

The Silver Lining



... for Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

January 1997

“GOD’S GLORY IS REAL JOY”

Sermon by Bro. Edwin A. Bahler of Remington, IN

Romans 12

Beloved, we read in Psalm 107, “Give thanks unto God, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;” In the Psalms, we learn the primary reason for coming to church. We can read Psalm after Psalm where it says, “Praise ye the Lord!” The word “Hallelujah” means “Praise God” or “Praise the Lord”. Give thanks unto God.

Surely of us seated here today, we ought to be of all people on the face of this earth most thankful for the blessings we have already for living in a free land. We have in this nation experienced fifty years of prosperity without a great war (we have had Vietnam War, Korean War and all these skirmishes) after coming out of World War II. There are brothers sitting among us here who spent time in the service and came home. We survived and did not have to give our life as some of our own buddies and own schoolmates did.

Young people today cannot quite picture what that time was. They cannot picture what a gloom was upon the world when we were at war with the Germans and also the Japanese, and the fear that came over us that we might be overrun and be put under subjection as it was with Israel for 2,500 years before they became a nation in 1948. If there is a people on the face of the earth that should be thankful and want to worship and praise God, it should be us.

I trust that kind of feeling is in every heart of everyone present. We are grateful and thankful and want to praise, honor and worship God. The second reason we assemble in church is to be taught and instructed in righteousness—to learn

how we ought to walk and ought to live among the world, our fellow men as a light and a witness.

Then the third thing is the fellowship—to be a support and to encourage one another. I believe in Romans 14 it says, “Let us work for those things that make for peace and those things that edify one another.” In our conduct and visiting, we should edify, encourage and inspire; not cut down, break down, hurt and injure one another with our words. We need words of grace and love and help one to another. This particular chapter is very inspiring to me. I am grateful that it opened before me today.

We read here, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,” (Romans 12:1). We read in Lamentations 3, “It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed; because his compassions fail not...great is thy faithfulness.” (Lam. 3:22-23). We surely would all have to quickly notice how great is the faithfulness of God, particularly unto His children. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ear is ever open unto their cry! That is God’s promise to us as children of God. His eyes are upon us, His ears are open to the cry. In Proverbs 15:3, we read, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” So God is watching us and over us.

“...that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,” (Romans 12:1). We need to be ready to sacrifice our own will and give of our time to help and be encouraging to the church, and the keeping of the church, the inspiring and helping of our children to see the way of the cross. The way of the cross leads home.

“...holy, acceptable unto God,”

(Romans 12:1). Our conduct should be above reproach and holy, acceptable unto God in our daily conduct, every day, day in and day out, not only today. It is only our reasonable service. Even in the best of efforts, we all fail and come short. None of us could do that great of a job.

“And be not conformed to this world:” (Romans 12:2). What does “conformed” mean? That means to copy, be like, act like, or follow after. The people and the fashions that we see in the world around us, we are not like them. We are modern and modest. I looked up the word modesty once and it said that we are completely free of anything that would be suggestive of sexual impurity. It is clean minds and clean hearts...a Christ-like spirit. We can only have that kind of a spirit and that kind of heart by reading and meditating in God’s Word daily.

“...but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:2). What is the will of God? It just occurs to me in I Thessalonians, next to Timothy, it tells us in

Sermon continued on page 44

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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

January 1997

The Education of Our Children - I

Although there are many public schools where sound, fundamental principles are taught, many parents in our brotherhood are very concerned about the impact that education has on the behavior and thoughts of their children. Two editorials will deal with this important issue, discussing the responsibilities parents have for their children's education, some concerns about public education and some possible ways of working with teachers and administrators for those who send their children to public schools. A separate article will deal with alternatives to public education. God established the family unit in the very beginning (Gen. 2:23) and gave parents the responsibility not only to love and provide for their children, but also to teach (Deut. 4:9; 6:7; Isa. 28:9) and to train them (Prov. 22:6). The primary educational responsibility that we are given by the Bible is to teach our children about God. And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up (Deut. 6:5-7). For most of the time since God put man on the earth, children have learned the lessons about right and wrong and the skills needed to earn a living from their parents. The instruction that parents provided was primarily through their daily example as children observed them in their work and in their behavior. Most children grew up working with their parents, learning the same occupation. Occupational choices were limited and the economic reality in the lives of most families made it necessary for children to learn an occupation early in life. Education and daily existence were one and the same.

Beginning in the 1700's, The Industrial Revolution, and more recently the technology and information revolution have made it a much more difficult task

for parents to teach their children the skills that they will need to be productive citizens. It is no longer likely that most children will have the same occupation that their parents have. Change is so rapid and so all encompassing that most of today's children will likely have several major career changes during their working years, if the world stands.

The public school system, which was established by the churches in the early settlements of our nation, served us well for many years. Many public schools are still doing a good job. Most schools have dedicated teachers and administrators who work very hard to provide a good education for our children and base their decisions upon sound moral principles.

The primary purpose of the early public schools was to teach children the "Three R's". Because the most important reason for learning to read was to make sure that children could learn to read the Bible, there was very little disagreement about what was to be taught. The vast majority of the children grew up in fairly stable homes where discipline was based upon Godly principles and appropriate behavior was enforced. Most communities were small, the citizens were of a similar background and neighbors were usually quite supportive of one another. Christianity played a major role in the atmosphere of early schools.

As communities became more diversified, it became more difficult for Christians to maintain their influence on the moral atmosphere of our schools. Court decisions have further eroded the ability of teachers and administrators to maintain the necessary control that establishes an environment which enables our children to obtain an acceptable education. Additionally, some special interest groups have pushed for educational reform that brings unacceptable doctrine to our children.

We are living in a time where there is much confusion in the world. The evil influences that confront God's children cause us much concern. It is not only natural, but also necessary, for us as children of God to be concerned about how

we can minimize the influence of the world upon our children. There are many ways in which we can fulfill this need to shelter our children from the world. It is very important for mothers to be home when the children come home from school. Talking to them, listening to their concerns, and providing a refuge or haven from the world is very important, scriptural, and helps fulfill the advice in Titus 2:3-5 that the aged women "...teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home,..." Enrollment in nursery schools may be an unnecessary and premature exposure of children to outside influences. If we are inclined to teach our children at home, then we can teach them the things that they would otherwise learn in 4H, Boy or Girl Scouts, etc. and spare them that exposure to the world. Keeping unwholesome influences such as the television, worldly music, and unwholesome magazines out of our homes is necessary. By doing these kinds of things, we can create enough difference between our homes and lifestyles and the atmosphere of the world that our children will have the opportunity to learn the truth, and they will learn to recognize the untruths that they are exposed to in school or the world.

By exercising caution on the whole matter of educating our children in public, private, or home schools, we need to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21). Regardless of where they are schooled, we still have the requirement to prepare them to live in the world. At some time in their lives, they must learn to deal with other people and to be able to sort out the good from the bad. Jesus prayed regarding this in John 17:15. "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

This topic will continue next month.



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

Mission Committee Meets in Chicago

A regular meeting of the Mission Committee was held on November 12, 1996. Bros. John Klotzle and Ed Schwartz also attended as representatives from the World Relief Committee.

Contributions received

The financial report for the three months ended October 31 showed contributions of \$113,863, which was a slight increase compared to the previous year. As we hope to inform you, needs continue to exceed our resources.

Bible fund

The major expenditure for the three month period was for the purchase of Bibles in the amount of \$55,000. Our Bible distribution program continues to grow each year, and we appreciate all efforts made by those who distribute God's Holy Word. This is an area of mission work in which anyone can participate. Local programs place Bibles and New Testaments in restaurants, hotels, and other public places. Some of our churches place classified advertisements in newspapers offering a Bible at no cost. When a response comes, one of the local brethren deliver the book.

European building fund

Contributions to the European building fund for the past four months were \$12,801. Distributions from this fund for the same period were \$65,000 for church buildings in Yugoslavia. Last month we reported on a visit of our elders to this troubled land, where great needs continue to exist.

The balance of this fund on October 31 was \$190,520, which has been

allocated for church buildings in Yugoslavia, Romania, and to a lesser extent in Hungary. This fund is now depleted.

The Committee reviewed the continued need for funds to build and repair churches in Eastern Europe. Visits to this part of the world supported by regular contact with our brethren tell the unfortunate truth that economic and living conditions for these struggling souls are not improving. We are doing all we can to support them, but funds are limited.

Because of these dire needs, it was agreed that a recommendation be made to the Elder Body to give our US brethren another opportunity to help in this assistance. This recommendation was supported by our European Board in a conference call. This will be on the agenda of the midwinter Elder meeting.

We want to report on the history of the churches as well as the present circumstances after this request is approved. We plan to mail a letter to each of our congregations in 1997 in hopes that more funds can become available for this important work.

Your support of this assistance to our suffering brethren in Eastern Europe continues to be both humbling and very much appreciated by all.

Ixtlan, Mexico ministry

Bros. Dave Weigand, Chuck Hemmer, John Klotzle, and Wendell Gudeman reported on this work. They had visited Tecate, Mexico, where they met with Apostolic Christian (Nazarene) Minister Jose Cervantes and Argentina Elder Horacio Roldan regarding their involvement in Ixtlan.

It was agreed that these elders from the "Sister Church" carry out the baptism of six converts in Ixtlan since they already have two members there. Since they are fluent in the Spanish language, they did carry out these baptisms.

Paks, Hungary

It was reported that the church building in Paks, Hungary is nearing completion and an additional \$17,000 was allotted to complete this project. This was also ratified by the European Board from the World Relief Committee. It appears that dedication services for this building will be sometime in March or April, 1997. The Mission Committee gave approval for two or three brothers to attend this service.

Hódmezővásárhely, Hungary

Plans for the renovation of the church in Hódmezővásárhely were reviewed and discussed. Since there are no funds available in the European Church Building Fund, it was agreed that we could not give them financial assistance at this time. This decision was also ratified by the European Board.

Building Advisory Committee

A report was given on the activities of the recently appointed Building Advisory Committee. The brothers on this committee give advice to small congregations that need a more adequate place of worship. Their services are also available to any church contemplating a building project. However, their purpose is to advise but not necessarily attempt to influence a final decision.

They recently spent time in Atlanta, Georgia, and this resulted in the decision to purchase a building which is now being used by that congregation for their church. They are also working with several other congregations, and we are thankful for their assistance. We encourage our brotherhood to make use of this experienced committee when contemplating building.



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

Work project in Central Illinois

At the World Relief Committee meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, approval was given for a work project in central Illinois. Although exact dates are not yet known, it is time to alert interested volunteers to make plans for the future.

Faith, Hope, and Love

In 1978, a group of men with a burden for prison ministries established a facility in Peoria, Illinois. The facility was named *Faith, Hope, and Love, Inc.* (FHL). The charter calls for bringing the gospel and material assistance to those whose lives have been damaged by crime or violence. Our participation is under the guidance of our established local and national leadership. Brethren helping in the work try to keep the brotherhood informed of their activities.

Bible distribution program

Our Mission Committee assists in mailing over 1,000 Bibles monthly through this organization. Requests come from all across the nation. The response is a Bible plus a letter inviting the person to participate in a correspondence program to learn Biblical truths. The Chief of Chaplains for the State of Illinois has stated that he would like to duplicate this program statewide.

Another opportunity for volunteers

Each month over 1,000 responses come to the facility. Brethren from the churches surrounding Peoria help in the responses. The work consists of stamping, addressing, wrapping, and mailing Bibles and grading papers. Anyone regardless of age is welcome to assist at their own convenience.

Sunday & midweek services

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

MATTHEW 5:16

A part of this mission is to conduct religious services in local jails each Sunday and during the week. Under the direction of the local congregations, our brethren take their turns in this work. In keeping with established policy, whenever we hold services, we are in charge of the entire program for that service. We do not mingle our doctrine with other groups in any way in this work.

Halfway house a part of the effort

One unique feature of FHL is that they also try to assist a prisoner to reenter society after serving his term. They can accommodate 45 men and 15 women. At this time, all but one are working. They have regular services, weekly Bible studies, and family nights. In the past two years, 100 people have passed through this facility, and only 5 have returned to prison later. The national percentage of returns is over 80%.

Safety Net program

The organization also has a Safety Net program which provides shelter for homeless men and women from the area. During the period from November through March, people come here for two hot meals a day. Sometimes they are brought by the police, who have no other place to take them. Some of them help in maintaining the building, and also attend devotional services.

Old buildings need maintenance

Parts of the halfway house date back to the 1800's, so it takes a lot to

maintain and update the facility. The World Relief Committee funded replacement of the roof on the 150 year old portion of the building. They also furnished money to replace a leaking roof on the part built in 1946, and funds to help renovate two floors. Additional allocations enabled the group to install new shower and toilet rooms for the residents. The installation of a new efficient boiler was also part of the effort.

If you would like to help

FHL has received funds from World Relief for all new energy efficient windows. However, the costs for installation would be as much as the windows themselves. Here is an opportunity for brethren to assist in this installation. We are aware that winter is upon us, and removing windows depends upon fair weather. They want to begin making plans to do this work in the Spring.

The staff of FHL is looking for volunteers to help install these new windows. As we have learned in other endeavors, there are brethren who cannot go to foreign lands, but appreciate the opportunity to help close to home. If you are interested, please call or write Bro. Steve Suttor.



**Faith Hope &
Love in Christ**

The contact person is:

Bro. Steve Suttor
Faith, Hope, and Love, Inc.
P.O. Box 1544
Peoria, IL 61655-1544
309/673-6794 Phone
309/673-9166 Fax



**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief**

Work Team Dates

HAITI



February 21-March 1, 1997
HAITI-PALM GROVE

Coordinator: Tim Butikofer
RR # 2 Box 69A
Elgin, IA 52141
319-426-5486 home
319-426-5585 office
319-426-5586 fax

February 28-March 8, 1997
HAITI-PALM GROVE

Coordinator: Tim Butikofer
RR # 2 Box 69A
Elgin, IA 52141
319-426-5486 home
319-426-5585 office
319-426-5586 fax

March 7-15, 1997
HAITI-MEBSH

Coordinator: Phil Isabell
16746 S 380 W
Remington, IN 47977
219-261-3541
219-261-2860 fax

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

For our annual dinner for the Board of Directors, we celebrated our 25th anniversary by inviting all past board members, counseling elders and administrators, along with their wives.

We asked the brothers to share their memories of the development

JAMAICA



March 7-15, 1997
JAMAICA-CCCD

Kingston
(Scheduled for spring break at many colleges)

Coordinator: Keith Herrmann
309-639-4349

May 16-24, 1997
JAMAICA-CCCD

Deaf Village
(Scheduled for end of terms at most colleges)

Coordinator: Harold Witzig
309-266-6263

For information call:
Harold Witzig
308 N 2nd St
Morton, IL 61550
309-266-6263
309-266-8575 fax

of the Home. We know that we don't give in order to receive. We give because we love the Lord and are thankful for how much He loved us. We do know, however, that He is faithful and His promises true. We heard from all those who told of their involvement that they received the promise given by Christ in Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." We are thankful for everyone who has been

WORK TEAM DATES - JUAREZ, MEXICO CONSTRUCTION TEAMS

February 15-22, March 8-15,
March 15-22, March 22-29
Summer '97 *(Date not set at this time)*

For information call or write to:
Mark Fiechter, 6630 E 700 N, Ossian,
IN, 46777 (219)597-7330

willing to be used over the years.

The first mention of a possible home was at a funeral in April of 1956 when a brother talked to an elder brother about the need they would have some day in their family. The first real discussion began in the summer of 1963 when two brothers shared their concerns with each other. They approached Elder Bros. Noah Schrock and Leo Moser in early 1964 and later Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger. Later they also talked to Elder Bro. John Bahler.

In 1964 it was presented to the elder body in Tremont at the annual Conference. Obviously, there were a number of concerns because this was an entirely new venture for the church and a much more costly undertaking than the national church had ever taken on.

A survey was taken of the national church to try to determine the number of individuals who may need to be served. These results were presented to the elder body in 1965. There were major questions about how to cover the cost and it was decided to ask the membership to indicate their willingness to support such a project. Those pledges and support were overwhelming. The original pledges were for

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

We're distributing more used Bibles in the United States now, although some are still sent overseas. Thanks for your continued support. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION**Bibles distributed by our Churches**

1996	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	TOTAL — 13 YEARS
Dec.	3,247	35,821	337,297

* Repaired Bibles Shipped = 180

NOTE: A new listing of Bibles and Testaments available for distribution can be obtained through a note or call to:

David Bertsch
11520 Grabill Road
Grabill, IN 46741
(219)627-2923 (fax the same number)

\$550,000 with others indicating a willingness to give support.

In 1967 the elder body endorsed the project. Guiding elders were appointed and they appointed the first board of directors consisting of nine members. The first meeting was held on February 24, 1968, in Morton, IL. The planning involved many unsung hours of work by many faithful brethren which culminated in ground breaking on June 8, 1970 and occupancy on October 1, 1971.

As we look at the fruit of these early efforts, we are reminded of Psalm 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." We are also reminded of Christ's teachings in John 4:38 "I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours."

We are blessed at the Home to reap the fruit of another's labors and we wish God's richest blessings on all those who labored so that

there could be fruit.

Those who will be celebrating birthdays in February are: ACHH -Matt Pumphrey (17), John Kamm (18), Lee Anne McKay (19), Virginia Reece (27), Guy Masinelli (28).

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
Heidi Schrock**

"Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." On any given day I sing this chorus at least ten times. It is my two-year-old's favorite song. After several weeks of repeating Trust and Obey, I started to wonder, "What does he like so much about this song?" It definitely is not because he understands obedience! Later that day the thought came to me that I am singing this song for me, not for him.

As Trent and I prepare to leave Gateway Woods in the spring, I

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

know that we are being obedient and are in God's will. It is not easy to leave a job and life that we enjoy so much, but I am confident that He is preparing another couple to be blessed by that position. The problem comes in my trusting God to provide for and protect us as we step out on our own. I wonder how I will make it through each day without fellowship and immediate support of fellow Christians. Worries and doubts bombard me from every side

and I start to fear that our business will fail. I can so quickly become filled with fear. And then Hudson says, "sing Trust and Obey, mommy." It is then that I am reminded, not a shadow, a cloud, a doubt, a fear, a sigh nor a tear. Not a burden or sorrow, no grief or loss, frown or cross can linger if I am fully trusting the Lord. In fact, there is no room for anything but hope and joy.

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
But we never can prove
The delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows,
And the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Over the Thanksgiving break we had two residents leave to go into foster care. Rachel S. left the Schrock house to live with a family in the Leo area. Mark L. moved out of the Fiechter house and into the foster home of Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller.

We want to thank two brothers and their staff who volunteer to provide dental services for our staff and children. Drs. Alan Stoller and Eric Zeller have served our home so generously and faithfully since back in the early days of our ministry.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Pam Moore

As always, December is filled with Christmas parties and activities, but do we remember why we have Christmas? Our high school Sunday School class wrote and acted out a play recently on that theme. Mary was talking to Joseph about a dream

she had, in which a Christmas/birthday party was held for their son, Jesus; however, Jesus was never acknowledged. He was there when the guests came, and there for the meal, and there while they opened presents, and there when they left, but not once was His name mentioned, or spoken of or praised. Is this how our Christmas get-togethers are? Do we completely leave Christ out of Christmas? The play was just that, a play; however, it's message was so important—keep Christ in Christmas!

Bro. Don Ross and Sis. Ruby Massey were married on December 4. We pray God will bless their marriage.

Sis. Shirley Haggemaker has been hospitalized and we ask your prayers for her. Sis. Doris Moore (Elder Bro. Lavoyd) has undergone surgery and is recovering. Please pray for her.

We have enjoyed Christmas caroling on the second and third Wednesday nights in December. We also had our annual Secret Pal dinner on December 14, and our Sunday School program on December 15. These are always special times, which remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.

We have enjoyed all of our visitors in the past month, and always welcome all who wish to visit us in Athens. Church services are 10:00 a.m. every Sunday, and 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus,"

Philippians 3:14

It was a calm sunny day on the Navaho Reservation, November 19. Several of our brothers were there

working on the World Relief Dikon project. Thus, while laboring for the Lord, Bro. Wilbur Huber passed away at Winslow, AZ.

A memorial service was at the church the evening of November 21. Funeral services and burial were in Francesville, IN on November 23. May God bless his wife, Sis. Sophie; sons, Bro. Tim and Kirk; and daughters, Sis. Charla and Sis. Cheryl; eight grandchildren and numerous other relatives.

May the Lord comfort all of us in Bro. Wilbur's untimely death.

At such a time as an unexpected death, many felt a deep spiritual nearness—a closeness we may not experience enough as we concern ourselves with so many things which have so little eternal value. For the sake of a deeper more spiritual love in our hearts, can we spend more time considering and doing those things which have eternal value?

November 24 was a beautiful 74 degree day for Sis. Jill Dotterer and Bro. Larry Meyer to exchange their wedding vows before Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer and Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne Meyer. We pray the Lord's blessings on the Meyer home in Bern, KS.

Our sympathy to Sisters Helen, Elva and Ruth Wuthrich on the death of their brother, Bro. Willis, on November 26 in Eureka, IL. His funeral was in Roanoke, IL.

Sis. Carol Doolittle passed away on November 29. Her funeral was in Sun City on December 3 with entombment at Sunland Memorial Park. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Bro. James Emch had the services.

November 30 was a lovely day for Kelli Tooley and Daniel Jeffries' wedding. Their parents are Jerry and Sis. June Tooley and Mr. and

Mrs. Ernest Jeffries. We wish for them God's very best as they make their home in Chicago.

The World Relief winter conference was held in Phoenix on December 7 with 24 committee members present.

On December 6, we saw slides of different projects our brethren did in Juarez, Mexico and the need for help in Yugoslavia.

With two weddings and the World Relief conference this month, we were blessed with many ministers. We are grateful for messages from Bros. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), and Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), and Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO).

Our prayer list included hospital patients, Sis. Toni Bentley and Sis. Irene Emch, Tina Beery, surgery, Bro. Glen Baumgartner, eye surgery. Sis. Josephine Martin has been absent for some time.

The greatest gift you can receive is hearing and seeing your Sunday School's Christmas program. December 15 was this special event when the children and teachers were blessed by giving us beautiful singing and Bible verses they had memorized.

May God give us the grace to be more understanding of one another in 1997.

CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

I've had my first Christmas in Heaven,
A glorious, wonderful day!
I stood with the saints of the ages
Who found Christ the Truth and the Way.

I sang with the Heavenly choir;
Just think! I, who longed so to sing!
And O, what celestial music
We brought to our Saviour and King!

We sang the glad songs of redemption,
How Jesus to Bethlehem came,
And how they called His name Jesus
That all might be saved through His name.

We sang once again with the angels
That song that was sung that blest morn,
When shepherds first heard the glad story
That Jesus, the Saviour, is born.

O, dear ones, I wish you had been here.
No Christmas on earth could compare
With all the rapture and glory
We witnessed in Heaven so fair.

You know how I always loved Christmas;
It seemed such a wonderful day,
With all of my loved ones around me,
The children so happy and gay.

Yes, now I can see why I loved it,
And O, what a joy it will be
When you and my loved ones are with me,
To share in the glories I see.

So, dear ones on earth, here's my greeting;
Look up 'til the day dawn appears,
And O, what a Christmas awaits us
Beyond all parting and tears!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Our small congregation has much to be thankful for as we start the new year! Two new members were added in 1996. Bro. Henry Volz (August) and then on November 30, Elena Kornja, formerly a member of the sister church in Columbus, OH

gave her testimony and became our dear sister also. The following day, December 1, we were served Holy Communion for the first time in Prescott by our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich. Seventeen members were in attendance. Then Elder Bro. Jon informed us that starting in January, we will be provided a minister from the Arizona brethren the first and third Sundays and from the Mission committee the second and fourth Sundays of each month. So the only times we will be without a minister will be the months with five Sundays. We are rejoicing for all the Lord's blessings and invite all who are visiting Arizona this year to come worship with us.

We pray the Lord will richly bless the ministering brothers who brought us God's Word in December and their families. They include Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ). What a blessing we received from all their ministries!

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

The month of December is almost gone and we are facing the start of a new year in the next few days. 1996 was a blessed year for the Tucson church. We experienced some losses as we have the past few years. We are so grateful to report that these "losses" were only in the form of brethren leaving the Tucson area and we can still write and visit them when time permits. We have also experienced a loss that will separate us from a beloved sister until we meet again in Heaven, Lord willing. We have not had the special blessing of a newborn baby born to any of our families; however, we have not had any of our precious children stricken with illness or taken from

us either. The members of our little church all have the comforts of a warm home (and thankfully a cool one in the summer!) and the blessing of being able to provide for their families. We have tried as a church and I'm confident individually, too, to help those in our community who are not so fortunate, which shows that the Lord has blessed us in abundance and "overflowing". There were no baptisms in the Tucson church; however, we need to be thankful that as far as we know, we all still feel the need to call on the Lord to lead and guide our lives and therefore have remained true and faithful in the year 1996. We have not added any brethren to our flock and perhaps we won't in 1997, but we still have the faithful brethren who make up the Tucson church and we are truly thankful for that. Despite our small number, the Lord has blessed us with the means to maintain our church and fill all of the physical needs of our church building. We still have brethren (some who have been serving our little church since I can remember) who are willing to minister, teach the children and see to the physical part of our church. We have also had the privilege of fellowshiping with brethren from our other Arizona and California congregations this year as well and we are so thankful for these opportunities. So, yes, 1996 has indeed been a blessed year for our little congregation and we can only praise the One who has provided all of the above, our Father in Heaven. We pray this finds each of our churches in "good shape" in the areas of faithfulness and willingness to serve where needed.

We enjoyed our usual Christmas caroling at local nursing homes and our Sunday School program this month.

Our Sis. Martha Blessman is still missing out on the blessing of Sun-

day worship and we continue to pray for her. She was one of the stops on our caroling schedule.

Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) was with us for Wednesday evening services this month and we thank him for his visit and service on the pulpit.

We have no other news to share from Tucson; we look forward to meeting and greeting some of you in 1997!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

We were blessed by the children's Christmas program in mid-December. The theme traced the lineage of Jesus, identifying a number of His Old Testament forefathers. How thankful we are that He came to earth in perfection of His Heavenly Father even though His earthly forbearers were imperfect. And now through Him we can find salvation!

The Lord's creation and plan for mankind seems to unfold in cycles. The past year has run its course with its latter events recurring each year as: the giving of thanks honoring God and for the provision of His many blessings; followed by the celebration of the birth of His Son; followed by the recognition of the onset of a new year. These three holiday seasons give both satisfaction as well as impetus to our lives. They should punctuate our earthly routines with reflections of God's goodness, His gift to mankind of a Saviour, and a new opportunity to utilize the life and breath of each new day in service to Him.

Who of us who yet live can deny the expenditure made in terms of our physical lives as physical strength surrenders a little each day. When we look back over a year's time, we might observe a significant portion expended. While this can be observed as a change in

our mortal man as we age, how thankful we can be that God has not changed in the past year nor has His Holy Word.

A new year should give us new courage. Not necessarily to forge new frontiers nor to further expand borders in our lives, but to take stock in what God has provided through the gift of His Son and His Holy Church. It is important to examine the strengths of our spiritual ramparts to determine if we are holding fast to the unchangeable doctrinal truths so clearly revealed in His Holy Word. And then, to review as well, if our commitment (once made in the waters of baptism) stands unaltered in our walk of life and our dedication to Him, His Holy Church and its operation. May we continue to be encouraged from the Scriptures to: "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die:" (Revelation 3:2) and "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." (Proverbs 22:28).

As we enter the near year, may our purpose be to follow "whatever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of a good report;" (Phil. 4:8) and to think upon those things. Then our thoughts will be directed to our Heavenly Father and our supplication will be for His Spirit to fill our lives each day of each week of each month of the new year.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Rose Huette

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

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Hymns of Zion #150

The seasons are passing by us so swiftly now, and we are left with a feeling of warmth in our hearts as we experience the blessings of Christmas. Our Sunday School children have enlightened us with the story of the Christ Child during our annual Christmas program. It was so beautiful. May all the children and teachers be richly blessed.

The Altadena choir came down that same evening and sang. Their singing was enjoyed by all. Later we had refreshments and a time to fellowship.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bro. Marvin Le-man (Bradford, IL) and ministering Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL). We wish them God's blessings.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter**

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, 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 neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22:36-40

When Jesus was asked questions by the Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes

and other men who were very knowledgeable about the law, His answers were simple and to the point. He didn't have long explanations based on some theory. He answered in a way that everyone could understand, even those of us with simple minds. It is good to be reminded that our simplest and most complex problems could be solved by just applying the two most important commandments that Jesus spoke of in Matthew 22:36-40.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. We thank Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH) and all those who came with them to worship with us.

We welcome all visitors and look forward to seeing some of our brethren in the future, Lord willing. Anyone interested in visiting should contact Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 or Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 for directions and further information.

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

As the new year comes upon us, it is a time for both reflection and a looking ahead. Thanks be to God, for 150 years our faith has endured in the United States by His allowance and the faithful brethren that have gone on before us. May we keep the faith and strengthen the brethren as we strive onward toward the goal of meeting Him one day in Heaven.

A precious daughter, Madison Sorrel, was born to Bill and Gwen Unterstein on November 20. Her grandparents are Bill and Connie Unterstein and Bro. Dale and Sis. Harriet Zahner.

Some of our loved ones are recovering from mishap or surgery. Marjorie Gottier had an accident and is convalescing at home. Sis. Rosile Er-

ismann is recovering from surgery. Recently, Sis. Linda Leite underwent surgery. May we remember them and others in our prayers.

We express our sympathy to the family of Sis. Julia Bourque upon her passing out of this life on December 5. She was the wife of the deceased Ernest Bourque and sister to the deceased Bro. Alfred Kupferschmid (Gert); Bro. Werner Kupferschmid (Sis. Esther); and Di Kupferschmid. She leaves her daughter, Ernestine Durrell (Jim), and son, J. Bryant Bourque (Reanne). May God comfort this family.

We thank Bro. Burt and Sis. Cherinne Wheeler for their efforts of love as their duties of cook/custodian of the Longview Village pass to Sis. Mary-Ann Schneider.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our sincere thanks to all for your love, prayers, memorials, and deeds of kindness in the death of our dear sister and aunt to many nieces and nephews.

The family of Sis. LaVina Kloter

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

We have enjoyed having Sis. Heidi Kaeb with us the past semester and pray the Lord will be with her as she returns home to Alto, MI.

Our visiting ministers last month were Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). We are thankful for these brothers, their families and others who traveled with them for visiting us. It was a special blessing to have Sis. Jill Aeschleman visiting us. Other visitors were from Princeville, Fairbury and Peoria, IL; Burlington and Lester, IA.

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. There are several Sundays the next few months when we will be unable to use the hotel. Please contact the brothers listed below to find out where we will be meeting the Sunday you are in the area. 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) 860-5749 or Bro. Ken Martin (703) 724-4470.

**FLORIDA,
FORT LAUDERDALE**
Nancy Rocke

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

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace.
Another year of gladness
In shining of Thy face.
Hymns of Zion #150

We were reminded of the Christ's birth by our Sunday School students. We appreciated their willingness to sing the songs and recite their pieces. May we not only remember Christ as a child, but also that He died and shed His blood for us.

We want to express our appreciation for those who have visited us in the south. We enjoy having visitors, and look forward to those who are coming after Christmas.

We were privileged to have Bro. Ron (Sis. Carol) Koehl (Sarasota, FL) with us to bring forth God's Word.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS
Kay Eisenmann

A blessed New Year to one and all!

Our little church group was invited to help celebrate with Ray and Rosemary Piper's 50th anniversary. Their children treated us all to a wonderful meal and the fellowship was very special. We had dessert at their daughter Laurie's home, sang songs and had a good time hearing how great Mom and Dad are! Their daughter, Kim, was also there. In this day and time, when marriage isn't what God meant it to be, made it even more special. They are living proof that when the hand of God is in a marriage, it will be a blessing to one and all!

If we as parents would have any wish for the new year for our loved ones, it would be to trust in the Word of God, live it, and no matter what comes in life, know God is in control.

On December 15, we had our Christmas program which was enjoyed by all. A special thanks to our two children who are so brave to tell us the Christmas story. It is not easy when there are just the two, but they do a great job; Stacy Yergler (Bro. Ron and Sis. Barbara) and Lindsey Steffen (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rhea), and Bro. Ivan Stoller who puts it together for them.

At this writing, Sis. Viola Keller is in the hospital. All went well after surgery, but she will be on medicine. Bro. Roland is just getting over hernia surgery, so please remember them in your prayers.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeanette Yergler are coming to church a half day now, so keep that prayer line open, so as each day goes by they can always feel God's helping hand. For those of us who have good health, let us never forget others!

Bro. Ben and Sis. Verna Baurer

have sold their Florida home and will be missed here by all, for they have been coming here many years and have been and are such a light and help to all.

Our son, Joe, and his wife, Joann, has blessed us with twin grandsons, Andrew and Phillip, on November 18. Big brothers, Eric and Ryan, welcome them home. All children are a blessing from God and may we as grandparents help our children all we can in such an uncertain world we live in. May we always show our love of God to them so they too will want to live for Him.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL).

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Vera and Mary Martin

As we look forward to the new year, the song from our Hymns of Zion #150 always is a good reminder that as we enter, we need to keep our goals heavenward!

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

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

We again see many new faces in our congregation as they vacation in the warm climate, and as always we welcome our winter residents back from the north.

Our friends, John and Krista (Price) Campbell, and new daughter, Stacie, have recently moved to

Birmingham, AL. We will miss them, but pray for God's guidance as they transfer to new employment and a new community.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the Unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

—*Minnie Hashkins*

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

What a blessing it is to meet and greet loved ones of like faith. This month our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts.

Our Sunday School children had a very practical lesson in sharing as they delivered a Thanksgiving meal to a needy family in our area.

On December 8, we enjoyed Christmas caroling at a local nursing home, followed by a meal at the church. It was a wonderful, meaningful day for all.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kristine Krieger were spared serious injuries following a car accident last month. We are thankful that they are able to assemble with us again as Sis. Kristine has needed bed rest to heal some broken bones.

As we begin a new year, we want to thank each visitor for your help and encouragement to our small congregation over the past year. It is our prayer that others will visit Atlanta and worship with us. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to exit 13; go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please contact Bro. Linn

Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Millie Jepson

Happy New Year greetings from Belvidere church! We are thankful that Sis. Louise Knecht is now residing in the Elgin Apostolic Christian Resthaven. Her family wanted her to be in our church rest home so she could be with loved ones from our church. Sis. Karen Spencer has been in the hospital for a few days this month and is hopefully recovering well now.

We thank Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) for being our guest minister this past month. We appreciate his love and support through the years here in Belvidere. And a special "thank you" to Bro. Phil Nenadov (Eureka, IL) for coordinating the group of young brothers and sisters from several different churches who blessed us with their visit. They came in on a wet and cold Saturday evening for a beautiful singing and filled our church with their warmth and love on Sunday. What a blessing they were to us!

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

Matthew 6:33-34

As we read this Scripture in Matthew, we take comfort in our Lord's promise that if we seek first the kingdom of God, there will be no need to be concerned about this new year of 1997. How thankful we are that we can not only put our complete trust in our Saviour, Jesus

Christ, for our soul's salvation, but we can also trust Him to order our lives for His glory. This should give us a peaceful outlook for the New Year.

When we see the lilies
spinning in distress,
Taking thought to
manufacture loveliness;
When we see the birds all
building barns for store,
'Twill be time for us to worry—
not before!
—*Selected*

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Carol Sauder - Janice Horner

On November 17, the men's quartet, Kindred Spirit, filled our church with sounds of joy at our monthly hymn sing.

As our congregation gathered together to celebrate Thanksgiving, we were vividly reminded of our great God who has blessed us so richly. A thankful attitude throughout the year should be part of a believer's nature.

December 3 was a memorable day for Jim and Jodi Hari, as their twin sons were born that day. Named Connor James and Dillon Andrew, their grandparents are Elder Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari, and Connie Grusy of Bloomington and John Grusy of Urbana. Many prayers accompanied their birth, as they were premature and weighed less than four pounds each. May God continue to watch over them.

On Sunday, December 8, we were privileged to have Bros. Byron Stoller and Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL) with us for our afternoon service. We thank them for their faithful service in ministering the Word of God.

Levi Gregory joined big brother, Taylor, on December 10, to add to the family of Bro. Greg and Sis.

Louanne Umland. Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruth Hoerr (Taylor, MO) and Ned Umland of Gridley and Bev Buckley of Normal are the happy grandparents.

On December 14, we sang Christmas carols at various nursing homes. How important it is to provide spiritual comfort, support, and enthusiasm to those in the sunset years of life. Just to greet another with a smile and wish of "Merry Christmas" does a lot to another's countenance. As we journey through this world together, we see others in difficult situations and pressed upon with many trials. The singing of hymns gives hope and joy—the love that Christ offers.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

As the new year approaches, we tend to think of how the Lord has blessed us in the past year. Every year we cannot count the blessings He has bestowed upon us. But what about what we have done for Him? Have we kept the faith and made our church stronger in the past year? Do conflicts with our brethren stand out in our minds, or do we remember them with a warm feeling of love and peace? What is our attitude when we are faced with the fact that the world is growing more evil every year? Does it fill our hearts with determination to serve our Lord more faithfully or do we say, "Oh well, it's the 90's!"?

As the year 2000 approaches, we've heard much talk about the new millennium, and we wonder how much longer can the mercy of God endure the wickedness of this world. The world says "Jesus will not come back now or any time soon. We've heard it all before!" I tend to think they are wrong, but when He comes does not matter. We should live every day like He's coming the

next morning. Then we wouldn't get so caught up in the things of this world. God help us to this end!

Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel Dietz were blessed with a baby girl on November 23. Anna Rose is welcomed home by her two big brothers, Nathan and Caleb. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell Dietz and Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Elgin, IL).

A baby boy, Morgan Wade, was welcomed into the hearts and home of Troy and Sis. Heather Pyles. Morgan was born on November 26. His grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser. May God grant each of us the grace to raise our children up to know Him.

We were so thankful to hear that God has led two hearts to become one. Bro. Bruce Endress was announced to Sis. Elizabeth Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) on November 24. Parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev Endress and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL). We pray God's blessings on them as they plan for a February 16 wedding.

Our dear convert, Richard Slutz (Marilyn), is at home and improving from his surgery. He is still unable to assemble with us and we pray God's nearness and healing hand upon him.

Robert Ehnle (Jean) spent time in the hospital this month. He is home again but still needs our prayers. Also, little Anna Dietz (Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel) spent a few days in the hospital. She is once again well and we were thankful to see her in church.

How grateful we are that we can go to church and trust that God will work through our dear ministering brothers. The visiting brothers that shared God's Word with us this month were Bros. Bill Emch

(Lamont-Gridley, KS), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Greg Stoller (Forest, IL). May God continue to bless these brothers as they preach the truth.

On December 15 we assembled together as the Sunday School told us the story of Jesus through songs and pieces. How precious it was to see those innocent children stand and speak of the baby Jesus. We pray that as they grow older, they will never be ashamed to tell the story of Jesus.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Children will not remember you for the material things you provided, but for the feeling that you cherished them.

—Richard L. Evans

Making his entrance into the world and meeting his parents and brother just prior to the holiday rush was the newest member of our congregation, Logan David Koch. He was born to Marcia, Justin and Ben Koch on November 20. Logan is doing quite well and will surely be playing and singing with his brother before we know it. We welcome this brand new person!

Food baskets to four needy families in the local community were distributed by our Sunday School children just prior to Thanksgiving. While the older students and some teachers went out to the grocery store to shop, other teachers helped the younger children decorate boxes to hold the food to be delivered. This is always an excellent experience for our children to share with those who do not have the many blessings that we so easily take for granted.

"Christmas...spelled out in simple terms" was the title of the Sunday School program presented on

December 15. The children told of the **C**hrist of Eternity, The **H**umility of Mary, The **R**oad to Bethlehem, The **I**nn with no vacancy, The **S**tillness of new birth, The **T**idings of sent men, The **M**ission for their lives, The **A**nguish of the early days, and The **S**alvation for all men. Each child, from age three up through high school, had a part and did a wonderful job of bringing this beautiful and familiar story to us with simplicity and sincerity. Special thanks go to the dedicated teachers who write the program and give so much time for our future church. Following the program, we had church caroling at three area care centers, then a chili supper at the church.

Our college-aged students continue to host a day of childcare so parents can have a day to do Christmas shopping and other preparations. This year's day in early December was well attended and greatly appreciated by the parents. It no doubt gave a few students a whole new meaning to "study break" on a day that they could have been writing a paper for class.

Sherman Bauer's father, Bro. George Bauer, of Cissna Park, went to be with the Lord. Our sympathies are extended to Sherm and his family as they adjust to life without their dear dad. It will be different for them, but they have the comfort of knowing that they can someday join him with the angels. We'll all miss Bro. George's visits to Champaign.

Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) spent a weekend with us in late November. Following a potluck and singing, Bro. Gene gave a presentation on the mission work our church is doing in the countries of Eastern Europe. This was a very enlightening evening for all who attended. Others ministering to us over the past month have been Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Mar-

shall Heinold (Mexico), Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). Many thanks to all of these brothers and their families.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Once again, we are at a beginning, with all the positives and negatives that change implies. Recently, I counseled with a junior girl facing a move from the suburban setting to a much more rural area, living in the country no less. For her parents, this fulfills a dream. For her, she feels as though she is in the middle of a nightmare. She fears the loss of her friends, and some are withdrawing to protect themselves. She fears the loss of her boyfriend. Mostly she is scared of change—a feeling not really compensated for by having her own bathroom, a "perk" that her parents are trying to use as incentive for her being happier; as she put it, "I can't sit in my bathroom all day every day." Nor can we withdraw from the flow of our own struggles and blessings, the changes in our ways of service or paths of usefulness in His name, the flow of the seasons, the flow of the year. If you are like me, there are times we are tempted to do so, times we resent the changes, mourn the losses, and try to recreate the past when there is a beautiful present right now and an exciting future ahead. The Lord understands our emotions, but He asks us to trust, to enjoy what He has given for THIS time, and to move forward into the unknown—1997.

Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) again brought forth the Word to us this month with all its truth and plainness. We appreciate every one of his visits and pray that the Lord would reward him one hundredfold. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman

(Francesville, IN) joined us Saturday evening, December 14, with other grandparents, family and friends to be reminded by the Sunday School children of Christ and His birth on earth in the cradle, His gift of Himself to us on the cross, and His standing as the King of Kings who will come again—"True Man, yet very God..." ("Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"). We were grateful to be taught so eloquently yet so simply by the diligence and faith of our children.

We are always delighted to welcome brethren from far and near who would join our church family, often for reasons of employment. Thus, we welcome Sis. Carmen Langhofer (Phoenix, AZ) now living in Hinsdale; and Bro. Troy and Sis. Bonnie Reimschisel and their children, Jenna and Jordan, from the Bluffton, IN area. The Reimschisel family is living in the St. Charles area, for Bro. Troy is in computer systems working for Ameritech. We pray that each one's transition may be ultimately positive and their sojourn here spiritually profitable as we climb together toward Heaven.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Glen Pfeifer, Sis. Nancy and sons, Bro. Lance (Indianapolis, IN), Bart (Bloomington, IL) and Kurt (Elgin, IL), on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Emma Pfeifer (LaCrosse, IN). She is an overcomer in death as she was in life by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Appreciating with them her steadfast Christian example, we pray that they may be comforted in the way she always was, by doing His will and loving His own.

Maybe some of you are not "counting the cost" the way we are recently. We have spent a number of weeks of December in remodeling, a kitchen, two bathrooms, and while we have the expert help, there is just one more idea here in the...Some of

the "cost" is not at all financial: there is the disruption of household routine and extra helping of disorganization on top of the original difficulties we have with that. Besides that, in order for the plumber to do his work right, he followed pipes up through walls to find leaks and corruptions that needed to be made new. Of course, the house is almost thirty years old, and we have well water. Its iron content contributes to the pitting and deterioration. I don't know if this reminds you of anything, but I was transported back to the time of my conversion. The "pipes" installed then to transport His Spirit and love throughout my prayers, my thoughts, my feelings, my actions—have they been damaged in any way? Is the "iron" of my will poking holes in that which gives His fluidity (grace) to my Christian walk? Because of my "long" time as a Christian, do I think I know enough and forget to read, to meditate, to pray, to worship, to fellowship with the saints, to forgive and to ask for forgiveness? What does a bit of disruption, extra cutting into walls to get to failing pipes matter? Lord, rend me and mend me. May I be open to Thy expertise that Thy living water may flow through me perfectly.

"Hallelujah! Hallelujah!...and He shall reign forever and ever, King of Kings and Lord of Lords..." ("Hallelujah Chorus", Handel).

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK **Joyce Bauer - Beth Steffen**

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28

We are grateful to the following brothers for ministering to us this

past month: our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). May God bless each of you.

We had several in our congregation hospitalized. Among them were Sisters Nettie Obergfel, Ellen Hofbauer, Margaret Rudin, and Bros. Herman Bauer, Bob Kaufmann, Emmanuel Manz, along with Bill Bauer. May it be a comfort for each of you to know that Jesus cares and knows just how you feel.

"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Matthew 8:17

We look forward to the day when we will never have to say good-by to those we love. We bid our earthly farewell to several of our loved ones this past month. After a lengthy illness, Lawrence Keebler passed away on November 17. He is especially missed by his wife, Doris, along with nieces and nephews.

Aaron Dreyer, Morton, husband of Alma Knapp, originally of Cissna Park, passed away December 9. We extend our sympathy to Alma; daughter, Cheryl; and to the Knapp family that attends our church here.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Caroline Gudeman and her family in the loss of her sister-in-law, Ida Gudeman, the wife of Emmanuel Gudeman.

Bro. Willis Feller, Valparaiso, IN, originally from Cissna Park, went Home December 2. Bro. Willis is our Sis. Isabella Bauer's brother. Our prayers are especially with Sis. Is as she also said good-by on December 8 to her dear husband, Bro. George Bauer. Bro. George leaves many precious memories for their three sons, Sherman, Champaign, IL;

Lindy, Pagosa Springs, CO; Lonnie and Kerry, Tucson, AZ; two daughters, Sis. Gwen and Bro. Dick Steffen, Milford, IN and Sis. Betty and Bro. Tim Kaupp, Gridley, IL; along with 12 grandchildren. Our sympathy goes out to Bro. George's brothers and sisters that attend our congregation: Bros. Elmer, Aaron, Herman, and Ken, and Sisters Ernestine Eisemann and Helen Janssen. Parting is so difficult on this earth. We look forward to the day we will never have to say good-by.

No parting words shall e'er be spoken
in yonder home so fair,
But songs of joy, and peace, and gladness,
we'll sing forever there.
We'll never say good-bye in heaven.

For in that land of joy and song,
We'll never say good-bye.

Hymns of Zion #122

The same morning we said farewell to Bro. George, we bid a welcome to little Jeremy Walder. Thankful parents and happy sister are Bro. Jim, Sis. Beth, and Brittany. Bro. Robert and Sis. Rose Frank (Tremont, IL) and Sis. Wilma Walder of here are Jeremy's grandparents. May God guide and bless this little family.

Jesus has done so much for each of us. He came to minister unto us, took upon Himself our sicknesses and has carried our sorrows. How thankful we should be for the gift of God's Son.

Notes of Thanks:

A very appreciative thank you to all you wonderful people who sent cards, love gifts, and said prayers for us during Harry's illness and since his death. May the dear Lord richly bless you and yours.

The family of Bro. Harry Hoff-

mann

The family of George Bauer humbly thanks each of you who expressed your love and sympathy during the loss of our dear husband, dad, and grandpa. May God be your rich rewarder in the time to come.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Linda Knobloch
Missy Banwart

This union of our hearts
 Shall stand through grace in Jesus;
 We walk the path of life,
 While cheer and trust increases.
 Where God in truth abides,
 Where two join hand and heart,
 We find a three-fold cord,
 Not lightly rent apart.
Zion's Harp #79

Sis. Luella Zimmerman and Bro. Curt Sauder (Roanoke, IL) were united in marriage on November 17. We thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for bringing the Word to us on this evening.

Kim Hurley and children, Andy, Michael, Lauren and Cheyene, welcomed little Wyatt Alexander Eugene Hurley into this world on November 18. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Katie Hasty. We are thankful to have Kim's children attending church with us and pray the seed of faith will be planted in each little heart.

On December 1, we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) with us. May God bless him for his labors on our behalf.

Sis. Martha Rinkenberger (Bro. Charlie), Bro. Dick Hasty (Sis. Katie) and Bessyanna Knapp (Bro. Jon and Sis. Andrea) spent time in the hospital recently. We pray God will continue to provide for each one.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

NEW YEAR

I came to the end of the year and sighed.
 The pages, dog-eared, stained and blotted
 Were not the record that I wished to bring
 To Christ, my Lord.

Before me lay the new year
 Its pages white and clean
 No stain or ink spot marred them.
 How long, I wondered, can I keep them thus,
 Without one error, one mistake
 To regret the whole year through.

And then I heard the master say,
 "You need not bear the burden
 Of pages blurred and stained until the long year ends.
 Bring me your pages day by day
 Don't waste your time in fretting
 Over mistakes of judgment, ignorance
 Or stumbling efforts gone awry.
 You mean to please Me, I know that."

"So bring me your page with all its smudges
 Before you sleep and let me wipe it clean
 And make it ready for the new day ahead.
 Then every day can be a new beginning
 For I can even use mistakes
 To teach you to be a little more like Me."

—*Helen Temple*

This past year has held both joys and sorrows and we look forward to what God has in store for us in this new year. As a visiting minister reminded us, "With God, you cannot fail, but without God you cannot succeed."

December 1, Bro. Jason Schambach and Sis. Karen Anliker were joined in Holy Matrimony. May God

always be the unseen Guest in their home and go with them as they journey through this life as one.

Congratulations to Renee Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean) and Tom Schermerhorn (Tom and Pat) of Woodstock on their engagement. We wish them the best as they make plans for their wedding.

We are thankful that our hospital patients are home and recovering. They are Sis. Joyce (Bro. Paul) Weiss who once again underwent surgery, Dale Martin, Bro. Bill (Sis. Cora) Schambach, and Sis. Leola (Charles) Schambach. We wish them the Lord's healing mercies.

Our sympathy goes to Carol (Bro. Lloyd) Kellenberger at the passing of her brother, Tom Van Buren, who lived in Florida. One of our dear nursing home residents, Sis. Margaret (Bro. Robert) Haas, formerly of Morton, IL died on December 19. She left behind her husband, who still resides in our nursing home, and her children who have faithfully visited their parents despite the many miles that separate them.

It was our privilege to have many visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL).

Our Sunday School students reminded us of Christ's birth at the annual Christmas program. Realizing it was the last Christmas program in this church, our Elder Bro. Nathan took us back in time to the programs of yesteryear. Even though the format has changed, the story told is still the same. Thank you, teachers and students, for once again sharing with us the story that never grows old.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere and heartfelt thanks

to all who so graciously remembered me with their prayers, gifts, and cards during my surgery and convalescence. I am grateful to God for His mercy and healing power.

Your least servant, Bro. Bill Gudeman

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

"...and, lo the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was."

Matthew 2:9

Even as the star led the wise men, may we let God's Spirit lead us in this new year of 1997.

We rejoice in hearing the news of two new babies in our congregation. Bro. Jim and Sis. Dianne Wettstein had a new little daughter on November 19. Katie Marie is welcomed home by Jeni and Joshua and grandparents, Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Ida Mae Rocke. Adding a new little son to their family are Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall. Aaron Mikel, born on December 5, is a little brother to Marla, Doug, Nathan, and Philip. His grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall and Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman.

On November 24, the engagement of Bro. Milton Leman and Sis. Gerry Laukhuf (Goodfield, IL) was announced. May God richly bless them and lead them on down life's road together.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. Willis Wuthrich who died on November 26. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Flo, and his children, Sis. Lynn Wuthrich, Bro. Bill Wuthrich and Sis. Bonnie Sauder, all of Roanoke. Bro. Willis was always willing to

give of his time in volunteer work and he will be missed by many people.

We also pray that God will be the Comforter of Sis. Cindy DeSigne (Bro. Bob) whose mother, Sis. Rose Hoerr (Taylor, MO), died on December 11.

We extend our thanks to those brothers who have ministered to us recently. They were Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL).

Notes of Thanks:

My sincere thanks to all for your prayers, cards, visits, and food during my surgery and recovery. May God bless each one for their love and kindness.

Bro. Harold Hodel

To the dear ones who were so loving and kind who wished to share their blessings with me; my most grateful thanks and appreciation. May God richly bless you now and always.

In Christian love, Sis. Naomi Peters

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

Help us, O Lord! before we enter
Upon another year today;
In Thee our hopes and thoughts
now center
Renew our courage for the way.

—*Johann Rist*

And so we begin another year...It seems like just such a short time ago that I was writing the January Silver Lining column for 1996.

For this month, we were asked to consider the theme of "where will the Lord lead the church in 1997". The first thought that came to me while meditating on this was...maybe this will be the year

that "the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thess. 4:16-17)

"...Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
(Revelation 22:20)

This God-made union then
Shall never more be broken...
Zion's Harp #79

On November 17, Sis. Jean Bachtold and Bro. Wayne Wenger (Sabetha, KS) took their vows of faithfulness to one another. Parents are Bro. Lloyd Bachtold and the late Sis. Viola and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger. We will certainly miss Sis. Jean's cheerful smile in our congregation. May the peace and love of God rest upon their newly established home.

We appreciate all the ministering brothers who were with us for that weekend and throughout the month. Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), Bros. Doug Grimm and Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Glenn Riggenschach (Smithville, OH), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL) served us this month. May the Lord richly bless you and your families.

Daren Kaisner (Robert and Cherie Kaisner and Colleen Loschen) and Kari Kirby were united in marriage on November 9. We wish them God's blessings in their life together.

Gideon Riggenschach Moser arrived to bless the home of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara Moser on December 17. Silas, Damaris and Leighton will be happy to have a little playmate.

Grandparents are Robert and Cherie Kaisner, Colleen Loschen and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser.

Randy and Hope Perry and Jacob welcomed Lucas Randall on November 14. Grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Karen Steffen and George and Juanita Perry of Streator.

"...Be strong and of good courage...fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee..."

I Chronicles 28:20

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Lloyd Moser (Sis. Martha) as he is recovering from a farm accident. Other hospital patients were Sis. Rosetta Edelman (Bro. Walter) and Bro. Ed Hohulin.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold**

We are thankful that souls are still answering God's call and are turning to Him in repentance. May God grant Josh Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette), Shane and Shawn Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne) and Don Hall (Barb) much grace as they make this change in their lives submitting their will unto Him.

December 7 and 8 was a blessed weekend as we could hear testimonies and witness baptisms of five dear souls. We rejoice with Sis. Michelle Bachtold (Bro. Herb and Sis. Jan), Sis. Lynn Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly), Sis. Carrie Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean) and Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra Stork as we welcome them as lambs of the flock.

We were privileged to have many visiting ministers this month. We

thank Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for sharing God's Word with us.

Bro. Ray, Sis. Shelly, Sis. Lynn, Carrie, Raya, Myra, Clint and Colin Steidinger welcome Chad Michael into their hearts and home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger and Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman.

Also welcoming a baby brother are Jodi, Jason, Jeremy and Jeana Leman. Jesse Gabriel's parents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol and his loving grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna Leman and Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann.

Our hospital patients this month have been Sis. Alisa Ricketts, Sis. Kristen Mueller, and Sis. Wilma Bachtold. We pray these loved ones may feel God's nearness and His healing power.

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for the love, gifts and many cards I received for my 90th birthday. God bless you all.

Sis. Hazel Karcher

We feel so very thankful to all who sent cards of encouragement and offered that we were included in their prayers. Also for the many gifts that were sent. We especially thank the ministers for their visits and prayers offered on our behalf. We cannot fully express the feeling of strength this gives one who is in need of the prayers of those we love. *Your least in faith, Bro. Richard and Sis. Marian Rieger*

I wish to thank each one for your prayers, cards, gifts and food during

my surgery and recovery. May God richly bless you for your love and kindness.

Sis. Irene Traub

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

We welcome our new sister-in-faith, Roxy Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam), and our new brothers, Josh Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy) and Brandon DesCarpentrie (Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane). It's uplifting to see God's Spirit is still calling souls and converting them.

Our thanks to our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Dan Stoller and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN).

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families of our dear sisters, Clara Zobrist and Margaret Newlin, as they have "exchanged their cross for a starry crown". It makes us realize that life on earth is "but a vapor".

Many prayers have been uttered for Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Kieser at the loss of their son-in-law and the hospitalization of their granddaughter.

We're also thankful that God spared the life of our Sis. Terry Hart (Bro. Bill) after her car was hit by a train. It's a miracle to see her up and walking so soon!

Three couples have announced their engagements in the Lord. They are Bro. Doug Ulrich (Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lockart), Gridley, IL to Sis. Trista Gerst (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie); Bro. Milt Leman (Eureka, IL) to Sis. Gerry Laukhuf; and Bro. Bart Rinkenberger (Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg) to Sis. Janel Anliker (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel) of Francesville, IN.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to thank you for your cards, gifts, visits and most importantly, your prayers during our daughter Caroline's illness. Your thoughtfulness and love was such a blessing to our family.

Love, Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kelly Eastman

Once again, we are overwhelmed by the many acts of kindness and love shown to us at the death of our beloved son, Jon. We are encouraged by the many cards, food, flowers, memorials and prayers of both those we know and love and those we've never met. Thank you. May God bless each of you.

*Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin
Bro. Ross and Sis. Heather Hohulin*

We want to thank everyone who took part to make our 50th wedding anniversary a very blessed event. May God bless all of you for cards, gifts and prayers.

Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand

Our sincere thanks to each one for the outpouring of love shown to us at the passing of Sis. Margaret Newlin.

The family of Sis. Margaret Newlin

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

As the days unfold, Lord willing, toward a new year, may our mindset and general outlook be unquestionably God-centered. May our vision of 1997 reflect that the only reason for our existence (as believers) is to serve God, and to enhance and expand His kingdom here on earth.

It is certainly fitting that our prayers be ongoing that God will guide us as His people; that He will elevate us toward holiness, separate us from

sin and worldliness, and invigorate us with His Spirit, both for duty and service to His glorious cause.

It is a privilege to serve the dear Lord. With the cross of Calvary behind us, the glories of Heaven before us, and the inerrant Word of God with us, we are surrounded by Divine inspiration. May the grace of God guide us into all truth and righteousness in 1997 so long as the Lord tarries.

The marriage engagement of Sis. Elizabeth Klopfenstein to Bro. Bruce Endress of Bradford, IL was announced on November 24. She is the daughter of Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein. His parents are ministering Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn Endress of Bradford. The faith system of betrothal works well and we thank God for this.

A daughter was born to Bro. Craig and Sis. Mary Ann Wettstein on November 7. She was named Emily Dawn. This is their first child. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein, and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser (Bradford, IL). We rejoice with them in their happiness.

Trent Kaupp and Amy Baker were married in September. He is the son of Sis. Wava and the late Bro. Harold Kaupp. Her parents are Joseph and Linda Baker, Lexington.

Our church building has recently undergone partial redecorating. New carpeting was installed in our sanctuary and in the Sunday School assembly room. During this time, we meet for worship in the fellowship center.

Sis. Viola Witzig and Bro. Robert Gramm have been ill.

We sympathize with Bro. Jerry Christensen over the death of his mother; and with Sis. Betty Kaupp over the loss of her father.

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

We are rejoicing that God has called four more souls into His vineyard. Bro. Ed Hartman was baptized in his home on December 2. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim (Babin) Cantrell's testimony and baptism were held on December 7 and 8. We heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Dayton Russell on Wednesday, December 11. We welcome them into our precious brotherhood.

Bro. Ed Hartman was called Home on December 5. May our Lord comfort and bless his wife, Francis; his daughter, Jennifer Carrillo; his son, Larry; his mother, Bernice Hartman; his two sisters, Gladys Nelson and Kay Robertson; and his three young grandchildren.

Bro. Edward Getz died on December 9 at the age of 94. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless his wife, Esther; his son, Edward J.; his daughter, Carol Hoepner; his three brothers, Bro. William, Bro. Harry, and Clyde; and his sister, Ann Foster.

Aaron Dreyer died December 9 at the Apostolic Christian Restmor. May God comfort and bless his wife, Alma; his daughter, Cheryl Mullin; and his sister, Sis. Mary Dreyer.

We wish to thank Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word to us this month. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

The Christmas story was celebrated with a Sunday School program on December 8. It is a message that never grows old and we never fail to be blessed as the young people present the story of our Saviour's birth. We also enjoyed the all church Christmas Caroling that was held on December 15 as young and old participated.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Cara Nussbaum

Peoria recently bid farewell to Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie Ginzle and their three children, Samantha, Alexandra and Joshua. Geoff has been transferred to Lafayette, IN to work. They will be living in Lafayette and making Indianapolis their church. They will be missed but we pray that God will bless them in their new home and their new church.

November 23 was the day Angela Ober and Stuart Laughlin were united in marriage. Angela is the daughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam Ober and Stuart is the son of Jane and Wheeler McDougal and Charles Laughlin. Our prayers are with them as they begin their life together.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Darcy Biedscheid happily announce the birth of another boy, Brady, who was born on November 25. He was welcomed home by big brother, Beau. Brady's grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Hoerr and Lyle and Mary Biedscheid.

We are so thankful for our Bro. Ivan Thomas, who has now been dismissed from the hospital after a 12-week stay. Also recovering at home are Bro. Frank Ferraro, Sis Lydia Herrmann and Sis. Aldine Waibel. May God's healing hand continue to be upon each of them.

We were blessed to have the following visiting ministers in Peoria recently. They were Bro. Marshall Heinold (Mexico), Bro. Richard Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN). May God richly bless each of them.

Two dear souls from the home have gone on to be with their Lord. They are Sis. Kathryn Bauman and Sis. Lois Hamann. We want to ex-

tend our sincere condolences to their families.

Sis. JoAnn Koehl, wife of Bro. George Koehl, passed away on October 14. We want to offer our sympathy to Bro. George and all of his children and grandchildren following this loss.

Note of thanks:

Bro. George Koehl and the family of Sis. JoAnn Koehl, would like to thank everyone who extended a helping hand, the kind words, the prayers and many gifts, during this trying time. Your expressions of love for our mother helped to ease the pain of her loss.

The family of JoAnn Koehl

The following letter was written to JoAnn by one of her daughters on the night of her death. It is enclosed with the hope that it will help comfort others dealing with this type of loss.

Mom,

This is a letter of letting go. Know that you were loved without measure.

It seems it was a lifetime of letting go - you letting us go as we grew up, went to school and left home, knowing that we would get hurt at times along the way. But you gave us the tools and the love we needed to be strong. You taught us always to love, to respect ourselves and others.

As time passed, it became our time to let go. We had to let you go to an illness that changed the mom we knew as children into a new mom that still showed us an example of unending love and courage. We know, mom, it has been hard for you the past five years in a body that you could not rely on and that kept making changes.

Now we let you go, knowing you are better off for the passing and we are better off for having known you

and for having been loved by you.

Thank you, mom. We will do our best to pass on your gift of love to our children and the people we meet - as you always did.

We love you, Lynne

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Joanna Herrmann

We were reminded recently by a ministering brother just how uncertain our time on earth is. We were reminded that the flowers for our casket may be in the florist shop today, and that the next time the doctor lifts a pen, it may be for our death certificate. How sobering, yet what a challenge to us. A challenge to live our life as we would have wished to live when our days are done.

On November 19, Laura Lea was born unto Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann. She joins older siblings, Kimberly, Greg, Grant and Scott. We rejoice with them and pray that they will daily feel God's nearness as they raise their family. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Noah and Sis. Evalyn Herrmann.

We read in God's Word that "Two are better than one...For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow...and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Eccles. 4:9,10,12). On December 1, we witnessed the joining of two souls, as Sis. Bethany Herrmann and Bro. Clint Plattner were joined in Holy Matrimony. Parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann and Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner.

GATHERING BUDS

Jesus has taken a beautiful bud,
Out of our garden of love,
Borne it away to the city of God,
Home of the angels above.

Full-blooming flowers alone will

not do,
Some must be young and ungrown,
So the frail buds He is gathering
to,
Beautiful gems of His throne.

Fathers and Mothers weep not or
be sad,
Still on the Saviour rely,
You shall behold them again and
be glad,
Beautiful flowers on high.

Chorus:
Gathering buds, gathering buds,
Wonderful care will be given,
Jesus is gathering day after day,
Buds for the palace of Heaven.

This song was a source of comfort to Kevin and Joyce Scholl at the loss of their infant son, Colin Lee. Although it leaves a vacancy, it is a comfort to know that Colin is now in Heaven. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Arlene Scholl. Graveside services were held December 9.

On December 15, we were reminded once again of the humble birth of our Lord, as the Sunday School children put on their Christmas program.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). We want to thank them and all of our visitors.

We pray for God's healing hand on our Sis. Alvina Streitmatter, as she has had some surgery this past month. We also want to continue to pray for those recovering from past illness.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

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

Another year of mercies,

Of faithfulness and grace.
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.
Hymns of Zion #150

Our prayers are with those who have been hospitalized this past month: Sis. Pat Sauder, Bro. Steven Bertschi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev), Steven Fischer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie), Alexa Fischer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette) and Amy Schwind (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb). May the Lord be ever near them.

The Lord has blessed Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Barth with a precious little boy, Clayton James. His brothers, Cody and Tyler, also welcome him into their family. May God richly bless this little one and his family.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Willis Wuthrich who passed away on November 26. May God give grace to his wife, Sis. Florence; and son, Bro. Bill Wuthrich; and daughters, Sis. Lynn Wuthrich, and Sis. Bonnie Sauder.

We also extend sympathy to the family of Bro. Melvin Mangold who passed from this life on December 11. Our love and prayers are extended to his wife, Sis. Helen; and sons, Mike (South Bend, IN), David (Hoboken, NJ); and daughters, Sue Milligan (Moor Park, CA), Sis. Sally Plattner (Peoria, IL); sisters, Sis. Ruth Scherer and Sis. Esther Sauder, both of Roanoke. May God comfort both of these families and grant them grace as only He can.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been: Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN). We are so thankful to have brethren visit and share God's Word with us. May God be with them in their ministry.

Another year of service,

Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee. Amen.
Hymns of Zion #150

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail Sinn were blessed with a son on November 18. Stoner Gail is welcomed home by his brothers, Brooklyn, Wade and Drake. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Velda Glueck and Dan and Donna Sinn.

Our prayers are with Bro. Mel Kaiser (Sis. Marlene), Sis. Doris Hutchison and Dorothy Brunner (Elmer) who have been in the hospital.

We warmly thank Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) for sharing the Word of God with us this past month.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Charlotte and Bro. Dan Steiner on the death of her sister, Sis. Loida Knapp (Goodfield, IL).

Note of Thanks:

I wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone for the cards, flowers, food and prayers during my stay at the hospital and my recent illness.

Dorothy Brunner

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Denise Romersberger
Sue Ruppert

Tonight it is cold outside and I am glad to be inside where I am protected from the elements. I am also weary because it has been a busy day, with lots of things that needed my attention. It's nice to come away from all of it for awhile. Lately, I

have found myself working too many hours, and am looking forward to the extra days off because of the holidays. Sometimes when things don't go well, it is easy to become discouraged. It is at those times that I need to stop and make a conscious effort to look at the good things in my life.

Isn't it the same with our spiritual life? Don't we need a warm, safe place, like our Christian homes or our church fellowship, to come into when the world causes us to be chilled? And don't we occasionally need to remove ourselves from demands life puts on us, and take some time off to talk to God and be in His presence? And doesn't it help to sometimes simply stop and count our blessings? God knows these things and that is why His Word is full of directives for taking care of our spiritual lives. As we once again enter a new year, let us all look for times of spiritual renewal every day in the tools that God gives us for that very purpose; reading His Word, following His commandments, spending time with other believers, and giving thanks.

We are thankful for Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) who came to share in God's Word this month. Bro. Jeff was here for our monthly Bible Study and spoke on "Faith".

We also thank the Peoria choir for lending themselves to the praise of God through music. Other sweet music was heard when the Sunday School children once again presented the Christmas story through memorized pieces and Christmas songs. Everyone did a wonderful job, and we thank the students, teachers and parents for their efforts. We also were blessed by the presence of many grandparents and others who attended and know that extra effort was made to be there for the children.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Ida Pfaffmann, who is now home, and Tressa Schumacher, who remains confined until the baby is born.

The hospital was also the place where two new lives were brought into this world. Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie (Hoerr) Barth are the thankful parents of a bouncing baby boy, Alexander Dene. His two brothers and two sisters welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth (Roanoke, IL), and Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr (Peoria, IL).

Bro. Phil and Sis. Jessica (Schick) Fritz brought home their first bundle of joy, Amber Lenae. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz, and Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Sally Plattner, whose father, Bro. Melvin Mangold, died and is now with his Lord. God grant you the peace of knowing that God holds each of us in the palm of His hand.

And finally, we welcome Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Feucht and their family back to our Washington congregation. Though they were missed during their time of absence, we are thankful to now have them again among our church family.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Brenda Bertsch - Kim Maller

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

Greetings to all of you as we begin the year 1997. Some will say to us this will be the year of the Lord's coming. We, as a body of believers, must be ready to meet Him today, and with daily meditation in the Word, 1997 will be well with our soul.

We at Bluffton enjoyed the testimonies and baptisms of five dear souls. Floyd and Sarah Caldwell (and rejoicing with them are their four children), Annie Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee), Becky Maller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise), and Allison Ringger (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl). Ministers attending this occasion were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and Bro. Bob Meyer, Jr. (Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN). Due to Bro. Rick Schwartz's accident (Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni), retired Elder Bro. Orville Ringger and retired Deacon Bro. Bob Meyer Sr. from Bluffton North lended their services.

During the holiday season we had one wedding, our friends, Lana Smith (Dave and Sis. Loretta) to Tim Shoaf (Jack and Sue).

During our cold weather, we were blessed with several warm little bundles to love.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Tami Shady welcome their third son, Chandler Douglas. Grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Marie Frauhofer and Dell and Gwen Shady. Bro. Keith and Sis. Lou Ann Kaehr bring home a daughter, Adrienne June, to make their household now even with two boys and two girls. Grandparents are Bro. Millard and Sis. Alice Aschliman and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Lucille (Kaehr) Grandlindard. Bro. Jeremy and Sally Frauhofer welcome their firstborn, daughter Livia Elaine. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhofer and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger.

Those needing prayers or have benefitted from your prayers during their hospital stays are Sis. Frieda Kipfer, Sis. Esther Kipfer, Sis. Minnie Isch (Bro. Elmer), Sis. Lillian Isch, Sis. Lucille Gerber (Bro. Dwight) and Bro. Rick Schwartz.

Note of Thanks:

As a family, we want to thank all who remembered us with cards, gifts and most certainly your prayers as Rick continues to recover from his accident. The prayers on our behalf from across the nation have obviously touched God's heart and certainly ours. We humbly thank you.

Rick, Jeni and Ed Schwartz

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:2

With a new year at hand, let's all strive to rededicate our hearts and lives to Christ and be a light in this dark world.

God has again blessed us with visiting ministers. Bros. Donald Manz and Ben Manz (Junction, OH) shared God's Word with us and encouraged us to trust God in all things and be the best example we can be.

We feel so blessed to have those who have felt a need for a Saviour and have called upon Jesus. Bruce and Brian Drayer, Heather Brudi, Zach Geisel, and Adam Merkle have asked Jesus to be Lord of their lives. May they continue to build upon this firm foundation, which is Jesus Christ, and let us all remember them in prayer as Satan attempts to draw them back into sin. There is power in prayer!

Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Lana Frauhtiger are first-time parents of a daughter, Livia Elaine, born December 12. Grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhtiger.

We've had several loved ones in the hospital recently. Gyrkin Schwartz (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Robin) has been at Riley for six weeks now and Bro. Rick Schwartz (Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni, Bluffton) was in the hospital for four weeks after an accident, but has now been released. Bro. Jerome Rauch, Bro. Jay Kipfer, Sis. MaryAnn Kaehr, and Stephanie Gerber (Bro. Brent and Sis. Ann) have also been ill. We know that many prayers have been offered and feel so thankful to have a God in Heaven who we know cares for us.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Lily Pelsy

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Psalms 90:12

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Sis. Sophia Huber and her children at the sudden passing of their husband and father, Bro. Wilbur Huber (Phoenix, AZ). His funeral was held here at his home church of Francesville. His brothers and sister, Bro. Bill (Sis. Betty), Bro. Eugene (Sis. Millie), and Sis. Lois Gudeman (Bro. Jim) are thankful for the hope to meet again in Heaven.

We express our sympathy to Sis. Rosella Bucher (Bro. Wally) in the death of her brother, Bro. Willis Feller (Valparaiso, IN), and also her brother-in-law, Bro. George Baurer (Cissna Park, IL).

We have had the joy of hearing of two wedding announcements this past month. Our Sis. Janell Anliker (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel) was announced to Bro. Bart Rinkenberger (Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg) from Goodfield, IL; and our Sis. Tanessa Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Mar-

garet) was announced to Bro. James Washburn (James and Debbie). May they always feel the blessings of the Lord as they look to Him to be the center of their lives.

Children are special miracles from God. Caleb Allen was born December 1 to Mike and Cheri Streitmatter. Benjamin, Joshua, and Hannah think he is real special. Thankful grandparents are Keith and Marlene Streitmatter and Gene and Jan Hazelwood.

Tim and Sis. Sally Wuethrich are thankful for their son, Maxwell Herman, born December 9. Grace, Timmy, and Logan are glad for their new brother. Grandparents are Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna Wuethrich and Les and Rosie Pfladderer.

We are grateful for each brother who came to share the life giving Word. Thanks to Bros. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Glen Price (Sarasota, FL) and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN).

We have missed Bro. Harry Yaggie assembling with us. May God be near as he possibly faces hip surgery in the future. Our thoughts are also with Sis. Elsie Yaggie and Sis. Mabel Wuethrich who are unable to worship with us.

Closing thought from a sermon: "Having faith is one thing, but obedience to faith is what's important."

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Missy Baumgartner
Lauretta Schafer

On November 23, we had the precious opportunity to hear the Memorandum of our general church Conference. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and their wives were with us for this uplifting and encouraging evening.

December 7-8 weekend a singing

group of Sisters-in-Faith from Bloomington, IL shared God's message to us through song. We appreciate the blessing of fellowship and singing.

We want to welcome to Indiana Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angela Ginzler, Samantha, Alexandra, and Joshua from the Peoria congregation. We know how hard it is to be uprooted and get established in a new area. We wish you Godly wisdom and patience for the growth of love to be felt as you move into a new congregation and neighborhood.

December 15 we sincerely appreciated the Christmas story told to us by our Sunday School children. Their message echoes with us as we walk day by day in the new year. What is it that prevents mankind from kneeling in their hearts to Jesus? Ignorance. Unbelief. Lack of trust. Pride. Bitterness. Encumbrances. Indifference. Procrastination. With God's undeserved gift of Grace, mankind can find the strength to overcome "self" and truly, humbly bow their lives into His service. The last words in the Bible are, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, and II Peter all mention grace in their closing verses. Is grace important to a Christian? Yes. Thank God for His gift of grace so freely given day by day so that we can bow our hearts and minds to Him. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Read Philippians 2:5-13.

Wise men seek Him daily—all 365 days of the year.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Anna Marie Stoller

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

Another year is past and only what we have done for our Lord remains. The future looms before us, and with God as our guide we need not fear. Beyond the mountain of life is a home more magnificent than the human mind can comprehend. "Press thou on." (Zion's Harp #20)

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen assisted our Elder Bro. Curt Frank in delivering the Memorandum to us. We were encouraged to uphold the faith of our fathers and keep ourselves separated from a world of sin and deceit. The evening of exhortation was deeply inspiring and appreciated.

Visiting ministers during the past month were Bros. Larry Weninger (Latty, OH), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Marshall Heinold (Mexico), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH).

Our sympathy extends to Sis. Mary Gudeman whose sister-in-law, Ida Gudeman, passed away. Bro. Doyne Stewart also grieves the loss of his brother, Owen.

Sis. Ruth Heinold and Bro. Aaron Heinold are recuperating from recent surgeries. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

LIFE

Forenoon and afternoon and
night —
And day is gone —
So short a span of time there is
'Twixt dawn and evensong.
Youth—Middle life—Old age —
And life is past —
So live each day that God shall say,
"Well done!" at last.

—by Edward Sill

Seventy-two years ago Sis. Emma Pfeifer repented and committed her life to serving her Creator. Monday, December 16, 1996, Sis. Emma peacefully slipped into eternity to meet her beloved Master face to face. "How shall it be? Oh, what this mortal vision can neither see, nor hear, nor understand, of happiness and glory shall be given to those who pass into that promised land! Then onward, brethren!" Missing the love of their mother will be Shirley (Morton), Alvin and Carol (Wanatah), Paul and Jane (Owensboro, KY), Bro. Glenn and Sis. Nancy (Chicago), and Kenneth and Becky (Jacksonville). Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to this dear family. Sis. Emma's nephew, Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), assisted Bro. Don Gudeman in bringing words of comfort to those who came to pay their last respects.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

One of the themes suggested for this month was "Spiritual renewal and dedication". I have chosen it because it seems to follow along with my comment last month on spiritual blessings. Shouldn't we focus on what will endure? Jesus' life was a life of simplicity. He was always available, making time for those in need. His was a life of solitude; we know very little of His first thirty years other than His humble birth. His life culminated in surrender even as it began. Isn't He our example?

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)

"Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: let them come near, then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment." (Isaiah 41:1)

"For our light affliction, which is

but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (II Cor. 4:17-18)

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth...put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:" (Col. 3:2,10)

Seek Him through the Word every day.

We were grateful for the messages of visiting ministers. Bro. James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) was with us on Thanksgiving Day. He and Sis. Marlene spent the holiday with their daughter, Sis. Deb, Bro. Ed Graf and two grandsons, Ryan and Jason.

On December 1, we were blessed with messages by Bros. Ron Bollier and Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN). Welcome to our hometown, brothers, their wives, and family. We also welcomed Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) on December 4. We are always inspired and impressed by his concern for us. Last, but not least, we were blessed by Bro. Carl Wyss and Sis. Lydiann (Washington, IL). They were here for our Christmas program on December 15.

The program was very impressive. The children sang many songs from memory and presented the real meaning of Christmas.

There was affliction among our members this month. God is truly our refuge and strength. Most are on the road to recovery, but not all returned to church services yet. Sis. Thelma Schlatter had surgery for a fractured hip, and is now able to use a walker.

Bro. Gary Garman had back sur-

gery, and his aunt, Sis. Wanda Haltee, was hospitalized but both are home again.

Sis. Mayme Getz fell and cracked four ribs and is home with her daughter.

Bro. Otto Bertsch, Sis. Irene Pulfer, Sis. Sylvia Steiner and Sis. Velma Williams all had cataract surgery.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Pfister, as their first grandson, Hudson Taylor, was stillborn. His parents are Karen and Dwight Smith of So. Hamilton, MA. Our sympathy to them as well as great grandmother, Sis. Mayme Getz.

Let us walk together in a renewed dedication in 1997. We do not know if we have one day or one year before us.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Linda Beer - Renee Beer

As we look forward to the new year before us, we can reflect back over 1996 and see how richly the Lord has blessed us and again provided for us in numerous ways.

We enjoyed having Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL) visit us and appreciated him ministering God's Holy Word to us.

Our prayers are with those of our congregation who have experienced surgery or illness. Seth Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), Sis. Esther Getz, Sis. Marguerite Hoerr (Bro. Bob), Sis. Pat Mikel (Russ) and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Sis. Shirley).

On December 6, 1996, Sis. Helen Baumgartner passed away. We extend our sympathy to her son, Dennis Sorg, Goshen; her four sisters, Sis. Lillian Levy (Bluffton), Sis. Irene Schrock (Congerville, IL), Sis. Betty Beer and Sis. Leona Price (Milford). Sis. Helen always displayed a loving attitude and was a faithful pillar in our church. She had

been living in the Lakeland Loving Care Nursing Home for many years.

Our prayers are with Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen and their family as Sis. Gwen's father, Bro. George Bauer, Cissna Park, IL passed away. May God continue to comfort them in their time of loss.

As we begin a new year, let us reflect on the words that Bro. Henry Beer penned in his song, "In The Year Of Our Lord".

The New Year has come as the
annals record,
What an opportune time, 'Tis the
year of our Lord.
Awake, O my soul, this year is not
mine!
For His is the day, and each
moment of time.
If life be my portion, and health be
my lot,
Improve every minute and
squander them not.
Shall striving for riches or honor
or fame,
Shall transient possessions
become my soul's aim?
A higher objective my soul would
pursue
For things everlasting more
blessed and true.
My soul's meditations, my life may
He bless;
He came to give all, ought I then
give Him less?
It is the Lord's year, If I'm
granted to live,
What privilege my all in His
service to give.
For faithful endeavor I give Him
my word,
By His grace I shall make it a year
for my Lord.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

John 6:63

What beautiful words of our Lord Jesus Christ to consider as we begin a new year striving daily to walk in His steps. Life today can be so busy and stressful that we need to make ourselves slow down and let His Word truly live in us.

Our congregation was blessed to hear a Bible Study on "Charity" this past month. Our minister, Bro. Dan Kilgus, brought a beautiful message to both encourage and challenge us to imitate the heart of charity of our Lord.

A special thanks to our visiting ministers for allowing the spirit to work so freely in their messages. Bros. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico), Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH) and our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) all spent a day of worship with us. May the Lord bless them for their love and care for the church.

Bro. Dan Stoller spent a brief time in the hospital after surgery and continues to recover at home. We pray the Lord will continue to send healing power for Bro. Dan.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Marci Neuenschwander
Sue Beebe**

We gathered together as a group on Saturday evening, December 7, to enjoy fellowship and our annual Christmas Dinner at an Amish home near Nappanee, IN. The singing of Christmas carols was a perfect end to the evening. Joining us and staying over for Sunday services were ministering Bros. Nile Bucher and his wife, Sis. Phyllis (Bluffton North, IN), and Garry Bucher and his wife, Sis. Lois (Valparaiso, IN). We appreciated very much their timely messages brought forth through the power of the Spirit.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold and family upon the passing of Mike's

father, Bro. Melvin Mangold, of Roanoke, IL.

"...Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away...Behold I make all things new..."

Revelation 21:3-5

Christmas caroling was enjoyed on December 14, followed by a meal and time of fellowship at the home of Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer and family.

Our Sunday School presented their Christmas program on December 15. The eagerness and anticipation expressed by the little children should be a reminder of how we should retain a childlike attitude and an eagerness and anticipation for Christ's second coming.

It may be at morn, when the day
is awaking,
when sunlight thru darkness and
shadow is breaking,
that Jesus will come in the
fullness of glory,
to receive from the world His own.
Gospel Hymns #651

"So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts unto
wisdom."

Psalms 90:12

If any brethren plan to fellowship with us on a Wednesday evening during the winter months (Jan, Feb and March), please call one of our ministers for the specific location, as we meet in nursing homes and in homes of brethren these months.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken Susdorf - Cheryl Bucher

By the time you are reading this, the Christmas season will have passed and the new year of 1997 will have begun. What new goals have you set for yourself this year? May we all be excited and doing our best for the Lord as we await that great day.

It's been a month with mixed emotions this time. We had a very blessed harvest day program followed by a delicious meal served by the brothers and dear friends of the church. We thank everyone for their help with this great event. Special thanks to the Gridley choir and one accord. Also, thanks to Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) for sharing God's Word with us on this blessed day. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry.

Hospitalized in this last month were Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger (Marilyn) and Shannon Lamb (Louann and Randy). We pray for both for speedy recoveries and God's healing hand.

Our hearts were heavy as the Lord has called Bro. Willis Feller Home. We will certainly miss him in our fellowship. Bro. Willis leaves behind his dear wife, Sis. Eunice; two daughters, Bonnie Ponicki and Sue Emmert; and one son, Bill, of Crown Point, IN. The Lord give you all special grace and comfort during these times.

Just a few days later, we had our annual church Christmas dinner. Good fellowship was enjoyed by all. We are so thankful for our little fellowship area downstairs. God has just blessed and blessed our get-togethers.

The following Sunday it was announced that Andy Bucher has peace and we are looking forward to Andy (Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie) being a part of our brotherhood.

Just this last Sunday, we enjoyed

the Christmas program presented by our Sunday School. Our thanks to the children and also to our Sunday School teachers. The Sunday School is also finishing up the year by having a food drive for those not as fortunate as us. We pray it will be a loving experience for all. We are so thankful that God has blessed us with our dear children.

Hope you have enjoyed this report and at this time would like to thank all on the staff of The Silver Lining for another year's work well done. It is very plain to see the work of the blessed Holy Spirit as it is presented to the churches throughout the land. God bless.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sherice Bahler - Jody Bahler

Thanksgiving Day we were once again privileged to sit in the House of God and enjoy the precious message brought unto us by Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). May we strive to bring all thanks to our Almighty God for the blessings He bestows on us each day. We trust that God will bless Bro. Dwight for being a faithful messenger.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Mike Minniear (Sis. Glenna) and little Angela Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) as they both have suffered this past month from a broken bone. May they feel renewed strength and mobility, and the healing hand of God day by day.

The evening of December 18, our Sunday School children brought the precious message of our dear Saviour's Holy birth to the Wolcott congregation and friends and relatives. Surely we as Christians must recognize the lowly birth of our Lord and Saviour, for in order for Him to die on the old rugged cross for our sins, He had to be born. Praise God for His great wisdom, and His plan of salvation afforded unto us. "Tis not

the manger but the cross, that sets the spirit free." (Hymns of Zion #36)

Now as a new year dawns before us, let our goal be on that Heavenly Kingdom, for surely the day of the Lord is at hand, and the end is drawing near. May we each one watch and pray.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Monica Eisenmann

Edith Massner

We appreciated the visits of our dear Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bros. John Steiner and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). It was so pleasant to have them and their families with us. What a blessed fellowship we do have! May we honor and thank God with a heart of devotion and uprightness!

Our Sunday School children had their annual Christmas program on December 8. It's always heartwarming to hear the wonderful words of truth from their lips, such as, "Now you are keeper of the inn and Jesus stands outside. The latch string hangs inside the door, will you let him inside?"

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Another Christmas season has come and gone. Santa Claus has been put away with Rudolph and the elves and the Christmas tree has been stripped of its ornaments and tossed out into the snow. How sad if Christmas was never more than this. No birth of the Babe in the stable, no wise men, shepherds, or Bethlehem star. No promise fulfilled. No hope of eternal life!

May we rejoice and be thankful that the true Christmas story is still with us today. Our thanks to our Sunday School students for sharing

this blessed story with us again through poems, song and Scripture reading. May they be blessed.

Again, we are at the beginning of a new year and as always, we cannot see or know what all the year will hold. But we trust in God's perfect wisdom and plan. Some of us will not see the beginning of another new year, perhaps not even another spring, we do not know, but if we can be standing in grace and have accepted God's perfect plan of redemption, then departure from this life is only a victory. But if it is God's will that we continue in the battle another ten, twenty, forty years, or more, then may we trust in His promise, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

Our thanks to our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) for spending a weekend with us and for all his labors of love in our behalf.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:58

Ministers visiting us this past month included Bros. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Rex Freiden (Lamar, MO) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). We thank the Lord for the brothers who come and serve us so willingly. We also want to thank the visitors who come and meditate with us. You are a blessing to our congregation.

*LET US SEEK GOD'S
GUIDANCE IN THE NEW YEAR*

As the threatening clouds of chaos
Gather in man's muddled mind

While he searches for an answer
 He alone can never find,
 May God turn our vision skyward
 So that we can see above
 The gathering clouds of darkness
 And behold God's brightening love
 For today we're facing problems
 Man alone can never solve,
 For it takes much more than a
 genius
 To determine and resolve
 The conditions that confront us
 All around on every side,
 Daily mounting in intensity
 Like the restless, rising tide —
 But we'll find new strength and
 wisdom
 If instead of proud resistance
 We humbly call upon the Lord
 And seek Divine Assistance,
 For the spirit can unravel
 Many tangled, knotted threads
 That defy the skill and power
 Of the world's best hands and
 heads —
 And the plans of growth and
 progress
 Of which we all have dreamed
 Cannot survive materially
 Unless the spirit is redeemed —
 So as another new year dawns
 Let us seek the Lord in prayer
 And place our future hopes and
 plans
 Securely in God's care.
 —*Helen Steiner Rice*

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We appreciated all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and their families. We also enjoyed a surprise visit from retired Elder Bro. Leroy Huber and his wife, Sis. Clara. They visited our church many times in its earlier years and we and they have fond memories of those visits.

December 15 was a big day for the Sunday School children. After practicing many days, they presented to the congregation (and visiting grandparents) the story of Christ-

mas. After an earnest and heart-warming welcome by the primary class, the older students shared Scriptures telling how Jesus was the Alpha and Omega—the beginning of the New Testament and new dispensation of Grace, and the ending of the Old Testament by fulfilling prophecy and providing the final sacrifice for sin on the Cross.

Although almost half of the Sunday School children were gone to a cousin's baptism, the wonder and love embodied in the Christmas story came across loud and clear. May the vision of their earnest and glowing faces help us keep the simplicity and warmth of Christ's coming to earth in our hearts long after the Christmas season.

As we face another new year, some of us may feel jubilant, welcoming with anticipation what the Lord has in store for us. Others may feel anxious, with many concerns regarding our own or our loved ones' lives pressing us down. Some may feel triumphant over victories achieved in the past year, others may feel discouraged and weary. May we help to lift each other up in spirit and in prayer and keep our eyes on our Heavenly Goal. Surely, our hope of eternal salvation is the most precious hope we can have, and worth every effort we can put forth. While we cannot know what lies in store for us in the new year, we know Who holds the future. May we take courage and meet the new year with trust in His provision for us, appreciation for His plan of salvation, and anticipation for His return.

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold
Sue Warner

We extend sympathy to Sis. June Knobloch (Bro. Delbert) and Amy VanderSanden on the death of their

brother and father, Jerry VanderSanden. We pray that God will help and comfort these dear families.

We are thankful for our ministers who share the Word of Life with us. We especially thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Bros. Beirne Messner and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA).

Sis. Pauline Schambach was a hospital patient this month. May God be near her and all those who are in the twilight years of their lives. Bro. Nathan Knobloch (Sis. Irene) and Leroy Van Whye (Shelley) were surgical patients.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Feucht and their children, Jed, Samantha and Jackie. They have moved back to the Washington, IL area. May God go with them. We hope they visit us often!

The engagement of Bro. Damen Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl) to Sis. Stephanie Messner (Sis. Carol Ann, Winthrop, MN) was made known. Bro. Damen was formerly from our congregation. We wish them many blessings.

We extend congratulations to Bro. Travis Knobloch (Sis. Kathy) who graduated from college.

On November 22, Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Leuthold were blessed with a precious daughter, Monica Marie. She is welcomed home by her sister, Ashley. Grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki Leuthold and Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer (Morris, MN). We pray that God's presence will abide in their home.

We shared a blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our new sisters in Christ, Danielle Stickling (Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane), and Joni Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky). We rejoice with them.

IOWA, OAKVILLE**Melody Steiner****Debra Wagenbach**

Little Andrea Kay Larson arrived on December 12 to bless the home of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Heidi Larson. First-time grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Cathy Larson. John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach are thankful for another little grandchild to love.

December 15 was our annual Sunday School Christmas program. Our hearts are always touched by the innocence of little children. So soon that innocence leaves and Satan begins his vicious attack. May we always love our children enough to teach them the truth and not only through our words, but by our example also. Let us preserve the "Faith of our Fathers" or surely we will be found wanting on judgment day.

Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Bernie Messner (Morris, MN) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) have recently visited our Oakville congregation. May God bless them and their families for their willingness to be used in His service.

IOWA, PULASKI**Lisa Knecht**

Our Sunday School Christmas program, held Sunday, December 15, began with scriptural reading from the Bible Class and ended with the younger classes singing "This Little Light of Mine", while exiting the assembly holding "glowing" candles. We appreciate each dear soul who participated in sharing the true meaning of Christmas.

Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO) and Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) have served our congregation once again this past month. We are thankful for their Godly wisdom.

Bro. Albert Wuthrich is once again in the hospital recovering from surgery on a broken leg. Our prayers will continue for our dear older brother of 96 years.

I'm sure the following poem reflects the feelings and desires of all of our hearts; to serve our brother and Heavenly Father more faithfully and to trust more completely.

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Another year is dawning
With the chance to start anew.
May I be kinder, wiser, Lord,
In all I say and do.

Not so caught up in selfish gain
That I would fail to see
The things in life that mean the
most
Cost not a fancy fee.

The warm, kind word that I can
give,
The outstretched hand to help.
The prayers I pray for those in
need -
More precious these than wealth.

I know not what may lie ahead
Of laughter or of tears;
I only need to know each day
That You are walking near.

I'm thankful for this brand new
year
As now I humbly pray,
My hand secure in Yours, dear
Lord,
Each step along the way.
—*Kay Hoffman*

IOWA, WEST BEND**Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart**

We were blessed with a visit by Bro. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) and family this month. May the Lord richly bless him for expounding the Word to us.

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

Philippians 4:7

How thankful we are that another dear soul, Karen Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie), has turned to the Lord in repentance and has found the wonderful peace that passeth all understanding. We look forward to hearing her testimony of the Lord's work in her life.

Little Deanna Fehr (Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita) has again returned to Iowa City for more surgery but is home again and doing well. At the time of this writing, Sis. Marie Metzger is a hospital patient. May she feel God's nearness and we pray that she can soon be home.

God has blessed several homes with precious babies. Curt and Yvonne Hartig (Jacksonville, NC) are first-time parents of a baby girl, Jordan Yvonne. Grandparents are Alfred and Annete Fehr (Ft. Dodge, IA) and Ron and Doris Hartig (Algonia, IA).

Bro. Mark and Sis. Janet Fehr welcomed Trevor Mark into their home. Big sisters, Erica and Jessica, are thrilled to have a brother. Grandparents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge Schaefer (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr. Great-grandparents are Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr.

Chuck and Sis. Trela Wirtz are happy to have Carson Bradley join their family circle. Carson joins big brothers, Garrett and Tyson. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Verner and Sis. Betty Wirtz.

Our annual business meeting was held recently when we selected brothers and sisters to serve in various duties to fill the places of those whose terms have expired. May God grant grace and courage to these brothers as they assume these duties: Bro. Jordan Grimm (usher),

Bros. Kent Banwart and Kevin Fehr (microphone), Bro. Denton Knobloch (parking attendant), and Bro. Ken Banwart (Retirement Village board). Sis. Paula Schmidt (Bro. John) has taken the responsibility to help Sis. Carole Fehr (Bro. Larry) with the duty of church cleaning. We want to thank Sis. Eula Mogler (Bro. Art) for all her time over the years keeping the house of God clean for us. May God bless those who served in these capacities in the past. We are grateful for their willing service.

As we begin a new year, may our Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. We thank God for His loving care and providence through the past year. May He comfort those who have lost loved ones during the year. In some way or other He will surely provide, in joy or sorrow, for those who put their trust in Him.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

We enjoyed our fall fellowship meeting on November 4 in the mountains near Shioda church. The topic this time was about being the salt of the earth. It was very well attended including guests from the States who were visiting at the time, Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann Stoller (Latty, OH). We were also blessed by several other visitors recently, including Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy (Kieser) Drete (Altadena, CA) and Sis. Faith and Sis. Melody Klaus (Washington, IL). Sis. Kathy was a teacher for the Shioda American Kindergarten for four years and this was her first time back to Japan after seven years. We warmly thank all of our visitors this year for their fellowship and love. We hope to meet many more in the coming year!

We celebrated the birth of our Lord on December 22, with the

usual Sunday School program and Christmas dinner. Since our church is small, most members and even older friends, in addition to the Sunday School children, participate in the program. This includes congregational singing, reading of the Christmas story, a men's singing group, high school singing group, acting out of the Christmas story, question and answer time for children, and presents for the children. Unfortunately, Christmas time is the one and only time of the year that some Sunday School children's mothers come to church, but we hope that they will eventually understand the true meaning of celebrating the birth of Jesus.

May God be with us all in the new year, 1997.

KANSAS, BERN Lori Baumgartner Holly Meyer

"Put THINGS last because THINGS don't last." One of our Elders quoted this at our last Conference and it really speaks volumes. I look at my own life and think of all the things I do that aren't going to last, and yet there are so many things that do have eternal value. As this new year begins, let us rededicate our lives and focus more on Christ, our family, and reaching out to others, because those "things" will last!

We have been blessed to welcome two new brides to our congregation this past month. Bro. Larry Meyer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne) and Sis. Jill Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne, Phoenix, AZ) exchanged their marriage vows on November 24 in Phoenix. The following weekend on December 1, Bro. Christopher Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise) and Sis. Amy Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) were married in Silverton. Our

prayers are with these new couples as they establish Christian homes and adjust to their new place in life. A reception was held in their honor on December 15 at the Fellowship Center.

Our congratulations go to Matt Ahlquist (Melvin and Sheryl, Bern) and Becky Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona), who have announced their engagement. May God be near them as they plan for their June wedding.

Visiting ministers for this month have been Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL). We appreciate how the Lord worked through them and may He reward them.

Bro. Victor and Sis. Jananne Menold became first-time parents on November 26, as they welcomed Alexa Pearl into their hearts and home. We praise God for another healthy blessing and also rejoice with grandparents, Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold, Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter, and great-grandparents, Bro. Lester Hartter, Sis. Pearl Miller, and John and Loree Menold (Sabetha, KS).

In the hospital for a short time was Sis. Verona Strahm (Bro. Wilfred). We are thankful she is fine and also that Sis. Kaye Meyer (Bro. Steve) is assembling with us after an extended illness.

December college graduates are Mandy Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois), an Elementary Education major; and Sis. Wendy Edelman (Eugene and Judy, Sabetha) who received a degree in Dietetics. May we keep them in our prayers as God directs their futures.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Tammy Sinn

"Lo, children are an heritage of

the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalms 127:3

Heidi Christine was born to Bro. David and Sis. Jolene Sinn on October 25. Welcoming her home are Joel, Amy, Breona, and Carla, and grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn and Sis. Nova Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). May they continue to feel God's blessings as they raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

On December 18, the Sunday School presented their Christmas program. We thank the children and the teachers for reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

Also, on Christmas Eve, we were privileged to have Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) and his family assemble with us. We appreciate Bro. Bob preaching the Word of Life to us once again. It is our sincere desire that God will continue to inspire the ministry that we may be led on paths of righteousness.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

There is an air of sacred joy
That crowns the earth tonight
And wraps the world in ancient
shrouds
Of soft and golden light,
For on this night - long years ago -
A Child was born on earth
To be God's Messenger of love -
And Son of holy birth;
And He was given, unto us,
To teach the Christian ways
That bear God's blessings and
rewards -
And Grace, on Judgment Day.
But - now - He is a Risen Christ
Who watches, from above,
To see how well we learned His
ways
Of Christian peace and love.

—*Michael Dubina*

Even as busy as December always

is, the Christmas programs, carols, cards of good wishes from friends far away, or near at hand, always hold a special place in our hearts, and give us a feeling of joy and love and good will. As we begin a brand new year, may we try harder to keep His peace and love and kindness as an everyday part of our lives, and give thanks for the wonderful blessings God bestows upon us each day that we live.

There has been a lot of flu in our area, and several have been missing from our midst. Though not hospitalized, they have been very sick, and we hope they will all be well again soon and able to worship with us again.

We have also had several leave to travel south for several months, or are planning to leave soon. We pray that the Lord will go with them and care for them until they come home to us again. We miss all those who are missing from our fellowship for whatever reason.

Bethany Hamilton has been undergoing tests lately, and we wish her to know that our thoughts and prayers are with her. Bethany is the daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Sandra Hamilton.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr

Another new year dawns! Father, help us to be that faithful bride awaiting Thy coming!

Our prayers have been with those who have been hospitalized. Sis. Dorthy Young and Sis. Edna Somerhalder were surgery patients. Sis. Susan (Bro. Bill) Emch and Katelyn Bahr (Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie) were hospitalized for illnesses. We have surely missed Sis. Enda Somerhalder as she has moved temporarily to Sabetha during her time of recovery. This came as such a surprise to our congregation; we

missed sharing a proper farewell with her. May God grant each one a measure of renewed health.

Our congregation is truly thankful for our visiting ministers, Bros. Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS). We appreciate their timely messages and thank God for His traveling mercies upon each one.

With loving concern, we prayerfully want to extend our warm wishes to Kayla Bahr and William Holland (Newark, DE) as they have announced their engagement and wedding plans for August 16. Lord, direct their every footstep! Kayla is the daughter of Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie Bahr.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

We have felt very privileged to hear several visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). It is a tremendous blessing in our country to be able to travel from one place to another with our modern way of transportation and have the Word freely spoken as the Lord directs. We know this has not always been the situation.

Sis. Bernice Frieden was hospitalized. Bro. Willard Bahr (Sis. Eloise) is currently in a hospital in the Detroit area. We pray for a speedy recovery if it can be the Lord's will. May God grant courage and strength to persevere in the tests of life.

On December 8, Bro. Darin and Sis. Karen Edelman welcomed the birth of a son, Issac William. His sister, Rachel, will enjoy a playmate. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter and Sis. Marjorie Edelman.

Couples and singles are welcome to potlucks and singings in the homes throughout the year. For the month of December, everyone was invited for caroling with a potluck following.

It was a special time to hear the Christmas story brought forth by our Sunday School classes in verse and song. We were reminded they are our future church. May we do our part to lead them on the right path by being the proper example.

We extend best wishes to Carrie Grimm (Wayne) who graduated from Kansas State University.

As we enter a new year, may we rededicate our lives in His service.

Life is like a mountain railroad,
With an Engineer that's brave,
We must make the run successful
From the cradle to the grave;
Watch the curves, the fills, the
tunnels,
Never falter, never quail;
Keep your hand upon the throttle
And your eye upon the rail.

You will roll up grades of trial,
You will cross the bridge of strife;
See that Christ is your Conductor
On this lightning train of life;
Always mindful of obstruction,
Do your duty, never fail;
Keep your hand upon the throttle
And your eye upon the rail.

You will often find obstructions,
Look for storms and wind and rain;
On a fill or curve or trestle
They will almost ditch your train;
Put your trust alone in Jesus,
Never falter, never fail;
Keep your hand upon the throttle
And your eye upon the rail.

As you roll across the trestle
Spanning Jordan's swelling tide,
You behold the Union Depot
Into which your train will glide;
There you'll meet the
Sup'rintendent,
God the Father, God the Son;
With the hearty, joyous plaud-it,
"Weary pilgrim, welcome home!"

Chorus: Blessed Saviour, Thou
wilt guide us,
Till we reach that blissful shore,
Where the angels wait to join us
In Thy praise forevermore.

—Country & Western
Hymnal #98

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

It is difficult to write about the New Year when we are currently in the midst of Christmas activities. Wednesday nights in December have been devoted to caroling in homes of loved ones. The Sunday School students are preparing for a presentation on December 22. Several sisters prepared a Christmas dinner which took the place of our regular potluck. They included our extended church families to share in this time of fellowship. The cheerful participation of individuals in our small congregation makes these extras a blessing rather than a burden. Pray that this attitude will extend into the New Year. There is much truth in Psalm 77:3, "...I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed." How much better for us to maintain a spirit of cooperation than to dwell on the negatives. We should always count our blessings as this poem by Bea Montanus reminds us.

Count your blessings instead of
your crosses
Count your gains instead of your
losses
Count your joys instead of your
woes
Count your friends instead of your
foes
Count your smiles instead of your
tears
Count your courage instead of
your tears
Count your courage instead of
your fears
Count your health instead of your
wealth

Count on God instead of yourself.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug and Rebecca Germann

We appreciate our many visitors these past few weeks from across the country. Churches represented were from Morris, MN; Rittman, OH; Burlington, IA; Eureka and Bloomington, IL. Thank you for your visits!

Our sympathy is extended to the Lester Huber family with the recent loss of Bro. Wilbur Huber of the Phoenix, AZ congregation on November 19.

A special thank you to Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht and his wife, Sis. Sandra (Eureka, IL), for visiting us on December 8. We enjoyed a potluck and singing on Saturday evening and a blessed day of fellowship on Sunday as well. Thanks for your efforts, Bro. Ervin, as you sounded the watchman's call once again.

Recently I read a poem that reminded me of the theme at this past year's church Conference. It reminds us of the battle that is raging:

THE BATTLE

"...there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." (Joshua 13:1)

Oh, let's be valiant soldiers
While marching o'er the plain;
Still conquering and possessing
The areas that remain.
It may be that the battle
Doth lie on yonder hill,
But ever we are pressing
And striving to fulfill.

Let's conquer all those giants
That rise up in our hearts
Oh, don't give in to Satan
When he is throwing darts.
It may be we have conquered
In areas of the flesh,
But harder still the battle
Where attitudes molest.

Oh, God, I need Thy power
To vanquish subtle foes,
That strive to gain the mast'ry,
If I'm not on my toes.
They sneak right to my bosom
Before I am aware;
Oh, help me crush temptation
While it is lingering near.

More conquering and possessing
Those areas that remain;
Twill be a lifetime struggle
Eternal life to gain.
But with our God's great power,
The victory is assured
The battle may be arduous,
But great is the reward.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Marlene Mosher
Rhonda Knochel

We wish our Lord's blessings and comfort to Sis. Alice Mehl on the passing of her husband, Christian. Also, our prayers go out to his family, Rick and Ronna Mehl, his grandsons and great-grandchildren. May they find comfort in the Lord.

We wish our Lord's guiding hand and blessings to our newly engaged couple, Sis. Bonnie Wieland and Bro. Jesse Bedolla. The couple will reside in Detroit. Sis. Bonnie's parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland.

Surgeries this month have been Bro. Floyd Knochel (Sis. Marian), Sis. Mae Guenzel and Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Winsor). Also, Sis. Kathryn Wackerle (Bro. Ronald) is homebound. Our prayers go to Heaven and we plead for the healing mercies of our Lord as far as He sees fit to fulfill His will.

This is the time of year we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour. It is a beautiful time of year and also in some cases sad, but let us not leave Jesus as a Babe, but let us also remember Him as a man who shed His blood for us.

THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

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

Our saving hope is all in vain,
If here our love should cease,
For in the man of Galilee.
We find the gift of peace.
'Tis not the babe, but Christ, the
man
Who walked in Galilee;
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,
That sets the spirit free.

Be not content this babe to know,
Nor stay at Bethlehem,
But go with Christ to Calvary's
brow,
Beyond Jerusalem.

'Tis there men learn to know the
Christ,
For there He bore man's sin.
Then open wide the door of heart,
And let the Saviour in.

Hymns of Zion #36

In memory of Joanne Stange, who passed away November 15, 1995:

God saw you were getting tired
and a cure was not to be;
So He put His arms around you
and whispered, "Come with Me."
With tearful eyes we watched you
suffer
and saw you fade away.
Although we could not bear to lose
you,
we could not ask you to stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
hard-working hands laid to rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to
us
He only takes the best.

*Submitted by her Aunt Emma,
Aunt Perseda, brother Bob and
many loving cousins.*

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Holly Barton - Lynette Moser

As we start the new year, many of us are endeavoring to "turn over a new leaf" and keep our new year's resolutions. Indeed, it is good to reflect on our lives and behaviour because, "...we spend our years as a tale that is told." (Psalm 90:9). However, "resolutions" may lead to discouragement as we fail on any given day and we may quit trying. We should remember that we are given each day new and should ask for God's help to live each one to its fullest. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psalm 90:12).

We rejoice with Russ Rambeau as he feels peace and looks forward to baptism.

We also congratulate Gretchen Weigele (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Mary) on her engagement to Brad Fields of Atlanta, GA.

Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) visited us this month and we are thankful for his willingness to share with us.

December also brought several graduates: Sis. Alisa Beyer (Bro. Keith), Ryan Maibach (Ben III and Barb) and Todd Moilanen (Jennifer) all graduated from institutions of higher learning.

We have had many opportunities to pray for health and healing this month and are thankful for God's healing touch. Hospitalized were Bro. Walter Bauer (Sis. Hilda), Sis. Arlene Belsley, Sis. Anna Magyar, Bro. Willard Bahr (Sis. Eloise) from Sabetha, KS and Sis. Eszter Orcsik (Bro. John). Sis. Ann Tachar and Sis. Jeannie Allen (Bro. Pat) have made good recoveries from surgery.

We sympathize with Barb Maibach (Ben III) as she mourns the loss of her aunt and uncle.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Perry Virkler

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”

Ephesians 5:31

Trusting the Lord has directed their lives, the wedding engagement of Bro. Damon Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl, Lester, IA) and Sis. Stephanie Messner (Sis. Carol Ann, Winthrop, MN) was announced. The wedding has been set for January 19 at Winthrop, MN. We wish God's blessings on them as they endeavor to serve Him together.

We thank Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), who came to minister to us this month. May God richly bless them for expounding upon His precious Word.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Romans 5:1-2

We are thankful for another soul who has turned her life over to the Lord. Jan Schmidt (Darrin) was announced to the congregation as having found peace with God and man and is looking forward to baptism. We rejoice with her.

On December 15, our Sunday School children brought to us the message of Christ's birth in recitations, scripture readings and songs. We thank our teachers for the effort put forth, as it was reflected in the children's enthusiasm. A lunch was served after the program, then we went caroling at the Gillette Children's Hospital, where the children passed out crafts they had made for the young patients.

A farewell hymn was sung for Bro. Jeremy Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy, Indianapolis, IN) who spent the last four months furthering his education in the Minneapolis area. We enjoyed his fellowship and look forward to his return next spring.

As another year is dawning, may we be thankful for the many blessings God has provided in the past year, and in the new year may we strive daily to walk closer to Him.

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, before this year is born
I give it to Thy hand,
Content to walk by faith
What paths I cannot understand.

Or Lord, if all unknown to me
Thine angel hovers near
To call me to that farther shore
Before another year;

It matters not — my hand in
Thine,
Thy light upon my face,
Thy boundless strength when I
am weak,
Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask — loose not my hand,
Grip fast my soul, and be
My light of life upon the path
Till — blind no more — I see!

Author Unknown

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Nancy Wulf

Linda Schmidgall

After 32 years of preaching God's Word to us, Bro. Alphai Moser preached a final sermon and announced his desire to retire. We appreciated Bro. Alphai's messages and faithful service and pray God will bless both Bro. Alphai and Sis. Pearl in the years to come.

We had a very blessed weekend December 14-15, when we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of five dear souls. We welcome our new brother and sisters in

Christ: Kara Wulf (Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy), Rhonda Wulf (Bro. Jeral and Sis. Linda), Shadow Fehr (Bro. Paul, Jr. and Sis. Pam), and Bro. Byron and Sis. Julie Koehl (Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda). May they always feel God's love and direction in their walk of life. Here to share in this important work, along with our Elder Bro. Art Nohl, was Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN). In the evening we had the privilege of hearing the Sunday School children tell us about Jesus' birth in verse and song.

Ministers who spoke God's Word to us throughout the past month were Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), and Bros. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ) and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). May God richly bless them for their time and effort.

Virgil and Mildred Sauder celebrated their 50th anniversary with a reception in our fellowship center given by their nine children. May God bless their years together.

Surgical patients this month were Bros. Leroy Fehr (Sis. Judith), Reuben Luthi (Sis. Crystal), Joe Moser (Sis. Hazel), Sisters Sandy Fehr (Bro. Gary) and Lois Schmidgall (Bro. Keith). May God continue to bless them with better health.

We are so thankful for all the blessings God has so bountifully provided for us in the past year. As another year is dawning, may we strive to uphold the faith and precious Word.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Becky Braulick - Jan Messner
Greetings!

I am Thine, oh Lord; I have heard
Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me,

But I long to rise in the arms of
faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Consecrate me now to Thy service,
Lord,
By the pow'r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a
steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.

Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer,
blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died,
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer,
blessed Lord,
To Thy precious bleeding side.
Heavenly Highway Hymns #21

We are rejoicing with the angels as there are three more souls, Derick and Ruth Schmidt (Bro. Darrel and Darlene Schmidt) and Jan Schmidt (Darrin Schmidt) who have come to the Lord our Saviour and now have found peace. We are so happy for them and will continue to have them in our prayers.

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

Genesis 2:18

Believing that the Lord has directed their lives, the engagement of our Sis. Stephanie Messner (Sis. Carol Ann and the late Bro. Dennis) to Bro. Damon Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch, Lester, IA) of Minneapolis, MN was recently announced. May they ever rely on God's guidance as they walk life's pathway together.

Sis. Florence Messner recently had her 90th birthday celebration which was hosted by her children and attended by many friends and family from miles around. May the Lord continue to watch over and protect her in her daily walk of life.

We had our annual Sunday School Christmas program this past

week and were blessed from the children's singing and their recitation of the story of Jesus. We would like to thank the students and their teachers for all their efforts in making this a blessed night. We also enjoyed a nice evening of fellowship after the program.

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to thank my children, grandchildren, family and friends for making my surprise birthday such a special occasion. I would like to thank everyone for their gifts and cards. May the Lord bless you all for your thoughtfulness.

Sis. Florence Messner

I wish to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, gifts and flowers while I was in the hospital and during my stay at Winthrop Care Center. Your deeds of kindness are much appreciated.

Florence Gutknecht

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brent Kellenberger

I was tempted to complain about the snow, ice, and 65-degree temperature drop we've experienced over the last three days, but when I thought about the mailperson trudging around for hours at a time, I checked myself. We usually don't have to look far to find someone who is worse off than we are.

On December 15 we were thankful to view our annual Sunday School Christmas program. It was very entertaining and meaningful. I'm ready for the next one! After church we completed our day of fellowship by caroling together at a nursing home and returning to church for a chili supper.

On Thanksgiving we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and his family with us. We were also blessed to have minis-

tering Bro. Rex Frieden and Sis. Vera (Lamar, MO) with us on a Wednesday evening. We enjoyed having Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and his family with us this month as well. We thank all our visitors for coming and we hope that you will return again soon.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Marti
Martha Kellenberger

During the past month, we have had many hospital and/or surgical patients. These include Bro. Art Banwart (Sis. Ruth), Bro. Dean Marti (Sis. Arlene), Sis. Vera Frieden (Bro. Rex), Sis. Sandra Luthi (Elder Bro. Lawrence), Bro. Martin Hohulin (Sis. Edith), and Bro. Leonard Marti (Sis. Evelyn). Our prayers are with them as they recuperate.

We greatly enjoyed and appreciated the visit of ministering Bro. Wayne Wiegand and his family from Goodfield, IL. May God bless him for his willingness to be used on our behalf.

With open hearts, we welcome Sis. Wendy Edelman from Bern, KS. She has found employment in Joplin, and we look forward to assembling with her.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Peter Schrenk

The love that we receive from fellow brothers and sisters in the faith is one of the greatest blessings that God gives us. When God gives us His love, we cannot do otherwise but pass it on to others. This love is exemplified in the brothers who serve the church every Sunday from the pulpit. We would like to thank the visiting ministers who gave of their own blessings to serve us in St. Louis: Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Ron Heiniger

(Bloomington, IL), Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), and Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL).

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Rusty and Amy Adrian

Just as another year has passed and a new year is before us, how wonderful it is that mankind has the opportunity to lay their old lives down and begin new ones through our Lord Jesus Christ. May each and every soul in our church be refreshed anew this year in a way that the gifts we receive as Christians will shine forth bright to those who are watching our lives.

On Sunday, December 8, we had an all church caroling at Maple Lawn Nursing Home in Palmyra. What a joy it brought as we could sing those wonderful Christmas songs to those who were able to listen. Even though many had physical afflictions, you could still see the joy it brought to each one as we sang about our Lord's birth.

December 15 was a special day for our Sunday School youth as they brought to us the real meaning of Christmas. It was truly an encouraging day as each one brought their verses and songs together about our Lord Jesus Christ's birth.

Special thanks are extended to our visiting ministers this past month who were Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN). May God bless each one for sharing God's Word with us.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Sis. Rose Hoerr (late Bro. John) who went on to be with the Lord. As we will truly miss Sis. Rose, we can count our blessings knowing that she was ready to go Home and meet our most precious Lord. Also, our sympathy and prayers are extended to Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Kiefaber for the

passing away of Bro. Steve's grandmother, Edna Fletcher. May God's comforting hand be with each family at this time in their lives.

NEW YORK,
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler

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

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

Another year has come to us and as the hymnwriter has penned, may it be another year with God and may it be a year that we live for God. It is our prayer that many more will serve God in this lifetime.

Instructions for serving God were given to us by our Elder brothers at the Conference in August. The words of the Memorandum were lovingly expounded unto us by Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and our Bro. Duane on Saturday evening, November 16. On Sunday, the Word was given to us by these brothers and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). Our thanks is extended to these brothers and their families and the many others who shared the weekend with us. As we have begun the year of 1997, let each of us remember the love and guidance given us by our shepherds.

Bro. Ted and Gertie Herzig reached a milestone on December 3 when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to be with them and grant them good health and many more years together.

Our thoughts and prayers are

with Bro. Floyd and Sis. Loretta Graves as they have not been able to assemble with us for several Sundays. It is our prayer that God will continue with them at this time as they encounter these health problems given to them, and we look forward to the time when they can again assemble with us.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Greetings from Akron. We would like to thank Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) for sharing from God's Word at our monthly song service. Also, we appreciated the ministering labors of Bro. Gary Towner (Bluffton, IN). As we were admonished, let us remember to do our part in the body of Christ. Regardless of our age, gender or station in life, God's Word provides clear instruction on how we should walk. May we apply these principles to our life with an enthusiasm that those around us can see.

What joy filled our hearts as we heard the precious youth of our Sunday School singing of the birth of Jesus. May God bless the effort of each one involved in our annual Christmas program.

We wish God's blessings on Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Walder and their sons as they move to a new home and new congregation in Smithville. We will miss seeing them regularly, but know that God can use them wherever they are.

On December 11, Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcy Graf were blessed with a precious son, Jacob Alan. He is welcomed by a brother, Isaac. Grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet Graf and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Carla Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

In 1996, the Akron congregation had growth by four new members and three births. In addition, there were two marriages.

OHIO, COLUMBUS**Nancy Banks**

Our loving thanks and appreciation go to our visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN). We are so thankful for those brothers willing to lend of themselves in sharing God's Word.

December is a busy month with the Sunday School's Christmas program and their Adopt-a-Family project. A very busy Saturday night was spent shopping for a family less fortunate. A pizza party was held afterwards while presents were wrapped and prepared for delivery. On December 15, the Columbus church went Christmas caroling after the second service and returned to the church for a chili supper. Before we know it, Christmas is upon us and we wonder where the time has flown.

We wish one and all a very blessed New Year.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Sandra Manz**

A blanket of newfallen snow covers the earth. Through the kitchen window, everything appears fresh, clean, and crisp. "Tho' your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." (Isaiah 1:18 and Gospel Hymns #549). Desiring a new life made clean and white by our Saviour's blood is Loral Schlatter (Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine). May she find the peace that she desires.

Our concern goes out to Bro. Emmanuel Manz (Sis. Louise) as he has once again undergone major surgery. May the Lord grant him patience, endurance and faith no matter what the future may hold.

OHIO, LATTY**Kathy Sinn****Joyce Klopfenstein**

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers in the past month: Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN); Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH) was with us on Thanksgiving; and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN) on the weekend following Thanksgiving. We appreciate each ministering brother who visits us and ministers to us. May God bless each one according to His will.

Our prayers have been with those who have been sick in the past month. We are thankful that Bro. Glenn Stoller (Sis. Edith) is gathering with us again after surgery, and Sis. Mary Klopfenstein (Bro. Marvin) is also with us again after being in the hospital. Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Henry Kipfer (Sis. Arvilla) who continues to be in the hospital, and with Bro. Dwain Laukhuf (Sis. Wanita) who has been ill. May God's will be done in each of these lives, and may these loved ones feel His comfort and presence.

May we strive for a closer walk with our Lord and Saviour, and with our brothers and sisters as we look forward to a new year. Let us grow in faith, and love, that our light may shine brightly to our dear friends, and to the world around us.

OHIO, MANSFIELD**Cari Mann**

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

On November 17, the engagement of Bro. Chad Griffey (Paul and Bernie) and Sis. Tami Tucker (Dan

and Sis. Barb) was made known to the church. As they plan for their March wedding, may they ever feel that threefold cord drawing them closer to their Lord and to each other.

"And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words."

Hebrews 13:22

On November 23, we gathered for the reading of the Memorandum. As always, we were exhorted to stay on that straight and narrow path. When we gather each year, do we consider it that we are suffering to hear those words of exhortation from the Elder Body or are we blessed to have the privilege of hearing those words of love?

"So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us."

I Thess. 2:8

Do we often consider how much our ministering brethren give of themselves for us whenever they would stand before us on the pulpit? May our prayers ever be for those beloved ones in the Lord. Our visitors this month included: Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH). May these and all our ministering brethren know how dear they are to us as we thank them for their efforts in our behalf.

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;"

I Timothy 1:12

Our prayers are with Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina Baumann as Bro. Mike has been called to assist our ministering brethren on the pulpit. May they ever feel our prayers and support.

"Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors."

Psalm 119:24

How often we can be uplifted and counselled by listening to the testimony of a soon-to-be brother or sister! On November 30, we had the privilege of hearing the testimonies of Ben and Betty Beer. We then welcomed them as our new brother and sister the next day. As they have now been grafted into the family of Christ, may they ever feel His loving nearness.

"And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."

Luke 24:36

This verse will always be special to Heidi Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie) because this is the verse she opened to when our Lord assured her that she has found the peace that passes all understanding. As she now awaits baptism, may she ever feel His guiding presence.

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

I Cor. 14:40

How thankful we can be that things are "done decently" and in an orderly way in our churches. Our annual business meeting was held December 8. We wish to thank those brethren whose terms have expired and offer our prayerful support to those who will take their places. These include: Bro. Joel Beer (Sis.

Sue) has completed his five year term as trustee and Bro. Chip Hill (Sis. Seda) was elected to fill the vacancy. Sis. Sue Beer (Bro. Joel) has completed her three year term on the Kitchen Committee and Sis. Seda Hill (Bro. Chip) will succeed her. After many years of faithful service, Sis. Sarah Rice (the late Bro. Byron) is retiring from the World Relief Committee. Sis. Lillian Miller (Bro. John) will begin a three year term. A heartfelt thank you to those who have willingly served.

"Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises."

Psalm 47:6

On December 15, our children reminded us of the birth of our King during our annual Christmas program. By the time this is printed, Christmas 1996 will be but a memory. Let us each strive to carry that Christmas spirit with us each day of the coming year.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Michelle Dotterer
Carla Stoller

On Thanksgiving Day we were grateful for the visiting ministers who traveled to be with us. Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) were the willing ones who shared the Word.

Bro. Novko and Sis. Julie Atanasov welcome their first child, Tyler David, born November 29. Along with Tyler's grandparents, Nikola and Sofie Atanasov and Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle, we are thankful for his safe arrival.

Tyler Joseph, born March 28, 1996, became the son of Ralph and Cheryl Beery on December 11. Sis. Ruth Beery and Mr. and Mrs. Milan

Labik certainly are thankful for their precious grandson.

We surely rejoice as Jerry Gasser (Sis. Ellen) has decided to "seek the everlasting treasure" (Zion's Harp #52). May he and his son, Eric, receive the Lord's grace during their repentance.

Sis. Julie Atanasov (Bro. Novko), Sis. Myrle Rufener and Rex Young (Carol) have spent time in the hospital. We trust that God will provide comfort and strength during the times of affliction.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Lillian Bauman and Fredona (Berdean) Shiffer in the death of their sister, Elizabeth Ruttencutter.

OHIO, SARDIS
Joy Indermuhle

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

With joyful hearts, we wish to express our prayerful support to three loved ones who have felt the call of God unto repentance. We rejoice with Kristy Miller (Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris) and Dale and Virginia Rigggenbach. May each of them feel the presence of their Lord and Saviour in their lives and know that His grace is sufficient.

Many loved ones have been hospitalized recently due to surgery or illness. They are Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary), Bob Stalder (Clara), Sis. Hazel Rigggenbach, Virginia Rigggenbach (Dale) and Bro. Matt Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam). May God be with each one as they continue to heal and recover. We are thankful that Sis. Hazel, Bro. Matt, Virginia, and Sis. Terry are once again able to assemble with us.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

We find ourselves all too often asking the Lord to help us with this or that in our lives and then worrying that His will is not going to be what we would like. As we approach a new year, may we be reminded that God is in control and that His will is best for our lives.

Reminder: Silver Lining collection will be during the month of January.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Julie Maibach - Edith Miller

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

Philippians 4:19

It is with this confidence that we embark upon another new year, not knowing what is ahead, but just trusting in God to provide for us as He has in the past.

Two homes have been blessed with the arrival of little boys in this month. On December 5, first-time parents, Adam and Marcia Martin, welcomed Tristin Lee. First-time grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner. On December 7, Kurt and Robin Steiner welcomed Christian David into their family. Big sister, Nicole, along with grandparents, Bro. David and Sis. Carole Steiner (Rittman, OH), also awaited his arrival. We wish God's blessings to both of these families as they raise their little ones.

We are sorry that Josephine Greenbank has not been well for some time. She recently was hospitalized for surgery. We trust God's

healing hand will restore her to good health again.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Luanna Dotterer (Bro. Dave) in the death of her grandfather, Dallas Staley.

Our Smithville congregation welcomes Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Walder and their two little boys, Evan and Grant, as they have recently moved to our area from Akron, OH. May God bless them in their new home.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

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

John 3:5

Just as the birth of a new baby brings joy to a whole family, so the birth of water and of the Spirit brings joy to the family of God. November 22 and 23 we re days of rejoicing for our congregation as we were able to hear the testimony of Garth Gucker and welcome him as a new child of God. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH) were with us for the weekend. May we all encourage each other in a closer walk with Christ.

Among the many blessings of Thanksgiving was a visiting minister. We were glad to have Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) to help in the ministry that day. May we join the psalmist in saying, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation." (Psalm 68:19).

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

"...choose you this day whom ye will serve;...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

As we begin a new year, let us rededicate our spiritual lives unto the Lord. If the Lord should come again in the next year, how will He find your house and mine? Will He find us in service to Him?

Our Sunday School children spent the day, Saturday, December 14, collecting donations to sponsor a local needy family for Christmas. Their hard work was rewarded with a nice sum of money to buy gifts and food items for the family. These were then delivered to the family after church on Sunday. That evening, December 15, was our Sunday School program. Our children did such a nice job of proclaiming the birth of Christ in song and recitation. We pray that they will recall these events many times as they get older, and will take this one step further...to the cross, knowing that their salvation was purchased not by His birth but by His death on the cross.

We thank ministering Bros. Todd Zollinger and Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) for worshipping with us this past month. May God richly bless them and their families for their efforts.

We have begun listening to the Conference tapes. We thank our Elder brethren for their love and willingness to serve.

We pray that those of our small congregation who have been ill might be healed. It seems that many have been sick this fall and winter already and have had to miss school, work and church due to illness. Our dear Sis. Golda Ditch has been hospitalized with a broken hip. We pray she will soon recover and can return home.

May the Lord richly bless you all
in the new year.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Peggy Schulz

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

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in Heaven
Another year for Thee. Amen.
Hymns of Zion #150

As we enter upon the New Year,
may we reflect upon where we have
come from and where we are going.
May our eyes be fixed upon those
things above.

Bro. Clarence (Sis. Bess) Dietrich
spent a brief time in the hospital
this month. We pray he will have a
quick recovery.

December 1 was the wedding day
of Sis. Amy Metz (Elder Bro. Art and
Sis. Betty) and Bro. Christopher
Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Lou).
May the Lord richly bless them in
their married life. We will surely
miss Sis. Amy here but know she
will be warmly welcomed by the
Bern congregation.

We were blessed to have Bro.
Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) minis-
ter God's Holy Word to us this
month. May he be richly blessed for
his labors in the Lord.

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni

"Search the scriptures; for in
them ye think ye have eternal life:

and they are they which testify of
me."

John 5:39

On December 15, our Sunday
School students presented their
Christmas program. We thank them
and their teachers for showing us
the true meaning of why we cele-
brate the birth of our Saviour.

We thank Bros. Howard Plattner
(Alto, MI) and James Ramseyer
(Bay City, MI) for sharing God's
Word with us this past month. May
God richly reward them for their
efforts.

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

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold

As we begin a new year, most of
us take a few moments to reflect
upon our lives during the past year
and think about how we can make
changes to better ourselves in the
coming new year! During this reflec-
tion time, may we stop and take
time to think about our spiritual
lives. Are there changes that we
need to make in order to better
serve Christ Jesus? If there are, may
we use the beginning of the year as
the time to begin these changes as
well as to rededicate our lives to
Christ Jesus. May we strive to be
more like Him in 1997 that He may
use us in His service and make us
more fit for His heavenly kingdom.

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

Matthew 5:16

This past month, we were privi-
leged to welcome ministering Bros.
Art Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Ben
Manz (Junction, OH) as well as
other visitors from our Ohio
churches. We thank these brothers
and all of our visitors for their will-
ingness to come and worship with
us. May God richly bless all of you
and your families.

Work continues to progress on
our church remodeling project. In
December, our kitchen cabinets and
microwave oven were installed.
Carpeting is scheduled for installa-
tion in January. We hope to com-
plete the kitchen/dining room
remodeling within the next couple
of months and Lord willing, hope to
hold Dedication Services in the
spring of 1997. We extend a special
thank you to Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane
Hoebegger (Bluffton, IN) for all of
your efforts in the construction and
installation of our cabinets. They
are beautiful and very much appre-
ciated. May God bless you both now
and in eternity for your efforts.

If you are traveling in the Nash-
ville area, please contact us at one
of the numbers listed below. Our
services are held on the first and
third Sundays of each month begin-
ning at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. A
list of the churches scheduled for
services in 1997 has been sent to
each congregation and should be
posted on your church's bulletin
board. Contact Bro. Don and Faye
Sauder (615) 373-8928; Sis. Gwen
Leuthold (615) 352-3940; Bro. Don
and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-8761;
or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin
(423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN
area).

TEXAS, CENTRAL AREA
Lois Gray

On November 24, we gathered at
Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in
Round Top. We are grateful to Elder

Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) for ministering to us. Services were followed by a Thanksgiving dinner and singing. As we are few in number and far from one another, these special times of fellowship are greatly cherished.

On December 8, we met to hear taped messages.

As the severe drought of last summer has been relieved by welcome rains, we are reminded of the passing seasons of our lives. Whether calm or stormy, abundant or arid, in joy or in sorrow, each is replaced by other seasons, and throughout all we are sustained.

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

Eccles. 3:1

Central Texas schedule: Services are held the first Sunday of the month in Dallas, the last Sunday at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top, and the Sundays in between in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy. 71. As our schedule varies at times, please check with Bro. Bill Zeltwanger at (409) 249-5102 or Brian and Terri Kaisner at (512) 338-4222. We welcome and greatly appreciate all visitors.

TEXAS, DALLAS

Dee Rapp

Christmas is past and with its passing another new year has begun. With this beginning, let each of us resolve to be more diligent in our prayer life and to read the entire Bible from Genesis through Revelation.

As you read the Old Testament, remember that somewhere in every book there is a foreshadowing of Christ, His birth and His shed blood. Do you know where the first blood was shed in the Old Testament?

What will be new for you in 1997? While Israel was scattered and Judah was in captivity, Jeremiah wrote these words, "Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:" (Jeremiah 31:31).

The new covenant or contract gave us Jesus Christ, who before His death offered the fruit of the vine to His disciples and said, "...This cup is the new testament in my blood..." (I Cor. 11:25).

Christ's death offered to all a new birth (I Peter 1:3-6) and a new and living way (Hebrews 10:19-22). As a result, we become a new creature (II Cor. 5:17) with a new life (Acts 5:20) and a new man (Col. 3:10).

Because of this, God gave us a new commandment, "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 all men shall know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34-35).

As we start a new year, let each of us give thanks for the new life Christ has given us. If you have never made a personal commitment to serve our Lord and Saviour, do not let another new year pass without doing so.

We want to thank the ministering brothers who have faithfully served us this past month.

Dallas services are held on the

first Sunday of each month at 10:30 and 12 noon at the Holiday Inn, DeSoto, TX.

Central Texas services will always be held the LAST Sunday of each month at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top. The remaining Sundays will be held at the Omni Hotel in Austin at the intersection of Highway 71 and 35W at 10:30 and 12:00 noon. Contacts are: Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp (792) 867-4074 or Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz

This is the beginning of a new year. I was searching the Bible to see if I could find something about a new year. I found this verse:

"And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you."

Exodus 12:1-2

We are enjoying the many winter residents that are returning to their winter homes in Zapata. Our trustee, Bro. Elmer Fehr, and his wife, Sis. Matilda, are here now. We will miss some that will not be coming this winter because of their health.

We were happy to have Bro. Tom Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Joan (Athens, AL), visit us and bring us God's Word. They brought Bro. Tom's mother, Sis. Delila Schrenk (Alto, MI), as she plans to spend the winter in Zapata.



Silver Threads

Alone With God

'Twas the month after Christmas
 And all through the house
 All the people were pacing
 The floor like a mouse.
 Before Christmas they were shopping
 Quite near and far,
 All the family was coming
 By plane or by car.
 The excitement is over
 And we're feeling sad.
 What's happened to my spirit?
 I'm feeling so bad!
 Some call it cabin fever,
 Some say it's the snow,
 Some say we lack sunshine,
 And some just don't know.
 We've all been working so hard
 Perhaps we need rest,
 So we'll take a vacation

But where would be best?
 Some will go to the mountains,
 And some to the shore,
 Some go to the big cities
 Still shopping for more!
 So we miss the whole message,
 In His Word we're told
 "Come apart to a desert place,"
 Your soul He will mold.
 The still, small voice is speaking,
 Study to hear it,
 For only then can we prove
 The voice of the Spirit.
 Someday soon we'll hear the shout,
 Alive or 'neath the sod,
 "Come Up" if we've been faithful—
 "Be still and know that I am God."

written by a Sister in Faith

Perseverance Wins the Night Battle

Sound the cry among the army,
 Swiftly rouse the sleeping throng.
 The enemy is fast approaching,
 Through the still of night advancing,
 Clearly play the rallying song.

With such danger can you slumber,
 Will you sleep with peril near?
 Our captain calls a team united,
 To great service get excited,
 Forward, battle cries we hear.

Meet your foe with grace and courage,
 Pledge your life to our great cause.
 Though combat may be long and dreary,
 And your body spent and weary,
 Vic'try does not come with pause.

Still endure though hard the struggle,
 Stand ye firm, do not dismay.
 New reinforcements hasten toward you,
 Bravely battle, always be true,
 Soon will come the light of day.

With the sunrise comes our triumph,
 Now, at last, the end we see.
 Those who held fast with zeal and vigor
 In the conflict did not waver,
 Gain sweet rest in victory.

by a Brother in Faith

Sermon continued from page 2

I Thessalonians 4 (I would like to share a couple of quick thoughts with you), what the will of God is for your life and my life. Have you ever thought about what the will of God is for your life?

This is what it says, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification," that means that we should be set apart from the world and not be a part of the world, "that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;" (I Thess. 4:3-4). How do we live a sin-free, overcoming life? By grace and having fellowship with those who have a like-mind and spirit.

"Not in the lust of concupiscence," (I Thess. 4:5). The world around us is filled with lust. The wicked living that we see around us today brings to mind in Revelation 18, there is a dire warning to the church that is even in these last times. A few weeks ago, I opened to II Timothy 3:1 where it tells us about the perilous time to come. The heading read, "It will be a stressful time." We are living in very stressful times.

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people,"; that's born-again believers—you and me, children of God, "that ye be not partakers of her sins," this wicked world outside around us everywhere, "and that ye receive not of her plagues." (Revelation 18:4). We don't want to receive those plagues—pestilence and incurable diseases. We can be free of those things if we live pure lives and separate ourselves.

"For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." (Revelation 18:5). Great judgments are about to fall upon this ungodly, wicked living that we see around us everywhere. We want to be redeemed and called

out and separated that we will not receive those judgments upon the ungodly.

We read further in I Thessalonians 4:5, "Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles" which means unbelieving, heathen people "which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter:" that we deal honestly and fairly, for an unjust balance is an abomination to God, "because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified." God is going to judge these.

"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." (I Thess. 4:5-7). Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord. We read in the beatitudes, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." It is the only one of the beatitudes that promises that we shall see God.

"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God,". If people despise you, they are not despising only you, they are despising God because you seek to please God and live for God. "...who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit." (I Thess. 4:7-8). How do we accomplish these things? By the Holy Spirit. How do we receive the Holy Spirit? By praying for the Holy Spirit to be our guide each day.

One of the earliest songs as a child I remember was page 55 in the old long books:

Holy Spirit, faithful Guide,
Ever near the Christian's side,
Gently lead us by Thy hand,
Pilgrims in a desert land.

"But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another." (I Thess. 4:9). How will we be known as the chil-

dren of God? By the love we have one for another.

My brother had a hired hand for about sixteen years. This man stepped in front of a truck just outside of his house and was hit by a car and lost his life. The poor man had almost no relatives, but he did have two brothers. His brothers were informed of his death and they never even came to the funeral. They had so few friends in the world and I went out of respect's sake for my brother Walter's sake. They asked us to be pallbearers...no one even to carry the casket to the grave. Think of it, when we suffer sorrow, heart-ache or loss. Oh, we have joys within us! Then it says, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." (Romans 12:15)

Yesterday, a number of us met for a Huber family reunion and we rejoiced. We hadn't seen each other for some time. There is a great love that binds us together. We love one another. We know God loves us. It is a wonderful, wonderful thing.

"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing." (I Thess. 4:11-12). That's what God's will is for you and me. It is so beautifully laid out. Very simple minds could understand that.

Let's get back to our text here. We read, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness." (Romans 12:6-8). "Blessed

are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy." (Matthew 5:7).

"Let love be without dissimulation." (Romans 12:9). Now, dissimulation is a big word for a farm boy like me. I looked it up one time and it said, "without pretense". When we love one another, we are not pretending that we love one another. We love one another out of a pure heart. It is a pure love from our heart. We love one another.

"Abhor that which is evil;" We should hate evil and quickly turn from it. If we read the first chapter of Job, it says how he turned away from evil and eschewed it, which means to hate and turn away from it. "...cleave to that which is good." We have to continually cleave to that which is good. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;" (Romans 12:9-10). Why do we forgive one another? Because we love one another.

It tells us in Ephesians 4, verse 32, that if we do not forgive one another their trespasses, then our Heavenly Father will not forgive us of our trespasses. Forbearance. Forbearing is one of those things which you don't always agree with. We may not be in one hundred per cent agreement, but we bear with that brother because we love him. Then we can live in peace and harmony.

When we read a little further, it says, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" (Romans 12:10). We need to prefer our brother before us. I prefer Brother Harmon before myself up here on the pulpit this morning. He probably gets here more often than I do. This is possibly the last sermon I will ever have in this church. I am getting up in years and I intend to step down in another year or two. It is a real joy. It is a real joy! It means so much to me to be here today with

you dear ones.

"Not slothful in business;" (Romans 12:11). That is not usually a problem for most of us in the Apostolic Christian church. We had several admonitions in the Conference. I was there to hear it and heard it the second time on tape. We need to throttle back in most instances. There are not too many that are slothful in business. We need to hit a more even gait and have a little more modest ambition.

"...fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." (Romans 12:11). I felt that fervent spirit among you, brethren, here today serving God. How do we serve God? We serve God by serving one another. What is true religion? "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27). That is the best remedy to keep ourselves unspotted from the world—to go visit, encourage and inspire one another. Then we won't have time to mix with the world and get confused and get in company that we ought not to be with.

"Evil communication corrupts good manners," it says in I Corinthians 15:33. If we are seventeen or seventy-four, who we are in company with matters a whole lot. We need to be in good company to inspire one another. "Rejoicing in hope;" (Romans 12:12). I trust that each one of you have a tremendous hope within your heart beyond this life.

*"My heavenly home is bright and fair,
No pain nor death can enter there:
Its glittering towers the sun outshine;
That heavenly mansion shall be mine."*

In the last few years I have been very near death three different times. Three years ago I was over-medicated. Two years ago I had sur-

gery and had a bad fall. A year ago this coming November I was very, very ill with double pneumonia. For days I didn't know whether I would make it or not. But, by the mercies of God, I am still here in fair health. I am thankful for every single day. I wouldn't trade my life for anyone's. I would not want to back up two days. I am looking forward to great, great glory!

I was reading the other day in II Corinthians 12. That is a vision that Paul had. I would read a few verses here, trusting that it be a blessing. "It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven."

Paul had this vision. "And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words." (II Cor. 12:1-4). I have seen things that I never thought I would ever see. The glory of God! The glories already have come through tribulations. I have no desire to live longer in this world. I only want to fulfill my course and be found faithful.

"...which it is not lawful for a man to utter, Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh,"

Paul was given a thorn in the flesh that he would never glory in

what he had seen or what he had done or could do. This thorn in the flesh would always keep him in humility and in subjection to the spirit of God. "...the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure." (II Cor. 12:4-7). We pray the Lord will give each one of us a thorn in our flesh to hold us down.

"For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (II Cor. 12:8-9). His grace is sufficient for thee and His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

"...patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality." (Romans 12:12-13). It occurs to me as I read this and I hope that it will be beneficial to share this. I read recently that if we have a three-bedroom home, two baths, and two cars, which is an average home in America, if you built it new, it would cost about \$100,000 to \$120,000. That is kind of my work.

If we have a little home like this and even if it is not new, maybe twenty to thirty years old, and have two vehicles, maybe that are not paid for, or maybe they are three to five years old, then we are about average America. Two people out of three own their own home in America. Then you and I are in the upper five percent of the whole world in material wealth. This gives us a perspective of how poor the nations are around the world. How poor these people are in comparison!

So, we always think that it is for the rich to give. But the rich do not really give, did you know that? I recently read an IRS report that only two percent of the people today in this nation as a whole give only

two percent of their income to charitable deeds. How much do you give? How much do I give? The Bible tells us that we should give as we prosper. The Old Testament recommends ten percent. When Jacob was heading for Laban's house, he prayed the Lord would go with him and said if the Lord would be with him and prosper his way, that a tenth of all he makes, he would give to the Lord. That is somewhat where that ten percent began. In Genesis, we are encouraged to give ten percent or more as we are blessed and prosper. How the Lord blesses if we give as we are prospered! God will bless us.

There is a beautiful verse in Psalm 112. A Blessed Man. "Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments...His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies. He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour. The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish." (Psalm 112:1, 8-10).

It tells us in Ephesians 4, "He that stealeth shall steal no more, but should work with his hands to give and help those who are in need." Those needs are around us everyday...every single one of us.

In Proverbs 21:13, it says, "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." If our life isn't blessed as we think it could be, if we somehow just do not have the spiritual joy that we should have in salvation, maybe it is because we are not giving. We are robbing God. It says in Malachi, "Ye have robbed me in tithes and offerings." Let us take heed to the full counsel of God.

We read further here, "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." (Romans 12:14-16). I once read to be wise in your own conceits is to have an exaggerated opinion of the things in which we excel. If we can sing really well or if we are blessed with material riches, we may be conceited that we are blessed because we are honest and work hard. The Bible doesn't say that. It says that if riches come to you, in Psalm 62:10, it says place not your trust in them.

We are to be stewards and give. We are not to be slothful in business, but fervent in spirit. It also says, "Be not wise in your own conceits" and "condescend to men of low estate." (Romans 12:16).

I once read of a man that was very poorly educated, maybe sixth grade education. After he was baptized and taken into the church, a few weeks later the elder asked him, "How are you doing?" He said, "Well, I find my life is like two dogs fighting." The elder said, "That sounds interesting. Tell me more." He said, "Well, it is like there is a big, black dog and a little, white dog and they are fighting." Then the elder said, "But which one is winning?" He said, "Whichever one I feed the most."

So, who is winning the dog battle in your life? Are you feeding the big, black dog or are you feeding the little, white dog? Are you feeding the good spirit or are you feeding the spirit of lust and envy in your heart? That is all where it lies—right there is where the victory is either won or lost.

"Recompense to no man evil for

evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12:17-18). It says in one place in the Bible, "How can we say that we are at peace with God whom we cannot see if we are not at peace with our brother whom we can see?"

Let us each search our heart. If there are differences and enmity one between another and brother to brother in the church or in families, let us try and pray earnestly for grace to be at peace with our brothers and sisters and with families and children and with everybody around us, as far as we are totally able to do it. When God sees that we are striving for peace, He will forgive us and comfort us, even if we still have those who oppose us and are hard against us.

"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." We never know in the world around us

when we are kind to those who are unkind to us, what a testimony it is!

In our own community, there was a young man in high school who was involved with sports and played sports. This young man, as long as I remember, always smoked and drank. After he graduated out of school, he bought a package liquor store and was going to incorporate it into the grocery store. Some of us went to the grocer and told him that we did not appreciate that package liquor store to be in the grocery store. They actually built a wall in between and the package liquor store is built separate. You don't have to enter the store where there is packaged liquor on display. They have separate doors.

This man had operated there probably forty years or more. Now his wife has cancer and she is dying. This week she is going to be operated on to take one lung out. Different ones that knew them and befriended them told them that they were sorry and was concerned for

them.

They actually asked our church if we would pray for her recovery. We can pray and want to pray for her recovery, and for anyone's recovery, but we pray for a lot more than that. We pray for her salvation, that she will realize, if she is permitted to recover, that God has delivered her and she has time to look into her soul's need. Surely, one of the first things he would want to do is dispose of the liquor store and turn to the Lord. These kind of things are opportunities around us everywhere.

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21). That is our high calling, every day. Every single one of us can overcome evil with good.

A verse says, "Whatever you are, whatever you do, A still small voice still speaks to you." That still small voice is saying, "Prepare to meet your God."

Reassuring Contemplation

In the calmness of the evening,
When the sunset's colors fade,
We enjoy a deep reflection,
Of God's faithfulness and aid.

These quaint moments tell us something,
Of His love for one and all.
Just to feel our Father's presence,
Makes our problems seem so small.

For, indeed, we struggle through life,
Often shedding sorrow's tear.
Then we see another rainbow,
And we're sure the Lord is near.

He is everywhere around us,
We gain comfort just to know,
He exists in every facet,
Of the universe below.

God's all-present help and guidance,
Lift our burdens from above,
We're so humbled by His mercy,
That we must repay His love.

When we think of all His splendor,
His omnipotence divine,
We cannot ignore the urging,
To live for Him all the time.

So when granted late day leisure,
After trials hard to bear,
Let us vow to serve the Master,
For His strength is always there.

by a Brother in Faith

Faith of our Fathers

As a Brotherhood with roots deeply seeded in the annals of history, we, formerly known as the Evangelical Baptist, began an organized fellowship under the leadership of an enlightened Bro. Samuel Froelich. However there were many faithful fathers before Bro. Froelich, who kept alive a time line of the truth through years after Christ's teachings on earth. First the Apostles, who were fishermen, tax gatherers, and others of simple faith and means and next the simple faith was passed on to people of a humble nature like the peasants and farmers and occasionally a doctor like beloved Luke or a very well learned person like Paul. God through the ages has kept the true faith alive even in the world's darkest hours.

These early faithful brethren believed that one must be born again out of water and spirit. There needed to be a conversion of the "Old Adam" by having faith in God's teaching. This Faith of our Fathers was simple and basic. One needed to have faith that God could and would forgive sin and that the remission of that sin was accomplished through the shed blood of Christ on Calvary. One needed to be old enough to feel the accountability for the sin in his life so there could be a true repentance, which ended up as a controversy with those of the world. The State Church and the highly political Churches of the early church era espoused a doctrine of child baptism and the Pagans acknowledged many gods. The practicing of child baptism and the concept that there were many gods were both foreign and unacceptable to the true believer prompted the 16th century reformation. However, we know that hidden from the pages of history, were brethren who believed and practiced the true faith as we know it.

On many occasions the early brethren who espoused conversion and a baptism through faith were severely persecuted. It is of those fathers of faith and the persecution they went through, that we would like to bring to you in this series entitled Faith of our Fathers.

Faith of our Fathers will bring forth a glimpse of the life and persecution, from books like *Martyrs Mirror* and other Apostolic Christian Church authorized books of history. The dreadful sacrificial fire, the shining stakes, the shame which Zion suffers, could neither disturb nor hinder God's chosen people, nor make them afraid to bear the name of Christ, as in a white cloud: Until a burning flame had consumed their bodies; whereby their souls found refreshing with God.

It is so important that our children know the significance of repentance through faith and how our forefathers willingly walked through the fires of persecution, giving their lives as Martyrs rather than renouncing their trust in God.

This series of articles will take us on a time journey into the past as we humbly witness the persecution that is the foundation for our faith in God. The Doctrine of Christ, the Teachings of the Apostles, and the fiery trials have worked together to mold the Apostolic Christian Faith.

Martyrdom of the Twelve Apostles

James the Son of Zebedee

James, surnamed the greater, a fisherman by trade, was called by Christ to follow Him. James was endowed with many gifts of faith by God including the gift of working signs and miracles. On this account he was given the surname of "Son of Thunder" along with two other of

the Apostles. In the year 45AD James was beheaded by the sword of Herod Agrippa in Jerusalem.

Philip

Philip, a native of Bethsaida, in Galilee, had a wife and daughters of very honorable life. He was found of Christ, and called as His disciple. Philip followed the Lord faithfully, observing the love and admonition, to the point that Christ ordained him to preach the gospel to the scattered sheep of the house of Israel. Philip laid the foundations of many churches in Syria. As Philip preached in the city of Phrygia, the Ebionites, who denied the divinity of Christ, apprehended him, fastened his head to a pillar and stoned him until he gave up the Holy Ghost and thus fell asleep in the Lord in 54AD.

James the son of Alphaeus

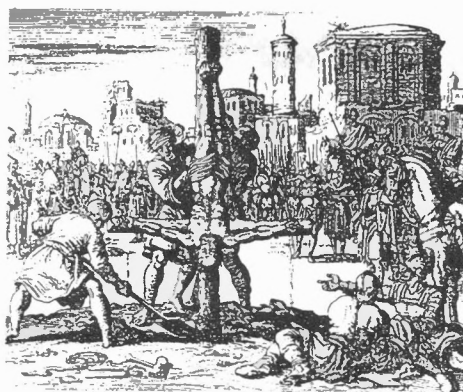
James the Lesser, called the brother of Christ, was very steadfast and holy, a true Nazarite, in dress as well as eating and drinking; and prayed daily for the Church. James was a pious man of whom it is written, "he spent so much time on his bare knees in praying to the Lord God for the remission of the sins of the people, that his knees were hard with callous, to the point that they had no sensation or feeling at all." James wrote the Epistle of James, first for the twelve tribes who were scattered abroad and then for those of God's adopted children to come after. How blessed we are today to be able to have recorded in an unchanging Word, teachings written down by Christ and His Apostles for our edification and Salvation.

The Jews and the High Priest Ananias were so discomfited by the teaching of doctrine by James, that they tried to force him to re-

nounce the Son of God and the power of His resurrection. To this end they placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, at the time of the Passover, that he should deny his faith before all the people. But as he thus stood before the people, he confessed with much boldness that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, the Son of God, and shall come again in the clouds of heaven, to judge the quick and the dead. Many people upon that testimony praised God and magnified the name of Christ. Then cried the enemies of truth, "Oh, the Just also has erred; let us take him away for he is unprofitable." They then cast him off of the temple roof and stoned him. But as he was not killed by the fall and stoning, having only broken his legs, he, lying on his knees prayed to God for those who had stoned him, saying, "Lord, forgive them; for they know not what they do." On account of this, one of the priests begged for his life, saying, "What do ye? The Just is praying for us. Leave off the stoning!" But another of those present, who had a fullers stick in his hand, struck James over the head so that he died not, but fell asleep in the Lord. He was buried where he had been thrown down from the temple in the year 63 AD.

Simon Peter

Simon Peter, called Cephas, was a simple fisherman. Unlearned in the ways of the world, but astonished men and brethren in Jerusalem as the 120 in the upper hall received the Holy Ghost. They spoke in tongues of all the nationalities that were there at that time. Peter performed many miracles in the early Church suffering greatly at the hands of the Jews. In Acts we read of the bold testimony of Peter and how he suffered at the hand of King Herod. Finally there was fulfilled, according to the prediction of Christ, that he should glorify God by his death; for while he was at Rome, he was sentenced by Emperor Nero to be crucified. Not esteeming him-



The Crucifixion of Peter

self worthy of being crucified with his head upward, like his Saviour, he requested to be crucified with his head downward; which he easily obtained, for the tyrants were forthwith willing to and ready to increase his pain. This occurred after Peter had preached the Gospel for thirty-seven years, and when he was seventy years old. Peter was martyred in the same year as Paul, which was the year of 69 AD.

Andrew

Andrew, the brother of Peter, was a native of Galilee. He was first a disciple of John the Baptist, and since he was older than Peter and knew Christ first, he introduced Peter to Christ as the true Messiah. Andrew, as an Apostle of Christ, faithfully labored among the Jews. After the receiving of the Holy Ghost, Andrew went out to many Nations to preach the Word of God. At Patras, a city in Achaia, through the preaching of Andrew, Maximilia, the wife of Aegaeas, the governor was converted to the Christian faith. The governor became so enraged over this conversion of his wife that he threatened Andrew with death upon the cross. Crucifixion was the cruelest of punishments that was ever devised by the Romans.

The enemies of the truth having apprehended and sentenced to death the apostle Andrew, watched as he went joyfully to the place

where he was to be crucified. Having come near the cross, he said, "O beloved cross! I have greatly longed for thee with a peaceful conscience and with cheerfulness desiring that I, who am a disciple of Him who hung on the cross, may also be crucified." The apostle said further, "The nearer I come to the cross, the nearer I come to God; and the farther I am from the cross, the farther I remain from God."

The holy apostle hung three days on the cross; he was not silent, however; but as long as he could move his tongue, he instructed the people that stood by the cross, in the way of truth, saying among other things: "I thank my Lord Jesus Christ, that He, having used me for a time as an ambassador, now permits me to have this body that I, through a good confession, may obtain everlasting grace and mercy. Remain steadfast in the Word and doctrine which you have received, instructing one another, that you may dwell with God in eternity, and receive the fruit of His promises."

The Christians and other pious people besought the governor to give Andrew unto them, and take him down from the cross. (For it appears that he was not nailed to the cross, like Christ, but tied to it.) When the apostle learned of this, he cried to God, saying, "O Lord Jesus Christ! suffer not that Thy servant, who hangs here on the tree for Thy name's sake, be released, to dwell again among men; but receive me. O my Lord, my God! whom I have known, whom I have loved, to whom I cling, whom I desire to see, and in whom I am what I am." Having spoken these words, the holy apostle committed his spirit into the hands of his heavenly Father.

(Martyrdom of the Twelve Apostles and Trial of Our Early Faith to be continued.)



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

1997 marks the 150th year of our faith in America. This is a very significant milestone for our church. To commemorate this historic year, the Silver Lining will present a 12-part series of articles entitled Diligence and Devotion: 150 Years of Apostolic Christianity in America.

The monthly articles will be entitled as follows:

January:	<i>The Roots of Our Faith</i>
February:	<i>Toward a New Land</i>
March:	<i>Planting the Seeds</i>
April:	<i>Spreading God's Word</i>
May:	<i>Keeping the Faith</i>
June:	<i>Facing Many Challenges</i>
July:	<i>Adjusting to America</i>
August:	<i>A Nation in Turmoil</i>
September:	<i>Post-War Growth</i>
October:	<i>Relief and Service</i>
November:	<i>Renewed Opportunities in Cities</i>
December:	<i>Preserving the Faith</i>

We, as a people, have been enormously blessed. God has planted our faith here in America and it has lasted for 150 years. By God's grace, we hope it will continue so long as He tarries.

No official churchwide records have been kept over the years, but countless souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. God's work has been a faithful one. His name has been glorified among us.

In 1997, we have 12,200 members in 85 American churches in 23 states and the District of Columbia. There are two churches in Canada and three in Japan. This all started from zero.

It is important to note that the Christian fervor existing today found its renewal in Europe—and the beginnings on that continent developed

from the spirit of Calvary.

Three hundred years after the protestant reformation in 1517, a hunger for a more diligent faith and biblically-based lifestyle existed in Europe. The reforms initiated by Martin Luther in Germany and Ulrich Zwingli in Switzerland, while noble in part, were insufficient to feed the deep inner hunger of many seeking souls.

In the early nineteenth century, Samuel Froehlich was a young seminary student in the Swiss state church. Despite studying religion with the intention of becoming a pastor, he was far from God. At times he was argumentative and even boister-



ous toward those expressing a sincere faith.

Eventually, the voice of God whispered to Froehlich's sinful heart, "It cannot remain thus with thee, thou must change." This quiet prompting from Above instigated the crises conversion of Samuel Froehlich. In deep repentance, he sought God with all his heart. His quest for the truth was so intense, it took him six months to find peace with God.

He was subsequently unable to find a satisfactory denominational affiliation. He eventually departed the Swiss state church and formed his own group. By God's grace, he attempted to re-establish a church based solely on Scriptures. He was insistent they be followed. He advocated the reading of the Word and then applying it in a practical way in

everyday life.

Bro. Froehlich and his early adherents began to preach the gospel. The Spirit's zeal found a presence in a host of new believers who experienced repentance and conversion. Their attention to the Bible's directions regarding doctrine, order and lifestyle helped to form a new church. There was a distinguishing concept that helped to identify them. Not only was faith important, but "faith and life" as well. The concept of following Christ and the apostles according to biblical example was born anew. The sincere applying of God's Word to everyday life was seen as unquestionably important.

The work of Bro. Froehlich and the first generation of brethren in Europe is both crucial and very important to us because so many of these new believers (and the tenets they embraced) emigrated to America. The biblical patterns, the attitudinal outlooks, and the emphasis on unity they embraced (as led by God's Spirit) remain with us today.

Elder Benedict Weyeneth, 29, was the first believer of the Froehlich group to come to America in 1947. Eventually he settled in Roanoke, Illinois. God's work flourished and an American church was born. We thrive today, in part, because of our forbearers' diligence and devotion in pursuit of God and His ways.

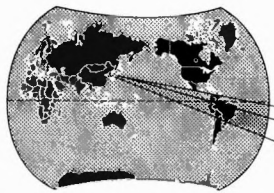
by Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

Toward a New Land
(how our first American churches were established)

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“Just Getting Started”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

January first every year is supposed to give us a new start. Entering kindergarten, first grade, junior high, high school and college, all these events are intended to give you a new start. When we repent and put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we get a new start. When Bro. Noah Schrock served the Lord's Supper in Japan, he said, “Now we get a new start.” Our life is full of new starts including birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. That's what all these celebrations are about—we like to get a new start, often.

When the Apostle Paul wrote, “Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,” he was teaching us about getting a new start. It may be well for us to apologize to our spouse at the end of each day, sleep like a log, and get a new start at the beginning of each day.

At fifty years of age, I decided it was time to get started. After all, I had had quite a lot of experience and should have learned something. I

told myself, “I'm going to get more done in the next fifty years.” It turned out to be quite motivating. I'm still just getting started and enjoying every minute of it.

The Lord Jesus Christ told Simon Peter, “Launch out into the deep,” and Peter's response was, “Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing.” (see Luke 5:4-5). You and I may have toiled all our lives with no good results; in fact, everything may have gone wrong. However, we should have learned something from the experience and now it is time to get started, to launch out into the deep. One thing we should have learned is to obey the Lord Jesus Christ and to live self-less, holy lives. Peter tried obedience and caught so many fish he didn't know what to do with them. He got a new start.

As a boy in school, I was taught that in American history one of our naval commanders in time of war who was asked by the captain of the opposing ship, “Will you surrender?,” replied, “I have not yet begun

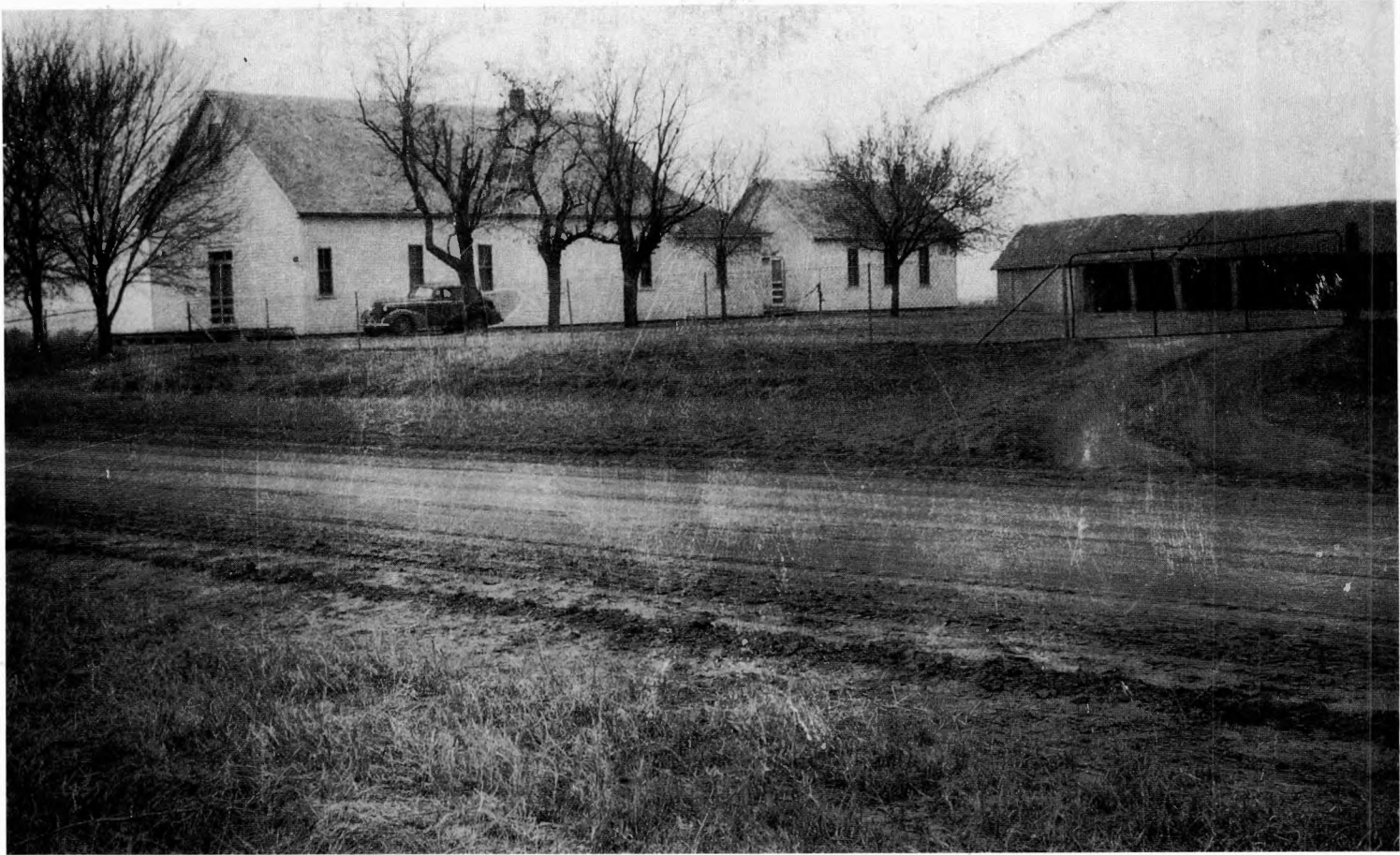
to fight.” I am dead set against war and believe most wars are fought for economic reasons, but I like our commander's reply. “Me, surrender? I'm just getting started.” We can say that same thing about life and win, if we are living a holy life in Christ.

As a young person I read, “Step out from the surging crowd and make yourself a master.” I took this to mean, not a master over others but over “self” and “sin”. You don't have to do like everyone else, you can do better than that.

Someday there will be a finale and we will die. I have heard that in case of an accident where you think you are going to die, your whole life flashes before you in a second of time. In any case, we may review all the new starts we had in life, including January 1, 1997.

When I die and the glory of paradise breaks upon me, I plan to say, “Just getting started. Just getting started.”

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Burlington, OK -1900

Pictured above is the old Burlington, OK church, located 1/2 mile East and 1/4 mile South of Burlington. The smaller building was used as church until 1900 when the larger building was built. The smaller building then was used for Sunday School. First, brethren migrated from the Harper, KS area to the Driftwood-Burlington area at the time of the Cherokee Strip. Others came as railroads were built. The cemetery which was located just south of the church had to be moved to its present site as the railroad cut through it. In 1947 remodeling the church took place and then in 1972 the building was sold and a new church was built in Kiowa, KS.

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