



# *The Silver Lining*

*The Glory of the Lord Shone Round About Them:*

December 1995



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

"But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:"

Matthew 6:3

**"...Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me:  
for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14**

During this holy season of Christmas, we will witness many acts of kindness, words of love, and deeds which will bear our hearts before the Lord. There are many places where we can spread our glad hearts and share the joy that our Lord has shared unto us, and in so doing, feel blessed.

Even though this is not a season just for children, it is indeed important to them. They will perform in their little programs, they will sing their hearts out unto the Lord and I suppose if they are like I was fifty years ago, they will anxiously be awaiting the time when they will get to open their presents. Presents which are carefully chosen by parents, aunts and uncles and grandparents.

I ask myself sometimes, "Is there more to suffering little children to come unto me?" What is it that tugs at my heartstring when the word "Grandpa" is heard? I am not sure if I have the answer to that question, although I did feel close to realizing the answer one very cold November morning.

In the early morning hour on that cold day, as darkness still covered the earth with its all encompassing blackness, my young grandson of seven came to me and said, "Can I go to the forest with you this morning?" Of course, there were many reasons why this was not a good idea and being very cold was one of them. I proceeded to tell him how cold it would be, but it seemed to fall on deaf ears. "Grandpa, I wasn't very sleepy last night and I was awake waiting for you to get up." How can one turn down those pleading young eyes so sad at the prospect of not getting to go along? "Well," I said, "I suppose we can put on enough clothes so you can stay warm." So off we went with anticipation showing from the gleam in his eyes. Not many words were spoken as we traveled.

Finally, we arrived and prepared ourselves for the trip into the forest. Still dark and very cold, we started our long walk into the deepness of the forest.

"You sit here and I will go on a little further," I whispered to him, as I felt his

warm little hand slip out of mine. He sat down quietly, significantly hidden from view in the brush. I started to walk on when I heard a small quiet voice utter that precious word, "Grandpa". I turned quietly and returned to him. When I got by him he said, "Could you sit here? I'm just a little scared." So I snuggled in beside him realizing the rest of the morning was going to be dedicated to him.

The first rays of dawn shone in the east bringing the forest to life. Blue jays began to scream at each other as squirrels scurried around looking for nuts and acorns. A big screech owl swooped into a tree close by, unaware of those watching him.

As I sat there with this young man of seven snuggled into my lap, gaining warmth from each other, the spirit of memory flooded my soul. Almost six years before, his other grandfather (*one of my dearest friends and brother in faith*) said to this same young man so little then as he held him in his lap, "Oh, how I would have liked to take you fishing with me." This brother was terminally ill and was never given the opportunity that I had been given on this cold November morning to cradle him in my lap, hidden from the world, but yet safely in God's view. This young soul, our grandson, who someday will live to bring forth more life, Lord willing, had just given that precious gift, a memory, which will be with me for a lifetime.

I don't know if my grandson will have any memory of that cold morning, but I know this for sure--that had I not given him the gift of time, I would not have been given the gift of a loving memory. To me, that is a beginning to the understanding of those precious words, "Suffer little children to come unto me."

When we consider the giving of this season, consider giving that which is a part of you.

Time is the most precious gift and next to that would be something that takes time to create. Some of the most precious gifts I have received have been

things made by hands of loved ones.

A chessboard with china pieces made by a young brother in faith. He is now with the Lord, but his gift will be with me forever.

Another gameboard with laminated squares for checkers and nine man morris on the reverse. A clock, two hand printed pictures in calligraphy with the messages "I asked God" and "And God said No", a wreath, some beautifully carved birds, and many others.

I only hope that as I live for the Lord that I will be a light as so many have been for me. I only hope that I will be able to remember to give of myself so that the gift given is not in vain, but rather remembered with the same love I have in giving.

We can walk through the forest or we can sit before the fireplace and give the most precious gift of all — tell our children about the birth of a little child who was born in a manger, and who grew to be the Saviour of all mankind.

*May God bless your Christmas season.*

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based

December 1995

### Building Up One Another In Faith

The fact that we, as believers in the Lord, exist in brotherhood supports the doctrine that we are to build up and strengthen one another as we strive each day to bring glory and honor to His name.

Individually, we are built up by His grace (Acts 20:32). We are to walk faithfully in His ways, "rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving" (Col. 2:7).

In considering "building up one another," one must remember that we as believers can become weak and vulnerable. We are in battle, daily, with the forces of darkness and spiritual decline. We live in spiritual peril wherein a raging enemy strives to undermine our faith in God.

Thus, it is to our advantage to live in brotherhood as "members one of another" (Romans 12:5). From brotherhood we gain added protection through spiritual insight, added strength because there is strength in numbers, added support in the form of encouragement, and added caution that we can do his good pleasure (Philippians 2:12-13). Our duty as a fellow-believer in Christ is to fortify, to edify (Romans 14:19) and to build each other in faith. Our lifestyle and our overall daily motivation should be to please God and strengthen each other (Romans 15:2-3).

We, as fellow-believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, should realize that to "build up" is to indeed fortify each other in faith and doctrine. We help each other when we provide support that will strengthen our resolve to fight the good fight, to emphasize and better understand our beliefs, and to assist one another in maintaining them by God's grace.

We must strive to be equally yoked together, pulling in the same doctrinal direction. As we do so, we encourage one another to be diligent and to inspire one another in a common outlook and

purpose. As we give a consistent witness to the world, it strengthens each believer, and it strengthens the witness we are seeking to portray.

The biblical concept of believers building up one another is manifested in Acts 20:32, "And now, brethren, I commend you to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

The first requirement for building up is not to tear down. We have an enemy who seeks to overthrow our faith and who will use a variety of subtle, hard to detect tactics. Among his strategies of deception are the traits of individualism, self-assertion, and cultural diversity. In this, Satan belittles the biblical concepts of humility, submission, and obedience. When worldly patterns of individualism and self-assertion begin to emerge in the household of faith, upbuilding is undermined. Unity and self-denial are the teachings we find in the Bible, not self will, self indulgence and such like.

Because we are waging a spiritual battle with the corrupt forces of darkness, we must labor diligently to strengthen and build up one another so each of us might become a more effected soldier for the Lord.

We build up each other in faith when we uphold common viewpoints pertaining to faith and life. Believers are instructed in the Word to be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10). The prophet, Amos, posed the question, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

As we strive to remain united in common beliefs, if some brethren take exception to those beliefs, it begins to create division. It causes heartache for those who try to uphold the faith. Spiritual independence and variance can cause offense, wherein a brother or sister is made weak causing the opposite effect of

edification and building up.

The scripture for strengthening one another finds root in the verse that teaches us to please our neighbor for his good to edification (Romans 15:2). Even in our strongest state, we as believers are weak (II Cor. 12:10). We need daily strength, both from God's Spirit and in the form of encouragement from God's children. We are to exhort (encourage) one another "and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

Again, because we are weak, we need the advice found in Hebrews 2:1, "Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we let them slip." Our faith and our doctrine are important, and we should encourage one another in these beliefs.

Among the more practical aspects of upbuilding are friendliness and personal warmth. We should show these traits to each member of the body. In I Tim. 5:21 we read that we are not to prefer one before another, but we are to accord the same love and godly affection to each brother and sister in faith. To show respect of persons is sin (James 2:7) and can drag down, rather than build up, a fellow-believer.

In everyday life when we receive encouragement from others in earthly tasks, we are heartened and feel a sense of being built up in our endeavors. In our spiritual life, when we are encouraged in matters of faith and godly living, and upbuild one another in faith, we are helping our fellow believers along the road to the glories of Heaven, which is our goal.

We should not underestimate the value of encouraging, exhorting, and upbuilding one another. As we exercise these qualities toward one another, we do it unto Christ (Matt. 25:40). That is why we should love one another with a pure heart fervently (I Peter 1:22).



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

## Caribbean Board Survey Team Visits Haiti

In October of this year, a team of brothers from the Caribbean Board visited Haiti for the purpose of evaluating the present situation and planning for future work efforts. In this article, they wish to share their findings with our brotherhood. Without your help, none of this would be possible.

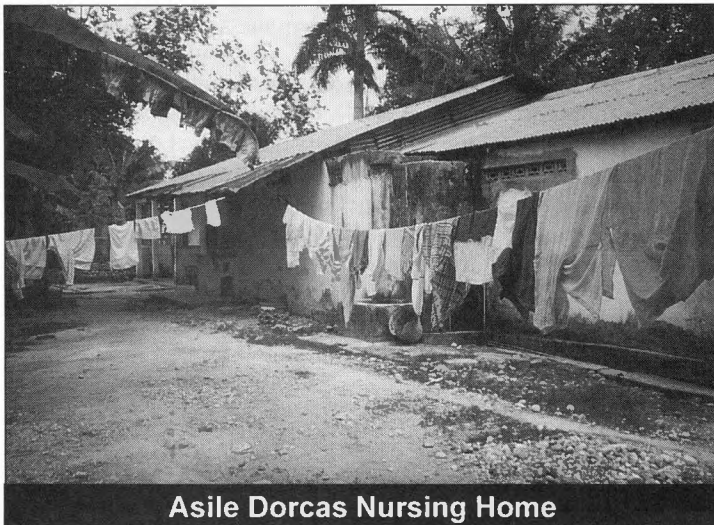
### Cite Lumiere Outpatient Clinic

The clinic continues to function with nurses and paramedic personnel seeing most of the patients. Physicians come when they can, but the staff shortage is critical. The dental clinic is active, but no dentist is available. However, a Canadian dentist has expressed interest. They need more Creole Bibles which have already been approved by the Mission Committee.

*(See Summary of Requests on next page.)*

### Asile Dorcas

The team visited Asile Dorcas Nursing Home, noting many of the same elderly people as in the past. They are enthusiastic, seem happy, love to sing, and are more communicative. A live-in resident couple takes care of them, and both nutrition and health appear good. This is a positive change from years past, demonstrating good use of our monthly support. The overall condition looks good, but the new building is waiting for windows and doors, and thus is unoccupied. We are investigating whether money or a work team could complete the project.



Asile Dorcas Nursing Home

### Hôpital Lumière at Bonne Fin

The facility continues to function adequately, but with much stress on the staff due to shortages of personnel and upcoming turnover.

Among the greatest needs of this ministry are people, Bibles, and supplies. The new administrator, Joe Morotta is coping with the inevitable problems of such a facility and people, and we hope that his enthusiasm will bring everything together.

Two doctors and several other employees are leaving in the next six months, with one returning in December of 1996. Three new Haitian physicians have been hired. The new minimum wage laws have resulted in discontent among the nurses, and some are leaving. The surgical department is full, and they work together when emergencies occur, such as a recent bus accident which is reported at the close of this article.

They have a new Toyota vehicle for transportation, which was needed and is appreciated. By God's mercies, we were able to get a sea container of medicines worth over \$300,000 into Haiti at a cost of \$15,000 through Christian Aid Ministries who help us in other projects.

Touring the outdated, poorly equipped laboratory, the team sees vital needs for \$20,000 to equip a new lab, and \$15,000 for another container of medicines. The roof is leaking, and after discussing alternatives, the team feels it would be cost effective to search out possibilities for sending a work team in to do repairs.

A staff member reported that the single most revolutionary contribution to their facility has been the 20-kilowatt generator installed by World Relief several years ago. There is a new outpatient area, which allows them to see some patients here instead of sending them to Clinic Lumiere. The surgical and pediatric departments are full, with the medical division a bit slow.

### Community Health

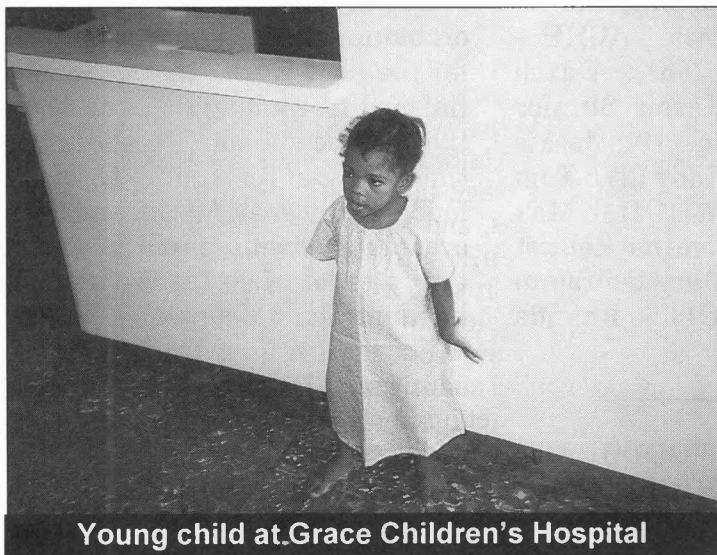
In December, USAID redirected its funds through the Haitian government, which cut off funds to this organization. They have 22 staff members now salaried, and will lose nearly all of them. Haitians will be required to come to a central place rather than furnishing health care in the rural areas. They will continue to offer vaccinations, but are concerned that many people will not be motivated to come.

## The Poor Fund

There is always a need for the poor fund, financed mainly by staff, and used for people otherwise unable to pay for surgeries or services.

## Grace Children's Hospital

We met with the administrator and the director of nursing. The hospital seems to be operating smoothly as always. Their ICU was full of young children acutely ill with TB. Malnutrition is more prevalent, and the incidence of AIDS has increased. Needs continue with emphasis on cough syrup, clothing kits, baby gowns, vitamins, small bars of homemade soap, cleaning supplies, and canned meats. The only request was to decrease the rolled bandages, of which they have enough for now. They requested that we send a sea container exclusively for them, perhaps once a year.



Young child at Grace Children's Hospital

## King's Clinic

We met Dr. Morquette and toured King's Clinic. Several doctors have their private practice in King's Clinic, which they operate for their living. At one end they have the free clinic for the poor. Items furnished by World Relief are used specifically for the poor. They have no requests at this time.

## Hospital Albert Schweitzer

Albert Schweitzer continues to function well. We had lunch with Mrs. Mellon who continues to participate in the administration of the facility begun by her late husband in 1955. A recent reorganization brought them a new executive director, administrator, and pharmacist. They have a full MD staff, with no current problems with the nursing staff. Their annual budget of \$2.5 million comes as follows: 10% from patients, 30% private donations, and 60% from their endowment. They have a strong emphasis on community health and are anticipating being able to go on in spite of USAID shutting off current funds.

Touring the warehouse, we saw the supplies shipped from World Relief, and heard their expressions of gratitude for this effort.

### Summary of Requests:

- ◆ PA System - \$2,000
- ◆ Key making machine - \$700
- ◆ X-Ray machine for outpatient clinic at Cite Lumiere - \$25,000
- ◆ Sonogram/Ultrasound equipment
- ◆ Salary for interpreters - \$200/month
- ◆ Telephone system - \$4,000
- ◆ Bibles - \$5,000 was appropriated by the Mission Committee for Bibles in the Creole language.

The Caribbean Board thanks all our brethren and friends for their loving support, and plans to continue this assistance to the desperately poor people of Haiti.

## Report of Bus Accident

*Excerpts from a letter received from Hôpital Lumière*

...On October 4, 1995, an overloaded bus rolled down an 150 foot embankment about two miles from Hôpital Lumière, which has no emergency room, and all of whose 200 beds were full. There are only 3 doctors on the staff, but it happened that 4 doctors and one nurse were visiting that day. More than 60 victims came to our facility that afternoon, lying everywhere, on porches, in the aisles, on tables, and on walkways outside. There was lots of blood, for many were seriously injured. Perhaps the USA hospitals practice and plan for such incidents, but the question at our hospital was how an understaffed, under-equipped, and under-supplied place could cope with such great needs on a remote mountain top in Haiti.

The answer was that through God's mercy, all pitched in, and the injured did receive medical care. It was an extraordinary miracle to the staff, who worked through the night into the early morning of the next day. Surgery went on for two days, but as of now, only one person died. World Relief support of this hospital enabled this to occur. The inventory which was consumed, we know will be replaced. Even now we have two containers on the dock at Port au Prince. We who serve the hospital thank you very much!

Please keep sending supplies!! Your support enables us to carry on our ministry. Enclosed is a list of needs. Send what you can and know that we at the *Hospital of Light* echo the words of the Apostle Paul,

*"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,*

*Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;*

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him."*

EPHESIANS 1:15-17

*Joe Marotta, Administrator*

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

In what circumstances do you find yourself today? What are your blessings, your challenges, your failures, your victories? Perhaps your day holds parts of each aspect. Those who live at the Apostolic Christian Home of the Handicapped, as well as those who are employed here, deal with these experiences. It seems as though both groups are affected by the other. One depends upon the other for various needs and support. Who is to say that one group is more important than the other, as each seems to fill some of the needs of the other.

Blessings are shared and, as in a family, there are exchanges of admiration and respect, a giving and taking of responsibilities and a desiring to be at peace with one another.

Each day has its new challenges. Every individual has room to grow. There is a need to trust, to have faith, to have patience, to desire the best one can be for that day and to assist each other in that task. Heading all challenges is the need to live as God would desire us to live.

Failures are unwelcome but can be a source of growth. What better way to utilize a failure but to learn from it. God understands failures, but desires that we profit from them. With a right attitude and humbleness of heart, it is possible for good to come from failure. One may benefit from another's experience. There has been many a "Plan B" as efforts are made to do our best for His glory.

Victories provide joy and a source of hope for all persons. What delight is experienced between individuals here at the Home when communication is achieved at many and varied lev-

els. These victories deserve rewards of which praise and affection are most effective. This type of reward is beneficial to all of us. Underlying all of this is the love we share with each other. Without love, the spirit sinks. At this time of year we are reminded of God's great love for us in sending us Jesus. Thanks be to God for His love which surpasses our comprehension. We are indeed privileged people.

We would like to wish each one of you a blessed holiday season and a successful New Year. May God bless you and keep you in His loving care.

January birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH - Stephen Penn (8), Edith Wagenbach (8), Karen Blunier (14), Bruce Steffen (19), Jackie Willett (19), John Eddy (27), Tom Sides (31). OAKWOOD - Max Honegger (22), Laverna Zobrist (25). LINDEN - Mary Schramm (13). 652 DETROIT - Rhonda Gerst (12).

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## **GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME**

**Trent D. Schrock**

Christmas...what does it mean to you? For some people, it's a family gathering (with lots of presents, of course). For others, it's a hectic holiday season that brings joy only when it ends. But all the wrapping paper can't hide the challenging truth about the real meaning of Christmas. A mysterious birth in a cold, crude stall. The surprising appearance of messengers from the long-silent Holy One. The challenging life of the Man who could have been king, but refused popularity, riches, and comfort as if this life was only important for the death it brought...death to self. And the

blood given as payment for an outstanding debt that the whole world had accumulated, and the whole universe could not pay. The doors of death were thrown open, and the entrance to Heaven is now visible on the other side. That is the real meaning of Christmas. I pray that you will be refreshed and challenged as you take some time "away from it all" to meditate on that moment in history when Love was born.

As Christmas approaches, school activities seem to pick up. The kids are working hard, and the first grade report is out. Rachel, Tammy, Dawn, Mary, Aaron, and Zach earned honor roll or honorable mention. Congratulations for the hard work. Mark has just finished football, and Aaron is on the spell-bowl team. It is also the time of year for sports to move indoors, and Joel, Aaron, and Alex are taking advantage of the opportunity to join Leo Lions Paw-ball intramurals. Meanwhile, Kellie, Alex, Tim, Angie, Brandi, Mary, Jenny, and Dawn are busy preparing for their Christmas choir concerts.

Faces always seem to be changing here at Gateway, and Heather has just arrived at the Grafs' home. We welcome Heather, and pray that her heart is soft and open to the change that comes from the seed of God's Word.

We also congratulate Sis. Andria Moushon on her opportunity to return to school and to work in a day care center. Andria has given the last four and one-half years of her life to the children and staff. Andria, the Lord knows your work, and it will not go unrewarded. We pray that as you finish your degree you will know our prayers are with you. God takes care of his own. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace,

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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.

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	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>TO DATE</b>
August 1995 —	3,834	3,834
September 1995 —	1,404	5,238
October 1995 —	1,780	7,018

\*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.

and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11).

With Andria's departure, we have an opening for a single sister to serve as an Assistant Houseparent (see the notice in this issue).

Christmas, being associated with giving, is a busy time for us. This is because so many people think about Gateway Woods and send gifts, donations, and Christmas greetings. What a blessing! And may God return the blessing to you. We are especially thankful

for those who go beyond money and offer themselves as volunteers. Sisters Holly Beer and Monica Steffen of Milford were here for that purpose recently, and were wonderful helpers. Thanks, sisters, for being so willing.

May the Prince of Peace be the center of your thoughts.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Athens, Alabama**

**CASSETTES FROM EUROPE**

We still have a supply of the cassette tapes produced in Austria containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book).

All profits from the sale of these tapes go to Europe, where the money is distributed among our very needy brethren in the Eastern European countries of East Germany, Hungary, Romania and others.

The Heft or Long Book tapes were recorded by Bro. Josef Farkasch, who is a music professor near Salzburg, Austria. He plays the classical guitar and many other instruments on three tapes of songs from the Long Book. Some include singing.

The Heft (Long Book) tapes include three volumes. Volume I includes songs 1-11, 13-18; Volume II includes songs 12, 19-31; Volume III includes songs 33-48. Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add \$.75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only \$.30 extra for each tape. Make checks for Long Book Tape payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

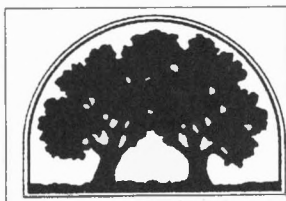
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**Doris Fischer**

The month of November has flown past, busy with plans for our Thanksgiving "feast". After hearing the story of the first Thanksgiving, the children dress up as Pilgrims and Indians and sit down to a feast together. The children usually comment that they are thankful for some pretty interesting things, but it is always encouraging, even at such a young age, to hear them say they are thankful



## ASSISTANT HOUSEPARENT NEEDED

*When God says Go...  
Don't say No!*

We have an opening for an Assistant Houseparent here at Gateway Woods. If you are a single sister and you are interested in full time service to others, you may be the one God has chosen to come and join our family here at Gateway Woods. The work here is challenging, rewarding, and inspiring. We trust that a mature sister will respond to our need and to the Lord's leading.

Please contact one of the Brothers listed below for more information about qualifications, training, salaries, and benefits for this position.

John Stoller  
Child Care Supervisor  
Gateway Woods  
PO Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
219-627-2159

David Bertsch  
Counseling Elder  
11520 Grabill Rd.  
Grabill, IN 46741  
219-627-2923

for God, and for Jesus dying on the cross.

As our group of preschoolers anticipate the arrival of Christmas, you can probably imagine the excitement generated! It is interesting to observe how young children react to a newborn baby. Just recently when a mother came into school holding a young baby, the boisterous group of 4-year-olds instantly quieted. With wide eyes several whispered, "Look! A

baby!" It is with the same awed wonder that they view the birth of "Baby Jesus." May each one of us keep sight of the amazement of our Saviour's birth!

### ALABAMA, ATHENS Pam Moore

The last Saturday of October was the date for the Preschool Board meeting. We thank Bros. Jim Rinkenberger and Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bros.

## OPPORTUNITY TO HELP OUR BRETHREN IN HUNGARY



Beautiful singing of praise to our Lord has been put on 5 tapes by our brethren in Hungary. These new tapes are being offered, with glory and honor given to God, to raise money to publish a new hymn book which will be a combination of our Hymns of Zion and The Gospel Hymns.

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- 4.) Dunavecse Childrens Chorus
- 5.) Szeged with guests: Hodmezovasarhely churches

**\$10 each or \$45/set, includes shipping, American Funds**

*"These tapes are made only for glory to God. Our wish that sisters and brothers in the States will listen them also for glory to God."*

*Elder Bro. Pap Janos*

This project is being overseen by Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman along with the Francesville and Detroit churches.

*To order, contact the following individuals:*

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**Send U.S. Funds With Orders**

Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for sharing their time and Godly talents with us.

The first Saturday of November was our annual fall festival for the Sunday School children (and their parents). We enjoyed a hot dog roast and the children enjoyed the harvest games and prizes.

In the past month, Bro. Charles Williams was voted in as trustee. We thank Bro. Mike Moore who finished his term as trustee.



Sis. Shirley Haggemaker has been hospitalized this month, and has returned home. However, she is now on dialysis routinely. Please keep Sis. Shirley and her family in your prayers. Roy Barnett has also been hospitalized this past month and needs our prayers.

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX**  
**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

*II Timothy 2:19*

On November 11, we heard the testimonies of Korey Langhofer and Steven Dotterer. What precious memories each of us recalled when we, too, shared with our brothers and sisters in faith of His wondrous love and our beginning walk with our Lord.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) came to help Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich with the testimonies and baptisms.

Bro. Kory's parents are Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy Langhofer. Grandparents, Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Sis. Carol (late Bro. Wayne) Huber (Francesville, IN) were here for this wonderful event.

Bro. Steven Dotterer's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne. Grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina Dotterer and Sis. Dolly (late Bro. John) Schick (Washington, IL) also enjoyed this wonderful weekend.

Bro. Carroll Gerber had our morning service. Other visiting ministers and wives were Bros. Al Langhofer, Tom Luginbuhl, Doug Wagenbach and Todd Zollinger.

We enjoyed a church fellowship dinner and singing later. May our new brothers remember, Jesus will never let you down--don't you let Him down! Let Psalm 119:11 be your daily armor as well as being a Daniel.

Standing by a purpose true  
Heeding God's command,  
Honor them, the faithful few!  
All hail to Daniel's band!

Many mighty men are lost  
Daring not to stand  
Who for God had been a host  
By joining Daniel's band!

Hold the gospel banner high  
On to victory grand  
Satan and His host defy  
And shout for Daniel's band!

Dare to be a Daniel  
Dare to stand alone  
Dare to have a purpose firm  
Dare to make it known.

*Gospel Hymns #652*

On October 22, we gave thanks to our Lord for perfect picnic weather for our annual Sunday School picnic. A special thank you to Bro. Steve and Sis. Kelly Freed, Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores Hill and all the Sunday School teachers for their labors. God provides that “grateful feeling of a job well done.”

We extend sympathy to the following:

Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger on the death of her brother, Bro. Daniel Feucht. They went to Princeville, IL for the services.

Sis. Josephine Martin (late Bro. Glenn) on the death of her brother, Stanley Reiman, from Tampa. Sis. Jo was in Tennessee visiting a new grandson, Jonathan Lacey (Elizabeth and Ken). Sis. Jo stands alone in her Reiman family, being without siblings.

Sis. Ione Rokey on Bro. Ervan's

untimely death. The Rokey family lived in Phoenix many years, only recently retiring to the Eureka Home.

The Lord's healing touch was felt by Sis. Linda Zollinger (oral surgery) and Bro. Leon Baumgartner (surgery).

We welcome Bro. David and Sis. Dawn Duckworth and sons, Tyler and Dallas, to Phoenix from Roanoke, IL.

A change in employment has brought Bro. Vince Aschliman into our midst. He is the son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen of Bluffton North, IN.

Please lend a “hand” to someone. At this holiday season it could be help with food, clothing or shelter. Please help someone who has less than you have. It really is a gift to God! We extend God's love and Season's Greetings to everyone - near and far. Instead of asking for something, try giving LOVE and it is free! This gift is becoming less and less. Let us not let it get on the endangered list.

See you in church!

*Note of Thanks:*

I am grateful to everyone for the cards, gifts, and phone calls for my 80th birthday. It sure was a surprise to hear from many old friends.

*God bless you.*

*Bro. Alvin Laukhuf*

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**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**

There's a chill in the air — low is in the 30's, high is in the 70's. We love the change of seasons here in Prescott, even the light snowfalls that are expected.

We are grateful for visiting ministers, Bros. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ). Other Sundays we get sermons via phone from Phoe-

nix (second, fourth and fifth).

Welcome to Bro. Harry Roth who has moved from Phoenix. He is making his home with son, Jerry, at 211 Liberty Lane, Prescott, AZ 86301.

We welcome all visitors. Long-stay over-the-winter visitors in Phoenix will find it a pleasant drive of an hour plus to join us.

Folks spending more time can call Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith at (520) 445-2164 for any group gatherings.

Church services are in the Odd Fellow Bldg. on Whipple and Sunset. At the junction of Hwy 69 and US 89, follow Gurley St. through town to Gail Gardner Way, turn right, continue to four-way stop at fairgrounds, proceed straight to Whipple St., turn right at Sunset. Welcome to our services in the Odd Fellow Bldg. at 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Just in case, phone number is (520) 445-4253 or (520) 445-2164.

May the Lord bless you and Happy Holidays to all.

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## ARIZONA, TUCSON

**Lisa Knapp**

We are enjoying beautiful weather right now with the high today, November 13, in the lower 80's. Please come and enjoy some lovely weather with us the next few months.

Our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and our deacon Bro. Loren Knapp served Communion to us on October 29. As is always the case, it was good for us to have this time to examine ourselves and to greet one another with a holy kiss following Communion. Once again, we need to thank Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy for driving down to Tucson for the day and sharing in the blessed sacrament with us. We know it is an effort to make the trip and we do appreciate it. We always enjoy seeing them and fellowship-

ping with them.

Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) was with us for Sunday services recently. We thank him for his visit and his service on the pulpit.

Sis. Yvonne Lehman has left us to join her family in Bloomington, IL. We had said our farewells to Bro. Nate and their children earlier, but Sis. Yvonne had stayed behind for awhile. We are happy for their family as they can be together again. God bless you all in this new chapter in your lives.

Our Sis. Martha Blessman has not assembled with us for some time but I'm sure she is with us in spirit. Our prayers continue to go out to her.

Our Bro. Paul Knoblock was not with us for a short time due to health problems, but we are happy to see him in church again. Welcome back, Bro. Paul.

Tom and Heidi Todd became the parents of Robert Lee on October 22. His grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas. We are happy to report mother and child are in good health. May God watch over Tom and Heidi in their new role as parents.

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## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

**Joy Nenadov**

"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him."

*I John 2:10*

Greetings to all!

Recently, I was posed a question which asked: How can I help my brother? I thought upon this for a while and many things came to mind. Two instances seemed to stay with me for the time I thought about this question. First, a very great way to help my brother or sister in Christ is not to be a cause

of offense to them, nor a stumblingblock, especially to the weak or wounded soul in Christ, by taking liberties that could weaken them further, for doing so is sinning against Christ. But with the Lord's grace and strength, I hope to do as in I Corinthians 8:13 "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." Doing this would demonstrate true brotherly love. The second instance that stood out to me is found in Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Oftentimes, our own load seems the heaviest to bear, while the load of others may not seem so hard; therefore, if we help to lift the load of other's burdens, both will benefit with much lighter loads. This will make it easier for us to press on toward the mark — our home in Heaven.

This new being now arises, having died with Christ before;  
 What in Adam's fall had perished  
 Christ the Saviour did restore.  
 Dearest child, we bid thee  
 welcome in our blessed  
 brotherhood;  
 From the wild tree thou art  
 grafted on this holy tree and root.  
*Zion's Harp #34*

We surely do welcome into the family of God, Sis. Rebecca Luginbuhl (Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi) and Bro. Joshua Martinez who first shared their testimonies before the church on October 21 and then made their covenant to God in the waters of baptism on October 22. As the angels in Heaven rejoice, so we do likewise and pray that they will continue onward with their faith and trust placed in Jesus and lean upon His precious promises. How it must please our Heavenly Father to be able to joyfully inscribe their names in the Book of

Life. We thank Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) for helping to assist with the duties of this joyous occasion. We also want to thank ministering Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, Escondido, CA) for lending himself to us that Sunday morning.

On Wednesday, October 25, we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and his wife, Sis. Shirley, in our midst. We greatly appreciated their willingness to serve us and share from God's Holy Word. After bidding them farewell by singing "God be with you", these dear brothers and our own Elder Bro. John Klotzle and Sis. Lois then traveled the next day to Japan and India. While in India, they helped to assist in the shepherding of the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India. How thankful we are that there are brothers who are willing to overlook the work of the Lord being done in far off lands. We pray that God will be their rich rewarder, not only in this life, but much more in the life to come.

Our sympathies and prayers are with Bro. Shannon Stahl in the death of his cousin, Rick Banwart (West Bend, IA). May he feel the nearness and comfort of our Heavenly Father.

We're thankful for the healing touch of the Lord on Sis. Judy Crockett after having had surgery. May we also continue to be in prayer for Sis. Blanche Coldeen and Bro. Nathan Moser as they are afflicted in their old age.

Working in retail, I can see firsthand how the world views Christmas as the biggest moneymaking season. It's so sad to see the neglect of recognition of a need for a Saviour, as many put in 101% to make Christmas a "success". How thankful we should be that our eyes have been opened to the real

and true reason of Christmas, the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May our prayer be for the countless people who do need a Saviour yet. "With God all things are possible." May each of us feel the peace, love and joy of our Lord as this year comes to a close. God bless you all!

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**CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**  
**Rose Huette**

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

*Psalms 23*

Our Bro. William Minger was able to lay down his cross and enter into that Heavenly rest October 14 at the age of 88. He has suffered for so long and we will miss him, but so thankful that his suffering is over. Our sympathy goes out to his dear wife, Frieda (Baer) Minger, and his children and all his family. As one of his sons mentioned to me, they are celebrating that he is now relieved of his suffering and is with Jesus.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL), Fred Witzig and Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA) and our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). We thank each of these brothers for

coming and worshipping with us. May our Lord richly bless them for the wonderful teachings and love shown to us.

We welcome the Denes Fulop family back as they have been in Hungary for about five months.

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**ONTARIO, KITCHENER**  
**CANADA**  
**Laura Baxter**

"And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou has spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."

*Exodus 4:10-12*

We recently finished listening to the Conference tapes and were again encouraged to walk in the truth. God still speaks through man today even as He did through Moses, the Old Testament prophets, the apostles and others who were living in the light of the Word. Let us listen and change in any area of our lives that is not leading us to more holiness. Joy and peace will then be ours!

We are thankful for our visiting ministers and all those that came to support us. May God bless Bros. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) for their labors of ministering God's Word to us.

Thankful grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher. Roy Alvin was born to Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb Zollinger (Rittman, OH). May God bless their little family and grant them wisdom to raise their precious chil-

dren.

We welcome all visitors! Anyone who would like to visit us in Kitchener, please call Bro. Walter Fortenbacher (519) 699-4133 or Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 for information and directions.

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### **COLORADO, DENVER**

#### **Chuck and Naomi Wiegand**

Greetings across the many miles! This month we were very blessed to have many visiting ministers. Our thanks go out to Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), and Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS). We were also very fortunate to have with us Bro. Janos Nemenyi (Budapest, Hungary). Through a translator, we were privileged to see how God's love contains no barriers.

We welcome into our congregation Bro. Louis Bikadi. He has recently moved to this area for employment and his family will be also coming out shortly.

Mark Andrew was born to Karl and Mitzi Braun on November 12. Grandparents are Herman and Sis. Sharon Braun. Mark was welcomed home by Julie, Nikki, Kayla, Erich, and Alyssa.

We need to remember Sis. Sharon Braun in our prayers as she undergoes treatment for cancer.

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### **CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**

#### **Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler**

Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) were visitors in our congregation this past month. We wish them God's blessings for their labor of love.

Several of our loved ones were hospital patients this past month. They were Bro. Ed Aberle (Albertina), Bro. Dave Hangartner

(Sis. Barb), Bro. Ervin Luginbuhl (Sis. Viola), Sis. Muriel Fellows (Bro. Emery) and Sarah Crary (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb). We pray that the Lord will be with them.

It is the time of year that we remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour. Let us remember the true meaning of the season.

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### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

#### **WASHINGTON**

#### **Henrietta Meyer**

"But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."

*Luke 2:19*

May we all keep in mind God's gift to us this Christmas season and all year.

Our ministers this past month were Bros. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). We thank these brothers, their families and others who traveled with them to serve and worship with us. Other visitors this month were from Smithville, OH. We hope others will come soon to enjoy the area now that it is less crowded.

Most of the time when we do not have services locally, we go to Philadelphia or use the weekend to travel. Sometimes we do gather for a tape. Such was the case the last (5th) Sunday in October when Bro. Ken and Sis. Jill Martin opened their home to us.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at Tysons Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. However, in December there will be NO service the FOURTH Sunday of the month. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. Some from the area meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors,

we gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5947 or Bro. Ken Martin (703) 444-9085.

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### **FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE**

#### **Mary Ann Klaus**

A farewell dinner was held at the fellowship hall for Sis. Kathy Martin on Sunday, October 22. Sis. Kathy has been working in this area for the past four years and is returning to her home in Princeville, IL. She plans to further her education in nursing. We certainly will miss her and we wish her the best.

Our congregation was blessed this month by the visit and ministering of Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN). He and our Bro. Roger Sauder were part of the Caribbean Board who made an evaluation trip. One of the fringe benefits of living in Ft. Lauderdale is the visits made by our loved ones on their way to the various work sites in the Caribbean.

We are happy that our northern "snowbirds" are gradually returning. They are being greeted by sunny, blue skies and temperatures ranging in the 70's during the day and 60's at night. We welcome each one and pray for their safety on the highways.

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### **FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS**

#### **Marvin and Rhea Steffen**

Greetings dear ones in His name. We had reason to celebrate God's goodness as we enjoyed a cookout after church on October 22. The occasion was the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeanette Yergler. It was good to gather together and be fed spiritually, and then have our earthly bodies also be filled. Assist-

ing in the spiritual feeding that day were visiting ministers, Bro. Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL) and Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). We so appreciate having these brothers and their wives travel to share with us. We pray for God's continued blessings on their families and also on Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeanette.

We also had reason to sorrow as we extend our sympathy to Louise Heckel, whose sister, Martha Sauder Schuff, passed away in Mansfield, OH on October 18. This was just ten days after the death of Louise's husband, Bill. We hope and pray that as we share her loss, we can be some small comfort to her, but we know that the real comfort comes from above.

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

*II Corinthians 1:3*

We also extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Ivan and Sis. Maxine Stoller as Bro. Ivan lost his mother and a brother-in-law less than three weeks apart. His mother, Sis. Ernestine Stoller, had been living at Fairview Haven in Fairbury, IL. His brother-in-law, John Gaston, had also been living in Fairbury, IL. We pray for God's comfort for Bro. Ivan and Sis. Maxine and their family.

On November 12, our church family all enjoyed a potluck supper at Bro. Vic and Sis. Dottie Beer's. The food and the fellowship was enjoyed so much. This same day, Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) shared God's Word with us. We really appreciate our visiting ministers, and those that stand before us faithfully each week. May their reward be great!

As this report is written, it is just days before we celebrate

Thanksgiving in this country. By the time you read this, it will be just days before Christmas.

We, as the church, and we as part of this country have so much to be thankful for! Let us each day of the year let our hearts be overflowing with gratitude to God for the greatest Gift of all! May His peace, joy, and love fill your hearts and your homes now and always!

This will be the last writing for these Silver Lining reporters, and we would like to humbly thank you each one for your prayers and words of encouragement that were given us as we wrote for the Silver Lining. We know the same prayerful support will be offered to those that will labor in the future, sharing the news here in North Ft. Myers. God bless you each one!

*Note of Thanks:*

It is impossible to find words to convey my thanks to the many dear ones in our Fort Myers church, as well as to those of our northern churches for the many expressions of love shown to both Bill and I during Bill's hospital stay, and since his death. The visits, gifts, cards, and prayers have meant so much, and are a source of real comfort. Thank you all and God bless each one.

*Louise Sauder Heckel*

### **FLORIDA, SARASOTA Vera and Mary Martin**

We have again come to the season of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Many of us have allowed this blessed season to become a time of over-extending ourselves to keep pace with the commercialism that tries to block out the true meaning of Christmas. This year, let us take time to commemorate the birth of Jesus and ponder on His sacrifice for us.

Let us keep Christ as the heart of  
our Christmas  
The reason for all of our joy,  
Let us reflect on the season's true  
meaning,  
The birth of a dear little boy.

Whenever we see decorations that  
sparkle,  
And tree lights that glimmer and  
glow,  
Let us remember the star that  
shone brightly  
And lit up the night so long ago.

Whenever we send out our  
Holiday Greetings  
And open the ones we receive,  
Let us remember the Heavenly  
Greetings  
Proclaimed on that first  
Christmas Eve.

Whenever we wrap up our  
presents to others,  
And dream of the gifts we like best,  
Let us remember God's gift of a  
Saviour,  
The gift that outshines all the rest.

Let us keep Christ the heart of our  
Christmas,  
And take time to think of His love,  
The secret to feeling the true  
Christmas Spirit  
And knowing that it came from  
above.  
*(Author Unknown)*

We are happy to see our winter residents as they return, and look forward to a larger church assembly and fellowship again.

We are thankful to again see God's healing power as Bro. Jeff Streitmatter recovers from surgery.

We want to thank our visiting ministers who lent themselves in the Lord's service, including Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA****Peggy Camp**

We were blessed to have several ministering brothers in Atlanta this past month: Bros. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ), Richard Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN).

On October 29, our congregation held Holy Communion. What a privilege it was to partake and to remember what Christ did for us. Assisting our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) was Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). May God bless these brothers and their families for sharing and encouraging us in their messages.

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

If you are in Atlanta over a weekend, please stop in to worship with us. We meet every Sunday at 10:20 a.m. at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located on I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit just south of the airport. For further information, contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 or Bro. Don Sellers (770) 381-1395.

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE****Millie Jepson**

Belvidere church ended the fall activities and our last outdoor potluck on October 29 with Bro. Bruce Hohulin and Sis. Charlene (Goodfield, IL) and other guests visiting us. Even though it was a chilly day in the park, there was a warm shelter to eat in and it was a most enjoyable day. We had blessed fellowship with one another as the children played outside. The other visiting minister in November was Bro. Greg Stoller and Sis. Jill (Forrest, IL) who came with a wonderfully large group

that ministered to us, too. They all blessed us with their presence, their singing, and they even pitched in with the kitchen chores after lunch and the church supper. A special thank you to these ministers and to Bros. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy) and Bill Gudeman (Sis. Evelyn), and Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Sis. Marilyn) for being so willing to come and bring us God's Word and fellowship with us.

As the year 1995 comes to an end, we want to thank each and every minister and visitor for their help and encouragement to this small congregation over the past year. We appreciate your help so much. May your Christmas be filled with many happy and precious moments as you seek to honor Him in all your ways.

The sweet songs of Christmas ring  
out down the years,  
They quicken our faith and they  
quiet our fears,  
Bringing new hope to the  
world-weary mind  
Through Him sent from heaven to  
save all mankind.

—P. Strong

Do you have a world-weary mind? When we think of the "olden days", we remember singing the beautiful Christmas songs in the school programs and the story of Jesus' birth was repeated over and over everywhere. Now, in some school Christmas programs, there are no songs about the birth of Jesus and it seems so very strange. What is Christmas without Jesus? We would have no hope without Jesus!

We are so thankful for our church and the children who present to us such a beautiful Christmas program every year. Each child does his very best and the teachers give it their very best also. What a wonderful privilege we have in joining with them and

singing "Silent Night" at the end of the program. After the Christmas program, we all go to the Boone County Nursing Home, some homes of shut-ins and the hospitals in Belvidere and sing the sweet Christmas carols to the residents and patients. Then, we gather together for a chili supper with Christmas cookies and warm up. It is a wonderful, meaningful day for all. In these last days, we can never emphasize enough the Christ in Christmas when there are so many forces trying to keep Him out. In our hearts we sing with the children, "Happy Birthday, Jesus."

"We love him, because he first loved us."

*I John 4:19*

**ILLINOIS,****BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL****Janice Horner - Debbie Grieco**

On November 1, Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) gave a special Bible study on the relationship of believers to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not an "It". It is He, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. If we live in the Spirit, we can trust in His power. We must walk in the Spirit, so we do not fulfill the lust of the flesh. The Spirit's work is to help and strengthen us in our battle against the flesh.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. He will guide us and we will be known by the fruit which we produce. We thank you, Bro. Wayne, for the time and effort you put forth in presenting this topic.

Sis. Erin Jennings (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Scott Martin have announced their engagement to be married. We wish them much grace as they plan their lives to-

gether.

We welcome our new sisters in faith, Tara Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Candy), and Sunita Kupferschmid (Larry and Sis. Sandy) who gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of November 11 and 12. May they go on their way rejoicing, always letting their light shine to those around them. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) share this blessed weekend with us. May God richly bless all of you who came.

On November 5, our Bible Class hosted the Roanoke and Chicago Bible Classes. It was a very special day where friends could fellowship together and worship the Lord.

We give our deepest sympathy to Sis. Mary Leman on the passing of her father, John Gaston, Fairbury. May the Lord comfort this family.

We want to extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. George Stimeling on the passing of his sister, Colleen Taylor, Morton, IL on November 10.

Also, we pray the Lord will comfort Sis. Ann Frautschi on the passing of her brother, Nelson Sorg, Elkhart, IN.

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

*Matthew 2:11*

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

late.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Amos Funk and Sis. Elma Fleming. We are so thankful that God has given doctors wisdom to heal. We pray that these two precious lambs will continue to improve and we look forward to their return to our midst.

The adult choir presented a program on a patriotic Thanksgiving theme on November 15. It was a very blessed evening and thanks to all who made this program possible. Our Lord surely smiles with delight as he hears the beautiful singing and praising of our wonderful Lord.

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

#### **Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

A kind word of encouragement spoken by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit can be a great blessing to us and a help to our brother. Our ministering brothers have an obligation to preach the Word many times when they may feel discouraged or unworthy. An encouraging word at the right time may give them the support and help they need to carry on their duties.

As we close out another year of blessings with the celebration of Christ's birth, let us remember that most of our blessings are the result of His birth, death, and resurrection.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

*Matthew 6:33*

Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill Stoller were blessed with another healthy baby girl. Allisa Marie was born on October 18 and is welcomed home by her sisters and brother, Joanna, Loren, and Alaina. Grandparents of Allisa are

Bro. Nate and Sis. Martha Stoller and Lloyd and Betty Stahl (Dunlap). We wish them God's blessings and grace as they raise their family.

We are so thankful to have those who are willing to humble themselves and come to God in repentance. Katie Slutz (Richard and Marilyn), Bruce Endress (Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev), Joe Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole) and Brent Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie) have answered God's call this month. May we all remember to encourage and pray for our converts.

Keri Hausmann and Randy Kennedy were united in marriage on November 11. They are making their home in Phoenix, AZ. We wish them God's blessings. Their parents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Verla Hausmann and Mr. and Mrs. George Kennedy and Mr. Ken Williams (Springfield).

Sis. Bonnie Kieser is laid up for several weeks after a fall which resulted in surgery on her ankle. Also, Bro. Nate Stoller has not been able to assemble with us because of a recent fall. We pray God's healing hand on them both.

We are always so thankful to have visiting ministers who are willing to be used in God's service. We ask God's blessings on Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) who was here a Sunday this month.

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### ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

#### **Samuel and Pamela Furrer**

As the Christmas season approaches, it makes me think of something that I learned about a year ago. One of the many blessings of working as a guidance counselor at a large public high school in a university town is that I have contact with students of diverse cultural backgrounds. As I was talking with one of my young

men from the Middle East, I noticed that his record listed his place of birth "Bethlehem". I said, "Edward, is that Bethlehem, Bethlehem? Like where Jesus was born?" Edward, a very polite Palestinian boy with the typical dark hair and eyes, just smiled and said, "Yes." I was somehow amazed that I had this student with the same birthplace as our Jesus. Of course, there are many thousands of people who were born in Bethlehem, but this was the first one I had ever spoken with. In my naive excitement, I said, "Wow. Until now, Jesus was the only person I knew who was born in Bethlehem." Edward smiled, probably thinking that I was a little crazy to be so interested in what he viewed as a minor detail of his life. This led on to a lengthier discussion of how his Christian family had moved around the Middle East before coming to Urbana. I learned that his father had died of cancer, how his whole family was working hard to put his brother through college, and Edward's own plan to work his way through the university. By the time Edward left my office, I felt a little closer to my student, and the town of Bethlehem had a greater meaning to me. Whenever I think of Bethlehem, I now think of the two people I know who were born in that city.

The home of Bro. John and Sis. Lisa (Schneider) Walder was filled with hymns and warm hearts as a houseful of people warmed their new home at 3302 Nordland Drive, Urbana, 61801. Bro. John and Sis. Lisa had been apartment dwellers and are glad to have their own home on the edge of Urbana.

Our church World Relief effort to help others in our own community was another warming experience. The local men's emergency shelter, which gives the homeless a place to be when it is cold outside, needed 24 gallons of soup. Our

congregation pitched in and made that amount of chili to help feed those who are less fortunate. It is our hope that this small effort on our part will be blessed and will make life a little more comfortable for our neighbors.

We thank Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) for assembling with us for a mid-week service this past month. Visitors are always welcome to stop in Champaign to worship with us.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Kathy Schlatter

Blueberry cheesecake plus a white blouse equals magnetic attraction. But I was determined to ignore that stain on my front from the blueberries. After all, it is not that which goes into a man (or doesn't quite make it) which defiles a man. Instead, it is that which comes out (Matthew 5:11). Indeed, aren't there other "stains" which I should take more seriously, words which have come out of my mouth, words which sounded harsher than they should have or were totally uncalled for, which grieved the hearer and my God? I do need to be very aware of such stains, clinging to His cleansing blood and submitting to the chastising rod so that there are no magnetic attractions between what I shouldn't say (or think) and saying them. Physical stains may be ignored for a season (until one can clean up at home); others can be life- or witness-threatening. "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." (James 3:13).

The calming influence of Communion is its depth of spirituality developed by our pulling apart from the world as a body to renew our commitments to Christ and to each other. Elder Bro. Ervin

Knecht (Eureka, IL) and our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann served us the bread and the wine on Saturday, October 21. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ervin and his wife with us on Sunday and also to have Bro. Bill Gudeman and his wife (Elgin, IL). Since then, we have had Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), and Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) share the Word and their inspiration by the Spirit with us. We have been given all; may they receive all at His hand, even to the refilling of their cups.

Sis. Jean O'Shea has agreed to replace Sis. Cindy Gomez in Sunday School as Sis. Cindy and Bro. Luis are expecting their first child. We are so thankful for Sis. Cindy's past efforts and look forward to supporting Sis. Jean. Teaching Sunday School is both a wonderful opportunity and an awesome responsibility. We extend our prayers to Sis. Jean.

Sis. Erin Jennings has more than math lessons to plan for. She and Bro. Scott Martin (Bloomington, IL) have been led of the Lord to prepare for Christian marriage, whereby they will be bound by a threefold cord. We know the anticipation, yet the solemnity and importance of this step. We delight with them in their joy; we pray for their special communication together with the Lord, and we love them and wish them much harmony and unity of spirit.

As we approach the end of the year, we remember both positive and negative aspects of our conversation in 1995. I have said too much and too little many times, I am afraid, and I plead for your forgiveness. Certainly in the Silver Lining, I was most remiss in saying farewell to a dear family. Jim and Sis. Eloise Howell have moved back "downstate" (Gridley, IL) with Andrew and Arianne. We



trust their move has been easy to adjust to, family and friends reaching out to welcome them home. Nevertheless, we miss them, and our love and prayers and a piece of ourselves go with them. May they be mightily blessed by the Lord's abundance. Bro. Rick Kaisner (Peoria, IL) has sojourned with us for a time. We have appreciated his warmth in fellowship. We also petition the Lord's continued blessings and guidance for him and thank him for "staying awhile."

Looking at Christmas vocabulary words in several languages, I was struck by the Spanish term for what we call the nativity scene. Their term is simply "el nacimiento" - the birth. In this season we see much, but we often forget the miracle of birth. A brother was commenting on the words of "Take My Life" and mentioned seeing his child, still to be born, on the sonogram, now seeing hands and feet and lips, all new, and wondering about this child-to-be. He went on to mention that all of what we receive at birth is merely borrowed—a gift to us for earthly life as Christ is a gift to our spiritual need. Are we treating these borrowed gifts as carefully as we can, so that at life's end or at His second coming, they can be returned with joy to the God who gave them to us?

"...Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."

*Luke 11:2*

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love...  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee;  
Take my voice, and let me sing...  
Take my moments and my days...  
Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;

Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne...

*Hymns of Zion #106*

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Anna Marie Reutter**

**Joyce Bauer**

What a truly blessed day we had on Sunday, October 22, as the choir from Goodfield spent the day with us. After a day of worship and fellowship, we enjoyed a meal together and an inspiring program as they raised their voices in praise to God. Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) shared the Word with us that day. We thank them all for sharing the day with us.

On Sunday, October 29, the Bible Class spent the day with the Bible Class at Fairbury. What an excellent way to build new friendships.

November 5 was the day for the invite-a-couple potluck. What a blessing to fellowship with brothers and sisters of all age groups and from many different congregations. We were thankful that Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) was willing to share the Word with us.

A special thanks to our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for ministering to us on Wednesday evening, November 8. We appreciate your faithful service.

Our Sunday School children and young adults had a very practical lesson in sharing as they delivered food baskets and Bibles to needy families in our area on Sunday, November 19.

We are thankful that Sis. Lucille Walder and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann are both well and able to assemble with us again after a short stay in the hospital. Sis. Loretta Baumgartner has had knee surgery and is presently at Carl Arbors Nursing Home in

Champaign for rehabilitation. We wish her well in her recuperation.

We were saddened at the passing of our dear Bro. Melvin Knapp on Wednesday, November 15. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Sis. Doris; and their children, Joyce Gharst (Loda), Gloria Fedder (Florence, KY), Connie Price (Houston, TX), and Robert Knapp (Cissna Park); and to his sister and brothers, Alma Dreyer (Morton), Charles (Hoopeston), Wayne (Watseka), and Ralph and Earl (Cissna Park). Services were held Saturday, November 18.

### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Arlene Banwart**

**Linda Knobloch**

This month we have had the Word of God shared with us by several visiting ministers. They were Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp and Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI). Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) was also with us to assist our Elder Bro. Bob Walder when we partook in Holy Communion. We thank these brothers and may God bless them and continue to speak through them as the Holy Spirit leads.

Mike Hartman (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Lou) and Paula Sheely were united in marriage on Saturday, November 4. We welcome them and wish them God's blessings and guidance in their life together.

Also, on November 4 we were privileged to hear the testimonies of LeAnn Stahl and Laura Schieber and then Sunday witness their vows and baptisms. We are thankful for these two new sisters-in-faith. May God grant us grace and wisdom to remain true to the vows we make.

Have you ever encountered a circumstance, crisis or come to a "fork in the road"? In Jeremiah 29:12-13 we are encouraged:

"Then shall ye call upon me and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Let's remember to pray that God's Holy will be done, to pray for each other and to pray for wisdom to see ourselves as He sees us. How tremendous is the power in prayer!

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### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder**

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:"

*Eccles. 12:1-2*

Our Sunday School children recently entertained the Bible class students from Washington and Bradford, IL. How thankful we are that we have a faith wherein we are free to travel and can feel the love of other congregations, not only through our brethren but also our friends. May each of our young people not forget their Creator in their youth but soon learn that the friendships that were planted may be not only life-long, but could be eternal.

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

possible.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Lydia Conrad who passed away October 25 at the Eureka Apostolic Home. Our prayers are also with Bro. Al (Sis. Joann) Schietlin in the passing of his sister. May the Lord comfort the hearts of those who have been bereft.

As with gladness men of old did  
the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to Thee.  
Holy Jesus, every day keep us in  
the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds Thy glory hide.  
—*William C. Dix*

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, may the true impact of what transpired so many years ago not be lost amid all the rush, glitter and turmoil of the world we live in. As those men of old kept their eye on the star that led them to the Saviour, may we daily keep our eye of faith steadfastly fixed on our Lord, with full confidence that He will lead us Home, eternally, if we are willing to follow.

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dori Blunier**

And ye, beneath life's crushing  
load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow:  
Look now! For glad and golden  
hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.

*Gospel Hymns #843*

At this holiday season, whether our steps are painful and slow or whether they are hurried and rushed, may we take time to hear the angels sing. Let's remember their message of glad tidings even to all the earth, including us.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Tami Vierling are thankful for the birth of their first little baby. Jonathan Eric was born on October 17. His grandparents are Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin and Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling.

Our church was filled with many young people from the Bible Classes of Bradford and Goodfield, IL on October 29. We appreciated the ministry of Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) who helped make it a special day. Other visiting ministers during this past month have been Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Ed Knecht (Portland, OR), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Doris Rocke (Bro. Norman) whose sister, Marian Schumacher, passed away on October 30. We also are praying for Bro. August Mogler (Sis. Inez) who recently underwent surgery and is now in the nursing home.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank our friends and relatives for the beautiful anniversary cards, gifts, and memory cards for our 25th anniversary album. A special thank you to family for the surprise open house and to Bro. Dale and Sis. Sue Zimmerman who opened their home for the occasion. God bless you all.

*Bro. Don and Sis. Evelyn Gude-  
man*

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### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

### Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

From lands afar led by the star  
 The wise men came to see  
 The Saviour King rich gifts they  
 bring  
 For Christ's nativity.  
 This story sweet I would repeat  
 And praise Him with my voice.  
 For he who finds Christ's peace of  
 mind  
 He cannot but rejoice.  
*Hymns of Zion #35*

May we all rejoice in the birth of  
 our Saviour and be thankful for  
 His wonderful plan of salvation for  
 us.

We are looking forward to hear-  
 ing our Sunday School children  
 share the story of His miraculous  
 birth; and we pray for God's guid-  
 ance as their Sunday School teach-  
 ers so lovingly teach them.

We were so richly blessed by vis-  
 iting ministers sharing God's  
 Word with us this month and we  
 thank them. They were: Bros.  
 Doyle Frauhofer (Bluffton North,  
 IN), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna  
 Park, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN),  
 Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and  
 Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA).

A darling baby girl has come to  
 join the family of Bro. Don and Sis.  
 Leona Kaisner on November 9.  
 Her name is Donita Rose. Her lov-  
 ing siblings are Jennifer, Travis,  
 Valerie and Michelle. Thankful  
 grandparents are Bro. Glenn and  
 Sis. Kathryn Fehr and Bro. Merle  
 and Sis. Marge Kaisner. Great-  
 grandmother is Sis. Carolyn Fehr.

On November 12, the wedding  
 engagement of Bro. Jeff Moser and  
 Sis. Sara Stoller (Bro. Greg and  
 Sis. Jill, Forrest) was announced.  
 May God grant them His guidance  
 and direction during their engage-  
 ment and throughout their mar-  
 ried life.

Those who have been hospital-  
 ized recently are Sis. Viola  
 Bachtold (Bro. Lloyd), Bro. Ralph

Bahler (Sis. Jeannette), and Cas-  
 sie Rinkenberger (Bro. Douglas  
 and Sis. Beth). May they feel our  
 love and prayers.

Margaret Kelson is recuperat-  
 ing at Fairview Haven after being  
 dismissed from the hospital. We  
 wish her a speedy recovery.

"Blessed are they that mourn:  
 for they shall be comforted."

*Matthew 5:4*

Our heartfelt sympathy and  
 prayers are extended to the family  
 of Sis. Ernestine Stoller, 88, who  
 passed away on October 19. She is  
 survived by a daughter, Joan Gas-  
 ton (John); sons, Bro. Ivan (Sis.  
 Maxine, North Ft. Myers, FL),  
 Melvin (Inga, Cincinnati, OH),  
 Richard (Karen, Chenoa, IL), and  
 Bro. Dale (Sis. Sandra); fifteen  
 grandchildren, one step-grand-  
 daughter, eight great-grandchil-  
 dren and four step - great -  
 grandchildren. May God comfort  
 each one of you.

Also, our prayers and heartfelt  
 sympathy are extended to the fam-  
 ily of Sis. Perseda Moser, 94, who  
 passed away November 5. She is  
 survived by daughters, Sis. Joanne  
 Aupperle (Willis, Gridley, IL), Sis.  
 Colleen Walter (Bro. Richard), Sis.  
 Sharon Kelson (Bro. Bernard),  
 Marlene (Morton, IL); sons, Keith  
 (Nita, Strawn, IL), and Bro. Lloyd;  
 sisters, Sis. Leona Broquard,  
 Kathryn Broquard, Sis. Esther  
 Herrmann (Bro. Robert,  
 Princeville, IL); one brother, Ben  
 Broquard (Jean, East Peoria, IL);  
 twenty-five grandchildren and  
 sixty-one great-grandchildren.  
 May God comfort each one of you.

We extend our deepest sympa-  
 thy and prayers to Joan (Stoller)  
 Gaston on the sudden death of her  
 dear husband, John, 70, on No-  
 vember 8. He leaves to mourn a  
 daughter, Sis. Mary Ann Leman  
 (Bro. Dale, Bloomington, IL); four  
 grandchildren; a sister, Mary

Reick (Odell, IL); and a brother,  
 Robert (Saunemin, IL).

May God comfort these loved  
 ones in their time of sorrow.

Our deep sympathy and prayers  
 we extend to Sis. Ida Hari in the  
 loss of her dear sister, Sis. Lydia  
 Sohn (Forrest), on September 26.  
 Also our sympathy to Sis. Lydia's  
 sister-in-laws, Sis. Helen and Sis.  
 Betty Sohn.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our sincere  
 thanks to everyone for the love and  
 kindness shown to us during the  
 passing of our dear Mom and  
 Grandma. May God bless each  
 one of you.

*The family of Sis. Ernestine  
 Stoller*

This poem was given to Sis.  
 Katharine Fehr, since the passing  
 of her dear husband, Bro. John V.  
 Fehr. It gave her courage and  
 strength.

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;  
 Oh, so happy and so bright!  
 There is perfect joy and beauty  
 In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,  
 Every restless tossing passed;  
 I am now at peace forever,  
 Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder why I so calmly  
 Trod the valley of the shade?  
 Oh! but Jesus' love illumined  
 Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me  
 In that way so hard to tread;  
 And with Jesus' arm to lean on,  
 Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so  
 sorely,  
 For I love you dearly still;  
 Try to look beyond earth's  
 shadows,  
 Pray to trust our Father's Will.

There is work still waiting for you,  
So you must not idly stand;  
Do it now, while life remaineth -  
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,  
He will gently call you Home;  
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,  
Oh, the joy to see you come!

—*Author Unknown*

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## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Marlene Walter  
Mary Bachtold**

The first Christmas Gift ever given  
Wasn't bought in a mall or a shop,  
And it wasn't encased in bright  
wrappings  
With a colorful bow on top.  
The first Gift of Christmas was  
given  
In a manger lowly and bare,  
And a blanket was the lone  
wrapping  
Of this Gift so priceless and fair.  
God gave the First Gift of  
Christmas,  
A most Holy and Wonderful One,  
When He looked down in mercy  
and goodness,  
And gave us the Gift of His Son!  
—*Jon Gilbert*

We always look forward to our  
Sunday School Christmas pro-  
gram where the children will tell  
us of the most Precious Gift of all.  
May we remember to keep this in  
our hearts and minds during this  
season and throughout the coming  
year.

October 21 was a special day for  
Dayton Kupferschmid (Bro. Al  
and Sis. Wanda) and Kathy Fogal  
(Lynn Fogal, Tremont, IL) as they  
were united in marriage. We wish  
them God's blessings as they walk  
hand in hand through life.

A special thank you to Bros. Ken  
Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Dennis  
Rassi (Fairbury, IL) for visiting us

this past month. May God be their  
rich rewarder for lovingly sharing  
God's Word with us.

We were happy to hear of the  
engagement of Sis. Sara Stoller  
(Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Bro.  
Jeff Moser (Bro. Lloyd, Fairbury,  
IL). May they continue to seek  
God's guidance as they make plans  
to become husband and wife.

Spending time in the hospital  
this month have been Bro. Rich  
Rieger, Sis. Kathy Leman and  
Marie Roth. We are thankful that  
Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy are able  
to assemble with us again and pray  
that Marie will feel God's healing  
spirit and soon be feeling better.

We extend sympathy to Bro.  
Paul and Sis. Sherri Kelson in the  
death of his grandmother, Sis.  
Perseda Moser (Fairbury, IL).  
Also feeling a loss are Bro. Bob and  
Sis. Donna Leman, Bro. Les and  
Sis. Ruth Roth, Bro. Perry and Sis.  
Louise Honegger and Bro. Ed and  
Edith Honegger in the passing of  
their brother, Jesse Honegger.  
May these loved ones feel God's  
comforting spirit during their time  
of sorrow.

### *Note of Thanks:*

I want to thank everyone for the  
nice cards, gifts and monetary gifts  
that I received for my 82nd birth-  
day. May God bless you all.

*Bro. Perry Honegger*

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## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Barb Brim**

"...for the Lord searcheth all  
hearts, and understandeth all the  
imaginings of the thoughts: if  
thou seek him, he will be found of  
thee:..."

*I Chronicles 28:9*

Much comfort can be derived  
from these words. Jesus Christ  
understands our thoughts; He  
alone can search hearts for the

truth that lies within. As we again  
are blessed to spend this sacred  
holiday season here on earth, let us  
rejoice in the omnipotence of God  
our Father and His son, Jesus  
Christ.

Three dear souls testified of  
their search for the Lord and His  
acceptance of their souls as they  
completed the repentance process  
and were baptized in His name.  
With much joy we welcome Bro.  
Kris and Sis. Heather Swords  
(Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner)  
and Sis. Mandy Schwenk (Bro.  
Doug and Sis. Myrna) into our  
earthly church family and join  
them in praise to God our Father  
and His promise of eternal life  
through the shed blood of His Son,  
Jesus Christ.

Our church family was in-  
creased by the dearest of God's  
gifts to us this month. Little Kin-  
sey Herrmann was born Novem-  
ber 7 to first-time parents, Kitty  
and Ross Herrmann. Grandpar-  
ents, Sis. Corine and Roy Roth  
(Goodfield), have an extra reason  
to be celebrating this season. God  
is good!

Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly Bauman  
were also the recipients of God's  
most welcome blessing, a little boy,  
Levi Jacob. Levi is most enthusi-  
astically welcomed home by his  
two brothers, Jed and Drew, and  
his grandparents, Bro. Larry and  
Sis. Betty Bauman and Bro. Bruce  
and Sis. Charlene Hohulin. May  
God's love and grace grow abun-  
dantly within these small souls.  
Praise His name!

We extend our love and prayers  
of comfort to the family of dear Sis.  
Ruth Hohulin who passed on this  
month. Sis. Ruth lived to a good  
old age and we can rest assured she  
will be counted among the Heav-  
enly band of faithful saints.

Thank you to all the visiting  
ministers and their wives who  
shared with us this month. Thank  
you, Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer

(Sis. Marian, Peoria, IL), and Bros. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester, IA), Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judy, Portland, OR) and Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) for increasing our understanding of the Lord.

As we approach this most blessed of holiday seasons, let us remember the true blessing of Christmas lies within the hearts and souls of all who would hear His call and surrender to His most excellent will. Joy and peace be ours forever!

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### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Again, we have many reasons to rejoice over five more dear souls added to the church, Christ's body. Baptized on Sunday, November 12, were Bros. Norman Kaupp and Phillip Romersberger, and Sisters Bonnie Maubach, Carissa and Janelle Schlipf. There is no higher calling in life. May God sustain them, now and always.

Here for this joyous occasion were Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and ministering Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL).

On November 5, our congregation commemorated its 125th year. Our Gridley church was established in 1870. "Lunch calls" were held in the homes of seven early families. At 4:00 p.m. an all-church potluck was held in the fellowship hall. This was followed by a special service in the sanctuary Sunday evening. It was a wonderful day. *(A poem written for this occasion appears on page 46.)*

A series of marriage classes was held on three consecutive Thursday evenings (November 2, 9, and 16) conducted by Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) under the auspices of Gateway Woods Family Services. The Bible is the sure

foundation for happy marriages: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" (Eph. 5:25). "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." (Eph. 5:22).

We mourned the passing of Sis. Lillian Fenton, 92, who died on October 27. She is survived by a daughter, Sis. Winifred Schlipf, two grandsons, and four great-grandchildren. She was a widow for 23 years. Sis. Lillian's loving personality and sincere interest in others will be missed.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig observed their 50th wedding anniversary on October 22 with an open house at the fellowship hall. They were married after Bro. Elmer's discharge from the Army in 1945. We love them dearly and appreciate their many years of diligent service to the Lord in our congregation.

Bro. Steve Schlipf was announced to be married to Sis. Renee Baurer of Princeville, IL. Her parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Baurer. He is the son of Sis. Marjorie Schlipf and the late Bro. Elmer.

Sis. Hulda Meiss had heart surgery and is recovering. Sharon Rinkenberger was also hospitalized.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) on October 22; and Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) on October 29.

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### ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

The Morton congregation rejoiced with the angels as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sandy Mott and Kevin Babin on October 21 and 22. Sandy is the daughter of Bro. Den-

nis and Sis. Beth Mott and Kevin is the son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Jackie Babin. We pray they will allow God to work mightily through them for His glory.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Janeen Baum have welcomed Derek Colton into their hearts and home. He was born on October 29. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum of Morton and Darrel and June Hari of Gilbert, AZ. We wish Bro. Terry and Sis. Janeen much Godly wisdom as they rear this precious child.

Martha Nohl passed away on October 29. We wish her sisters God's comfort. They are Lois Trimble of Mackinaw and Eunice Bigler of Morton.

Bro. Henry Binkele's funeral was held on November 11. May God's loving arms surround his sons, Jerry and Robert; his daughters, Betty Kinney, J.R. Patsi Simms and Martha Gherel Plattis; his brothers, Edward and Raymond; and his sisters, Marie Rapp, Elizabeth Mangold and Lillian Bridgeman. Bro. Henry's family also consisted of 19 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral of Sis. Emma Seidel was held on November 13. May God comfort her brother, Jesse Yoder, and her sister, Sis. Eula Grimm, and also her nieces, nephews and friends.

On November 11 and 12, Morton hosted a benefit dinner sponsored by the Bible Class. The dinner was served by the Sunday School students and songs of praise were sung by persons of all ages. It was a blessing to all those who had part in the evening.

We were happy to have visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) with us this month. May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA****Cara Nussbaum**

The Peoria Choir held their annual Benefit Dinner on Saturday, November 18, commemorating 25 years. The program was made up of songs the choir has sung in previous programs over the years. As the choir opened with "Let Us Give Our Thanks Together," and closed with "The Lord's Prayer," we were reminded to give God the praise and glory for each gift He has given us. We can be especially thankful for the gift of singing. This is such an important part of our faith. As we were exhorted in a sermon recently, we all need to make more of an effort to participate and enjoy the blessing of song, whether in church or even at home. I grew up singing around the piano with my family. Many times when I have been discouraged, I was lifted up by the beautiful words of a hymn, many of which I learned in my youth.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all who came and supported the dinner, the choir members who worked so diligently, Bro. Dean Ramseyer, our director and our young group and all others who helped. It's always so encouraging to see everyone working together. May God bless each one of you.

Hospitalized recently were Sis. Karen Dunbar, Phyllis Baer, Simon Traub, Sis. Phyllis Bennett, Harvey Herrmann and Sis. Louise Koehl. We pray that each one has felt God's healing hand.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Jesse Schrock and his family following the death of his wife, Sis. Lillian. It wasn't too long ago that her family gathered to celebrate her 100th birthday. May they be comforted by knowing Sis. Lillian has gone Home to be with the Lord.

Our visiting ministers this past

month were Bros. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), and Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA). May God bless you for lending yourself in His service.

**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE****Joanna Herrmann**

On the weekend of October 28 and 29, we were given the opportunity to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls. Our new brothers and sister in faith are Kevin and Ben Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann) and Eleanor Baer (Otto Baer). We rejoice with them and pray that He "Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:21). We would like to thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for his labor, and also ministering Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), and for all our visitors, that helped make this a blessed weekend.

We have been blessed with five new converts this past month. They are Holly Steiner (Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen), Mary Ehnlé (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane), Joy and Jill Herrmann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann), and Stephanie Challacomb. With thankful hearts, we pray that they "...might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" (Colossians 1:10).

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither

sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

*Revelation 21:4*

We had two funerals this past month. Our Sis. Katherine Stahl passed away November 6. She is survived by two sisters, Sis. Martha Stahl and Sis. Leah Stahl, and one brother, David Stahl, all of Princeville; and several nieces and nephews. Services were held November 8. May they feel God's comforting peace at their time of sorrow.

On November 9, Bro. Daniel Feucht passed away. Our sympathy is extended to his dear wife, Natalie; and two daughters, Sis. Shirley and Sis. Betty Jane, and son, Bro. Earl (Sis. Margaret). He is survived by four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He is also survived by three brothers, Bro. Rueben (Sis. Nathalia), Chris (Joan), and Bro. Walter; and three sisters, Sis. Ruth Feucht, Sis. Mildred Endress, both of Princeville, and Sis. Lyola Ringger (Bro. Jim) of Phoenix, AZ. We thank Bro. Roy Ehnlé (Bradford, IL) for helping with the funeral services.

We would also like to extend our sympathy to Sis. Marie Eberle at the passing of her sister, Emma Palmer, from California. Sis. Esther (Bro. Bob) Herrmann's sister, Sis. Perseda Moser, of our Fairbury congregation passed away this past month. We would like to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

"...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

*John 1:29*

May we remember God's gracious gift to us, the true meaning of Christmas, this joyous season.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our gratitude for the prayers, kind thoughts, and contributions during the recent passing of our dear sister, Katherine. May God richly bless you all!

*Sis. Leah Stahl*

*Sis. Martha Stahl*

**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE****Jana Gastman - Annie Leman**

Nothing between my soul and the  
Saviour,  
Naught of this world's delusive  
dream;  
I have renounced all sinful  
pleasure,  
Jesus is mine; there's nothing  
between.

Nothing between like worldly  
pleasure,  
Habits of life though harmless  
they seem,  
Must not my heart from Him e're  
sever,  
He is my all; there's nothing  
between.

Nothing between, like pride or  
station,  
Self or friends shall not intervene,  
Tho' it may cost me much  
tribulation,  
I am resolved; There's nothing  
between.

Nothing between, e'en many hard  
trials,  
Tho' the whole world against me  
convene;  
Watching with prayer and much  
self-denial,  
I'll triumph at last, with nothing  
between.

Nothing between my soul and the  
Saviour,  
So that His blessed face may be  
seen;  
Nothing preventing the least of

His favor,  
Keep the way clear! Let nothing  
between.

—*Tabernacle Hymns #45*

We pray that this song will be the goal of all of our lives as we live for the Lord. May it give new courage to our two new converts as they turn their backs on the world and its pleasures. Dan Knapp (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol) and Rena Braker (Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha) have begun their walk with the Lord. May God ever watch over them and keep them in His care.

We thank Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) for his willingness to preach God's message to us. May God be his rich Rewarder.

Danny and Kathleen Steffen are the happy parents of their first child. Haley Nicole was born September 15. Grandparents are Ed and Betty Myszkowski (Wenona) and Dan and Mary Jane Steffen of our congregation. May God bless this family with His love and peace.

Bro. Ervan Rokey passed away on November 11. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Ione, and their children, Sis. Judy (Bro. Ken) Knepp (of our congregation), and Jerome (Gilbert, AZ). May God fill the void left in their hearts and lives. We have appreciated and learned to love this special couple since they have moved here from Phoenix.

Sis. Elsie Beer has been in the hospital and since returned to our Home in Roanoke where she is recuperating. We are so thankful to have a nursing home with a Christian atmosphere that can provide the care for our loved ones when needed. May God bless all the staff and many volunteers for their many deeds of kindness.

**Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb**

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, let us remember Christ's teaching:

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

*Luke 12:47-48*

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), David Graf (Akron, OH) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). We are thankful for their sharing God's Word with us, and pray they and their families will visit us again.

It was good to have the Bible Class from Congerville visit us along with their teachers this month. We hope they enjoyed their day with us.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Emma Greiner and little Lucy Wagenbach (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Paula). Our thoughts and special prayers go out to these dear ones.

Our Bro. John Huette was called Home on October 30. We extend our sympathy to his children, Robert (Aurora, IL), John Jr. (Sugar Grove, IL) and Alice Lahne (Freeport, IL); their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Our congregation has three new baby girls. On October 22, Brooke Christine was born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Trudy Bolliger. She has a sister, Paige, and grandparents, Bro. Merle and Sis. Nancy Sauder and Ben and Rose Bolliger, to welcome her home.

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

On November 7, Amelia Rose was born to first-time parents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Susan Glueck. Her grandparents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam Frank.

Rachel Lynn was born November 15 to Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Koch. She has Kathy, Bradley and Brett to help take care of her. Her grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Koch and Bro. Robert and Sis. Rose Mary Frank.

"Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

*Acts 19:4-5*

Baptized following his testimony was Curt Musselman, who is now our brother in faith. How thankful we are to God, even though Bro. Curt's health is such that he had to be baptized at home. We know God's help and grace was with Elder Bro. Charles Sauder as he performed this baptism. We welcome Bro. Curt into our faith and pray God will grant him the much needed grace to endure the afflictions he is experiencing at this time.

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## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Denise Romersberger  
Sue Ruppert**

We appreciated the visiting ministers that lent themselves to the Washington congregation this month. They were Elder Bro. Don Sauder and Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) who presented our monthly Bible Study. Thank you, brothers. We appreciate your efforts.

Little Gillian Rocke (Bro. Kevin

and Sis. Janine) was hospitalized to get her tonsils out. She is home and doing well.

Recently, it was said over the pulpit that a profession of faith is not a one time thing, but is a life-long process. I have also heard it said that faith is not so much a feeling as a choice that we make. Sometimes in the everyday world, it is hard to feel full of faith, sometimes hard to feel full of joy and sometimes hard to feel close to God. It would be nice to always be on a "mountain top" or on a "spiritual high", but that is not how life is. But sometimes we simply have to stop and make the choice to believe God at His Word, to trust Him because of who He is, and to be content in where we are at that moment. When we can do this, God will provide the blessing of a peaceful heart.

It is also important at the point that we are weary, or tired of the mundane, or feeling a bit sad, to stop looking so much inside ourselves, and look at others and concentrate on their needs. Looking at how we can serve someone else's needs is often the best way to get out of the doldrums that Satan likes to catch us in. God provides the blessings when we give of ourselves. Have you done something for your brother lately?

God is faithful. Let us choose to believe this, even when we don't feel like it.

"...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

*Philippians 4:11*

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

*Philippians 4:19*

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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Jaci Gerber - Brenda Bertsch**

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

*Psalms 29:11*

A blessed weekend was shared as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Annette Nestle and Brian Clark. May God grant them the grace needed to be true and faithful till life's end.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven over souls that have surrendered in repentance. They are Matt and Julie Leman, J.D. Stoller (Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan), Matt Yergler (Bro. Kim and Sis. Sue) and Annie Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee).

We were happy to welcome several new babies into our church this month. Bro. John and Sis. Trudy Eisenmann, along with Danielle and Alyssa, welcomed Erika Nicole into their family on October 25. Grandparents are Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena Steffen and Arlen and Jeanne Gerber.

A daughter, Madison Leigh, was born November 11 to Bro. Brent and Sis. Rochelle Tonner. She joins Brittney, Brendon and Kaitlin at home. Grandparents are Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Diane Tonner.

Dian Tyler was born October 26 to Bro. Tony and Sis. Amber Gerber. Dian's grandparents are Bro. Arlin and Sis. Roxanne Heyerly and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Gerber.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber have three new grandsons: Braden Kent, Jakob Michael and Marcus Ralph were born on November 10. The happy parents are Kip and Jill Gerber.

We were blessed with numerous visiting ministers who let God direct them in speaking the Living Word. We thank Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bros.



Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

We rejoiced with our loved ones as two became one. Bro. Tom Rohr and Sis. Rose Steffen (Sis. Marie) were united in marriage on October 29. We also wish God's blessings on Sis. Lucille Kaehr and Bro. Leonard Grandlinard as they were joined as husband and wife on November 15.

Sis. Adrienne Maggart (Bro. John and Sis. Becky) and Bro. Ked Moser (Bro. Butch and Sis. Pat, Bluffton North, IN) have announced their engagement. We pray God will draw them closer to Him and to each other as they plan their life together.

On November 2, Sis. Mary Gerber went to be with the Lord. She is missed by her husband, Bro. Sylvan, and children, Bro. Jerry, Sis. Betty and Mrs. Marvin (Sis. Della) Steffen.

We have been praying the Lord will grant each one hospitalized this month an extra measure of grace. They are Cole Reinhard (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Marci), Chris Steffen (Bro. Bill and Sis. Donna), Sis. Janon Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Susie) and Bro. Russell Steffen (Sis. Alice).

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

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

*Isaiah 9:6*

We are again thankful for our visiting ministers that shared the gospel message with us this

month. They were Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN). May the Lord richly bless them and their families for being with us.

We rejoice with Micah Rauch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) as he has made the decision to turn his heart to the Lord. We pray that the Lord will guide him as he begins a new walk with Him.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"

*Isaiah 55:6*

We shared an uplifting weekend on October 21 and 22, as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of five dear souls. We welcome into the fold, Kyann Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki), Rebekah Mounsey (Bro. Rod and Sis. Rosemary), Leslie Stoller and Tom and Lorie Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy). We trust that God will continue to guide these souls along the road of life and provide for them each day.

On October 22, the engagement of Bro. Ked Moser (Bro. Butch and Sis. Pat) was announced to Sis. Adrienne Maggart (Bro. John and Sis. Becky). Also, on October 29, we were happy to hear the engagement of Bro. Obed Gerber to Sis. Henrietta (Manz) Gerber (Junction, OH). May the Lord richly bless these couples in the days to come.

Bro. Tony and Sis. Amber Gerber are first-time parents of a son, Dain Tyler, born on October 26. He is welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Gerber and Bro. Arlin and Sis. Roxanne Heyerly.

Sis. Dula Gilliom has been hospitalized this month. May we be prayerful for her.

As we celebrate the Christmas

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

In answer to the question, "How can I help my brother?" Help us always to uplift instead of tear down; encourage rather than discourage; say positive things versus negative things. Those of us who pray together will stay together.

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#### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lily Pelsy

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

*John 13:34-35*

How many times have we heard in a testimony how a convert appreciated the love of the church? May we be diligent to show our precious converts God's love and encourage them to build on the Solid Rock. As God has given us Jesus, the greatest gift of all, may our hearts, as well as our lives, show that we are thankful.

We are grateful for the ministers that served us this month. Thanks to Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

We have three dear ones that have spent a brief time in the hospital. They were Bro. Leon Wuethrich (Sis. Mabel), Josiah Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), and Bro. Bob Clauss (Sis. Mildred). Jim Albrecht is home now after receiving a heart transplant. We thank God for answered prayer.

We rejoice with Sis. Mary B. Gutwein and Bro. Art Gramm

(Leo, IN) as their engagement was announced. May God be glorified in their lives.

November 15 was our Thanksgiving program. Many songs of thanks and praise, and a few poems, were enjoyed by everyone.

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### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Lauretta Schafer**

**Sandy Lichtle**

We rejoice that Cindy Cox (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuenschwander, Bluffton, IN) and Chad Getz (Ron and Sis. Jean, Remington, IN) have answered the Lord's call and have made a new beginning in their lives through repentance. We wish them God's grace and wisdom as they strive to seek His will and serve Him daily in their new walk.

On October 18, Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) presented a topical Bible Study on "Raising families in a Christian home." Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We extend our thanks to them for their labors of love in our behalf.

We had the blessed opportunity to host our semi-annual "Outreach Weekend" on October 28 and 29. Seventy young brothers and sisters participated in serving others in our community by singing and visiting at a nursing home, sharing God's Word with families and doing chores in their homes and visiting young men at the Plainfield Boy's School. We appreciate and thank everyone who helped make this a joyous weekend.

Austin Tyler was born to Seth Wuethrich and Jaime Clark on October 17. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich and Kevin and Teresa Clark. We wish them God's blessings and guid-

ance as they raise their son.

As we remember Christ's birth during this holiday season, let us not forget the price He paid at Calvary for our sins.

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### INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Judy Gudeman**

Two couples have recently celebrated special anniversaries. Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold were honored with a reception hosted by their children for their 25th anniversary. Bro. Edward and Sis. Lea Frank were honored with a card shower, and wished to extend, "A special thank you for all the lovely cards, notes, and gifts we received for our 50th anniversary on October 28. It was a pleasant surprise and we enjoyed it very much!"

We extend a warm welcome to Keith and Ruth Elcock, along with their children, Shaya, Ryan, Ashley, and Emily. We are glad to have them assembling in LaCrosse and hope that we can be a blessing to each other.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

*Isaiah 53:6*

Although the Heavenly Father was deeply grieved by the sin that entered the world, He loved us so much that He sent His only Son, that we, by adoption, may become His children (see Galatians 4:1-8).

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Fa-

ther, The Prince of Peace."

*Isaiah 9:2,6*

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert."

*Isaiah 35:5-6*

We are reminded of God's promise by many tokens, such as the rainbow, but probably none as notable as Christmastime.

May God bless each of you this year at Christmas and throughout the coming New Year!

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### INDIANA, LEO

**Ethelyn Schlatter**

We appreciate the many visitors that come to worship with us. The weekend of October 28 and 29, Leo hosted young people from Francesville, IN, Elgin and Tremont, IL.

This month we welcomed visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), and Bros. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), their wives and others that came with them. They all have some family ties here.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

*Galatians 2:20*

On Saturday evening, November 4, the congregation gathered together for Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and Bro. John Stoller served us. We rejoiced as expressed in Zion's Harp

Hymn #184, "Behold The Lamb of God".

O, slaughtered Lamb, by whom  
the seal was broken,  
That gave me comfort and eternal  
cheer!  
My faith sends up to yonder Zion's  
mountain,  
A look of longing to Thee, Lamb so  
dear!  
Thou art, O Lamb, now raised on  
high,  
What wonder that my thoughts  
would ever to Thee fly!

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz came to conduct a topical Bible study on "Self Worth". "True self worth is looking at ourselves through God's eyes, not the world's eyes." He based his thoughts on I Timothy 2:4 and John 8:32,36.

We also appreciate the encouraging and challenging messages from our own ministers.

Our congratulations to Bro. Art Gramm and Sis. Mary Bertha (Wuethrich) Gutwein (Francerville, IN) who announced their engagement. We pray the Lord's blessings on their marriage.

Louis and Sis. Ruth Garman hosted the older folks of our congregation in their home to celebrate Sis. Maudie Grueter's 89th birthday. Sis. Ruth made a poster displaying how her mother spends her days, sorting, repairing and packing clothing in boxes for the World Relief Center in Bluffton, IN.

In the correspondent update, the question was asked, "How can I help my brother?" I contemplated this question and had various thoughts as I read Hebrews 13:1-3, "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers...Remember them that are in bonds...and them which suffer adversity..." Then this morning, I read in my devotional "Morning Glory" by Norm and

Wilber Nelson. I'll share with you what Norm wrote. "Grace: The gift we share" Matthew 10:8 "...freely ye have received, freely give."

"God's people are called to facilitate God's grace! Christ said, 'Freely you have received; freely give.' Grace is to be our offering, one to another, in all times, places and circumstances. Our joy is to unclog the channels of grace by removing our gossip, jealousy, censoring and retribution, and let the healing stream of God's grace flow through us to those who need it. Let's do it!" These were not my thoughts, but they certainly are my feelings. It covers it all, doesn't it?

The Lord's blessings be with all at this blessed time of celebrating our Saviour's birth and holiness.

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## INDIANA, MILFORD

### Judy Longcor Marguerite Hoerr

Sis. Esther Getz has undergone surgery this past month. She's making satisfactory progress and is back home in her apartment at Greencroft. Her brother, Lester, from Florida came to be with her during the surgery and for several days following. We're thankful for her recovery.

Sis. Edith Baumgartner's sister, Helen Funk, is hospitalized at this time. She fell and broke her hip. Sis. Edith and Helen have spent a great deal of time together over the years and we think of them at this time and ask for God's presence to be felt in both of their lives.

Katy Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) has been spending two weeks at a headache clinic near Ann Arbor, MI. Her parents and relatives have taken turns being with her during this time. Our prayer is that Katy will find relief for the severe headaches she has had.

Bro. Theo Beer was treated at the hospital emergency room on a Sunday morning recently. He was diagnosed with pneumonia in one lung but was released and is recuperating at home. We're pleased to report he is making progress and feeling better again.

We think of Sis. Marie Reutter who has also been confined to her home for a longer length of time. In a telephone conversation with her this week, she expressed her concern for people in our congregation and town who are ill. It's truly a lesson in faith to visit with our older members and to witness the close relationship they have reached personally with their God and Father.

A dear sister in our congregation, Melba Hunsberger, calls regularly for reports on people who are ill, or who are having problems. Her prayer concerns are offered to God for each one and she faithfully and methodically follows their progress throughout illnesses and problems. Sis. Melba herself has been homebound quite often in the past year. She vividly proves to me that Christians can be active participants and contributors in a church family no matter if they're able to attend services or not.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Mary Gerber and Tillie Kasbaum on the death of their brother, Al Graff (Fort Wayne), this past month. Also, our sympathy goes out to Sis. Pam Lehman on the death of her Grandma Evans (Warsaw).

Our church home is in the middle of a construction and remodeling program at the present time. Bros. Phil Price and Dick Steffen and their sons are installing an elevator, and handicapped restroom, plus relocating the men's restroom. Remodeling can't be done without creating dust, etc, so each Saturday volun-

teers go to the church to help with the clean up for Sunday worship. Our Wednesday evening services will be held in the fellowship hall throughout this project.

A group of members and friends from our congregation will be driving to Bluffton this evening to help with the food packaging for World Relief projects. During our Wednesday evening services last night, our ministers gave many interesting reports from the last Elders' meeting concerning World Relief focus. In a land of plenty, it seems we must be constantly reminded to focus our attention on the great need which exists in so many countries around the world. "For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy..." (Deut. 15:11).

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### INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth."

*John 1:1, 14*

The next five weeks there will be many preparations for family gatherings for the Christmas holidays. It is so good if we reflect on Jesus' birth and the reason He was made flesh and dwelt among us. May our celebrations be of thankfulness to God and Jesus.

I apologize to Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) who visited us in October. I think I missed reporting that. Your visit was appreciated.

The weekend of October 21 and 22 we heard the testimonies of

Judy Waibel (Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue) and Dan Getz (Ron and Sis. Jean). Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler. On Sunday, they were baptized and received as our sister and brother in faith.

Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) were here to assist Elder Bro. Alfred in the reading of the Memorandum on Saturday evening, October 28. I think of how parents have great concerns for their children and liken this to our Elders' concerns for their flocks. We truly are living in perilous times, so let us "pray without ceasing."

It was announced in church that our young members plan to give a day of "babysitting" on December 2 from 9:00 to 5:00 to give young couples a chance to go shopping. They will feed the children and give them all the necessary care. A nice gesture on their part.

Sis. Anna (Schini) Schneider passed away on Monday, November 6, after a lengthy illness. She had been living with her daughter, Kathy Jordan (West Lafayette), for five years. Besides Kathy, she leaves two sons, Joe of Remington and Scott of Goodland. Also, one brother, Bro. Albert, and three sisters, Sis. Emilie Anliker of Francesville, Sis. Eldora Bonges of Loda, IL and Alma Bahler of Remington; also, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In closing, I wish all a healthy winter and God's blessings on Christmas.

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### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

#### Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

Sis. Emma Lou Gerber was hospitalized for a short time, and she is now recuperating at the Miller's Merry Manor in Wakarusa, IN. Our prayers with the Lord's blessings remain with her.

An evening of warm fellowship was enjoyed at the home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe on a recent Saturday evening. It was a joy to be with loved ones from "far and near" and our gratitude goes out to each and every one who was a part of the occasion.

We enjoyed the visit of Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and his family on October 22 and we appreciate the Word that was shared with our congregation.

"Thankfulness" was the theme of our traditional fall program of song and verse observed on Sunday, October 29. We thank the Sunday School teachers and children for their preparation and special efforts.

Funeral services for our dear Bro. Elias "Eli" Schumacher were conducted on Saturday, November 4. Our condolences are extended to his wife, Sis. Mae; his two daughters, Betty Miller (Perrinton, MI) and Carolyn Sutter (Bremen, IN); a sister, Sis. Dorothy Bittner (Eureka, IL); seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Services were by Bros. Bob Beebe and Wayne Lehman, Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN).

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### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Ken and Cindy Susdorf

Greetings dear ones. We hope this writing finds you all faring well and diligently serving the Lord.

It's been a blessed month here at Valparaiso. We had our annual harvest supper and program. Thanks to all who came and shared the day with us, and to all who took part or helped in any way. The brothers once again served a delicious meal.

The next weekend we had our church potluck on Sunday eve-

ning. We had an excellent turnout and afterwards had a singing. Our farewell song that night was also for Sis. Chris Lester (Bro. Ed and Sis. Caroline) who has moved to Bluffton where she is employed at a clinic. We all expressed how we would miss her and that the Lord will bless this move.

Our prayers are with Sheryl Heinold as her dear mother, Sis. Lucy McNames, has passed on. Our sympathy also to Sheryl's children: Mike and Sis. Beth Heinold, Bro. Rob and Sis. Angie Baum (North Ft. Myers, FL), Mr. and Mrs. Todd Heinold (Pennsylvania) and Adriann Heinold.

Visiting ministers for the month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. James Herrer (Peoria, IL). Thank you for your labors of love and the Lord continue to bless all His ministers.

Also, an apology to Bro. Ronald Palitto, ministering brother at the Akron, OH church, as we erroneously used the wrong name for the month of October. We do thank you for your labors and when you come back, we will try to get it right the next time.

Since this is the last writing before Christmas arrives, we would like to take this time to wish you all the Lord's blessings on this celebration of Jesus Christ's birth. May we all remember the real reason for this time of year throughout our lives. "Happy Birthday, Jesus" just doesn't seem enough for one who has done so much for us, does it? Fare thee well.

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#### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Jody Bahler - Sheri Bahler**

On September 15 we combined our third Sunday of the month singing with a slide presentation on the works that are being done by the World Relief Committee. May we never become selfish with the earthly possessions that God

has blessed us with.

We are thankful to Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) who were with us on Sunday, November 5, to assist Elder Bro. Alfred in the reading of the Conference report. The Elder brethren have been so diligent in bringing forth exhortations that are vital to our spiritual walk of life. May we take heed to the warnings that they, through much prayer and meditation, feel are so important to us.

We continue to pray for those who suffer with bodily afflictions. Sis. Edna Kyburz (the late Bro. Leroy) and Sis. Emma Furrer (the late Bro. William) have both been hospitalized this past month. They are both now on the road to recovery, but still need our prayers.

"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or Where-withal shall we be clothed?...But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

*Matthew 6:31, 33*

With the Christmas season well upon us, it is easy to get caught up with all the hubbub that is going on around us. Let it be a challenge this year to forget about making out our own Christmas lists, but rather, take our hearts back to the real meaning of the season and seek out God's righteousness in it all.

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#### IOWA, AMES

**Tricia Metzger  
Nicole Dahlhauser  
Kay Kellenberger**

Thanksgiving break has finally arrived, and all of us here at Iowa State are looking forward to the much needed break from classes. As we look back over the semester,

we have much to thank God for. The trials and tests of college life surround us, but God's mercy and the many supporting prayers help us to overcome each day.

We extend our appreciation to Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) for faithfully bringing forth the Word on October 22. May God richly bless his efforts.

We would like to extend a warm thank-you to the Kansas State single group for inviting us on November 4 and 5. We thank God for His traveling mercies. The weekend was very uplifting.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Bros. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Wayne Grimm and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) for their service to the Lord and us on November 12. Hearing God's Word renews our faith and strength.

We have much to rejoice for, as another soul has turned his life to God. May Eric Strausheim feel the support and many prayers as he begins his new walk with God.

Amidst the joy, our hearts are saddened as dear Sis. Tricia Metzger (Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo, Oakville, IA) has completed her schooling here in Ames. We will truly miss her. Best wishes as God takes her down another path in life.

The welcome again goes out to all. Our hearts and homes are always open.

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#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Monica Eisenmann  
Lorna Knapp**

Since our last writing, Sis. Katie Schumacher, Bro. Marvin Woodward (Sis. Verna), Bro. Blaine Applegarth (Sis. Margaret), and Bro. Ken Scheitlin (Sis. Charity) have all spent time in the hospital. As we have loved ones who are facing trials, are we also maybe being put to the test? We are commanded in

Galatians 6:2 to "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ", and in verse 10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Satan would have us keep too busy with our own lives, but let's take time to let our brothers and sisters know that we love them and are praying for them — maybe just a card or a lingering handshake with an encouraging word. We never know when God will want to use us to help lift someone else up who is stumbling under their load; we need to make sure we are available. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." (Prov. 25:11)

We have been blessed with many encouraging words through our home ministers as well as several visitors. Faithfully serving us have been Elder Bro. Ed Lanz, Bro. John Steiner and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), as well as Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Bro. Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO). May God bless them for their willing service.

As we look forward to the holidays, may we keep Christ in Christmas. With thankful hearts, let us rejoice and praise our Heavenly Father for the gift of all time - His Son and a hope of salvation.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

*II Corinthians 9:15*

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

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

*Luke 2:7*

Have YOU any room for Jesus?  
He who bore your load of sin:  
As he knocks and asks admission,  
Sinner, will YOU let him in?

Room for pleasure, room for  
business,  
But for Christ the crucified;  
Not a place that he can enter  
In the heart for which he died.

Have YOU any room for Jesus?  
As in grace he calls again  
O today is time accepted  
Tomorrow YOU may call in vain.

We rejoice with Sis. Leona Schmidt (Gene and Sis. Ella Mae, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Scott Fehr (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenagene Fehr, West Bend, IA) who believe God has led their lives together. Our prayers are with them as they plan their December 10th wedding and begin their life together as one in the Lord.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Bert Butikofer (Sis. Beulah) who is having open heart surgery today. May God's presence be felt as He provides in every need.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). May God richly bless each one for serving us the nourishment we need so much from God's Holy Word.

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Laura Funk**

Visiting ministers this month include Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). A special thank you to these dear brothers and their wives as they come so willingly to share the Lord's Word with us.

As we approach the season when we celebrate Jesus' birth, we look forward to hearing the Sun-

day School children recite in verse and song.

May each and every one have a Blessed Holiday Season and coming year.

*Far, Far Away on Judea's Plains*  
Far, far away on Judea's plains,  
Shepherd of old heard the joyous strains.

Sweet are these strains of  
redeeming love,  
Message of mercy from heaven  
above.

Lord, with the angels we too  
would rejoice,  
Help us to sing with the heart and  
voice.

Hasten the time when, from every  
clime

Men shall unite in the strains  
sublime.

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

Greetings to all! We thank our visitors this month, including Elder Bro Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), and ministering Bros. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). Both the Sunday School and the Single Group have enjoyed hosting company this month. We appreciate all who made the effort to travel here and all local members and friends who helped with the two occasions.

We also thank those who combined a visit with the transportation of health kit supplies and finished kits to distribution centers for us. While we all enjoy the assembling of prenatal and health kits on a monthly basis, often the acquisition of supplies and delivery of completed kits to out of state centers falls on a few with already busy schedules (not that they complain!).

Our congregation was deeply saddened to hear the news of the accident claiming the life of Rick

Banwart, who attended school in our area. Our sympathy is extended to his parents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene, and family in West Bend, as well as the many others who knew and loved him.

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

We'll catch the broken thread  
again,  
And finish what we here began;  
Heav'n will the mysteries explain,  
And then, ah, then, we'll  
understand.

We'll know why clouds instead of  
sun  
Were over many a cherished plan;  
Why song has ceased when scarce  
begun;  
'Tis there, sometime, we'll  
understand.

Why what we long for most of all,  
Eludes so oft our eager hand;  
Why hopes are crushed and castles  
fall,  
Up there, sometime, we'll  
understand.

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

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

## IOWA, LESTER

### Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

On October 22, a family farewell was held for Kouri Wysong who is taking Army basic training in Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. After completing basic training, he will be going to Ft. Huachuca, AZ. May God go with him.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Chalea Knobloch (Bro. Vernon) in the death of her grandmother, Rolena Van Beek.

On November 7, Ryan and Jodi Heyer were blessed with a precious baby boy, Kaleb Arthur. Kaleb has a big brother, Kyle. Loving grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer.

November 16 was the day little Lorna Jean was born to Bro. Robert and Sis. Shirley DeSmet. Lorna spent a few days in the hospital, but thankfully is now home and gladly welcomed by siblings, Kristin, Stacey, Chad, Grant, and Shannon. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch. We pray that God will grant all parents the wisdom to guide these little souls in the ways of truth.

We apologize for neglecting to mention the July wedding of Clint Metzger (Bro. James and Sis. Lois) to April Boom. We miss Clint and April, who are now residing in Dayton, OH. Their address is:  
2906 Knoll Ridge Rd.

Apt. A

Dayton, OH 45449

We are thankful that our surgical patients are all home and on the road to recovery. Hospital patients include Lou Moser (Tina), Sis. Zelma Knobloch, Bro. Don Metzger (Sis. Mary Jane), Bro. Art Knobloch (Sis. Elgeva), and Jeff Metzger (Keith and Mary). Our prayers are also with Bro. Edward Roemen (Sis. Amelia) who has been doctoring.

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IOWA, OAKVILLE

## Melody Steiner

### Debbie Wagenbach

Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and his family recently spent a Wednesday evening with our Oakville congregation. May God bless Bro. Doug for lending himself in the Lord's service.

Recently in Sunday School we talked about the children of Israel in the wilderness and how God provided manna for them each day. There was new manna provided every morning. Isn't that how God provides His grace to us? We can't store it up for future use, but must every day thank Him for the day before and ask again for another supply to sustain us throughout the new day.

### *A Prayer For Today*

This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good but what I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain and not loss; good, and not evil; success, and not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price that I have paid for it.

—by Dr. Heartsill Wilson

### *Note of Thanks:*

My heartfelt thanks to all who so kindly remembered me since my surgeries. The prayers, visits, cards, flowers, and food were much appreciated. May God bless you.

Sis. Hilda Gerst

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## IOWA, WEST BEND

### Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

The weekend of October 21 and 22 was beautiful as we witnessed the testimonies of two dear souls, Bro. Marc and Sis. Jami Banwart (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey Mess-

ner). Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) was here to help Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm. We welcome Bro. Marc and Sis. Jami into the fold.

Not now, but in the coming years,  
It may be in a better land,  
We'll read the meaning of our  
tears,  
And there, sometime, we'll  
understand.  
Then trust in God thro' all the  
days;  
Fear not, for He doth hold thy  
hand,  
Tho' dark thy way, still sing and  
praise,  
Some time, some time, we'll  
understand.

We'll know why clouds instead of  
sun  
Were over many a cherished plan;  
Why song has ceased when scarce  
begun;  
'Tis there, sometime we'll  
understand.  
Then trust in God thro' all the  
days;  
Fear not, for He doth hold thy  
hand,  
Tho' dark thy way, still sing and  
praise,  
Some time, some time, we'll  
understand.  
*Hymns of Zion #165*

We were so vividly reminded on that same Sunday evening how we never know what God has in His plans nor do we understand as He called Home Rick Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene). Our hearts ache and many tears have been shed, as Rick was killed in a tragic car accident on his way back to college. Our prayers are for Bro. Ken, Sis. Marlene, along with Kendra, LaRae, Twila, Wes and Trent as they try, and only with God's help, to take one day at a time to continue on. May they feel God's comforting hand in the many

lonely times ahead. Rick's friendly nature will be missed by many relatives and friends who came to share with the family in their sorrow. Among the visitors, Bro. Larry Wenniger (Latty, OH) offered a prayer at the church after the graveside service.

Bro. Gene Bruellman (Sis. Evie) was a hospital patient recently. We are thankful he is home and much improved, and able to be among us again. May God continue to be with him.

Amber Dawn is happy to have a new little sister, Ashley Ranae, born October 30 to Bro. Frank and Sis. Dawn Schmidt. Grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt, Dave and Marilyn Fehr, and John and Pam Kragt.

Congratulations and best wishes also go out to David and Angie Banwart (Germany) on the birth of their second son, Nicholas Joel. Happy grandparents are Benjy and Betty Banwart. Big brother is two-year-old Joseph Daniel. May God direct these families in rearing and caring for these precious little ones.

We are sorry we overlooked to put in last month the wedding of Colette Fehr and Jason Snook which took place September 23. Parents of this couple are Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr and Vance and Sis. Liz Snook (Silverton, OR). We wish Jason and Colette God's blessings as they begin their life together.

We rejoice with Bro. Scott Fehr (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenagene) and Sis. Leona Schmidt of Elgin, IA (Gene and Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt, Winthrop, MN), as they have made known their engagement. God has led them in this important step and we pray that He will continue to be with them and guide them as they make plans for a December wedding.

The weekend of November 4 and 5, we again traveled with our

Bible Class children to the Elgin, IA congregation. The children and teachers alike all enjoyed a blessed weekend, and we want to thank Elgin for all the effort you put forth. These friendships and precious memories that are made is just a foretaste of the bliss and happiness that awaits us on that Heavenly shore.

As Christmas draws near, may our thoughts be drawn even closer to God's plan of salvation. May we be ever so thankful that He sent His dear Son as a Babe to live here as an example to mankind, and especially to be our Saviour.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Our hearts have been deeply touched by the outpouring of love by brethren and friends across the land, since Rick's death. Whether a call, prayer, gift or in thought, each has helped in some way lighten our burden. May each one be blessed for what they have done. It will be remembered and cherished for a long time. We truly feel blessed to be a part of our precious faith and fellowship.

*The family of Rick Banwart*

#### **JAPAN, TOKYO**

##### **Andrew and Jana Klaus**

Greetings of Christian love to all of you, and a special blessing to each in this time of rejoicing in our Saviour's birth. May each of you feel His nearness and His love that He extends to all of us.

We were especially blessed on October 29 when four Elder brothers could spend the weekend with us and minister to us on their way over to India. We thank Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and John Lehman (Bern, KS), and two wives, Sis. Lois Klotzle and Sis. Shirley Braker, for their exhortations, love, and fellowship that



they brought to us. Several brothers and sisters from the country church came and joined us in the afternoon to partake of Holy Communion. It is highly doubtful that anyone will forget the beauty of that day, and surely each was encouraged in his faith.

On November 5, our two converts, Teruo Sanada and Ayako Inoue, were announced for baptism which is scheduled for December 3. We are all looking forward to that weekend with great anticipation and joy.

We have also had additional visitors recently, which is always a special joy. Business brought Bro. Randy Knapp (Chicago, IL) to the Tokyo area, and he was able to worship with us. Also, Marie Koch (Tremont, IL) has come to Tokyo to study at a university for three months and we welcome her into our midst.

May the peace of our Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all.

Note: We have moved recently and our new address is:

*Andrew and Jana Klaus  
550-2 Harajuku-cho  
Totsuka-ku, Yokohama 245  
Japan*

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

Bro. Rueben and Sis. Stella Moser recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. God's continued blessings to this dear couple.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Joe Rokey (Sis. Lila) and Bro. Roy Rokey (Sis. Lucy) and their families on the death of their brother, Bro. Ervan Rokey (Roanoke, IL).

We were once again blessed with a visiting minister and we thank Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) for the message he brought us.

Hospitalized was Emily Strahm

(Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen) for medical. Sis. Sharon Grimm (Bro. Gordon) underwent tests at Mayos. May God grant them His love and healing.

We have begun Wednesday evening services assembling with the Sabetha congregation, alternating every other week at Bern and Sabetha churches.

Elder Bro. John Lehman recently returned home from a trip to India to visit the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India. Bro. John is especially grateful for the thoughts and prayers that accompanied the committee brothers in their travels.

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

*Luke 2:11*

May this Christmas season fill our lives with peace, joy and thankful hearts as we remember the birth of our Saviour. How quickly another year has passed and left its trail of joys, blessings, sorrows, disappointments and trials. May our faith be increased as we remember that our Lord has always been with us. May this give us courage to face another year.

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**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**  
**Joleen Sinn**

We are rejoicing with our new convert. Tim Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie) has answered God's call and is now living for Him.

Our prayers are with those who have lost loved ones this month. Sis. Ida Sinn has lost her brother, Mike Sinn; Carol Sinn has lost her sister, Marian Schumacher, Peoria, IL; and Bro. Jim Bahr has lost his brother, Bro. Arnold Bahr (Sabetha).

God was watching over our dear friend, Doug Sinn (Bro. John and

Sis. Carol) as he had a motorcycle accident. We are thankful that all is going well for Doug.

Justin Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta) had outpatient surgery this month. Once again, God shows His love and Justin is doing fine.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Maria Bahr had a cookout for the Sunday School. It was a wonderful evening, just cold enough to make singing around the campfire exceptionally enjoyable.

As Christmas comes and many of us travel to be with family, let us remember that journey of long ago. Where we go in comfort, Mary and Joseph walked and rode a donkey. We end our journey with joyful reunion of family—they ended their's in a stable. But God was with them in that stable; they went where He guided, without complaint, knowing it was the will of God. Let us not forget to ask God, not only to go with us, but to lead us; not only for safety on the highways, but for His guidance every day, and especially at this Christmas season, let us kneel to worship Him as did the shepherds and wise men of old.

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**KANSAS, KIOWA**  
**Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr**

"O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord."

*Hymns of Zion #40, Refrain*

What a glorious season this is as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour! Emmanuel—God with us; God sent His Son to earth as a baby to fulfill His beautiful plan of salvation.

Beyond the sunset, O blissful morning,  
When with our Saviour heav'n is begun.  
Earth's toiling ended, O glorious

dawning;  
Beyond the sunset, when day is  
done.

*Hymns of Zion #172*

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Sis. Betsy Diel. We trust and have faith that she is safe in the arms of Jesus after her long bout with cancer.

Our prayers have once again been answered as we listened to the Conference tapes. The message was so uplifting and encouraging compared to the messages the world is sending out today. Let's pray for diligence in our journey to that precious homeland.

May the Lord bless Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and his family for spending time with our congregation and being a vessel of God's Word. We always appreciate their presence and fellowship.

Our prayers were with Sis. Edna Reed as she spent time in the hospital this month. We are thankful that the Lord strengthened her so that she was able to return home once again.

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

We cannot appreciate enough the great love of God; however, we can demonstrate that love by doing our small part in helping out our dear brethren who oversee our World Relief Projects. Ministering Bro. Doug Grimm (Sis. Jeral, Sabetha, KS) was here to share the slides of the labors that have been produced here and abroad. We appreciated so much the insight Bro. Doug had to share with us. May we be ever mindful of the physical and spiritual needs of others all across the land. Especially now, as the holiday seasons are upon us; we have such a privilege to be able to gather with our family and loved ones. We ask for God's mercy and

protection upon us all.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the dear family of Bro. Arnold Bahr who passed away on November 12. Bro. Arnold lived in Gridley and attended church there until he and his wife, Sis. Helen, moved to an apartment at the Sabetha Home. A brother, Bro. Roy Bahr (Sis. Doris), still attends church here. Our sincere sympathy is expressed to him and his family also. Our thanks to visiting Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Loren Strahm (Sabetha, KS) for being with us.

We especially pray for God's nearness to our dear sisters who were hospitalized this past month: Sis. Doris Bahr (Bro. Roy) as a medical patient, and Sis. Jill Luthi (Bro. Lloyd and Joann) as a surgical patient. To feel the warmth, the power and presence of God — it is important that we "move over" and move closer to Him! May you both feel the warmth of His Holy Spirit!

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

Bundles of joy have given much reason to rejoice in two family circles.

On October 25, Rachel Dawn Edelman was welcomed by her parents, Bro. Darin and Sis. Karen; and grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter and Sis. Marjorie Edelman; and great-grandparents, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter.

Emily Jean Meeks was born on November 10 to Jerry and Christy Meeks. Their daughter, Lydia; grandparents, Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer; and great-grandmother, Sis. Clara Steiner, are happy with the new addition.

We appreciated all our visitors this month and especially wish to thank Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Eugene Marti

(Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA).

Bro. Arnold Bahr went to his eternal rest on November 12. We extend sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Helen. They moved to Sabetha from Gridley in March, 1994.

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

Onward strive to reach the goal...As we once again embark on a new year, may we continue to look to God from which comes all our help.

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### **KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY** **Derek Funk**

"Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,"

*Romans 1:29-30*

We find so much of this in the world today. At times, we ourselves can be full of envy, backbiters, whisperers and proud. When overcome by all this, there is a verse we can remember to help us.

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

*Ephesians 4:32*

The semester has rapidly gone by. It has been a very enjoyable semester. We would like to thank the Iowa State group for coming and fellowshiping with us. We

have been blessed with many ministering brothers coming to share the Word with us: Bros. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Gary Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Glen Funk and Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS). Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) were with us for Bible studies. We thank these brothers and their families for coming to worship with us. We would like to thank everyone else who has made the effort to be with us. Your presence is greatly appreciated and we pray God will bless you for your efforts.

This semester, we have four loved ones who will be departing from us. Bro. Ken Beyer (Sabetha), Bro. Patrick Funk (Wichita) and Bro. Chris Hartter and his wife, Sis. Jill (Bern). We pray that God will be with you in your future endeavors and that you will be successful wherever He leads you. We have enjoyed your presence here and thank you for the example you have set for us.

Christmas break is looming large. We look forward to rejoining our families for a wonderful and relaxing break. We will also look forward to reuniting for a successful spring semester.

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### **KANSAS, WICHITA**

#### **Emma Miller**

Our fall Bible Study has centered on a study of Isaac and Jacob. Just as their father, Abraham, received the divine promise of a land, a nation, and a blessing, so did this son and grandson. As we read and meditate on their lives, we are provided valuable insight whereby we may know the basic realities of life and how to reach toward our own heavenly calling.

Another grandmother in our

congregation has been blessed! Sis. Gussie Wullschleger has a new grandson, Phillip, born to Kermit and Jeanette Wullschleger in Visalia, CA and a new granddaughter, Amanda Marie, born to Bruce and Wanda Wullschleger, also in California.

Tragedy has struck in the Bowers family again. Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian's oldest son, Jim, was critically injured in a one car accident on November 11. As of this writing, he is still in need of much prayer and his condition is guarded. May the Lord be merciful to him, his wife, Marsha, and the three children.

As the Christmas season approaches and we express messages of good will to one another, may we all remember that the spirit of Christ is peace.

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### **KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**

#### **Doug and Rebecca Germann**

Greetings from Lexington. Our sincere thanks to our visitors who have spent time with us here in Lexington! This past month we have had visitors from Junction and Smithville, OH and Eureka and Roanoke, IL. We also want to express our appreciation to Bro. Gary Maibach and his wife, Sis. Mary Ann, from Smithville who came as a visiting minister this month. We enjoyed a potluck dinner at church that weekend followed by a singing.

As reported in the last issue of the Silver Lining, we have sold our building on Locust Avenue. Our temporary meeting place will be the Comfort Inn off of I-75 and Rt. 60, until we are able to locate or build a place in the country.

The exact location is The Comfort Inn of Lexington, 2381 Buena Vista Dr. Services will be held on Sundays at regular times with morning services at 10:00 and afternoon services at 12:15. Wednes-

day evening services will be at 7:00 EST at the same location. We invite all to join us for worship. Should you have a question, please feel free to call any of the following: Bro. Lester Huber (606) 745-2541, Bro. Jan Neukomm (606) 273-8574 or Bro. Doug Germann (606) 224-8710.

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### **MICHIGAN, ALTO**

#### **Jane Grawburg**

We had a very blessed weekend when Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman came from Francesville, IN for the reading of the Memorandum. We learned that in today's world, we need to really slow down and as Elder Bro. Wendell put it, "put the brakes on and be a living testimony for God." We enjoyed having them with us and especially want to thank Elder Bro. Wendell for his labors of love.

Emmalee Euzefa Mae was born to Gary and Laurie Blough on November 1. Emmalee has one brother, Noah. Her grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite Blough.

Silas Lee Blough was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Elizabeth on November 8. Silas has three brothers, Christopher, Ernie and Isaac, and one sister, Cynthia. His grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Dawson of Clarksville, MI.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier are the first of our snowbirds to migrate south this year. May God be with them while they are away and bring them safely home in the spring.

We are so thankful our Lord provided a way for our brethren to travel to India again and for the work that was accomplished there. We know they will be richly rewarded for their efforts and pray for God's blessings for them in the days ahead.

Wishing you a most blessed Holiday Season.

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**

**Marlene Mosher -  
Rhonda Knochel**

“Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.”

*Psalm 2:11*

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our Sis. Joanne Stange, but our Lord knows best. Sis. Joanne is survived by her brother, Bob Stange; an aunt, Sis. Emma Waibel; a niece and nephew and many aunts, uncles and cousins. We wish the Lord's comfort and blessing upon those who are left behind here on earth.

We wish our Lord's mercy and healing hand on two of our loved ones who have been hospitalized: Sis. Minnie Friedinger and Sis. Doris Knochel.

We rejoice with our loved one, Bob Grew, who has confessed his peace with God and man and wishes to follow his Lord's will from now to his life's end, and we wish him our Lord's guiding hand and Bob's faithfulness.

We were blessed to have with us ministering Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL). We enjoyed the words of our Lord that were brought to us through His servant, Bro. Jaye.

We were privileged to attend the meeting of the Eastern Region World Relief meeting. The reports we hear and the pictures we see make us thank our Lord for the abundance we have, but yet we cannot fully appreciate others' way of life and their deprivations of what we take for granted.

I happen to be blessed to work for a non-profit organization that tries to help those who are in need in our own community with the necessities of life. We stay within

our county and try to help those in need. If they can work, we ask them to volunteer their time to help pay for their wants and wishes and sometimes there may be an opening for a job with a small wage so they may help themselves. We work along with Social Service and the shelters of the community. It has been a very humbling experience for me and but for the grace of God there go I.

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**

**Lynette Moser  
Holly Barton**

I was reading through a magazine one day and saw a short article that listed several activities that are common around this time of year. It advised readers to evaluate the importance of each one to our own celebration of Christmas. As I read through the list, I got more and more excited, anticipating all the familiar events:

- spending time with family/friends (never seems to be long enough)

- decorating the home (oh, I enjoy getting out the nativity scene and other special decorations--although my decorating sure doesn't look like what they show in magazines)

- singing/listening to Christmas carols (I have so many Christmas tapes, I start playing them before Thanksgiving!)

- buying and wrapping the “perfect” gifts (can't wait 'til the stores stay open later)

- entertaining/attending holiday gatherings (well, no, not really high on my list)

- baking special holiday treats (ah, here my interest perks up!)

- helping out less fortunate (well, of course I donate food and money to worthy causes, but I don't personally get involved with so much to do...)

-celebrating religious beliefs/worshipping...

Wham! This last one really brought me out of my pre-holiday frenzy and immediately rearranged my priorities. I'm ashamed to admit how I let other activities define my joy and outline my agenda for the Christmas season. I think many of us are so busy and harried that all we have left to offer the Christ Child at Christmas is a manger, because our hearts have no more room. I'm so thankful that I ran across this little exercise...maybe it's not too late to put Him first.

We've had several events the past month that have helped us re-focus on the things that are truly important. On October 21, Jesse Bedolla and Heather Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) testified before the church of wanting to give up those things that the world calls important for the spiritual benefits that the Lord has called them to receive. We welcome Bro. Jesse and Sis. Heather and pray for continued closeness to God and growth in their new walk. We are thankful that Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) could be with us for that weekend.

The other significant event that enabled us to take stock of our spiritual lives was the exhortation of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), along with our Elder Bros. Mark and Ben, urged us to examine our lives and to again allow God full control if we have separated our spirituality from other aspects of our lives. As Bro. Phil mentioned again and again, Satan is organized; not only do our individual “selves” need to be united in obedience to Christ, but we as a body must also stand together in the fight against our common enemy. We are thankful to our dear brothers for caring enough to say those things that we know are not al-

ways easy for them to say nor for us to hear and do. We know that, ultimately, it is because of God's concern and desire to give us His best that we are prodded back into the way, and may we thank Him by taking heed to His direction.

Adam Richard Gleichman arrived October 26 to the delight and joy of his parents, Bro. Alan and Sis. Pam, and grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Martha Gleichman and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ignatowski. We know that babies are born with their very own temperaments, but God has also designed them to be shaped by their environments. Baby Adam already has an advantage over many others by having God-fearing parents. May they always look to God for wisdom and grace!

In this season we especially think of those who are in need of extra prayers and encouragement. Bro. Dan Knochel (Sis. Ruth) has had surgery and Linda Shaw has been in pain from a back injury. We pray for God's comforting and healing Spirit to be upon them. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Floyd and Sis. Perseda Wieland on the death of her niece, Sis. Joann Stang (Bay City, MI).

Our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach recently returned from a trip to Japan and India. We are thankful to have him back and also appreciate him telling about his experiences in India. It always amazes me that people who have so little in this life are often so thankful to the Lord. Can it be that they do not have all the distractions—such as those mentioned at the beginning of this article—that tend to obscure our own priorities? We may think how sad it would be at Christmas to not have all these things—families to gather with, plenty of food to enjoy, presents to exchange—but I wonder if those people would say about us, "How sad that Christ has to share the celebration of His

birthday with all of these other trappings!". May we all have a fuller, more meaningful Christmas!

*The Gift of God's Love*

All over the world at this season,  
expectant hands reach to  
receive

Gifts that are lavishly fashioned,  
the finest that man can  
conceive.

For, purchased and given at  
Christmas are luxuries we long  
to possess,

Given as favors and tokens to try  
in some way to express  
That strange, indefinable feeling  
which is part of this glad time  
of year

When streets are crowded with  
shoppers and the air resounds  
with good cheer.

But back of each tinsel-tied  
package exchanged at this  
gift-giving season,

Unrecognized often by many, lies  
a deeper, more meaningful  
reason.

For, born in a manger at  
Christmas as a gift from the  
Father above,

An Infant whose name was called  
Jesus brought mankind the gift  
of God's love.

And the gifts that we give have no  
purpose unless God is part of the  
giving,

And unless we make Christmas a  
pattern to be followed in  
everyday living.

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

**MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**

**Perry Virkler**

May the Lord richly bless the brothers who lend themselves in preaching God's precious Word. Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Alpai Moser (Morris, MN).

Sunday evening, October 29, many brethren and friends from the Winthrop and Minneapolis congregations met at Homeward Hills Park in Eden Prairie for a potluck supper. A blessed evening of singing and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Kendra Jill is the precious new daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand, born on November 15. She has two sisters, Tiera and Jenna, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Pauline Rocke (Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. David and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign, IL).

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

*Isaiah 7:14*

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

*Isaiah 9:6*

May this Christmas season fill our lives with peace, joy and thankful hearts as we remember the birth of our Saviour. A blessed holiday season to each of you!

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**

**Linda Schmidgall**

**Maxine Sauder**

"...behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

*Luke 2:10-11*

Behold, take note. This is a reason to be filled with joy. This is

good news for all people. Our Saviour, our Messiah, has been born!

Have you any room for this Jesus? We rejoice as Ryan Kellenberger has made room for Jesus in his life. As Ryan allows God to work in his heart, we pray that he might experience a release, a cleansing, a joy, like he has never felt before. Ryan is the son of Sis. Dianne Kellenberger.

It was refreshing to hear how God yet works miracles in the hearts of men, as we heard the testimonies of three dear souls. We embrace Bro. Don Jones, Sis. Janell Joos (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra), and Sis. Katie Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce) into the fellowship. May their faith and dependence on Him grow stronger every day.

We were very grateful to the visiting ministers who traveled to share the weekend and the Word with us. They included Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), and Wes Moser (Lester, IA). May God bless them all.

We lift Sis. Connie Koehl and Bro. Terry Timmerman up in prayer as their engagement has been announced. May they continue to seek God's direction and trust fully in Him to provide. Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon Koehl and Don and Marsha Timmerman are their parents.

Among those hospitalized this month were Sis. Margery Koehl, Kevin Knobloch (Bro. Mark and Sis. Brenda), Ruby Luthi, Bro. Chris Moser, Corey Schaefer (Bro. Stan and Sis. Bev), Bro. Otto Schaefer, Kendra Schmidgall (Bro. Rob and Sis. Katherine), Bro. Wayne Schmidgall, and Bro. Leonard Wulf. May God continue to heal them.

We warmly welcome Bro. Todd and Kim Moser, along with their

daughter, Heather, to our congregation. May they quickly feel at home among us and may God be their "Solid Rock" during this time of change in their lives.

How can I help my brother? By daily practicing I Corinthians, chapter 13.

After 35 years of devoted service, Bro. Harold Gramm preached a final sermon, announcing his retirement from the ministry. "Thank you" hardly seems adequate when we consider the responsibilities of preaching God's Word. We do appreciate his years of faithful service. Though he may not be preaching from a pulpit, we know our lives are more often the sermon people see. May Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila be lifted up in God's sustaining arms.

*Note of Thanks:*

I wish to thank my relatives and friends who made my 70th birthday so special with cards and gifts. I appreciate your love and thoughtfulness. God bless you all.

*Mrs. Albert Joos*

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**  
**Becky Braulick - Jan Messner**  
Greetings!!

The blessed Child so meek and mild  
At Bethlehem they found,  
In manger low where cattle low  
And sheep did gather round.  
In swaddling clothes there to  
repose  
And lying on the hay  
What glorious sight in that dark  
night  
Where Christ the Saviour lay!  
*Hymns of Zion #35*

What a wonderful thing it is that we can celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, for He is truly a special gift to all and the real reason for Christmas.

We would like to give a special thank you to Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) for ministering the Word to us. May the Lord bless him and his family for sharing with us.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll, along with their children, Victoria and Trey, welcome to their family a sweet bundle of joy, Stephanie Joan, on Tuesday, October 17.

We would also like to congratulate Bro. Kenneth Messner on the birth of his new granddaughter, Maddison Kylee. Proud parents are Kyle and Anita Messner of Hutchinson, MN. May the Lord bless these two families in the raising of their children and may they look to Him for guidance throughout their lives.

On November 4, Trent Messner and Tera Schmerbauch were united in marriage. May God stand by their sides as they join hand and heart. Parents of the couple are Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois Messner and Al and Lynn Schmerbauch.

How can I help my brother? What better place is there to go for help than to our brothers and sisters in Christ? By sharing our struggles with one another and really listening to one another we can together walk down this life's pathway knowing that we are not alone but a family striving for God's eternal Home.

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

On October 21, Aubrey Nicole was welcomed into the hearts and home of Todd and Julia Pyle. Happy grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Gary and Shari Pyle (Arcadia, KS).

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Jane Patton who has again spent time in the hospital. We hope that she will soon be

back assembling with us.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Anna Lou Aberle and Sis. Wilma (Bro. Joe) Farney in the death of their brother, Bro. Arnold Bahr (Sabetha, KS). May He comfort your souls and increase your strength in this time of sorrow.

We are grateful to Bros. Lloyd Kraft and Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) for sharing God's Word with us.

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

*Luke 2:7*

May we keep Jesus' birth the center of our Christmas activities.

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Carolyn Banwart  
Becky Marti**

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

*Hebrews 13:17*

We were reminded of the love and concern our Elder brothers have for the church and for our individual souls as they shared with us the Memorandum from the Brotherhood Conference. We appreciate Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) being here to help our Elder Bro. Lawrence with this. We also thank Bro. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) and his family for spending a weekend here and being willing to serve us in the ministry. May the Lord bless them.

Chad and Kelly Kellenberger

have been blessed with a precious baby girl. Madison Kay was born November 3. Her grandparents are David and Karen Carlton and Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger (St. Louis, MO). May they seek God's guidance with this new responsibility.

As we look forward to this Christmas season and celebrate our Lord's birth, may we remember, "'Tis not the babe, but Christ the man who walked in Galilee; 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free.'" (Hymns of Zion #36)

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Thadd Walter**

The holidays are upon us, and many of us in St. Louis will be traveling to visit family and friends. Sometimes the roads are treacherous due to the winter weather, so we pray that God will bless and protect all who will be traveling.

One of the themes for this issue is "How can I help my brother?". The Bible contains many examples of someone helping another both physically and spiritually. Christ used the parable of the good Samaritan to convey a spiritual message. The Samaritan helped the injured man by first having compassion on him (Luke 11:33), and then assisting him by binding his wounds and paying for his lodging. Nowhere do we read that the Samaritan received, nor expected, compensation, and Christ said that we should do as the Samaritan (Luke 11:37). Christ used this parable to convey a message of brotherly love. Often, our acts of kindness benefit others and ourselves both physically and, most importantly, spiritually.

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of

mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

*Colossians 3:12-13*

We thank our visiting ministers this month, Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), for allowing the Lord to work through them. We look forward to many more visitors. God bless all of you.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Rusty and Amy Adrian**

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."

*I John 4:7*

During the harvest season while most farms were being finished with harvest, there were some who still had a little bit to do. It was truly a good example to see for those who finished early to take a little time to help those who had fields yet to harvest. How thankful we can be for the love that God puts in our heart to help one another. May we all find encouragement through the good examples we see around us.

We rejoice with Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Baurer as they were blessed with a baby boy. Jonathan will be welcomed home by his older brother, David. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Baurer and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal (Princeville, IL).

Also, on November 2, Kevin and Robin Hodel (Bloomington, IL) were blessed with a baby girl, Bree Anna Marie. She will be welcomed home by her brother, Rue-

ben, and sister, Emily. Happy grandparents are Sis. Loida (the late Henry "Hank") Hodel and Joe and Judy Malinowski and Lyle and Darlene Schenk.

The weekend of November 11 was a special weekend as we had the opportunity to invite a couple, family or friend for the weekend. Many blessings were had by all as we fellowshiped together and lifted our precious Lord Jesus Christ up through song. We are truly thankful for those who made the effort to come and share their lives with us here in Taylor. Our heartfelt thanks is extended to Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) for his willingness to share God's Word with us that special weekend.

Hospital patients this past month have been Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris) and Greg Hastings (Mary Beth). Our thoughts and prayers are with each one that God's healing hand will be with them.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Bro. Eric Knochel in the passing away of his dad, Al Knochel (Lafayette, IN). May God strengthen each one in their time of loss.

On November 19, the Bible Class enjoyed traveling to Roanoke, IL for ACYF. We thank the Lord for a safe journey as we traveled the highways.

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

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

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed,

There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heav'n and earth  
adore;

So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

*Hymns of Zion #14*

It is our prayer that many more loved ones will be led to Jesus and seek His love and grace while it can still be obtained. He is willing to accept each one into His fold who will turn to Him in true repentance. This is the season of the year when we celebrate the birth of this humble Man who was born in the manger to live and die for each of those who live upon this earth.

We are happy that Lori Herzig (Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor) has taken advantage of His love and mercy and has been announced as having peace in her heart. We await her baptism in the future.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who are suffering illness or old age and can no longer assemble with us. We miss each of them and ask God to give them His blessings wherever they find their home to be at this time in their lives.

On Saturday evening, October 28, we gathered to hear the deliberations of the recent Elder Conference. Our thanks go to Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for traveling to be with us for the weekend and helping our Elder Bro. Duane in this work. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK that we heed the advice and gentle warnings of our Elder Brothers?

Urb Karcher (Sis. Julia) was an outpatient for surgery and is doing well.

Bro. Roy Sturtze (Sis. Edna) was called from this life on November 13 after several weeks of hospitalization following surgery and a stroke. May God be a comfort and guide for Sis. Edna and their

children, Robert (Watertown), Virgil (Castorland) and Barbara (Jack) Nortz (Lowville), and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bro. Roy and Sis. Edna celebrated their 69th anniversary in September while they both were enjoying good health. Funeral services were held on November 15. We will miss Bro. Roy's faithful attendance each Sunday and midweek, as he always had a ready smile for everyone.

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**OHIO, AKRON  
Joyce Gasser  
Diane Jarrett**

Greetings from Akron. This month we appreciated the labors of visiting Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumberg, NY), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL). May the messages from the sermons that we have heard, and the Memorandum that has been shared with us inspire us to walk the narrow way more faithfully.

Our dear Sis. Margaret Gangel went to her eternal rest on November 16, freed from the afflictions of this life. She had served the Lord for 70 years. Our sympathy is extended to her husband, Bro. Paul, to Bro. Carl and Sis. Kathy Graf, and to the remaining family.

Bro. Ned Spangler has begun a term of service as the Coordinator of the Eastern Region Annual World Relief Review Meetings, replacing retiring Bro. Eli Manz (Junction, OH). Locally, Sis. Janet Graf was elected to replace Sis. Joyce Schamback on the World Relief Sewing Committee. Many adults and children of our congregation participated in Family Night, an evening of tasks for World Relief. May the labors of all on behalf of the needy be richly



blessed.

December 24 marks the 90th birthday of Sis. Marie Ritzman.

Bro. John Graf and Sis. Gyongyi Hegedus have had hospital stays this month. May they feel the presence of an all-wise God, and experience His healing and provision.

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## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Nancy Banks

As Thanksgiving approaches, we do not have to look far for the many things to be thankful for. Work is progressing nicely on our church building at the present time. We are thankful that we now have plenty of heat for our services each week and that permits have been issued so the plumbing can be completed. The driveway and parking lot have now been cut and drywall is being hung. What an exciting time as we watch our church blossom in front of our eyes! We are thankful for the many helping hands that have made this progress possible and for the ministering brothers who have lent themselves in bringing us the Word of God this month. Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH) joined us for a mid-week service and we were also pleased to have with us Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) who visited us along with the Lexington Sunday School for a weekend filled with special fellowship.

Our prayers are with Bro. Andy Hunyady as he travels to Eastern Europe for a church dedication in Hungary. May God watch over Bro. Andy and his fellow travelers and grant them safe passage through the foreign lands.

The days leading up to Christmas are usually very happy but somewhat hectic ones as we prepare for the holidays. What could be more delightful than to prepare for the many get-togethers with

family, to listen to the Sunday School children sing songs of praise honoring the birth of the Christ child and the special times spent with loved ones? Yet the holidays can be sad times for those loved ones who are facing a debilitating disease and trying to provide for a family at the same time or for a brother or sister who have faced the loss of a beloved child or parent recently. May we reach out this holiday season to someone whose burden has become heavier and help share the load they must bear. An extra prayer, an understanding touch, a listening ear...there are so many ways to show that they are not alone in their struggle. Giving the gift of love will make this holiday a most special one!

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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Sandra Manz

Occasionally, as was the case this month, I get a sinking feeling when I realize that the deadline for this correspondence is very close, and I feel so empty with nothing to offer. Then I scan through a previous edition of the Silver Lining, and the words of the other writers are an inspiration; I can feel encouraged. We are truly blessed to be a part of a church that is so united in its love and concern for others.

We are very thankful to have Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser back from Chicago where Bro. Roger underwent a relatively new treatment for leukemia. He reports that he feels much better. Now we all wait and pray that it will be successful.

We are glad for the ties of Christian friendships which bring visiting ministers. Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis, OH) were guests on their way home from a World Relief meeting, and we do so appreciate his gift of ministry.

On a sad note, Orville Thomas, father of Sis. Shirley Miller (Bro. Randy), passed away on November 2. We extend our sympathy to their family as they deal with their loss.

Our church was filled to overflowing on November 19 as brethren and friends gathered to witness the wedding vows of Sis. Henrietta Gerber and Bro. Obed Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We wish them a goodly number of years together. We will miss our dear sister but know that Bluffton North is thrilled to have her back. Here to share the pulpit on that day were Bros. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and we thank them for their wise counsel.

How can I help my brother? a) Do something special for a mother whose husband is out of town on a business trip. b) Thank a minister for an especially meaningful sermon.

We have had several light blankets of snowfall which, in our area, serve as a reminder that Christmas is very near. As the busy season begins, I will take the liberty to wish everyone a blessed and Christ-centered Christmas from all of us at the Junction church.

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## OHIO, LATTY

### Kathy Sinn

We have had several visiting ministers gather with us. They include Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), and Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Ron Kipfer and Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). We thank them for their time and effort in gathering with us and pray that God will bless them.

On October 21, we gathered to partake in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer assisted

Elder Bro. Ray in this work. May we all strive daily to keep in the forefront of our minds the great price that was given for our soul's salvation.

Come then to the feast of His New Covenant,  
Members of His Church, your faith renew;  
Thank the Founder of this precious Covenant  
Through the Chalice He pours out for you.  
Here your hands in faithfulness uniting  
And the fire of brother-love new lighting,  
Let your common prayers rise to His throne.  
Thank and praise Him who hath made you one!  
*Zion's Harp #26*

On November 4, we also gathered to hear the letter from the last two Brotherhood Conferences: in West Bend, IA and Princeville, IL. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen assisted Elder Bro. Ray in this reading. May we each one remember:

For who would wholly be the Saviour's  
Will follow Him in all things here,  
Will shun the smallest sin and even  
The things that sinful do appear,  
Will seek in all things Jesus' glory,  
Will strive in all sincerity  
To be conformed unto the image  
Of Him whose servant he would be.  
*Zion's Harp #179*

May we give support through obedience and prayer for the dear Elder brothers who continue to sound the warning.

Sis. Esther Schlatter has spent time in the hospital throughout the past month. She has been placed in a nursing home for a time. May we continue to pray for

her as she continues on.

Bro. Bob Laukhuf (Sis. Iris) underwent heart surgery during the past month. May God be ever near and supply healing as He sees fit.

As I write this, snow is in the weather forecast. This always brings to mind the Christmas season. May we endeavor to keep Christ as the reason for the Christmas time of year. Thinking of His great gift to us, may we give all we have to Him, which is our reasonable service.

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

"Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant."

*Psalm 119:76*

We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Charles (Sis. Marcella) Sauder, Sis. Miriam (Bro. Bob) Bird and Sis. Wilma McCutchen in the passing of their sister, Martha Schuff. The passing of a loved one always leaves a void in our hearts. We pray that these loved ones will always feel comfort from our Heavenly Father.

"Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

*Luke 1:78-79*

Elizabeth Masters (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) has been led to that peace that passeth all understanding. It is our prayer that she will continue to draw closer to God as she awaits the time she can be baptized and arise to a new life in Him.

"And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

*Matthew 10:7*

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) with us this month. We pray that he will be richly blessed for his efforts in our behalf.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

*1 John 1:7*

What a blessed fellowship we share and how privileged we are that we can gather together freely. October 29 was the day of our annual Fall Outing. It is such a precious time when we can fellowship one with another. The afternoon was enjoyed by all.

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."

*John 12:26*

We wish to thank Bro. Dan Sauder for his service as assistant Sunday School superintendent. Bro. Marvin Beer has been elected to replace him and Bro. Dan Domka has been re-elected to another term as superintendent. As these brothers guide our Sunday School, may they always look to the Father to guide them.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

*Psalm 100:4*

Jared Hill (Chip and Sieda) has an extra reason to be thankful. We are all thankful that he was not

seriously injured when he was in an automobile accident this month.

As we enter into the Christmas season, may we each strive to remember the reason we celebrate this day. May it always be the Babe who is the center of our focus. Have a blessed Christmas season, and may God be with you all.

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### OHIO, RITTMAN

#### Linda Schar - Marsha Rufener

Another harvest season is passing quickly, as winter is on its way. It reminds us of the time when our earthly harvest will be over and eternity will begin. Our dear Sis. Freda Winkler went to be with the Lord on November 1, 1995. Our prayers are with the family. We were reminded that even though Sis. Freda did not speak many words, she was a strong light and example to us all.

Paul and Nicole Trent welcomed a baby boy, Zachary Paul, on October 28. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Trent.

Roy Alvin Zollinger is the first-born son to Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb. Big sister, Julia, will now have a playmate. Grandparents are Sis. Elverna Zollinger and Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ontario).

We appreciate the willingness of visiting brethren. We want to thank Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) for their labors.

How thankful we are when souls turn to the Lord in humble repentance. Our prayers are with Anita Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie, Smithville), Mary Steiner and Nathan Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail). May they look to the Lord each day for renewed grace and strength.

Many of our loved ones have

been hospitalized this month. They include: Sis. Mary Ellen Bauman, Bro. Ralph Christian (Sis. Mildred), Keely Gasser (Mary Lou), Sis. Ruth Hilty, Bro. Carl Ingold (Sis. Erma), Sis. Mary Maletich, Sis. Laura Oppliger, Bro. Fred Marty (Sis. Erma), Sis. Velma Rufener (Bro. Jeff), and Sis. Norma Saylor (Bro. Bill). May the Lord be near each one.

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### OHIO, SARDIS

#### Renee Miller

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

*Philippians 4:7*

Allen and Janet Indermuhle have been granted the peace of God. How thankful we are that Jesus Christ continues to be the avenue through which we can work out our soul's salvation.

The Memorandum was read to the church with the help of Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). May God bless him for his assistance, as well as all of the Elder brothers whose diligence made the instruction possible.

Another year of mercies,  
Of faithfulness and grace.  
Another year of gladness  
In the shining of Thy face.  
Another year of progress,  
Another year of praise,  
Another year of proving  
Thy presence all the days.  
Another year of service,  
Of witness for Thy love;  
Another year of training  
For holier work above.

*Hymns of Zion #150*

As we get ready to enter a new year, it seems timely to reflect on the past year. Sardis has been blessed in 1995 and we give all

praise and honor to God. We witnessed two baptisms and three weddings, and one child was born.

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

#### Edith Miller

#### Margaret Blough

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

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

'Tis not the babe, but Christ the  
man

Who walked in Galilee;  
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,  
That sets the spirit free.

*Hymns of Zion #36*

It's hard to believe that it's Christmas time again already—this beautiful time that we celebrate the miracle of our Saviour's birth into this world. Christmas seems to create more love and compassion in our hearts for those around us; especially for those in need. While this is a wonderful thing, I am reminded that I should really feel that same love and compassion towards my fellow man all year.

Steve and Barb Rhoades welcomed their first child, Elizabeth Ann, into the world on October 21. Excited grandparents are Bill and Marge Rhoades and Vince and Betty Besancon. May God grant them many blessings as they begin this new adventure in their lives.

We would like to express our sympathy to Sis. Barb Maibach (Bro. Rudy) at the death of her mother, Dorothy Boley. May you feel the Lord's comforting arms

around you.

Those who were hospitalized recently include Sis. Lou Riggerbach (Bro. Glenn), Sis. Sue Sauder (Bro. Roger), Sis. Martha Lou Marty (Bro. Dean), and Sis. Shelly Beery (Bro. Dwaine). We trust each one will feel His healing touch.

There has been much rejoicing in our congregation at the news of three dear souls who have decided to turn from the world in repentance. We extend our love and prayers to Florence Hanzie (the mother of Sis. Gloria Hartzler), Susan Dotterer (Keith and Sis. Linda), and Anita Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie) as they begin their walk with Jesus the Saviour.

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#### OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter**

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

*Psalms 116:15*

Although there is sorrow for us in parting, we can rejoice in this promise. Our dear Sis. Lydia Meister passed away November 8. We are thankful for the testimony of her life as a servant of Christ. Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) was with us for her funeral service.

Recently hospitalized were Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard) and Jesse Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. GERALYN). We have also missed seeing Sis. Josephine Rehklau, who fractured her kneecap in a fall. We are thankful for God's healing touch.

We wish to extend our congratulations and prayers for God's blessings to Nathan and Tomasine Beard as they begin their new life together in marriage. Nathan is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. GERALYN Beard.

We wish to thank Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) for his visit and ministry. It is always a blessing to have the families of our college students assemble with us.

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#### OREGON, PORTLAND

**Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup**

Greetings everyone! It seems that this time of year makes us realize how fleeting time is here on earth. Another year is about to end. Already we see signs everywhere of glitter and materialism that will dominate the worldly holiday season. Especially children will be so easily influenced and distracted by this. Let us be good examples to them and try to keep things true and simple this season! Let us focus instead on the tremendous gift for all who are willing to accept it!

The change of seasons seems to have brought quite a few cases of pneumonia and bronchitis to our congregation. Bro. Garth Steffen was even hospitalized with a case of pneumonia. We are so thankful everyone is better now. Sis. Connie Steffen was also hospitalized and underwent surgery which will hopefully relieve her of the pain she has been suffering quietly for so long. Our prayers go out to her and we hope she will be able to come to church with us again soon.

In our small congregation, absences are felt deeply, and so it was especially hard for us to see Phil Moser (Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb) leave for Illinois. He will be sorely missed by all of us and we pray the Lord will continue to bless and guide him as he continues his repentance in Champaign, IL. We are sure he will be welcomed and encouraged by the brethren there.

Being such a small congregation, we especially appreciate visitors. Our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Clarence Dietrich (and Sis. Betty,

Silverton) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (and Sis. Betty, Silverton) who made the extra effort to come to Portland and minister to our small flock. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

As always, we encourage visitors to come our way. It adds an extra blessing to our Sundays to worship with friends and brethren from near or far.

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#### OREGON, SILVERTON

**Peggy Schulz**

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

*Psalms 118:29*

We never can thank the Lord enough for all He has done for us. Let us not become so busy with our day to day lives that we forget to thank Him with all our hearts. Our congregation has much to be thankful for with the safe arrival of three little ones. On October 30, Logan Wayne Kuenzi was welcomed into the family of Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer, Nicole and Lorraine. His grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi and Charles and Connie Mueller, Strawn, IL.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi became grandparents once again on November 2, when Tyler Davis was born to first-time parents, Brian and Arlene Carskadon, Tualatin, OR. Tyler's paternal grandparents are John and Mary Carskadon of Sublimity, OR.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa Zollinger's first-born, Brianna Nicole, arrived on November 7. Her loving grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger and Bro. Robert and Sis. Linda Kuenzi, all of our congregation. May the Lord bless these dear parents with much wisdom as they bring up

these little souls.

We are also thankful to have Bro. Clarence Dietrich home from the hospital and assembling with us again. May the Lord grant him continued good health. Even though our congregation has grown alot in the past few years, we still miss our loved ones when they are ill or absent from our midst.

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

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”

*1 John 4:7*

We were richly blessed with a visit of sixteen brethren and friends from the Sardis, OH church. All enjoyed a tour of the Philadelphia historic area followed by dinner and song service on Saturday. Sunday was a holy day of worship together. We are thankful to God for sending ministering Bro. Mark Ramsier along and for his ministry inspired of the Spirit.

Bro. Franz Soni will be hospitalized with a broken leg for the next three months. His address is Castle Point Medical Center, Room H-126-1, Castle Point, NY 12511. Our prayers are offered in his behalf.

Services are held Sunday at 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. Edward Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

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

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him  
room...

*Gospel Hymns #842*

As we celebrate Christ's birth this holiday season, may we each be drawn a little bit closer to the true meaning of Christmas and may we all keep our eyes focused upon Jesus in the coming new year.

Joy and thanksgiving only begin to express the feelings of our hearts at the overwhelming blessing of visitors this past month. On November 10, young groups from the Illinois churches of Roanoke, Washington and Morton traveled to Nashville per a "Weekend Invitation to the South." The day Saturday began with a work project followed by lunch at the Nashville church and a tour of Opryland Hotel. We then traveled to Athens, AL for the evening and church services on Sunday. On our regularly scheduled church service weekend of November 18 and 19, a group of about 50 from Goodfield and Eureka, IL came on a bus to be with us. Among them was Elder Bro. Wes Knapp who ministered God's Word to us on Sunday. It was wonderful to meet and greet those of like mind and like faith, some who we had known and others we were meeting for the first time. Thanks to all of you for your efforts in coming to fellowship and worship with us. You have truly made these past weekends very special and memorable. May God bless you!

Our remodeling project has also progressed this past month. Eight men from Bluffton and Milford, IN arrived on November 7 to begin re-roofing the church building. Thanks to Bros. Elmer and Walter Steffen, Bros. Chris and Clem Reinhard, Kent Reinhard, Bro. Steve

Frauhiger, Bro. Lester Gerber and Bro. Dwight Moser for all of your labors. May the Lord be your rich rewarder. The completion of the roof is scheduled for the end of November.

If you plan to be in the Nashville area, we encourage you to join us for worship services. We have made a new schedule for 1996 and have mailed a copy to each church. Services have been planned for the first and third Sundays of each month with the exception of Easter, Father's Day and 4th of July weekend. In these cases, the services have been postponed one week. Contact one of the numbers listed below if you would like more information about the Nashville area or are planning to be with us during our worship services. Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-8761; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940. Churches scheduled to visit Nashville during the next couple of months are Athens, AL (January 7); Peoria, IL (January 21); Leo, IN (February 4); and Phoenix, AZ (February 18).

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**TEXAS, DALLAS & CENTRAL**  
**Christine Kaiser**  
**Kim Kaiser**

Our Dallas gathering was pleased to share a recent Sunday with Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill (Tremont, IL). God's Word and Christian fellowship warmed our hearts. Round Top church was supported by Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown (Forrest, IL). An October service was also held in Austin at the home of Brian and Terri Kaisner; Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO) came to be with those who attended. We express our overwhelming thanks and wish God's blessings to all of our visiting

brothers and sisters.

**ATTENTION:** Beginning in January 1996, services in central Texas will be on the SECOND, FOURTH and FIFTH Sundays of the month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. The services will be held in the homes of four families who attend and support central Texas gatherings. The rotation of central Texas services will be in Round Top, Smithville, Austin, and San Antonio. Bro. Bill Zeltwanger is the primary contact for the central TX schedule. Give him a call at (409) 249-5102 for more information about who, when and where.

Dallas church services are still 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. Contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp (214) 867-4074 or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for more information.

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

The engagement of Sis. Renee Baurer to Bro. Steve Schlipf (Gridley, IL) was announced. Sis. Renee is the daughter of Bro. Edwin and Sis. Carol Baurer (Princeville, IL). Sis. Renee is a teacher for children of migrant workers at Del Rio, Texas during the winter months and attends Zapata church during that time. Bro. Steve is the son of Sis. Marjorie and the late Bro. Elmer

Schlipf (Gridley, IL).

We are happy to have our winter residents returning to Zapata for the winter months. Retired Elder Bro. Paul Fehr and his wife, Sis. Anna (Morris, MN), were among the first to arrive. One of our trustees, Bro. Russell Stoller, and his wife, Sis. Melvene (Latty, OH), are here. Some of our members will be going back north for Christmas. Some of us will be having relatives visit us; the rest will miss their families but are thankful for the Christian fellowship we have in Zapata.

We welcome Sis. Heddy Ormesher (Mansfield, OH).

We can be a help to our brother and sister by offering help when we see the need.

## The Candle of Faith

The candle of Faith, it burns so bright,  
Revealing Christ and His heavenly might.

It was lit at Calvary on that fateful day  
When Christ ushered in the narrow way.

He bled and died, that we might live  
As we surrender, and our will to Him give.

The candle of Faith is a life that is true.  
His ways are that which we must do.

Our foreparents walked in the candle's glow,  
As the Holy Spirit into their hearts did flow.

The candle's lure to them did call,  
As in repentance they gave their all.

To form a church that we might thrive,  
And keep His Spirit forever alive.

To a new land they came, huddled and poor,  
That their children could prosper, forever sure...

That their soul's welfare was always put first,  
And that their inner man would never thirst.

Toils and tears were often their lot  
As prayers and offerings to the alter were brought.

They preached and lived a sermon true.  
Their children learned what they must do.

By the hundreds and hundreds they came to repent.  
Knowing to them that Christ was sent.

Then we, like them, must always be true,  
So our children, too, will know what to do.

So, onward we go, in ways that are true;  
Under the candle's glow, to that heavenly view.

*Perry A. Klopfenstein  
Written for the Gridley, IL  
congregation's 125th year*

## “HIS GLORY HAS EXCEEDING JOY”

*Sermon by Bro. Steve Martin of Eureka, IL*

Jude 1:17-25

As we consider these words, we find that the author was greatly concerned and anxious for the believers. How do you and how do I find the Spirit working in our hearts today? Do we find it any different? Absolutely not!

We find that the Spirit of God, when we allow Him to be free, has one purpose, and that is to keep us where we belong. So we ask ourselves, “Where did God set us in the beginning when we came?” First of all, we know, as we look back whether we have been in the faith for just a few years or many years, we found out that He put us in a blessed way.

We want to remember that, dear ones, that the way where God has put us, which is spiritual, even as He is Spiritual, it is a blessed way. We found out that God gave unto us a responsibility for our own soul. We read about that here, as Jude wrote to the believers. He was writing here to the believers. He was warning them. We could go back into the first sixteen verses and find that he very expressly, very specifically, warned the believers against the dangers and the evils that would try to come upon them.

We read here in these last few verses that it is really a personal responsibility concerning our salvation. We have to recognize that, and we have to apply ourselves in that way. We have to realize that we have been given a real responsibility and, we can also say, a great privilege. It is an honor. Really, God blesses us with an honor when He is satisfied there in that initial process which we can read and know in the four Gospels. It is laid out very clear and plain.

Thanks be to God that in our faith, we hold this dear, that there

is to be a repentance, that there is to be a conversion, that there is to be a confession of sin before God in the presence of man. We are to become a changed person by the grace of God. By surrendering to His Word that the Spirit of God begins to dwell in our heart and we find that we become different, but it is His doings.

We find then that God instills in our heart a desire for something in the future that is yet to come. The Bible tells us that it is a rest for our soul—a home in Heaven. As we ponder over these things and as we go along in life, we find that there becomes a responsibility to the soul before God. Once He has set us upon the way, we must continue and the Spirit of God, which He pours into our heart that He cleans, reminds us of this.

We read here in these verses that it really is a very serious personal responsibility, where he says, “building up yourselves” and then he says, “keep yourselves.” We have to realize that it is serious and yet, it is joyful. We need a proper balance of the two. If there is that proper balance, we will not take chances. We will not do the things that are questionable, whether it is seen or unseen. But if there is that proper balance of sobriety, and the Bible tells us that, we can’t by-pass that. But if there is that proper balance of sobriety, joy, and peace, we will not miss the mark. We will be on the safe way.

He says here some very helpful things. Really, these things are so simple, but they are lifelong principles. We find out we first learn when God works in our heart in that initial process when we come to Him that the Gospels lay out of repentance and conversion.

He says here again something that we want to remember for ourselves, which will be very helpful. Sometimes we have to willfully do this. We have to want to do that and it is very simple. He says here, “But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;” (Jude 1:17). We need to put forth effort to remember what the Bible says, and to ask ourselves when we are filled with emotion and desires to do various things or to have certain things. What would the Bible say about this?

Then if we can have this initial thought, it is an open way for the Spirit to work further and actually draw us to the Word of God. The Bible tells us, in one place, that we are to prove out the things that are good. If our heart is right, we will see the value in it. But it is contrary to the flesh because our human nature is to hurry up and to want this or that or to do this or that right now.

If we see the value in this very healthful thought, then we would remember the words which were spoken before of the apostles. What kind of words were spoken? They were inspired words—words of inspiration that came from the Spirit, the Spirit of God. That is where the most value comes of words that are spoken if they are inspired by the Spirit of God.

Dear brothers and sisters, I believe that each of you can go back into the archives of your spiritual life and remember when you were filled with joy and gladness and you came to the Lord through His Word and prayer and you remember how God spoke to your heart. What a comfort! What a confi-

*Sermon continued...*

*Sermon continued...*

dence it brought to your heart!

If there were other times when you were distressed and troubled or in despair, and you came to the Word of God because the Spirit moved you, you read and God spoke. What a joy, comfort and assurance the Word of God brought forth!

We want to remember that we need the Word of God. There is no substitute. There is simply no substitute and the best part of it all is that God has given His Spirit to interpret the Word for us as to how it applies to our daily walk of life. Then when that is done, if it is coupled with faith, faith of us in the Word of God that is revealed and action comes forth and we do, it becomes oil in our lamp. We become more assured God is with me, like we sang.

It says here, remember that you have been warned and have been told before it comes how that "...there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts." (Jude 1:18). That is what we have been delivered from, and we don't want to return back to that.

I wonder here, dear ones, if he is not talking within the flock of believers itself, that there would be a difference. Somehow, some way there came to be a difference, that there would be those that would walk after their own. See, here is self again, and we found out what our own self did for us. It brought us a burden and we felt guilty and unacceptable before God.

Again, a good little thought that we want to tuck away. We can go back into the Old Testament and read the examples where the self of the individual was the greater between self and submission. When self ruled, it brought heartache and disappointment.

That is a nice little thought we want to tuck away and trust that

the Spirit will remind us that we are really not anything of ourself. But it is God, Who is in us, through His Spirit that can bring us glory and blessings and delight.

So we see here those that "...should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual," satisfying the desires of the flesh, whatever it might be, "having not the Spirit." (Jude 1:18-19). Did you note that? That flesh and the Spirit, they just don't mix. If they would mix, we would have had the Spirit before there was any spiritual experience that we made. But it didn't happen that way, did it?

It was when self died and was crucified by the power of the Word and the Spirit of God, but then, we finally had and received what we were looking for, and that was a settled feeling in our heart. Isn't that a beautiful way to live, dear ones, to live with a settled, calm feeling in your heart? How did that get there? It got there when we surrendered and gave ourselves to God and let Him make us as He wanted to.

He says here that we should not be surprised. He says that in the last times there would be those that would mock, and where self would rise. The apostle warned there in the group of elders (I believe we have that account in the Acts), he says, "I am alarmed!" That may not be the exact words that he used, but he was alarmed. He said how that even among yourselves, there will rise up men of their own self.

Dear ones, let us be warned. I have to warn myself. I need to be warned. We all need to be warned. We cannot trust the flesh. We cannot trust ourself. We cannot let our own self will come to pass again, like it did before. We must live a humble and surrendered life. We must live to the glory of God and not to the glory of self.

He says, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith..." (Jude 1:20). We need to look at our faith as being a holy faith—individually and collectively. We need to come to church with that type of attitude that here is a place of holiness on earth, where God has drawn hearts together and bound them with His Spirit and His love and keeps them by His Word.

We need to come to church with that thought in our mind, that here is a holy place and it is holy because God is holy and He is here. We believe that. That is our faith that we feel His presence through the Spirit.

He says, "...building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost," (Jude 1:20). Very essential. It is a must! We cannot bypass this principle that we pray in the Spirit. Again, we need to approach prayer in this way. This is the right way to approach prayer, whether we are brothers or sisters. We want to pray as the Spirit would move our heart.

We found and we find on a continual basis that the Spirit is like the Saviour Himself, for He said, "I am meek and lowly in heart:" (Matthew 11:29). The Spirit does not demand, but He entreats...gently entreats praying in the Holy Ghost.

He said, "Keep yourselves in the love of God..." (Jude 1:21). Here we see again the personal responsibility. There is a certain place we need to keep ourselves, and we have to want to do this, and that is within the bosom of the flock.

We read in Ephesians that the church is the habitation of God. It is the dwelling place of God through His Spirit. Here is where we want to keep ourselves in the spiritual bosom of the church where there is love, devotion and the zeal that is always all of it



directed by the Holy Spirit. We will not miss the mark if the Spirit is in control of our life, in every aspect.

He says, "...looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." (Jude 1:21). Yes, we cannot lose focus of the great importance that the Saviour plays in our life and what He means to us. We cannot ever lose focus of that. Hopefully, we know that God has designed the experience that He brings us through when we first came to Him that it will leave a lifelong impression on our heart that we will never forget the importance of our Saviour. It was through Him that we found remission of our sins, through His shed blood there on the cross.

We just simply have to believe it. If our belief is true, we will live according to the Word. So he says that we should look "...for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." (Jude 1:21). We want to continue. We don't want to give up and think that the trial is too great, but He says unto eternal life.

When does eternal life come? We know that it comes after death. At least, for now until the Lord returns, and that could be (we don't know), we believe, it will be soon. But the point is we want to continue. From whence God has set us and started us, we want to continue on.

He says, "And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." (Jude 1:22-23). Dear ones, this will take the Spirit of God in my heart and yours to do this. If the Spirit can enlighten us on these two verses, we will not go beyond the bounds that the Word sets. I must confess that I don't fully understand these verses.

But he does say of some have

compassion. If we are Christ-like, we will be willing to have compassion when compassion is necessary, and that we would have a sympathetic understanding of another's problems with the desire to help. That is what compassion is. Isn't that what Jesus had when He walked here upon the earth? That is what He had with us. He really did have a sympathetic understanding of our problem, and our problem was that we had a burden on our heart and He had a desire to help.

He had already gone to the cross. But then individually and for us personally, He had that desire to help us in our generation almost two thousand years later. He saw us in our plight and He had that desire to help and when we expressed that need, He came and delivered us.

He says, "And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." (Jude 1:23). Hate is a strong word. It really is, but he says, "...hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." We need to hate sin. We really need to hate worldliness because worldliness leads to sin.

Many times, many times that is the way Satan approaches to every one of us, that we would partake of something that is worldly. Not necessarily sinful, but worldly. If that worldly partaking is unchecked, it will for sure lead to sin. How are we going to know what is worldly, dear ones? Here again, it goes back to the Spirit of God and a closeness to His Word, for God will reveal what His limits are. It is within His limits that we need to be.

He says, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless..." (Jude 1:24). Isn't that comforting to know that we have a Shepherd, we have a Father that is able to keep

us from falling and to present you faultless? Why right here it casts out the idea of once saved, always saved.

It is impossible to reach Heaven without having any sin. That is not true. It says right here that there is One Who is able to keep us from falling and to present you faultless. Nobody should ever use that as an excuse, but it says here that there is One that is able to keep us from falling and to present you faultless. To be without sin, that is what it means. To be faultless without any blame and without any sin. There is One that is able to do that, and we believe that, don't we, dear ones?

We believe that we can live a life here upon the earth by the grace of God according to His Word with the Spirit indwelling our hearts. We can live a life that is free from sin so that we can be faultless before Him.

He says, "...before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy," (Jude 1:24). I have to believe this way exactly what it says here, that that will be a time of exceeding joy when we shall be, if we have been faithful by the grace of God, presented before the Father with exceeding joy.

He says, "To the only wise God..." (Jude 1:25). To the only wise God. We read in another place one faith, one Lord, one baptism. He says, "To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever." (Jude 1:25). Why would anybody want to choose a different way? Here is safety. Here is comfort.

Then, that blessed reward!





# REMEMBERING

## Our Spiritual Heritage

How the renewed gospel spread from Switzerland into Hungary is a marvelous account that testifies to the power of the Holy Spirit. It was His work!

In the summer of 1839, two locksmiths—John Denkel and John Kropacsek—returned from Switzerland to their native Hungary. They had spent time in Switzerland learning their trade.

They had met Bro. Samuel Froehlich. He explained the plan of salvation to them, and they became believers. In time, Denkel was accorded authority to preach and baptize in Hungary.

While Denkel and Kropacsek brought the revived faith into their native Hungary, the way was not open for them to widely open the door of truth to this nation.

It was God's will that this would fall on a young shop apprentice, and an unlikely prospect, named Louis Hencsey. He was a kindhearted young man. Both Denkel and Hencsey worked in the same shop. They were both poor and had few resources. At this time, the Roman Catholic church was very dominant, both in the Hungarian state church, and in political circles. Their financial resources were plentiful, and they had a presence in Hungary that was centuries old.

The probability was feeble that these young, uneducated, and financially poor men could instigate a religious awakening. The state and the state church was often harsh, and could quickly stop any type of evangelism outside its jurisdiction. The confiscation of Bibles, of property, and the imposing of jail sentences curtailed most anyone who proposed to compete with the established church.

Yet, the Holy Spirit's glow that drew Bro. Denkel was now beaming out to hover over Louis Hencsey, and beckon

him to a mighty calling in which he would eventually begin to preach and establish churches.

Hencsey's heart yearned for the truth. Already in his Catholic youth he was impressed with anything associated with faith. In *The Nazarenes*, author Karoly Eotvos writes, "Day by day he became more and more communicative by opening his heart to Denkel. His sincere attitude made Denkel disclose to him the sacred doctrine and introduce to him the great mystery of salvation."

It was after the day's toil in the shop that John Denkel and Louis Hencsey met to talk about faith, and Hencsey turned his heart totally to God. They met in the workshop in secret after the other workers left for their homes. There was nowhere else to meet.

Eotvos continues, "A snowstorm was raging outside and a strong wind was lashing against the windowpanes of the workshop. The crackling flame of the tallow candle was dimly blinking and the dying sparks of the foundry twirled now and then. Yes, it was a great moment. The two young men stood there speechless, as if in a dream. They looked into the fire with overflowing emotion. This is how Hencsey describes that evening:

"My loving heavenly Father created me as a powerless being. When Brother John Denkel threw light into my agitated soul, the words stuck in my throat. I was overcome by silence, my soul grieved me, and my eyes filled with tears. I went up to my dear Brother, flung my arms around his neck and kissed him. From this moment on, I began to feel a special strength and peace."

John Hencsey, having begun his repentance, was eventually converted and baptized. He remained single during the remainder of his short life.

A frail man possessed of enormous spiritual zeal and devotional energies, it was his lot to lead the establishment of the new faith in Hungary. It was an outgrowth of the Froehlich movement in Switzerland where the new believers were called "Evangelical Baptists". In Hungary they were referred to as "The Nazarenes".

At first it was one convert at a time. Hencsey had to speak one on one in order to explain the tenets of the Bible. Because he and his early cohorts were so poor, and had to work long hours in their shops, they had no meeting room. Gathering together was a problem, and especially so because of the wrath from the state church.

Finally, the owner of a shop, Anna Nipp, became converted, and the early believers were able to meet in her living room. This was greatly beneficial to the new believers, and this was a springboard to establishing outlying congregations.

The massive resources of the Hungarian state and the state church were not obstacle enough to turn back the tide of a new faith that arose in Hungary in the mid-1800's.

It is ironic that while the faith established by Brother Froehlich spread westward into North America, it found constitutional protection, and was welcomed, it found the opposite as it gravitated eastward into the nation of Hungary. But state power could not stem the power of God.

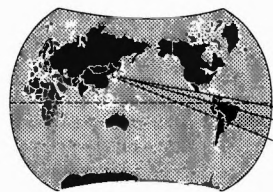
*Perry A. Klopfenstein*

*Next Issue:*  
**More about Hungary**

# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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## “The Virgin Birth”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Many years ago I was sitting in a college classroom in a course called Comparative Ethics. The course was supposed to compare the ethics of different religions but Professor Iino chose to discuss Christianity. He had been educated in America and spoke perfect English.

The question about the virgin birth of Christ arose and was discussed among the small number of students in our class. One American girl said that the virgin birth was not essential to her faith. I wondered how that could be if we have faith in Christ as the Son of God and as our Saviour.

When I objected to any questioning of the miracles recorded in the Bible, Professor Iino explained to the rest of the class that it seems sacrilegious to some people to question the miracles. He could sense that I considered it to be preposterous.

Now it is time once again to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Creator

God. Do we ever ask ourselves whether or not we believe in the virgin birth? I think not — we take it for granted that we all believe in the virgin birth. Nevertheless, it might be well for us at this season to ponder the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ.

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 1:18)

We ask our converts if they believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died for their sins and for the sins of the whole world, that He arose again, and that He is coming again. We do not ask them if they believe in the virgin birth. We hope this is covered in believing that He is the Son of God and it should be, but depending on your definition of the Son of God, it may not be covered. It is possible to think of that terminology to simply mean that Christ was a great prophet who had power from God to per-

form miracles. Words sometimes mean different things to different people.

The virgin birth is the focal point for remembering the birth of Jesus Christ. Because of our background, we will probably continue to assume that our converts believe in the virgin birth. However, not all converts entering our churches have our background and we probably should not assume too much as to what they believe. In Japan we are delighted if we can find a person in the general public who really believes in the living Creator God. To think of there being many, many gods is the norm.

This Christmas, among other things, let's emphasize the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. If His birth would have been like other human beings, He, like the rest of us, would have been under the curse of sin and could not have become our Saviour. He was born of a virgin.

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## Roanoke, IL - 1929

Just prior to the Great Depression, the Roanoke Church was extensively remodeled including a brick veneer. Pictured is the newly remodeled church with some of the old buggy sheds showing in the background.

On June 20, 1964 this edifice burned to the ground in a very tragic fire. October 30, 1966 marked the dedication of the new church building, which serves the Roanoke congregation today.

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