we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to those who have come from various congregations to help us in the erecting of our new edifice. It is a wonderful sight to see the sanctuary totally enclosed so that the winter rains remain outside and the workers inside remain dry. May the Lord richly bless you all.

**PENNSYLVANIA,  
PHILADELPHIA**

**Franz Soni**

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

*Psalms 133:1*

We held our annual church fall clean-up on October 29. We thank all who participated.

We are happy to have Pella Naffin (David) worshipping with us again and that her foot is healing. Our prayers are with Kimberly Insigna (Charles) who is recovering from gall bladder surgery. May God work His healing power upon her.

We welcome back John and Sis. Kathy Clough and their children, Rebekah, Kevin, Faith and Hope. They were all missed the three months they spent working on the new Silverton, OR church.

A potluck dinner was held at Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn Gerber's house on November 12. A wonderful evening of fellowship, singing, and preparation of school bags for World Relief followed dinner.

We said farewell to Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller and their children, Natasha, Austin and Celise. Bro. Bob's job has transferred them to the Dayton, OH area and they will be attending

the Columbus church. Their new address is: 2528 Mahognay Trail, Centerville, OH 45459. May God bless and protect them.

We thank Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) for sharing God's word with us this past month. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

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

*Isaiah 9:6*

Holiday season is once more upon us when we turn our thoughts heavenward and remember the birth of our newborn King. Praise and honor to His high and holy name. May we always remember this Christ in Christmas as we go about making our holiday plans, that His name may be lifted up and glorified.

Services were held for November on October 30. We were blessed with a mixed group of visitors representing the Illinois churches of Fairbury, Cissna Park, Peoria, Bloomington, and

also Mansfield, OH. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore and Sis. Doris traveled from Athens, AL to be with us and Bro. Lavoyd ministered the Word of God to us. Thanks to all of you for coming to worship and fellowship with us.

Come visit us during this blessed Christmas season. The weather is usually pretty mild at this time of year. Lord willing, we plan to hold services on December 4 with a ministering brother from Milford, IN being present. January 8 and February 5, 1995 are our first scheduled services in the coming new year.

Please contact us if you are in the Nashville area. We wholeheartedly welcome visitors and will be glad to make any necessary accommodations. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-5948, or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

### TEXAS, DALLAS Christine Kaiser Kimberly Kaiser

The Dallas area was recently blessed to have Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) as a visiting minister. He, along with his wife, Sis. Nancy, and their four children, drove the many miles south to be with us. We enjoyed the spoken message and Christian fellowship

and convey our sincere thanks for their trip. God bless you.

We extend a special invitation to anyone traveling in the Dallas area to come 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 10:30 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 additional information.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

Retired Elder Bro. Paul Fehr and his wife, Sis. Anna, are among the first of our winter residents to come to Zapata for the winter. We are looking forward to more of our winter residents coming soon.

Four of the foster children, Lluvia (9), David (4), Dennis (2) and Adolfo (1), that were living with Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl and their daughter, Julie, have gone back to their own family. We learn to know these children and pray that they will have a chance to lead a Christian life.

We hope we will be blessed with many visitors this winter.



## "GOD LOVINGLY FORGIVES"

*Sermon By Bro. Marvin Dotterer Of Forrest, IL*  
Isaiah 6 and John 13

I think as we read an account like this, we can probably hardly understand or comprehend how the disciples must have felt. They didn't understand what was coming or what was before them, or what Jesus was facing. All the things that were to come to pass were written in the prophets. We even read in the sixth chapter of Isaiah of something that was prophesied and mentioned later in the New Testament. There were things that we read here today that were prophesied; yet, they really could not understand what Jesus really meant.

He said, "I am going to go where you cannot come." (See John 13:33). He did not mean that he was going to Heaven and none of us can get there. He meant that He was going to be crucified and they would not be.

He even told Peter here at the last, "Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards." (John 13:36). We know it doesn't tell us in the Word, but we understand from history that Peter was crucified at a later time. He was even crucified upside down because he did not feel worthy to be crucified in the same way that Jesus, his Lord and Master was.

Jesus was trying, maybe in some way, to tell them a little bit more of what His mission really was. He wanted to wash their feet, and Peter said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet." (John 13:8). Peter probably felt like he

was more the servant and Jesus the Lord and Master, and Jesus should not be washing his feet.

What did Jesus tell him? "If I don't wash you, you are going to have no part with Me." (See John 13:8). That is the way it is today. If Jesus doesn't wash us, we will have no part with Him. He is not going to literally wash our feet like He did for Peter and the other disciples, but we are washed by the blood that He shed there upon the cross for each one of us--for you and me--and for the sins that we committed. If we don't let Jesus wash us with that blood that He shed, we will never have any part with Him. That is really what He was saying to them.

He knew what He was going to have to go through, but His disciples did not know. He was trying to tell them what His mission really was. We have no cleanness of ourselves. We can go back to the chapter that we read in the forereading, the sixth chapter in Isaiah, and how Isaiah felt his own inadequacy and his own uncleanness. God came to him and He cleaned him and purged him from his sin with that hot coal. (See Isaiah 6:5-7).

A little earlier in the chapter, it said, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty." (See Isaiah 6:3). God is such a perfect God, a Holy God, and an Almighty God and this is really what He expects of us. He expects us to be like Him. Now we

know that we carry flesh and blood and none of us can be perfect, but that does not excuse any of us for trying to be perfect or trying to be like God. I think sometimes maybe we use that as a crutch or as an excuse thinking, "Why, I could never be like God; there is no use to even try. I have too many weaknesses and too many failings." We do, but that doesn't excuse us from striving to be like God.

I think Satan is so successful many times to those who are unconverted and those who haven't given their life to God and how he can tell them it is just not worth trying because we can never do it. By ourselves, we cannot do it.

I know we have said this many, many times; it is nothing new, and yet maybe we need to be reminded of it again this morning that it is only with God's help that we can do anything, that we can serve Him at all. We could not do anything good of ourselves, but only with God's help. We cannot come to Him, we cannot serve Him, we could never repent for our sins without the help of God.

How thankful we are that we have the promises in His Word that God will give us this help that we need, whatever it is. For some of us, it is probably a lot more than for others. We might think that because of the sins that we have committed, God could never forgive us. Where we feel in our own mind that we



are a lot worse sinner than what somebody else might be, and God would not forgive us. It doesn't make any difference, does it?

In one place, we read in His Word, "Whoever is forgiven much, will love much." (See Luke 7:47). God did not send Jesus down here for the righteous; it says that He came for the sinners. (See Matthew 9:13). How often Jesus went to the house of the sinful people. His disciples and those did not understand that, how Jesus who was God's own Son and a righteous person could go and have a meal in a sinner's house, sit with them, talk with them and spend time with them. But that is who He came for.

That is the people that He provided this plan of salvation for--for those that are sinful and those that need a Saviour. I think all of us would feel like that is where we fit in.

It says, "For I have given you an example...". (John 13:15). That is why He washed their feet. I guess I think of that a lot of times and I am often so thankful for that when I read it. You know, Jesus did not ever ask us to do anything that He did not first do Himself.

The temptations that He faced were almost no sooner than He was baptized. He went out into the wilderness for forty days and forty nights and He was tempted of the devil.

So He knew what it was like to be tempted. In another place we can read in Hebrews, it said, He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15). He went before

to do everything that He asks us to do. There is not one thing that we are going to be asked to do that Jesus did not first do Himself. I think maybe sometimes we see things as great mountains before us, walled cities, or however we might want to look at them; things that would prevent us from getting where it is that we want to go. There are things that we can look at like that.

Jesus also said in another place, "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4). John wrote that in one of his letters. We have to understand that God is so much greater than any power or any force that is in the world.

We read in this chapter this morning about Judas. There is probably a lot that we can talk about Judas. We could maybe think of a lot of questions---maybe unanswered questions---about the role of Judas and how he fit into everything here. He was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Those twelve that He chose were the very, very closest to Him. God knew and Jesus knew that Judas was someday going to betray Him.

We read in the prophets and talked about those that were even for this reason, that He was raised up. Maybe that is something that we have a little bit of a hard time sometimes understanding that we might think, "Well, He really didn't have any choice about what He did because He was chosen to do that." Just like it makes a comparison of Pharaoh. We can read about Pharaoh in the time of the plagues of Egypt and how God

hardened his heart so he could even show his power, and how many people had to suffer and to die because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart. God raised him up to be that way, or caused his heart to be hardened.

God is not an unrighteous God. He is not an unrighteous Judge. He knew the heart of Pharaoh and He knew the heart of Judas and He knew that was the kind of person they were and therefore, He used them to fulfill His purpose. They were willing to be used by Satan to fulfill the purposes that they did.

So really, I think if we look at it in that respect, it was really their choice to be that kind of a person. So Satan used Judas, but Judas had to allow himself to be used by Satan. Afterward, he was sorry for what he did. I think sometimes in all fairness to Judas, (maybe I am wrong about this because it doesn't really say it this way, but I have to wonder) I really would doubt in my mind that he really wanted to see Jesus crucified.

Just like none of us would want to crucify Jesus. But why did Judas do what he did then? He wanted that money, didn't he? He coveted those thirty pieces of silver and I think maybe he thought in his mind that he could go to the High Priest and he could get those thirty pieces of silver as a promise to betray Jesus.

As many times before, when they went to stone Jesus or do something to Him, He slipped through their hands and got away because His time wasn't yet. Maybe Judas thought in his

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*Sermon continued...*

mind that now he could get the thirty pieces of silver and he would betray Jesus, but when they would come to get Him, He would slip on away and nothing would happen to Him. He would have this money and Jesus would be free and nothing bad would happen.

When he found out that really was not what happened, that Jesus really was crucified, he was sorry and he took the money back. He didn't want that money, but he couldn't be forgiven anymore, could he? He went and hung himself, it said.

How many times, maybe do we betray Jesus by the things that we do in our life---the greed that we have or the desire to fulfill the fleshly lusts that we have in our heart and in our life? By those things that we do, we really crucify Jesus, because it is our sin and our iniquity and the failings that we have that really is what crucified Jesus upon the cross. So it is those things that we do that crucified Him; so we really are no different than Judas, are we? If we place those things in our life as to be more important than serving Him, we are in just the same way that Judas was.

I have heard a song sung about the nail. "Who put the nails in the hands of Jesus?" If we are still serving Satan and not serving God, then it is us who have put those nails there. We are no better than Judas was and we can be so critical of him and wonder how could he have done such a thing. How could he have betrayed his Jesus Christ,

the Son of God? But how many of us might be guilty of the very same thing thinking that we are not really doing it or that it is not anything personal between us and God, but all of us have a very personal relationship with God. We think of how many billion people are in this world and have lived and yet every one of us someday are going to stand as individuals before God...one at a time and give an account and an answer for the life that we have lived, things that we have done, or not done.

We just really, really need to think about that. What kind of an answer are we going to give when God asks us why we did this or why we didn't do that? Because we are going to have to do that someday. In the fourteenth chapter of Romans, it tells us that every knee will someday bow before God. (See Romans 14:11). Every one of us are someday going to repent to God. We are going to be sorry for what we have done wrong.

But today we have an opportunity to be forgiven for that. Someday we won't be given that opportunity. Someday it will be too late, but it is not today. We have His Word and we have His promises and we have the mercy of God. It tells us in His Word that it is not God's will that any be lost or perish. (See II Peter 3:9). He doesn't want any not to get to Heaven, but yet He can't do it for us. He did everything that He could do. He provided the Supreme Sacrifice for us so that we could be forgiven, but we have to do it.

Sin cannot enter into Heaven. It tells us that so many places in

His Word. God, as we mentioned earlier, is a Holy God and He cannot tolerate sin. He hates sin and He cannot tolerate it and sin cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. Yet, we are all sinners because of the sin that Adam committed there in the Garden of Eden and we might think that is somewhat unfair because Adam sinned, we are all sinners.

But I don't think we can blame Adam, can we? If we honestly assess our own lives, and the things that we have done, we would see that we really were not any better than he was, are we? We have all come short of God's glory and what He would have us to be. So we can't blame him for the sin in our life and the separation that we have from God.

In Romans, it tells us just by as one man's sin entered into the world, by one Man, salvation is come into the world by Jesus Christ. (See Romans 5:12-15). It wasn't easy for Him. Maybe sometimes we think, "Well, He was the Son of God; therefore, it was a lot easier for Him than it would be for you or me to do what He did." But it was not. He took on Himself flesh and blood just like you have and I have so that He felt the same thing. He hurt just like you and I hurt. He felt pain just like you and I feel pain, and He felt the ridicule of man just like you and I feel. It is not fun, is it, to be made fun of, to be ridiculed, or to feel guilt? We think sometimes how it feels to feel guilty, like even we spoke of Judas there how when he felt that guilt of what he had done, he wanted to take the money

back and he went out and hung himself because he felt this terrible guilt. That was for just one thing that he had done.

Think of how Jesus must have felt when He had to feel the guilt of every sin that everybody ever committed. It felt like He really Himself had done that and He had to be sorry for it because He felt that guilt as He hung there on the cross. I don't think we can imagine what that must have felt like.

It says at that time when He hung there upon the cross, He was separated from God. That is the only time that He referred to God as God, I think. I think every other time He referred to Him as His Father, but at that time, He was totally separated from God and He couldn't even feel like God was His Father. He was totally separated and He called Him, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). He had to be forsaken for that short period of time so that He could take the sins of everybody and bear them upon the cross so that they could be forgiven---each one of us could find forgiveness.

Jesus told them in this chapter, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." (John 13:17). I think maybe that is another misconception that Satan might put in our minds sometimes, "...happy are ye if ye do them." Maybe Satan tells us that it is not any fun to serve God. There is a lot of fun in the world. I probably have to say that all of us, maybe at some point in time to a greater or lesser degree, enjoyed the things of this world because that is our

nature. We have a desire to fulfill the lust of the flesh.

John writes about the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. (See I John 2:16). These are the things that lead us away from God and the things that we have a desire for. They feel good to us and we enjoy them, but they don't give us any lasting benefit or any lasting pleasure or joy. I know we hear this often when we interview converts how they say that they could never imagine that going to singings every Saturday night or being a part of going to church could be fun or could get any enjoyment or any satisfaction out of that. But we don't understand the satisfaction of having a peace with God. This is something that we cannot understand.

There is just no better feeling that we could ever have within us than the peace to know that we are at peace with God.

The fourteenth chapter in this Book of John, if we would go on to read the next chapter, it speaks of that peace. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." (John 14:1). Then He goes on in that chapter and says, "...my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." (John 14:27). This is the kind of peace that we can get from God. That is why He said, "...happy are ye if ye do them." (John 13:17). A peace to know that maybe we are not perfect and there are a lot of things we don't do right, but we are doing the best we can and we have been forgiven. We think sometimes of our life as we mentioned about

standing before God on the Day of Judgment and all those things that are written there, but when we can find forgiveness, we read in His Word, "Those things are cast into the Sea of Forgetfulness to be remembered no more."

How thankful we can be that God is willing to do that for all the things that we have done. We might think again of how many things we have done and how impossible it might be for God to forgive them, but we have the promise that they can be cast into the Sea of Forgetfulness, not to ever be remembered again.

Just this morning at home, I read about forgiveness. I don't think we can understand, really, how God looks at forgiveness. We think of forgiving one another and we need to do that. The Word tells us that if we don't forgive one another, God is not going to forgive us. But how many of us can really forgive like God forgives? When God forgives, He forgets. Pretty hard sometimes for us, isn't it? We might say we forgive someone, but to really and truly forgive, it means to forget that they ever did that and not to ever bring it up again or not to even think of it again. That is real forgiveness! That is what God asks us to do. That is what He did. That is what He is willing to do for us to totally wipe our slate clean and to totally forget what we ever did.

We read in Ezekiel that we need to continue to live for God, though, once we have been forgiven and once our sins have been forgotten. It says that in a

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*Sermon continued...*

day when a righteous man sinneth, all his former righteousness is forgotten. (See Ezekiel 3:20). So it is very important that we continue in the righteousness that we have been brought into. But God is willing to forgive us and there just isn't anything that could be more uplifting than that, to know that God provides for us.

He wants each one of us to someday come and live with Him. He has a home prepared for each one of us. In that same fourteenth chapter that we made reference to, it says, "In my Father's house are many mansions:". (John 14:2). He is going there to prepare one for each one of us...for you and for me. Hard to think of that, isn't it, that God would go there and He would prepare a mansion in Heaven for each one of us? That is where He wants us to be, each one of us, but we have to make some effort to get there.

We have to have faith in God and we have to be obedient to Him. We are saved by grace, not by any works that we do. (See Ephesians 2:8). It says that in His Word, and yet we also have to say there is work that we need to do. There are things that we have to do.

The twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew speaks of the judgment of the sheep and goats and one be put on the left hand and one on the right hand. How were they judged? By things they did or did not do.

In the seven letters to the churches in Revelation, it says, "I know thy works." (Revelation

2:2). They are important, aren't they, also? There are things that we need to do to be pleasing to God and to live a life for Him. There is action required on our part. We spoke of God being a Holy God and we need to be like Him. What does the word 'holy' mean? It means to be set apart--set apart from the things of this world.

We were reminded yesterday of how John (who we read about here this morning) who wrote this gospel, that he was the only one of the twelve disciples who was not required to give his life in some way as a martyr. He was exiled to the Isle of Patmos and he was alone on that island...all alone! God gave him the revelation of what was to come---the account that we can read of---the many precious things that are written there. He was completely set apart from the world all alone.

That doesn't happen to any of us. There are two ways we can be set apart. We can be set apart physically as John was, which probably is not going to happen to us. Or, we can be set apart, you might say, in our mind spiritually as it were by being different from those around us. That is how we can set ourselves apart from the world.

In the seventeenth chapter of John where Jesus prayed His high-priestly prayer and Jesus prayed for every one of us---those who were living then and all the ones that were ever going to live. He did not pray to take them out of the world, but that God would keep them from the things of the world. (See John 17:15).

We know that as we are living today and serving God, we have to live in the world. We are part of the world. We live and walk here, but we have to be separate. We have to be set apart from the things that are of this world. We cannot partake of the things of this world. It just isn't possible.

We have heard it said here recently that we cannot walk with God and walk with the world because the world doesn't walk with God. That is just the way it is. The world doesn't walk with God, so we cannot walk with the world in one hand and God in the other hand. They are going two separate ways and it is just an impossibility to do. Sometimes maybe that is a little hard for us to accept, or to think about being set apart. We don't want to be set apart. Really, deep down in, we don't want to be different from the world. Being set apart can be how we look, the things we do, the things we say, and how we do business.

There are so many ways that can set us apart from people in the world. This is what God expects of us. He expects us to be a holy people, set apart from the things of this world. That is the kind of people He is looking for. It really is not hard to do if we just go back to the forereading chapter that we had, in the prophet Isaiah, and have that willingness that he had to be willing to be and to do whatever it was that God wanted him to do.

If we are converted, God has work for us to do and we have to be willing to do that. If we are not converted, God wants us to come to Him. We have to be

# Silver Threads

## LEARN - LEAN - LOOK - LOVE

**LEARN OF JESUS ...** "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

*Matthew 11:29*

**LEAN ON JESUS ...** "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.."

*John 13:23*

**LOOK FOR JESUS ...** "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

*Titus 2:13*

**LOVE JESUS ...** "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."

*Luke 10:27*

willing, just as Isaiah was, to say, "Lord, here am I; send me. Do with me whatever it is that You want to do with me. Reduce my will to where it is less than Thy will, so I will be willing to do whatever you want me to do." (See Isaiah 6:8). This is the way we have to be. It is the only way that we can please God because if there is any of us here today that are not serving God or not serving Him as well as we should be, it is only because our will is stronger than God's will and we are not willing to be submissive to Him. We have things yet that

we would like to do and things that are more important to us than serving God. As long as there are those things in our life, we are not serving Him, are we? We might think, "Well, we are not serving God, but we are not really serving Satan either." But the Bible tells us that we are serving one or the other. We have to be serving one or the other because if we are not doing God's will, then we are doing the will of Satan. I don't think any of us here would want to think of ourselves as being one as doing the will of Satan. So if we

are not doing that, we need to do God's will.

So may we be encouraged this morning as we read these things together to be even as Isaiah was. It just comes back to me over and over again because I think of it so much in my own life and how it applies to me and how maybe unwilling I am sometimes to be like Isaiah was. But yet, we all need to be if we are really going to please God and if we are going to someday occupy one of those mansions in Heaven that God has told us He has gone to prepare for us. We need to be willing to say to Him, "Here am I; send me."

# Silver Threads

## The True Spirit of Christmas

The presents cluttered the floor in the corner by the fireplace. The anticipation for opening those gifts grew as that magical day approached. One day as the children took a quick glance at the presents before leaving on the school bus, they were shocked to see that they were all gone. The corner was empty! "Mom, Dad," was the excited reply, "what happened to all the gifts?"

Mother calmly came over to them and put her hand on the nearest child's shoulder. "We want you to think about Christmas without gifts. When you get home tonight, we want you to tell us how it will be for you to spend Christmas without gifts."

The children sullenly came home from school under the watchful eye of their mother, who pretended not to notice their unpleasant looks. Not much was said during dinner that evening until father broke the silence with the same question that was asked earlier in the morning. "Children," said father, "How will Christmas be for you without any presents?"

Peter, being the oldest, as he was ten, blurted out, "Not very good. I was looking forward to that new electric train set very much!"

Suzy seconded the initial reaction with her answer. "How

about that doll you promised me this summer?" Suzy was only seven but she showed little consideration for anyone but herself.

Eddie, who was three, just grunted and said "Yeah."

Mother then broke in with the typical calm response of all mothers in time of need and said "Now wait a minute. Do you all realize what you are saying? It appears to me that you are only thinking of yourselves."

Peter returned "So what!"

Suzy chimed in "All I want is my doll."

Eddie just stood there looking on and said "Yeah."

"Well," father exclaimed, "don't you ever consider the little children of the world who have never received a present?"

"Who are they?" inquired Suzy with that quizzical look so special to seven-year-old girls.

"I'll tell you what," said father, "we still have time to drive into the big city. Let's get into the car and go."

"Great," cried Peter, "can we go to K-mart?"

"No, I'm afraid not," said father. "I've got something else in mind."

So off they went driving into the big city where the lights shown so brightly and people hurried to and fro because tomorrow was Christmas Eve.

But father had something else in mind because he drove right on past the busy streets into some residential area where the houses reflected a very poor standard of living.

Peter was the first to notice as he began to say, "Hey, I don't see any Christmas lights and there aren't any decorations either."

Mother returned a kindly look and said, "There are children all around us that never get a present and really never have a Christmas morning gift exchange because their mothers and fathers can't afford presents."

"Hey," exclaimed Peter, "that reminds me. Today our teacher asked us all what we were wanting to get for Christmas and Johnny didn't answer. Do you think he's not going to get any gifts like some of these kids around here?"

"I wonder too," replied father. "What do you and Suzy think you can do to make this a happy Christmas holiday for Johnny?"

"You know, dad, I've been thinking about what you said about gifts and I am starting to understand you and mom. I want to do something for Johnny," said Peter.

"Me too," added Suzy.

Little Eddy just shrugged his slight shoulders and said "Yeah."

# Silver Threads

"Maybe we can go to a store and I'll use my allowance and some of my savings to buy Johnny a sled," said Peter.

"If you don't have enough," added Suzy, "I have some savings I would like to give for the sled."

"Well, well," thought father, "what a change in my childrens' thinking."

Off they went, through those beautifully lit streets with a whole new enthusiasm for the upcoming day.

Christmas Eve Day came and mother noticed that no one even looked at the fireplace in the living room. They hurriedly ate a meal, which by some means of the imagination could have been interpreted as a breakfast, and immediately went to wrap the sled that Peter and Suzy had purchased the night before.

"Isn't this fun," mused Suzy.

"You bet it is," reflected Peter.

Little Eddie stood by and expounded with enthusiasm "Yeah."

That night as the Christmas Eve air was hanging heavily on their car, Peter and his family drove into the local town and across the tracks to Johnny's house. The house was dimly lit, but well-kept and clean. Johnny had lost his father almost a year ago and while the family had

received some help, they were very poor. There were no lights or decorations, just a little hand-made wreath hanging on the door. Peter and Suzy were just brimming with happiness as they walked up Johnny's sidewalk.

Ding, ding went the bell. The door opened and there stood Johnny with a surprised look that could have inspired the hardest villain.

"Hi," said Johnny, as he



looked at Peter, Suzy and little Eddie.

Peter, with a burst of cheer replied "Hi, Johnny. We wanted to remember you on this wonderful Christmas Eve and hope you enjoy this sled."

Niagara Falls could not have produced more moisture as the tears welled up in Johnny's eyes. "I thought everyone had forgotten me and I...and I... thought everyone didn't care," sobbed Johnny. "Oh, thank you, thank

you," he repeated over and over again.

Peter and Suzy held out the sled and said, "Don't thank us; we want to thank you."

Little Eddie chimed in "Yeah."

Everyone in the car was quiet as Peter's family drove back to the farm that cool Christmas Eve night and when they got into the warmth of the house, mother said, "I'll play the piano if you all will sing Christmas carols."

So that Christmas Eve was spent with joy in the true spirit of Christmas.

When Peter, Suzy and little Eddie were ready to go to bed, they came up to their mother and father and said, "We are so happy you gave us the chance to feel the happiness we have felt this Christmas Eve. We learned a lot and feel so good."

And you already know Eddie's comment which was "Yeah."

The night passed quietly and Christmas morning was bright and clear. The children bounded down the stairs with the same happiness of the night before. A quick glance at the fireplace revealed a gleeful surprise; all the gifts were back. Shouts of joy from Peter and Suzy rang out and little Eddie said "Merry Christmas."



# Silver Threads

## The Lost Sheep



*It was a sheep, not a lamb, in the parable Jesus told,*

*A grown-up sheep that had wandered away from the ninety  
and nine in the fold.*

*Out on the hillside, out in the cold, it was a sheep the good shepherd  
sought,*

*Back to the flock, safe into the fold, it was a sheep the good shepherd  
brought.*

*And why for the sheep do we earnestly long, and as earnestly hope  
and pray,*

*Because there is danger, if they go wrong, they will lead the lambs  
astray.*

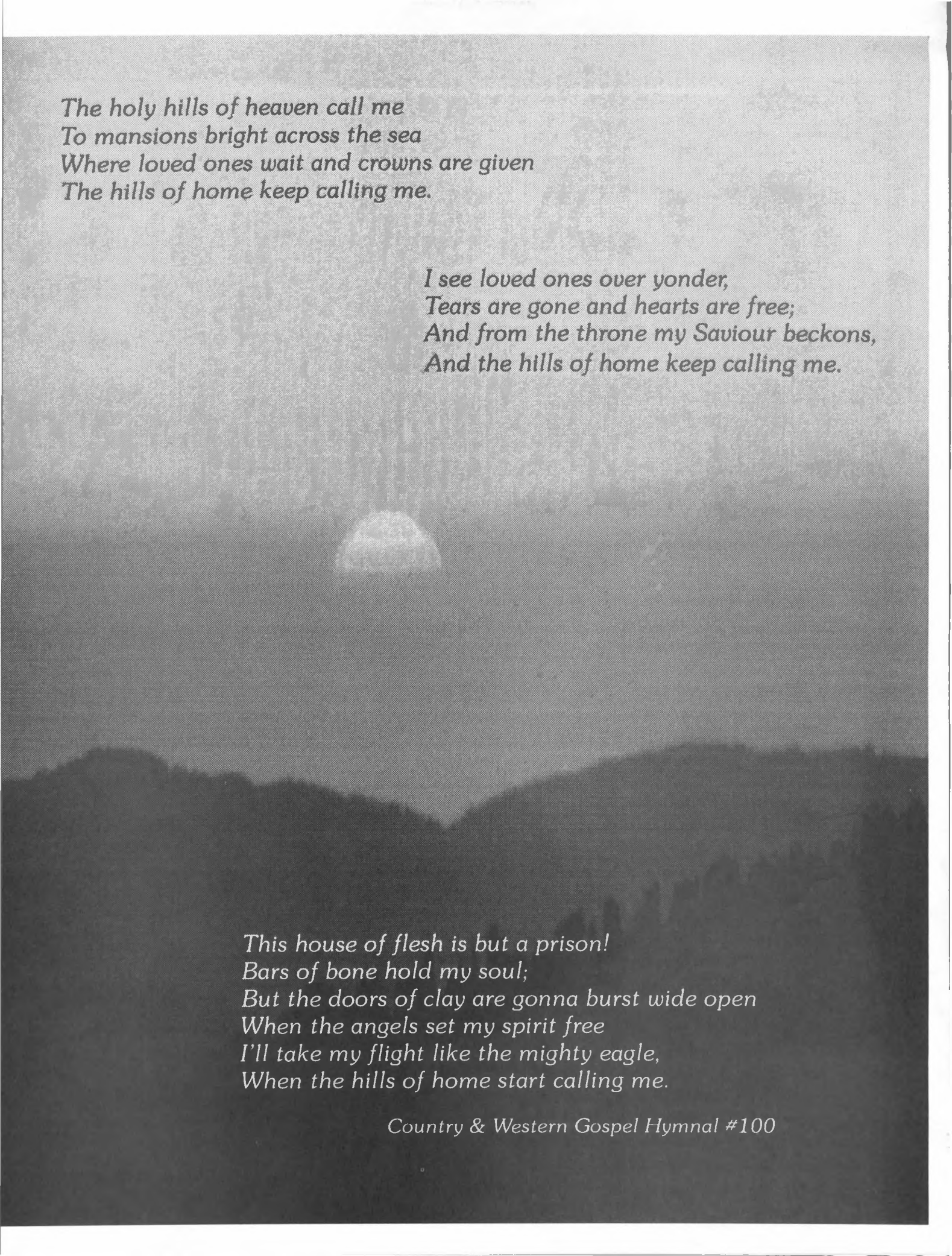
*For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know, wherever the sheep may  
stray.*

*If the sheep go wrong, it won't be long, 'til the lambs are as wrong as  
they.*

*And so with the sheep we earnestly plead, for the sake of the lambs  
today,*

*If the sheep are lost, what a terrible cost the lambs will have to pay!*



The background of the page is a black and white photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted hills. In the middle ground, there are more rolling hills. In the sky, a bright, circular object, likely the sun or moon, is visible, partially obscured by some light clouds. The overall tone is serene and contemplative.

*The holy hills of heaven call me  
To mansions bright across the sea  
Where loved ones wait and crowns are given  
The hills of home keep calling me.*

*I see loved ones over yonder,  
Tears are gone and hearts are free;  
And from the throne my Saviour beckons,  
And the hills of home keep calling me.*

*This house of flesh is but a prison!  
Bars of bone hold my soul;  
But the doors of clay are gonna burst wide open  
When the angels set my spirit free  
I'll take my flight like the mighty eagle,  
When the hills of home start calling me.*

*Country & Western Gospel Hymnal #100*



# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

The circumstances that led to the Froehlich family leaving France and settling in Switzerland are interesting and nearly incomprehensible as seen through our outlook of religious freedom today.

The fact, however, that they arrived in Brugg (canton Aargau) is a blessing to us who are Apostolic Christians because God eventually lifted up a young man from this family who became diligent in faith, and who followed God's will in re-establishing a church based on the Scriptures.

The Reformation in 16th century Europe, while an improvement over the corrupt aspects of Catholicism, did not bring a sense of kindly peace across the states of Europe. Largely, the opposite was true.

The sword and warfare became the norm by which Catholic and protestant camps both defended and promoted their religious views. The Anabaptists were an exception to this tendency and their ranks suffered brutal persecution.

Most "religious" leaders of that time sought the protection

of a prince or other state leaders as they sought to promote their doctrine. Thus, religious wars were not uncommon in resolving points of religious doctrine. In fact, Ulrich Zwingli, a protestant leader in Switzerland, met his death on a battlefield as an opposing soldier crushed his head with a large stone.

It was in this unfortunate context that the Froehlich family fled France and moved to Switzerland. They were Huguenots, a nickname for French protestants (or Calvinists).

Calvinist tension with the French monarchy (which was Catholic) was fierce, and resulted in war and much political intrigue. In 1598 the Edict of Nantes was signed which gave full religious toleration to the Huguenots. It lasted less than eight decades, being revoked by King Louis XIV in 1685. At this time, hundreds of thousands of Huguenots fled France for other countries. It is likely the Froehlich family participated in this mass exodus.

In Switzerland, the Froehlichs became part of the Swiss protestant state church.

As an infant (born July 4, 1803), Samuel H. Froehlich was baptized into this tradition---one from which he would later depart when he repented for his sins and became converted at age 21.

At the dawn of 19th century Europe, the Reformation (and Anabaptism) had subsided. The Enlightenment had spawned attitudes of relativism and rationalism in theological circles; and these outlooks tended to undermine Christian truth.

A great thirst for Biblical truth thus developed. In a few decades, Samuel E. Froehlich would try, as God led him, to respond to this thirst for truth.

*By Bro. Perry Klopfenstein*

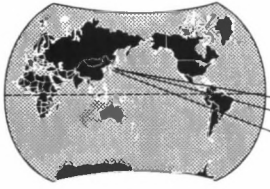
*Next Issue:*  
**Froehlich's Early Life**



# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光



## "UNTO US"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The spirit of the Son of God inhabited that little body. Angels announced His birth, shepherds went to see Him, and wise men traveled far to worship Him. This all took place in rather humble circumstances, yet there was an air of optimistic expectation.

About 700 years before Christ was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." This is not a simple statement that Christ was born but that He was born "unto us" and given "unto us". In Japanese it reads that He was born for us and He was given to us. The point is that we are important participants in this event. It is not something in which we have no personal involvement. The gift of God's Son is given to us.

Like any gift, you can put this gift in the attic and forget it, or you can treat it as a treasure to

be enjoyed every day. It is through this gift that we have redemption and it is through this gift that we have at our disposal, the power to withstand and to win over Satan's works of darkness. In Colossians we read, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness." I don't like to be in Satan's camp--that's darkness. I like to be in Jesus' camp---that's light. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2).

The statement in Isaiah, "Unto us a son is given," matches the statement in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." To whom hath God given His Son? He gave Him unto us. To what extent do we realize that He was born for us and given to us? Have we appropriated Him and all His power? Have we taken possession of Him as our very own? Perhaps we hesitate to go that far. We know that we

should belong to Him 100% but it strikes us as being brazen to claim Him and His power as our own. Yet the Bible says, "Unto us a Son is given."

In thinking and praying about taking more complete possession of Christ as my very own, it is comforting for me to realize that this in no way implies that I am in a position to tell Him what to do. It is not that kind of possession. We should possess Him as our Saviour, Redeemer, Lord, and King, and avail ourselves of everything He has for us. He must have for us a lot more joy and peace and spiritual power than we have so far assimilated.

At this Christmas season and always, let's remember, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Since the Lord Jesus Christ has been given unto us, we are more spiritually wealthy than we may have realized. It is something to celebrate with prayer and praise.

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