

# *The Silver Lining*



*The Heavens Declare The Glory Of God*

February 1995



**"... and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."  
Matthew 24:30**

We have heard it said that there is a silver lining in every cloud and one can witness that truth when we view the clouds that cover the earth from God's vantage point.

There are those loved ones who have found themselves downcast with sorrow and look up to Heaven only to see the dark underside of the clouds.

There are so many heartaches on this earth and we all are homesick to go to meet our Heavenly Father. Loved ones who are waiting "Beyond the Sunset" beckon for us to come and tears well up in our eyes when we think of them.

A few years ago a dear brother was told he was terminally ill. When I heard of it, I just could not believe the report. What a lesson of faith was learned from that soldier of the cross as he spoke of the important things in life. I can still hear him say to his little grandson as he sat upon his knee, "I would so have enjoyed taking you fishing, but the Lord has other things in mind for me." Today he rests beyond the clouds at the foot of the alter of Christ and that is what tugs at our heartstrings and makes us long to go home to be with the Lord forever.

"A tree is not measured until it is down." So man is not measured until he is cast down and we can believe that is why God has taught us the importance of relying upon our Saviour, Jesus Christ. When we are cast down, we read the Word more sincerely, we pray more sincerely, and we tend to arrange

our priorities. That is the lesson I learned that Sunday afternoon as tears streamed down from my eyes.

If we believe Christ is coming in the clouds to take us home in the rapture, then what are we doing with the days that are yet afforded to us and the life that remains in us?

Is kindness, forgiveness, upholding the faith, and loving our fellow man with an unfeigned love what we are striving for? Are we prepared to do battle on the field of life? Is our battle garments in place?

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11).

"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always..."

(Ephesians 6:14-18).

When God speaks those words, "Son, go bring my children home" we will not have done too much for the Lord. It is recorded that on some ordinary day like today the Lord will come to take His chosen children home. There will not be a blast upon a trumpet, but it will come to those who are not watchful and prayerful as a thief in

the night. To those who are prayerfully watching for His coming, it will be as the lightening that brightens the sky.

We believe that as the coming of Christ occurs in the clouds, we will be caught up together with those who are dead in Christ.

We take great comfort in the teachings of I Thessalonians 4 and pray we can comprehend by God's grace His teachings which will show us the way home.



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

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

## The Danger of Values Clarification

The true and sincere believer in Christ Jesus exists today among a multitude of philosophies and spiritual forces, many of which are nothing more than falsehoods as revealed by the eternal and unchanging truths revealed in the Scriptures. The concept of "values clarification" is one such worldly force that has exerted enormous influence in society at large, and can unknowingly creep into a believer's life causing him to think and act in ways that are inconsistent with biblical values.

Values clarification is a popular teaching method designed to foster independence in making personal moral choices. The key to values clarification is to question everything! In an educational setting, this gives the student maximum choices and total autonomy in choosing his or her moral outlook.

As Christians, we are to walk by faith and not by sight and are not to lean on our own understanding (II Cor. 5:7). We are to commit all our cares to God in prayer and then wait in patient trust that He will resolve the things that concern us. We petition Him often for guidance that we might fulfill His will, and obey His directions. We place ourselves in the hollow of His hand. At the same time, we must fight against the natural man's tendency to lean on our own understanding, and to habitually depend on a reason - oriented and experience - dominated method of finding our way through life's many challenges.

There is a danger today of values clarification with its worldly traits and concepts creeping into our lives, affecting the way we think, respond and react. If we are not careful, it can lead us into disobedience and a tendency to depend on our own reasoning powers.

Biblical truth, instilled in youth by parents and church is not accepted as "truth". Biblical truth is especially subject to challenge. Consequently, a student is taught to "clarify" his values to determine what is true to him; that is, to "discover", largely based on his experiences and preferences, what is right for him. In such a method, enshrouded in relativism rather than in biblical truth, there is no right or wrong. In this reasoning, what

is right for one person may be wrong for another person and vice versa.

Values clarification is rooted in relativism and situation ethics. Choices are made based on the individual's life experiences, not on the direction given in God's Word. The education and media systems in America, two leading influences of our society, are deeply-rooted in a relativistic and values clarification outlook. We, as converted believers in Christ, are subject to their values clarification patterns if we are not watchful.

The Word offers sufficient warning that it is possible to be seduced, not only by religious confusion, but by deceitful philosophical patterns as well. "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God" (Rom. 10:3). Also "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful: but became vain in their imagination, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:21-22).

In adopting values clarification, the individual, rather than God and His Word, becomes the ultimate authority. The Word's messages, if recognized at all, then become optional. If we are not careful, we as believers can begin to "pick and choose" which portions of Scripture to follow, a pattern that is widespread among many in nominal and evangelical Christianity. As we are misled to "clarify" God's divine messages based on our experiences, we may "choose" to dismiss portions of God's Word because, from a situational basis, it is inconsistent with our personal preferences (and our experiences). Thus, we may decide it is inapplicable to our life. We have then become disobedient because we, perhaps unknowingly, have set ourselves up as a higher authority than God's Word.

Values clarification is undergirded by the relativistic precept that nothing is absolute. "Truth" is not absolute according to this viewpoint, but is true only as it relates to changing factors. This false theory of ethics or knowledge maintains that the basis of

judgment is relative and differs according to events, experiences, etc.

God, through His Word, which we accept by a simple, childlike faith, surely advises us concerning such falsehoods (Col. 2:8). Many Scriptures exhort the believer to avoid philosophical falsehoods (I Tim. 4:1-6). Paul warns us to be aware of those "who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator" (Rom. 1:25). John wrote "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18), and "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

If we are careless, we can unknowingly be implementing values clarification in our lives. If we dismiss certain portions of Scriptures as irrelevant, or if we are casual in following the ideals and direction of the church, then values clarification may have crept into our lives; we have personally "clarified" spiritual guidance as irrelevant and inapplicable to our spiritual lives. In this, values clarification destroys spiritual unity: it lifts up the individual and can be destructive to the warmth and welfare of the brotherhood.

There is a tendency today in nominal Christian circles to dismiss the literal meaning of the Bible. A "higher criticism" method of interpretation has been the forerunner to today's relativistic outlook toward matters of transcendent faith. From this liberal way of looking at the Bible, has come the many forces of philosophy that are destructive to God's ways: relativism, values clarification, situational ethics, and strong reliance on personal understanding. Only as we become more and more submissive to God in simple faith, and accepting His Word in the spirit of humility can we overcome any tendency we have to allow values clarification to cause confusion in our lives. Humility, submission and trust in God far supersede values clarification in our quest for a life pleasing to God.



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

### New Church is Dedicated in Breidenbach, Germany

December 18, 1994, will long be remembered by the brethren in the community of Breidenbach, a village in west central Germany. On that day, with the blessings of God, they were able to dedicate a new edifice erected to His honor and glory. Brethren from across Europe, as well as from the USA were present to share their joy, and the seating capacity of over 400 was fully utilized.

This congregation began when members of the Pfister family moved into the area about 1946, in the difficult period following World War II.

Then, as now, these believers were only a very small part of the community. The closest church is in Offstein, about three hours south of Breidenbach. Over the years, this small nucleus grew into what is now the largest congregation loyal to our faith in Germany. Their numbers have increased in a large part, due to the influx of refugees from Eastern Europe during and after the Communist era. Employment opportunities have afforded them a means of beginning a new life. Many of these people came with few earthly possessions and still are working here for their living. There is no base of prior wealth among them. The undertaking of building a new church was a hard decision, but was made in faith by a vote of the members in 1991.

The former church is still an excellent structure, but entirely too small with no possibilities of enlargement on its present site. In fact, it had been enlarged twice since its construction in the early 1970's. They have about 80 members and 150 children, with an average Sunday attendance of 200-250.

After deciding to build, the congregation sought assistance from our

Mission Committee, and to date have received a substantial amount of aid, for which they are very grateful. This is just one of many congregations throughout Europe who have been recipients of your financial gifts of love. The church was built entirely by volunteer labor in just over seven months. Dozens of Hungarian brethren lent their able hands to the work.

Brethren from the USA in attendance were: Elder Bros. David Wiegand and Alfred Bahler, plus Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman. German Elder

Bros. Philipp Ritzmann, Heinrich Schmidt, and Hans Heer

conducted the morning service with Bro. Ritzmann bringing the message of dedication. Guests from eight countries as well as local officials and neighbors joined in song and prayer. Time was given for the guests to tour the new facility and partake of refreshments.

The afternoon service was conducted by Elder Brothers David Wiegand and Ferenc Kovacs from Hungary.

As is standard practice, after the afternoon service which begins at 3:30, there is a pause followed by two song services. Inasmuch as Bro. Alfred Bahler had conducted services in the old church on the prior Wednesday evening, Bro. Gene Lehman was asked to make concluding remarks. "At this time, on behalf of the Mission Committee and our brethren," he told them, "we accept your sincere thanks with a spirit of humility and simply say that you are welcome." Considering our many blessings, they exhorted one another to greater faithfulness and devotion to God. The day concluded by singing three farewell hymns. After returning home the following letter was received from them.

*Yesterday afternoon I was all alone in our new church. To me, it was almost as though I had awakened from a dream. For the first time since all was complete, I became fully aware of how simple, beautiful, and practical our church is, and how great are the blessings which God has bestowed upon us.*

*This has been confirmed by many visiting brethren and also from the residents of the community. I have not heard one negative comment up to this time. Everyone was enthused by the unity of our local brethren, by the joyful manner in which the work progressed, by the order we had among the workers, by the way the building was erected so swiftly, by the many guests who aided us, by the many hands who labored, and so forth.*

*We are glad that even through the construction, we were able to bring honor to God, for many observers have told us that this could be possible only among people of faith. (People from the community said that). This construction project was a witness of the love and cooperation among the children of God.*

*It is very clear that we could not have undertaken such a project without our brethren in other lands, especially in the USA. Perhaps you could share with them that through their support of us they have not only helped us, but that many people watched the work progress and they have asked themselves what kind of a people could do such a work. We feel the answer they can give themselves is that this is a people of the living God.*

*Once again, we say hearty thanks for all your gifts of love. Also we hope that we can often be together in our new assembly house in love and fellowship. With greetings from ...*

**Ernst Pfister, Elder  
The Breidenbach Congregation**





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

## A Helping Hand Raises Hope in Haiti

Haiti lies like a jewel in the shimmering emerald Caribbean Sea. It is a land of breathtaking beauty and mind numbing ugliness. For three years, an embargo lay on this troubled land. And although humanitarian aid was supposed to be allowed into the country, little came. An old proverb states, "When elephants fight, the ants get trampled." During the embargo, the poor people suffered the most. It is always so. Material aid is slowly reaching them, but they are now nearly desperate. Malnutrition is the source of their greatest problems, with lack of education being second.

The people of Haiti are descendants of former slaves who revolted against their French masters 300 years ago. 6,500,000 souls live in an area about the size of Maryland, with about 3/10 of an acre per person. By comparison, the USA has 2.1 acres per person. Haiti has 7 doctors per 100,000 people, and the USA has 176. Approximately 11% of babies in Haiti die at birth, and 40% before the age of two years.

with the organization called MEBSH, which is administered by Haitian people. They have over 300 outposts in the country, bringing the gospel of Christ as well as providing for educational and health needs. Much of our effort is channeled through this group. We are working with Hospital Lumiere, as well as a clinic at Cite Lumiere, in a home for elderly without families, plus schools for regular education as well as for teaching trades. These facilities lie in rural areas where conditions are primitive almost to the point of being tribal. Voodoo is still an active force, and MEBSH attacks it by

using the weapon of the Word of God. Education plays a great part in this effort. Team members visited schools which are teaching skills necessary to earn a living. Work teams have helped build these schools, and hope to continue to do so. The political situation halted this work, but it is now possible to renew the effort, and projects are scheduled.

### Well Drilling Projects

Many get water, a critical need for every people, from streams, which also serve as places to bathe, wash clothes, and dispose of waste. This is a source of much disease and misery, and we have been addressing this need by drilling wells. We have had two well drilling rigs there, and a third was put into action by one of the teams on this trip. Dozens of wells have been drilled and simple hand pumps installed. Some of these pumps are worked all day long, with women carrying the water away in five gallon buckets balanced on their heads.

### Hospitals and Clinics

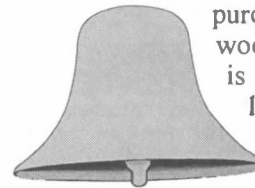
We have been furnishing supplies and funds to Hospital Albert Schweitzer in a remote area in the north. This hospital serves 185,000 souls, and in visiting the facilities, team members saw situations which broke their hearts. The hospital had just received a sea container from us, and they shouted for joy in finding the layettes, bandages, soap, and the host of other items. They could hardly find words to express their thanks, but want our people back home to know that the work we do on a local level makes a difference in ways that we here cannot imagine for souls having only bare necessities. Along with medical care, they try to educate these dear people in the necessary basics of nutrition and sanitation.

A team also visited Grace Children's Hospital in Port au Prince. We help this TB facility, which like the rest, places great emphasis on educating the people and teaching them the basic methods of life to prevent this dread disease. People who are well nourished seldom acquire TB, so here they also give out food and teach nutrition.

### A Suffering People

Over and over, the story of suffering through the embargo was told, yet believing hearts testified how that by the grace of God alone they survived, going virtually from day to day.

One team member purchased a hand made wooden bell on which is inscribed, "No one listens to the cry of the poor, or the sound of a wooden bell." Following



the example of Christ who died for every one of them, World Relief is listening to the cry of the poor, and trying to respond as Jesus would have us to do. We need your prayers and support.

### Mission of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti (MEBSH)

World Relief has been working in Haiti for years. Many brethren have visited and worked on projects there. Some years ago, we became acquainted

**- 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:

- Deaf Village**      **May 19-27, 1995**  
Coordinator -      Bro. Phil Isabel - (219) 261-3541

**HAITI**

- 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

**- 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.

**Mark your  
calendars!!!**

1995 Gateway Woods  
Auction and Sale is  
**Saturday, August 19, 1995**

**AVAILABLE:**

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

*Call or write:*  
Evelyn Hangartner  
RR 1 Box 102  
Roanoke, IL 61561  
1-309-923-7289

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION**

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

	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>TO DATE</b>
August 1994 --	2,740	2,740
September 1994 --	2,982	5,722
October 1994 --	2,317	8,039
November 1994 --	3,258	11,297
December 1994 --	3,559	14,856

\*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.

**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.

### -- BUSINESS CAREER OPPORTUNITY --

Gateway Woods is currently looking for a brother or sister to fill our Office Manager position. Sis. Joanne Gerber will be leaving this position in late March. This opening provides an opportunity to serve others in a ministry setting rather than corporate America. Qualifications include training and/or experience in accounting and computers and good organizational and communication skills. Responsibilities include accounting for entire organization, compliance with governmental regulations, employee benefits management, insurance coverage maintenance and special event coordination. This is a key full-time position that offers responsibility, management and creativity. For more information, please call one of the brothers listed below:

### -- MANAGEMENT POSITION OPEN --

Gateway Woods has a child care supervisor position that has been open for several months. We are looking for a brother to help fill this need. Qualifications include: bachelor's degree in Social Services with two years experience in child care or a master's degree; excellent leadership and organizational skills; and good interpersonal communication skills. Job responsibilities include recruitment, interviewing, training and supervision of child care and maintenance staff. In addition, this brother would serve on our Management Team. Please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information.

### -- TEACHER NEEDED! --

Do you have a degree in special education or regular education? Are you looking for an opportunity to work with fellow believers as you serve children? Our Education Coordinator covers a wide variety of tasks such as serving as a liaison between Gateway Woods and the local schools, supervising tutors, teaching independent living skills to our teens, coordinating our summer program and providing many other educational needs for our children. Please prayerfully consider this opening and contact one of the brothers below for more information.

Tim Sauder - Administrator  
Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
219/627-2159 (office)  
219/627-2606 (home)

David Bertsch - Counseling Elder  
11520 Grabill Road  
Grabill, IN 46741  
219/627-2923

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."  
*Philippians 4:13*

This is the Bible verse of the month for January at Oakwood Estate. A woman who lives there chose this verse after she saw it with a poem, "That I May Lose Weight". There has been discussion about New Year's resolutions, and we all agreed that we can only meet our goals for the new year through Christ and His strength--not our own.

Each month at ACHH, Oakwood Estate and Linden Estate a Resident Council meeting is held. Elected officers conduct the meetings with the advice of the RDS (Resident Services Director) of each home. At these meetings there is a "rule" that complaints about others can be brought up but no names can be mentioned. It is often inspiring to sit in on these meetings and listen as folks who share group living with others discuss the "house rules" and give advice to each other on how to handle conflicts and problems. There is a beautiful sense of sharing and caring especially during prayer time when whoever leads in prayer often prays for help to get along better or for friends who are sick or who have experienced loss.

Loss is a very real part of the lives of the people who live in our homes. As the years go by, our friends with disabilities are aging and so are their parents and siblings. Starting the new year often causes us to reflect on the past and wonder what the future holds. Again, we find security in the Living Word, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." We thank you for your

prayers for our friends with disabilities especially during times of illness and loss and we pray that each of you can also find strength through Christ in 1995.

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

**GATEWAY WOODS  
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
Joanne Gerber**

*"Service"*

Little Chad was a shy, quiet young fella. One day he came home and told his mother he'd like to make a valentine for everyone in his class. Her heart sank. She thought, "I wish he wouldn't do that!" because she had watched the children when they walked home from school. Her Chad was always behind them. They laughed and hung on to each other and talked to each other. But Chad was never included. Nevertheless, she decided she would go along with her son. So she purchased the paper and glue and crayons. For three whole weeks, night after night, Chad painstakingly made thirty-five valentines.

Valentine's Day dawned, and Chad was beside himself with excitement! He carefully stacked them up, put them in a bag, and bolted out the door. His mom decided to bake him his favorite cookies and serve them up warm and nice with a cool glass of milk when he came home from school. She just knew he would be disap-

pointed...maybe that would ease the pain a little. It hurt her to think that he wouldn't get many valentines---maybe none at all.

That afternoon she had the cookies and milk on the table. When she heard the children outside, she looked out the window. Sure enough, here they came, laughing and having the best time. And, as always, there was Chad in the rear. His arms were empty, she noticed, and when the door opened she choked back the tears. She fully expected him to burst into tears as soon as he got inside.

"Mommy has some warm cookies and milk for you."

But he hardly heard her words. He just marched right on by, his face aglow, and all he could say was "Not a one...not a one." Her heart sank.

And then he added, "I didn't forget a one, not a single one!"

*Rebuild Your Life  
by Dale E. Galloway*

We are happy for Derrick B. and Brian S. as they return home and Erica S. as she moves into a foster home. Jenny G. left her foster home to live with grandma. We wish them the very best and pray that the seed that has been planted can bring forth fruit in their lives.

Even though we are saying goodbye to several of our teens, we welcome Trent and Heidi Schrock as our new Alternate Houseparents. Trent and Heidi have both been employed at Gateway Woods in the past. We are thankful to God for bringing us willing workers.

"And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I

will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."

*Matthew 4:18-20*

Can you say you have "straightway left" your job, farm, family, or comfortable lifestyle and followed Him? I challenge you to listen to God's plea, "follow me and I will make you fishers of men". God is calling all of us to serve in some capacity. Perhaps He is calling us to spread the Word in our own neighborhood, at the rescue mission, in our immediate family or perhaps somewhere a little farther. Gateway Woods has several staff openings for "fishers of men". We are seeking for an Education Coordinator, a Child Care Supervisor and an Office Manager. Whether God is convicting your heart to continue working in your current location or calling you to serve hurting teens, your work is important. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30). Your work can have eternal purpose and eternal rewards. Won't it be great to say like the Apostle Paul "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (II Timothy 4:7,8).

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

"Teacher, teacher! I see God!!" One of the children stopped playing and ran to tell the teachers that were outside. He pointed excitedly to a patch of sunshine peeking through a gray, overcast sky. We chuckled at first, but



thought later that, like Christopher, maybe we should "see God" in more places--in His creation and in His mighty works.

The sun shone more often than usual for January, and everyone has enjoyed being able to play outside. We worked in January on the letters N, O, P, and Q, as well as our themes of winter and care of the body. The students enjoyed our "fun day" in January when they wore their pajamas to preschool.

Our sincere thanks to Sis. Karin Meister who volunteered at preschool during the last week in December, and to Sis. Kathy Bradle and Sis. Molly Stickling who volunteered during the first week in January. We greatly appreciate the extra hands with our busy group of children! If anyone else wishes to spend time with us at the preschool, we welcome volunteers. Please call Sis. Joan Reinhard at (205) 233-0591.

### ALABAMA, ATHENS

#### Pam Moore

The end of 1994 brought a beginning in the life of Anna Marie Hall, born on December 30, 1994. Anna is the first daughter of Tim and Darlene Hall. Anna has one brother. Grandparents are Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall and Harvey and Patricia Nix.

My father-in-law recently stated that every New Year's Day he takes the time to sit down and write out a list of what he plans to accomplish in the new year. I thought, what a good idea, to write our goals down on paper so that we have no excuse of forgetting them as the year progresses. In this new year, I want above all to draw closer to God. If that goal can be accomplished, then I will draw closer to those I love and closer to the Heavenly Goal of Eternal Life.

I hope many of you will have the goal to visit the Athens church in this new year.

### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

#### Ron and Ev Hoerr

"...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

*John 3:5*

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death...even so we also should walk in newness of life."

*Romans 6:4*

What a delightful evening as we gathered on January 14 to hear the testimonies of Shirley Blunier, Jill Dotterer, Mark Dotterer, and Jason Sanders. It is a joy to recall our own beginning and appreciate the years of God's love since our baptism. Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer and Edwin Ringger came to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich in the provings and baptisms. Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer and Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders are Sis. Jill, Bro. Mark and Bro. Jason's parents. Gaylord Blunier is Sis. Shirley's husband.

Sis. Shirley's baptism was a very special blessing for all of us, since just 16 days before, she had serious brain surgery and must have more surgery soon.

A fellowship dinner and singing was enjoyed by our many dear visitors and home folks.

Our sympathy to all relatives of Sis. Vera Jivan, who entered the gates of Heaven on January 9. Internment in Resthaven Cemetery was on January 12. Our local Elder and ministers had the services. Sis. Vera served the Lord well by constantly doing things for others.

Our thanks to many visiting

ministers. Bros. Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) came in December. Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris, MN) had New Year's Day services. Others were Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), and Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH).

We are very blessed having many ministers with relatives here. Our cup truly runneth over with love and spiritual food. We are grateful!

Many prayers were said on behalf of Sis. Shirley Blunier before, during, and after her brain surgery.

Bro. Gordon Greenbank and Bro. Clarence Yackley had skin cancer surgery. Sis. Kathie Labudde and Sis. Geraldine Beyer were hospitalized for studies. Sis. Emily Greenbank's arm cast has been removed.

Bro. John Kaufman and Bro. George Schuester have gone to work on the Silvertown church. Bro. John will go to Haiti before returning home.

We welcome Bro. Randy, Sis. Stefanie and little Jared Wuethrich from the Francesville, IN church. A change in employment brings this happy event.

Likewise, a change of jobs has brought Bro. James, Sis. Gina, Amy, Steven and Brent Emch back to Phoenix.

We were happy to have many visitors for the holidays, as well as for four baptisms.

With God in your heart (life), things are upbeat. Ephesians 4 helps us become "Close to Thee".

*Notice:* Your Silver Lining offering (\$9) will be accepted in March by your reporters.

**ARIZONA, TUCSON****Lisa Knapp**

Our Sis. Martha Blessman was hospitalized recently for a hip injury and subsequently had to have surgery. She is recuperating now and is in good spirits. We are keeping Sis. Martha in our prayers as she continues to make progress. We hope to see her in church sometime soon!

We are enjoying temperatures in the 70's with lots of sunshine. There are plenty of spaces on our church benches for visitors---come see us!

*Reminder:* January was the collection month for Tucson Silver Lining dues. They are \$9.00.

**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA****Joy Nenadov**

Redemption -- what does it mean? It is a ransom or debt paid by one to save or rescue another. Christ Jesus, our Redeemer, paid our debt to save us from our state of hopelessness and sinfulness by shedding His atoning blood at Calvary. So was the theme of our Sunday School and Bible Class Christmas program. As we were reminded of the birth of our Saviour, we were also reminded of the reason He came to this earth. We were so uplifted by the enthusiasm and great efforts put into it by both the children and young adults, as well as their teachers. Thank you one and all.

On January 1 we were blessed to have visiting minister Bro. Don Sinn (Silverton, OR) and some of his family with us. We are thankful to have been served rich manna from the Word.

As we said goodbye to June Ringger (Bluffton, IN), a traveling nurse who had been with us for three months, we want to welcome yet another traveling nurse. Sis. Beth Beery (Rittman, OH) plans

to be with us for about three months. We're delighted to have her and hope she feels welcome while she is here with us.

We're thankful for God's protection on each one in our congregation who has traveled to various places this past Christmas season, and are glad each one is home safe and sound. We're also appreciative for the many visitors who came our way over Christmas as well.

**CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO****Rose Huetten**

"...The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him;"

*Deuteronomy 33:12*

Our hearts and prayers go out to all the victims of the flooding from the rain we are having. May they feel the nearness of our Lord and Saviour.

We wish to thank our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) for coming to San Diego and sharing God's Word with us. May God richly bless him for his love and teachings. Also, our visitors, thanks and come again soon.

Bro. Rory Strahm has recently had more surgery and has returned to his home. May he feel God's healing hand. Get well soon. We miss you.

**COLORADO, DENVER****Jamie Grant**

On Valentine's Day, is the scent of a rose stronger than when you sniff one adorning a trellis in May? Is the candy in its heart-shaped box sweeter than the candy in an Easter basket? Does a Hallmark greeting card transmit a greater warmth in your heart? Do Helzberg diamonds twinkle a little brighter? Is lace frillier? Is it a day of sober-mind-

edness or is it a day of emotion?

To be sober in a spiritual sense goes way beyond not being intoxicated. As an adjective it can mean possessing properly controlled facilities (i.e. your home, a church), being even-tempered, well balanced. It means realizing the importance and seriousness of life. Soberness is not extreme, it is not frantic, and it is not impassioned.

Valentine's Day has become a day set aside to show people that we love them, and yet I ask myself, would we really need to set aside this day if we loved people every day of the year? The very day that many specifically set aside to show love is done by giving tangible things that stoke the human fire of emotion, and give retailers and their cupid-counterparts a profit for the month of February.

Is the Valentine custom bad or wrong? Definitely not when our motive is to show an act of pure love. I wondered what Jesus would give as a gift on Valentine's Day. And the answer was simple..."I gave you my life. Happy Valentine's Day, Happy Easter all the year through."

"But the end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover a multitude of sins."

*I Peter 4:7,8*

This month we especially want to remember our dear Bro. Vern Lehman as he awaits to undergo a heart transplant. I just know that he and his wife, Sis. Leona, would appreciate your prayers as they patiently wait for God to reveal His will.

Also, many of us were privileged to witness the union of our Bro. John Elder (Charlotte and George Elder, Arlington Heights,

IL) to Sis. Joleen Messner (Sis. Julia, and the late Bro. James) in Winthrop, MN. May God richly bless their new life together.

In closing, we, the church in Denver, send you this February greeting with love in Jesus name.

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

#### Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

December 17 was a joyous day for Jeff and Becky Bailey, with the birth of their son, Christian Alexander. His grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. LaNae Aberle (Altadena, CA).

We were privileged to have two visiting ministers with us this month: Bros. Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Andy Virkler (Croghan, NY). We appreciate their labor of love and wish them the Lord's blessings.

We wish our hospital patients God's blessings for a speedy recovery. They are Bro. Paul Foote (Sis. Roberta), Sis. Margaret Spielman (Fred, Jr.), and Bro. Lester Heintz (Sis. Helen).

"When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!" Hymns of Zion #248. Sis. Marie Hany was laid to rest on December 30. Our sympathy goes out to the family. She leaves four sons, Rudy (June), David (Jan), Wilbur (Madeline), and Norman (Joyce). She leaves four daughters, Sis. Ruth Kostuk (John), Eleanor Toth (Joe), Judy Green (Ed), and Marge Cook.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#### WASHINGTON

#### Henrietta Meyer

"To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever."

*Romans 16:27*

We are thankful Bro. Matthew Aeschleman's health has improved. This past month good

days have outnumbered the not so good ones. He was even able to be out and about for some short rides in the car.

Our thoughts and prayers were also with Bro. Ed Stoll, while he was in the hospital for tests, and Ken Belsley, who was under the doctor's care at home.

We are so thankful for ministers coming to serve our small group. Ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL).

Services are held the first, third and fourth Sundays of each month at Tyson's Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. 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 or Bro. Ed Stoll (301) 258-5001.

### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

#### Mary Ann Klaus

We have begun having our semi-monthly singings on Sunday evenings at the Fellowship Hall. They will continue as long as we have many visitors from the north.

Lazar Cholak fell recently and sustained a critical head injury. He is presently on a life-support system while his son, Bro. Tom Cholak, stands helplessly by. May the Lord be near to them. Special thanks goes to the many visitors we have had in the past month. Among them were Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford, IL), Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Wesley and Sis. Mildred Knapp (Goodfield, IL), and Elder Bro. Joe

and Sis. Shirley Braker (Morton, IL). We thank and praise the Lord for bringing them to visit and for their inspiring messages.

We were privileged to hear the teachings and instructions brought to us through the reading of the Memorandum from the 1994 Elder Conference by Elder Bros. Wesley Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and our own Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein. May God bless them for their labors of love.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Luginbuhl, as they left today for Milwaukee, WI. Bro. Roy will undergo carotid artery surgery if it is indicated after he consults with his doctor. May the Lord be the Unseen Presence in their midst.

### FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS

#### Marvin and Rhea Steffen

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

*Romans 12:5*

What a blessing it is to belong to the body of Christ! Let us always remember what a privilege it is!

We extend our condolences to Sis. Ann and Bro. Carl Frautschi in the passing of her brother. Bro. Melvin Sorg went to his rest on December 16 after residing at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka, IL for a short time.

We had our Christmas program on December 18. Even though we had only five children in it, they sang praises to Jesus from their little hearts, and all enjoyed it very much.

We, at North Fort Myers, pray that some other families will be drawn to this area and this church. It is hard in the summertime to be patient when our num-

ber that gather to worship can drop below 20, but all things in the Lord's time.

We enjoyed two visiting ministers this month. We thank Bro. Steven Frauhofer (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

We had our annual business meeting on January 15. New positions are as follows: Bro. Rob Baum was elected as a trustee and also elected usher. Sis. Angie Baum was elected to the kitchen committee. We thank those that have served in this past year and our prayers and support will be with those that serve in the coming year. We also determined by a vote that it was time to start building onto our church. We ask your prayerful support as we proceed.

### GEORGIA, ATLANTA

#### Peggy Camp

Once again we were blessed to have several visiting ministers. May God richly bless Bros. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), and Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL).

Our Sunday School children presented a wonderful program reminding us of God's greatest gift, His Son. We certainly thank Bro. John Brewer and Sis. Kristine Krieger for the time they spent working with the children.

We meet for services every Sunday at 10:20 a.m. at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit. If you are planning on being in the area, please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (404) 631-4554, Bro. Don Sellers (404) 381-1395 or Bro. John Brewer (404) 502-8629 for further information.

### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

#### Peg Anliker

We were blessed to have a large group of single brothers and sisters assemble with us one Sunday in January. It's encouraging to see God's house full. We are also thankful for the dear visiting ministers who have served us: Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). May God bless these brothers and their wives and families for their efforts and labors of love.

Ryan Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene) had knee surgery. We wish him God's healing. As we think of this, we realize the more important need for spiritual healing of the souls of men.

### ILLINOIS

#### BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

#### Janice Horner - Debbie Grieco

We wish to thank our visiting ministers for selflessly sharing their time and efforts with us. Thank you, Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL).

January 4 was a farewell for Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl Nussbaum who will be making their home in Phoenix, AZ. They served on many different committees and our church really appreciated all the time they gave. They will be missed but we look forward to seeing them again.

On January 4, Bro. Ron Heiniger led a special Bible Study explaining the relationship between God and man. If we have a proper relationship with God and it is living and alive, it will lead us to have a better and improved relationship with other people. The first thing we need to do is to love and serve God over all others. It will enable us to love others, comfort those in distress, encourage

one another and keep ourselves pure. Thank you, Bro. Ron, for the time you spent on this.

January 7 and 8 was a special weekend for Jason Albritton (Chuck and Sis. Marsha) and Brian Strassheim (Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol) as they testified that they had found peace with God and were baptized into the fold of Jesus Christ. We rejoice with them and their families.

Our monthly hymn sing was January 15. We wish to thank The Joyful Life Choir for their beautiful voices.

The following is a special poem written by a dear sister in our congregation:

#### *A Mother's Plea*

If only I could, this is what I'd like to do -

Bring God's forgiveness and salvation to you.

But this is one thing you must seek on your own,

If some day you want to wear that heavenly crown.

It's not nearly as hard as it may look;

And what joy...to have your name written in God's Holy Book!

Jesus is still calling to you every day.

Won't you please consider His way?

The great price already has been paid.

Won't you come before it is forever too late?

God can make your sins whiter than snow,

And incredible is the peace that will be yours to know!

To be a child of God is by far the highest standing,

And the blessings that follow are never-ending.

Imagine, some great day, when our lives on earth are o'er,

We'll live in Heav'n above forevermore.

So why don't you come and taste

and see?

This is your mother's humble  
plea...  
Because you're special to me.  
A.M.Y.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
**Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

"Suffer the little children to  
come unto me, and forbid them  
not; for of such is the kingdom of  
God."

*Mark 10:14*

Paul and Lynne Knobloch were  
blessed with a baby girl, Chelsea  
Lynne, on December 16. She joins  
her brother, Zachery, at home.  
Grandparents of Chelsea are Bro.  
Jim and Helen Knobloch and Bob  
and Sandi Clark, Wyoming, IL.

On December 18, we gathered  
together to hear the Christmas  
story expounded unto us through  
the songs and pieces of our chil-  
dren. I had to think as I listened  
that they had such faith in what  
they were saying and singing.  
Maybe this is one of the reasons  
Jesus wants us to be as "dear chil-  
dren".

"...whatsoever things are of a  
good report; if there be any virtue,  
and if there be any praise, think  
on these things."

*Philippians 4:8*

Bro. Perry Kieser and Sis.  
Krista Scholl (Princeville, IL)  
were announced on December 18.  
Parents are Bro. Verle and Sis.  
Vonnice Kieser and Bro. Robert  
and Sis. Arlene Scholl,  
Princeville. May God bless them  
in this time before their wedding  
and so much more after they are  
united as one.

"For I will restore health unto  
thee, and will heal thee of thy  
wounds, saith the Lord..."

*Jeremiah 30:17*

Herb Rumbold (Diana) was hos-  
pitalized a few days this month.  
We pray that the Lord will be with  
him and Diana as they travel to  
Mayo Clinic for surgery. May the  
Lord be his healer.

"In everything give thanks..."  
*I Thessalonians 5:18*

We are once again thankful for  
our visiting minister. Bro. Kenny  
Knapp (Taylor, MO) was with our  
congregation on New Year's Day.  
May the Lord bless him for his  
labors.

"To every thing there is a sea-  
son, and a time to every purpose  
under heaven..."

*Eccles. 3:1*

There were 4 boys and 4 girls  
born, 3 member weddings, 1 bap-  
tism, and 1 death in the Bradford  
congregation in 1994.

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**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN**

**Margie Heintz**

With the new year comes a new  
school semester and the return of  
the college students from their  
Christmas break. We welcome  
each of them, especially new stu-  
dents who may be coming for the  
first time. We trust that we can  
continue to work and worship to-  
gether to the glory and honor of  
God. Thanks to the students for  
the beautiful Christmas tape that  
was prepared and shared with the  
Champaign congregation. The  
Word became real: "Sing forth the  
honour of his name: make his  
praise glorious." (Psalm 66:2)

While recovering from an auto-  
mobile accident, Becca Wiegand  
visited her parents, Bro. Dave and  
Sis. Ethel, for several weeks over  
the holidays. It was good to see  
her again and we're thankful that

she is recovering smoothly. We  
pray that she will continue to ex-  
perience God's healing power.

As needs in our lives change,  
sometimes this necessitates  
moves that we would not choose.  
Ed and Jane Scott have relocated  
to a new home in our area. Their  
address is: 101 Windsor Road,  
Apt. #4110, Urbana, IL 61801.  
Our prayer is for their adjustment  
and contentment in their new sur-  
roundings. Brent and Keiko Han-  
son and their children have moved  
to the Indianapolis area due to  
Brent's job change. We will miss  
them all very much, but antici-  
pate seeing them often when they  
return to visit their families and  
friends. May God bless them in  
their new home and help them to  
feel comfortable and welcome.  
Their new address is: 801 Hick-  
ory Way, Noblesville, IN 46060.

Our visiting minister this  
month was Bro. Ben Wiegand (Co-  
lumbus, OH). We're grateful  
when brothers come to share  
God's Word and pray that God will  
continue to bless Bro. Ben and his  
family.

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**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO**

**Kathy Schlatter**

On one of my calendars this  
morning it said: Every person is  
a dream of God. With my 400 plus  
students as a counseling load and  
the others I am getting to know  
through college-related questions  
and scholarships, I need to be so  
reminded. I have more responsi-  
bility than just to former students  
who stop by, one today from the  
military and two from the streets,  
even though I am delighted to see  
them. Yet, it is to each one--stu-  
dent or staff--pleasant or unwise  
or foolish, that I owe my love and  
the light of Christ. Part of my job  
then is to pray that the Lord  
would give me a glimpse of His  
dream for them, one by one. Oth-

erwise, if I do not help them aspire to His potential, I may be held accountable. The Lord has a plan as we meet any other soul. He knows the "where", the "when", and the "why". P.S. Always He can use them to our benefit also. (Romans 8:28)

Our visitors are always appreciated, whether we mention it or not. Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) ministered to us in December. We would be glad to have him visit more often. Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) should not have been missed. He gave us our November topical Bible study. His earnestness and sincerity of spirit was used to bless us and we still remember. We are thankful for our brothers' gifts and their desire that God alone receive glory. We extend to them our love and prayers.

It is a privilege to welcome newcomers to our fellowship. Bro. Darin Leman (Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria, Morton, IL) has taken a position with a small accounting firm and is living in Darien. Angela Ifft (Bro. Gary and Sis. Peg, Bloomington, IL) who has been attending Wheaton College in our area, has recently begun to walk with the Lord. We are grateful for their young and joyous faces. May we esteem one another highly, glorying in the Lord's work among our body, pressing ever more closely to the church (believers) He has given us.

Ben Gudeman (Dan and Sis. Becky) sustained severe injuries in a car accident. We are so appreciative of the Lord's care and even thankful that Ben can take his final exams for first semester. Nevertheless, he has recuperating to do. Our love and prayers are with Ben and his family.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

*Psalms 116:15*

Sis. Minnie Lehman is "back home". Born Minnie Winger in Cissna Park, IL on May 16, 1903, she came to Chicago for employment in 1930, and we are so fortunate that she stayed. She married Karl Lehman on October 21, 1933. Though they were never given biological children by the Lord, they opened their hearts and home to many of all ages. Sis. Minnie particularly loved children, so it was appropriate that numerous Chicago children could attend her funeral held December 22, after her death on December 20. Sis. Martha Brenner, her sister, and two brothers, Bro. George and Roy, all of the Cissna Park area, survive her, as do many nieces and nephews, whom Bro. Karl and Sis. Minnie treated as their own. To them and to Eugene and Lavirra, her brother- and sister-in-law, we extend our sympathy. But we are so glad Sis. Minnie could be free of pain and join Bro. Karl in the ranks of Heaven's redeemed.

We also extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Glen Pfeifer, his wife, Sis. Nancy, and their sons, Bro. Lance, Bart, and Kurt, for his father, Bro. Ernest (La-Crosse, IN), has also been translated from earth to Heaven's portals.

While we were in Ecuador, we went to the Otavallan market where the indigenous people displayed the many wondrous wares they had made to attract us tourists. Many of the goods were woven, including shirts and blouses, rugs and hangings, ponchos and bags of all kinds. Katrina, our daughter, who had spent the semester there, was our bargainer. In fact, she not only spoke Spanish, but she had also studied Quichua, the native language of these people. They were delighted when she would use

"their own" language to bargain. She was grateful to be more than just another tourist. In a sense, she was using with them the language of their home, their hearts. We should be so instructed. In the Word, in the Gospels, particular ones, it is said, speak more clearly to one group than another by the way they are written. This is true for peoples of the past, the Jew and the Greek, but now as well. One tribe, fairly recently, upon receiving the Bible in their own language, were convinced of the truth of the Word by the genealogy in Matthew 1, something which meant a great deal to their culture. So how do we speak so that others may know what we mean and are drawn spiritually? Carefully, prayerfully, yet joyfully, expectantly, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6)

For a little background, you might want to know that we have precious Sunday School students; nevertheless, the older ones often choose to appear as though they have not been listening. At least they don't often volunteer to answer questions, and the younger set sometimes seem to volunteer with or without an answer in mind. Please note the qualifications "often" and "sometimes". But because of this, asking questions can garner unusual answers. While we were seated together as a Sunday School group, a brother introduced this set of verses to us. "And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse, and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True...And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God...and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (Revelations 19:11,13,16)

The brother read us these

verses and bravely asked, "When is this going to take place?" There were several volunteers. I was sitting there thinking "at Christ's second coming" when he called on a young man of no more than six years old. The lad did appear almost taken aback to be chosen, but he was far more accurate than I. He replied, "I guess any time."

To the old rugged cross I will ever  
be true,  
Its shame and reproach gladly  
bear;  
Then He'll call me some day to  
my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share.

(Chorus): So I'll cherish the old  
rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a  
crown.

*Hymns of Zion #168*

**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**  
**Anna Marie Reutter**  
**Cyndee Anderson**

We have two deaths to report this month. An aged Sister, Minnie Lehman, 91, passed away December 20 at the Resthaven Nursing Home in Elgin, IL. Sis. Minnie and her late husband, Bro. Karl, attended the Chicago church, but were buried in the cemetery here at Cissna Park. We extend our sympathy to her sister, Sis. Martha Brenner, and her brother, Bro. George Winger, both of our congregation.

On January 4, our Bro. Dale Farney passed away after spending several weeks in the hospital. Our prayers have been with his wife, Sis. Mabel, in the past weeks, and we want to extend our sympathy to her at this time. Also grieving are his mother, Sis. Kathryn Farney; his five sisters, Sis. Loretta Baumgartner, Sis.

Laverne Farney, Sis. Twylla Beer, Sis. Myra Farney, and Sis. Nancy Hauptli; and his brother, Bro. Gerry, all of Cissna Park. May the Lord comfort this family.

We also wish to remember Sis. Helen and Bro. Harry Hoffman as they have recently lost a brother-in-law, Bro. Joseph Herman, Washington, IL.

As is the way of life, the old pass on, and new life is born. We rejoice with Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn Kaeb in the birth of their fifth child, Stephany Renee, born December 27. Loving siblings are Chad, Trent, Teresa, and Katrina. Her grandparents (just as loving!) are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider (Remington, IN).

Bringing us the Word of Truth this month were our visiting ministers, Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Dennis Kaufmann and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN).

Ed Stock was recently married to Dawn Martin (Donald and Ann, Hoopeston). Ed's parents are Bro. Les and Sis. Arlene Stock.

Submitting to surgery this past month were Bros. Richard Ehlman, Charlie Mann and Les Walder. May we continue to remember in prayer those who are sick or in the hospital. What a God-given talent it is to have a ready mind that is instant in prayer when the need arises. May God continue to bless those of you to whom this comes so naturally!

On Wednesday, January 4, we held our annual business meeting after a short service conducted by our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand. In the year 1994, our congregation experienced eight deaths, four baptisms, one marriage and six births. We lend our support to Bro. Steve Kaeb as he assumes

the duties of trustee, replacing Bro. Rollie Young. May God bless these brothers for their willingness to serve the church in this way. We also give our support and prayers to all others taking over the various duties, including our new Sunday School teachers, Sisters Sylvia Laubscher and Beth Kaeb, who are finishing the terms of Sisters Lili Koehl and LouAnn Kaeb; Sisters Lisa Kaufmann and Judy Edelman who will take the place of Sisters Joann Maul and Velma Rinckenberger; and Bro. Eric Kaeb, who replaces Bro. Bill Maul, all beginning in July. We wish to thank those teachers whose duties are ending for serving so cheerfully and willingly. And we encourage those just beginning their terms to look humbly to God and His Word for the needed wisdom and grace.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 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."

*Colossians 3:16,17*

I had the opportunity this past week to listen to a sermon of my grandfather, Bro. Joseph Rocke, who has been gone now for over 30 years. This sermon was preached nine days before he met his death in a farm accident. I felt it was worthwhile to pass on what the Lord surely inspired him to say.

"For we know, dear ones, that life is serious, life is short, and that we have no time to lose. How soon is one put off from this life often so unexpected. But if it should ever come to us in that way, would we not then have a joy

in eternity? If, when we are cut off from this world, we have put on the whole armor and then laid it down, it will then be in exchange for a crown. And therefore we mention that life is serious, and life is short, and very uncertain. And this is not meant for the children of God alone, but this is meant for the children of God and for the friends who love the Truth. That we should make haste and seek the Lord, while it is the opportune time." And then he quoted the words to the first verse of *Zion's Harp #187*:

Hark the voice of Jesus teaches  
all who are not born again  
Out of water and of Spirit shall be  
lost, 'tis clear and plain.  
That to enter heaven's portal and  
inherit life immortal  
New creations we must be, on this  
earth from sin made free.

May all who read this please consider it wisely. Is God speaking to you?

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

"There shall be showers of blessing:

This is the promise of love;"  
*Gospel Hymns #315, vs. 1*

God's blessings of love have been showered on Jason and Michelle Garey. They happily welcome their first child, a daughter, Tanner Cassidy, born January 11, as do thankful grandparents, Bro. Vern and Sis. Judy Wettstein and Richard and Mary Garey, Eureka.

"There shall be showers of blessing

Precious reviving again;"  
*Gospel Hymns #315, vs. 2*

Bringing us God's reviving Word this month have been Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). We thank our visitors for blessing us with their presence and pray God will continue to revive all of our ministering brothers who labor in season and out of season.

"There shall be showers of blessing:

Send them upon us, O Lord;"  
*Gospel Hymns #315, vs. 3*

We plead for His blessings of restored health as He wills on many of our congregation. Loved ones who have been hospitalized are: Bro. Glenn Knapp and Jim Craig (surgery); Bro. Mike Schieber, Bro. Steve Schrock and Sis. Sarah Dietrich (medical); and Melissa Miller (Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis) with a fractured leg. Sis. Jeanette Knapp has been temporarily transferred to St. Francis (Peoria) for more intensive therapy and Bro. Emil Stahl is confined to his home. Our prayers go to each one and their families.

*Reminder to Congerville Silver  
Lining subscribers:*

February is the collection month for renewals and new subscribers. Please see a reporter if you have changes or questions.

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**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**  
**Renee Anliker**  
**Debbie Sauder**

Haste while yet His grace is  
offered;  
Waste no time in worldly thought;  
Now begin your pilgrim journey,  
Cleansed from every stain and  
spot.

You will find by faith, revealing,  
Full redemption in His blood;  
For every sinner there is healing,

Baptized in the cleansing flood.

*Zion's Harp #52, verse 4*

We are thankful another dear soul has begun his pilgrim journey while God's grace yet is offered. May Darren Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma) find the full redemption and healing of the soul, which the Lord offers so freely to all who will come with a broken spirit and contrite heart.

Sis. Stacy Martin (John and Ella) and Bro. Jeff Stoller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Barbara, Morton) were joined in Holy Matrimony on January 15. May they ever look to the Lord in all things, knowing that they can only be blessed by following the Lord's will for their lives.

Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and ministering Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) visited us this month. May the Lord richly bless them for their deeds of love.

Recently hospitalized were Sis. Ruth (Bro. Harvey) Schurter, Sis. Rose Eurich and Bro. Elvis (Sis. Marilyn) Kellenberger. Our prayer is that God's healing touch may be given, as He sees fit.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yeah, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

*Revelations 14:13*

Sis. Minnie Leman has laid aside her earthly labors and gone to be with her Lord. May the Lord comfort the hearts of loved ones left behind.

Wednesday evening, January 18, our annual business meeting was held. We are thankful for the faithfulness of each brother, sister



and friend who willingly lend themselves in service throughout the year. Those completing terms of service include: Bros. Don Heiniger, Sam Bachtold, Howie Schifferer, Keith Kellenberger and Frank Schock. May God bless these brothers for their extra efforts and grant an equal portion of grace and willingness to newly elected Bros. Tim Kellenberger (trustee), Stan Schambach (Res-thaven Board of Directors), Earl Steffen (Landsite Committee), Dan Moser (Brotherhood Assistance Program), and Ken Kellenberger (Brotherhood Assistance Real Estate). How thankful we are that our Heavenly Father knows all deeds that are done, good or bad--known to man or not. May we each continue to be diligent and faithful in the service God calls us to.

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**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
**Dori Blunier**

"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."

*II Timothy 4:15*

We recently were exhorted to be thankful if we were privileged to have been brought to church and taught the truth as a child. If we allowed God to make us wise unto salvation through Jesus, then it is our obligation to preserve the holy scriptures for the children that are now coming to our churches. We want our children to be able to say that I also knew the scriptures as a child.

We extend our heartfelt prayers and concern to the Hartter family who have met with illness and injury. Bro. John Hartter (Sis. Beverly) has had numerous knee surgeries and recently had an-

other one. We pray that God will heal and restore a reasonable measure of health. Bro. Dan Hartter (Sis. Dorothy) has also been ill for some time and recently suffered a stroke. We pray for him and his family, as he has not been able to assemble with us.

We also pray for Sis. Clara Zimmerman who has also suffered a stroke.

In appreciation, we thank our visitors who have ministered to us recently. They were Bros. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

*Note of Thanks:*

On January 11, my 91st birthday (what a day or week, it humbles me), my family, Fred's children and grandchildren, and many others showered me with beautiful cards and floral arrangements. Calls from many friends, even from Europe, made my day. May God bless all of you is my sincere prayer and thank you.

*Lovingly in His name, Sis. Elizabeth Knapp*

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**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**  
**Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel**

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

*I John 4:16*

We praise God for His great love for all of us.

Sis. Stephanie Schieler (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice) and Bro. David Wieland, Peoria (Norman and Evie, Visalia, CA) were united in Holy Matrimony on January 1.

Sis. Wendy Slagel ( Bro. Raymond and Sis. Gladys) and Bro.

Alan Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn, Bern, KS) were united in Holy Matrimony on January 8. It is our prayer that God will bless these couples as they go through life together.

Our visiting ministers this past month were: Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL), and Bros. Ben Wiegand (Columbus, OH), Kenneth Hoerr and Michael Rieker (Peoria, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park, IL). Thank you, brothers, for sharing God's Word with us. We also appreciate all you visitors for worshipping with us.

We welcome Bro. Dale and Sis. Lili Koehl and children, Barry and Karmi, who have moved to our area from Cissna Park. May God continue to bless them as they worship with us.

Those hospitalized recently are Sis. Esther Kiefer, Sis. Vi Bachtold (Bro. Lloyd), Bro. Glenn Fehr and Kenneth Headley (Delores). We pray for God's healing. We also are praying for the ones convalescing in their homes and the nursing home.

Our prayers will be with our Elder Bro. Art Bahler, as well as the entire Elder body as they assemble at the mid-winter Conference in West Bend, IA.

Sis. Kathryn Steffen, 95, passed away on January 1. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Sis. Nina Steffen (Peoria); a niece, Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein (Peoria); and a nephew, Walt Steffen, of Cropsey. She was a lifetime resident of the Cropsey-Fairbury area, until 1983 when she moved to an apartment at the Peoria Home. We extend our sympathy to the family.

William A. Van Antwerp, 82, passed away on January 12. He leaves to mourn his wife, Sis.

Anna Lou; daughter, Judith Harris (Nathan), of Florence, MO; two grandchildren, Sean and Heather Harris; a sister and two brothers. We pray that they can feel our prayers and know that God will not leave them comfortless. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to them.

For the year of 1994, we reported 14 births, 6 weddings, 9 baptisms and 11 deaths.

*Notes of Thanks:*

A sincere thanks for everyone's prayers, cards, food and telephone calls to express your thoughtfulness during my recent illness. May the Lord bless you richly.

*In Christian love, Sis. Vi Bachtold*

Your kind expressions of sympathy are deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the family of William A. Van Antwerp.

**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Marlene Walter**

**Mary Bachtold**

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA) and Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit, MI) share God's Word with us this past month. May God richly reward them for their willing service.

Don and Barb Hall were blessed with the arrival of a precious baby girl, Shelby Anne Nicole. She is a sister of Blake and a granddaughter of Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupferschmid and Sharon Hall (Pontiac) and Leo and Mary Hall (Urbana).

On December 30, Bro. Harold Honegger passed from this life into eternity after suffering many years of the bodily afflictions of

loss of hearing and eyesight. We are thankful he has been relieved of his cross and we sorrow with his family: Sis. Marilyn Leman and family (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Roger. May they feel God's nearness and comfort.

We are rejoicing with Heidi Dotterer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy) as she has answered God's call to repentance. May God grant her much grace to build her faith on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

January 15 was a special day for Bro. Kent Edelman (Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Bethany Steffen (Bro. Rich and Sis. Lou Ida) as they were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings as they walk the path of life together.

Bro. Leroy Koehl, Sis. Carol Metz and Alex Ricketts (Bro. Alan and Sis. Alisa) have spent time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful for those who have been able to return home and pray that God will continue to grant His healing power to each of them.

Sis. Martha Huber has felt the need to move to the Peoria Apostolic Christian Nursing Home. We will miss her loving presence among our congregation and trust that the Lord will continue to provide for her as He has in the past.

**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Barb Brim**

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

*Matthew 6:33-34*

Consider the freedom these verses promise if we, through His

grace, continually put our faith in the Lord. How difficult it is not to worry, yet these verses exhort us to be free of care; the Lord will provide. Let us all strive, each and every day, to trust in His good will, seek His righteousness, and allow our faith in Him and His promises to guide our lives without "thought for the morrow". Rejoice, the Lord is in control!

We watched the Lord's will being carried out this month as we celebrated the marriage of Bro. John Ott (Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn) to our dear Sis. Amy Wiegand (Bro. Gale and Sis. Jane). What a wonderful way to start a life together, allowing God's will to be fulfilled in the union of these two souls. May He ever bless, protect, and keep your new family close to His heart.

Our flock was increased by the addition of another one of the Lord's most miraculous blessings. A new little lamb, Marisa Lynn Wiegand, was born this month to Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen. Marisa's happy grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand and Bro. Mel and Sis. Marilyn Blunier. May she grow and prosper ever standing under the protection of our dear Shepherd, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our sympathies and prayers of comfort are extended to Sis. Jan Wiegand (Bro. Roy) over the passing of her father, Bro. Harlan Bolliger, of Tremont. We rejoice with you also that his journey is ended and he is safe in the arms of Jesus.

A dear sister who has been living in the Eureka Home, but for many years made Goodfield her church family, has also passed on this month. To the family of Sis. Hulda Witzig we offer our condolences and prayers for your loss and are comforted by His promise of eternal life to all who would heed the call as we know Sis.

Hulda did.

We are happy to report that Bro. Ben Hohulin is out of the hospital and recovering well after hip surgery. May God's grace fill your heart and speed your recuperation.

Many thanks are offered to the numerous visiting ministers and their families who shared God's Word with us this month. Thank you Bro. Fred and Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Congerville, IL), Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marjorie Sutter (Taylor, MO), Bro. Kenny and Sis. Phyllis Knapp (Taylor, MO), Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber (Francesville, IN), Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Martin (Eureka, IL), Bro. Byron and Sis. Carol Stoller (Gridley, IL), and Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy Stoller (Gridley, IL) for being so generous in sharing your time and service in the Lord with us.

#### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

##### Perry A. Klopfenstein

On January 13, the calendar told us it was "Friday the Thirteenth", and much attention in the newspapers was made, as usual, about "bad luck", etc. Those of us who trust in the Lord, however, disdain such superstitions.

On that same day I noticed that the daily verse on my scripture calendar read, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14). The contrast was very striking of how our outlook of faith is so much more satisfying compared to the faulty understandings of the world. This verse is illustrative of the richness of a life of faith and trust, as opposed to superstition and fear. May God give us continued grace to turn our hearts, hourly and minute-by-minute, to the graceful thoughts attendant to our loving God.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein became the parents of Brandon Joseph on November 30, their first child. Our congregation shares their joy and wishes them well. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Gloria Wettstein and Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet Nuest (LaCrosse, IN).

On December 21, Caleb Joseph Zehr was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Mindy Zehr. Again, we rejoice with them. Caleb has an older brother, Joshua, age 1. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Wilma Zehr and Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss, all of Gridley.

#### ILLINOIS, MORTON

##### Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Our congregation had occasion to rejoice as another dear soul was brought into the fold. Marie Binkele Rapp repented and was baptized. Because of poor health, this was done in her home with only a small group attending. It reminds us that God's mercy is so great.

Another example of God's love and mercy for mankind was the conversion of Harold McIver. He was able to repent and find salvation before his death on January 16. May the Lord comfort and bless his wife, Charlotte; his mother, Lenore Hammond McIver; his stepson, Kenneth Wormington; his daughter, Mrs. George (Patty) Meiner; his stepdaughters, Mrs. Larry (Debbie) Kuhel, Mrs. Jerald (Linda) Williams, and Mrs. Dale (Sandra) Vonlienen; his brother, Carl; his three sisters, Margaret Pearman, Virginia Francis, and Shirley Elkins; and his 13 grandchildren.

We are happy to welcome a new family to our Morton congregation. Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane (Fischer) Funk, with their children, Aaron, Heather, Adam and

Holly, moved here from the Tucson, AZ congregation.

We thank the visiting ministers who brought the Word to us this month. They were Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). We thank them and their families for being with us.

#### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

##### Cara Nussbaum

January 8 was the day of our annual business meeting in Peoria. We also elected new Sunday School teachers and a new trustee. Bro. Dale Geyer was elected to be the new trustee. The new Sunday School teachers who will start their terms in August are Sis. Faith Herrmann, Sis. Terri Hodel, Bro. Steve Suttor, and Bro. Craig Stickling. We thank them for being willing to accept these responsibilities and wish them the grace of God.

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

*Matthew 19:5,6*

January 1 was a special day for Bro. Dave Wieland and Sis. Stephanie Schieler (Fairbury, IL), as they were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Norman and Evie Wieland of California, and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler, Fairbury. May God bless this union of hearts.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Roger and Bro. Joe Herman and Sis. Myrna Hoerr and their families, following the death of their father, Bro. Joe Herman Sr. Bro. Joe and his wife, Sis. Lucille, went

to Washington church but resided in an apartment at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home.

Our hospitalized patients last month were Bro. Les Wagenbach, Bro. Jesse Eisenmann and Sis. Emma Woerner. We pray for God's healing touch upon each of you.

Visiting ministers to Peoria last month were Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) on Christmas Day and Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) for our January "Family Night". God bless you both for your efforts.

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

#### Martha Jane Siebenthal

We are thankful that we have faithful brothers who are willing to be of service for the Lord. Visiting ministers this month were Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL). May God richly bless them and their families and may they always proclaim the truth in sincerity without fear or favor of man and may we support them through prayer.

"Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

*Matthew 3:2*

We rejoice as the goodness of God has led two more souls to repentance. Larry and Tiffany Martin (Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Donna) have found grace to follow His leading. Pray they will walk the narrow path that leads to Heaven.

We are looking forward to the testimonies and baptisms on January 21-22 of Brian and Renee Wieland (Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth and Norman and Pat Stahl). May they feel our love and prayers. We wish both of these

couples much grace and God's blessings. We pray the Lord will continue to call more souls to Him.

"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 Bro. Russell Rumbold II (Russell and Sis. Roma) and Sis. Peggy Knobloch (Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances) was announced on Christmas Day. May they rely on God's guidance as they walk life's pathway together.

We rejoice with Bro. Eugen and Sis. Elsa Christ as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have been blessed with three children, Gisela Stogsdill, Lori Refiford and Wolfgang Christ, 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. God grant them more years of happiness together.

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

*Psalms 127:3*

God has blessed three families with precious bundles from Heaven. A new blessing has been added to the home of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie Christ. Karl Walter was born December 27. Beth, Lena and Molly welcome their first brother. Also, thankful grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ and Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold (Bradford, IL). Also, a little girl, Kaylie Nicole, was born January 7 to Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy Stahl. Kelsie, Kendall and Kristi welcome their sister, as do thankful grandparents, Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl. Happy and thankful grandparents of Brooke Louise Smith are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter born on the 1st

day of January to their daughter, Donna Lou and Kimm Smith of Bloomington. May the Lord grant wisdom to the parents as they raise these precious children for the Lord.

Our annual business meeting was held on Wednesday evening, January 4. We are thankful to all who are willing to give of themselves for this labor of love. Trustee: Bro. Sam Martin replaces Bro. Kurt Ehnle; Usher: Bro. David Kieser replaces Bro. David Streitmatter; Treasurer: Bro. Floren Streitmatter; Peoria Home Board: Bro. Don Streitmatter; World Relief Representative: Bro. Mike Menold. Bros. Floren, Don and Mike will continue to serve another term. Sis. Mary Martin replaces Sis. Margaret Feucht on funeral dinners. Sis. Joanne Herrmann will replace Sis. Martha Jane Siebenthal as Silver Lining reporter for a term of 5 years. Trust all will be willing to do their part in love and unity.

Our hospital patients this month were Harry King (Virginia), Sis. Anna Stahl and Bro. Keith Knobloch (Sis. Lisa). We are very thankful God spared the life of our dear Bro. Keith as he fell from a fertilizer tank. He has a broken arm and wrist and a few other injuries. We pray for each dear soul that God will heal and restore according to His will.

Grace and goodness He has promised;

He's a true and mighty Lord.  
Nothing then shall ever part us;  
He will keep us by His word.  
Though I must endure affliction,  
Yet I feel my Lord's affection;  
He is here my strength in life,  
And helps me in ev'ry strife.

*Zion's Harp #157*

"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*

May each one of us remember our dear shepherds in our prayers as they gather for the mid-winter Elder Conference in West Bend, IA on February 15, 16 and 17. Let us be supportive of their conclusions that we can hold fast to the true faith.

What we leave IN our children should concern us more than what we leave TO them.

*Notes of Thanks:*

Dear Beloved Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

My heartfelt thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, food and visits while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God richly bless each one of you.

*Bro. Ronald and Sis. Jackie Rumbold*

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, the cards, flowers, phone calls, gifts and the meals sent to my home since my surgery. Thank you and may God bless you.

*Cathy Kieser*

**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Jana Gastman - Annie Leman**

We are thankful that souls are still answering the call to repentance and living a life for the Lord. Tim Stoller (Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg) and Keri Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy) have started their walk with Christ and we pray that God will help them to build a strong foundation of faith.

Andy and Jamie Pfister welcome a new little brother into their family. Bro. Steve and Sis.

Linda have named their son Kevin Michael. He was born on December 17. Grandparents are Gene Zimmerman and Carol Pruett of Eureka and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila Pfister of Roanoke. May God bless this family with love and grace.

We thank our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), and Bros. Nathan Stoller (Bradford, IL), Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL). May God bless them with continued grace to preach the Word.

Our annual business meeting was held January 11. We appreciate all of those who serve us in any way.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer and Marc in the passing of their son and brother, Chad. Although they live in Milford, we still consider this as Sis. Sandy's home. Our love and prayers are with them and their dear family, especially Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth, Chad's grandparents who worship with us.

*Note 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 passing of our beloved father and husband. May God bless each one of you.

*The family of Orville Martin*

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb**

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

*I Peter 5:8*

How thankful we are for our

visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Joe Braker, and Bros. Robert Pflederer and Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). We pray God will bless them and their wives for their willingness to come and labor in our behalf.

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"

*Acts 17:30*

Marla (Jeff) Rose, Jim and Suzanne (Richey), and Kathy (Greg) Getz found the grace to repent and bring their testimony to us, December 17, and be baptized December 18. We rejoice with their parents, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill. What a blessed Christmas to have three of your children and a daughter-in-law be baptized into the death of Christ.

Marty and Sis. Carla Rollins are thankful parents of a son, Corey Martin, born December 24. He was welcomed home by a sister, Danielle, and grandparents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Velda Glueck and Kenny and Linda Rollins.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Rose Knapp, Bro. George Lang (Sis. Phyllis), and Sis. Ella Schweigert. May God grant these dear ones His help and grace in their time of need.

How quickly the death angel can come and take home one of God's children. Bro. Harlan Bolliger and his wife, Sis. Carolyn, were traveling to Florida when Bro. Harlan became ill. Bro. Harlan died December 30 at the Tift General Hospital in Tifton, GA. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Carolyn, and children: Bro. Tom (Sis. Jane), Patricia (John) McKey, Sis. Jan (Bro. Roy) Wiegand, Sandra (Sam) Bedwell

and Sis. Sheila Bolliger. Also surviving are sisters, Sis. Glenna (Bro. Earl) Sauder and Sis. Janice (Bro. Elmon) Koch. Our deepest sympathy and love is extended to these dear ones.

*Notes of Thanks:*

We would like to thank everyone for their many gifts of love and prayers during the time of Harlan's sudden passing. Words cannot express our heartfelt appreciation. May God bless you all.

*Sis. Carolyn Bolliger and family*

We want to express our thankfulness to everyone who remembered me during my recent mishap, before and now through the holiday season. Our appreciation for cards, gifts, food, flowers, visits and prayers. May the Lord bless each one in a special way.

*Love in Him, Sis. Mary Baurer and her family.*

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**

**Denise Romersberger**

**Sue Ruppert**

We had several visiting ministers this month, for which we are always thankful. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) were present. Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) spoke to us at our monthly Bible Study on facets of the New Age movement.

We rejoice with the parents of two new little bundles of joy. Noah Riley Teubel is the second son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Marty Teubel. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Teubel and Roy and Jeanne Bienemann, all of Washington. Patience Noel Ledford is the newest member of the Ledford family. Her parents are

Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy. Grandparents are Bob and Barbara Ulbricht of Francesville, IN and Margaret and the late Bob Ledford of Winamac, IN.

We said farewell to a beloved brother, Bro. Joe Herman, Sr., just before Christmas. Though he had been unable to attend services for some time, we will miss his sense of humor and his presence among us. He often expressed his love of the church, and always felt indebted to Christ for his salvation. He was a former Sunday School teacher and was present during the building of the Washington church building. His greatest joy was the Christian life, and wanted all he knew to enjoy those same blessings. Our prayers are with Sis. Lucille and their children, all of who were so faithful during his last days.

A farewell dinner was held on January 8 for Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold. We wish them God's blessings, protection, wisdom, and grace as they head to Mexico. May their work be fruitful for the Lord.

At our New Year's services, the tradition has been to review the year and count our blessings. In 1994, the Washington congregation experienced 10 births, 8 baptisms, 7 weddings, and 1 funeral. The church family continues to grow and prosper under the hand of God. We know that 1995 will bring more blessings to us, though we may not know in what shape or form they will come. We know that we also may have our share of trials, and problems, and sadness. But those also can be counted as blessings as we feel God working in our lives to refine and perfect us for the time that we will meet Him face to face.

When upon life's billows you are  
tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, think-

ing all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name  
them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the  
Lord has done.

Count your blessings, Name them  
one by one;

Count your blessings, See what  
God hath done;

Count your blessings, Name them  
one by one;

Count your many blessings, See  
what God hath done.

*Hymns of Zion #116*

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Jaci Gerber - Brenda Bertsch**

"And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."

*Genesis 2:22*

Two couples have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are Bro. Richard and Sis. Beulah Clark on January 5, and Bro. Roy and Sis. Ida Aschliman on January 7. We pray that God will continue to bless their lives together.

We wish to extend our prayers and sympathy to Jeff and Jodi Kaehr in the passing of Jodi's father, Donald Hay, on December 23.

We also want to remember Ann Baumgartner and her family in the passing away of their husband and father, Harold Baumgartner, on December 24.

Our thanks go out to the visiting ministers who shared the Word with us. They are Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Jay Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Glen Riggensbach (Smithville, OH) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS).

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jeanne Steffen were blessed when Aaron

Michael joined their family on December 12. He is welcomed by a brother, Josiah, and grandparents, Bro. Terry and Sis. Gloria Steffen and Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch.

Also, on December 12, Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola Wolf welcomed the arrival of Lillian Joy. She joins David and Victoria at home. Grandparents are Bro. Dezso and Sis. Jolan Vidakozics (Ersekesanad, Hungary), Gene and Shirley Wolf and Joyce Wolf.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

*Eccles. 3:1*

There were several in our congregation that spent time in the hospital. They are Britton Claghorn (Bro. Tim and Sis. Teresa), Bro. Bill Neuenschwander (Sis. Mildred), Bro. Phil Kaehr (Sis. Gloria), Bro. John Frank (Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Frances Dubach, and Bro. Ed Schwartz, Sr. (Sis. Josephine). May God strengthen and restore health upon each one according to His perfect will.

#### **INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH** **Susan Harris - Kay Steffen**

We were abundantly blessed with many timely and valuable teachings this month. We give thanks and ask the Lord's blessings on Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS).

Surely the angels in Heaven rejoice with a new convert. Kristan Gerber (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo) has begun her new walk in Christ. May the Lord grant her grace to establish a solid foundation on Him.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a

good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

*Proverbs 18:22*

Our dear Sis. Erika Aeschliman (Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Corey Gerber (Bro. Russell and Sis. Susie, Bluffton) were united in marriage on January 1. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together in Him.

We rejoice with Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Gerber on their arrival of a precious boy born January 4. Little Damon will join two brothers at home, Chandler and Brandon. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber and Bro. Jim and Sis. Cheryl Zimmer. We pray they will seek the Lord's guidance as they raise their family.

The Lord has mercifully released our beloved Bro. Ralph Gerber from his suffering. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Mildred; sons, Bro. Linus (Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Sam (Sis. Mary Jo); and one daughter, Mrs. Rick (Sandy) Mendenhall. May God comfort their family. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, and we hope to meet again.

Sis. Ida Gerber who resides at Christian Care Retirement Community was hospitalized for a short time this month. Let us continue to remember loved ones in prayer who are in the hospital or shut-in.

We welcome the newly elected Sunday School teachers and thank those ending their terms. May they all be richly blessed for their efforts in teaching the Word to our precious children.

#### **INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE** **Lily Pelsy**

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt

go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

*Psalms 32:8*

Three dear couples and our precious Sis. Lisa Pedigo have felt led to leave us. Sis. Lisa has made her home in Indianapolis, IN. Bro. Alex and Sis. Lorelei Gutwein are at Davenport, IA. Bro. Randy and Sis. Stephanie Wuethrich and their son, Jared, as well as Bro. James and Sis. Gina Emch and their children, Amy, Brent, and Steven, have moved to Phoenix, AZ. All are missed sincerely!

We marvel how the Spirit leads our ministers, giving them the words to speak. During one sermon, a home minister encouraged us to be thankful for Jesus, our greatest possession. A few days later a visiting minister repeated that same thought. We are thankful for our home servants as well as those who came to share God's Word with us. Thanks to Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Vernon Schwab, Gene Lehman and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

Nicole Gutwein (Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen) and Jeff Garbison became one on November 25. Grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Joan Gutwein.

On New Year's Day, Sis. Jennifer Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam) and Bro. Chris Neust (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane) were united. The grandparents are Bro. Sidney and Sis. Fern Leman and Bro. Lester and Sis. Anna Neust.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

*II Corinthians 5:17*

We are thankful to report those that have found peace with God and man. These thankful souls

are Earl Johns, Melinda Vogt (Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne), Rachel Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki) and Deana Overmyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet).

Thought from a sermon: We need to walk the walk before we talk the talk.

### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Melissa Baumgartner  
Sandy Lichtle**

A new year has begun and life keeps rushing by. May we always trust in the Lord and seek His will for us during this coming year.

The church was invited to Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Bradford's home on New Year's Eve. We enjoyed a blessed evening of singing and fellowship with one another.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

*Eccles. 3:1*

Sis. Andrea Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny) flew to Moscow on January 17. She will help to teach the precious Word of Life and be a witness for Christ to orphans and high school students. May God bless and guide her while she is overseas for four months.

We are thankful to have had Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and his family share a recent Sunday with us. May God bless him and his family for their labors of love as they serve Him so faithfully.

### INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Judy Gudeman**

Bro. Ernest Pfeifer (Sis. Emma) is no longer the oldest member of the LaCrosse congregation, but he is the newest entrant to Heaven from LaCrosse. Bro. Ernie has been in the LaCrosse area since 1922, when he moved to America

from Germany. We will certainly miss Bro. Ernie and his infectious sense of humor very much. Our sympathy is extended to his family: Sis. Emma, Shirley Pfeifer (Morton, IL), Alvin and Carol Pfeifer (Wanatah, IN), Paul and Jane Pfeifer (Owensboro, KY), Bro. Glenn and Sis. Nancy Pfeifer (Chicago, IL), and Kenneth and Becky Pfeifer (Jacksonville, FL). There are also 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"

*Eccles. 3:1,4*

Our time of mourning has been followed with a time of rejoicing as we have gained two more Sisters in the Lord. Sis. Julie Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) and Sis. Lana Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. AnnaMarie) were baptized following their conversion. It is always so good to hear a testimony of faith from each new heart. Each soul has a story that is exactly the same--and yet at the same time completely different, as it is told from each one's perspective. It never fails to bring tears of humility and joy to my eyes when I am reminded that, upon our conversion, we become sisters and brothers to Jesus Christ our Lord. May we all be encouraged to strive to be worthy of our heavenly calling.

Thanks are due to the ministering brethren who visited us this past month for several occasions. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), retired Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL), and Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Larry Weninger (Latty, OH), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Bob

Stoller (Lamar, MO). We appreciate all of the visitors we had during the holidays and for the baptisms as well!

### INDIANA, LEO

**Ethelyn Schlatter**

Sunday School was canceled on Christmas Day because most of the teachers were away.

On New Year's Eve, a group met at the Fellowship Center for a time of fellowship with a supper and singing.

On January 4, we were encouraged at our mid-week service by the visit of Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL). Elder Bro. Edwin had the evening service. The friends were then dismissed and the congregation was then told of action being taken in the transition of leadership here at Leo. Our Elder Bro. David Bertsch has expressed his desire to retire. A vote was taken to determine the feeling of the congregation to seek help in the ministry. The response was to prayerfully go ahead.

The week of January 9 brought several groups of volunteers to help on the church building. On Monday and Tuesday evenings we gathered with our faithful Illinois brethren at the Wieland Furniture Factory to pre-finish the woodwork, doors and frames. This was our third time, as we also worked on January 2 (holiday closing). We rejoiced to complete the project on the evening of January 16. We are expecting volunteers this weekend (January 19-21) to complete the electrical system and lighting. Continue to pray for us and the many volunteers that come to help.

One of our volunteers was Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) who ministered to us on January 11.



He said he was very tired after traveling and working on the church building, but was uplifted and encouraged by the singing of the hymns before the service, especially "I Love To Tell the Story".

Our Elder Bro. David Bertsch returned from a visit to Haiti. He reported that the evaluation committee found conditions very distressing; there is much more illness and hunger. We thank the Lord for His protection of the committee during their travel.

We were again blessed on January 15 by the ministry of Bro. John Reinhard and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

### INDIANA, MILFORD

**Judy Longcor**

**Marguerite Hoerr**

Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Martin were privileged to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary in December. Within the circle of their family they were able to reminisce about their wedding day, which took place in Peoria, IL on December 12, 1929. John and Dorothy are loved by all of us. We rejoice with them in the celebration of this event, and add our sincere congratulations.

Our very good friend, Edna Graff, went to be with her Maker on December 27, after a long illness. Edna showed a strength and courage and zest throughout this time that was an example to others. Our sympathy goes out to her two sisters, Tillie Kasbaum and Sis. Mary Gerber, who lovingly and faithfully visited her every day at her home in Carriage Manor in Goshen. She lived in this area for 92 years and was dear to us. We also want to express our sympathy to her brother, Al, of Fort Wayne.

Tillie Kasbaum is healing nicely from her broken hip. She has been receiving care at Car-

riage Manor, since her accident which occurred there while visiting her sister, Edna. We're thankful to God she is making a good recovery, is full of courage, and plans to be back in her home which she shares with Sis. Mary Gerber in the near future. We're looking forward to having her worship with us again soon.

We want to express our congratulations to Sis. Rita Beer, who recently completed studies and received her degree as X-Ray Technologist at Owens Community College in Toledo, OH. We're thankful she has found employment in nearby Warsaw, making it possible for us to have her back in our Milford congregation once again.

Church business meetings give us the opportunity to thank former office holders and to elect others to fill these positions. The following people were elected this January: Bro. Ray Haab, trustee; Bro. Steve Beer, Bible Class; Bros. Brent Beer and Bob Bowerman and Sisters Sue Bowerman and Pat Beer to intermediate and elementary classes; Sis. Shelby Beer to World Relief Sewing; and Bros. Don Haab and Rich Schlipf as insurance representatives. May they all experience blessings from filling these positions.

Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy Steffen welcomed a new grandson on Christmas Day. Their daughter, Kristy, and her husband, Niles Miller, are the thankful parents of Alexander Charles, their first child. We rejoice with the whole family, and ask God to richly bless little Alexander and his parents.

This day we said goodbye to a young man who has been an example to all of us in courage. Chad Beer, son of Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy (Barth) Beer, left for his Heavenly home last Sunday morning, January 8. Our love, re-

spect and deep sympathy go out to his parents, and to his brother, Marc. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Ida Mae Barth (Roanoke, IL). His great-grandmother is Sis. Florence Bucher (Roanoke, IL). Throughout his life, Chad turned most of his experiences with hemophilia into rich opportunities. He showed a maturity way beyond his years and was a lesson to all of us. The busloads of his friends from the high school, who attended his services, showed the respect and love of his peers. We're thankful we were given the rich opportunity of having him among us for his brief sixteen years. Our local ministers, Bros. Nelson Beer, Walter Steffen and Will Schieler, conducted his services. They were able to express joy over the fact that Chad had established a firm relationship with his Lord during his illness.

### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Amelia Schini**

"It is trial that proves one thing weak and another strong. A house built on the sand is in fair weather just as good as if built on a rock. A cobweb is as good as the mightiest cable when there is no strain on it."

*H. W. Beecher*

Because we hadn't had our Christmas program yet when I wrote news for January, it didn't get publicity. Like most of you, we had a nice reminder of Jesus being the reason for the season. It was a blessing to all of us. At 5:30, all who desired and could gathered at the Fellowship Hall and divided into four groups to go caroling. Afterwards, all gathered again at the Hall for good food. It was an enjoyable evening for all.

Sunday, January 8, we were blessed by a visit from Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). It was a most blessed day and we all thank you, Bro. Wendell, for your visit. Please visit your "neighbors" again.

Bro. Earl Kilgus seems to be taking his retirement from the ministry well. He asked me to convey his thanks and appreciation to all who sent cards, as well as the dinner that was held for him by our own congregation.

February is the month of Valentine's Day. I guess when we think of Valentine's Day we think of love. I often think of our dear late brother, Otto Norr, of the Leo congregation. In his sermons he often said "love everybody". For Valentine's Day that would be my message to all.

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### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Carolyn Frank  
Gigi Schafer**

*The New Year*

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown!"

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put thine hand in the Hand of God. That shall be to thee better than light and safer than a known way."  
*M. Louise Haskins*

In a recent sermon, the topic of expectations was explored. What are our expectations for 1995? Are the first thoughts that pop into our minds of an earthly nature? Jobs, an education, family, etc. What about in a spiritual sense? What were our expectations of God when we came to Him in repentance? Peace of heart, forgiveness of sins, mercy, a hope of Heaven? The thought was expressed that the walk of faith is

filled with far richer blessings than we could have imagined! Isn't God far greater than even our fondest expectations? Let us walk this year in the knowledge of that truth.

Elmer Meister, brother of Sisters Mildred and Ernestine, has been hospitalized as he is battling cancer. We pray that God will strengthen him in spirit as his body continues to weaken.

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### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Ken and Cindy Susdorf**

Greetings dear ones.

We are rejoicing at this time as Tim (Joyce) Ames has now found peace and is ready to be baptized. Also, April Ames has hearkened to the call and has made a beginning in repentance. We are thankful for both and pray the Lord will help them to continue growing in Him the rest of their lives.

Visiting ministers for the month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). Thank you, brothers, for coming and sharing in God's Word with us.

Until next month, fare thee well.

*Reminder to our congregation:*

The Silver Lining collection is due in March.

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### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Sheri Bahler - Jody Bahler**

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

*Hebrews 11:6*

Our annual meeting was held

Monday, January 2. We trust that each one with added responsibilities will seek the Lord's guidance in prayer with each decision that has to be made.

We were thankful to have Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) with us Sunday, January 8. May God richly bless him.

Our prayers are with Lucille Keller as she is in the hospital. May God grant recovery as He sees fit.

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### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Lorna Knapp**

**Monica Eisenmann**

We were thankful to have two ministering brothers visit us recently. Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) brought forth God's Word on Christmas Day. Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) was with us for our annual business meeting. May God richly bless them for their efforts.

We held our annual business meeting on January 15. We extend our appreciation and thanks to those who have faithfully served us over the years. May we prayerfully support Bro. John Buster (trustee), Sis. Ingrid Buster and Sis. Judy Gehring (kitchen committee) as they assume their respective duties.

May God be with Ed Streeter and his wife, Marge, as Ed is recuperating from surgery in his home. Surely many prayers have been offered on their behalf.

We are thankful to have Sis. Judy Gehring back in Burlington. May God be with her and bless her in her new home.

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### IOWA, ELGIN

**Gloria Frieden**

These souls betrothed before Thee stand;  
Thy blessing we implore;

Unite Thou them in heart and  
hand,  
And guide them evermore.

May they with holy lives adorn  
Thy doctrines, Lord, and be  
Amid life's sunshine and its storm  
True witnesses for Thee.

*Hymns of Zion #286*

We rejoice with Sis. Sandy Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne) and Bro. Jim Knobloch, West Bend (Bro. Orvie and Sis. Laretta, Lester, IA) who have felt God's direction to share their lives together. May God continue to guide them as they make their wedding plans.

Paul Pulfer (Sis. Evelyn) recently spent a few days in the hospital (surgical). We are glad to hear he is recovering and pray that God will continue to send new strength daily.

Since February is Heart month, can you name these hearts found in the Bible?

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ heart maketh a cheerful countenance.  
*Pro. 15:13*
2. He that is of \_\_\_\_\_ heart stirreth up strife.  
*Pro. 28:25*
3. He that hath a \_\_\_\_\_ heart findeth no good.  
*Pro. 17:20*
4. Give thy servant an \_\_\_\_\_ heart to judge thy people.  
*I Kings 3:9*
5. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.  
*Psalms 34:18*
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ in heart shall be called prudent.  
*Pro. 16:21*
7. Create in me a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
*Psalms 51:10*
8. ...whosoever is of a \_\_\_\_\_ heart let him bring an offering of the Lord;  
*Exodus 35:5*

9. My defence is of God, which saveth the \_\_\_\_\_ in heart.  
*Psalms 7:10*

10. A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a \_\_\_\_\_ heart shall be despised.  
*Pro. 12:8*

### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

*Proverbs 15:1*

This verse and Chapter 15 of Proverbs has been read and meditated upon two times in recent weeks. We were reminded that grievous words may settle an argument or dispute but hurt feelings will probably follow, but a soft answer turneth away wrath. How much more pleasant and soothing a soft answer is.

We read in the papers and hear in the news of great monetary gain through winning the lottery or suing for some reason and many other schemes. We've also heard how individuals are granted large sums of money and in a few years are in poverty. In Proverbs 15:16 we read "Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith." If we stop and count our blessings one by one we are very rich---maybe not in monetary value but in things that money cannot buy.

One blessing the Garden Grove congregation is a recipient of is many visitors and visiting ministers. No amount of money can say "Thank You!" Visiting ministers include Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). May the Lord grant you spiritual gifts and not great treasures.

"The Lord is far from the wicked; but he heareth the prayer of the righteous."  
*Proverbs 15:29*

### IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We again thank our visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Myron Knobloch and his family. We welcome back our students who were gone over Christmas break. As you are starting a new semester and as we all are starting a new year, may we all commit each day to our Heavenly Father, and pray that He bless our efforts according to His will.

We are very thankful to hear of new converts in our area, and daily lift them up to our Father in prayer. May we be ever so careful, as they are looking to us for examples of what God expects from a believer.

We wish a belated congratulations to Doug Grimsman, who graduated from the University of Iowa in December. May God direct him and his family as he focuses his attention on future employment.

### IOWA, LESTER Cindy Leuthold Sue Warner

On New Year's Eve we again heard the statistics for our congregation for 1994. We had 13 births, 5 deaths and 9 baptisms.

Sis. Julie Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma) has graduated from college and found employment in the Winthrop, MN area. She will be missed by all of us, including her Sunday School students. May God bless her and go with her.

On December 28, Kelly and Tammie Leuthold were blessed

with a precious daughter, Meghan Marie. Loving grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi Leuthold.

We enjoyed the many visitors that came over the holidays. We appreciate the labors of our many visiting ministers and their spouses. Visiting ministers were: Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi and Bro. Rex Freiden (Lamar, MO), Bros. Beirne Messner and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Roger Aberle and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL).

January 5 was the funeral for our dear Sis. Rose Moser, the oldest member of our church. Her husband (Bro. John) and four sons preceded her in death. We extend sympathy to her children, Sis. Ione DeHaan, Sis. Mariann Metzger, Bro. Leo, Sis. Betty Leuthold, Sis. Estelle Leuthold, Bro. Franklin, Sis. Evelyn Metzger (Pulaski, IA), Sis. Donna Gerber (Phoenix, AZ) and Sis. Janet Wysong, as well as her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

As always, our prayers are with those who suffer bodily afflictions. Surgical patients were Bro. Art Metzger (Sis. Kristy) and Bro. Lawrence Wulf. Hospital patients were Bro. August Feucht (Sis. Martha), Bro. Ted Gerber (Sis. Emma), Sis. Naomi Knobloch, and Lon and Emily Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda). We were so glad to see Lon and Emily discharged from the hospital and back in our midst after a collision with a train on a foggy night. How thankful we are for God's protection and healing.

Bro. Ted Gerber was discharged from the hospital and has gone to live at the Fellowship Village nursing home in Inwood.

May God be near him and Sis. Emma.

We have reason for rejoicing, for Valerie Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl) has the wonderful gift of peace. Valerie now lives in Phoenix, AZ but plans to be baptized in Lester on February 5.

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

We recently had our annual business meeting to take care of the many physical needs of our church. We are thankful for those brothers and sisters who have served faithfully on different committees and whose terms have now ended including: Bro. Bab Lanz, trustee; Sisters Bonnie Wagenbach and Leann Siegle, Sister's Committee; Bro. Sam Wegman, Fellowship Center trustee; Bro. Tom Lindeen, cemetery; and Sis. Carol Steiner, World Relief sewing. To begin new terms will be Bro. Rick Vierling, trustee; Sisters Dolores Anliker and Carol Schmidgall, Sister's Committee; Bro. Leon Kuntz, Fellowship Center trustee; Bro. Nathan Larson, cemetery; and Sis. Jane Schmidgall, World Relief sewing. May the Lord grant a special blessing on these brothers and sisters as they faithfully serve on these committees.

We feel richly blessed to have had quite a number of visiting ministers this past month, including Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). We are thankful to have had these brothers in our midst. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

*In loving memory  
of George Kuntz:*

I saw my brother just three weeks ago  
With a hearty handshake and a big "hello".  
He greeted me as he always had  
whenever we met in church,  
Brother to Brother in Christian  
love, no need his love to search.  
He asked about my family and  
anyone else he knew,  
His conversation always sincere,  
His words few, but true.  
He shared his love to everyone,  
his family, and his God.  
He walked this earth, but not  
alone; took his Saviour  
wherever he trod.  
He never had a negative word  
when someone's name was  
used,  
Nor any scorn for anyone; ill word  
his ears refused.  
Last night I saw my brother  
again, no greeting did take place.  
I looked at him for one last time  
with a peace upon his face.  
I paused awhile where he did lie  
in peace and with calm repose,  
And saw not George lying there,  
He went where God's spirit goes.  
A quiet time was given them just  
Hazel and George alone.  
They had a farewell greeting  
there, just before God called  
Him home.  
For George had said that "I must  
leave, I'm reaching for my  
goal",  
He had a farewell song to sing,  
"Jesus, Lover of my Soul".  
There's now an empty space at  
home where George had always  
been,  
And the circle now that God has  
broken will then be whole  
again.

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

In a recent sermon, we heard that there are still miracles and the following Sunday we were privileged to meet our new convert, Lana Metzger, daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn. Another convert for the Lord is a miracle.

A few short days before the beginning of Lana's journey, her grandmother, Sis. Rose Moser, of Lester, IA ended her walk here on earth. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Evelyn and her family.

New Year's Day Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) brought us a message of faith. Many others traveled to be with their families during the holidays.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank all of the brotherhood and friends for all the prayers, gifts, food, telephone calls, cards and any other acts of kindness shown to us while I was ill.

*Bro. Russell and Sis. Karoline Wuthrich*

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a permanent attitude."

*Martin Luther King*

*Note:* The Silver Lining dues for Pulaski are due in March.

**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Lela Banwart**

**Eunice Fehr**

We appreciate those who came to worship with us. Among those have been Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bros. Dean Messner and Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), and Beirne Messner (Morris, MN).

It was a blessing to hear the

Sunday School from pre-school through the Bible class present the story of Jesus' birth and His mission in word and song. We thank the teachers and children for the efforts put forth, and pray for God's blessings on them as well.

We think of Bro. Ervin Mogler (Sis. Elma) who is in failing health. Our prayers are with him and Sis. Elma in these trying times. May they feel God's presence to help them through each day. Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Diane Gerber (Bro. Dave), surgical; Sis. Frances Zaugg; and Deanna Fehr (Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita), surgical. Thankfully, they are all recovering at home. May God be near each one and grant His healing touch.

Last month we reported that Ben Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) was injured in a snowmobile accident. Our hearts and prayers go out to him as the injury left him paralyzed from the waist down and he is confined to a wheelchair. May our Heavenly Father, who knows all things, grant Ben and his family an extra special measure of grace and strength in their trials. He is now undergoing therapy in Minneapolis, but is expected to be home soon and back in high school. Our prayers for him will surely continue.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Steve and Kris Banwart on the tragic death of Kris' father. Hank Wichtendal lost his life in a train and car accident.

Also, our sympathy and prayers to Linden and Ione Venhuizen as they bid farewell to Linden's father, Albert Venhuizen, of Arlington, MN.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Ida Schmidt, as her sister-in-law, Esther Moadinger, of Walnut, IL passed away. She also leaves

many nieces and nephews in our congregation. May these families feel God's comforting Spirit.

We rejoice with Bro. Jim Knobloch (Bro. Orvie and Sis. Laurretta of Lester, IA) and Sis. Sandy Butikofer, Elgin, IA (Bro. Albert and Sis. LaVerne) on their engagement, believing this is the will of God. Our prayer is that they might look to God for guidance as they prepare to establish a home together.

As we write the news this month, we are so very thankful that God has touched the hearts of a number of souls from our congregation, and we pray that many more can turn their back on this sinful world. May they, and we, take heed to make sure our soul is anchored and remains anchored on Christ, the Solid Rock. God will surely grant us sufficient grace to faithfully walk day by day.

God willing, our congregation will have the privilege of hosting the mid-winter Elder Conference on February 15, 16, and 17. Our prayer is that all may be carried out in a manner pleasing to God. Above all, we pray that God will provide His grace and guidance to the Elders as they consider matters concerning the welfare of the church.

As we look back over the past year, we can say God has been good to us and blessed our congregation in many ways. We have witnessed five weddings amongst members and friends, six baptisms, seven births, and three deaths of loved ones who had made preparation to meet their Maker.

**JAPAN, TOKYO**

**Andrew and Jana Klaus**

We rejoice with the angels of Heaven as a dear soul has repented and turned her heart to the

Lord. Ayako Inoue, daughter of Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie, has decided that she wants to follow God. We pray for courage for her as she starts her new life. Many Christian families in Japan do not see their children converted, as the world's influences are very strong. It is a blessing to start the year rejoicing in God's working.

The day after we heard the good news, we heard of the devastating earthquake in Kobe (which could not be felt in Tokyo). This has been the worst disaster to hit Japan since World War II. Even today there have been hundreds more discovered that are now no more. Such a sobering act allowed by God teaches us of the fleet-iness of life, and of the non-importance of our material possessions. The people who saw the buildings crumble around them hardly thought of anything else but escape. Suddenly the mammon which took a lifetime to accumulate was completely gone. Such will be at the very end of this world (Matthew 24:17). What are we striving for in life? May God grant us wisdom.

**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Lori Baumgartner**  
**Donna Edelman**

On January 5 we held our annual business meeting. We thank those brothers and sisters who spent time in the past years to serve our congregation. May God guide and direct those taking on new responsibilities.

Thanking our visiting ministers, Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) for lending themselves in God's service.

May we remember our Elders as they gather for the winter conference at West Bend, IA. Our prayers are with them as they

work for the preservation of our most precious faith.

Hospitalized this month was baby Olivia Baumgartner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim) for heart surgery. We rejoice as God has provided His healing powers as she is home and is doing well. Sis. Leola Lehman (Bro. Edward) is temporarily residing at the Apostolic Christian Home for therapy following a stroke. Bro. Wayne Miller (Sis. Pearl) has returned home from the hospital. May we remember these dear ones in our prayers.

Our best wishes and God's blessings to Ted Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) who has graduated from Kansas State and has taken employment in Columbus, OH.

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**

**Joleen Sinn**

We want to thank Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller (Lamar, MO) and their family for spending Christmas Eve with us. May God bless Bro. Bob for ministering to us.

On December 30, Dave Miller (Ron and Sandy) and Trista Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Deb) were united in marriage. Our prayer is that the Lord will lead and guide them in their new walk together.

January 11 was our annual business meeting. As duties are passed from one to another, we need to remember to pray for each other. In a small congregation everyone is needed over and over again and we thank God for willing hearts. It is an encouragement to know that even though we are weak vessels, that our Heavenly Father can strengthen us and use us for His glory.

**KANSAS, KIOWA**

**Janice Bahr**

**Darcy Kisling**

Jesus I will never leave: Who for me Himself has given;  
 Therefore unto Him I'll cleave,  
 Nor from Him be ever driven;  
 Life from Him doth light receive;  
 Jesus I will never leave.

Not for earth's vain joy I crave,  
 Not for heaven's glorious pleasure;  
 Jesus, who my soul did save, shall be my desire and treasure.  
 He redemption did achieve;  
 Jesus I will never leave.

Jesus I will never leave; Oh, the gifts that He has given!  
 Comfort, rest, and joy and light,  
 all are sent to me from heaven.  
 Hope and life comes from above,  
 all because of Jesus' love.

I am His and He is mine, Love has bound us so sincerely;  
 Through His wounds and blood divine was my ransom paid so dearly.  
 On Him I will firmly build, full of hope which shall not yield.  
*Zion's Harp #228*

In a world where Christianity is looked down upon, and our precious Lord's name is a by word rather than Holy and Revered, we, as His children, need to faithfully look to Him for guidance and strength, so that we may (as the five wise virgins) stay close and not be drawn away (as the five foolish virgins) and (perhaps gain the whole world) but take the chance of losing our soul to the desires of this present evil world. We have to live and work in this world, but we DO NOT HAVE TO BE A PART OF IT!! We have a choice, and it is our fervent prayer that it is JESUS WE WILL NEVER LEAVE!!

We were richly blessed with two separate joyous occasions this month: One Tuesday evening,

Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger and his dear wife, Sis. Geralene, were traveling through and Sis. Shirley Nelson opened her home for an evening of singing and Christian fellowship. It was a warm and wonderful evening!

Then the next Saturday and Sunday, we enjoyed the company of ministering Bro. Roger Aberle, his dear wife, Lavonne, their son, Bro. Scott (Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila Rokey and Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold (Bern, KS). The messages from God's Word, the beautiful singing, and the Christian fellowship gave us a small taste of what the joys of Heaven must be like.

Sis. Rachel Kraft fell Sunday at church and bumped her eye and wrenched her knee. We were so sorry to see her hurt, but hope we can have the strong desire to come to church that she has when we get in our 90's. She is and has always been an inspiration to all of us, as have so many of our elderly brothers and sisters because of their faithfulness to the faith. We younger generation could take a lesson from them.

Our annual meeting was held Wednesday evening, January 18. Sometimes it may not seem that we need to be there, but the order of the church and its care are important too, and if we are a part, we should try to support this work. Also, if we are chosen to fill a position in the church of our Lord, let's do it with joy and let's do it as unto the Lord for whom we live and abide and have our being.

*Reminder:* Silver Lining dues for Kiowa are due in February.

#### **KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY Julie Bahr**

With prayerful hearts our congregations now gather as one. The transition surely has been

one made and guided by the Heavenly Father. We extend our thanks and gratitude to Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Elder Bro. Gene Marti for their labors of love in this tender endeavor.

On December 28, Matt Schrader and Ami Parker were united in marriage. Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorthy Schrader and Mr. and Mrs. William Parker, McPherson, KS are their parents. We wish them God's blessings on their marriage and new home.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Sis. Dena Emch. Funeral services were held on January 10. Sis. Dena was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Bernie Emch. She is survived by a son, ministering Bro. Bill, and his wife, Sis. Susan, and two grandsons, Brent and Brandon Emch. Also surviving are three brothers and one sister: Bro. Roy Wernli and Harold Wernli of Lamont, and Dan Wernli of OK, and Martha Hughes of Emporia.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Gene Marti here to share his slides of our European brethren. What a privilege it is to know of the Father's love from far and near. Bro. Gene was here to assist Elder Bro. Jay Luthi with our first annual election meeting on January 15. Many have new positions to fill. We ask Divine direction for each brother and sister as they begin to fulfill these responsibilities in the household of God.

Our hearts are warmed and we are always so thankful for our visiting ministers. Bros. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) were our messengers of God's Word this past month.

Our congregation welcomes Kayla Bahr back home. Kayla has been employed for the past one and one-half years in the Philadelphia, PA area and re-

turns home to complete college. Kayla is the daughter of Sis. Julie and Bro. Brian Bahr.

Bro. Roy and Doris Bahr spent several days with her mother, Sis. Ada Hartman, in Eureka, IL. They were privileged to spend one more precious year together, as they celebrated Sis. Ada's 94th birthday. Many of her family were able to attend.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Dena Emch would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy shown to them during the loss of their mother and grandmother. We deeply appreciated your prayers, cards and other loving deeds. May God bless each and every one.

*Bro. Bill, Sis. Susan, Brent and  
Brandon Emch*

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

Two couples believe it is God's will that they should be joined in Holy Matrimony. We rejoiced to hear the engagements of Sis. Colleen Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Alan Meyer (Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne, Bern, KS) and Sis. Alisa Bahr (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Keith Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen). May they continue to look to God for His guidance as they plan their June weddings.

Sis. Dena Emch was hospitalized prior to passing away on January 7. Services were in Lamont, KS. Sis. Faye Percy passed away at the nursing home on January 12. Services were held at the mortuary. Our sympathy is extended to their families.

Sis. Marie Kellenberger, Bro. Carl Engle (Sis. Luise) and Sis. Marie Marti have been hospital

patients. Sis. Ruby Grimm (Bro. Gerald), Bro. Kevin Grimm (Sis. Nita) and Bro. Elmer Strahm (Sis. Phyllis) had surgery. May they ever look to Jesus for courage and strength to press onward.

Sis. Evelyn Steiner is a resident of our Apostolic Christian Home and we wish her God's grace in adjusting to her new home.

Grace and goodness He has  
promised;  
He's a true and mighty Lord  
Nothing then shall ever part us;  
He will keep us by His word.  
Though I must endure affliction,  
Yet I feel my Lord's affections;  
He is here my strength in life,  
And helps me in ev'ry strife.

*Zion's Harp #157, verse 6*

New grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis Charlotte Aberle and Bro. Ben and Sis. Mary Plattner. Megan Renae was born December 28 to Steve and Becky Plattner and Kelly.

Kalynn Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) feels she has peace with God and man and plans to give her testimony February 4.

Let your whole life be an offering  
To God and to Christ the Lord....

*Zion's Harp #159*

#### **KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Jeanne Aberle**

Once again another semester has begun, and we trust God will guide and direct us, as only He knows what lies in the year ahead. We're thankful for all the visitors who've spent time worshipping with us in the past couple months. The ministers that have shared God's Word are Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS).

In December we hosted our annual Christmas caroling. After caroling to several different rest

homes and hospitals, we met at the Senior Center for our annual chili supper. It was definitely a blessing sharing the good news of our Saviour's birth with the elderly and the sick, and we enjoyed the fellowship with all those who made the trip to Manhattan.

The K-Staters were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Alisa Bahr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Keith Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen, Sabetha, KS). They are planning to be married in June. We wish them God's richest blessings for their life together.

Dayra Meyer (Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne, Bern, KS) has yielded her life to the Lord. We're thankful for another soul joining us to worship. May He grant her grace throughout her conversion and as she lives for Him.

#### **KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller**

When Bro. Max Reimschisel dismissed the Sunday School to go to their classes after our joint morning singing on January 8, he mentioned that the first week of the new year had passed quickly. In all probability, the rest of the year will go that way also. We would do well to consider the words to "Redeeming Our Time", #188 in the Zion's Harp.

We had a wonderful example of servitude on Christmas Day, which you know occurred on Sunday this year. So often, the family whose turn it is to host the church lunch is encumbered with family obligations on a holiday. Knowing this from experience, our oldest sister, Sis. Nellie Lambert, who in her words has been "retired to the position of guest in her family celebrations", offered to provide the food for our Christmas Day lunch. She felt she had the time and the means to do so. Most

of all, she had the love of God to motivate her to share her culinary talents.

#### **KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug and Rebecca Germann**

A special thanks to Bro. Steve Martin and his wife, Sis. Vicki (Eureka, IL), and several other couples who spent the weekend here. We enjoyed a potluck dinner, singing and fellowship on Saturday evening and a blessed day on Sunday around God's Word, as Bro. Steve shared the pulpit with Bro. Lester.

On January 22, we had our Winter Family Night. A special thanks to everyone for the food! It was a beautiful evening to relax, as the children played games, and a singing to conclude the evening. We especially appreciated having Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll (Washington, D.C.) with us for a few days and for our family night activities.

Our thoughts are with our dear friend and neighbor, Edna Clements, who has been ill the last few days. Also, we extend a warm welcome to John Goheen and Emmett Robinson who have been assembling with us the last few Sundays.

Again, we would like to extend a hearty welcome to anyone who would like to visit our little church on their way south or north this winter or spring! Should anyone be contemplating a vacation in this area this summer, please write to us for tourist information.

The Germann's  
737 Wellington Way  
Lexington, KY 40503

#### **MICHIGAN, ALTO Jane Grawburg**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! We have been blessed with a new



year and are so thankful that Bro. Hartzel Kaisner (Detroit, MI) could be with us on January 1 to help us start the year right. Bro. Hartzel was alone that day and we thank him so much for his love and the kindnesses he shared with us. Our cups overflowed.

Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman are at their winter home in Sarasota, FL and Sis. Delila Schrenk is spending the winter in Zapata, TX. May God watch over these dear ones in the months ahead.

We've had our annual business meeting and want to thank all those who have had a part, or currently have assumed a new role at church. May we all look to our Saviour for His guidance in the year ahead and have grace sufficient to do His will.

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#### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Janel C. Ramseyer**  
**Marlene Mosher**

Winter has returned to central Michigan after several weeks of unseasonably warm weather. It amazes me still how snow can be so beautiful and delicate and at other times so harsh and furious. I stand in awe of the havoc wreaked by nature as seen in the recent earthquakes and torrential rains. We make all sorts of plans for our lives, but the final outcome is in the hands of the Almighty God. And yet this brings comfort, not fear. Through trust in God, there is peace. An almost indescribable peace that "...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28). How comforting it is that God is sovereign over all things---all things above earth, on earth, and even those things below the earth. Nothing supplants His power and nothing occurs without His approval. Almost un-

believable, isn't it? I feel like the apostles when Jesus calmed the stormy sea, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41). And yet Christ was not just a man, He was God on Earth. Deity in human form. And with this Deity comes perfection; perfect thoughts, perfect actions, and perfect emotions. Perfect love. Nothing can separate us from God's love, "...neither death, nor life...nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature...". (Romans 8:38,39). Regardless of our circumstances, we are safe in the hands of God.

With the new year come many new beginnings and new promises. Promises to God, to ourselves, and to others. Beginning 1995 with the promise of lifelong commitment in marriage are Sis. Jennifer Schlatter (Sis. Sharon Schlatter) and Bro. Troy Schrock (Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary, Congerville, IL) of Detroit. As Bro. Troy and Sis. Jennifer have sought first the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness, we can be sure that God will add all things that are needful as they serve the Lord together.

We are also happy that God has brought together Christi Steffen (Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue (Ramseyer)) and Rod Schofield, who is from Hale, MI. Rod and Christi will make their home in Minnesota after their New Year's Eve wedding. Please join us in praying that God will continue to guide both couples as they join their lives together.

We are in prayer for our dear Bro. Eli Schlatter who has been hospitalized recently. Bro. Eli and his wife, Sis. Ella, are lifelong members of our Bay City congregation and their presence at our services is missed. We hope they are able to worship with us again

soon.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Vicki Ramseyer who had hip surgery in December. Sis. Vicki is recovering well, especially with the assistance of many in the Bay City congregation.

The Bay City congregation has had the opportunity to start a new project we call the Bean Bag. Bro. Kurt Munsel has organized this project as part of the World Relief outreach. Members and friends alike join to bag, seal, and pack various types of beans for donation to the World Relief food distribution. The physical effort is minimal, the energy level is high, and the time spent together is rewarding. It is our prayer that this project would benefit those who are experiencing hardship and that God would grant the increase to our efforts.

The annual business meeting has brought several changes to our congregation's administrative positions. Replacing Bro. Kurt on the Bible distribution project is Bro. Dan Kaiser. Bro. Kurt has been a faithful steward in this area for several years and we appreciate his immeasurable efforts. Voted to join the kitchen committee was Sis. Laura Wieland; as trustee, Bro. Glen Ruesegger, Jr.; on the World Relief Sewing committee, Marlene Mosher. We appreciate the willingness with which these new responsibilities are accepted.

We welcome you all to worship with us in Bay City. We realize the trip is long and our schedules today are hectic, but we would love to meet you and share with you the wonderful fellowship that is God's earthly evidence of His divine love.

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#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Marlene Reinhard**  
**Holly Barton**

"And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation..."  
*Hebrews 13:22*

We began this new year by listening to the counsel of the Elders and ministers from the Conference letter. We thank Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) for joining us in this endeavor.

As I recently read through chapters 12 and 13 of Hebrews, I noticed several verses that relate to receiving instruction from the Lord through our spiritual leaders. The first is Hebrews 12, verse 2, which also was the theme of the Brotherhood Conference: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...". This is the first piece of instruction to follow in our Christian walk, for truly He walked it before us. Chapter 13 instructs us to then heed those who have been ordained of God to lead His church. "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation" (verse 7). Verse 17 continues this thought: "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." Why did the Lord instruct us to follow closely those things that we have been taught? So that we will not be "carried about with divers and strange doctrines" (verse 9). We are grateful for those who are entrusted with teaching and reminding us of our Christian responsibilities and privileges, and we should remember and act upon the plea from a minister in Hebrews 13:18: "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly."

Like a river glorious is God's  
 perfect peace,  
 Over all victorious in its bright  
 increase;  
 Perfect, yet it floweth fuller every  
 day,  
 Perfect, yet it groweth deeper all  
 the way.  
*Frances R. Havergal*

Alan and Pam Gleichman (son and daughter-in-law of Bro. John and Sis. Martha Gleichman) rejoice that they have found God's perfect peace. As they await baptism, and indeed throughout the rest of their lives, may they experience an ever-deepening sense of closeness to the Lord.

"That I may come near to her,  
 draw me nearer to Thee than her;  
 that I may know her, make me to  
 know Thee more than her; that I  
 may love her with the perfect love  
 of a perfectly whole heart, cause  
 me to love Thee more than her and  
 most of all. Amen."

*T. Gairdner*

God has chosen to manifest His own love through drawing two couples together. On Christmas Day, Bro. Troy Schrock (Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary, Congerville, IL) was announced to be engaged to Sis. Jennifer Schlatter (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI). The following week, on New Year's Day, we were also happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Alisa Bahr and Bro. Keith Beyer (Sabetha, KS). Their parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr and Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer (Sabetha, KS). Both couples are planning a June wedding. May the love of God abide in each of their hearts so that He may draw them closer to Himself and to each other.

We recently held our business meeting and elected brothers and sisters to new positions. Bros.

Mark Meyer and Mark Ramseyer are replacing Bros. Nate Wieland and Von Ringger as ushers. Sis. Dorine Kurkowski's place on the kitchen committee will be filled by Sis. JoAnn Gudeman, and Sis. Tessa Schamback will now be writing Detroit's articles for the Silver Lining. We appreciate each one's past service and the new contributors' willingness to fill these roles.

Toledo, OH is scheduled to host our monthly Woodhaven service on Tuesday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m. We are always glad for the service of the visiting ministers and the fellowship of any others who might join us.

I just have one more thought about Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...". Will He be the Author, the Founder, the Ruler, of this new year for you? He brought 1995 into being, but it is up to each one of us to decide whether we go our own way or let Him choose the path for us. It is thrilling to think that the Lord has planned each month, day, and minute of this year for each of us! If we follow His "daily planner" for this year, at the end we will be able to say that He was truly the "Finisher"---the Completer and Perfecter---of our walk of faith.

#### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

Ye sisters all, start on the way  
 In service for the Lord,  
 In watchful striving, fervent  
 prayer,  
 You'll find a rich reward.  
*Zion's Harp #143*

We bid farewell to Sis. Amy Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June, Morris, MN) and Sis. Kristie Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley, Lester, IA) who

moved back to their home church. We wish them God's blessings.

We are thankful that Bro. Rudy Hoerr (Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie, Bloomington, IL) has felt directed to seek employment here. We welcome him to our church family and hope he can feel at home here.

God has blessed the lives of Tim and Sandy Jacobson, as Mikayla Ann arrived December 23. Excited grandparents are Elder Bro. Leroy and Sis. JoAnn Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Lee and Bev Jacobson.

Those who have been in the hospital this past month were: Sis. Vera Schmidt, surgery; Joe Bednarski (Sis. Ethel), surgery; and Linus Lienemann (Sis. Esther), medical. We are thankful for God's strengthening power.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Vera Schmidt. Her grandson, Andrew Prokott (Colleen and Art), was killed in a snowmobile accident.

We were blessed to have Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) among us to bring forth God's Word. We thank him for his labors.

We rejoice even as the angels in Heaven when a soul turns their life to the Lord. Beatrice Miller (wife of late Bro. Richard) has made that decision and we certainly wish her God's blessings.

*Notes of Thanks:*

I wish to thank each one who remembered me in their prayers and with cards while I was in the hospital. May God richly bless each one.

*Sis. Vera Schmidt*

We wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to those who sent cards and remembered us in prayer when Joe was in the hospital. Thanks also to the ministers for their visits. God bless you all.

*Joe and Sis. Ethel Bednarski*

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**

**Linda Schmidgall  
Maxine Sauder**

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

*I John 3:16*

This is the time of year when the term "love" may be heard more frequently. What a beautiful example of love Christ Jesus exhibited by laying down His life for us. Surely, a holy love gives of itself to others. May we be motivated by His example and the Holy Spirit, to crucify "self" more completely, to give more freely to those around us.

We are thankful Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) freely gave of himself to minister God's Word to us this past month. We appreciate Bro. Sam and Sis. Jeanette's visits. May they be blessed.

Andy Schmidgall and Amy Polich have announced their wedding engagement. Their parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall and Barry and Cindy Polich. May God direct their hearts as they prepare for their life together.

"O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me."

*Psalms 30:2*

As David, three brothers of our congregation have experienced God's healing touch. They include Bros. Rick Gramm, Noah Nohl, and Alpai Moser. May they continue to be strengthened.

His pilgrim journey ended, his hand stilled on the plow, we bid a fond farewell to Bro. Carl Joos. Bro. Carl and his late wife, Sis. Helen, farmed and lived in the Morris area for many years. Some

of Bro. Carl's special gifts were his ready handshake and warm conversation. We miss his presence, but our hope is anchored in God's promise of the dawning of a new day with Him. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to his three daughters, Sis. Carol Haas, Judy Hemming, and Rhonda Asmus, and to their families. Also to his brother, Bro. Gottlieb Joos; and his sisters, Sis. Anna Nohl and Hilda Henrichs.

*Notes of Thanks:*

Corneila (Neil) Joos would like to thank everyone who remembered her on her 80th birthday with cards, gifts, and visits. They were greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much for the many cards, gifts, and prayers of support and concern during my illness and stay at the hospital. I'm home now and doing much better.

*Bro. Henry Nohl*

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**

**Jan Messner**

Greetings!!

What a blessed month we have had. With the celebration of the birth of Christ, seeing another year dawn, and witnessing a wedding, we can all rejoice and be glad.

Bro. John Elder of Denver, CO (George and Charlotte, Arlington Heights, IL) and Sis. Joleen Messner (Sis. Julia and the late Bro. James) were united in marriage on January 8. We would like to thank ministering Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Tom Leiman (Denver, CO) and Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) for being with us and for the many other visitors from far and near. Two souls placing their trust in God to bring them together can only grow closer and closer as time travels

on. May God bless them in the days ahead. We will miss having them here, as they have made their home in Aurora, CO.

When we asunder part,  
It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in  
heart,  
And hope to meet again.  
*Hymns of Zion #156*

Our patient recovering from surgery this month is Bill Messner (Sis. Marilyn). May God lay His healing hand upon him as he recovers.

*Note of Thanks:*

Sis. RoseAlice Howk (Bro. Roy) would like to thank everyone for the prayers, thoughts, cards, gifts and visits during her surgery and recovery.

**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti**

On January 8 we held our annual business meeting. Our new trustee is Bro. Barry Metzger, Bro. Dennis Miller was elected usher and Betty Sinn was elected to the food committee.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Dave and Trista Miller and hope that they will soon feel at home in our congregation.

**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Carolyn Banwart**  
**Becky Marti**

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Dean and Bro. Charles Marti in the death of their brother, Ed Marti, of this community.

Sis. Ruth Banwart and Bro. Raymond Luthi had to spend some time in the hospital. We are thankful they are feeling better and have been able to assemble with us again.

We recently held our annual business meeting and elections. Bro. Gene Banwart was selected to serve as trustee and Sis. Vera Frieden as Sunday School teacher. May they feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they assume their new duties.

*Reminder:* March is the month for Silver Lining collection for the Lamar congregation.

**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Rusty and Amy Adrian**

The new year is already going in full swing. What a reminder it is on how swiftly time does pass.

We rejoice with the engagement of Sis. Susan Knapp (Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann) to Bro. Curt Gramm (Gridley, IL). His parents are Ron and Ann Daughtery, Gridley, IL and the late Bro. Willis "Butch" Gramm. May God bless their lives as they prepare to serve our most precious Saviour together.

On January 4 we had our annual business meeting. How thankful we are for all those who take care of the business affairs of the church. Those taking on new responsibilities are Bro. Benj Knapp, trustee, and Sis. Judy Huber, food committee. We thank each one of them for their willingness to take on these responsibilities.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Hank Hodel (Sis. Loida) and Sis. Jo Ann Wiegand (Bro. Marvin) who was hospitalized this past month. May our loving God encourage and strengthen each of them as they go through these trials in their lives also.

On January 15, after a wonderful day of worshipping our most precious Lord, we gathered together for an all church potluck, ending the day with praising our Lord through song. What an en-

couraging time it was as we had the privilege to get together.

Most of the Taylor, MO families, forced out of their homes by the flood, have either moved to higher ground or repaired their homes and moved back. A number of our families lived in mobile homes until recently. It's good to have things get back to normal. Once again, we want to thank each of you who came before or after the levee broke, or both, and also each of you who helped financially. The love of God truly was manifested through your loving deeds of kindness! May the Lord bless you now and in eternity!

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

We gathered together on New Year's Eve for a covered dish meal and church service. May we follow God each day of the new year and look to Him for our guidance each day of our lives, as He surely knows our every need better than we know them ourselves.

In the year of 1994 we reported six births, five deaths, one baptism, and one wedding.

We welcome Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) who are able to assemble with us some as he is working in Rochester.

Our thoughts and prayers are for those loved ones who are unable to assemble with us each week because of older age or sickness at this time of the year. May God bless each one in their homes.

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

Jesse David was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf. The new baby has a brother, Kenneth. Grandparents are Bro. Art and

Sis. Audrey Graf and Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener).

Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss Pamer are blessed with a new baby, Lydia Rose. Also welcoming the precious little girl are brothers and sisters, Daniel, Matthew, Beth and Rebecca. Grandparents are our Elder Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer and Bro. and Sis. Don Walder.

Sis. Gyongyi Bako (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy) was married December 18 to Bro. Sanyi Hegedus (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Ilona) of Budapest, Hungary. We wish them God's blessings in their married life.

Sis. Evelyn Walker went to be with the Lord on January 15. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Irvin, and children, Don (Patricia), Kerry (Christine), Pam (Keith) Weir, and 5 grandchildren.

Esther Grossenbacher is home recuperating from outpatient surgery on her arm, and Sis. Dora Smith is recovering from a broken arm. We wish for each a speedy recovery.

We give thanks to those who have completed their terms of responsibility: Bro. John Schamback as trustee; Bro. Mike Walder as usher; Sis. Lydia Graf on the kitchen committee; Bro. John Schamback as our representative for Gateway Woods; and Bro. Ned Spangler, treasurer representative for World Relief. The replacements are: Bro. Eric Graf as trustee; Bro. Joe Miller as usher; Sis. Barbara Graf on the kitchen committee; Bro. Carl Graf as our representative for Gateway Woods; and Bro. Greg Henico, treasurer representative for World Relief. We are thankful to have Sisters Sarah Henico, Esther Zsoldos, and Joanne Schar as teachers in Sunday School.

## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Nancy Banks

Saturday, January 14, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter assisted Elder Bro. Gene Pamer with the reading of the Memorandum. We thank these brothers and their wives for being with us and also Bro. Gene for assisting with our annual business meeting held on Sunday, January 15. Newly elected to offices were Bro. Bryan Stoller (trustee and usher), Sis. Kara Stoller (Sunday School teacher and kitchen committee), Sis. Becky Sauder (kitchen committee), and Sis. Nancy Banks (Silver Lining correspondent). We wish to thank the brothers and sisters who worked so selflessly in the offices in the past and our prayers are with those who are now beginning a new term.

We feel very blessed to be able to announce two new converts in the Columbus church: Debbie Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) and Katie Sauder (Bro. Stan and Sis. Judy). We rejoice with these families as their daughters begin their new walk with the Lord.

We are so thankful that Joe Sauder and Debbie Sauder were spared this month from serious injuries. Joe broke his wrist in a motorcycle accident and Debbie was unharmed in an automobile accident. Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky are thankful for the Lord's watchful eye over their children.

We were saddened to learn of our dear Bro. Andy Hunyady's retirement from the pulpit. He and Sis. Theresa have worked very hard for our little congregation and we wish to thank them for their many labors of love over the years. We have many fond memories of our little church as it was getting started and we can only pray that Bro. Andy and Sis. Theresa will enjoy watching the fruits of their labor as more souls are

added to our flock and work begins on the remodeling of our church building.

We wish to extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller and their family. We look forward to worshipping with them and Natasha, Austin and Celise will be such a welcome addition to our Sunday School. We would also like to welcome Ted Strahm to the Columbus area. He has recently moved from Bern, KS and we look forward to getting to know Ted.

## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Sandra Manz

At our annual business meeting, the following brethren were given duties: Bro. Ed Schlatter (Sis. Cheryl), Usher; Bro. Ken Manz (Sis. Gwen), Trustee; Bro. Eli Manz (Sis. Evelyn), World Relief Treasurer Representative; Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie), Home for the Handicapped Representative; Sis. Vera Manz (Bro. Russell), World Relief Sewing Committee; and Sis. Sandra Manz (Bro. Paul), Kitchen Committee. May we peacefully strive to serve each other and the church as if we were serving the Lord Himself.

Bro. Eli Manz underwent unexpected surgery on Christmas Day. Although several setbacks lengthened his hospitalization, Bro. Eli testified that through it all he has gained a greater understanding of the word "patience".

Sis. Gwen Manz returned to surgery again, this time in Indianapolis. Prayer has been offered in her behalf for a complete recovery.

We are always glad when relatives come to visit their loved ones in our congregation. Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) spent a few days in our area and meditated to us from the Word on Sunday, January 15. May God bless him and his family for the effort

put forth to be with us.

*Note of Thanks:*

Thanks to all those who remembered me with prayers, visits, cards and gifts while I was in the hospital and recuperating at home. May God bless you.

*Eli Manz*

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

We gathered on Christmas Day with Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) among our many visitors. We thank Bro. Walter for his labors and for reminding us of the true reason of the Christmas season. Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) gathered with us the week following Christmas. We trust God will be the rich rewarder for these brethren.

On January 1, we witnessed the wedding of Bro. David Maibach (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Larisa Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce). May God guide their lives in the future as He has in the past. Many came to share the day with us; among them were ministering Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH), Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH).

On January 2, we began the year with a worship service and our business meeting. During the meeting, Bro. Ray summarized the changes during the year of 1994. The changes included six births, four deaths, three weddings, eight converts, and five baptisms. After hearing the committee reports, we voted for openings in the church offices.

The following Sunday the voting results were announced as follows: brother for Sunday School,

Bro. Lee Klopfenstein (Sis. Desma); sisters for Sunday School, Sis. Eileen Stoller (Bro. Kirk) and Sis. Patty Gerber (Bro. David); brother for church trustee, Bro. Roy Klopfenstein (Deb); brother for fellowship hall trustee, Bro. David Gerber (Sis. Patty); and sister for World Relief, Sis. Mary Klopfenstein (Bro. Marvin). May God bless these brethren as they serve on our behalf.

During the month, Bro. Lee Eisenmann (Sis. Mary) had surgery. God grant strength and healing as it is His will. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Lee and his family during this time.

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**OHIO, MANSFIELD**  
**Cari Mann**

"Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."

*Ezekiel 33:2-6*

On December 3, Elder Bro.

Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) joined our own Elder Bro. Ken Sauder for the reading of the Memorandum. Our "watchmen" are sounding the trumpet and warning the people. Whose head will our blood be on now? We are thankful that Bro. Gene was willing to share in the duties of the evening.

The week before Christmas was pretty eventful for Bro. Larry Enderle (Darlene). One of the barns on his property burned down. We are all thankful that no one was hurt in the blaze. Then on Christmas Day, his mother, Sis. Martha Enderle, had to be taken to the hospital from church because she fell and broke her hip. She is recovering at home. We are thankful that our loving Father always watches over us and that He kept these two of His children from harm.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to John and Roma Them in the passing of his brother, Everett. May they find comfort in knowing there are those who love them and are praying for them. May they also feel the Father's nearness during this time.

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

*I Thess. 5:12,13*

I know that neither of the brothers who were with us one Sunday would consider themselves over anyone else but because of their ministry, we all do esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. We are thankful that Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and their families

could join us for Sunday services. We also had several other visitors that day, making our Father's house full. What a blessing it is whenever we can greet loved ones from far and near!

If the earth should stand, our prayers go with our beloved Elder brethren who will soon be attending the mid-winter Conference. May they ever feel the Spirit's presence as they gather together.

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

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."

*Hebrews 2:1*

We are thankful to have visiting brethren to speak to us. Ministering unto us the past month were Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). May we give heed to the words God has spoken through his servants.

Two families have received a new bundle of joy to love and care for. First-time parents, Andy and Gerri Galliher, welcomed Bryan Andrew, born on November 15. Grandparents are Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche.

Dan and Janice Bauman welcomed Logan Michael on January 4 as a new playmate for their son, Judson. Logan's grandparents are Richard and Gladys Bauman and Mr. and Mrs. Bill David (Sterling, OH).

We rejoice with Paul Trent and Nicole Buchanan as they were joined in marriage on November 16. Parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Trent.

Several of our loved ones have been hospitalized recently. Bro. Emanuel Babin, Rachel Steiner

(Dale and Beth), Bro. Vern Lanz (Sis. Deanna), and Sis. Grace Marty need our prayers and support. May they feel God's love and grace.

We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Erma) in the passing of his brother, Joe. May God be with each one in times of sorrow.

It is time once again to fill offices in the church. Those who were voted in were: Bro. Dan Gasser, trustee; Bro. Bob Hartzler, song leader; Bro. Dale Pelfrey, microphone; Sis. Marian Stoller, kitchen help; Bro. Virgil Gasser, Sunday School Superintendent; Bro. Mark Acker, usher; and Bro. Everett Beery, nursing home. We extend our prayers and support and also want to thank those who have completed their terms.

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

God's awesome healing power has been evident as He has chosen to grant our loved ones with the miracle of healing.

Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle sustained injuries in a farm equipment accident. We were thankful to have him back on the pulpit last Sunday and hope for continued healing.

Sis. Hazel Riggenbach was hospitalized after a fall to rest and recover from pneumonia.

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
**Edith Miller**  
**Margaret Blough**

This union of our hearts  
 Shall stand through grace in  
 Jesus;

We walk the path of life,  
 While cheer and trust increases.  
 Where God in truth abides,  
 Where two join hand in heart,  
 We find a threefold cord,

Not lightly rent apart.  
*Zion's Harp #79*

Bro. David Maibach and Sis. Larisa Wenninger (Latty, OH) began the new year in a beautiful way as they were united in marriage on January 1. Their parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach and Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger. May God bless and guide them as they serve the Lord together.

We thank all the visiting ministers that served here this past month: Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT), and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). May the Lord continually bless them.

Those that were hospitalized recently include, Lynne Riggenbach (Bro. Art) and Gina Stoller (Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta). We hope that they will soon be restored to good health.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Edie Fetter**

"...we spend our years as a tale that is told...So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

*Psalms 90:9,12*

We were recently reminded of the swift passage of time in our lives with the death of Grace Fetter. We pray that God will be the Comforter of her brothers, Paul and Bros. Richard and Eugene; and sisters, Sis. May and Sis. Herma Whittaker. May we all be ready to meet our Lord at His call.

We were glad to have Bro. Mark Ramsier and his family with us for services Christmas Day. As God has promised to always feed His own, may we continue to pray for our brothers that they have strength to "preach the word...in season, out of season."

(II Timothy 4:2)

**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Lori Martin - Mary Berg**

I need the prayers of those I love,  
While traveling o'er life's rugged  
way,  
That I may true and faithful be,  
And live for Jesus every day.  
I want my friends to pray for me,  
To bear my tempted soul above,  
And intercede with God for me,  
I need the prayers of those I love.  
*Hymns of Zion #201*

We bid farewell recently to Willem and Leida Bernson, the dear parents of Sis. Louisa Gallup. As they had visited for an extended period of time, we came to know them and loved having them here to visit and worship with us on a regular basis. Even though many miles now separate us, we must know they are only a prayer away. It seems praying for those we love somehow brings them closer to us.

Sis. Elizabeth Klopfenstein also spent some time with her grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Pearl Miller, over the holidays. She, too, is very special to all of us and we remember her often in thoughts and prayers.

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

Greetings one and all. We have experienced much joy in the past month. There is much rejoicing in Heaven when a soul repents. We are thankful to report that our friends, Mary Metz (Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) and Melissa Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb) have through repentance found peace with their Lord. We wish them His continued guidance and nearness.

Our friends, Mark Kuenzi and

K'ren Conmy, were united in Holy Matrimony on November 26. A wedding reception was held for them on January 13. Their parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi and Gary and Ruth Conmy of Silverton. May the Lord richly bless them as they journey life's pathway together, seeking the Lord's direction. My apologies for the lateness of this news.

We have three new bundles of joy to share with you. On December 26, Trever Casey arrived to first-time parents, Nick and Lori Stadeli. Happy grandparents are Norman and Maryann Stadeli, Silverton, and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Virkler (Minneapolis, MN).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa Leman and Vonn welcomed Maris Eliza into their hearts and home on January 16. Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz will enjoy their new granddaughter.

Zayne William was born on January 18 to Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris Luthi. Aaron and Brooke are excited to have a little brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ray Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Rosalee Kuenzi.

With grateful hearts we continue to watch the progress of our new edifice. May the Lord bless all those who so willingly give of their time and talent to help us in this endeavor.

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

"Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely."

*Psalms 147:1*

Young Joanna Gerber (Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn) and

Christopher Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) were hospitalized for a few days. May they both feel the Lord's healing power as they recover at home.

We welcome back Bro. David and Sis. Carolyn Roberts (Bluffton, IN). They will be worshipping with us for the next three months and we look forward to their fellowship.

We thank Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) for sharing God's Word with us. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

We encourage those who will be in the area to come worship with us. Services are held Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you need more information, please call Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

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

This month we were blessed with visiting minister, Bro. Walt Herrmann and his wife, Sis. Betty (Princeville, IL) on Sunday, January 8. In his sermon, Bro. Walt related the story of a sign on the wall of an atheist that read "God is nowhere". A child saw the sign and interpreted it to his mother as "God is now here". Isn't this so true in our lives that God is present with us wherever we are and wherever we go! He will meet us wherever we are whether in trials, joy, or pain if we will but ask Him in prayer. Let us thank God for the wonderful privilege of His presence.

Again, we send out the welcome invitation to one and all to come visit us here in Nashville. Our church assembly room is pretty well finished and we await with anticipation the day when the kitchen and dining room can be completed. 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 if you plan to be in the Nashville area. Our next scheduled services are planned for February 5 and March 5.

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

During a January Sunday service, we were blessed to have two ministers visiting. Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Knapp (Taylor, MO) were all down in Dallas with us. Two main points were brought out in our morning service: believe and prepare. In our second service, Bro. Kenneth reminded us how, with encouraging and spirited words, we can unknowingly touch the hearts of others. Bro. Duane then gave us our communion exhortation. It was a truly blessed day bound in Christ's love.

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**

Visiting ministers and their wives this month were: Elder Bro. Ray Sinn, his wife, Sis. Ann (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder, his wife, Sis. Suzanne (Mansfield, OH), Bro. James Hoerr, his wife, Sis. Virginia (Peoria, IL), Bro. Elmer Schmidt, his wife, Sis. Hazel (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Roy Ehnle, his wife, Sis.

Donna (Bradford, IL). We are truly thankful for their visit. On January 14 we were grateful to Elder Bros. Ray and Kenneth for the reading of the Memorandum from the 1994 Conference.

Lila Plattner, daughter of Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary, graduated from Texas A & M University on December 17. She graduated with a degree in biology. We want to extend congratulations to Lila.

Bro. Lloyd, Sis. Joyce, their daughter, Julie Nohl, and their three foster children have taken four more foster children into their home: Albert (9), Christina (8), Dixie (4) and Anne Marie (2). May these children keep the Christian values they learn to guide them through life.

Bro. Russel Stoller, his wife, Sis. Melvne (Latty, OH) and Bro. Norman Frank and his wife, Sis. Mary (Oakville, IA) have bought property in Zapata. We are happy to have them among our winter residents.

**GALILEAN HOME** *Liberty, Kentucky*

**WORK PROJECT OPPORTUNITY  
 IN KENTUCKY**



*Skills needed:*

1. Cement Finishers
2. Plumbers
3. Electricians
4. Carpenters
5. Dry-wall hangers
6. Dry-wall finishers

7. Finish Carpenters
8. Painters
9. Heating and air conditioning
10. General willing workers

Please forward available names to the coordinators listed below.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help

underprivileged children in our own country. We thank you for your assistance and support in this undertaking, and pray that His Spirit will lead each one to do His Perfect Will.

**Girls Dormitory Building Project**

The Galilean Home Ministries is faith ministry managed by Jerry and Sandy Tucker, for the purpose of caring for the homeless, abandoned, and handicapped children from around the world. Many of the children living there have severe mental and physical impairments. There has been as many as 70 to 80 living there at one time. The home is rustic surroundings in the beautiful hill country. The Tuckers belong to a group with a doctrine similar to old order Mennonites, and have the goal to teach Biblical truths to these children, while ministering to

their physical needs.

Another rewarding activity at Galilean is their "Born Free" Program. This program is the caring for the babies born to female inmates in the Federal Prison system. The babies are returned to the prisons, once each week, to maintain the tie between mother and child. When the mother has finished her sentence, if found capable by the courts, the child will be returned to her. The need has increased as they are now receiving babies from a greater number of penal institutions. Plans have been made to construct the dormitory (shown above) of wood frame de-

sign, to house the babies and their nannies. The plans call for construction to begin between February 6 and 15, 1995, with completion expected in 16 weeks. The building will have a walkout basement, which can be finished at a later date when additional rooms are required.

Bro. Jerome Witzig has offered to be the on-site coordinator, from the beginning through the end of March. Until February 11, he can be contacted by phone at (309) 747-2546, or fax (309) 747-2409. The job site phone will be (606) 787-5120. The phone number for the Galilean Home is (606) 787-8005.

**AREA**

Illinois  
 Eastern Indiana  
 Western Indiana  
 Ohio

**COORDINATOR**

Bro. Ken Hodel  
 Bro. Gerald Fiechter  
 Bro. Brian Furrer  
 Bro. Wallace Ramsier

**PHONE**

(309)923-7281  
 (219)597-7494  
 (219)984-5915  
 (419)368-3106

**FAX**

(309)923-7983  
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 (219)984-5255

*Roanoke IL*

# Silver Threads

## The Mystery of the Blessed Hope

Hope is a very important word for the survival of humanity. Everyone must have a certain degree of hope for something in the present or future. Without hope, despair is certain. When in despair, man is liable to do something drastic, which may be life-threatening. The year 1994 has come and is history. Now the average person is looking for 1995 to be a good or perhaps better year; the student involved in education for a successful job, and the farmer or business man, for as good, if not a more profitable year. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth: but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:8). Here we have one of many precious promises from the Word of God.

For those who become older (and we all are) and may suffer from illness (especially terminal illness), the exceeding great promises from God are very precious. We are referring to those who entertain a blessed hope in their hearts. Those who have been born again, that is, those who have repented of their sins and believed the gospel. Mark 1:15, Acts 3:19. Then our hearts are purified by faith. (Acts 15:9). "In whom we have re-

demption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." (Col. 1:14). We are also saved by hope. (Romans 8:24). After a conversion experience we can say "Christ in us, the hope of glory." Col. 1:27, Eph. 3:17. This mystery "has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints." (Col 1:26).

We have heard the saying "the old must die and the young may die". That is true but with one exception, "behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (I Cor. 15:51,52). This is the mystery of the blessed hope.

Those who have been sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13), after repentance and conversion will participate in the first resurrection. "But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken (bring to life) your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you." (Romans 8:11). The Spirit of Christ "shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body." (Phil. 3:21).

The apostle Paul was expecting Christ's second return

in his day. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (the dead in Christ) in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air." (I Thess. 4:17). I believe it is because of the longsuffering and mercy of God that our Lord has tarried. Believers purify their hearts by faith (Acts 15:9) and by living in eager expectancy of Christ's return (the blessed hope). "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (I John 3:3).

"For them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Hebrews 9:28). "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:11,12). "Let all who name the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (II Timothy 2:19).

By God's grace, let us, as born again believers "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (II Cor. 7:1). "For without holiness no man shall see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:10 & 14, Phil. 3:21).

*By Bro. Robert Miller  
Portland, Oregon*

## "MORTAL TO IMMORTALITY BY GOD'S GRACE"

*Sermon by Bro. Dale Moore of Elgin, IA*

I Corinthians 15:51-58

God has again given unto us another day of grace. He has given us an opportunity to again assemble ourselves together in the House of God unmolested from those things without and those forces which would corrupt and destroy and tear down. We find it, dearly beloved, something wherein we must pray that God would help us to appreciate the opportunity to gather here as we do. For the most part, from our youth, we have assembled here together and those things which occur in our life on such a constant basis, we find we have a more difficult time appreciating and understanding, really, the value of that which we have.

We can consider this morning many places where we could be. We could consider what we could be doing. There are many things to fill time. Dearly beloved, when we consider the importance of the preparation of that of which we have read here, we realize as God's Spirit directs us, the importance of dwelling upon those things which we cannot purchase or we cannot work for. We cannot even understand as it described it here "as a mystery." (See I Corinthians 15:51).

It tells us, "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed," (I Corinthians 15:51). This change, how will it come about? How do we have the ability to go through that change? We go back to the beginning. We remember in the Garden of Eden, those whom God created and placed there. We recall that there was a disobedience unto the instruction given to not partake of a certain tree of fruit. (See Genesis 2:16-17). That instruction was

broken and we recall the price that had to be paid by those who were there.

Dearly beloved, as sin entered into the picture, this sin made that separation where it could no longer be on this earth, such as it was in the Garden of Eden. A beautiful setting, all was well, and the communion between God and man was a very blessed estate. This sin which separated God from man made it so man recognized (as it tells us in the Word) his nakedness. He realized that he had come short and he had grieved the heart of God and he found within himself to clothe himself. But this did not give him the ability to go through the change and go through that which God would then require of those who would inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.

Sending His Son, Jesus Christ, that which we have heard of time and time again, that which we have prayed for before coming together to the House of God this morning, that He would remind us of those things which are essential, those things which are important, those things which do not change. This message of salvation, this message of the way God has prepared that man could then experience a change in the Spirit.

Here we recognize that mystery, that change which shall come. It said, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." (I Corinthians 15:52-53). Again, how do we do it? How do we expe-

rience this change which God required? It is the broken and contrite spirit. It is the way that the wall of pride, that barrier that you and I, each one, have within us that opposes God and all He stands for; it must be broken down and it must be overcome.

This change even in this time that we can experience, as it says here, "In the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: when it shall sound, the dead shall be raised." (See I Corinthians 15:52). This old corruptible flesh, this old body that we carry must put on incorruption. This mortal must put on immortality. That is only by the grace of God. That is the only way that God takes man and works with him and gives him the ability to change. By him putting off this old mortal, putting it aside for immortality, making it so that he is then fit and shaped to enter into the Kingdom of God.

This morning we have a lot of things on our minds. We each one deal with a lot of different issues in life and we are all concerned about this matter and the other matter. But, dearly beloved, when we consider the importance of the possession that God has given unto us that we really can call "my own", and this is our soul.

We think of all the things we have and we say, "My business, my farm, my family, and my possessions." They are really those things which God has just shared unto us to use for a time. We have a lease on them and it will be required of us someday how we have dealt with these things which He has leased to us.

Dearly beloved, they are all

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*Sermon continued...*

God's and as we think a moment again on the hour of worship, it tells us that God is One Who is worthy. He is worthy of worship. He is worthy of our honor and our praise. He is worthy of glory. It tells us in the Scripture, "He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." (I Corinthians 1:31). He will be blest!

But again in our way that we have within us, that old natural way, it would give glory to man. It would take glory in possessions. We would take glory in heritages, in families, those who have been given ability of God to perform in whatever way it is, talents meted out, man tending to idolize and to lift up. But it tells us that there is One Who is worthy of worship, One Who is worthy, and that is God.

So He shares unto us as we come together the instruction that we would worship Him and that we would give homage to Him, Who has given all to us. This mortal, which we carry, putting on immortality, it should be a concern upon our heart that we would be given the ability of God to go through this change for it is that which will be acceptable for us to enter into Heaven. The mortal will not. The mortal not having experience then in immortality, it tells us, will perish in eternal fire. It tells us, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:44). There will be no end to this.

When we have a little pain or we get cut in the leg or we get an arm taken off or we get hurt in various ways in life, that pain is real severe. That pain lasts for a time. But we think beloved ones, of that eternal pain and suffering where that old mortal is going to be. That old mortal which has not experienced this putting on of im-

mortality, or this corruptible of incorruption, it might be very sad. It's going to be very, very sad. The soul who has not heeded, the soul who has not taken advantage of the way, the truth and the life is going to pay a price which he or she cannot afford.

This putting on of immortality, as it says here, "...this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." (I Corinthians 15:54). The old mortal is afraid to die, and he well should be because as he views death, it is a final separation from the love of God. That is final. It brings fear to the heart when one does not have the love of God within because he or she is not prepared. They will not experience this victory which the grace of God, this change of mortal to immortality will share unto the soul where the swallowing up of death will be obtained. It will be a victory in the Lord!

The sting of death is sin. This is why man fears to die. He fears to die because he is plagued with sin. It tells us, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "There is none righteous, no, not one." (Romans 3:23 and Romans 3:10).

There would not be one of us here who would try to set ourself up as someone who is holier than thou, or who is holy within themselves. It is only what He has done for us. It is what He has done wherein this corrupt being is able to put on incorruption, or the mortal put on immortality. It is only because of what He has done. He has worked in the life. He has granted the victory. The death has been swallowed up. The sting is no longer there because sin has been removed. Sin, which we all are plagued with, has been dealt

with. This is the whole duty of man. This is the whole duty of man that he fear God and keep His commandments!

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:57). It is easy to come to church and sit down together, fold our hands, close our eyes and pray, sing praises, open the Word; it's all a part of thanksgiving and all a part of worship. You know, the thanks that it speaks of here, is one that we go out in life and from day to day we express our thanks. We express our thanks by being obedient.

This is how God can measure the portion of a thankful heart by the faithfulness which He exemplifies in his or her life. We recognize that by the grace of God only can we do this. Thus, we pray that God would impart unto us grace for the day. He has promised that in His Word. It is a part of the belief on the part of the soul. How much do we believe? Do we believe in part or do we believe in entirety that God would impart unto us grace for the day? As thanksgiving, may God help us to exemplify this in our walk of life every day.

He gives us instruction at the end of the chapter here to the brethren. They are to be steadfast. Why should the brethren be steadfast? We live in an age where man seems to feel he can go about and do as he feels. He is the one that can give the regulations, the guidelines and the yes and the no.

We think of a man who was on the way to Jericho. We just think of the state of that man, the condition that he was found in. We recall that he was taken care of there in the pathway. He was beaten and left for half dead. One came along and poured oil and

wine into his wounds and took care of him. You know, that wasn't the end. It tells us that he took him to the Inn. Dearly beloved, can we imagine and can we really grasp in our minds the importance of what that Inn did for that soul?

We feel we come here to church to prepare our life for eternity, to get instructions from Almighty God that self can be prepared. That is true, but it goes beyond that; in that, here is the church and there are members of the church. In speaking to the beloved brethren, the instruction was to be steadfast. If that Inn is not kept in good repair, the soul out there on the sideline who someday is going to feel a condemnation of his or her sin and they are going to be struck down, they are going to feel a tremendous weight. Where are they going to be able to go?

We recognized God is able to take and do all things, but let us recall the value of the Inn, or the church, when we were found in such a state, when we were lifted up and taken to the Inn and we have been kept up until this day and hour, brethren.

The instruction is that we would keep that Inn in good repair---steadfast. "...be ye steadfast, unmoveable..." (I Corinthians 15:58). We do not find in the Scripture any instruction to go from one way of doctrine to another. We do not find the Scripture that God advises one thing one day and something else tomorrow. We find that God's instructions are the same yesterday, today and forever. They do not change.

Now when He gives instructions to the brethren---the members of the body of Jesus Christ---it is to be unmoveable, to exemplify the way that that Spirit

of God is within us and It works within us and if that true Spirit is there, that unmovability will be shown. They will not be moving from one to another to something else. There will be a staunch faith in the Lord, and that faith will stand the test of time.

That Inn will be kept so the sin-sick soul, when he is struck down and finds himself in need, there will be some place to carry him to. Yes, he was taken care of back there on the way, but there was need that some future care be taken and some future need be carried out and that was dispersed there at the Inn.

"...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (I Corinthians 15:58). Seems like time is something today which we can hardly fathom. We sing in the hymn, Take Time To Be Holy. Seems like part of the enemy's work in the last time is to get us so involved and so wrapped up in our physical life that we don't have time. We don't have time to do those things which are important and which are essential for spiritual life.

There is a blessing of God which is meted out to the soul who will work in the Lord. It tells us not to go along lackadaisically doing a little here and a little there just as it kind of works out for us. But it tells us to abound...abound in the work of the Lord. We can just be assured as we read that together and the Spirit would share unto us thoughts along the line that the blessing and the reward of that work will be just as in the efforts put forth. If it is an abounding work, the reward will just be the same.

It says, "...forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Corinthians 15:58). Think back to the individual who began the work in the

morning hours and he was promised a penny a day. Then remember the individual at the noon hour and the one later on in the day and they were promised the same wage. (See Matthew 20:2-9). The soul that begins in the service of the Lord, whether it be at a young age, middle years, or the shadowing years of life, where we think of the thief on the cross in the last dying seconds of life, the reward is the same.

Do we say, "Is that fair? Is that fair for the soul who there in his last breath made a covenant with God and then that soul who at the young age in life made a commitment that he would serve God faithfully?" Dearly beloved, we look at these things as dimly. As we look at them, we need to have our eyes opened and our instruction and our understanding open.

You know, there is no life like in the service of the Lord. There is no life like it! We can talk one to another and we can try to persuade and we can try to describe that life, but as in all things in life, there is only one way that will bring it home to us, and that is when we ourselves become involved. That is when we ourselves make a commitment that we by God's grace will serve Him faithfully all the days of our life.

It tells us in the Scriptures of a reward that is such that a cup is not just full, but it is pressed down, it is shaken together and then it overflows. (See Luke 6:38). That is of the blessings of God that he or she, which by God's grace, will experience though it were a crumb of faith. Now we speak not of a mountain, we speak not of a great amount, but we just speak of a crumb of faith. That individual is going to experience the blessings of God in his or her life. They will do just as it said

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## Hungary/Romania 1994 *(continued)* by Elder Brother Ben Maibach

Friday morning, November 11, we traveled to Szeged in the very south of Hungary, just adjacent to both the Romanian and Yugoslavia/Servian border. This new edifice has been under construction for considerable time. It is presently the second largest fellowship in Hungary, with 212 members and surprisingly with a smaller Sunday School of 85 students. The elder is Sandor Kiss, Jr., the son of an elder who just recently passed away. The building is located on a new site as they had outgrown their old facility and received the sum of approximately \$400,000 for the old sanctuary and property. Our brotherhood was very responsive and had donated approximately \$500,000 for the construction of the 60-bed home and church of approximately 30,800 square feet. Brethren from all over Hungary came to assist in the construction of this building and if we understood correctly, all of the work in the building including mechanical and electrical was done by the brethren. Even the wooden trusses were fabricated from rough timbers on the jobsite. I was very impressed when I looked up into the attic space that they would have the courage to undertake such a task in a three-story building of this size. In the

States, the building code would restrict this type of activity and with all of the volunteer labor, it is amazing that with good quality of construction they were able to erect this structure for a cost of \$43 per square foot. I would estimate judged on our current experience that particularly adhering to codes and requirements in the United States, especially as it relates to a public building of a church and nursing home, that the figure would be double that.

We just completed in Detroit at our Woodhaven Home a 10-bed addition and remodeling project for an Alzheimer wing consisting of 6,410 square feet for approximately \$700,000. The cost in excess of \$100 per square foot and our cost including furnishings was \$109 per square foot for a similar quality of construction.

The building is three stories high and amazingly they were able to purchase pews and carpeting in the United States of superior quality and for less money than they were able to obtain locally. We were informed that hard wood material is very scarce in that part of the world and consequently very dear. There was a last minute rush because the pews that had been shipped in a container on a Russian cargo ship were seized in an English harbor

for lack of payment of money owed on a previous cargo, which caused great concern, and for a time it appeared that the November 13 date for dedication would have to be delayed. But good efforts prevailed and the Lord made possible their arrival in Szeged early that week and with the help of brethren from all over Hungary and even the USA, they completed the building on Saturday just prior to the dedication on Sunday.

The Lord works in wonderful and mysterious ways and it's hard to believe that just a few years ago that the brotherhood there prevailed upon us to use our good offices in the United States through former congressman Robert Michael from Peoria to get relief for brethren who had been inducted into the military and who were in prison because of their refusal to bear arms. It might be of interest to know that the Yugoslavian brethren were sentenced to serve more than one term in prison. On December 15, 1976, the Hungarian government ordered the release of all 16 nazarene soldiers from prison and sent them home. No one was imprisoned since for their faith.

Now on the Szeged building our brethren called into the military were able with the blessings of the government to do alternate serv-

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here. They will be steadfast.

You aren't going to be able to go to that individual to persuade them to change. They are going to be unmoveable. They are going to be working in the Lord. You won't be able to change them because they have made a covenant with God, and they love God. By God's grace, they go from day to day.

They don't look out next week because we aren't going to be able to handle next week. It says, "Grace for the day."

He reveals unto us this mystery and trusting that He will yet reveal it to many. As we are given this time here on this earth to prepare for the time when the last trump shall sound. The dead shall be raised incorruptible and

there shall be a change.

May God help us to give attention today that the instructions which He imparts will not fall on the deaf ear, will not fall on the heart that is cold, but that it will fall upon ground that will bring forth fruit, some sixty, some thirty, and some one-hundred.

ice and to assist on the building project even with the assurance that after the building was completed, if there was maintenance work to be done, they could stay on to fulfill the required time. What a dramatic change! Testimony again that God answers prayer.

Another interesting aspect is that the three-story nursing home to the rear and adjoining the sanctuary used a common kitchen and residents of the home are able to go directly into the sanctuary without having to go outside. There is an elevator that travels between the three floors. As we toured the building, there were many work men and women scurrying about with a lot of last minute activities. The cooperation and support of all the churches in Hungary and even with brethren from the United States that assisted in this program was very fortunate and unique, but shows what can be accomplished.

The church at Hodmezovasarhely is only a short distance from Szeged and we were there for the evening services. Here we visited in the home of Sister Erzsebet, the widow of the former elder Sandor Albert where Lorene and I slept on our previous visit to Europe. As always, the services were very well attended and in spite of the activity at Szeged, the church was filled and many were there in addition to the 141 members of the local church. Here again in addition to the elder and deacon, there are four other ministers.

On Saturday the 12th we created history as there was an elder conference in Hodmezovasarhely where 35 elders and deacons were present representing eight different countries: Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, Slovakia (of the former Czechoslovakian Republic), Serbia (from the former Union of Yu-

goslavia), Germany, Sweden and the USA. Our purpose was to discuss any needs of these brethren from the various countries and update on the present situation and conditions and also to effect a better understanding of our relationships between the various fellowships. For order sake, we made a plea that brethren should not speak out of turn, one at a time, to be attentive to the speaker, to hold their questions until later, and to stay on the subject being discussed. Scripture was read from I Corinthians 13:4,5,6,7,12,13 and from Isaiah 1:18; "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." It was stated that this was the purpose for our meeting. The oldest elder brother present, Janos Ombodi, had the prayer in Hungarian which was not translated. We have experienced over the years that there is often a reluctance to translate prayers as this is man talking to God and somewhat different from the ministry when man is talking to man. No doubt God hears in any language in which we are able to pray. The meeting was very orderly and recorded on tapes. I moderated the meeting which was translated from the center of the large room which was in the home of the elder Jenó Szanto. His home at one time many years ago had been owned by a merchant and is now occupied by his large family. It well accommodated all of us in what could have been formerly in the old days a ballroom and the group was spaced so that from English to Hungarian from the front of the room in various groups scattered around, it was translated simultaneously into

Romania, German, Serbian, and Slovakian. Surprisingly enough, it worked very well. Wendell chaired the meeting when there was specific discussion on the various countries as to their needs which we brought back to the States to share with the various committees like World Relief, Mission, etc.

It was very open-hearted discussions throughout the day, much understanding and a spirit of calmness and receptiveness prevailed and God definitely answered our prayers. Probably one of the most trying and difficult meetings that I have ever chaired, but everyone appeared to be relaxed and we felt much was accomplished, especially as it pertained to our relationship with the Sister Church in the USA and Canada.

Sunday the 13th was a bright and beautiful day. We arrived early at the new Szeged church and already many brethren and friends were assembled. The building was put to a good test and fared very well. Services started promptly at 9:00 and was the beginning of a long and wonderful day. It was estimated there were over 1,000 brethren and friends present. The sanctuary, including the mezzanine, was filled to overflowing, as were the halls and many in the first floor dining room area. The crowd was orderly and cooperative. We are pleased to note that in all of the newer churches the pulpit and bench behind the altar follows our pattern in the States and four of us, Bros. Janos Pap, Wendell Gudeman, Zoltan Szabo and myself occupied the pulpit. Janos Pap read from II Chronicles 6 concerning Solomon's prayer in the consecration of the temple in Jerusalem. His prayer was, of course, in Hungar-

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*Hungary/Romania continued...*

ian and then read from the New Testament I Peter 2:1-9 and spoke a few words. I then had the main service using his text which was translated from the pulpit by Zoltan Szabo who does an excellent job into Hungarian and then in various sections around the congregation in small groups it was translated again into German, Romania, Serbian and Slovakian. Things seemed to flow quite smoothly, as this is not too unusual to these brethren. The dedication service lasted at least 2 hours and to the pleasure of all even the sound system operated quite efficiently. It was stated that at least 8 countries were represented in the congregation; possibly the largest assembly of brethren ever at one time in that country. The sisters had prepared a delicious meal with chicken and all of the fixings and I would estimate that approximately 1,000 people were fed in a manner that only our own dear sisters can handle.

The dining room is on the first floor of the building and the sanctuary is on the second and the mezzanine on the third. In spite of the huge crowd, things flowed very smoothly and orderly. In the afternoon in the dining room several of the brethren had questions for Wendell and myself which included several ministering brethren and as time progressed, the size of the group grew larger. They were particularly interested in what we can do to keep the young people involved and how we handle certain matters. Bro. Wendell was very careful to state that we are not here to criticize or to make changes and they were very understanding and appreciative of that. But there was genuine concern and a very humble spirit prevailed. Although we did

not take part, from 2:00 until 4:00 there was singing in the sanctuary and then the afternoon services started at 4:00. Andy read the scripture and offered a prayer in Hungarian and Wendell had the service. It was very inspiring and edifying and I saw several of the younger people wipe tears from their eyes. Emotions were quite high and we were humbled as to how well we were received. Again, as usual, expressions of appreciation were made and Sandor Kiss gave a brief history of the building project which was translated for us back into English and throughout the day there was extremely good order and a very receptive congregation.

Following the afternoon service, there was a lunch served in the lower dining room, but we were so busy visiting with so many people that we really did not take time to eat and then at 7:00 they started their evening song worship service. I was sitting up in front in one of the pews towards the back and they came and asked us to sit up in front. I was glad I did because a young man well dressed about 10 years old came by and spoke to me in perfect English. I invited him to sit down with me and he was extremely helpful being well acquainted with the different books to tell us where we could find the song in our English hymnals. His name was Andor Kovacs. His English was excellent and as I reflect back upon it, it was very unusual. He knew all of the songs and sang them in either English or Hungarian and after considerable time he told me he had to leave and he shook my hand and told me good-bye. I later found out that he is an exceptionally bright young man which was quite obvious, but he made a deep and abiding impression upon me.

The singing continued well past 9:00 and they gave out a farewell hymn. The church was still well filled and finally after two more farewell hymns, they concluded with a prayer and the long day of well over 12 hours was certainly to the honor and glory of God. I had to think, I wonder in our churches in the States, how many would be fully committed and able to devote such enthusiasm and effort to our Creator? In spite of the fact that many had long distances to travel, I would estimate the 75% of the audience stayed all day.

We were fortunate to stay in the guest house/hotel owned and managed by the Laszlo Bikadi family who was the treasurer of the Szeged building project. The quarters were lovely and the fellowship excellent and they had very kindly cleaned and washed all of our clothes so we were ready to continue on in the morning to Romania. The night passed all too quickly and on the 14th, Bro. Albert Szabo from Tirnaveni, the shepherd who has visited the States and had stayed overnight in our home, was to chauffeur us in the Volkswagen van that World Relief provided to them for the distribution of the food, clothing and medical parcels distributed from Bluffton in the container shipments. Our stay at Szeged had been very delightful and was one of the highlights of our trip. The Bikadi family were excellent hosts and I'm sure that all of the Hunyady's appreciated a little break from translating. After very emotional farewells, we proceeded on our way to Romania.

Szeged being in the southern part of Hungary, in a short time we reached the Romanian border and were quite surprised to see a long series of transcontinental heavy duty trucks in line waiting



to go through customs. We understand that this wait sometimes requires more than a day, but we were fortunate to be able to pass this long line and go directly to the entrance and were shortly passed through. Those in our car that did not have a visa had to pay a fee of approximately \$30 American money, as Romanian citizens also do that leave and come back into the country. It was quite noticeable that the customs and immigration officers were not neatly dressed, had quite a casual manner about them and while we were going through this procedure, we did not see one truck pass through customs which I think is rather unfortunate and very costly. The reason for the heavy traffic is with the embargo on the former Yugoslavian union, trucks from Turkey and the area around going to Western Europe must now go through Romania.

Continuing on we soon arrived in Arad, a rather large city where many of the brethren were waiting for us. This rather nice modest church structure was completed by funds furnished through your generosity by a gift of around \$35,000 U.S. dollars. Currently, there are approximately 77 members and we were delighted to hear there are 40 children, which is quite unusual. Again, we were most graciously received and had a tour of the very serviceable edifice located on a thoroughfare so it is readily available to the congregation. The building had a small balcony. Plainly decorated with very serviceable pews, modestly cushioned with backs which you do not see everywhere. The brethren shared with us at the meeting that afternoon their desire to provide on the site an addition to store the food shipments arriving from Bluffton, a garage to house the truck they

use in the distribution of these items and a small apartment to house an elderly couple as custodians, as surprisingly the government has threatened to cut off their natural gas supply unless there is a residence on a full-time basis. We encouraged them to prepare drawings and get estimates for our consideration. All but one, Caraiman, due to illness, of the active elders from Romania were present at this meeting, and once again gratefulness for assistance on a continuing basis from the U.S. brotherhood was expressed.

I frankly don't know how these people would be able to function if it were not for this necessary, ongoing help that I believe is from the Lord! In the church dining room we had a very delicious meal prepared and again the homemade soup is consistently of excellent taste and quality. We met with two younger brothers who shared with us the problems that they are confronted with in trying to operate small businesses. The one is a mechanic and the other is a landscape and horticulturist, with a degree from the University in Bucharest, on a few acres that grew flowers and the story is rather pitiful. They get no help, assistance or encouragement from the government whatsoever. In general, business is quite corrupt and it really is a handicap for honest individuals trying to live a Godly life to be able to survive. Here again, we don't appreciate nor understand how fortunate we are. Unfortunately, many of the requisites for these types of operations are not even available locally or at a very inflated price and with the expense and border crossing, most needed items of a better quality are only available in Hungary and, of course, this creates some serious problems.

If these people did not have a hope beyond this life, they would certainly have to be pitied. On the positive side, however, we received the very good news that the old church building in Nadlac-Nagylak near the Hungarian border was returned to the congregation by the Romanian government. This would be the 39th church. Last estimate of brethren in Romania lists about 1,200 members. These buildings have been neglected, were of a poor quality to start with but it is a source of inspiration and encouragement to these dear souls. As we had a considerable distance to travel to Tirnaveni, we bid our farewells. The roads were narrow and of poor quality, much like our roads 30 or 40 years ago, with many pot holes and quite winding, particularly as we went through some very hilly terrain. Suddenly as we entered a small village the van came to a halt and three armed police or military men with high-powered automatic rifles checked our credentials. Bro. Albert was somewhat excited and in the commotion had difficulty finding his papers and, of course, all of the rest of us in this fully loaded van could not understand Romanian and didn't know what was going on and it really provided quite a scare. I certainly wasn't prepared for this type of activity. It was about 11:00 at night and it was a very frightening experience. Their reason was that there is a lot of stealing of automobiles and lawlessness in Romania and they were just checking to make certain the vehicle was legal.

*Hungary/Romania 1994 will be continued in the next issue of Silver Lining.*



In continuing this series on the life and times of Samuel H. Froehlich, it is important to clearly reiterate that we are not drawing attention to him personally, but to how God used him to further the work of salvation. All praise and all glory accrues to Jesus Christ, our Lord, who died for our sins.

Samuel H. Froehlich, having attended the schools of his village until he was seventeen, entered the University of Zurich on January 1, 1820. His initial studies were in the humanities. His goal was to become a minister in the state church to fulfill his parents' wishes.

Coming from a religious family in a small town, and the possessor of a good attitude toward faith and life, the young Froehlich was not ready for the forces of reason and rationalism that dominated university life and curricula.

He was naive and unprepared for what would become an assault on his sincere, formative religious views. It is fair to say that his faith in God was significantly undermined by some of his university professors. He writes, "My God-fearing mother shed a thousand tears when I would come home and boldly ex-

pose her to my imagination and shamelessly tell her that 'there was no devil and no hell'."

Further, he states, "During my stay in Zurich I also entirely neglected prayer, even the memorized prayers of my youth. This seemed ridiculous to me."

He indicates that the shattering of his religious views at the University of Zurich continued when he began his theological studies at the University of Basel. The theory of rationalism had begun to infiltrate theological perceptions throughout Europe. This had a significant effect on what was taught to young men preparing for the state church ministry.

Rationalism was/is a theory that says reason is a source of knowledge in itself. It sees supernatural things in terms of reason rather than faith. Such an outlook corrodes and undermines the authority of Scriptures. God's Word is seen through the eyes of reason as opposed to faith and trust. In a sense, man becomes the authority, rather than God.

Froehlich fell prey to this tendency, especially under the influence of Professor William DeWette (1780-1849), who is referred to in the Dictionary of the

Christian Church as "one of the most influential theologians of the nineteenth century." He wrote many books and is referred to as a "thoroughgoing non-supernaturalist".

By sitting under the tutelage of professors such as DeWette, Froehlich says he "became a scoffer, a slanderer, and a blasphemer. It was a blind zeal like that of Saul."

At one point he was invited to join a society of students that studied the Bible. This group consisted of students from the "Community of Brethren" (an Anabaptist group). Froehlich became boisterous and argumentative. He finally quit the group and persuaded others to do so as well. He said their views were "distasteful" to him.

In time, however, Froehlich was to receive a mighty call from Above! It would dramatically change his life, and his spiritual influence in the ensuing decades would reach many people in many countries, both in Europe and across the seas.

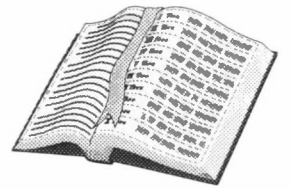
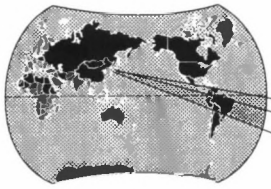
*By Bro. Perry Klopfenstein*

*Next Issue:*

**Froehlich's Conversion**

# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean



# 希望の光

**"TODAY, SIR, TODAY!"**

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The resurrected body of the Lord Jesus Christ had just disappeared behind a cloud when two angels dressed in white exclaimed to the disciples, "...Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11).

"When is Jesus coming back?" is a question we all think about and some have taken it upon themselves to predict the day when He will return. However, Matthew 24:44 informs us, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

I am not so concerned about when the Lord Jesus Christ returns as I am that I do everything I know to do, to be ready to meet Him. I do want to meet Him smiling, you know.

Many years ago at a youth meeting sponsored by our church in Ohio, I had been asked to speak on the second coming of Christ and I related the following story.

A group of tourists were visiting a very beautiful garden in Italy. The garden was immaculate and the flowers were blooming profusely. Even though the garden appeared to be a scene of perfection, the tourists noticed that the gardener was very busy and active trying to make things even better. Not only that, he went about his work singing, and with a smile on his face. The tourists wondered.

Finally, one of the tourists, a kindly old gentleman, approached the gardener and asked, "Excuse me, gardener, do you own this garden?"

The gardener replied with a smile, "No Sir, I don't. I just work here."

The tourist, having had his curiosity aroused, continued to question the gardener. "Where is the owner?" he asked, to which the gardener replied, "He lives far, far away."

The tourists looked at each other in amazement and the old gentleman continued to question the gardener, who continued with his work while talking. "Does the owner come often to check on your work?"

"No sir, the owner hasn't been here for many, many years," was the reply.

The tourists had a discussion and decided to ask one more question. "The owner hasn't come for many, many years but you must expect him to come tomorrow, do you not?"

The gardener flinched and stopped his work momentarily. He looked the tourist in the eye and replied pleasantly but firmly, "TODAY, SIR, TODAY."

# 希望の光

# Down Memory Lane

*From Marching To Zion*



## Fairbury South Side 1872-1949

"About 50 years ago there was a plain, little white church that had plain people who led plain lives. Those people were cross bearers. They were simple people who led simple and plain lives. Two places where I would find comfort were at home and by that little white church."

*Elder Bro. Art Bahler - 1994*

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