

The Silver Lining



...But The Greatest Of These Is Love

February 1996

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

I Corinthians 13:1



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

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Number 2

Love

"...but the greatest of these is love." We love God because He first loved us. We know from God's Word that love covereth a multitude of sins, and that if we don't love, we will not find love.

Webster really defines love rather vaguely when he says "a warm affectionate feeling". Love is the answer to every "people problem" ever imagined. So why is it not more prevalent on the face of this earth?

Can we love someone and hurt them? Can we love someone and turn around and gossip about them?

Suzy and Sally are seventh graders, and always seem to be together. They display an outward love of friendship for each other. Why does Sally one day turn on Suzy and gossip about her to another friend? First of all, we realize we are not perfect; however, that is no reason to give in to Satan, because God's love is stronger than Satan. We can train ourselves to love generously by God's grace which is His love shared unto us. It is we who ultimately determine the extent of love. To be loved, we must love. Often it is envy that breaks the beautiful chain of love, and in the case of Sally, she envied Suzy because she was always prepared for her classes. It is sad, but the Word teaches us that we can do better. We can strive to wish for our loved one's ultimate good.

On earth there is little doubt that the greatest showing of love is from parent to child. We don't realize this until we are parents and have children through the love of the Lord. Why, we might ask, is this so? Any parent will wish for the ultimate good of their children because there is no jealousy even if the child surpasses the parent's accomplishments. Thus, love is unhindered and unfeigned.

The little puppies on the cover are filled with love for their master, not out of instinct, but because their master first loved them. A puppy in the wild will be wary of a human because it has not witnessed the love of a master. When love is extended, love is returned. How many times have we seen a word of love fall on the puppy's ear and instantly the tail will wag. When we feel

the love of our Master, we, too, feel peace and warmly affectionate and safe.

With love comes a great responsibility. If someone loves us, there is a trust that should not be breached under any circumstance.

The love of a shepherd for his sheep is a great example to us and in the beautiful Psalm we read, "Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." The rod of a shepherd is used for throwing at a wandering sheep. It is about a cubit in length and usually made from a hardwood tree. This rod can be thrown by the shepherd with great accuracy over long distances. As it strikes the sheep, it immediately moves back to the flock. Also, the staff, which has a crook or hook on one end, is used by the shepherd to pull the poor lost lamb out of a hole or crevice. So the tools of the shepherd are used because the shepherd loves his flock. That is why as the lambs look to the shepherd, they are comforted as they see the rod and staff. We, as God's sheep, also appreciate the rod and staff because we know we are prone to error and are comforted to know that through God's correction we can stay on the path that leads to Heaven. That is true love.

We are shaped and fashioned by what we love. We must love God above all. Next, we love our family and then friends. Next we love good deeds by others and even our enemies. If we love the things of this world, we will indeed bring the curse of this world upon us. So what we love will be our fashioning force. If we love our neighbor, we should strive for his ultimate good. That, of course, is a difficult thing to do since we are prone to envy.

How can we show our love for those we love so much? We can sacrifice ourselves, our egos, our pride, our envy, and strive for their ultimate good. It was once preached that it would be better to steal a friend blind than to gossip about him or falsely accuse him. The reason is, of course, that we can pay back anything we steal, but once we have unleashed a verbal attack on a loved one, we cannot correct it because

it will have spread beyond our control and eventually onto the ears of our loved ones. The hurt can only be forgiven by the one who got hurt, but probably never forgotten.

Sometimes we imagine a lack of love from someone and that is called a misunderstanding. It doesn't matter so much what someone says, but nine out of ten times it is our reply that makes the quarrel or misunderstanding.

If we consider love and the joy of being loved, we will find there is so much to be gained by pure love. Love is empathy, love is sharing, love is caring. Love is above all the greatest gift shared unto us by God. We need to love as well as we need to be loved. Nothing hurts so much as to think we have lost the love of those we love. So we strive to be love in motion.

So long as we love, we serve; so long as we are loved by others, we can surely believe that we are indeed needed, and no man is useless while he has a friend. We pardon to the extent that we love.

The Lord pardoned our sin, so with that example, let us pardon those we love. It is called forbearance.

The Silver Lining

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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
on God's Word

February 1996

Ye are the Salt of the Earth

In the gospel according to St. Matthew (5:13), we read that Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." This is part of what we call the Sermon on the Mount and is followed by Jesus saying, "Ye are the light of the world." This editorial is to examine why Jesus would call His brothers and sisters salt and how it is that we should act if we would indeed act or react as salt does.

We see that salt has been used for various purposes from ancient times. Its use as a preservative and as currency shows that people of old knew of its value. When Christ called us to be the salt of the earth, He acknowledged that we were of significant worth or value. We also find that salt was used as part of the worship service under the law of Moses (Lev. 2:13, Ezra 6:9, Ez. 43:24). The Bible speaks of a covenant of salt or as a sealing of a promise given to David, that his family would continue to reign over Israel as long as they would serve God (2 Ch. 13:5 and 2 Sam. 7:12-16).

So we see that salt was and is considered to be a substance of value and something whose identity is known and does not change easily. When Jesus calls us the salt of the earth, He expects that our identity will not change or become influenced by our surroundings, but rather that we as believers in Him would influence those around us. To insure that we are not changed or bent by our peers, we need to have our faith and our thinking established on teachings that do not change. In this dark world wherein we abide and journey, the only teachings that are sure and do not change are found in the Bible. Thus, we find a great need to be grounded firmly on the Rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ, and His teachings, that are just as wise and relevant today as the day He spoke them.

We also find that for salt to be effec-

tive, it must be spread around or mixed in. We do not always understand why the Lord places us in the circumstances in which we find ourselves in this life. Whenever we find ourselves, we can be effective workers and examples for the Lord if we do not lose or give up our identity as one of those that have been redeemed by His shed blood. The apostle Peter tells us that we should "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).

The proper conditions must be met or become available for salt to work. Salt is of little use on a dry tabletop but just a small amount in a boiling pot of food is of great use. If we are well grounded in the Word of God and allow Him to bring us to the right time and place, we can be that salt that is of some use. In Deuteronomy 29:23 and Judges 9:45 we read of the harmful effects of misplaced and misused salt that was applied in excess. Without God's help and direction we cannot be effective. This teaches us to wait to be asked or selected before we attempt any teaching or leadership role in the church. The converse is also true; when we are selected to teach or to lead, we should do that in God's strength. In 1 Chronicles 28:20, King David instructs Solomon about building the temple: "Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord."

Sometimes the children of God become discouraged because it seems that so few people are really willing to be totally submissive to God and willing to put Him first in their lives. With the overwhelming odds seeming to favor Satan rather than God, we may be deceived into thinking that our influence will be so slight that it really doesn't make any difference.

When comparing the amount of salt

with the amount of food that the salt seasons, we know that it is very small. It is so small that we would never be able to see the difference by looking at the prepared food; we can only tell if the salt has been effective if we taste the food. Even though the amount is very small, the impact is powerful. Our life may appear to be so very insignificant that we may feel we will have no impact at all; but just as a small amount of salt has a big influence when used properly, so may our lives have a big influence in a dark world.

Not only does salt season the food we eat, but it can also make us very thirsty. Does our life portray the kind of example that makes others want to drink of the water of life? Does anyone want a drink of spiritual water after they have been in contact with us? Do we express joy and contentment as children of God or does our attitude give others the impression that the life of a Christian is not the best gift, a gift that should be coveted (1 Cor. 12:31)?

If we are the proper salt of the earth, our lives will bring forth the fruit of the spirit: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Gal. 5:22-23).

The Lord goes on to say that if this salt has lost its savour or identity "it is good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." If our salt has lost its savour, our life will bring forth the works of the flesh instead of the fruit of the spirit. The result will be disaster for ourselves and those who are influenced by our example. Surely we would not desire to be in this state, where nobody around us can tell that we are a child of God! Rather, it should be our desire that we would continue to be recognized as one who fully depends on God and is as unchangeable as His Word.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Apostolic Christian Church Building Advisory Committee

The Church Building Advisory Committee has been created to assist small and/or new congregations secure an adequate place to conduct worship services.

How the committee was selected

The Elders authorized the Mission Committee to conduct a search throughout our brotherhood to find brothers with knowledge and experience to assist in design and building of church facilities. After approval of their local Elder, five brothers were appointed by the Mission Committee.

The need

A small congregation usually does not have the resources, personnel, time, and expertise to give proper consideration for the need of a place to worship. In general terms, the progress of a new congregation is as follows:

1. Worship services are held in a home or some public facility.
2. When this is no longer adequate, they look for a more suitable building. The search becomes somewhat urgent because it often occurs unexpectedly.
3. Rental space is often difficult to find, and it can be very expensive. The Elder Body may give permission for them to find a used church or some other building that could be bought and then remodeled. Unfortunately, experience has shown that the final outcome of this procedure costs more

than originally estimated. After much labor, the building still may not fit the needs of the congregation in providing a place where normal Apostolic Christian services can be conducted.

4. A local building committee is appointed, consisting of brothers with limited time, experience, and knowledge to bring such a project to fruition. They often engage an architect who does not understand our needs, and may be more interested in building something that will be to his credit, rather than something that is modest and economical.

The function

It is suggested that this committee be consulted and involved at an early stage in order to make proper use of their expertise. They can recommend whether it would be better to buy and remodel an existing facility or build a new one. Several generic plans are already under consideration to provide a modest building to accommodate up to 150 persons. After an assessment of local conditions, the committee will work with local brethren to adapt these plans to the particular needs of their situation.

It is hoped that the experience of the brothers chosen to serve on this committee can assist in controlling costs and determining which course of action would be best in each case. Such assistance might include: site assessment, building design, zoning/building code review, on-site project management, or coordination of volunteer work teams.

Other duties

The intention is that this committee would be available for any congregation hoping to build or remodel if such assistance is desired. It is important to clarify that the use of this

committee is optional, and not mandatory, even if funds are to be requested from the brotherhood.

The services of this committee are available to help in design and building of fellowship facilities or even Sunday School additions if a need exists. However, the purpose of this entire endeavor is to serve and not to dictate, and the brethren chosen stand ready to assist in a brotherly manner wherever a need arises.

Committee members

Brad Eisenmann, Chairman
6005 Sherman Drive
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309/447-6431

♦ Goodfield

Ex officio members representing the Mission Committee are:

Gene Marti - 913/681-3796
Phil Stettner - 219/565-3499



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

Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India (RGMMI)

How the work began

Established in 1938 by Mr. Bhagwat in Khardi, India, and later expanded to Nasik and to tribal areas, the RGMMI has operated its dispensaries, orphanage/boarding and churches for the purpose of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. RGMMI provides medical care for the sick and food, shelter, and clothing for destitute children. Our Apostolic Christian Church became acquainted with the Bhagwats in 1968 and was requested by them to "shepherd" and support this Mission. Early inspection visits were made by our Elders and World Relief brethren. Following the Bhagwats' deaths in 1980 and 1981, and after another visit to India, the Elder Body felt led to provide spiritual and material support. All mission operations are under full control of our church.

Brethren visited in November, 1995

The most recent visit was made in November, 1995. The report was very encouraging as all aspects of the Mission operations were reviewed. Visits were made to the 3 churches and 4 villages where our church has built prayer halls. The Word is preached by 3 Pastors (Elders) and 6 Evangelists (Ministers). Among the 64 villages served, there are over 700 baptized believers and 500+ Sunday School children.

Sharing our faith with the leadership

A three day spiritual convocation was held for the staff where topics presented by the visiting brothers included: God's Plan of Salvation, Living a Sanctified Life in Jesus

Christ, and a number of our Apostolic Christian doctrines and practices. While not members of our Apostolic Christian Church, they have asked to be taught how to live "Apostolic Christian-like" lives. They ask for our prayers that the spiritual work will not be hindered by militant Hindu groups. While there, retired Pastor Aghamkar suffered a stroke and passed away. The visitors attended a funeral, a first time experience for our brethren in India.

Work in the orphanage

Eighty boys are well cared for among the two orphanages receiving shelter, food, and clothing. They are taught about Jesus Christ, sing hymns and recite many scripture verses. They rejoiced over the gifts presented to them including new shoes and socks, which some wore for the first time. The boys study at local public schools. The mission also supports more than 30 girls at a separate girls' Christian boarding facility.



Khardi orphan boys with new shoes and socks

Medical work continues

The medical services have expanded with an increase in the number of patients at the Khardi clinic where all seven beds were filled. Many out-

patients were also being treated by Dr. Shantwan. The local evangelist begins each clinic day with prayer and scriptural devotions. The addition of a lab technician has enhanced diagnostic capabilities. A portable EKG machine provided by World Relief was delivered by the visitors. In a mobile van, Dr. Gajanin treats over 200 patients on each of the two days in the tribal villages as well as over 250 on each of three days at the Balhana Dispensary. Here, plans have been made to build a new clinic. Healing the body opens the way to heal the soul with God's help.

Administration going well

Dr. Parkhe's good organization was evident. Accountability by all mission workers has been rigorously implemented. The computer provided by World Relief is a real help with accounting as is the telephone and facsimile that have improved communications with the USA. Evidence of the famine due to early

monsoon failure was apparent in recent increases in food prices. Our famine relief sent earlier, helped meet this need.

God's blessings evident

Evidence of God's

continued blessings warmed the visitors' hearts. Prayers and financial support by our churches have surely helped sustain this ongoing work. God be thanked, and a heartfelt "thanks to all!"

WORLD RELIEF - RIDE THE BUS

Western Apostolic Christian World Relief and Sewing Groups Meeting

*March 9, 1996
West Bend, Iowa*

Jerome Witzig, coordinator for the meeting, is chartering a bus from central Illinois to the Western World Relief Meeting on Saturday, March 9, 1996.

The bus will leave from Gridley, IL Apostolic Christian Church on Friday morning, March 8. Passenger pickups from Central Illinois churches will be made along the route. The bus will return on Sunday, March 10, after church services.

The cost of the trip will be \$50 per person, plus meals.

Please direct all inquiries to:

Jerome Witzig
R.R.#1, Box 75
Gridley, IL 61744
Ph. 309-747-2546
Fax: 309-747-2409

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The following is an article that was published in our A.C. Times newsletter last January: "Even though many of us think our lives are stressful at times, most of us find it difficult to understand what it must be like to have a really difficult burden. At the Home, we often meet or hear about families with family members to care for which require more than we can comprehend. All of us wonder what to say or how we could possibly help and we often worry about what to say and saying or doing the wrong thing.

I was reminded in an article I read that the account of Job can give us some good lessons.

1. Be there. Job's friends saw his suffering and went and just sat

with him for seven days and seven nights in silence. They could not take away his suffering or grief but they could share it.

2. Listen. Many times people don't need a response except to know that you understand and accept them. Don't tell them they shouldn't feel the way they do. Sometimes our emotions are just a response. They probably don't want to feel that way either but are responding to the hurt or stress they feel.

3. Affirm. Don't be patronizing and don't ignore their feelings, but reinforce the good they have done for their family member in need or for others when they have had needs.

4. Don't give advice. Unless someone is very directly asking for your opinion, it is better to keep it to ourselves. They probably have many professionals and family members involved and plenty of opinions to sort out already. If we give advice, it sounds like we know more than they do and that's usually not the case.

5. Don't criticize. Their burden is heavy enough already. Job was grieved with his friends because they tried to find what he did wrong. He said, "Haven't I hurt enough already without you turning on me?"

6. Hang in there. Don't give up even if it's hard for you. Remember how much they need you. Even if it's hard to visit, it takes only a little time. When it's over, you get to go home and you've made only a small sacrifice. They must keep on giving.

7. Don't expect them to show gratitude. They may be too drained to be thankful but they still need you.

8. Prayer strengthens them. Pray for them and assure them you are praying for them.

Job had to find his answer in God and eventually he did. We are not the solution, but we give support while people seek their peace from God."

Life around ACHH and all of our Homes has been good. Although there have been relatively few changes this past month, we did have one resident admission at one of our Homes. Wayne Leman moved into the house on Hazelwood Street here in Morton on December 8. Wayne has adapted well to his new home and can certainly be identified as "the man with the smile"! Welcome aboard, Wayne!

March birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH - Judy Grimm (6), Sheila Steffen (9), Margo Ebert (12), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Tom Christensen (20), Edna Haynes (23), Jon Wilhelm (26), Nancy Meister (31). OAKWOOD - Maretta Rokey (6). 207 WAGLER - Anna Eberhard (15). 200 HAZELWOOD - Mike Bodtke (4), Frank Kyburz (27).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Janel Ramseyer

I had some ideas all ready for my turn writing the monthly article for Gateway Woods. When I realized that my thoughts for the new year would already be a month old, I considered trying to put something else together. When I heard a commentator mention that most New Year's resolutions seldom last more than seven days, I thought maybe it was time for a reminder about the promises we may have made a month ago. I'm not personally a resolutions kind of person for that exact reason. Perhaps you're like me. I've learned I like things done in orderly, logical sequence. I learn

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November 1995 —	3,461	10,479
December 1995 —	3,506	13,985
January 1996 —	2,525	16,510

*Repaired Bibles - Song Book -Storybook Shipped - 28

*Note—792 Romanian Bibles and Testaments shipped

770 Romanian Bibles and Testaments, 2nd shipment

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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.

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.

Long Book tapes may be ordered from:

Don and Lorna Schrock
100 Forest View Road
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-6810

Dennis and Beth Feucht
317 North Third
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 266-9498

better that way. Perhaps you, too, cope with change, but all things considered, would prefer a plan. This tendency gets people like us stuck at times. We fail in our diets halfway through the day and decide to start again in the morning or the next Monday. We plan to read the Bible daily but fail after six days and plan to start again the first of next month. Starting again is a great idea, but it usually gets lost in the busy lives we've created for ourselves.

The correlation between this minor revelation and our Christian walk should be obvious. We make grand plans of spiritual renovation—more prayer, better control of our tongues, more tithing, no more gossip, and on and on. Then we fail. Miserably, sometimes. We fail and we quit. We forget that our humanness, our destined failure, is not the end of the story. We forget that His mercies are new every morning. It's almost as though we prefer to

carry around the baggage of our mistakes and the guilt that always comes along. If you, like me, have already neglected your resolve at new, better habits, I encourage you to join me in seeking daily, minute-by-minute where necessary, the grace of God and the indwelling power found in the Holy Spirit that enables us to live righteous lives. As part of a family, let's remember one another in prayer and in action. We can make 1996

a better year than 1995. Rather, God can make this a better year through us.

We, at Gateway Woods, are starting the new year like everyone else, with lots of snow and lots of snow days; with a mixture of excitement and awe at all that lies before us. Spring brings our annual Representative meeting and Staff Training Retreat. Summer is busy with summer jobs and our annual Auction/Sale, and since 1996 marks our 20th year in operation, we're planning a full-scale reunion for October. Throughout all these events is the everyday schedule of school, homework, chores, and meetings. We are rarely bored.

We invite you all to attend our Representative meeting on March 16 and our annual Auction on August 17. Should you wish to spend time at our campus helping out as a volunteer, feel free to call our office at 219/627-2159.

Anyone interested in something a little more long term, please consider the current staff opening for an Assistant Houseparent (see ad in this issue). The position, by nature, is best suited to single sisters. You may contact Bro. John Stoller at 219/627-2159.

Thank you for your continued prayers on our behalf, and for your many donations. We are grateful to have your support and humbled by your generosity. "...Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen." (I Peter 5:14)

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Tricia Tucker**

While reciting our memory verse of Matthew 6:24, one child stated his own view: "No man can trust two masters — Problems

**A Humble Thank You For The Love
And Support Concerning The
Hungarian Church Tape Project**



The goal has been met thanks to all the efforts of brethren. A number of tapes are left over, which will be offered at a reduced price of \$25.00/set. Only sets are being offered in an attempt to reduce the remaining inventory. Thank you again for your love and support.

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Elder Bro. Pap Janos

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6:24." Little did he know how true he was! If we put our trust in anyone but God, we will have problems.

December was a very busy month. We were learning about the birth of Jesus. The children worked hard on a play about the first Christmas, which they performed for their parents.

January brought in a new year and new ideas. Both the teachers and the children were refreshed

after Christmas break. Blue, manners, and taking care of the body were our themes for the month. We also studied the letters M-Q.

At the end of the month, we set our lessons aside for one day and had Pajama day. Not only did the kids enjoy sitting on blankets eating popcorn, but so did the teachers!

We have had many volunteers lately. A big thank you to Bro. Bob Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL), Sis.

Kara Leman and Sis. Heather Wohlrab (Bradford, IL), Sis. Luann Martin and Bethany Herrmann (Princeville, IL), and Sis. Amy Hodel (Peoria, IL). Not only did we enjoy the extra help and the many jobs that they completed, but we also loved the fellowship of brothers and sisters of like mind and faith. We gladly welcome any volunteers. Please call us at the preschool at (205) 233-0591 or Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035.

There is an opening at the end of the school year for a teacher. Please be prayerful for this situation. If anyone is interested or would like more details, please contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at the number listed above.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pam Moore

Christmas is over and the new year begun. Christmas seems so far away as I look back over the calendar and it's only been a month.

Several have already been hospitalized in the new year. Bro. George Kelley, Corrine Barnett, Sis. Shirley Hagganmaker, Beverly Martin, and Roy Barnett. We ask your prayers of healing for each of these dear souls.

The second weekend in January, we were very blessed to have the Princeville and Gridley, IL young groups come to fellowship with us. We especially enjoyed their many songs of praise to God our Father.

We were also grateful to have Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and his wife join us the same weekend. Bro. Wes shared with us the Word of God.

Memorial Day weekend, Athens will be hosting our annual Tennessee Fellowship weekend at the

Tennessee Fellowship Area. Everyone is welcome, however we ask that you contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (206) 232-2035, and let him know of your plans to come so that we may plan accordingly. We hope for our best turnout ever. May God bless each one of you in this new year He has begun for us.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Led by the Spirit of God, Bro. Randy and Sis. Stephanie Wuthrich and Jared have a baby girl, Kailey Kristine, to love and raise. Kailey was born December 21. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum and Bro. Richard and Sis. Nola Wuthrich (Francesville, IN).

On December 30, Sis. Josephine Pamer was happy to hear granddaughter, Tiffaney Jo, was born. Her parents are Bill and Betty Pamer (Ontario, Canada).

Happy first-time parents are Bro. Shawn and Sis. Shelly Maurer when Nicholas Lee was born on January 13. Grateful to be grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson and Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer of Phoenix.

Congratulations to all the parents and grandparents and may the Lord guide our babies.

In Genesis 2:18 it tells us "God will make a help meet." Bro. Bob Dotterer and Sis. Laura Brake's betrothal was announced on January 7. We pray God's blessings on them as they make their wedding plans. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis,

OH).

Bro. Don and Sis. Cathy Emch announced the forthcoming marriage of their son, Brian, to Aimee Brown on February 3. Our prayers are that they will include the Lord in their lives. He makes things work. Our best wishes.

Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger came from Goodfield, IL to preach the Word to us. Our thanks and do come back.

The weather has been quite warm and we are blessed with visitors who we truly appreciate and love.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger on the death of her sister-in-law, Sis. Nettie Feucht (Reuben), of Princeville, IL.

Local World Relief will meet at church on Friday mid-month. Sis. Jan Elsasser and volunteers are to be commended on their Christmas gift placemats and napkin rings. They were appreciated!

Many prayers were uttered for Tyler Duckworth (Bro. David and Sis. Dawn). Our Lord's will be done, Tyler is doing fine.

Bro. Clarence and Sis. Geraldine Beyer's new address is 2414 E. Sylvia, Phoenix, AZ 85032.

Your Phoenix and Prescott Silver Lining \$9.00 offering is due. Make check to: Apostolic Christian Church, c/o Ron or Ev Hoerr, 1220 E. Echo Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85020. Your check or cash can be turned in to Ron, Ev or Julie Hoerr.

To find strength to be a fighter for our Lord: II Timothy 3:14-17 is a great start.

Love Him! He loves you!

Thoughts on love: God is love. Love "isn't" until it is given away. A young grandchild's love is Godly love. Life would be empty without family love. Tough love is loving your Christian brother or sister who doesn't know you exist. Per-

fect love is God's love.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

We have been experiencing a very mild winter, with only two appreciable snowfalls, beautiful blue skies, and sunny days. On January 7, we took advantage of this lovely weather by having a picnic by Lynx Lake, as our fellowship dinner.

We are always thankful for the ministers who serve us on the first and third Sundays of each month; traveling the miles and giving of their time serving the Lord. Bros. Greg Gramm and James Emch, both of the Phoenix church, ministered to us in the last month.

Prescott and its surrounding communities has been the fastest growing area in our state in recent months. We ask for your prayers that our church will grow spiritually and in number, and that our Lord's will be done in our desire for a permanent house of worship and a minister to serve us. Our average attendance at this time is 20-30 (includes ten children) with an increase to 40-50 on the first and third Sundays when we have a minister. The attendance increases in the summer with more brethren from Phoenix and other visitors.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were privileged to have a visiting minister this month as Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) was with us for Wednesday evening services. We thank him for his service. I'm sure it was a welcome relief for our two ministers on the pulpit.

Our weather continues to be unusually warm for this time of year;

our high yesterday was in the upper 70's and the sun has been brightly shining. We have our first winter visitors with us now and they are taking advantage of the warm, sunny days.

Reminder: If you have not paid your Silver Lining dues of \$9.00, they can still be paid to me or sent directly to the Silver Lining.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joy Nenadov

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment
made;

Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,
And ev'ry man a scribe by trade;

To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;

Nor could the scroll contain the
whole,

Tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Oh, love of God, how rich and
pure!

How measureless and strong!

It shall forevermore endure

The saints and angels' song.

Hymns of Zion #289

As I was beholding the vastness of the ocean recently, I was reminded of the words of this song, the third verse in particular. For if we could write the love of God and the ocean was ink with which to write it, it surely would drain the ocean dry. As I stood there trying to picture this, it was truly overwhelming to think that God loved us that much and it was far above the human comprehension. While scanning the huge body of water as far as the eye could see, it was such a humbling thought, for as the Bible states, "what is man that thou art mindful of him," and yet it was a joyful thought to know that we have such a merciful, gracious, loving God. Then as I scanned the

sky and could see no end, I realized that we could never really contain the love of God on a scroll, as this hymn says, though stretched from sky to sky. May we, as His children, seek to have a Christlike love one for the other; not just in lip-service without works, which would be of no avail, but rather, out of a pure and unconditional heart, seeking to build up and encourage, especially those of the household of faith. May God give each of us grace to indeed love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength which is truly the least we can do for Him.

We were indeed blessed to have been served from God's Word by visiting ministering Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) who along with his wife, Sis. Sharon, and their family, visited us on January 14. Truly the message we heard served to edify and strengthen each one present. We want to thank Bro. Bill for his labors of love for us.

Our congregation will miss Bro. Shannon Stahl who has gone to Haiti for just over two months to be in work for the Lord. We pray he will experience many blessings as he offers his service to those in need.

As we once again listened to the children and young adults sing songs of praise and honor to God, in remembrance of His Son's birth, Jesus Christ, our hearts were indeed uplifted and thankful for the love our Saviour had in coming to this earth. May we always be reminded of why He came to this earth. A special thank you to all the children and their teachers.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huetten

Love is of a friendly nature,
Does no selfish thought possess,
Love is not a sin partaker,
And is free from bitterness.
Love is truthful, not deceitful,
Does here every burden bear;
And, enduring is so fruitful,
In all trials joy to share.

Zion's Harp #37

"Love!" What a beautiful word and the meaning is more than we can grasp at times. The love Jesus has for us we can never thank Him for enough.

Visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bros. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). We appreciate their visit and the wonderful teachings from God's Holy Word. May He richly bless them for their love.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter**

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..."

II Chronicles 16:9

We have been exhorted and encouraged again to keep our hearts and motives perfect towards God. We thank those who came to minister unto us this past month: Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), and all the other visitors who came to worship and fellowship with us. It is such a joy and encouragement to meet others near and far who are walking in the light of the Word.

Anyone who is in our area and would like to worship with us,

please contact Bro. Walter Fortenbacher (519) 699-4133 or Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 for directions and more information.

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

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

Watch and pray the Lord
commandeth;
Watch and pray 'twill not be long;
Soon He'll gather home His loved
ones

To the happy vale of song.

Hymns of Zion #121

Reminder: In March we will be collecting dues for the Kitchener Silver Lining subscribers. The dues are \$9.00 (USA) or \$13.00 (Canada). My address is: Laura Baxter, R.R.1, Millbank, ON NOK-ILO

**COLORADO, DENVER
Chuck and Naomi Wiegand**

Greetings across the many miles! We were thankful to have Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) with us this month. We are grateful for his willingness to serve. We were also fortunate to have had many visitors out for the Stock Show. We certainly enjoyed them and look forward to seeing them again.

This month we bid farewell to Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Rocke. The Lord has led them to Ft. Lauderdale, FL. We also said farewell

to Sis. Missy Larson, as she has finished her work here and will be returning to Oakville, IA. We will miss our dear brother and sisters and wish them God's richest blessings as they continue to walk with Him apart from us.

Bro. Joe Hohulin and Helen Powelson both spent time in the hospital this month. We petition prayers for their health and healing.

We challenge each one of you to walk in a way that would show Christ's love to everyone you come in contact with.

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

Philippians 2:3

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler**

On December 25, a new little blessing came into the home of Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle Bahler. They named him Caleb Robert. His sisters, Amanda and Chelsea, welcome him home. His grandparents are Sis. Maxine and the late Bro. Lee Bahler and Mr. and Mrs. Behling.

We are thankful our hospital patients are recovering. They are Bro. Robert Luginbuhl (Sis. Martha), Sis. Christine Virkler (Bro. Ken), Sis. Julia Bourque and Ernie Limberger. We pray that God will be with them.

When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize! (Zion's Harp #248). On January 3, we laid to rest Sis. Muriel Fellows. We want to extend our deepest sympathy to her dear husband, Bro. Emery, and their three sons, Ray, Gene and James. May God be their source of comfort when dreary days come.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

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

Psalm 122:1

Due to the holidays and weather, we were only able to assemble once this past month and are eagerly looking forward to our next service.

On December 17, Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman and Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) were with us. We thank Elder Bro. Ed for sharing the Memorandum with us.

The Washington, D.C. congregation extend their sympathy to Bro. Jerry, Sis. Linda, Joel and Bonnie Isch as their son and brother went to be with Jesus.

We want to thank Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and all who traveled with him for making the effort to serve us on January 7. They made it out here, but with the approach of the "Blizzard of '96" they left again on Saturday. It was a good thing they did, because Sunday morning there was eight inches of snow on the ground and by the time it all ended later in the week, there was about three feet.

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. 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.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Mary Ann Klaus**

Our congregation is still involved with "The Great Reading Program" (TGRP). Since the Sunday School students challenged the adults to participate with them in reading 50 verses each week, i.e. five readings of ten verses each, we have completed I Samuel, Galatians, II Samuel, Ephesians, Nehemiah, Luke, and Esther, making a total of 16 books read since the program was started. It has helped us to take the time for daily Scripture reading and parents report that when they read the Word with their children and discuss what they've read, it makes the Bible more meaningful.

We welcome Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Rocke into our congregation. They have recently moved into our area from Denver, CO. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their married life together.

Bro. Ralph (Sis. Catherine) Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) presented a slide program about their trips to Hungary. It was very interesting to see the pictures of our new Hungarian churches.

We were privileged to have Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl and their family (Altadena, CA) in our area over the holidays. Bro. Tom's timely messages certainly gave us food for thought and we ask for God's blessings on his ministry.

**FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Kay Eisenmann**

We are ever thankful for visiting ministers. They were Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Gary Tonner (Bluffton,

IN) and Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). May God bless them and their families for their labor in the Lord!

We are thankful that our addition is going so well; we only pray that God's house can be filled. The weather this year has made us all realize that man can plan but God is in control, for which we are all truly thankful for.

In this ever changing world, what God calls "sin" man makes excuses for. Why do people believe in Heaven and not Hell? Both are in the Bible, the book of learning and living, and God has not allowed this book to become extinct. God knows we all need to be reassured of His wonderful promises and they are so uplifting.

~~This month the world celebrates~~ Valentine's Day, the month of "love". But as the world celebrates love, how much more do we need the "spiritual love"! Jesus came to us as a babe, but when He comes again, those who don't love and obey His every word, He will be their Judge. We should have enough fear of God as well as love to stay in His Word daily!

How do we show our love of God? Do we help when it isn't easy or when it takes more than we have? Not always with money, but with time? It is a joy to work for the Lord, for we all know He is never-changing. Are we? Fellowship helps to lighten the load for each of us when we can share our troubles and our joys. May we all pray for grace to understand and help!

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Vera and Mary Martin**

Who created a flower to bloom?
Who designed a prayer?
Who dreamed up the joy of love?

Only the God we share.

February is a month that many celebrate the gift of love, and indeed it is a great gift to share; but we as Christians have the most reason to celebrate, a time when we can review all of our blessings of love that our Father has given us when He sent His only Son to die for our salvation!

Our winter season is again here in Sarasota, and along with the blessings of mild weather we again can enjoy the larger fellowship and many visitors. We want to thank our visiting ministers that have also offered their labors of love in sharing God's Word: Bros. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN), Jeff Strettmatter (Atlanta, GA), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH).

Our prayers are with Bro. Gordon Bryant as he recovers from emergency open heart surgery and Sis. Helen Laparo as she recovers from her convalescence at home. We look forward to the time when they can again worship with us.

We want to express our sympathy to Sis. Irene Schrock on the passing of her husband, Bro. Alvin; and Bro. Elmer Bauer on the passing of his wife, Sis. Elsie, who have spent many winters with us and supported us faithfully. Also, Bro. Richard Martin (Aldine) and Sis. Beulah Funk (Bro. Leo) on the passing of their brother, Bro. Bill Marti.

That's What I Love About God
We have never gone to Him and
found Him not there.
His love has always been
consistently the same,
As strong at the eventide as it
was at the dawning.

We will never go to Him and find
Him not there.

We will never seek Him trying to
do better and He not hear.

And we will never do better and
not find that He rewards us.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

Due to the holiday season, we only had one visiting minister scheduled here in Atlanta this past month. We want to thank Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN) for sharing his time with us.

Once again, we extend a special invitation to anyone traveling south to come worship with us. We meet every Sunday at 10:20 at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. Don Sellers (770) 381-1395 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Millie Jepson

The ministers who traveled to Belvidere this past month were: Bros. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie), Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol), and DeWayne Dill (Sis. LaRae). We appreciate their ministry to us so very much. We also appreciated the other visitors and the groups of young brothers and sisters who visited us from the Francesville, IN and Congerville, IL congregations. There were other churches represented in their groups, also. We felt the love of God from each of the ministers and visitors, and we thank God for the bond of love through Christ Jesus.

I wish to love my Saviour more
sincerely,

And not to grieve Him, who loved
me so dearly;
For this would bring much grief
and much affliction
In my direction.

What shall I do? My Saviour, do
Thou teach me!
Let flames of love and pure
affection reach me,
That I may be immersed with
true devotion
In love's deep ocean.
Zion's Harp #232

Is there any one of us who does not feel that heart cry to love the Lord Jesus more sincerely? As we humbly meditate on God's great love for us and the mercies that are new every morning, we cry out, "Saviour, do Thou teach me and let the flames of love and pure affection reach me."

"He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." (What mercy and what love!)
Psalms 103:10-12

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."
Ephesians 6:24

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner

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

present,
Lifeless through this world I'd
pass.

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

Zion's Harp #37

Believing it is God's will for their lives, Sis. Shelley Knobloch (Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Sam Steffen (Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty) have announced their engagement. There were tears of joy at that special moment.

We also look forward to witnessing the marriage union of Sis. Lisa Staker (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary, Morton IL) and Bro. Pete Monagle (Gary and Sis. Kay, Washington IL). We wish them much grace.

One of the highlights this Christmas season was watching the children join in praising Christ, the Newborn King. Their enthusiasm at the Christmas program on December 17 was a joy to see. Bro. Brian Huber was with us on Christmas Day and shared the beautiful story of the Messiah's birth with us. We also want to thank the group "Heart to Heart" for singing hymns of praise to God following the Christmas message.

Thanks to Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley IL) for ministering to us on the last day of 1995. We appreciated his spiritual insights.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Tonei Knapp on the death of her sister, Yolunda Lloyd, Peoria IL. May the Lord comfort her and her family at this time.

Another year has passed quickly. We rejoice in the Lord that He has kept us in His care,

and look forward to a brand new year full of opportunities to serve Him.

January News

Due to a small oversight, the January news did not appear in the last Silver Lining.

The first event in this reporting period was a joyous one. Bro. Jeff Dotterer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyl, Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Lynn Martin (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa, Princeville, IL) were united in marriage on December 3. Visiting ministers present were Bros. Jim Rinkenberger and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). We pray God will bless this young couple as they build their marriage and home on Christ, the firm foundation.

Bro. Ron Heiniger presented a Wednesday evening topical Bible study on December 13 which focused on Christ, the eternal Word. We were reminded that His life did not begin in the manger, where we find our attention focused in the Christmas season, but that He existed eternally with God since "the beginning" and was intimately involved with creation at the Father's side. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:1-3). When Christ ascended into Heaven at the end of His earthly ministry, He simply returned to the position of glory He occupied before creation. "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." (John 17:5). This is important for us to meditate upon since we do acknowledge Jesus Christ as our

Saviour but may struggle with recognizing Him as and allowing Him to be Lord of our lives in everyday, practical terms.

Our congregation had the opportunity to tell the Christmas story and praise the Lord through Christmas caroling on December 16 for local shut-ins at their homes and for those in nursing homes. It is hard to say who received the most blessing from this activity, the ones being sung to or the carolers!

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, 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.

The angel had come to tell the shepherds that God was doing something about mankind's lost condition, and not simply for the people of one nation but the whole world. He was sending a Saviour which could bring them back into fellowship with Him, because the blood of bulls and goats could not do this in any permanent way. The angel's message was that God had come and redemption was possible. This message was validated when "suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:13-14). On December 17, this age-old story was retold at our annual Christmas Sunday School program. The children sang beautifully as they told the Christmas story through many familiar and some new hymns. We appreciate the time and effort spent by our teachers in the planning and preparation of this pro-

gram and pray they will receive ten-fold blessings from their efforts.

Bro. Clyde and Sis. Charlene Knobloch have announced the engagement of their son, Barry, to Nancy Sawle. They will be married May 25 in Madison, WI. Barry and Nancy are employed in Chicago and will make their home in Elmhurst, IL.

We are thankful our prayers have been answered as Sis. Elma Fleming is home and recovering from surgery. She would like to thank everyone for their love, concern, calls, and cards during her hospitalization and recovery. She has sensed being carried on wings of prayers during this time.

We are also thankful that Bro. Amos Funk is home after a serious but successful procedure that was performed requiring hospitalization. "I want to thank everyone for their deeds of kindness while I was in the hospital and since returning home. It was really great to feel the love and prayers of the brotherhood. My humble thanks." Amos J. Funk

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."

I John 4:10-12

Brethren, may we strive for that perfect love of God, not only toward our family and friends, but also toward those who wrong us and our enemies in this world; for

all men are God's creation and He loves them all.

Another soul has answered God's loving call in our congregation. Heather Pyles (Troy), whose parents are Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser, has started upon the road of repentance. We ask God to bless her as she builds the foundation of her spiritual life.

We were blessed to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Darwin Stahl to Sis. Robin Steiner (Princeville, IL) earlier this month. Parents are Sis. Charlotte Stahl and Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner (Princeville).

Sis. Heather Wohlrab has also been engaged to Bro. Joe Beer (Remington, IN) this month. Parents are John and Bev Wohlrab (Kewanee) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Beer (Goodfield, IL). May the Lord who brought them together also bless both couples in this time before their wedding and so much more when they are married.

We are thankful that all went well with Bro. Herb Rumbold's (Sis. Diana) surgery this past month, and he is able to attend church with us again.

Many of our brothers and sisters have mourned the loss of their loved ones recently. Sis. Imogene Tanner (Bro. Harold) lost her father, Ralph Begner (Dunlap), and her sister, Eleanor Meehan (Peoria); Bro. Nathan Stoller (Sis. Martha), Sis. Vi Elsasser and Sis. Lucille Endress (Bro. John) lost their brother, Floren Stoller (Peoria); and Sis. Martha Stoller (Bro. Nathan) lost her sister, Sis. Nettie Feucht (Princeville, IL). May God comfort their hearts and those of their families.

We are again thankful for our dear visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us. Bros. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bob Stoller (La-

mar, MO), and Will Schieler (Milford, IN) were here this month. We pray God's richest blessings upon them.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

"Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor...Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting."

- Mother Teresa

The cold of winter weather is made a little warmer in the hearts of those who love. This is especially true as planning to join hand and heart in marriage seems to have become a theme with our students over the past month. The Lord's direction toward marriage has led to three couples' engagements being announced and one marriage. Sis. Heather Wohlrab (Champaign) and Bro. Joseph Beer (Remington, IN, formerly Goodfield, IL) will be married on April 14. Heather's U of I housemate will also be her Remington neighbor, as Sis. Sarah Zehr (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN, formerly Elgin, IL) will be married on June 9. Our Bro. Scott Meiss (Peoria, IL) and Sis. Danelle Stock (Cissna Park, IL), will be married on May 26. Our prayers are with these couples as they try to balance wedding plans, education, and becoming better acquainted with one another and with God during this busy time of their lives. On New Year's Eve, Bro. Dana Plattner

(Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Kim Meister were united in marriage at Peoria. Bro. Dana is attending the U of I, and Sis. Kim is commuting to Illinois State University in Normal. We look forward to having the Plattners in our congregation as a loving couple. May each of these couples' love toward one another and toward the Lord grow daily.

We were fortunate to be reminded of God's love for us as individuals who are not truly worthy of the promise of salvation, as Doug Mangers (Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl) was brought into the fold as our brother in Christ on Sunday, January 14. We appreciated Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) being with us to assist our Elder Bro. David Wiegand with the testimony and baptism. We were also very pleased to have several visitors with us who used to make Urbana-Champaign their home. Those who came to share in this special weekend included former college students and ministering Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). We wish our new brother God's help and blessings as he completes his graduate studies in engineering this semester and seeks his first job.

Giving of themselves to assist in the ministry this month were Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). We are glad that these brothers share the Word with us when they and their families visit relatives in our church.

"...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

I Cor. 2:9

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Salvation we have recently been told saves us from—yes, our sins, but isn't that so often also our pride? Perhaps I am the only one who struggles, but I believe that many of my conflicts within and without would disappear if I would only submit, and, by His grace alone, put on "secondary' humility." Being older now has not been an advantage to me when it comes to battling pride. I, the teacher, do not find being teachable the easy pathway. I would be less concerned with self and more with Him and His love. "...and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8). Lord, be Thou my heart and mind!

May we always be blessed by brothers who are willing to worship with us, even knowing they will have the responsibility of being the Spirit's mouthpiece. And may He continue to give an extra measure of grace and strength to those who have ministered to us this month: Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

The Lord has called, and Andrew Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla) has responded in time. This most wonderful salvation is his, as it can be everyone's. We overflow with joy and can at this time truly express to Andrew our love and prayers as never before. Yet we pray for more.

A beautiful young girl-child has been given of God to create a family for Bro. Luis and Sis. Cindy Gomez. Elizabeth Ann was born January 5. Beloved others who have awaited her coming are grandparents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Dorothy Witzig, Morton, IL, and Enrique Gomez, Mexico City,

and Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold, Ixtlan, MX (formerly of Washington, IL). We share their delight and reach out with our love and our prayers, as we hope to be a church/family who welcomes Elizabeth and uphold Bro. Luis and Sis. Cindy in their new role as Christian parents.

In this same month, Sis. Aranka (Bro. Miklos) visited her home city and country again. We are glad that she could go, but we sympathize with her going, for it was for the funeral of her mother, Sis. Helen Czebe (Budapest, Hungary). We, who are natives to the U.S., do not understand all the difficulties of homesickness and separation, language, and culture, that we have never had to experience. May we be especially prayerful, loving and supportive of our dear sister in this time of grief when home is an ocean away.

For the next six-year term, we have brothers who are willing to serve. Bro. Kurt Pflederer has agreed to serve as trustee, replacing Bro. Jim Schlatter, who has finished the last year of Bro. Mike Kaiser's term. Our new ushers will be Bros. Ken Rinkenberger and Jake Plattner. They are replacing Bros. Tom Gudeman and Dale Steiner (now in Sunday School). We are thankful for the contributions of those who have finished their terms and pledge our support to those who are beginning in these new offices.

I appreciated so much a brother's prayer recently in which he beseeched the Lord to keep each converted soul from in any way becoming a hindrance or a stumbling block to anyone else's coming to the Lord in repentance. We can "do all things through Christ which strengtheneth" us, but our surety of our rightness is not always the best judge that we are

doing His will. Perhaps we do not tremble enough. The Lord reserves harsh words for offences. "...whoso shall offend one of these little ones...woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore..." Matthew 18:6-10. Let us be more careful, more prayerful, more harmonious, more unified, that we may show forth His warmth and love without spot or blemish.

We are in this new year with numerous responsibilities, all within our capabilities as we humbly entreat His guidance and strength. Some may involve being a support to those who are struggling. We are the Lord's arms "with skin on" to reach out—prayerfully—lest even one be lost.

Watch and pray, nor leave our
post of duty,
Till we hear the Bridegroom's
voice;
Then, with him the marriage
feast partaking,
We shall evermore rejoice.
Hymns of Zion #121

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Anna Marie Reutter
Joyce Bauer

We will miss the smile of our dear Sis. Elsie Bauer, age 81, who went Home to be with the Lord on December 15. She leaves to mourn her husband, Bro. Elmer Bauer; daughters, Marilyn Bear-den (Sunnyvale, CA) and Sis. Judy Bauer (Claytonville); and sons, Tom Bauer (Marshfield, WI) and Ralph Bauer (East Peoria); as well as her eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Our sympathy goes out to her family as they adjust to life here without her, but our hearts rejoice with Sis. Elsie as she has now spent her first

Christmas with Jesus, who is the real reason for the season.

We all shared the blessings as families came together at Christmas. Sharing the Word with us on Christmas Day were visiting ministers, Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). On December 31, Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) shared the Word with us, and on January 1, Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) had the New Year's Day service. We thank each of these brothers who shared their time and talents with us.

Hospital patients this month include Bonnie Stock (six-year-old daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol), Bro. Walt Kaufmann, Sis. Edith Stock, and Sis. Carolyn Hari. May God's healing be with each one.

Our annual business meeting was held January 10. Our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) shared the Word with us before the meeting. The following brothers and sisters were chosen to fulfill the duties as listed below: Sunday School teachers -Bro. Arlyn Rudin, Sis. Bonita Frank, Sis. Sharon Walder and Sis. Bev Knapp; trustee -Bro. Fred Waldbe- ser; Fellowship Hall committee Bro. Elmer Kaeb. The following appointments were made: building assistance - Bro. John Maul; microphone committee - Bro. Max Yergler; Silver Lining reporter - Sis. Beth Steffen; personal assistance -Bro. Roland Young; usher - Bro. Joe Walder; dining room committee - Bro. Gerry and Sis. Geraldine Farney. We thank each brother and sister who has served faithfully this past year and offer our support to those who were newly elected for the coming year.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Ed and Sis. Marge Alt and Sis. Mary and Bro. Harold Stoller would like to express their thanks for all the love and kindness shown at the death of their sister, Sis. Margaret Schumacher.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Arlene Banwart
Linda Knobloch

To be deceived is to think we are right when we are not. With sincere prayer may we seek God's wisdom and truths that by His grace Satan cannot gain entry into our hearts and minds.

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast our profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works:"

Hebrews 10:22-24

Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Dean Messner and Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) were with us and preached the Word this past month. We thank these brothers for their willingness to lend themselves to the Spirit.

Thanks to all the Sunday School students who presented a Christmas program on December 20. We were reminded Jesus was born in a humble, lowly stable. "Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free." (Hymns of Zion #36)

We said farewell to Bro. Alvin Schrock, who passed away December 28. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to his wife, Sis. Irene; their sons, Bros. Allen and Steve, and their families; also Bro. Jesse Schrock (Peoria) and Sis. Mae

Schrock.

Dan Gudeman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn) is engaged to Kristi Harbison (Gary and Jeaninne Harbison, Winchester, IL). A March 2 wedding is being planned. We wish them the Lord's blessings, nearness and an appreciation of a self-sacrificing love in their marriage.

Bro. Duane Steffen is continuing to improve since his fall from a grain bin in December. We are thankful God has granted healing and Bro. Duane still maintains his inspiring attitude.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues will be collected this month.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and many deeds of love. How true it is that we need the prayers of those we love.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois and family

The family of Bro. Alvin Schrock would like to thank everyone for their visits, prayers, cards, flowers, food and memorials while at the hospital and since his passing. May God bless you all.

Sis. Irene Schrock

Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol and family

Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri and family

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker

Debbie Sauder

And I who naught but wrath did merit

Shall now in grace with God abide!

He reconciled my wayward spirit,

Through His own blood, and gave me light.

Hymns of Zion #220

Our congregation rejoiced with the angels in Heaven when five precious souls were added to the fold on January 14. How thankful we are that Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Schambach and Sisters Merrilee Johnston, Stacia Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) and Shaena Schambach (Bro. Don and Sis. Leann) have been reconciled through Christ's blood and now confess a true lifelong desire to abide in God. May we all strive for the true humbleness and zeal these new lambs portray. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) as well as Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) with us for this blessed weekend. May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve us.

We are thankful Phyllis Kaptain has been restored to a fair measure of health, following a recent hospital stay and is now able to be in her home. May we continue to pray for our loved ones that have special needs.

Sis. Shirley (Bro. Glenn) Schifferer has also been in need of our love, prayers and support during the recent loss of her dear mother. May we each do our part to make the burden a little lighter for our loved ones.

Being led of the Lord, Bro. Alan Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma) and Sis. Sarah Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Delores, Fairbury, IL) have faith to believe that they are to be united in Holy Matrimony. May they continue to seek the Lord's nearness and direction as plans are made for a lifetime together.

Our congregation welcomes two

little bundles from Heaven. Jack William Kinsinger joined the home of Matt and Mary Jo on January 5. Happy and thankful grandparents include Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy Kinsinger and Irv and Eunice Neville (Naperville).

Brittany Kilgus became a very happy "big" sister on January 9 as Autumn Grace joined Tim and Patty's little family. Grandparents anxious to care for her include Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Kilgus and Ron and Merry Randels (Hampshire). May these parents seek the Lord's grace and help to raise these precious little souls and "train up their child in the way he should go."

Wednesday evening, January 17, our annual business meeting was held. We are thankful for the faithfulness of each brother, sister and friend who willingly lend themselves in service throughout the year. Those completing terms of service include Bros. Greg Kellenberger, Lloyd Kellenberger, Sam Bachtold, Les Schambach and Keith Kellenberger. May God bless these brothers for their extra efforts and grant an equal portion of grace and willingness to newly elected Bros. Gary Steffen (church trustee), Ken Kellenberger (land-site trustee), Roger Weiss (Res-thaven Board), Elvis Kellenberger (cemetery committee) and Jerry Cargill (church secretary). How thankful we are that our Heavenly Father knows all deeds that are done; good or bad, known to man or not. May we each continue to be diligent and faithful in the service God asks of us.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

"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

Our Bro. Joseph Klaus was called Home to be with the Lord on January 3, 1996. We offer our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Ida Mae, and his children, J. Michael of Watertown, WI, Diane of Boring, OR, and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand of Goodfield. We also offer our condolences to his step-children, Bro. Roger Sauder of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Sis. Judy Martin of Peoria; his brother, Benjamin, of Eureka; and his sisters, Kathryn Weyeneth and Lillian Frerichs, of Eureka, and Sis. Elizabeth Herbst of Washington.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa Banwart welcomed into their lives and home their fourth little boy. Quinn Matthew was born January 7, and his big brothers are Doug, Brian, and Trent. Quinn's grandparents are Bro. Joel and Sis. Sonia Banwart and Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman of West Bend, IA.

We appreciated the ministry of Bros. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) as they visited us in the last month.

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to thank all my friends and neighbors for the cards, gifts, and prayers during my stay at the hospital, the nursing home, and since returning home. God bless you all.

Helen Swing

We wish to thank everyone for the gifts, cards, visits, flowers, and prayers during both of our hospital stays. Also, thank you for remembering us with cards and gifts for our 47th anniversary and Bro. Au-

gust's birthday. May God bless you.

Bro. August and Sis. Inez Mogle

We would like to express our deep appreciation for your love, prayers, cards, memorials, food and all expressions of sympathy at the passing of our dear husband, father and grandfather, Joseph Klaus. May God bless each of you for your kindness.

The family of Joseph Klaus

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

"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

We rejoice with Sis. Sarah Zehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores) and Bro. Alan Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma, Elgin, IL) of Remington, IN. We wish them God's blessings throughout their married life.

Our visiting ministers who labored among us this month were: Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and ministering Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). We thank these brothers for their guidance and direction as inspired of God.

We are thankful that Ryan Stoller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ronda) has turned to the Lord in repentance. Let us keep praying for many more souls, that they too could experience God's love in

their lives.

Let us remember those that were hospitalized this month in our prayers. They were: Kenneth Headley (Delores), Bro. Reuben Huber (Sis. Marie), Margaret Kelson, Donita Kaisner (infant daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Leona), Bro. Harvey Schieler (Sis. Janice), and Sis. Gladys Slagel (Bro. Ray).

Our dear Sis. Viola Bachtold, 62, passed away December 27. She is mourned by her loving husband, Bro. Lloyd, and three daughters, Joy Groff (Doug, Lititz, PA), Sis. Jill Wenger (Bro. Rich, Forrest), and Sis. Jean; four sisters, Evelyn Zorn (Dick, Bloomington), Sis. Mildred Zimmerman (Bro. Glen, Forrest), Sis. Eileen Getz (Bro. Maurice, Remington, IN), Sis. Nancy Honegger (Forrest); two brothers, Bro. Wayne Honegger (Sis. Eleanor, Forrest) and Gary Honegger (Mary Lee, Forrest); and nine grandchildren. May God comfort each one of you.

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori Hartman are rejoicing over their first-born, a sweet baby boy, Philip Joel, born January 15. His loving grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown (Forrest, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman. Great-grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Della Meiss, and Allen and Ella Brown (Forrest).

May we all pray for the entire Elder body as they assemble at Francesville, IN for the mid-winter Conference.

In the year of 1995, we report 20 births (10 boys and 10 girls), 2 weddings, 5 baptisms, and 8 deaths.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their prayerful support and encouragement during the illness and death of my dear wife and our

mother. May God bless you all for your deeds of kindness, which included food, cards and visits. We realize once again what a wonderful brotherhood we have.

*In Christian Love,
The Vi Bachtold family*

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold**

We welcome Bro. Eric and Bro. Adrian Bachman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna), Bro. Adam Zimmerman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki) and Bro. Ed Teubel (Walter) into our church family as we were privileged to hear their testimonies and witness their baptisms on the weekend of January 6 and 7. We pray that they will find the grace to walk a close walk with God and heed His Word.

We spent a blessed evening as we gathered with our Fairbury brethren to listen to the reading of the Memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) along with our Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker and Art Bahler for so lovingly exhorting us to remain true believers.

Sharing God's Word with us this month have been Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Walter Steffen (Milford, IN). May God bless them for so willingly teaching us through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen Mueller have been blessed with a precious baby girl, Allison Renee. Loving grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Muel-

ler.

Two couples in our congregation have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Bro. Bill and Sis. Jean Aberle reached this milestone on December 16; and Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty Nussbaum's anniversary was January 12. We rejoice with them and pray that God will continue to bless them.

Spending time in the hospital have been Bro. Al Zimmerman, Bro. Ben Traub, Michael Kupferschmid, Mildred Metz, and Sis. Rosetta Stoller. May these loved ones feel God's healing power.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Jill (Bro. Rich) Wenger in the death of her mother, Sis. Vi Bachtold (Fairbury, IL). Also feeling this loss are Sis. Vi's brother, Bro. Wayne (Sis. Eleanor) Honegger, and her sisters, Sis. Mildred (Bro. Glen) Zimmerman and Sis. Nancy Honegger. May God comfort these loved ones during their time of sorrow.

Notes of Thanks:

A loving thank you to our family and many loved ones who made our 50th wedding anniversary such a happy occasion. May God bless.

*Lovingly, Bro. Bill and Sis.
Jean Aberle*

A special thank you to all my church family and all my children for so kindly remembering me through my surgery and Christmas, for your cards, letters, pictures and monetary gifts. May God bless you all. I appreciate all your love.

In Jesus name, Sis. Marie Hohulin

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Barb Brim

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Worldly tribulation seems a small price to pay in light of the great reward we can expect to enjoy as children of the King. Peace everlasting in a world where sorrow has no meaning is ours if we, too, through His grace can overcome this world and hold true to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Rejoice, tis ours!

Our congregation has had many reasons to be of good cheer this month with the arrival of two of the Lord's most precious blessings. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand are the extremely thankful parents of Jamie Lynn Wiegand, born January 15. Jamie is heartily welcomed home by her brothers and sisters, Bro. Rudy, Sis. Joan, Fred, and Joy, and grandparents, Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand. What a joy this child is to us all!

Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeni Hart are also happy recipients of God's most awesome creations. Their first child, a son, Jacob Douglas Hart, was born January 19 in Indianapolis, IN. Little Jacob's grandparents, Dean and Julie Rieke and Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry Hart, are overflowing with good cheer upon this newest addition to their families and anticipate much more travel time in the near future. May God's hands be ever on these two precious children as they grow and may His grace abound that they, too, may overcome this world and enjoy a Heavenly reward. Prayers are answered!

Two dear friends were united in marriage this month. Jeff Hohulin (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mar-

ilyn Blunier) and Maureen Schmidgall (Stewart and Cindy) of Tremont exchanged vows and are now happy newlyweds. We extend our very best wishes for a long and blessed life together.

We shared yet another reason for good cheer this month upon the announcement that our Bro. Joseph Beer's (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan) proposal of marriage was accepted by Sis. Heather Wohlrab (John and Bev) of Kewanee, IL. We look forward with great anticipation to their upcoming wedding ceremony and are confident of our Lord's love and blessings upon this union.

Surely as love seems to be of such a worldly and commercial nature this month of February, we, as children of the King, can appreciate so much more the indescribable love of our Father. No words, nor flowers, nor candy, nor hearts, can compare to the love overflowing without cost or end, that our Father extends to all who would believe in His Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Be of good cheer!

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

I had occasion to read the family history of a large (11 children) family in one of our central Illinois churches. It was inspiring to note the respect and affection the children had for their parents.

The father gave a lot of good advice to his children. One example was: "Never criticize a minister. They are doing the best they can." Such advice is good for us yet today. We, as a church, benefit by the faithful pronouncement of God's Word by humble servants. May God bless them.

A hymn in the Zion's Harp entitled, "The Ministers of the Gos-

pel", is a wonderful encouragement to our ministers. It is listed on page 113:

Should I restrain the Spirit's
course
For fear of men so feeble?
Though Satan's hosts are raging
here,
Should not I be more faithful?
Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
Conceal the Word of God most
High?

Should praise of man be more to
me
Than God's most blessed favor?
And though man might reject His
word,
The Truth remains forever;
@TAB TEXT 11 = Unchanging, sure, it does impart
A comfort to the poor in heart.

Shall I to please the blinded
throng
Withhold Thy word so truthful?
Or thus to soothe the ears of men
Of their reproach be mindful,
To gain earth's gilded joys, or flee
The cross endured, my Lord, by
Thee?

O, may I seek the souls who stray
And save them from destruction,
And through Thy holy love still
lead
Them to Thy congregation.
May prayers and pleading
penetrate
To warn them of their lost estate.

Bro. Roger Funk and Sis. Bonnie Maubach were united in marriage on January 20. His parents are Bro. Virgil "Bud" and Sis. Shirley Funk (Congerville, IL). Her parents are Harold and Teresa Maubach of Henry, IL. We, as a congregation, certainly want to wish Bro. Roger and Sis. Bonnie our heartiest best wishes in their new life together. God is to be

praised for granting them grace to seek God first, and then seek His will for their lives.

Bro. Jake and Sis. Amy Schlipf are the parents of Miranda Joy, who was born November 7. She has a brother, Jacob, Jr., 5, and a sister, Kayla, 2. Grandparents are Sis. Lola Schlipf (and the late Bro. Carl) and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig. We rejoice with Bro. Jake and Sis. Amy over this new blessing.

We rejoice that Bro. Jeff Hock is recovering from heart surgery on December 29. He had a hole (congenital) in his heart that needed to be repaired. He trusted in the Lord prior to the surgery, and our many prayers are being answered.

John E. Schlipf recently had surgery for esophageal cancer. His report is good and he is back worshipping with us.

The concerns of health and physical well-being are ever present. Our mortality is always before us. Yet, of far more concern is our spiritual health and well-being. May God give us strength in both aspects, especially our spiritual health.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Bro. William "Bill" Martin was called to his eternal reward on December 26. May God comfort his four sons, William, Bro. Scott, Bro. Tim, and Bro. Jake; his two brothers, Bro. Richard and Edward; his sisters, Sis. Lois Belsley, Sis. Beulah Funk, and Sis. Arlene Stock; his two grandchildren and many other relatives and friends. His wife, Sis. Jane Ebach, preceded him in death on September 25, 1993.

Sis. Caroline "Carrie" Geiger died on December 27 at the age of

99. May God comfort and bless her family who cared for her so faithfully. They are her daughter, Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Richard) Barth, and her grandson and great-granddaughter.

Our congregation wishes God's richest blessings to our newly engaged couple. They are Sis. Lisa Staker (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Pete Monagle of Bloomington. His parents are Sis. Kay and Gary of Washington, IL.

We wish to thank Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word to us. May the Lord richly bless him and all our ministers who are so giving of themselves.

Notes of Thanks:

Sis. Lorine Heiniger wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards, and gifts of love while in the hospital. May God bless all who were so kind.

We wish to thank everyone for the prayers and kind expressions of sympathy extended during the passing of our loved one.

The family of Caroline "Carrie" Geiger

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who remembered me with cards, visits, and prayers during my hospitalization.

Bro. Bob Joos

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Cara Nussbaum

With thoughts of Valentine's Day and love, what better way to start this month's column than with news of a wedding.

On Sunday, December 31, Sis. Kim Meister (Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat) was united in Holy Matrimony to Bro. Dana Plattner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jayne, Goodfield, IL).

They will be making their home in Champaign. We certainly wish them God's richest blessings as they walk down life's pathway together.

We want to extend our condolences to Sis. Dorothy Stoller and her family, following the death of her husband, Bro. Floren. Bro. Floren is the father of Sis. Sherry Sauder of the Peoria congregation.

We are also thinking of Sis. Ruth Knepp and her family, following the death of her husband, Bro. Walter. May the Lord envelope these families in His loving arms.

Special thanks to those brothers who visited Peoria and ministered to us this past month. They are Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), and Bros. Richard Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). May God bless you for your efforts.

Nate and Joanie Hoerr of Peoria are pleased to announce the birth of another boy, Evan Michael, born January 2, 1996. Evan has a big brother named Austin. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr of Peoria and Bill and Fran Sanford of Champaign.

Sis. Dorothea Kieser was hospitalized recently. May God touch her with His healing hand.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Binkele observed their 50th wedding anniversary with a buffet luncheon for family and friends on December 16. They wish to thank everyone for their love, cards and gifts.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Joanna Herrmann

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:..."

I John 3:1

When we consider that we are called the sons of God, this makes me think of Hebrews 12:7, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth," and continuing to verse 9, "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" Looking back to my childhood, I can see that my parents were acting out of great love and for my greatest good, when they said no. It is the same with our Heavenly Father. Oftentimes I think it would have been alot easier to say yes, but a greater love to say no.

We are encouraged in Romans 12:15, to "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." We have had three deaths and one convert this past month. Bro. Floren Stoller passed away December 17. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Dorothy, and one daughter, Sis. Sharol Sauder (Bro. Kenneth), of Peoria, and one son, Bro. William Stoller (Sis. Kathy), of Princeville. We would extend our sympathy to his brothers, Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily), and Bro. Vernon (Sis. Bernice), and his two grandchildren.

On January 5, Bro. Herman Riekert passed away. We extend our sympathy to his brother, Bro. David. May he feel God's comforting hand.

Sis. Nathalie Feucht passed away January 11. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Rueben. Also surviving are their children, Elaine Paris of California, Bro.

Jordan (Sis. Kathy), and Roger (Lynn), of Princeville. We would extend our sympathy to her brother, Bro. Leonard Menold (Sis. Marie), and to her sister, Sis. Emily Stoller (Elder Bro. Joe), and to her grandchildren.

We are thankful that Jeremy Gray has found the grace to repent. Jeremy is the son of Sis. Mary Beth Elsasser (Bro. Brian), and the late Kevin Gray.

We have had three new babies added to our congregation. Victoria Stoller was born December 26 to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller. Victoria is welcomed home by older siblings Rachael, Kendall, and Alivia.

We rejoice with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam Graham as the Lord has entrusted them with another son, Justin, whom they have adopted. He is welcomed home by older brother, Joshua.

Hannah Schick was born January 12 to Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie. Hannah has four older siblings, Andrew, Kevin, Heidi, and Katie.

Our hospital patients are Cordelia Musselman, Sis. Doreen Elsasser (Bro. Duane), and Sis. Lillian (Bro. John). Also "BJ" Elsasser, son of Bro. Brian and Sis. Mary Beth Elsasser, was in for some medical care. We pray for God's healing hand, according to His will.

Note of Thanks:

My heartfelt thanks to all my friends and relatives for their prayers, calls, cards, food, gifts, and visits since my surgery. Your thoughtfulness and concern was very much appreciated. God bless all of you.

Cordelia Musselman

We would like to thank everyone for the sympathy, kindness,

and prayers shown to us in the passing away of our husband and father.

The Floren Stoller Family

We want to thank each one who in any way remembered us with prayers, visits, cards, gifts, and other kind deeds this past year. Even though the path seemed very dark, God has again blessed us with a measure of health for which we are thankful. May He bless each one who has helped lighten our load in any way.

*In Christian Love,
John and Shirley Leuthold*

On Christmas day, in Princeville church, someone took a red Forecaster coat, size 12 (I think), and left an identical coat, size 16, with a black and white scarf in one pocket and a pair of black Thinsulate gloves in the other pocket. If you have this coat, please contact Marie Menold at (309) 385-4514. Address: 503 N. Santa Fe., Princeville, IL 61559.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Lisa Lemman

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that three more souls have turned their hearts to the Lord: Brad Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan), Gini Knapp (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol), and Ben Luginbuhl (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol). May God grant His grace to each of them.

Cheryl Fischer and George Sanford announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge Fischer and Lucille Pellow of Peoria.

January 7 was a blessed day as we witnessed the baptisms of Jesse Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel) and Ben Hartter (Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris). What a privi-

lege to greet them now as our brothers!

"For His Glory" was here for our Family Hymn Sing on January 7. A special thanks to sharing their God-given talent with us.

We extend our deepest sympathy to our Sis. Mae Kae Hodel in the loss of her son, Tim Hodel.

May God bless our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), and Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL).

We pray for the Lord's nearness for our hospital patients this month: Bro. Dennis Lemman (Sis. Karen), Elizabeth Lemman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen), and Brad Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan).

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

May we remember our Elder brothers with our love and prayers as they meet for the mid-winter Conference, to consider the many concerns and problems that face our church, that God's will might be done in all things.

How thankful we are to have had visiting ministers the past month: Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Kenneth Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL), and Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN). We pray God will bless them and their families for their willingness to come and labor in our behalf.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Charlotte (Bro. Dan) Steiner and Sis. June (Bro. Curt) Zuercher. May God grant these dear ones His help and grace in their time of need.

The death angel has again visited our congregation. Bro. Curt

(Pat) Musselman was called Home early Friday morning, December 22. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife; daughters, Jacqueline, Christina, Lori, Janet, and their spouses. Also, his dear mother, Sis. Esther; brother, Bro. Nelson (Sis. Christy); sisters, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Delton) Whitaker (Goodfield), and Annette (Steve) Jackson (Peoria).

We extend our sympathy to Clifford and Roberta Schweigert in the passing of their son, Bradley. He is also survived by his wife, Valena; daughter, Laisa; infant son, Jacob; and a brother, Randy.

May God fill those sorrowing hearts and lives with His love and grace is our prayer.

Sis. Edna and Sis. Barb Getz are now residents at Apostolic Christian Restmor, Inc. in Morton. May we remember our loved ones with our prayers and visits.

God has richly blessed our congregation with special little angels from Heaven. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Cathy Koch welcome Angela Rose born on January 3. She is welcomed home by sisters, Lori, Heidi and Elsie, and grandparents, Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch and Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris Baer.

Bro. James and Sis. Karol Holmes, along with Jamee and Grant, welcome a new sister, Jade Elizabeth, born January 6. Her grandparents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis Holmes and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck.

Noah Paul was born January 9 to Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner. He is welcomed home by Heather, Emily and Lena, and grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bradford, IL).

Morgan Elizabeth was born January 13 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Renee Kaiser. Her brother, Lucas,

and grandparents, Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch (Lester, IA) welcome her home.

Note of Thanks:

The Curtiss Musselman family would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the dear friends and loved ones who have blessed us during this past year with your kindness and love. We are truly thankful for all the prayers, flowers, plants, food, well wishes, phone calls, visits, monetary gifts, and numerous other expressions of thoughtfulness you've shown our family during his illness and passing on December 22. Although this has been the most difficult experience we've been through, we are so thankful to God for all the blessings his friends and loved ones have been. You were a very special part of his life and remain very special to us! Thank you again for all you did. May God richly bless you throughout this new year.

*With love in His name,
The Curtiss Musselman family*

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger**

Priorities can sometimes get us into trouble. We need to first look at each situation and how God would want us to deal with it. However, many people want people to see them as successful. Pride prompts decisions that are sometimes not good for the soul. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?", Jesus asked. (Mark 8:36). He is referring to a man who has gained great wealth, but who has lost all spiritual perspective.

Jesus asks us the same question.

He challenges us to check our priorities. If they have not been focused on God's love for us, He offers forgiveness. He was perfect for us and died for us. Let that be our focus.

We were privileged to have several guest ministers in our church. We are so thankful that we can hear from fellow believers sharing the Gospel, each in his own way. We know that these ministers submit to God's will. These ministers were Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Kenneth Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL). Also, Bible Study was led by Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) on how to be a light in the community around us. We left the evening with a lot of useful Biblical directives. We thank all of the brothers for their service.

Bro. Phil Fritz (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally) was united in marriage to Sis. Jessica Schick (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol), all of Washington, on January 14. We wish them God's blessings and pray for their future life together.

The engagement of Bro. Pete Monagle (Gary and Sis. Kay) to Sis. Lisa Staker (Bro. Ted and Sis. Mary) was announced this month. We celebrate in this occasion as they begin to plan their life together. May God always remain the center of their lives.

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Brenda Bertsch - Kim Maller**

"O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works."

Psalms 71:17

We are rejoicing with the angels

in Heaven as we have had several converts. They are Seth Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb), Klint Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny), Joel Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie) and Richard and Phyllis Reinhart. We wish them much grace as they begin their walk with God.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Kim Reinhard welcome a daughter, Sydnee Nichole, who joins brothers, Alex and Shawn, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Vergene Reinhard and Bro. Butch and Sis. Pat Moser (Bluffton North, IN).

Also, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger welcome a new granddaughter, Victoria Leigh. Her parents are Bro. Toby and Sis. Jayla Steffen (Bluffton North, IN).

We wish to extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Tim Franklin in the passing of his father, Steven Franklin.

We appreciated having Bros. Dave Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) share the Word with us.

We are thankful for God's healing hand on those who have been hospitalized this past month. They are Sis. Jill Fiechter (Bro. Doug), Sis. Myra Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny), Bro. Ezra Reinhard, Sis. Edith Stultz and Sis. Rose Frauhiger (Bro. Tom).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Lori Steffen - Kay Steffen

We had many wonderful teachings this month from our visiting ministers. We thank Bros. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), and Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) for sharing with us.

We rejoice in the engagement on December 17 of Bro. Ross Frank (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Kara Ifer (Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth). We wish a special blessing

on this new couple.

Several new babies were born this month in our congregation. Bradley Sheldon was born on December 15 to Mark and Sis. Jill Middaugh. Grandparents are Bro. Linus and Sis. Nancy Gerber and Max Middaugh. He joins a sister, Megan, and a brother, Jacob. Bro. Chris and Sis. Kim Jutte are first-time parents of a son, Reid Christopher, born on December 29. He is the grandchild of Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber, Tom and Kay Walsh and Walt and Terri Jutte. Bro. Andy and Sis. Cindy Shively are also first-time parents of Drew Douglas born on January 4. Happy grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Sally Shively and Doug and Anita LeMaster. Bro. Toby and Sis. Jayla and little Lydia Steffen welcomed Victoria Leigh into their family on January 12. Her grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger. It is exciting to see our church grow and we wish all of these parents God's grace and direction in raising their precious little ones.

We want to remember those who were hospitalized this month. They were Adriene Troxel (Rob and Sis. Tonya), Bro. Howard Baumgartner (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Ben Habegger (Sis. Arlene) and Bro. Wendell Gerber (Sis. Wanda).

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth

endureth to all generations."

Psalms 100

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lily Pelsy

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Matthew 12:36-37

We thank Bro. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for reading Matthew, chapter 12, at our New Year's service. Some of his thoughts were: Don't deny the power of the Holy Spirit and Jesus' shed blood makes up for what we should be.

Our Sis. Louise Yaggie spent a few days in the hospital and now is making her home at Parkview Haven.

On December 30, Travis Wuethrich and Angie Fenwick were united as one. We are happy for them. May God bless their home. Their parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Nancy Wuethrich and Ron and Sharon Fenwick.

John and Jessica Murray, along with big brother, Brice, welcomed Gage Howard born December 31. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Denton and Howard and Shirley Murray.

Sis. Mary B. Gutwein and Bro. Art Gramm (Leo, IN) were married January 7. We thank Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) for sharing this blessed day with us.

We had four families who lost loved ones this month, to which we express our sympathy. Wayne Messmore lost his loving wife, Hilda Messmore. Bro. Chris Welker suddenly lost his brother, Ed Welker. Bro. Harold Gutwein

(Sis. Maxine) said goodbye to his mother, Lydia Gutwein. Sis. Connie Wuethrich (Bro. Kevin) lost her grandfather, Don Tiede.

On January 14, many gathered together to sing and view the slides on the Caribbean World Relief projects. We want to express our thanks to Bro. Gene Lehman and Bro. Brian Furrer (Wolcott, IN) for this timely presentation.

We welcome Sis. Marie Heinholt, who has moved here from Valparaiso, IN.

We also want to thank our home ministers for presenting a five-week Bible study on Matthew, chapters 5, 6, and 7.

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

Romans 12:10

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Lauretta Schafer
Sandy Lichtle

On December 3, Bro. Jeff Dotterer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyl, Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Lynn Martin (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa, Princeville, IL) were united in marriage in Bloomington, IL. We warmly welcome them to our church and city. It is exciting to see our church family grow!

Our annual Sunday School Christmas program was held on December 17. The children told us the blessed story of Christ's birth through song and verse. We appreciate all the time and effort spent by the teachers and students in preparing this event.

The church was invited to Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller's home on New Year's Eve. We enjoyed a blessed evening of love and fellowship with one another.

We rejoice with Wendi Mathis as she has opened her heart to accept

God's gift of salvation. Wendi is a student at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. We wish her God's grace and wisdom as she begins her new walk in life.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Jim Rinckenberger (Bluffton, IN) for ministering the Word to us. May the Lord bless him and his family for their labors of love.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Judy Gudeman

Our prayers are with Sis. Irma Moser as she continues a good recovery following a holiday time hospitalization. May God continue to bless all of us with health and strength throughout the new year.

We rejoice with Bro. Owen Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) in his marriage to Sis. Nicole Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser, West Bend, IA). We welcome Sis. Nicole to Lacrosse and to our family!

When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united,
The light of hope beams forth
In radiance far and nigh,
Invites us to partake
The blessings from on high.

Zion's Harp #79

Special thanks to our visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

Christmas Day brought mixed emotions as we gathered for services. Our Bro. David Bertsch gave his last message over the pulpit.

He retired earlier from the Eldership. When he was put into the ministry 33 years ago, he felt so deeply the need of prayer, he asked "I need the prayers of those I love" and said "that is exactly what I feel this morning; I need the prayers of those I love." His message took us from Jesus' birth to Calvary, and concluded with "Fight the good fight of faith." (I Timothy 6:12). It was a very thought-provoking message. Bros. John Stoller, Marvin and Lynn Stieglitz each commented on Bro. David's message. Bro. Brace Wieland offered the closing prayer.

Bro. David Bertsch was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease several years ago. A trip to Cleveland Clinic on January 15, revealed he was on the wrong medication. Bro. David, you are in our prayers and may God grant you peace and better health.

We welcomed Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) on December 24, and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) on December 31. We are thankful for their willingness to be led of the Spirit.

On New Year's Eve we gathered at the Fellowship Center for a program of family responses and hymns. The evening concluded with seven speakers sharing the prayer need for America, our schools, the elderly and sick, teenage children, missions, discipline, and the role of the church.

Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) conducted a topical Bible study at mid-week service, on the character traits of the twelve apostles before and after their conversion. It was very enlightening in evaluating our own characteristics.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and Sis. Maureen (Bluffton North, IN) worshipped with us on Sunday, January 14. I was impressed with

his comments on Proverbs 23:13, "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Do not use your hand to administer correction; the child will not trust you, for the same hand that 'beats' also 'loves'. When you use a stick (rod) or another object other than your hand, the child will respect both the stick and you." I also read the rod does not need to be cruel, for in Psalm 23:4 it says "thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Our prayers are with those of our congregation who have experienced illness, surgery and are confined at home during this winter season. We miss Bro. Robert Norr and Sis. Minerva Stoller who are not able to attend church services.

Sis. Marlise Stieglitz was diagnosed with ITP (low platelet count) in mid-December. With intravenous and medication it improved, but then dropped again when the medication was reduced. We praise the Lord the blood test on January 12 showed a normal count. We continue to pray for returning health as she goes for another evaluation at Cleveland. She has not been restricted in her work schedule.

Another boy arrived to bless the home of Bro. Trent and Sis. Heidi Schrock. Hunter Douglas was born on January 15. His brother is Hudson and grandparents are Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Carol Broquard (Bay City, MI).

We rejoiced with Ron and Christy Bowie as they gave their testimony of faith and were baptized in the death of Christ on January 17. We welcome our new brother and sister in the Lord.

INDIANA, MILFORD Renee Beer - Linda Beer

"O Lord, thou art my God: I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name...For thou hast been...a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm..."

Isaiah 25:1,4

Those who have undergone surgery recently were Sis. Sandy Beer (Bro. Lee), Drew Beer (Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Kathryn Emch (Bro. Harold). Also, Denny Sorg, Goshen, son of Sis. Helen Baumgartner, underwent open heart surgery and is recuperating at home. We pray God's healing touch can soon restore these loved ones to good health.

Sis. Dorothy Martin (Bro. John) fell in her home and has been confined there due to her injury. We miss seeing her in church along with Bro. Noah Clauss and his wife, June, since an auto accident they experienced some time back. Our prayers are with Katy Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) who continues to suffer with severe headaches.

Bro. Theo Beer is being cared for in his home by his loving family. His body is weak although some days he is able to walk a little with a walker. Lord willing, he will turn 98 on January 23. We miss seeing him on the front pew in church. His praise of God and a longing for those beautiful mansions above were often mentioned in his prayers.

Our hearts ache with Everett and Sis. Leona Price in the sudden death of their daughter, Vickie Hill, age 41, Sturgis, MI. She is survived by her husband, Gaylord, and children, Summer and Christopher Greer. Also, a sister, Sis. Anne (Bro. Bill) Troup, of Milford, and two brothers, Ron of Ridge

Manor, FL and Bro. Tom (Becky) of Warsaw. We know God's ways are so far above ours and we take comfort knowing He is still in control although we do not understand. God only asks "trust me."

The one promise we can cling to
When the storms of life assail,
Is that God goes through them
with us
And His love will still prevail.

B.J. Hoff

Our annual business meeting was held and we thank those who have served in each of their capacities. Bro. Lee Beer was elected as high school Sunday School teacher, Bros. Sam Beer and Jeremy Price and Sis. Judy Longcor and Sis. Pam Beer as Sunday School teachers in the younger classes. Bro. Phil Beer was elected to trustee, Sis. Renee Beer and Sis. Linda Beer to Silver Lining reporters. Bro. Brian Wuthrich was elected to help run the speaker system. A food committee has been formed for funeral meals. Volunteers formed this committee of three replacing Sis. Eleanor (Bro. Howard) Beer. They are Sis. Pam (Bro. John) Lehman, Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Walt) Steffen and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Rich) Schlipf. We thank Sis. Eleanor for her many years of service in the kitchen.

Where God guides - He will provide!

INDIANA, REMINGTON Patti Bahler

We rejoice with Bro. Joseph Beer and Bro. Alan Schambach who have both asked God's help in finding a wife. Bro. Joseph (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan, Goodfield, IL) is engaged to Sis. Heather Wohlrab from Bradford, IL. Heather's parents are John and Bev Wohlrab

from Kewanee, IL. They look forward to an April 14 wedding. On June 9, Bro. Alan Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma, Elgin, IL) and Sis. Sarah Zehr from Fairbury, IL (Bro. Warren and Sis. Dolores) plan to be married. We want to wish both couples God's blessings and welcome both Sis. Heather and Sis. Sarah into our congregation.

It is with joyful hearts that we report Teresa Fry has found the grace and made the decision to repent and begin a new life living for the Lord. Teresa is the daughter of Joe and Joan Fry from Boswell, IN, a nearby community. She is a blessing to our church. It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to move hearts and grant grace so more souls may come and taste of His goodness.

We are thankful Bro. Andy Zickmund is home again after surgery and an extended hospital stay. May the Lord continue to restore health to Bro. Andy.

On January 4, the Remington church gathered for our annual business meeting. We want to thank the outgoing Sunday School teachers for their dedication and service in the Lord's work. We also welcome our new teachers, Sis. Jody Waibel, Bro. Fred Wahl and Bro. Ed Bahler, Jr. A special thanks to each brother and sister who fill our other offices, too. It takes each one to work together and have the church run smoothly.

Several couples from our congregation travel south for the winter. We pray the Lord will watch over each of them and we look forward to the time they can worship with us again.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

The greatest man is he who chooses the right with invincible resolution; who resists the sorest temptations from within and without; who bears the heaviest burdens cheerfully; who is the calmest in storms, and whose reliance on truth, on virtue, on God, is the most unfaltering.

William Ellery Channing

Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) brought to us the Christmas message of hope and peace on Christmas Eve Day. We thank Bro. Walt for visiting our congregation.

On the following Sunday, Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, La-Crosse, IN) favored us with the Word of Life. Our appreciation is extended to Bro. Tom and his family for their visit.

We offer our congratulations and God's blessings to Matt Beebe on his December graduation from Ball State University with a B.A. degree in Graphic Arts Management.

Sis. Shirley Lehman is recovering from laser surgery which was performed on a torn retina. We pray that her sight will be restored.

We thank Bros. Rich Gramm and Otto Schlatter, Jr. for opening up their home for a topical Bible discussion led by ministering Bro. Bob Beebe.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ken and Cindy Susdorf

As this issue comes out (Lord willing), it will arrive sometime around Valentine's Day; and isn't this a great time to ponder one of the greatest gifts that our Father has given us: Love! Can you remember when you received Jesus

into your heart and just how special that love felt? And how wonderful it is that that love has not diminished or left us. Can you imagine trying to survive in this world without the Lord's love in our very souls? The majority of the world is trying to survive without this very thing. Is it any wonder that our world situation is the way it is? Dear ones, we have been given this love to enjoy and lift up one another's souls. But we have also been given this love to share with others along life's way. Probably most of the time it seems useless to try, but let's also remember that the Lord didn't give up on us, but won us over by showing us Godly love. Let's continue to push forward and try our best to be lights to everyone, no matter how bad they may seem. Remember the Apostle Paul before he came to believe in Jesus? How he persecuted the church, splitting families and even being the cause of some to be martyred. But yet the Lord turned Paul's life around and he became one of the great saints of the church. With the Lord and that great Holy Spirit He has given us, we can accomplish all things. Take courage, loved ones. Read *hymns #289 in the Hymns of Zion*. There is none to compare to our Lord, and He has chosen us. We are winners!

We thank Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) for sharing God's Word with us in this past month. We pray God will continue to bless your ministry and give you traveling mercies along the way.

We had a farewell potluck supper this past Sunday, as Bro. Jeff Strunk will now make his home in the Belvidere, IL area. Bro. Jeff has been with us it seems like a short time and yet he has become dear to all of us. We pray the Lord's blessings on him as he also

begins his new employment.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Willis Feller (Eunice) as he has been in the hospital. Our prayer is that God's healing touch will be with him throughout his convalescence.

We love you all dearly and realize that many people are going south this time of year, but if you happen to be in the area, please come be with us. Until the next time, the Lord willing, we bid you all "Fare Thee Well".

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sheri Bahler - Jody Bahler

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

Hymns of Zion #150

As another year lies before us, let us remember the One who so faithfully provides for our daily needs, and strive to serve Him more each day.

January 3 was our annual business meeting in Wolcott. May God provide for each brother and sister who was given responsibility in carrying out specific duties.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Jill Gudeman have felt God's direction in their recent decision to move to Kansas where they have made Lamont-Gridley their home congregation. We certainly miss them here, but pray God's blessings upon them as they settle in a new location.

Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa Furrer were blessed with a healthy new little daughter on January 11. Angela Lynn was welcomed home by Joshua, Michelle and Laura. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer, and Richard and Lola Ponto.

"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

Psalm 34:18

Ed Widmer (Sis. Gladys) has answered God's call to repentance. We rejoice with Sis. Gladys and family, and pray God's grace will be with him as he strives to work out his soul's salvation. Let us remember to earnestly pray that many more might come to the mercy seat while there is yet day and time of grace.

Anthony and Patsy Blades (Wallingford, KY) are the happy parents of a boy, Levi Everett, born December 26. Levi is welcomed home by Landon, Emma Rose, Evan, Leah, and Emery. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner

Monica Eisenmann

We were thankful to have a number of visiting ministers recently. They were Bros. Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL), and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). May God richly bless them for bringing God's Word to us.

We held our annual business meeting on January 7. We extend our appreciation and thanks to those who have faithfully served us over the years. We prayerfully support Bro. Brian Knapp (trustee), Sis. Edith Massner (Silver Lining), Sis. Dorothy Taeger and Sis. Karen Schulz (kitchen committee) as they assume their duties.

May God be with Sis. Esther

Peterson in the passing of her daughter, Verna Mae Rauhaus Racey; and Ed Streeter in the passing of his brother, Frank. Our prayers are with those who have recently spent time in the hospital or have been confined to their home.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Corinthians 13:13

February, with all its hearts, reminds us of the greatest gift here on earth, LOVE. And when we think of love, it is easy to think of the 13th chapter in I Corinthians, so commonly known as the love chapter. We find in this chapter that the word "love" is replaced with the word "charity". I like to think of charity as a Godly love because it is so pure and perfect. As we read the qualities listed in verses 4-8, it seems beyond the scope of human capabilities to attain unto this perfect love, but with God's help, it is certainly worth striving for.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) and Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA). It was a blessing to have the Memorandum read to us and be reminded of our duties and responsibilities as we profess to be true believers. A special thanks to each of these brothers for sharing God's Word with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Dale Moore, Melvin Moore, Marion Knobloch, Karla Wittmer, and Eugene Moore and their families in the death of their brother,

Wilmer. Parting with one from the family circle brings much pain and grief but we can always find words of comfort in God's Word. In John 14:18 we find these words of our Saviour, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

I was reading the Silver Lining Correspondent Update and noted the writing ideas included God's love. My thoughts went to Hymns of Zion #289, "The Love of God". "The love of God is greater far Than tongue or pen can ever tell." I thought, that's so right. I can never write words to describe God's love. "It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell." My mind cannot comprehend, "God's love so sure, shall still endure, All measureless and strong." I fail so many times at sharing love, but "God's love shall forever more endure." What a comfort—to know God's love is free to all just for asking! We have to earn others' love here on earth. May we strive to share the love God has given us with those who do not know "The Love of God."

We want to thank those traveling to minister and worship with us. Visiting ministers this past month included Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). We truly appreciate the messages brought to us through them from God.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Christopher Eland

Having just returned from a work team to Jamaica, Sis. Janette Schulz, who normally writes our news, asked me to write about my

experience. For those of you unfamiliar with the Jamaican work projects, a little background seems in order. The World Relief committee is working through the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf, whose mission is to spread the Gospel to the deaf. Our church is contributing to that effort by donating time and talents to construct school campuses where these special children can be taught both sign language and reading (as well as other academic areas) so that the Gospel may reach their hearts. Our team focused on constructing a building for classrooms, offices, and a cafeteria.

We were blessed to be able to interact with some of those children whom our efforts were meant to aid; they seemed so eager to return to the C.C.C.D. campus after having been home for the Christmas season. At first, these children were a little timid, but soon it seemed they were swarming anyone who came in their path. Their love and trust was overwhelming. They were so happy to have your attention, whether that be through a hug, being held, playing games, or taking the time to learn sign from them. The joys were hardly one sided; in fact we seemed to learn so much from watching and being with them; the contentment and appreciation we should have for all the special things our Heavenly Father does for us. This fit in with our theme of the week, "Hear Him" so well because we learned that He speaks in so many more ways than the voice of men.

On the second to last day our hearts were warmed when the work team and school children took turns singing and signing Sunday School songs, such as "Jesus Loves Me", "Jesus Loves the

Little Children", and "Neglect Your Bible". Even more touching than the smiles of these singing children was when one of the children signed that we should all "grow like flowers in Jesus", a testimony that the Gospel was indeed reaching these children. We hope that each of you will indeed find that your love and service will "grow like a flower".

Finally, we would like extend our sympathy to Sis. Janette Schulz, on the passing away of her grandfather, Myron Schulz, Sr. (Oakville, IA), on Monday, January 15.

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

On December 19, Bro. Rodney and Sis. Twyla Bajema were blessed with their first son, Micah Lee. Tami, Heidi, Wendi, and Kelli are Micah's loving sisters. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger.

Little Kelsey Lynn was welcomed by Bro. Lynn and Sis. Joni Knoblock and big brother, Kenneth, on December 24. Kelsey's grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger and Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Roy Koehl, Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). We pray a blessing on these brothers as they labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

Our 1995 church statistics were read to us after our New Year's Eve church service. We had 18 births, three deaths, two baptisms and eight souls awaiting baptism.

On the weekend of January 13-14, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls: Sis. Elizabeth Peasley (Bro. David and Sis. Margene) and Bro. and Sis. Merlin and Marilyn Meyer. We appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) as he assisted our Elders in this important work.

We rejoice that two souls have turned their backs on the world and come to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with Sara Metzger (Bro. Thomas and Sis. Debra) and Heather Metzger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary). We also rejoice that Lisa Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky) has found peace and now awaits baptism.

Our hospital patients this month were Rosalie Mogler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly), Dalton VerBeek (Tim and Sis. Becky) and Bro. Wilhelm Wulf (Sis. Leona). Our prayers are with Bro. Bill as he awaits heart surgery. Jerilyn Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl) was a surgical patient.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

We elected several new committee members at our annual church business meeting on January 14. Sisters Charlene Gerst and Emma Jean Lanz replace Sisters JoAnn Steiner and Marilyn Wagenbach on the kitchen committee. Sis. MaryAnn Frank has served her term and is being replaced by Sis. Leann Siegle on the World Relief sewing committee. Bros. Dave Schaer, Sean Gray, and Mark Musselmann will take over the former responsibilities of Bros. Keith Lanz, Dave Eberhardt, and Kenny Lanz as church trustee, cemetery trustee, and fellowship center

trustee. We are thankful that we have willing brothers and sisters to carry out these "behind the scene" duties of our church. May God bless them for their unfailing efforts.

Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) have recently brought forth the Word of Life in our Oakville congregation. May God bless them for their diligent service in His name.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Myron Schulz (Sis. Dorothy) in the loss of his father, Myron Schulz Sr. Oftentimes as we visited the nursing home in Mediapolis, we could observe the keen interest that Myron had in our assembly. How thankful we are that God sets no age limit on those who sincerely seek their soul salvation.

Note of Thanks:

We appreciate so much and are thankful for all the expressions of kindness and thoughtfulness during the passing of our mother.

Bro. Dick and Cleo Gerst

IOWA, PULASKI
Carol Wettstein

As the month of February approaches, we often associate it with the word "Love". Certainly, the first thought should be God's love for us, and then the love between husband and wife, for children and for parents. It is encouraging to know we have that God-given love in our hearts as believers, even when we're living in a world that seems so full of hatred.

Love, since thou hast then
 commanded
 That in love we should be rife,
 O revive each drooping spirit,
 Bring the dying back to life!

Light the flames of love undying
 That each one may plainly see;
 We, as one tribe and family
 To one Lord devoted be.

Zion's Harp #33

We were uplifted and encouraged as Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) shared with us the reading of the Memorandum. Also with us was ministering Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). It was truly a blessed weekend, and we thank these dear brothers and their wives for making the effort to be with us.

Reminder: Subscriptions are due (\$9.00) for Pulaski in March.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Lela Banwart - Eunice Fehr

Christmas season brought several visiting ministers to our congregation. We thank Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), and Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) for sharing God's precious Word with us.

We rejoiced with Sis. Nicole Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen) and Bro. Owen Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) as they were united in Holy Matrimony on January 7. Visiting ministers that weekend included Elder Bro. Curt Frank and Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Larry Wenniger (Latty, OH). We truly will miss Sis. Nicole, but know that the Lord will bless her as she follows His will for her life. We wish Bro. Owen and Sis. Nicole God's blessings as they begin their walk of life together.

Our hospital patients have been

Ben Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) and Sis. Esther Banwart (Bro. Walter). We are thankful that God has restored a measure of health but as we write this month's report, Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther are residing at the Rolfe Care Center. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, knowing that God will be by their side and help them make new adjustments.

Adding to the blessings of the Christmas season was the program presented by our Sunday School. May God bless all the teachers and students for their efforts in bringing us the true story of Christ's birth and His mission.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Toru and Junko Saigusa

Since terrible happenings of Ouru religious cult, it seems that many people in Japan have been suspicious to religions. Japan and we Japanese seem to be covered with a dim and dark image that religions, including Christianity, are something suspicious.

The other day one of the fellow school teachers who believe Bud-disum talked of Shinren, a very famous Buddhist in the Middle Ages in his class, and most of the students were embarrassed and showed some refusal feelings. He told me that he had been very surprised at their response.

His story reminded me of our faith, our religion. I think the same eyes must be poured toward Christianity. We should stare at this depressing situation as Christians.

When we had, more or less, such dim feelings ourselves, we were given a great chance to see our Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) in our congregation.

How many years have passed since we saw last? Bro. Ben told us that he would retire from Elder brother soon. We felt really a long time had passed among us. That feeling reminded us of the blessing and grace we had been given through our Lord, our church, and many many people.

We especially thank Bro. Ben because our Japanese church has been greatly supported and encouraged by him for a long time.

On the very day, Holy Communion services was held in Tokyo. We were so happy that afternoon, because we were also able to see Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA), and Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL). How wonderful that Communion service was!

We have more big news. As Bro. Andrew wrote in the last Silver Lining, Teruo Sanada and Ayako Inoue were converted. We could attend the baptisms held in Tokyo church on December 3.

We pray the Lord's blessings and guidance with Bro. Teruo and Sis. Ayako.

We were glad to see Sis. Heidi and Sis. Tami Inoue (Bloomington, IL), Ayako's cousins and our nieces. They came to Japan to attend the baptisms. We appreciate their visiting us.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

1995 was one of the brightest years, in recent times, for our church here in Tokyo. Our biggest highlight was on December 2-3, when we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms and entry of two more souls into the flock. They are Bro. Teruo Sanada and Sis. Ayako Inoue (Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue). Bro. Sanada gave a clear testimony of

how the Lord has converted him and given him assurance of salvation. For Sis. Ayako, she had the advantage of being raised in a God-fearing home. But she, too, realized her lost state and has humbly sought the Lord. We thank God for both of them. On the day of the baptisms, we had a very full church of about 60, including some first-timers. We can only praise God for a very blessed day!

Sis. Tami and Sis. Heidi Inoue (Bloomington, IL) made the trip over here for the baptisms and then spent several more days with their Grandma and cousins. It was the first time for them to come back to Japan since they moved to America six years ago. We all sure enjoyed seeing them again. Also worshiping with us on that day were Bro. Merle Rocke (Eureka, IL) and Mr. Kiyoshi Fujii, who used to assemble with us in past years, but now lives in southern Japan. We thank them all for their fellowship.

On December 24, we had our annual Sunday School Christmas program, which was also well attended. This year, the Junior High Sunday School class, which consists of five boys, displayed their artistic talent, and drew five posters telling of the true meaning of Christmas, which they explained to us at the program. The youngest class, consisting of around 17 students, explained the meaning of Christmas to us using the English alphabet beginning with "A is for Angels" on down to "Z is for Zechariah" with an explanation (in Japanese) for each word. In late afternoon, after the program, it is our tradition to have an all-church supper and singing, including, in the last two years, singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus". It was such a joy to celebrate together the birth of our Lord Je-

sus Christ. Again, we praise God for a blessed day!

Several people have started assembling with us fairly often, and we pray that God would continue to work in their hearts to give them an even greater interest in the Word. Among them are two women, Kaoru Seya (a graduate of a Christian high school in the area that several of our church sisters attended) and Narumon Tagomori (a Thai lady married to a Japanese), and a young man, Kunihito Mori (living in a college dorm nearby).

The time of New Year's has just passed, one of the busiest traveling seasons during the year. It is a joyful time in that most make the journey back to their hometown to be with family, but also a sad and dark time, as most also visit a temple on New Year's Day or shortly thereafter to pray to the gods for blessing in the new year.

For all of you, we pray that the God of gods, King of kings, and Lord of lords will bless you and keep you in 1996!

KANSAS, BERN
Holly Meyer
Lori Baumgartner

The love of God is greater far
 Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
 It goes beyond the highest star,
 And reaches to the lowest hell.
 The guilty pair, bowed down with
 care.
 God gave His Son to win,
 His erring child He reconciled,
 And pardoned from his sin.

When hoary time shall pass away,
 And earthly thrones and
 kingdoms fall;
 When men who here refuse to
 pray,
 On rocks and hills and mountains
 call;

God's love so sure shall still
 endure,
 All measureless and strong;
 Redeeming grace to Adam's race—
 The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill
 And were the skies of parchment
 made;
 Were every stalk on earth a quill,
 And ev'ry man a scribe by trade;
 To write the love of God above
 Would drain the ocean dry;
 Nor could the scroll contain the
 whole
 Tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Oh love of God, how rich and pure!
 How measureless and strong
 It shall forevermore endure—
 The saints' and angels' song.
Hymns of Zion #289

As the hymn writer has written, the love of God is almost beyond our comprehension. He loved each and every one of us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to this earth to die and shed His blood that we might live. We rejoice with those who take advantage of God's measureless gift of love. Rhoda Meyer (Earl and Darlene), Clinton Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen), and Marla Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene) shared their need for God's love and redeeming grace with our congregation and were baptized the weekend of January 6 and 7.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..."
James 1:17

We are reminded again of God's love in that He has sent the gift of a brand new life into the hearts and homes of loved ones. Roy and Shari Frey, St. Marys, KS were blessed with a son, Jacob Conner, on Wednesday, November 29, 1995. He has one sister, Jac-

queline. We rejoice with his grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter and Fred and Alda Frey, Dubois, NE.

Jeri and Darcy Meyer, Salina, KS, along with their son, Dylan, welcomed little Jackson Del into their family on Tuesday, December 5, 1995. His happy grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Helen Meyer and Delbert and Dea Stanley, Bennington, KS.

On Thursday, December 21, 1995, Bro. John and Sis. Lori Baumgartner, along with their children, Maria and Marcus, welcomed little Michael Leslie into their family. We rejoice with his grandparents, Leslie and Leora Baumgartner and Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

So many times the love of God sustains us in times of affliction as well as in times of joy. We are thankful to have Sis. Anna Ulmer assembling with us again as she was recently hospitalized. Sis. Nancy Rokey (Bro. Galen) recently underwent outpatient surgery. May the Lord provide healing according to His perfect will.

"Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

I Corinthians 12:27-28

On Tuesday, January 9, we met for our annual meeting. May the Lord grant a willing attitude to each brother and sister who has been asked to carry out a duty in our beloved church.

On January 13, the Sabetha congregation gathered with us to hear the reading of the Conference

Memorandum. Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) were here to assist Elder Bro. John Lehman in this work. Other visiting ministers that have shared God's Word with us during the past month are Bros. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), John Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

We want to thank Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) and his family for sharing a Sunday with us this past month.

On January 17, we had our annual business meeting. We want to thank all of those who finished their terms for all the effort they put forth. We also want to pray for those who have a new duty or those who were called on to repeat one they have had in the past. May God guide you and bless you.

"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

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5

What a wonderful promise God has given us! May we ever remem-

ber all the wonderful promises the Lord has given us if we remain true and faithful to His Word!

We have had several in the hospital this month, including: Sis. Edna Reed, Bro. Raymond Roth, and Ray Schrock. May they truly feel the comforting hand of the Lord.

The services at Friendship Manor convalescent home this month were uplifting not only to the residents but also to those who helped with the services. May the Lord touch each and every heart at the home with His special love.

We had a very special event this month. Bro. John Hoffman celebrated his 104th birthday with a party given by his loved ones.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr

Our annual election was held on January 14. Our deepest thanks and appreciation to the dear brothers and sisters who faithfully labored in the various capacities of God's work. We ask for God's strength and wisdom for those who also will be filling these positions.

Hospitalized this past month was our dear ones, Martha Hughes and Kavin Bazil (Lynette Young). Also hospitalized for several weeks was our dear Bro. Floyd (Sis. Mary) Isch for complications from a cerebral accident. Our thoughts and prayers are surely with Bro. Floyd and Sis. Mary as they yield to God's will for Bro. Floyd's health. Once again, we ask for

God's healing touch and presence upon those who suffer from bodily afflictions.

Sis. Hulda Jacobs has lived and attended church many years here. Recently, her health has kept her pretty much confined to her home; thus, has come the time for her son, Lloyd Jacobs, to weigh his decision in encouraging his mother to accompany him to his home in Bellevue, WA. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lloyd and Sis. Hulda during this time of decision. Isaiah 26:3 reminds us: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee." We trust God to go with them.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Duane and Sis. Jill Gudeman as they have made plans to re-establish their home in our area. Bro. Duane has chosen to return to school at Emporia State University. Bro. Duane and Sis. Jill have lived in LaCrosse, IN since their marriage in July. We're glad to have them in our midst.

A special thank you to Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for ministering to us and sharing during our monthly Bible Study at Emporia State University. Also, a loving thank you to Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) for visiting us and sharing God's precious Word.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

Love is...

- putting others first.
- a smile or kind word.
- giving without receiving.
- saying you're sorry.
- going the extra mile.
- praying for others.
- to last all year.

There are many ways we can show our love to each other.

We are always appreciative of the visiting ministers that assemble with us to share God's Word. We were privileged to hear Bros. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR).

We marvel at the birth of a new baby and rejoice with two couples who have become first-time parents.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Marilyn Wiegand are thankful parents of a daughter, Naomi Grace, born December 23. Bro. Doug and Sis. Betty Metzger and Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta Wiegand (Eureka, IL) are excited grandparents.

We are happy for the safe arrival of Jesse William who was born January 11 to Bro. James and Sis. Sandy Hartter. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

May the Lord grant these God-fearing parents much wisdom as they have been given a new responsibility.

Sis. Evelyn Wysong, Sis. Peggy Strahm (Bro. Marvin), Bro.

Nathan Grimm (Sis. Lois) and Bro. Don Strahm have been hospitalized. We also remember Sis. Leota Grimm who has not been able to assemble with us for several weeks. Our prayers are for each one.

We are very thankful Marc Wenger (Sis. Julie) has begun to turn his life over to God in repentance. We pray that he may find the grace to completely surrender all as expressed in the hymn, "None of self and all of Thee".

Higher than the highest heavens,
Deeper than the deepest sea,

Lord, Thy love at last has
conquered
None of self, and all of Thee.
Gospel Hymns #149

We extend sympathy to Sis. Lydia Meyer on the passing of her brother, Lester Meyer.

We experienced a blessed evening on January 13 when Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) read the Memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference to us at Bern. May we support our Elder brothers. As was stated, usually when you divide something it decreases in size, but love is an exception.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Derek Funk

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with
care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

We all know this song and probably have sung it many times. It goes on to say:

When hoary time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and
kingdoms fall;
When men who here refuse to
pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains
call;
God's love, so sure, shall still
endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race
The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment

made;
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,
And ev'ry man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the
whole,
Tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Oh, love of God, how rich and
pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints, and angels' song.
Hymns of Zion #289

God's love is so unfathomable, so very hard to comprehend as the songwriter clearly states. Today we use the word love without much meaning. If we can only think of God's love and how powerful it is, we can surely see the true meaning.

Christmas break has come and gone. Before we left on break, we were together for Christmas caroling. We all had a wonderful time and would like to thank all those who came and helped out. Also, we were fortunate to gather one more Wednesday night for services. Bros. Gary Hertzell and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and their families were with us on this evening. We want to thank these brothers and all the others who lent themselves the past semester.

Now we look forward to starting a new semester. We pray God will be with us and help it be a successful semester. May God's love always be with us.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

If you have been reading the Wichita items in the Silver Lining this past year, you may remember this has been a year of blessings for

grandparents in the congregation. Added to the list are Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer who were made grandparents again when Victoria Rose was born December 26 to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller in Princeville, IL. Grandparenting is a responsibility as well as a privilege. We pray that grandparents will be faithful in their God-given role.

Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) ministered to us on Wednesday, December 27. Bro. Howard began his pulpit ministry in Wichita before moving to Michigan. We are uplifted when he comes back for a visit.

Bro. Al Langhofer has been afflicted these winter months with respiratory problems. We praise God for the times he is able to assemble with us.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

Greetings! A special thanks to Bro. Ron Palitto who shared God's Word with us this past month. He and Sis. Lynell and others from Akron, OH came to visit our "new meeting place" at the Comfort Inn off I-75 and Rt. 60. Several went out to eat that Saturday evening and enjoyed time together.

The Sunday School traveled to Crocket, KY and toured Rod and Staff Publishing Company recently. We enjoyed seeing Christian literature produced from start to finish in a Godly atmosphere. A special thanks for their kind hospitality and the noon meal they provided for our group.

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, we think of the word LOVE and what it means to mankind. Children across the country will be making valentine boxes, Hallmark will be making millions and many will fail to understand

the true meaning of LOVE as God intended it to be. One verse in the Bible that comes to my mind is from John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." This sounds so simple, but yet it can be so difficult, because of our own self will. How do we keep God's commandments? Beloved, I believe one way is to keep our eye "single" (or einfaltig as it is said in German). We must not let our gaze waver from that Heavenly goal for one minute in this eternal race that we have begun. In days gone by when the older brethren plowed with horses, the first furrow was often difficult to make, I am told, because one had to keep one's eye on the stakes set out ahead to keep the first furrow straight and then all others would follow suit. If one looked back or to the side, the furrow would be crooked. It required one's full attention. Doesn't that sound like our spiritual life also? Can we put our hand to the plow and look back? So, as we view the many cards in the racks this Valentine's season, let us each examine our lives to see if we are keeping His commandments, because our actions speak so much louder than our words.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

Rhonda Knochel

Two souls have professed their peace with God and man: Kayleen Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon) and Sarah Jacobs (Sis. Deana and Gerard Jacobs). We wish them our Lord's blessings and grace.

Ministering Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) was with us over the Christmas holiday and was much appreciated.

Our Elder Bro. Andy Virkler held our Christmas Eve service

speaking with the power of our Lord and Saviour. Elder Bro. Andy quoted a verse from a Christmas card:

God Sent Us a Saviour

If our greatest need had been information
 God would have sent us an educator.
 If our greatest need had been technology
 God would have sent us a scientist.
 If our greatest need had been money
 God would have sent us an economist.
 If our greatest need had been pleasure
 God would have sent us an entertainer.
 But our greatest need was forgiveness,
 So God sent us a Saviour.

With the sick and hospitalized have been Sis. Betty Schlatter, Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Wensor), Aaron Pashak, and Bro. Elias Schlatter (Sis. Ella). Also, Bro. Gene Meylan (Sis. Carol) underwent angioplasty. We wish our Lord's healing power.

Ministering Bro. Will Schieler (Sis. Sue, Milford, IN) was with us and the power of God's Word was spoken to us through Bro. Will. I was impressed with this thought that was to us all: If it is to be, it is up to me.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Lynette Moser

Holly Barton

"In the way of righteousness is life: and in the pathway thereof there is no death."

Proverbs 12:28

Our friend, Steve Wieland (Bro.

Rod and Sis. Evelyn, Bay City, MI), has chosen to walk in this path of righteousness, and we are so happy for him. Our salvation truly is a "matter of life or death", and we pray that many more, like Steve, will seek the Righteous One while He may be found.

We gladly welcome back to our congregation Bro. Jeff Reinhard (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores, Garden Grove, IA), who will be working in our area. He is a welcome addition, particularly to our growing young group.

So many have been ill or lost a loved one recently. Our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) is suffering from a ruptured disk. Bro. John Reardon (Sis. Linda) has been ill, and their son, Johnnie, severely injured his hand. Bro. Jim Barton (Sis. Vi) had a brief stay in the hospital again. We pray for God's healing presence for all. In addition, we extend sympathy to Sis. Lois Belsley (Bro. Ben) on the passing of her brother, Bro. Bill Martin, Jr.

We were blessed with two ministers from the Francesville, IN church this month. We very much appreciated the messages of Bros. Chris Huber and Chris Wuethrich. I remember discussing once some aspects of our faith with two close Christian friends who were not familiar with it, and one asked me where our ministers came from since they didn't have seminary training. Preparing to launch into a detailed explanation of how our ministers are chosen, before I could respond her husband quietly replied, "The Lord ordains them." There was nothing more to add! Let's all remind ourselves of this every now and then when we find that we are taking our God's ministers for granted, and do our best to uphold them before His throne.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). We want to thank these dear brothers for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

Bro. Don Miller announced the following information at the close of 1995: 48 members (increase of eight members), 30 Sunday School children, one death and five births. We are very thankful for the increase.

"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

My heart is always touched when I read the Bible story of the love between David and Jonathan. May each of us demonstrate this same love one to another. In our hectic and busy lives, we tend to get so caught up with our own concerns that we lose our sense of compassion for others. We must take time to observe and respond to individuals -whether they are little children, parents, or the elderly. Somewhere amid all the demands on us, as servants of Jesus Christ, we need to take time to hold the hand of an aging person, to comfort a tired mother, or to cradle a child until they sleep.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thank you to our brothers, sisters, and friends for your love, flowers, cards, gifts; and most of all, thanks for your prayers in the passing of

our brother, Bro. Joe Messner. May God richly bless you all.

In Christian love,

*Bro. Ted and Sis. Kelly Schmidt
and Sis. Nancy Messner*

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Linda Schmidgall Maxine Sauder

The theme of this month's article is love. We will write of the legacy of a dear mother's love; a love that binds two hearts as one in marriage; a love that moves us to pray for each other and especially for those we know are hurting; a love that is manifested and multiplied as children are born to husbands and wives committed to God, each other, and their families.

"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

Col. 3:14

We become one in the bond of love.

On December 20, the family of Sis. Edith Joos bid her farewell as she was released from the suffering of her body and welcomed to the arms of Jesus. Sis. Edith is survived by her husband, Bro. Gottlieb; three sons, Bro. Harvey (Sis. Debra), Gary and Bro. Dennis; two daughters, Sis. Marilyn Joos and Kathleen Kloehn (Nolon); two sisters, LaVerna Heil and Cornelia Joos; and a brother, Bro. Noah Nohl. The dedication and self-sacrifice Sis. Edith demonstrated toward those near to her was certainly motivated by a deep love. She was a wonderful example for us all. We lift the family up in prayer during this time of sorrow.

On December 24, Bro. Terry Timmerman and Sis. Connie Koehl committed themselves to

each other in marriage. Their parents are Don and Marsha Timmerman and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon Koehl. As they walk the pathway of life together, may they find their love for God and each other is indeed "a bond of perfectness." We were thankful Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and his wife, Sis. Kathy, could share the day with us.

Love helps bear the burdens of others. We pray for Sis. June Schmidgall, Bro. Joe Feuchtenberger, Bro. Tom Strahm, and Sis. Ruby Luthi as they have suffered physical affliction. May God's healing hand be upon them.

Three families have been entrusted with precious babies to love. What a joy they bring! Ross Anthony was born to Tony and Sis. Peggy Aschman. Big sister, Abby, and grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall and Bob and Diane Aschman have hearts full of love to share.

Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Kay Feuchtenberger open their arms to a daughter, Shanda Rachel. Brother, Tristen, will surely love her too, along with grandparents, Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger and Bro. Edward and Sis. Lois Koehl.

The home of Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn Moser has been blessed with the arrival of Emily Dawn. Brandon, Preston, and Amanda are ready to give their share of loving to the new baby. Grandparents are Bro. Alphai and Sis. Pearl Moser and Bro. David and Sis. Eileen Nohl.

Looking back on the year gone by, our church family has experienced 6 births, 3 deaths, 17 baptisms, 25 converts, and 1 marriage. Our God has been faithful.

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to thank one and all for the cards and gifts on my 80th birthday. I will remember and treasure your kindness. God bless one and all.

*Brotherly Love,
Bro. Leo Dogotch*

Our sincere heartfelt thanks to those who showed love and kindness to us during the illness and passing of our loved one, Sis. Edith Joos. Thanks to those who brought food to the home, sent cards, memorials, flowers, and those who came to visit. Most of all we thank you for your prayers. May God richly bless each one.

Bro. Gottlieb Joos and Family

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Becky Braulick - Jan Messner Greetings!!

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us his Spirit."

I John 4:7-13

Most of our snowbirds have gone now and our month has been quiet. Our love and prayers go out

to those that are ailing and also to Sis. Ella Mae and Gene Schmidt who were our surgical patients this past month.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

Many thanks to Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) for ministering God's Word unto us this past month.

January 7 was the day we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Greg Snyder was elected as trustee and Sis. Lorri Wiegand was elected to the food committee. May God bless those whose terms have expired and direct Bro. Greg and Sis. Lorri in their new duties.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Martha Kellenberger Becky Marti

We were blessed this past month with visiting ministers, Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO). We appreciate their willingness to be used in His service.

Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi have been entrusted with a new son. Jacob Ryan was born January 2 and was welcomed home by Maranda, Jordan, Jennifer and Matthew. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond Luthi and Howard and Mary Zartman.

We recently held our annual business meeting. Bro. Jay Braker was chosen to serve as trustee. Bro. Jerry Braker and Sis. Kristi Luthi were elected to teach in Sunday School. May they feel God's direction as they carry out these new duties.

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

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**Thadd Walter**

"Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." This is the greeting that the Apostle Paul gave to the Thessalonians. In fact, Paul's greetings were similar throughout the New Testament. What a wonderful way to begin a letter! On behalf of the congregation in St. Louis, I would like to extend this same greeting to all with the spirit of brotherly love and holy unity.

This month we were blessed with a visit from Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and his family. Bro. Galen allowed himself to be used by God for our benefit, and for this we are thankful. Also visiting this month was Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO). We thank him for his patient counseling and guidance. We thank God for all of our visitors this month; they are truly appreciated.

This month a lot will be said about love. Love is mentioned often in God's Word. It is written that love is the fulfilling of the law of God, and that all the commandments can be summarized briefly in the saying, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Romans 13:9). This being so, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (I John 4:7-8). May God bless you all, and may your life be one of loving unity and holy purity.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Rusty and Amy Adrian

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

Eccles. 3:1

We rejoice with Bro. Don and Sis. Tricia Grimm on the birth of their precious new daughter, Brittany Renae. She was welcomed home by her big sister, Stephanie (4), and her big brother, Kyle (2). Happy grandparents are Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marian Pflum (Oakville, IA).

Also, first-time parents are Chad and Lisa Massner. They, too, have a new special little daughter, Courtney Ann. Happy grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Rosie Massner and Carl and Alice Adair (Quincy, IL). What a privilege to have these precious gifts from God bestowed on us as parents.

Our heartfelt sympathy was extended to the family of Sis. Elizabeth "Betty" Hoerr (late Bro. George) who went on to be with the Lord. May the Lord strengthen Bro. Marvin and Sis. JoAnn Wiegand and family as they said farewell for a season.

As our thoughts stop and ponder each day gone by, may we each one purpose in our hearts to be an overcomer to the trials in our lives and an encourager to those who need help.

How thankful we are for our visiting ministers this past month who were Elder Bros. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL), and Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), and Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). May God bless each one for their efforts.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 10. We appreciate all those who are always there ready for service. Those elected for the position of trustee were Bros. Don Hoerr and Eric Knochel. Sis. Barb Heimer was

elected to the food committee. Thanks for all the efforts each and every one makes to do their part in making up our church.

We want to thank Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma Klopfenstein (Latty, OH) for coming to Taylor to show slides of their medical work team in Mexico. Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruth Hoerr went with them as they visited the Tamarahara Indians in Cereel, Mexico to supply them with food and medical supplies. It truly is a humbling experience to go to a foreign country to see how most of the people in this world live and see how fortunate we who live in the United States have it. May the Lord bless these missions as they continue on in the future.

We rejoice as we had the opportunity to witness the testimony and baptism of Sis. Lisa Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine) on the weekend of January 20-21. What an encouragement to see another soul turn away from sin and trust in Jesus Christ to be her guide. May the Lord direct her pathway in life each day.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

"...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus gave this first and greatest commandment to the lawyer who came to Him to tempt Him, saying that on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Surely, if we love

the Lord our God first with all our heart and then love our neighbor as ourself, we will be showing the love of God.

God loved us enough to send His Son to earth to suffer and die for our sins. We are glad that one in our congregation has taken advantage of God's love for her. Lori Herzig (Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor) gave her testimony and we welcomed her as a sister on Sunday, December 21, after her baptism. We thank Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for his service to God and to us for the weekend. It was a blessed weekend when we could witness fulfillment of God's love in the life of one and we also want to thank the many others who traveled to share the time with us in New York.

On the last day of 1995 we also gathered again in the evening for a service together.

We are glad to report that Urb Karcher (Sis. Julia) is doing well following outpatient surgery. Also, Sis. Matie (Bro. John) Farney was a surgical patient and is recuperating at this writing. May God be near to each one in their time of need.

Our sympathy is extended to Norman and Mary Schulz as Mary's brother was called from this life after a time of serious illness.

OHIO, AKRON
Diane Jarrett
Joyce Gasser

Love and greetings from Akron. Aren't we thankful that we can have love one for another? Love that translates into rejoicing in one another's joys and weeping with those who sorrow. In February, when we perhaps focus more on love than at other times of the year, take time in God's Word to

read and reflect on what Paul wrote to the Romans about love in Chapter 12, verses 9-21.

Sis. Elizabeth Heib went to her eternal rest, and funeral services were held December 30. Although she had been unable to attend services in recent months, she so often sent greetings to her brothers and sisters in Christ. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Leo and children, Hans and Bridgette.

We are thankful that Bro. John Graf is again assembling with us after being hospitalized this month.

Bro. John and Sis. Martha Palitto celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on January 5, 1996.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. Thanks to those brothers and sisters who faithfully completed their terms in office. Our new Sunday School teachers are Sis. Gail Spangler and Bro. Mike Walder. Sis. Alice Greenbank will serve on the kitchen committee and Bro. Tim Schar as usher.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks

We are now experiencing the January thaw with rivers of melted snow flowing everywhere! After weeks of snowstorms and school closings, this is certainly a change in scenery. Just last week, I sat on a hilltop behind our farm on a beautiful but cold winter day and looked at all the creatures' tracks in the snow as they ventured out into the fields, looking for food. We even surprised three deer who were too busy digging their way down to the soybean stubble to worry about us. I'm sure the wildlife is happy to see some of this snow disappear. While in the grocery store, you can

hear the people complaining about the snow and what it's doing to the roads and how it's closing the schools. I'm sure today we would hear the same people complaining about all the rain and mud. We must be a more thankful people. If I may borrow a sentence from God's Little Devotional Book, "A positive attitude may not directly change your circumstances, but it will change the way you respond to your circumstances."

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

I Timothy 6:6-8

Prayers have been answered for Sis. Theresa Hunyady (Bro. Andy) as her recent eye surgery was a success and she can see much better.

Even though the holidays can be a very quiet time for our little church as loved ones travel to their respective "homes" to be with relatives, we were blessed with two visiting ministers this month. We appreciate the efforts of ministering Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) and also Bro. Glenn Riggensbach (Sis. Lou, Smithville, OH) for bringing God's precious Word to us.

Progress is being made on our renovations. Kitchen, bathroom and babyroom cupboards have been installed and vinyl flooring has been laid in these rooms also. Ceilings have been completed and painting has been started. It is so exciting for us to see these changes being made and we are so thankful.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Sandra Manz**

Our hearts were touched when Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN) felt moved to visit our church one last time before he retired from the ministry. We appreciate his reminiscing and pray God's blessing on him, his family and his congregation.

We are happy to report our latest convert, Amy Dietrich (Bro. Gus and Sis. Dorothy). Our youth can be spared so much trouble and heartache by responding to the Lord's call at a young age. May God be near her and grant her peace during this time of conversion.

Ministering Bros. Doyle Frauhiger and Nile Bucher and their wives (Bluffton North, IN) spent a Sunday with us. Both young and old enjoyed their thought-provoking messages. May God reward them for their service.

Results of elections at our annual business meeting were: Bro. Ray Schlatter, representative to Gateway Woods, and Sis. Kathy Manz, World Relief committee member. We thank each brother and sister for their willingness to serve wherever they are called.

Sis. Betty Manz (Bro. Alvin) has been a surgical patient twice in the last few weeks. So far, the report has been favorable and we wish her a rapid recovery.

OHIO, LATTY**Kathy Sinn**

Bob and Sheila Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee) gave their testimonies and were baptized on December 16 and 17. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Ray with this work. May God continue to manifest

Himself in their lives as well as the rest of us.

We gathered on December 20 to hear the Christmas story as recited through song and verse to us by our Sunday School students. May they feel God's blessings as they are raised with the knowledge of Jesus' birth and come to appreciate and accept His death for each of them.

On January 1, we gathered for our New Year's service which was followed by our annual business meeting. During the meeting, Elder Bro. Ray related that our congregation had 5 births, 6 deaths, 7 baptisms, 2 weddings, and 3 converts during the year of 1995.

The following Sunday, these voting results of open offices were announced: Sunday School teachers, Bro. Lee Nuest (Sis. Paula), Sis. Joan Graf (Bro. Bob), Sis. Jody Dunham (Bro. Byron); church trustee, Bro. Keith Klopfenstein (Sis. JoAnne); fellowship hall trustee, Bro. Jerry Klopfenstein (Sis. Cherry); kitchen committee, Sis. Barb Stoller (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Carol Stoller (Bro. Ray); and World Relief activities, Sis. Karen Steffen (Bro. Donn). May the Lord bless these brethren as they serve through these offices. Thanks to all of those who have completed their terms.

Sis. Marsha Laukhuf (Bro. John) and Kylee Stoller (Bro. Don and Gail) have been hospitalized during the past weeks. May God restore their bodies to full health.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rosswurm have been blessed with a baby boy, John Christian. His sisters, Mallory and Rachael; maternal grandmother, Sis. Irma Stoller; and paternal grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Eileen Whitman, look forward to spending time with God's additional blessing to the family circle.

We want to express sympathy to the family of Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori Stoller at the sudden passing of Sis. Lori's father, Ed Laukhuf. May they feel the Lord's close presence and nearness during this time and the coming months.

OHIO, MANSFIELD**Cari Mann**

Jesus knows thy sorrow,
Knows thine every care;
Knows thy deep contrition,
Hears thy feeblest pray'rs;
Do not fear to trust Him,
Tell Him all thy grief;
Cast on Him thy burden,
He will bring relief.

Hymns of Zion #74

It is our hope and prayer that several of our loved ones are casting their burdens of grief on Jesus. We grieve with Ollie LaRue in the passing of his wife, Martha. Her vibrant, smiling face will definitely be missed by our church family. We also wish to express our deepest sympathy to Sis. Zuzanna (Bro. John) Pfeiffer who has placed two brothers and a nephew in their final rest. Also, Sis. Anna (Bro. John) Webel had a sister go to her eternal home. May these loved ones all feel our love and sympathy at the passing of their family members.

"But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul."

Deut. 4:29

Josh Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Connie) has begun seeking his God. May each new day that dawns find him drawing closer and closer to Him. Our fervent prayers are with Josh as he begins this wonderful way of life.

December 17 was the night of our annual Sunday School Christmas program. As the children sang the Christmas carols with all their hearts, the audience was reminded of the precious Babe who was born so that we might have a hope of Heaven some day.

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptised, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Acts 22:16

Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters are thankful that their daughter, Elizabeth, did not tarry when she heard the Lord calling her. On January 13, we heard Elizabeth's testimony and on Sunday, we had the privilege of witnessing her baptism and greeting her as a sister. May she ever feel the presence of the Lord as she walks here below.

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

II Cor. 4:5

How thankful we can be that we can travel anywhere across this land and hear this same message! This month brought the following visitors: Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI). We are thankful for their efforts to come and pray that God will continually bless them.

This month we also had the privilege of welcoming Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie Webel and Bro. Mike and Sis. Jelena Garunovic who are now assembling with us. As time goes on, may they truly feel a part

of our church family.

"Brethren, pray for us."

I Thess. 5:25

As the time for the mid-winter Conference approaches, may all the Elder brethren feel the prayers of the congregations they have the oversight of. May the Spirit be their Guide as they gather together.

As we enter into "the season of love", let us remember what John 14:15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." By fulfilling this simple verse, we will encompass all possible forms of love to all mankind. May each of you feel God's love not only at this time of the year but all the year through.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Michelle Dotterer

Linda Schar

John and Judy Wachtel welcomed a daughter, Kailyn Maxine, on December 5, 1995. Siblings, Crystal and John, now have a playmate. Grandparents are Bob and Donna Wachtel and Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener.

Baylor John joined the family of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler on January 10. Big brother, Mason, and grandparents, Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler and Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH), anxiously awaited the arrival.

There is much rejoicing in our congregation because two souls are repenting. They are Philip Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) and Michele Geib.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Lillian Bauman and Fredona Shiffer (Berdean) on the death of their brother, Robert Bauman.

Our recent hospital patients have been Bro. Robert Gasser (Sis. Neva), Sis. Mary Maletich, Sis.

Ella Miller (Glenn) and Sis. Olga Soloninka (John). Our prayers are with them.

It is a blessing to have visiting ministers. A special thanks to Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH).

The following brothers and sisters were voted to help fulfill the needs of our church. The positions are: trustee - Bro. Steven Ramsier; treasurer - Bro. Dana Emch; usher - Bro. Tim Hartzler; kitchen help - Sis. Eileen Emch; fellowship hall director - Bro. Jim Rufener; nursing home directors - Bros. Eugene Bachman and Isaac Rufener; nursing home auxiliary - Sis. Claribel Anliker. A sincere appreciation is extended to those who have labored in the past year.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

The goodness and mercy of the Lord is often overwhelming when we take time to stop and think of it, and truly this has been the case of many of us over the past month. We were recently reminded that if you sing "Take Time To Be Holy", it doesn't make sense to stop after two verses in an effort to save time.

It was uplifting to witness a new brother and sister in Christ step from the baptismal waters. We praise God for adding Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle to the fold. The many visitors that were allowed to be present despite the winter storm also made the day special. Ministering brothers were Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH).

Bro. Bob Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon) of Phoenix, AZ and Sis. Laura Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis.

Mim) have experienced the Lord's leading as He has revealed to them His will that they become husband and wife. We rejoice with them and offer our prayers during their time of engagement. We are uplifted to know that "anywhere with Jesus we can safely go" and praise God that they were able to seek Him first. We know that He will not leave them as they prepare for their marriage.

John and Sis. Almeda Brake have reached a special milestone in their marriage as they have been given 50 years together. We are thankful for the support the church has felt from the Brake family over the years.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

John 15:12

Brotherly love is such an essential ingredient in our daily walk of life. Can we feel it? Does it radiate from each of our lives? The blessings are ours as we fellowship first of all with those at home. Then as we travel among our churches, it is humbling to experience the willingness of the brethren to supply our needs and more. We are thankful that this love that we feel is even a commandment of Jesus.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for thoughts, prayers, cards, pictures and gifts that we received for our 50th wedding anniversary. God bless you all.

*Our love and blessings,
John and Almeda Brake*

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Edith Miller

Margaret Blough

We would like to thank Bros.

Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) for sharing the Word of God with us recently. May they feel the Lord's blessings.

Diane Beery has decided to turn her back on the things of this world and repent. May she find much grace from the Lord Jesus to become truly converted. She is the daughter of Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl Beery.

Sis. Carolyn Gasser was hospitalized recently and is currently staying at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home while she recovers. May the Lord continue to bless her with His strength and healing.

A new little baby was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Elaine Marty on December 27. Breanna Elizabeth joins Bryan and Bethany. Grandparents include Bro. Jeff and Sis. Velma Rufener (Rittman, OH) and Dale and Sally Marty. May the Lord bless them with wisdom and guidance as they raise their growing family.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

Bro. Paul Rywalski (Sis. Teresa) was a recent hospital patient. We are glad that he has been released and is on the road to recovery. We are also happy that Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard) and Sis. Clara Beard have been able to once again assemble with us.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you..."

John 14:27

Sarah Beard has found this perfect peace and is ready to give a testimony of her faith. May she ever look to the Lord for guidance throughout life.

We extend our congratulations to Sis. Cherie Maibach who recently earned a degree in elementary education. We miss having her here as she has returned home to Rittman, but wish her God's blessings as she seeks employment.

We extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet Stoller. They recently moved from Latty and have joined our Toledo congregation. We hope they quickly feel at home here.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

I do not know what may befall
Of sunshine or of rain.
I do not know what may be mine
Of pleasure or of pain.

But this I know - My Savior
knows,

And whatso'er it be,
Still I can trust His love to give
What will be best for me.

Author Unknown

Now that the holidays with all its anticipation and preparations are past, these last months of winter may seem long and uneventful. I am sure most of us look forward to spring. But outside it looks a bit dreary. We all know we need rain as well as sunshine, but grey and rainy days sometimes make us feel gloomy. At times like this it helps to stop and think about our blessings great and small which help us through our day: the sunshine we have enjoyed in between overcast days, for instance. It's good to enjoy and appreciate the simple things in life, because they are all given to us by our Lord.

We welcome back in our midst Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb Moser after their extended stay in Florida. We missed them and are thankful the

Lord brought them back home safely.

We wish to thank all visitors who came to worship with us during this past month. It is especially nice to have extra voices to sing our beautiful hymns. As said before, we truly appreciate each and every one making the effort to come and worship with our small congregation.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

We rejoice with three dear souls who have found peace with their Lord; namely, Lori Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), Tonya Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda), and Curt Walter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen). We wish them the Lord's continued grace and guidance as they await baptism.

We were thankful to have Bro. Ed Knecht (Portland, OR) spend a Sunday with us this past month. May the Lord richly bless him for his willing service.

Sis. Barb (Bro. Jim) Kuenzi was a recent hospital patient. We are glad she is able to assemble with us again.

We have two births to share this month. Taylor Lee was born on January 3 to Gary and Sis. Tami Dettwyler. She is welcomed by her siblings, Dustin, Shannon, Garrett, Gavin and Morgan. Her grandparents are Al and Helen Dettwyler (Silverton) and Al and Pam Sprauer (Mt. Angel). January 15 brought the arrival of Joseph Aaron Kuenzi into the family of Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet Kuenzi. Justin, Jaelyn, Janeen and Juliana are so happy to have a little brother. Joseph's grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi and Leroy and Rose Rush (Gervais). May the Lord grant these couples much

wisdom and guidance as they mold these precious souls.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

The Master's Bouquet

The Master walked in His garden,
Plucking flowers along the way;
He plucked one of my loved ones,
To add to His bouquet.

My heart at first was broken,
At the loss of one so dear;
But the tears I shed just washed
my eyes,
So I saw His way more clear.

Isaac Glen Isch was called to Heaven on December 21. Three and one-half month old Isaac is survived by his parents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda, and his brother, Joel, and his sister, Bonnie. We extend our sympathy to Isaac's family and may God comfort them.

We rejoice with Charles and Kimberly Insings and Bill Keene who have begun a new walk of life. May they feel God's nearness.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

I was in a Hallmark store yesterday and all around me were cards and gifts reflective of love. As the theme of this month's Silver Lining was love, I started doing some Bible research on this subject. The passages below were a blessing to me, and I hope they will be to you as well:

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God

sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."

I John 4:7-9,12

Church services were canceled on January 7 due to inclement weather conditions. We did meet for a tape service on January 14 with visitors from Lexington, KY. Lord willing, we hope to hold services on our regularly scheduled Sundays on February 4 (Leo, IN); February 18 (Phoenix, AZ); March 3 (Gridley, IL); and March 17 (La-Crosse, IN).

If you are traveling in the Nashville area, we encourage you to stop and worship with us. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-8761; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940.

TEXAS, DALLAS & CENTRAL Christine Kaiser

Kim Kaiser

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest...". Our small congregation in Dallas is again thankful for the love and support that has been extended by our visitors. Recently, Bro. Ronald and Sis. Nancy Schambach (Elgin, IL) shared a Sunday with us. In addition, Bro. Leland Plattner was up from Zapata to give us a Communion exhortation. We pray that God will bless these ministers and their wives for serving Him faithfully.

In Austin, Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford, IL) shared Christian love and fellowship with the folks attending the service at Brian Kaisner's home; our thanks to them. These Sundays spent worshipping and praising God together are precious

to us all.

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, if you need more information.

Dallas church services are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at the Holiday Inn in DeSoto, TX. Service times are

10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp (214) 867-4074 or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for more information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

We are thankful for the visiting ministers we had this month: Bros. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Athens, AL) and Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR). Retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Sis. Clara, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and retired ministering Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Sis. Hazel, Winthrop, MN) were here also.

We are happy to have our trustee, Bro. David Schlatter, and his

wife, Sis. Margaret (Bay City, MI), with us for the winter.

The four foster children that were staying with Bro. Lloyd, Sis. Joyce and Julie Nohl have gone home to live with their family. We pray that Albert, Christina, Dixie and Anne will remember their Christian training they received while living with Bro. Lloyd and family.

Does God love his people?

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."

Proverbs 8:17

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

I John 4:19

Silver Threads

LOVE

What a precious word is love!
Who can understand the fullness
Of its meaning so divine;
Of its truth and blessed pureness.

For our God himself is love,
Love eternal — who can measure
All the fullness and the depth
Of this word — divinest treasure.

Coming from the dawn of time,
God this holy word has given.
With a meaning so sublime,
As a gift direct from heaven.

Love would be an empty phrase
If there were no gentle Saviour;
Darkness would surround our ways,
If we could not find His favor.

Blessed light and holy love
From the Saviour's face is gleaming.
Love so gentle, love so pure,
In each ransomed heart is streaming.

Only ransomed souls can know
How this love can bring communion
With God's children here below,
Binding them in holy union.

Love unites our hearts to God,
Gives us zeal and ardour fervent;
In this love obeying Him
As a lowly faithful servant.

Bro. Henry Beer

Silver Threads

GRANDPA

When I wake up in the morning
And go to bed at night
You're the first thing that I think of
And the last to cross my mind.

I think of you throughout the day
It brings such hurt and pain
To think that you're not feeling well
And I can't do a thing.

I have a lump stuck in my throat
And tears within my eyes
And think it more than I could bear
If you perhaps should die.

I'm not sure if I can let go
Although it might be best
If you could only fall asleep
And then be laid to rest.

I love you with all of my heart
And if you are to die
I know no matter how I try
'Twill be hard not to cry.

Teardrops are slipping down my cheeks
Within me, breaks my heart
To think that soon the day will come
That we will have to part.

But yet there is another hope
That on the other shore
We will be united again
To part no never more.

I will always love you, Grandpa.
Forever and always.

*Submitted by Sis. Julie Schrock,
Congerville, IL*

Take the Time

It's 9:15 and bedtime took too long once again,
Another kiss, another glass of water and then
The questions come, the hands hold tight, the eyes
are open wide,
And something in me whispers "Now's the time."

"Mommy, why did Muffy die?
Daddy, where's the sun?
Are there cats in Heaven?
Why did Jesus come?"



And though a whole day's dishes wait
And bills are piled high,
Something in me whispers,
"Take the time."



Take the time while they're right by your side.
Take the time while their hearts are open wide.
Teach them how to love the Lord,
With all their hearts and mind.

*Oh, they're only home a season...
Take the time!*

“GOD’S WORD IS LIVING WATER”

Sermon by Bro. Timothy D. Zimmerman of Lamont-Gridley, KS

I Kings 17 and John 4:1-38

Here is an episode in the life of our Lord and Saviour and the various individuals that He encountered. Here it says that He was going through Samaria. “There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.” (John 14:7). The woman marveled because the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans.

If we look back in history, we can see that the Samaritans were a people who intermarried and the Jews tried to remain pure. They were lifted up and thought more highly of themselves than others, and they had no dealings with the Samaritans.

We know that our Lord and God is no respecter of persons. (See Acts 10:34). Here Jesus came and talked to her and said, “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.” (John 4:10)

“If thou knewest the gift of God...” Truly, as we sit here today, we all know what He was speaking of when He said, “the gift of God.” We know that is nothing less than the gift of life eternal...life everlasting! That is the gift that He wants to give to us. We know that it is only from God that we can receive this.

We heard much this morning of what, perhaps, the world would have to offer and what mankind would seek in this world. It is nothing that lasts...nothing everlasting!

Here He said, “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who is it that saith to thee...” (John 4:10). If mankind only knew the gift which

is life eternal and who it is that is speaking! We know that God’s Word speaks unto us and it is God speaking unto us. We know that God touches our hearts. He has touched many of our hearts and revealed Himself unto us and has made known unto us the judgment of God.

We did not have to question who was speaking unto us, just as we know that when God struck down Paul, he said, “Lord, who art Thou?” (See Acts 9:5). Even though Paul said “Lord, who art thou?” he knew that it was the Lord talking unto him. We, who have experienced it, and even those who have not gone through that repentance, they cannot deny that God has spoken unto them many times. They, too, can avail themselves and take advantage of the gift of God, which is life everlasting.

God makes it possible. He said, “If thou knewest the gift of God,...thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.” (John 4:10). So God makes His way and His plan available unto all. He calls unto us and just as it says here, “Thou wouldest have asked...”

We know that God only wants us to come and ask, seek and knock. (See Matthew 7:7). Truly He will give unto us. He is no respecter of persons. (See Acts 10:34).

“The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?” (John 4:11). He was speaking of heavenly things and of spiritual things. But in her mind, when He said “water”, she was

thinking of this well.

We only have to go back in this previous chapter and know that when the Lord spoke to Nicodemus and told him, “Ye must be born again,” Nicodemus wondered at that also. (See John 3:3-4). He could not comprehend it. We believe that this woman here could not comprehend because she was not thinking upon the same things that our Lord and Saviour was.

She asked Him, “Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well...” (John 4:12). Jesus answered and said unto her, “Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” (John 4:13-14)

“Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again...” We know that is the water that we all need to partake of each and every day to sustain our mortal body. But He said, “Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst.”

Our thirst for life eternal is going to be satisfied. Yet, on the other hand, we are going to have that hunger and thirst that we want to look into God’s Word. We want to better know God’s will and God’s ways.

You know, in this first reading, we read of Elijah. We see how God cares for His own. We see here how Elijah told Ahab that it wasn’t going to rain. God directed him to go and the ravens fed him. (See 1 Kings 17:1-4)

Then he finds himself here with

Sermon continued...

Sermon continued...

this little woman. We marvel somewhat at what had taken place here.

This woman did not have much. We can read in this account that Elijah went there and he said, "Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink....Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand." (1 Kings 17:10-11)

Her response was, "I don't have very much. I just have a cake, a handful of meal and a little oil. I am going to gather a couple of sticks and make a fire and I am going to eat with my son and then die." (See 1 Kings 17:12). She didn't have much to look forward to. We can almost say that she was hopeless.

The famine was upon that area and they did not have much. Such is the condition of the heart. Elijah was a man of God. Just as the Lord came and spoke unto this woman there in Samaria at the well, Elijah came and spoke to this woman. She didn't have much and she recognized that. She said, "All I have is just a little; then I am going to die."

That is what God wants to impress upon our hearts - of how needy we are. We, too, are going to die. We are going to an eternal death unless we avail ourself of this living water that Christ spoke unto the woman about the gift of God. It is something that we can grasp hold of, if we do come and ask.

He told the woman, "If thou knewest who is it that is talking unto you and the gift, thou wouldst come and ask of him." This woman did not have much to look forward to. We know that Satan would like to blind our minds and our thoughts to make us think that we have everything in this life and this world.

Yet, the hymn-writer wrote, "How shall it be, when at last returning?" How shall it be? That is what God wants us to look at—the eternity, not the present. Mankind is going to seek to satisfy their desires and pleasures here in this life to take away the longing or the thought of eternity.

Here this woman did not have much to look forward to. She felt her need. Elijah said, "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son." (1 Kings 17:13)

We would think that that was a request that perhaps if we found ourselves in that situation, we might not be so willing. She did not have much, yet he said, "Make me first and then make for thee and thy son."

That is what we heard this morning. God asks of us that we would seek Him first. When the call went out, when the supper was ready, they all made excuses. They had bought lands and had oxen to try out and one had married a wife. All had excuses that they could come up with. (See Luke 14:16-20)

But God wants us to seek Him first and above all. He will provide for us everything that is needful and necessary. I believe that was one of the points that He was trying to make unto us, as we heard this morning, that we should seek Him first.

Here we see the faith that this woman had. We speak of faith like a grain of mustard seed. Yet, we would say that this faith is far greater than that. She was willing to deny herself what she had, though little it be. She was willing to deny it and to share with this man of God.

She went and did according to the saying of Elijah and they did

eat many days. The meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, by the word of God. (See 1 Kings 17:14). We believe that God will not fail us. God will provide for us, if we are willing to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Him (See Mark 10:21). He is going to provide for us.

Now, as we read on here, it says that her son became sick and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. (See 1 Kings 17:18). He died. Her son died. She said, "What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?" (1 Kings 17:18)

We marveled at her faith when she denied herself. Now, someone she had dearly loved died...she was a widow...she had one son...and he was taken out of this life.

We almost would think of God giving His only begotten Son into this world. He came to seek and save that which was lost - all mankind. God was willing to deny Himself His only begotten Son to come into this world.

Here, when this came upon this woman, we see how her heart was broken. Here we see the compassion of our Heavenly Father. Elijah went and called upon God and the life was revived. We see and can well imagine what kind of a face she had now!

The last verse of the chapter says, "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth." (1 Kings 17:24). She had a faith when she denied herself. We see how that faith increased now when the temptations and trials of life came upon her, even something very near and dear unto her, even if she had to be denied of her only son. We see the faith now she must have had, and

the trust that she had in her God.

She says here, "The word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth." Hopefully, that is the thought that we always have upon our hearts—that the word of the Lord is truth. We read that in this chapter here.

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." (John 4:23). That is what God wants. That is what we believe that He has placed mankind here upon this earth for—to worship Him. To be a pleasure unto Him, we should worship Him in spirit and in truth.

This "in truth" is that we would be of a sincere heart and have a faith unailing and that it would be durable and take us through all trials and temptations in this life and help us upon life's way, just as it did for that woman in that situation that she got herself in. We

must place our trust and our confidence in our God. We can think here of the hymn that we sang together, "How shall it be?"

We read here "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14). Again, we believe that is what that woman experienced.

Oftentimes, as we think of this well of water springing up into everlasting life, I think of a spring at home. We had a pipe shoved back in the hillside. It didn't really run, but it trickled, and that spring ran in the winter time, summer time or any time of the year. It was always running.

That is what we believe God wants His Word to do within us—a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. It continually comes forth within us, to be refreshing unto us and satisfying. We should not be dissatisfied, but

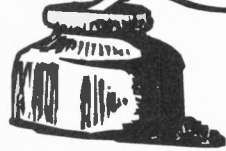
that we would be satisfied with what God has made available unto us.

We look back at the Garden of Eden and we think of Adam and Eve. Satan made them dissatisfied. God had given unto them everything there was that was needful and good. Yet, when he came in his subtle way, he made them become dissatisfied. They thought that they had to have that fruit and that knowledge of good and evil and be as God.

They became dissatisfied and that is what Satan wants to do with us. He wants us to become dissatisfied, but God wants to give within us this well of water springing up so that we are satisfied. Not satisfied with ourself; but satisfied with what God can do and has done for mankind.

He has given unto us this hope of life eternal; something that the world cannot give, but God alone.





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

One studies history in order to learn about the trends and attitudes of the past. Historical knowledge, however, is of little consequence unless its lessons are used as a guide for the present.

It is of interest to note the historical "lineage" of religious groups. A study of Christian history reveals differing influential patterns of various groups, i.e., how they were shaped, and what they have become today. The historical pattern of the Apostolic Christian Church is often distinctive when compared to contemporary groups—such as "fundamentalists" and "evangelicals".

Although we, as a church, trace our spiritual lineage directly to the Bible—and our intent is to follow the New Testament literally as led by the Spirit—we (like any group) have been influenced in varying degrees, by the spiritual attitudes and devout lifestyle applications of faithful saints that have preceded us.

Nearly all groups claim the Bible as their creed and final authority — yet religious pluralism flourishes to the extent of 1,200 identifiable denominations in America (source: American Encyclopedia of Religion). Each group can likely trace their lineage of religious influence.

As Apostolic Christians, our influential lineage can be traced, in part, to 16th century Anabaptism—that fragment of reform called the "radical reformation". This was a religious awakening that

took steps beyond the original reformers in adhering to God's Word. While Luther (in Germany) and Zwingli (in Switzerland) said, "faith alone", the Anabaptists said, "faith and life", that is, one's Christian life must be reflective of one's faith. A soul must follow the Lord with his whole heart as a new creature.

The origin of Anabaptism was three hundred years before Samuel Froehlich began his preaching work in Switzerland. Thus, our people never had any direct link to that movement. Our interpretational sense of doctrine and life, however, was similar in some (but not in all) instances to this religious attitude. Similarities include the concepts of conversion, a pure church, the practice of redemptive discipline, and true brotherhood. Further concepts woven into that doctrinal outlook included separation from sin and non-conformity to the world. A distinct life from that of the world was/is a hallmark of Anabaptist-related viewpoints.

Today's American evangelical and fundamentalist groups trace their origins to the Anabaptists as well, but their major influential root reaches back to England. Also, Calvinism, in part, has had an impact on modern evangelical and fundamentalist thought. The teachings of John Calvin of Geneva, Switzerland (who lived from 1509 to 1564) have held a large sway among modern Christian groups (i.e., primary

among these is unconditional eternal security; others, in varying degrees are predestination, total depravity, and limited atonement).

The Bible calls for an intimate sense of unity among truly converted believers. Froehlich, in establishing a church based solely on the Word, saw the value in crafting a careful attitude about doctrine and the need to keep it pure (Romans 6:17; I Timothy 4:13) by not mixing/exposing it amid the swirl of emerging religious thought around him.

Differing historical influences account, in part, for the varying religious outlooks today. The point to be made is this: Our church's historical link to the past (and our doctrinal outlook) differs from some of the general evangelical/fundamentalist thought that exists around us. God is certainly the final arbiter of the thoughts and intents of the heart. We state these points as historical facts, and not to pass judgement on those whose motives are sincere.

The Bible is the final authority. It is changeless. Its inerrancy and infallibility—and proper interpretation—make it a sure foundation for all who hope to follow Christ, and to some day reach that heavenly portal!

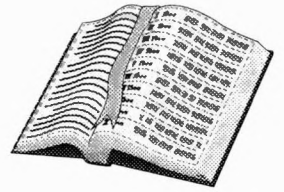
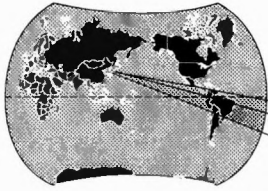
Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

**Humility as a
Historical Theme**

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

“The Power of a Smile”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We have at our disposal a very powerful tool for good. What is it? It's a smile.

Jesus said, “In this world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” A sincere smile indicates good cheer, hope and friendliness. True faith in the Creator God and in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, always gives us hope. The good cheer and friendliness is up to us.

The story is told about the grandfather of the Scottish author, Robert Louis Stevenson, who was crossing the Atlantic in a ship in the middle 1800's. They ran into a very severe storm which had the passengers huddled down in the hold of the ship. Grandfather was able to climb the stairs and reach the deck where he could see the pilot of the ship who was wrestling with the task of guiding the ship through the storm. With an anxious look on his face, Grandfather stared at the pilot. The pilot must have felt the stare for he suddenly turned his head and smiled at Grandfather, who hur-

ried back below deck with the exclamation to his fellow passengers, “Everything is going to be all right. I saw the pilot smile.”

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Pilot of our ship of faith, this human vessel. If He instructs us to be of good cheer, then He, Himself, must be smiling a good deal of the time. It sounds to me like it is all right to smile.

We must realize that sometimes a smile is not appropriate such as at a time of sorrow, but as a rule, if all children of God would go around sincerely smiling, it would be a good testimony.

Some people have a problem with depression which makes smiling difficult, but too many of us have no good reason for not smiling. We are extremely blessed and should seek more earnestly for peace and love and harmony.

Since a smile has so much power, the devil also uses it, but he uses it falsely to deceive and to seduce. Therefore, we cannot say that all smiles are good. This might lead some people to believe

that since they do not feel like smiling, it would be wrong for them to pretend to smile. However, if it is not your intent to use a smile for deceitful purposes, it is quite all right to try your best to smile until it becomes natural to do so much of the time. God knows the intent of your heart and that is important. God's Word “is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

A smile encourages and radiates respect and love. This helps other people and gives them a sense of self worth, so badly needed by all of us. Criticism can help us if humbly accepted, but too much of it cuts us down. Other people's smiles have tremendous power to lift us up and to encourage us. Even our own smiles make us feel better. We have at our disposal a very powerful tool for good. Let's use it.

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MILFORD, IN -1940

The “small white churches” of the past seem almost to be a tradition in our church’s history. The story of people searching for new means of living is often heard by those who remember that early part of history. A host of families moved to Milford, IN in search of new farm ground around 1905 and built a small white structure, which was remodeled in 1940. The congregation added a basement and a new front to the older structure at that time. In 1960, a Sunday School addition and a nursery were added.

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