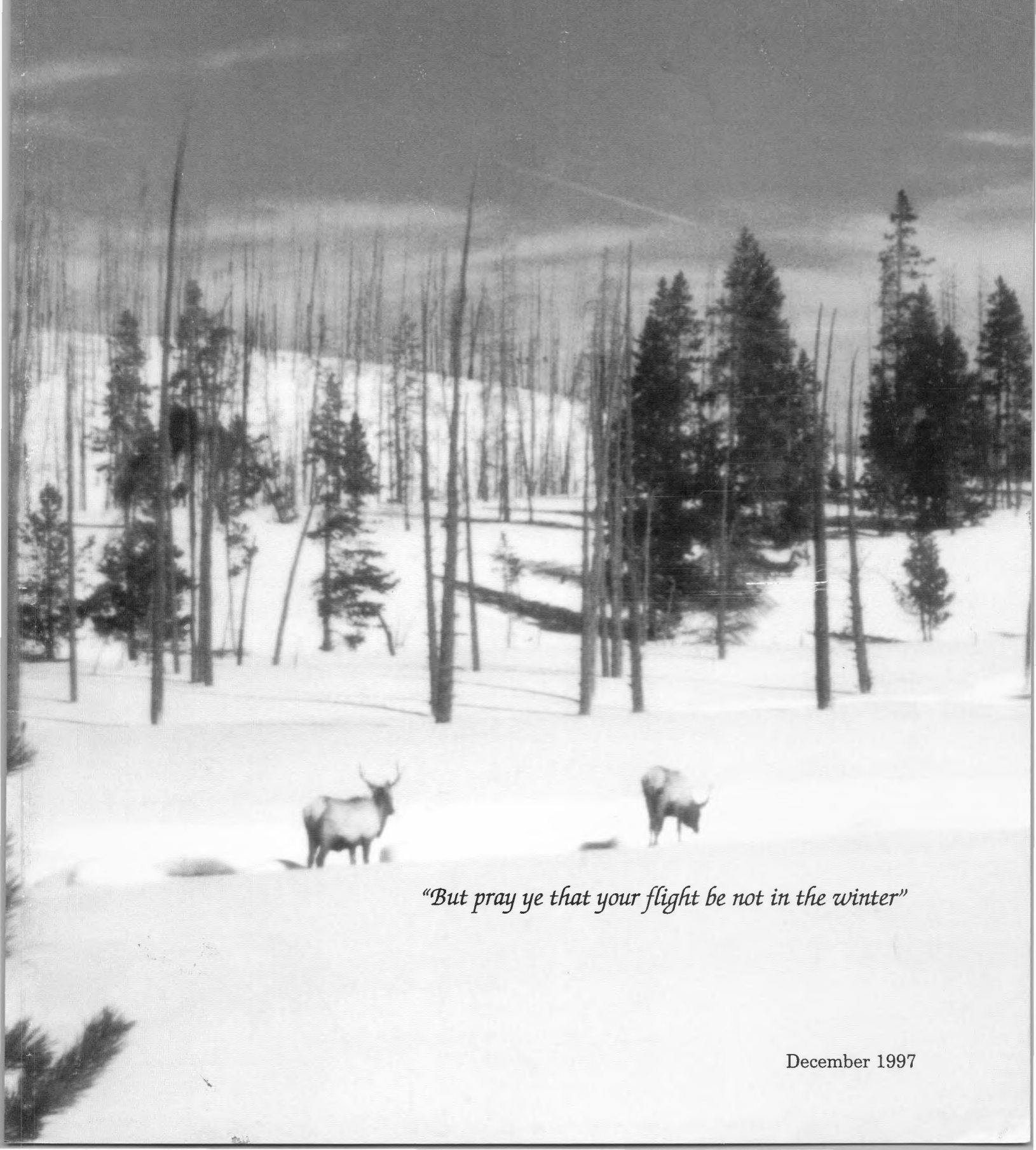


# *The Silver Lining*



*"But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter"*

December 1997

## “SALVATION CAME TO ZACCHAEUS”

*Sermon by Bro. Victor Bauman, Smithville, OH*

Luke 19:1-27

We have here an account where there was some direct teachings of our Lord. This chapter, for the most part, is in red letters, an account of what our Lord actually spoke when He walked here. I've come to appreciate so much over the years, the words that are in red.

It seems that the Lord had such a beautiful way of clarifying issues that were issues at that time. He made things clear to them, and for us, today, likewise. Certainly not taking anything away from the Apostles, as we also can gain an awful lot from their writings.

The Lord had supreme authority and the wonderful ability to be able to dispute with those that had questions and give them answers that they could not, as it says, “gainsay nor resist.” They could not find the words. Many times they would leave the gathering after He would address a certain situation or problem or concern.

Many times they would come with an attitude trying to tempt the Lord or trying to catch Him at His Words. In some places, we read that they put a great deal of effort forth trying to find a mistake in what He said. They were dealing with a Perfect Man.

They were not going to find a mistake as much as they tried. A number of times, they were “straightened out,” you might say, by our Lord, and the issues were clarified in their minds.

That is what the Lord's mission was as He walked here—to make the way clear. He made it plain so there would not be a lot of confusion. Today, there is confusion. There are a lot of people that do not understand the will and the plan of God.

I often think it would be so nice if we could again have this same experience where the Lord would be able to come into the midst of some of these gatherings where there is a lot of disputing, and just in a few short words, dispel and clarify all of that.

Those that tried to find different ways or tried to interpret the Word differently than what it was meant to be could have those questions cleared up to such a point that they would not even desire to try to take anything from the Word, except what is the absolute truth and the simple truth. They should not make it more difficult or try to make it easier in such a way that doesn't give us the reward that it is meant to give us.

There are always those who are looking for an easier way, a way that they do not have to quite follow the Word and the way that is laid out for us. Yet, as we look at the teachings of our Lord, it is not a difficult way. There are some difficult things that we must do along life's way.

As believers, we are called upon to do some difficult things. Our elder in Smithville often tells us that one of the most difficult things he feels that is in the Bible that a believer has to do is to be our brother's keeper. That could be difficult.

I think one of the other difficult things that we are asked to do is, “Take no thought for tomorrow.” I often look at that verse and I wonder about that. How many of us can say that we can do either of those—that we can truly be our brother's keeper and that we, without fear of offense, can watch our brother, go and speak to our brother the way we know that we should? It is difficult.

How many of us can go through

life with enough faith that we don't have to spend so much time and effort planning for the future? It is difficult.

These are some of the things that Christ has told us that we need to do. So the life of a believer is not an easy life, but it is so rewarding. There is so much at stake and so much that we can have with a little effort on our part. Who of us would not be willing to put forth that effort, to give that much effort, if we had the faith to believe the reward that would come? Throughout the ministry of our Lord, He used examples, situations and physical situations that people could relate to easily, to help in His teachings.

We have here (as we began reading this morning together), the story of Zacchaeus. We might wonder, as we read this story, what is there in this story for me? What can I learn from the story of this short man that had to climb into a tree to see the Lord?

I think there are a number of things, as we look at this, that we can take from this story. Number

*Sermon continued on page 46*

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*Counselors:*

*Wayne Anliker, Ervin Knecht*

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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

December 1997

### Be Still and Know...

We are living in a world that is begging for attention. Many people put forth much effort to find happiness, peace and contentment. In their search, they turn to a world that promises to fulfill all of their desires. Instead of finding happiness, peace and contentment, they find noise, confusion, violence, disappointment and loneliness. As these conditions intensify, it becomes more difficult for a child of God to shut them out and to focus on a life separated from the world.

Along with the volume and forcefulness that is so prevalent, there is also much frenzied behavior. The world is caught up in so much activity and entertainment that seem to have little purpose other than to occupy their time and their minds. Although a certain amount of activity is undoubtedly beneficial, the children of God must be careful that we do not get caught in the trap of becoming so busy and so noisy that we do not hear the voice of God speaking to us.

The scripture provides direction for God's people to deal with this unwholesome situation. It also offers an explanation for the failure of the world to achieve its goal of finding contentment in spite of increased efforts to do so. The scripture tells us "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Prov. 15:1). We are instructed to "...let our conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have:..." (Heb. 13:5) and that "...godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Tim. 6:6).

Many passages in the scripture reinforce these concepts. When Elijah felt so alone and was seeking God, he was instructed to "...Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice" (1 Kings 19:11-

12).

When Elijah listened to this "still small voice", he was able to receive instruction from the Lord and was somewhat comforted to learn that there were yet seven thousand in Israel that had not bowed to Baal nor had kissed him. A similar message was given by Zechariah when he was exhorting the people about their sinful condition and their indifference toward God. They would not find contentment from their efforts "...Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6). Likewise, Solomon also understood the value of quietness and caution in speech. "He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding" (Prov. 17:27-28). Often Jesus sought a place of solitude for himself and for His disciples when they felt the need to draw closer to God. Immediately after His baptism "...Jesus was led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered" (Mt. 4:1-2). Following this intense time of drawing closer to God, Jesus was severely tempted by Satan. The time that He had spent in quiet, fervent prayer may have left Him somewhat physically weakened but His faith was strong. He was able to face all the temptations that Satan could bring and to resist them by using the Word of God as His defense. Although the Scripture does not address this point specifically, we are left to ponder what would have been the result of those temptations if Jesus would have spent the previous forty days and nights in the midst of a loud and riotous atmosphere. Would He have been prepared to answer Satan with God's Word or would He have been defenseless and, therefore, vulnerable?

Not only did Christ provide the example, but He also taught His apostles the value of solitude. When they were

in great distress following the death of John the Baptist, He said to them "...Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat" (Mark 6:31).

The gentleness of Jesus Christ and the effectiveness of His speech serve as models for us today. Although there were a few cases where Jesus spoke loudly, it was only done in unusual situations and in a very controlled atmosphere. He rarely wasted words and taught us to do the same. In teaching His followers to pray He said "But when ye pray, use not vain repetition, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking" (Mt. 6:7).

Time alone with God is valuable time. We need to shut out the interference and distractions of the world so we can concentrate on our prayers. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Mt. 6:6). The distractions of the world can be so disruptive that if they are not eliminated, our minds can be drawn away from God and our prayers seem so ineffective.

Happiness, peace and contentment are available to the children of God. We can achieve these goals by separating ourselves from the world and drawing closer to God. Separation from the world requires a conscious effort. It will not happen if we do not make it a high priority in our lives. Often our work and other activities can result in much contact and too much involvement with the world. This gives Satan ample opportunity to deceive us. By setting aside some time each day to be alone in the quietness of God's presence and by consciously separating ourselves from the confusion of the world, we can "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).





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

## Opportunities to Serve in Haiti

### Apostolic Christian Water Aid

**A**WA started in 1985 by a group of brothers from Bluffton, Indiana, who became aware of the need for good drinking water in Haiti. One of the brothers read in a well drilling journal that some of the Haitian Christians were praying for help in getting clear water to drink.

This weighed heavy on their hearts. After investigating possibilities and water records in Haiti, which were not much, they purchased a small trailer mounted rotary rig to send to them.

With our system of World Relief approved projects, it is necessary that we work with groups we can trust and in whom we have confidence. In this case, Tom LePage, a missionary in Haiti, took an interest and saw the need for wells. With his help, the Haitian drillers were trained along with our Apostolic Christian work teams.

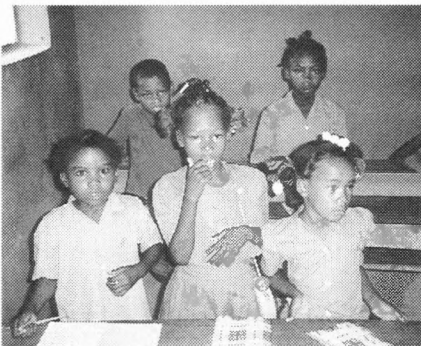
### Beginnings of AWA

After some delay they began their work in the village of Simon. It was completed in two weeks, and the people were delighted. This well is still operable today.

In 1992, the Bluffton brothers asked the Tremont brothers to take over the water project as they had a burden to help with a trade school in Port-A-Piment. This school is taught by German missionaries who come for two to three years at a time. They do an excellent job. Our brothers help with goods and tools.

### Francesville, Remington, Wolcott (FRW)

In 1992, the FRW brothers started making the hand pumps that Bluffton had been building. This was a good project, and by taking part in the work teams and visiting Haiti,



they started a trade school at Petit-Trou de Nippes. The people of this community needed a program to train their young people so they would live there rather than going to the larger cities. The community is very poor, and

our local churches cooperated to give them the necessary tools and expertise to start the program. It is difficult for the students to even pay their tuition to attend school.

We are subsidizing the teacher pay at this time. They have 59 students in this first class which opened in the fall of 1996. They teach welding, carpentry, masonry, and tailoring.

### Work team schedules

The Tremont brothers (AWA-T) usually have three work teams going to Haiti in December, January, and February of each year. The teams spend one week with the drillers, supplying parts, helping with maintenance, and doing general repairs.

### Haitian efforts affect outcome

Regardless of how much help and support is brought into a country, the success of the project is largely determined by the manner in which the local group accepts and applies themselves to these efforts. This is true not only in foreign lands, but also in the local assistance given right here at home. The Haitian drillers are quite capable and show good skills in operating the rigs. Since they speak Creole, the local language, sometimes communications can become a problem. However, by speaking slowly, and drawing pictures, we can work with them without an interpreter. In 1993, we sent a heavy duty hammer-type rig which works well in the rocky soil of Haiti. However, it too needs maintenance and repairs.

### God's blessings are felt

We feel the Lord has blessed these projects. The local doctors tell us that where there is clean drinking water, the parasite problems diminish. Ordinarily, the nationals drink from the rivers and streams where livestock are present creating all kinds of pollution.

AWA projects are funded from the national World Relief Committee. We appreciate your support.

### Evaluation team visits

**O**n October 20th, four brothers left for Haiti on behalf of the Caribbean Board to evaluate the projects supported by Apostolic Christian World Relief. All were reminded again of how the land has been devastated economically and politically. The Word says that the poor will be with us always. At home we can choose to ignore this, but not in Haiti.

### New project supplies pure water

After leaving Port au Prince, the first stop was the projects at Palm Grove Mission. Going anywhere in Haiti means enduring punishing roads. You soon learn that they are a



fact of life and are thankful for safety and no break downs. Seeing the work at Palm Grove, one is reminded of the accounts in the Bible of the loaves and fishes. They were small and insignificant, but when Christ blessed them, they were multiplied. The work may seem small but God has chosen to multiply it and to bless many.

A new project in the Palm Grove area was especially impressive. Upon visiting a community in need of water, a decision was made to work together. A well was drilled and they agreed to dig a 2 mile trench to lay pipe in to bring the water for them. 300 people showed up for the work to dig through the rocky soil. Most of the trench was completed and the reservoir was being dug. Men and women worked together because of the common need. It reminded us of a group of people from our home church working, except there were no breaks for lunch. Most of them would be fortunate if they had breakfast and could only hope for an evening meal. We also visited some of the schools in the area.

### Work projects at Cayes

In 1992, brothers from Bluffton started a trade school at Cayes. This school is funded by World Relief. Tuesday and Wednesday were spent in the Cayes area with the MEBSH organization. There are many parts of this work

which are inspiring. World Relief has supported several of them and we were moved to see how God has taken the gifts which have been sent and blessed them for the people. The well drilling has been a very active project and is going



very well. It is especially encouraging that there are Haitian teams who are well trained to drill on their own. In a land with inadequate water and disease from contaminated water, having the ability to drill good wells is a special blessing. There are many schools in the area which we have helped construct and medical clinics we have supported.

We took time to visit Asile Dorcas, a nursing home run by the organization. Although short on time, our group made a brief visit. They were so pleased to have visitors which proved we needed to take the time. True charity is to visit the fatherless and motherless, the poor and the needy, and we thought we didn't have time. It was God's time, and a blessing resulted from it.

### A work of hope

A stop was made at one of the vocational schools. They are truly a work of hope. The people must find a way to make a living and they know the best way is by receiving training in a trade. These are very practical schools and

appear to be well run. The students seem motivated and eager to learn. They know that it is a privilege to be able to attend and they do not take it lightly. Our schools of higher learning could be improved if they had the same emphasis on God that we observed in Haiti. Their students felt it was a gift from God to be able to attend instead of something they are entitled to.

### Medical care is important

On Thursday, the area visited was the beautiful area of Hospital Lumiere at Bon Finn. It is up the mountain and rainfall is more abundant. We had each been there before and it was just as beautiful as we remembered. It is difficult to staff, and the needs of the people are very great. They are able to give quality medical care with few resources. We were reminded again how much they appreciate the supplies we are able to send. The people they serve are often not able to pay for services, and their resources are very limited. They are truly not for profit and depend on charity to operate.

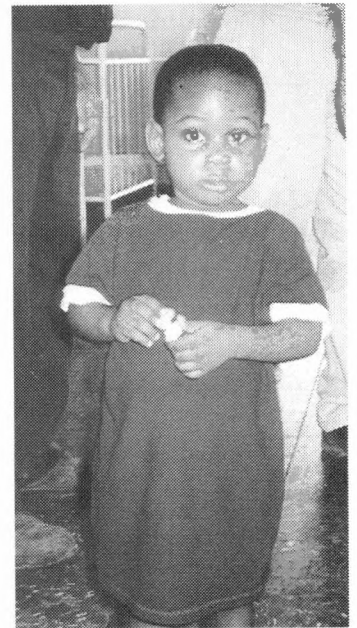
### Grace Children's Hospital

Friday's schedule took us to Port au Prince to visit Grace Children's Hospital and the work of International Child Care. They are also deeply appreciative of the supplies and equipment we are able to send. They reach hundreds of the poorest of the poor in the community. We also visited the King's Clinic and King's Hospital.

### Godliness with contentment is great gain

Each visit to Haiti teaches new lessons and makes a deep impression. One is reminded again of how much we have and the heavy responsibility of answering to God for how we have used it for His good. Haiti is just one of the ways we have an opportunity to be good stewards of what we have been given. We are also reminded that we love our material things too much and need to examine our lives. We see that it is possible to be content with little and we need to examine ourselves to see if our faith in God is strong enough that we would be able to be content without the abundance we have.

Above all, the message is clear that the gift of eternal life is extended to all mankind. Because of His love, men and women across the world are answering that call. We are grateful to God that He has given us a church through which we can serve Him and be obedient to Him.



**- 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**

<b>1997</b>	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>TOTAL — 14 YEARS</b>
November	4,315	41,484	405,527
* 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)

**PLACEMENT OF POCKET TESTAMENTS**

A very effective way of giving the pocket Testaments/Psalms/Proverbs (boxed), is to place the plastic box with label in hospitals, rest homes, motels, filling stations, stores, doctor, dentist, and eye doctor offices.

Be sure to ask permission to place the Testaments.

There are seven Testaments in each plastic box. This requires a regular check and re-fill of the boxes.

The plastic boxes and labels are available at the Leo Bible Distribution Center, 11520 Grabill Road, Grabill, IN 46741.

*Old and New Testament Tapes - KJV Bible - Available  
Pulpit Bibles - Red Letter - Self-Pronouncing - K.J.V.  
- Available At Leo Bible Distribution Center -*

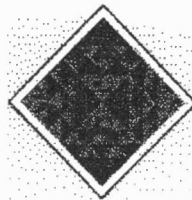


APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

**Haiti Coordinator Needed**

We are seeking brothers or couples to serve as coordinators for our work teams. Volunteers would need to be in Haiti for several months during the winter season.

Please contact Bro. Roger Sauder  
(954)584-0947

**WE INVITE YOU  
ALL TO JOIN US!**

The 22nd Annual  
Gateway Woods Auction and Sale

**Saturday, August 15, 1998**

Feel free to contact the Gateway  
Woods office @ 219/627-2159

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
HOME FOR THE  
HANDICAPPED**

December is a busy month for many people, including the residents here at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. Many of the residents enjoy shopping, making Christmas gifts for their family members, and sending Christmas cards to friends and relatives.

We are thankful for the caroling groups who have chosen to share their vocal talents with us. We enjoy the many different groups that come to the Home to Christmas carol. Some of the residents like to sing along.

We also have an annual Christmas dinner in December where all the residents enjoy a special meal and each receives a gift from a staff member. Residents who are unable to be home during this holiday enjoy receiving gifts and cards in the mail from family members.

In our busy schedules this month, may we all remember the real reason we celebrate this Christmas season—the birth of our Lord and Saviour. May the loving and caring spirit of Jesus reside in our hearts throughout this Holiday season.

Birthdays for January are:  
ACHH - Stephen Penn (8), Edith Wagenbach (8), Bruce Steffen (19), Jackie Willet (19), John Eddy (27), Tom Sides (31). OAKWOOD - Laverna Zobrist (25). LINDEN - Mary Schramm (13), Karen Blunier (14). DETROIT - Rhonda Gerst (12).

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

**Sandy Leman**

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Won-

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH  
MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE**

**1-800-747-9049**

Calls are answered by an answering service and referred to the hotline. You will receive a return call shortly. All calls are strictly confidential.

Callers will receive a screening, suggestions for appropriate services and assistance with appropriate referrals.

The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

**WORK PROJECT DATES  
MEXICO CONSTRUCTION  
WORKTEAMS**

**December 26 - January 2**

Contact Bro. Terry Kuenzi (Silverton)  
(503)362-3275

**March 14-21**

Contact Bro. Wayne Lehman  
(South Bend)  
(219)824-5160

**March 7-14**

Contact Bro. Bruce Aschliman  
(Bluffton)  
(219)824-5160

**March 21-28**

Contact Bro. Tom Schifferer (Elgin)  
(847)695-7510

derful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). "But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). What must Mary's thoughts have been as she cradled the Baby who was God become man? Did she understand that her son would become her Saviour? When she and Joseph "brought him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord;...And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons" (Luke 2:22,24)—did she re-

alize that He would someday eliminate the need for animal sacrifice when "by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14)? Gabriel had told her, "And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:33). Her thoughts must have been about His future as a King, not about the sacrifice He would become to pay the price for our sins. As we ponder the birth of Jesus, may we respond to the purpose for which He came.

The Christmas season here at Gateway Woods is one of gratitude, not only for what God has done for us, but for what all our brothers and sisters across the land do for us. There is such an outpouring of love and giving, and we are grateful for all the support we receive from so many of you. May God bless your giving and "make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (II Cor. 9:8)

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter have completed their sixth year as houseparents. God must have a special blessing for those who open their home to share His love with the children He has placed in their care. For all the time and energy they have invested in helping young people, we say, "Thank you and may God richly reward you."

We are happy for JRW., who went to live with his mother last month. The Fiechters' house is fast filling up again, with DeSharla M., Robert H., and Aleachia B. all coming to live there. Also, Dakota, Cheyenne, and Haley moved into foster care. We pray that God will blend the personalities and help these young people adjust to their new homes, and that He will grant wisdom to the houseparents, assistants, alternates, and foster parents who work

with them.

The new education program at Gateway Woods is up and running. In fact, we have our first student. Sis. Rachel Fessenden has been doing a wonderful job of helping her learn here in our classroom. Sis. Rachel has also been busy getting together materials for future students to use in their learning if they enroll in Gateway Woods School. We appreciate the time and efforts she has given to helping us get started. Sis. Missy Frieden will be starting as our teacher the end of December. She will take the place of Sis. Rachel, whose teaching license is for younger children.

However, Sis. Rachel will still come to our classroom program after school to help the young people with their homework, so we are happy we won't have to say good-by. We are also fortunate to have Sis. Cheri Blunier helping with the after-school program.

We wish each of you a blessed Christmas. What are your thoughts as you ponder the birth of our Lord? Has the Babe in the manger become the Lord of your life?

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Molly Stickling**

The month of November flew by at the Preschool. We were busy planning for our annual Thanksgiving feast, where the children learn about and dress up as Pilgrims and Indians. They also enjoy sharing a snack of popcorn, bread and apple juice together. We are grateful for the opportunity to teach about the origin of Thanksgiving, knowing that our thankfulness for all things is toward Heaven.

Our monthly themes were nutrition, the color brown, and letters J, K, and L. The children and the teachers learned about thankful-



## HAITI/JAMAICA WORK SCHEDULE - 1997-98

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, direct your inquiry to Bro. Harold Witzig, 308 N. Second Ave., Morton, IL, 61550. Phone 1-309-266-6263, Fax 1-309-266-8575.

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 02-10	Deaf Village Mandeville	Harold Witzig	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 02-10	Montego Bay	Greg & Beth Herman	Deaf School	40	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 09-17	TBA	Craig Emch	Grd. School	10	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 16-23	TBA	Glen Hackenjos	Grd. School	10	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 24-31	TBA	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb 06-14	TBA	Jim Walter	Grd. School	10	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb 14-21	TBA	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	50%
Haiti	S.E.E.D.	Feb 20-28	LeCayes	Bob Beebe	Ag. School	10	100%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Feb 20-28	TBA	Tim Butikofer	Grd. School	10	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 06-14	TBA	Phil Isabel	Grd. School	10	40%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 06-24	Kingston	Terry & Bev Miller	Deaf School	30	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 02-10	Kingston	Roanoke SS	Deaf School	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 08-14	Deaf Village	Gridley SS	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 15-23	Deaf Village	Harold Witzig	Work Place	40	30%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 05-13	Kingston	(*)	Deaf School	40	0%

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service

TBA = To Be Announced

(\*) = Held for College Student Participation

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX
Earl Sauder	309-387-6357	309-387-6357
Harold Witzig	309-266-6263	309-266-8575
Greg Hermann	309-243-5610	309-693-4344
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	
Glen Hackenjos	818-442-4957	
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	219-299-8173
Tim Butikofer	319-426-5486	319-426-5586
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	

ness in many ways this month, with one of our Bible verses being I Thesalonians 5:18, "In every thing give thanks." One child gave his paper to the teacher, and then stood there with a very disapproving look on his face. The teacher asked what was

wrong, and the child very seriously replied, "You forgot to tell me thank you." A reminder well taken.

As we anticipate the arrival of the Christmas season, there is a definite excitement at the Preschool. The children look forward to practicing

for their annual Christmas play. Each child has a special part, from Joseph and Mary to the animals in the stable. The children are always excited to hear the story of our Saviour's birth. May we all be forever filled with that excitement and

gratitude for the day our dear Saviour was born.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS**  
**Joan Reinhard**

The fall season is just about over and the harvest of cotton is pretty well complete. The fields that were once white are now brown and bare. As time continues to march on, we need to remember, only what is done for Jesus and the harvesting of souls will last for eternity.

We celebrated the harvest with a Harvest Festival for the Sunday School children on October 18 and 19. We had a fairly good attendance and the children (and adults) seemed to have a good time. We appreciate the efforts of the teachers who helped make the evening so enjoyable.

We also appreciated the visitors we had for the Preschool Board Meeting on October 25. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) brought us the Word and Bros. Lynn Klopfenstein (Leo, IN) and David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Bro. David's family were also here to fellowship with us. We are thankful for their continuing support to the brethren here.

The Athens Young Group hosted a weekend of fellowship and work for the Lord on November 8 and 9. The visitors from Columbus, OH; Oakville, IA; Peoria, Roanoke and Washington, IL enjoyed helping with a work project in Huntsville, AL and then came up to the Tennessee Fellowship Area for supper and a singing. The encouragement we get from sharing with one another is truly amazing and we were thankful for the safety of the young people as they traveled many miles to come here.

We want to extend our love and support to our Bro. Tom Schrenk at the death of his dear mother, and to

Bro. Joel Schrenk who has lost a faithful grandmother. Sis. Delilah Schrenk (Alto, MI) passed away on November 8. Our congregation has many fond memories of Bro. Tom's parents stopping by Athens on their way to and from Zapata, TX. We always looked forward to seeing them and even as their presence meant the passing of the seasons, we know their death means the passing of a generation. We pray for God's strength for the upcoming generations to remain faithful to what we have been taught.

May we, each one, rejoice in the season of Jesus' birth and show His presence in our hearts and lives to all we come in contact with.

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

Season's Greetings to everyone and may we all be giving Godly love in honor of Christ's birth on Christmas Day.

We rejoice with Bro. Marshall Witzig on his engagement to Sis. Stacia Schambach (Elgin, IL) announced October 26. Sis. Stacia was in a serious car accident on November 10 and is hospitalized (in mid-November). Our prayers are with this dear couple as they, too, pray for healing and plan for happier days ahead.

On October 23, Emily Marie was born to Bill and Ramona Emch. Her grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene Emch.

On October 28, Bro. Al and Sis. Joyce Yackley welcomed their third grandchild when Easton Daniel was born to Brian and Sandy Hunt.

October 18 and 19 was a weekend Bro. Terry Koehl will always remember. He gave his testimony and was baptized as our brother in faith. His parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary Koehl.

Our sympathy to Bro. Greg

Gramm and family and Bro. George Gramm on Grandma Gramm's death in Gridley, IL; and to Sis. Johanna (Bro. Herb) Knochel and family on the death of her father, retired Elder Bro. Joe Waibel (Bay City, MI). May the Lord comfort each of you.

October 26 was a beautiful day (74 degrees) for our annual Sunday School picnic. The fun, food and children's program of songs was much enjoyed. We are most grateful for our Sunday School staff for a job well done.

God's healing touch has been felt by surgery patients, Bro. Erik Langhofer and Sis. Barb Ringger; hospital patients, Bro. Paul Emch and Mary Beth Sutton; and Aubrey Lindenbaum with a wrist injury.

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was our visiting minister on November 12 and we are thankful.

God knows all our needs. After a lengthy time of prayers, He led a real pillar family of our church away; Sis. Emma Farney Sanders (late Bro. Earl), Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders and children, Bro. Jason, Jonathon, and Melinda. They moved to Illinois.

We pray for all three generations of the Sanders family and thank you for years of dedication in serving the Lord.

Welcome back to Sis. Martha and Sis. Jan Elsasser after an extended time of recovery spent in Illinois.

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**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**  
**Jane Hodges**

The Apostolic Christian Church of Prescott is now incorporated. A meeting was held with Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and the following brothers were elected to serve on the building committee: Jim Furrer, chairman; Al Yackley, secretary; Harvey Smith, treasurer; Bob Lemons and Herb Knochel, Sr.

We are now in the process of striving to pay for the two acres of land we have purchased and are waiting on God's will and timing for the building of our new church.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Eileen Furrer (Morris, MN) have safely returned to our area for the winter. We are blessed and thankful to have them with us.

Our ministers this last month included Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Wes Moser (Lester, IA) and Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ). We are grateful to them and pray God will richly bless them and their families for their service.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

*II Cor. 9:15*

May His love for us fill our hearts and homes always. We wish all our brethren and friends a blessed holiday season as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour and Redeemer.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON

#### Lisa Knapp

Bro. James and Sis. Gina Emch (Phoenix, AZ) were with us for Sunday services this month. Bro. James came to serve us on the pulpit as both of our ministers were out of town. We can't thank them enough for making the trip to Tucson, as the alternative would have been listening to tapes for our services. May God add a rich blessing to you both.

A few weeks after our visit from Bro. James and Sis. Gina, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and his wife, Sis. Judy, spent the day with us. With Bro. Loren Knapp away serving the Austin, TX church, Bro. Curt Kaufman would have been alone on the pulpit. Bro. Curt was especially thankful to have Bro. Dale here to minister to us. We

thank Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy for their well-timed visit.

Our fall weather has been wonderful. Daytime temperatures are in the 70's and our evenings are cool and crisp with the lows overnight dipping into the low 50's and high 40's. Pretty typical stuff for us in November, but enjoyable just the same.

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

#### Joshua Martinez

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

*Matthew 1:21*

As we remember the birth of our Saviour this Christmas season, may our hearts be filled with peace, joy and thankfulness. All the gifts in the world combined could not compare with God's gift to us of His only begotten Son.

We were blessed this month by having Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) in our midst. We wish to share a heartfelt expression of thanks for his willingness to share God's Word with us.

We rejoice that God's hand was with Steve Bailey during his recent open-heart surgery. We pray that the Lord will grant him a quick recovery and restore him to a full measure of health. May God bless him, his wife, Ingrid, and baby boy, Matthew, with His loving comfort.

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

*Proverbs 22:6*

Our Sunday School is planning their Christmas Program for December 14. At this time, we are happy to welcome Sis. Sue Klotzle (Bro. Joe) as our newest Sunday

School teacher. The children in her class will surely be blessed by her shining light. We also wish to extend thanks to our other teachers, Bro. Dave Klotzle, Sis. Elaine Graf, Sis. Carol Graf and Bro. Joshua Martinez for sharing the joy and beauty of the Word and the Christian walk with the children.

The news of Bro. Carl Feucht's death this month saddened our hearts. He touched so many lives and made a difference for those who knew him in our Altadena family. We know that Bro. Carl is finally Home with the Lord, but we want to uphold the loved ones left in prayer; especially his wife, Sis. Emma, and their family.

We thank our many visitors this month for their love and their fellowship. We extend a warm welcome to all who will be visiting our Altadena family this holiday season.

As Christmas approaches, may each of us feel grateful for our Father's many gifts to us. It makes us happy to know that we can seek Him daily for comfort, peace, and strength from His nearness. May you all have a joyful and blessed holiday season. Have a happy New Year!

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

*Luke 2:14*

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### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

#### Rose Huette

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*



We are so blessed to have been taught and to have experienced the salvation which Jesus brings to every soul who seeks Him. As we remember His birth, let us especially remember His gift of salvation.

The Sunday School children are busy learning their parts for the upcoming Christmas program. The theme this year is "Gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Salvation". May both teachers and children be richly blessed as they make preparation for the program.

Our Bro. Peter Petrovic has accompanied Elder Bros. Gene Marti, Marvin Leman and Kevin Ryan on a trip to Hungary and Yugoslavia. We pray a blessing on their efforts there.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) and Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ). We thank them for their visit and willingness to serve.

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**ONTARIO, KITCHENER  
CANADA  
Laura Baxter**

"As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

*Psalm 127:4-5*

The Lord has blessed two families with the gift of a newborn life. Bro. Jay and Sis. Carla Schlatter (Bay City, MI) had a baby boy, Alexander Royal, on November 17. Walter and Margaret Fortenbacher are his happy and thankful grandparents. Bro. Jim and Sis. Laura Baxter had a baby boy, Daniel Joseph, on November 18. Praise the Lord for the beauty and wonder of a new baby.

We are very thankful for the many visitors we had this past month, especially for the visiting ministers and their families for coming to minister God's Word to us. Thanks to Bros. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH).

We welcome all visitors who are planning to be in our area to worship with us. Please contact Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 or Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 for more information and directions.

Note: Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher and family have an address change. Their new address is:

Walter Fortenbacher  
10 Parkview Dr., RR1  
Wellesley, Ontario NOB 2T0  
(519) 656-2650

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**COLORADO, DENVER  
Lynne Martin**

"Jesus is the reason for the season." As the Christmas season is upon us, I found myself shopping for Christmas cards and saw this verse printed on several cards. Quickly dismissing it because of its familiarity, I found myself coming back to it and really thinking about these words. How easy it is for all of us to be caught up in the commercialism of Christmas. Let us take time to truly rejoice and celebrate that the 'Babe of Bethlehem' was born!

The Denver area recently experienced thirty inches of snow and took several days to get back to normal. Our home had eight foot drifts barricading our garage. Our side streets never were plowed out—they just eventually melted! As church services were canceled, we sat by the fireplace very thankful to be safe at home. Many hundreds of people had been stranded in their cars overnight causing great concern as the temperature plummeted. The next

Sunday in church, several of us newcomers joked about not yet owning a snow shovel. We found out how much we take things for granted when we tried to purchase one; all the stores were sold out! Thankfully, the Lord kept everyone safe and we have been enjoying mild temperatures once again.

Sis. Leona Lehman (Bro. Verne) recently underwent back surgery. May God's healing powers be with her as she recovers.

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**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE  
Cherie Galat**

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

*Luke 2:11*

What a joyous time of year approaches as we commemorate Christ's birth! Let us remember that He did not remain in the manger or on the cross but ascended to our Heavenly Father. May this be our hope that we may also one day be with our Father.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers of the Gospel who shared with us: Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and Bros. Mark Steiner and Ron Palitto. Also in our midst was retired minister, Bro. Andy Hunyady.

Many brethren gathered from many of our churches to consider the World Relief effort. Let us be willing to give of our time or money to help those in need.

Prayers are answered in that God is yet calling souls to repentance. We rejoice with Kenneth Hunt (Sis. Karen) and Ernestine Aberle (Bro. Edwin) as they endeavor to please our Lord and follow Him. May God guide each step along the way of life.

Precious Miriam Rose was born on October 25 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Cyndi Luginbuhl. Her sisters, Har-

mony and Grace, happily welcome her home. Grandparents are Sis. Florine Luginbuhl and Bro. Dave and Sis. Marlene Galat. May they instill the love of God in each of their children.

October 19 was the engagement day of Bro. Eldon Metz of Silverton, OR (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) and Sis. Alice Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan). As they plan their future together, may they look to Him for guidance.

We express our deep sympathy to Margaret Capello upon the passing of her husband, Michael Jr., on October 24. He also leaves his sons, Michael III (Donna) and Bryan (Tracy), and daughters, Gail Henri (Carl) and Sharon. His brothers and sisters are Rudolph (Joan), Gloria Hautanen (Richard), Josephine Johnson (Ben), Diane Gretzinger (Larry) and Lois Hampson. Predeceased are his sister and brother-in-law, Irene and Edward Egan.

We lift our loved ones names in prayer up unto our Heavenly Father to pray for healing according to His will: Eric Moser (Sis. Donna), Jessica Skipper (Don and Cindy), Bro. Wilfred Whitman (Sis. Fredricka), Bro. Kenneth Schulz (Sis. Lois), Bro. Arthur Foote, Sr. (Emily) and Bro. Kevin Ballasy (Sis. Jane).

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

As we celebrate the coming of our Lord to this earth as the baby Jesus, may we remember He is coming again. All of us in the Washington, DC congregation wish everyone a blessed holiday season.

This month we welcomed Sis. Renee Steffen to our congregation as she has found employment in this area.

Russ, Sharon and Abby Floyd welcome Justin to their family.

Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramsier (Smithville, OH).

We are glad to have Ken and Roberta Belsley back in our midst after a visit to Germany to welcome a new grandson.

Our ministers this past month were Bros. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). We thank these brothers and their families for coming to serve us. Our other visitors this month were from Rittman and Akron, OH; Chicago, IL; Francesville and LaCrosse, IN. We appreciate all our visitors; may the Lord bless them.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. 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.

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**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE  
Nancy Rocke**

“And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

*Luke 2:6-7*

As we remember the birth of Christ, may we reflect upon His life and why He came to earth. As we sing in one of our hymns, “Tis not

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

“Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.”

*Mark 10:15-16*

Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Jill Sutter, along with Jesse and Kaitlyn, welcome a new addition to their family, Joel Richard. Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeanne Kaufman (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy Sutter are happy grandparents.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers and their wives with us: Bros. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton, IL) and Jon Zeller (Sis. Christy, Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Sis. Nancy, Philadelphia, PA). We thank the Lord that they were willing to serve us and pray that the Lord will bless them for their labors of love.

Sis. Mary Kloter (Bro. Keith, Rockville, CT), who was down here for several weeks, had surgery, but seems to be recovering well. We are thankful for the Lord's healing hand.

We want to welcome Sis. Ethel Rambeou to our area from Detroit, MI. We hope that she feels our love and may the Lord bless her here.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FT. MYERS  
Angie Baum**

This past month we enjoyed good food and good fellowship as we celebrated Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy Beer's 50th wedding anniversary with a barbecue. We were happy to have many of their children and grandchildren visiting us for their special day. The congregation

shared cherished memories of Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy and the tremendous love they've shown in their marriage and toward others. Elder Bro. Darrell and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein traveled from Ft. Lauderdale to be with us on this day.

Bro. David Eisenmann has retired from the ministry. He and his wife, Sis. Kay, are residing in Sarasota and will be attending church services there. They both have served our church joyfully for many years and we will miss them greatly, though we will be expecting many visits from them.

Sis. Viola Keller has recently undergone surgery, and we are thankful that the Lord has blessed her with a full recovery.

Also visiting us this month was ministering Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and David Graf (Akron, OH).

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### GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

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

*Luke 1:30-31*

As we remember the birth of our Saviour, may our hearts be filled with joy and thankfulness.

We want to thank our visiting ministers: Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). We appreciate their efforts and labors of love.

Our church remodeling is coming along nicely. We hope to have the inside completed by the end of this year.

As we near the end of 1997, we

want to thank each one who visited us this past year. For those who are planning to head south for the winter, we invite you to stop in Atlanta and worship with us. Services begin at 10:20 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. From Atlanta, take I-85 south to Exit 13 (Rt. 138). Go west four miles. The church is on the left shortly after SR138 turns into SR92. For further information, please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629.

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### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

#### Carlene Jepson

Best wishes go to Ryan Hartter and Nicole Stauffer as they were joined in marriage on October 25. Parents of the couple are Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter (Bern, KS) and Bob and Cora Stauffer (Manitowoc, WI). May God guide them as they begin their new life together. On Sunday, we were blessed to have many visitors and privileged to have Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) minister the Word to us.

Our small church always appreciates visitors and when the church is full, it is great to hear all the voices singing praises unto our Lord. The first weekend in November was our "Invite a Guest" weekend. We enjoyed the fellowship and singing that we were able to share together. Our special thanks go to Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) who ministered to us on that day.

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### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

#### Janice Horner Carol Sauder

Bro. Eric and Sis. Katrine Haefli are thrilled to have a new bundle of joy in their home. RuthAnn Ilene

was born October 2 prematurely. After eight days in St. Frances Hospital, she began normal breathing and is doing well at the present. Bro. Eric said he could sense the prayers for their little family. Happy grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Ilene Haefli (Peoria, IL).

Bro. Brian and Sis. Diane Hoerr have moved here from the St. Louis area. They have a 6th grade boy, Andy, and a 5th grade girl, Katie.

Bro. John and Sis. Andrea Knapp have been attending Bloomington church since he began as a student at ISU this fall. We heartily welcome them into our fellowship.

Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) conducted a very helpful marriage seminar. It was held for the first three Wednesday evenings in November. He presented helpful biblical guidelines and inspiration for maintaining a Godly marriage and home. May God bless Bro. Jeff for so selflessly serving and inspiring us.

We welcome Sis. Diann Kieser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma) and Sis. LeAnn Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) into the fold as our sisters in faith. They were baptized on November 9 and we pray God will be ever so near to them.

God's healing power was shown to our hospital patients this month who were Bro. Marvin Huette, Bro. Clarence Vogel, and Elder Bro. Everett Hari. They are all getting along well and rely on our continued prayers for further healing.

Our monthly hymn sing was held on November 9. The Bloomington Choir and the First and Second grade Sunday School class each sang several hymns of praise to our great God.

*This Christmas...*  
*Give time: Remember an old friend.*



Share a meal with someone lonely.  
*Give Hope:* Live joyfully. Raise the spirits of a child.

*Give Peace:* Forgive an enemy. Set difference aside.

*Give of Yourself:* Perform acts of kindness. Give love and Christmas will be forever!

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). We are so appreciative of their labors of love.

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

#### Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

Another year is again drawing to a close. As we look back on it, we can see how the Lord has truly blessed us. Nevertheless, we have our crosses to carry also. Oh, for the day when we can lay our crosses and earthly burdens down and enter our Heavenly Kingdom! Could this be the year that our Lord comes back, as he did more than 2000 years ago? Let us ponder what He has sacrificed that the whole world might have the chance to enjoy eternal life. Let us also be ready, brethren.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Ben Ehnl (Sis. Audrey) during his hospital stay and surgery. We continue to pray for his quick and complete recovery so he can again assemble with us.

We would like to welcome Bro. Chad and Sis. Laura Lee Plattner to our congregation. They have recently married and have made Bradford their church. We pray that they will feel at home here.

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### ILLINOIS

#### CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

#### Samuel and Pamela Furrer

"A child's hand in yours—what tenderness and power it arouses.

You are instantly the very touchstone of wisdom and strength."

—*Marjorie Holms*

Christmas will be a little different for some of the people who assemble with us in Champaign-Urbana. We have a new baby and three couples engaged to be married. Walker Scott McDonald was born into the family of Jeff and Janice (Young) McDonald. Walker has two older brothers, Tyler and Spencer, to mentor him through life. We welcome Walker into our church! "Something that is stronger and deeper than any words is found in love." (Anon.)

It seems that the marriage spirit has been moving with fervor in the college student group. Those engaged are Sis. Stacia Schambach, a U of I graduate student from Elgin, IL to Bro. Marshall Witzig of Phoenix, AZ; Bro. Jesse Schroeder, a U of I student from Roanoke, IL to Sis. Jill Meister of Peoria, IL; and Bro. Matt Ginzler, a U of I graduate student from Peoria, IL to Sis. Christine Romersberger, a 1997 U of I graduate from Gridley, IL. Our best wishes go forth to each of these couples as they embark on this wondrous journey for a lifetime.

Jerry Hari had pneumonia and was admitted to the hospital. Though his stay was brief, we do pray for God's ceaseless presence in his life as he continues to undergo chemotherapy. Our Bro. Darren Blunier suffered the loss of his father, Bro. Dale Blunier, of Princeville, IL. Our condolences go out to Bro. Darren and Sis. Keri and their children as they adjust to this loss. Although the knowledge that a soul's eternal arrangements had been made for many years, the earthly void is sorely felt.

Ministering Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Don and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) gave of

their time by ministering to us over the past month. We appreciate these brothers and their families' contribution to the Lord's service.

We pause at this time of year to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As we do that, we are frequently in the middle of a very busy and hectic time of the year. Family gatherings, meals, and gift exchanges often require substantial planning, travel, and stress. With each year, it seems that the "holidays" from the end of October through New Year's Day get more and more commercialized, their mass marketing is moved earlier into the year, and they become a blur instead of each standing alone. While we were out shopping just before Thanksgiving, there was very little in the line of decorations or mention of Thanksgiving—everything was Christmas merchandising. As soon as Christmas is "clearanced" by the stores, we'll have the Valentines coming out. This all brings to mind a story of a little boy who had been raised away from the city and only knew Christmas as the birthday of our Christ. When he went to town and saw the Santas and other commercial aspects, he was perplexed. The people did not seem to know about the real meaning of CHRISTmas.

For the past several years, our family has been making a "pilgrimage" of sorts to a small town a few miles east of our own village. This small town has a devoted group of believers whose mission is to share the real CHRISTmas with others by solemnly illustrating the familiar manger scene. The turnout for this event which lasts all three evenings of a weekend in mid-December is remarkable. Traffic on Route 150 is slowed to a crawl and milk jug lanterns lead motorists as the star directed the shepherds. The wait is rewarded by each car slowly driving past live animals and authentically

costumed people (and one doll) depicting the Christmas scene. The three camels with their wise men bearing gifts, little shepherd boys keeping warm by the fire, a contented cow, baaing sheep, cooing and clucking birds, the donkey, and the blessed virgin Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. Each year we, along with thousands of others from our area, are graphically reminded of the real meaning of CHRISTmas. A reminder like this is a welcome change from the plastic Santas. Have a blessed CHRISTmas.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Jill Rager

As I look out my window from where I am writing, I see the crimson red berries of our crab apple tree amidst the 10 inch white blanket of snow we received a few nights ago. The red berries certainly brought to mind the blood of Christ washing us "whiter than snow".

#### *Whiter than Snow*

Lord Jesus, for this I most humbly entreat,  
I wait, blessed Lord at Thy crucified feet;  
By faith, for my cleansing, I see Thy blood flow  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

*Hymns of Zion #210*

Although this snow illustration is not a new thought, it did seem to tie in with our news for this month. Bro. Phil Waldbeser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan) gave his testimony and was symbolically washed whiter than snow at his baptism the weekend of November 8 and 9 in his "home church" of Cissna Park, IL. We certainly rejoice with Bro. Phil and pray that he can continue to

grow in faith in the years ahead.

We were abundantly blessed with visiting ministers this month. On Saturday, October 25, we shared Holy Communion and want to thank Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann with the evening as well as on the following Sunday. We were challenged to be prepared for Communion as we hope to be on the day Christ returns.

Bros. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) joined us for Sunday services this month and Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) ministered to us on Wednesday, November 12, sharing a Topical Bible Study on the "Fruit of the Spirit". Our own Bro. Lenny Meyer also shared a Topical Bible Study on "Abiding in the Vine" on October 22. We certainly want to express gratitude for the faithful service of our own home brethren as well as our visitors.

We want to share the wonderful news of the engagement of Sis. Caesy O'Shea (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean) to Bro. Zach Sauder (Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie) of Roanoke, IL. We look forward to sharing in their wedding day.

True Christmas joy for Christians is the birth of a Saviour, not a baby. We are thrilled for Mike and Gretchen Zimmerman (originally from Eureka, IL) who have come to the feet of that Saviour and asked, in repentance, for His cleansing. We want to encourage Mike and Gretchen in that they have a praying church supporting them!

We wish a blessed Christmas to all and welcome anyone passing through the Chicago area during the holidays to join us for church if you can.

## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Beth Steffen - Joyce Bauer

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."  
*Psalm 150:6*

The weekend of November 8 was a time of rejoicing for us all as Philip Waldbeser gave his testimony and was baptized. Sharing the weekend with us were Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) and Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN).

Other visiting ministers this month include Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Dave Oberghel (Peoria, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL). We appreciate each one who shared their time and talents with us.

"The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing..."  
*Psalm 41:3*

Hospital patients this month include Bill Bauer, Sis. Louella Jacob, and Sis. Marie Kaufman. All have returned home and are improving. Bro. Dale Walder was a patient at Hines Hospital in Chicago for tests. Other shut-ins include Bro. Art Hari, Sis. Ellen Hofbauer, and Sis. Loretta Bauer. Sis. Esther Steiner remains a resident at Heartland Health Care Center recovering from a broken hip. May each of you feel God's presence as you wait upon Him.

We rejoice with Jim and Betty Hofbauer in the birth of a new granddaughter, Abby Jo, born to Tammy and Brian Martin (Bolingbrook). Bro. Joel and Sis. Mary Hofbauer are the happy great-grandparents.

Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Ann Young received a double blessing this past month with the birth of two new grandchildren. Clair Elaine was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Kaiser, Lara (7), Nicholas (5) and Nathaniel (2), of Morton, IL. Walker Scott was born to Jeff and Janice McDonald and Tyler (7) and Spencer (6), of Urbana, IL.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeanie Kaufmann are happy grandparents again with the birth of Joel Richard born to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Jill Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Jesse (3) and Kaitlyn (1). Grandchildren are indeed a very special gift from God.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank each and every one of you for the kind expressions of sympathy, whether it was food, cards, or flowers, at the time of Bro. Aaron's Home going. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. May God bless each one of you.

*The family of Bro. Aaron Bauer*

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**

**Missy Banwart - Sandy Steiner**

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine..." (Zion's Harp #209). On November 15 and 16, our congregation welcomed Chet Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat) and Isaac Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) as new brothers in faith. We wish them much of God's grace and guidance to walk close to Him upon the straight and narrow way. At the closing of this blessed weekend, we were reminded of Christ's great suffering and our deep unworthiness as we shared Holy Communion together. We have been given so much, and on judgment day we will not regret that we were too sincere or that we gave too much for our Lord.

Visiting ministers for the week-

end were Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Steve Martin and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). Other ministers who served us in the past month were Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). May God bless them and continue to provide the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

In this Christmas season, may we remember the true reason for the season and not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the world around us.

*Note of Thanks:*

Thank you for the outpouring of love, kindness, and support you showed us at the passing of our Bessyanna. Your cards, gifts and thoughtful deeds were a great source of comfort. May God bless you.

*In Him, Jon and Andrea Knapp*

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**  
**Peggy Heiniger**  
**Norma Schambach**

*A Prayer for Peace*

Oh, Father up in heaven, we have wandered far away,  
From the holy little Christ Child,  
who was born on Christmas Day -  
And the promise of salvation that  
God promised when Christ died  
We have often vaguely questioned,  
even doubted and denied.  
We've forgotten why God sent us  
Jesus Christ, His only Son,  
And in arrogance and ignorance it's  
our will, not Thine, be done.  
Oh, forgive us our transgressions  
and stir our souls within,  
And make us ever conscious that  
there is no joy in sin,  
And shed Thy light upon us as  
Christmas comes again,  
So we may strive for peace on earth  
and goodwill between all men.  
And, God, in Thy great wisdom, Thy  
mercy and Thy love,  
Endow us with the virtue that we

have so little of,  
For unless we have humility in  
ourselves and in our nation,  
We are vain and selfish puppets in a  
world of automation,  
And with no God to follow but the  
false ones we create,  
We become the heartless victim of a  
godless nation's fate.  
Oh, give us ears to hear Thee and  
give us eyes to see,  
So we may once more seek Thee in  
true humility.

—Virginia J. Ruehlmann

Believing that it is God's will for their lives, Sis. Stacia Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) and Bro. Marshall Witzig of Phoenix, AZ (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lyla, Peoria, IL) announced their engagement. In the midst of all of the preparation for their December 28 wedding, Sis. Stacia suffered a serious accident on her way back to work in Champaign, IL. She was badly injured, but we are thankful God spared her life. She is now home recovering, and we pray for her continued healing.

Our Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen had shoulder surgery. He too is home recovering. Other hospital patients were Bro. Elvis (Sis. Marilyn) Kellenberger and Sis. Carol Schambach. As they look to God for help, may we also remember them in prayer.

Grant and Heidi Larsen are parents of Audrey Rose born October 15. Ryan and Hannah are happy to have a baby sister. Grandparents are Gordon and Corinne Larsen of Arlington Heights and Bro. Norm and Sis. Ginny Schock.

Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) recently spent a Sunday with us. May God bless all of His faithful servants who often stand before us and proclaim the message of salvation.

We also enjoyed the brothers on the Zion's Harp revision committee. They and their families spent an extended weekend here for one of



their meetings.

We welcome Doug Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) from Junction, OH. He is attending school in the area and has been worshipping with us on Sundays.

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

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given..."

*Isaiah 9:6*

This Christmas season may we rejoice that Jesus was born to be a Saviour for each of us individually.

November 2 was the happy wedding day for Sis. Cynde Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) and Bro. Jeff Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Karen) of Gridley, IL. May God richly bless their lives together. We thank the ministers who shared with us that weekend, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger, Bro. Byron Stoller and Bro. Clark Stoller, all of Gridley.

We had three wedding engagements in the last month, and pray that God will continue to lead each couple as they plan their weddings and as they begin to blend their lives together. Sis. Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley, Lester, IA) has been assembling with us for the last few months and is engaged to Bro. Jerry Nohl (Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie) of Morris, MN. On November 9, the engagement of Sis. Dawn Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene) and Bro. Brian Tanner (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette) of Morton, IL was announced. Bro. Nathan Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) and Sis. Tammy Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) of Ft. Scott, KS announced their engagement on November 16.

We were inspired by the visit of Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester,

IA) who helped Bro. Ervin share the Memorandum with us. It was a good reminder to appreciate our church and our heritage. Other ministers that have spent a Sunday with us recently are Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL).

Our prayers are with Sis. Dorothy Hartter, Sis. Wilma Lehman (Bro. Clarence), Sis. Della Kiefer, and Bro. Clarence Wenger who have recently been hospitalized or had surgery.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. Dale Blunier (Princeville, IL) on November 11. Bro. Dale's father and stepmother, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Kathryn, his sister, Sis. Lola Stoller (Bro. Stan), and three brothers, Bro. Ted (Sis. Donna), Kaywin, and Bro. Myron (Sis. Elaine), all assemble with us in Eureka. May God comfort them in their grief and loss.

We were happy to hear of the birth of a son to Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki Wiegand. Chase Andrew was born on November 18 and is welcomed home by three big sisters, Katie, Julie and Jolene. His grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judie Knecht.

*Notes of Thanks:*

I would like to express my appreciation for the many cards and gifts I received on my 80th birthday. May God bless each and every one for their love.

*Sis. Lula Fehr*

A very special thanks to our dear brothers and sisters in faith for the prayers offered and the love and concern shown to me and my family during the time of my accident, hospital stay, and since returning home. I am deeply grateful for all

the cards and gifts of love you have shared. May God bless you all for your love shown.

*Humbly, Bro. Nelson Martin*

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

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

*Hymns of Zion #37*

*This Christmas*

*Give Time:* Remember an old friend.  
Share a meal with someone lonely.  
*Give Hope:* Live joyfully. Raise the spirits of a child.  
*Give Peace:* Forgive an enemy. Set difference aside.  
*Give of Yourself:* Perform acts of kindness. Give love, and Christmas will be forever.  
—author unknown

Let us remember the sick, aged and those who cannot get in and out as we do.

Several loved ones from our congregation had surgery this past month. They were Bro. Reuben Bach (Sis. Louise) and Sis. Viola Moser. We are thankful that they can worship with us again.

Our visiting ministers who labored among us this month were: Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL). We thank these brothers for coming to visit us.

We rejoice with angels in Heaven and also with Caroline VanScoy and Tania Bazzell (Mark) as they have surrendered their hearts to the Lord in repentance. We wish them God's abundant grace.

Victoria Rose was born October

22 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Karie Edelman. Big brother Chance is happy to have a playmate. Tori's grandparents are John and Eunice Stork and Bro. Walter and Sis. Rose Edelman.

*Notes of Thanks:*

The family of Gilbert Ifft wishes to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy after he passed away. Thank you for all the love, help, cards, memorials and support. We are deeply grateful.

*In Christian love,  
Mary Ellen Ifft and family*

We are indeed humbled and also grateful for the many acts of kindness shown to us in so many ways during my hospital stay and since returning home. Thank you all, and may God bless you.

*Bro. Reuben and Sis. Louise Bach*

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**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Mary Bachtold  
Jean Knapp**

As the Christmas season approaches, we look forward to our Sunday School children presenting "the blessed story of the Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem". May this true meaning of Christmas be quietly implanted in our hearts as the world searches for peace and contentment through the hustle and bustle of activities so prevalent this time of year.

We were privileged to have residents from the Morton Home for the Handicapped spend a day of worship with us on Sunday, October 19. As these loved ones are all special in the eyes of the Lord, He was surely pleased with the efforts of one of our handicapped guests as she sang "How Great Thou Art" before leaving the fellowship hall after a potluck supper. Any special attention given these handicapped is always affectionately received.

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

*Psalm 127:3*

Dakota Emerson Dean Hall arrived in the home of Don and Barb Hall on October 18. Big brother, Blake, and sister, Shelby, are happy to have a baby brother join their family circle. His grandparents are Sharon Hall (Mahomet), Leo and Mary Hall (AZ) and Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupferschmid.

October 18 was the wedding day of Carol Zimmerman (Bill and Lucille Menold, Dunlap) and Jerry Turner, Pontiac (the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Turner). May they look to the Lord for guidance as they walk the path of life together as husband and wife.

"Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ..."

*Acts 28:31*

May Bros. Wendell Dotterer, Kevin Schaffer and Jeff Zimmerman feel our prayerful support as they have been selected to teach our youth in Sunday School.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Kristi Knapp and Sis. Marcia Gerber (Bro. Alan). May the Lord continue to extend His healing power as they return to good health and strength.

*Note of Thanks:*

Bro. Leland and Sis. Marjorie Kuntz wish to thank everyone who remembered Bro. Leland's 80th birthday. May God bless each one.

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Jan Beer**

Life and death, joy and sorrow...the Goodfield congregation

has experienced them all in the past month. It is our goal to follow the Biblical teaching of "giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:20)

New life: Breana Tanner Bauman was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee on October 18. Her grandparents and great-grandparents who are a part of the Goodfield fellowship are Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman and Bro. Ben and Sis. Leona Tanner.

Troy, Dona and Kelsey Young welcomed a new baby into their family on October 11. Lane Bolton is the grandson of Duane and Vermeda Friedinger and great-grandson of Sis. Ruth Rokey, all of our congregation. It is easy to give thanks for healthy babies born into these dear families!

New life in Christ: November 8 and 9, testimonies were given and baptism was administered for our new Sis. Amy Knobloch, Bro. Andy Knobloch (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie), Bro. Mike Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth), and Bro. Benjamin Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna). Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Wes Knapp, and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) served on the pulpit. It is easy to give thanks for new babes in Christ "born" into our congregation!

Joy: On October 26, the announcement was made of the engagement of our Sis. Mari Knapp and Bro. Dana Wiegand. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp and Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand. We are so pleased to be keeping both young people in our congregation, and we wish them God's continued direction as they follow the path He has laid out for them.

Our Sis. Shelly Leman and Bro.

Rudy Haerr (Minneapolis, MN) chose November 16 as their wedding date. Many friends and relatives of theirs joined us on that day to share in their joy. Among those attending were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), and ministering Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). Several other ministering brothers were in the congregation as well. We are sad to see our Sis. Shelly move so far from us, but we have great comfort in knowing she and Bro. Rudy are in the center of God's will. It is easy to give thanks when we can see our young people walking with the Lord!

Sorrow: Sis. Joy Hohulin (Bro. Jim) has felt the sting of death in the loss of her father, Bro. Walt Plattner. May the knowledge that he has passed from this earth into blessed rest be of comfort to her and her family.

It is easy to give thanks to God for more souls who have sought Him in repentance recently. It is easy to give thanks to all the brothers who served us from the pulpit; my apologies for those whose names I have failed to report, currently or in the past.

It is not as easy to thank Him for the trial of ill health that has come upon several of our loved ones. For all who are facing surgery, who have met with accident or who are in poor health, we can be thankful that we have a God who is in control of our life and He has promised to never leave nor forsake us. We hold you up to the Father in prayer as you yield to His will in your life, and give Him thanks for all things!

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Mary Helen Heinold wishes to express their deep appreciation for the many deeds of love and kindness shown to their beloved wife, mom, and grandma as

well as to the entire family during her recent illness and passing on to Heaven. May the Lord richly bless each one of you.

*Melvin Heinold  
Don and Peg Heinold and family  
Dan and Carol Heinold and family*

It is not easy to give thanks to God when we miss our loved ones so very much, but we can be thankful that He will never leave us.

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY  
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

There are many gifts given to the church for its edification and nurturing. Some are very visible for all to see such as preaching and teaching.

But there is a less heralded gift that is often invisible. It is the gift of "helps". It is mentioned in I Corinthians 12:28. This is an important gift given to multitudes of brothers and sisters in the church. Because it is a seemingly "routine" gift, it draws little attention. Yet, God gives this gift, and He notices when it is exercised.

One could think of hundreds of daily tasks whereby a believer performs the gift of helps—setting the table, washing dishes, cleaning house, raking leaves and a host of other necessities.

Help is often needed. When God's children pitch in and help to accomplish many of life's tasks, it is the fulfillment of the "gift of helps." Many may not always notice, but God surely does—and that's the real blessing!

Bro. Chad and Sis. Janice Wettstein became the parents of their second child on November 4. He was named Logan Matthew. He has a brother, Derek, age 3. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein and Bro. Levi and Sis.

Donna Edelman, Fairbury. May God give them much wisdom in training their precious gift from Above.

Sis. Christine Romersberger was announced to be married to Bro. Mathew Ginzel (Peoria, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardean Stoller, and the late Bro. Rob Romersberger. His parents are Bro. David and Sis. Mary Ginzel (Peoria, IL). May God be praised for drawing these souls together after they sought His will.

Sis. Lavielle Yoder was hospitalized with a serious illness, and is improving somewhat. We all pray for her and wish for her recovery.

Others hospitalized for varying durations were Sisters Vi McKinley, Donnalou Baner and Kathy Taylor.

**ILLINOIS, MORTON  
Phyllis Farney  
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Arthur Hauter, 96, died on October 26 at Apostolic Christian Restmor. He is survived by two sons, Robert and Jerry; one sister, Sis. Laverne Heiniger; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. May the Lord comfort and bless them all.

Sis. Katherine Roecker died on November 16 at the age of 92. May God's comfort surround her three sons, Bro. Edward, Eugene, and William; her daughter, Sis. Louise Getz; her brother, Bro. Levi Schock; her three sisters, Sis. Florence Guthrie, Sis. Eileen Hermann, and Eldeen Mitchel; her 17 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren; and her many other relatives and friends.

The Lord has drawn two hearts and souls together. We heard the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Brian Tanner (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette) and Sis. Dawn Schumacher (Bro. Bob and



Sis. Charlene) of Eureka, IL. May God bless them as they plan to become one in Christ Jesus.

We thank God for sending visiting ministers to our Morton congregation this month. They were Bros. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). May the Lord richly bless them for their labors.

The Sunday School Bible Class Benefit Dinner was held at our Fellowship Hall on November 15 and 16. A wonderful dinner was served followed by a program of beautiful hymns of worship. The Bible Class would like to thank everyone for attending and supporting them in this effort.

As the Christmas Season approaches, let us pause in our busy preparations and take time to make the most important preparation. Let us wait on the Lord in quietness to prepare our hearts to worship and adore Him.

*Note of Thanks:*

Sis. Lydia Zimmerman wishes to thank everyone for the cards, gifts of love and the many good wishes received for her birthday. May God bless all who were so kind.

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## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Peter and Mabel Weber

If it were not for Jesus shedding His precious blood, there would not have been a reason to be in church Saturday evening, October 18. But Dustin Funk, Jay Geyer, Nick Hoerr and Bethany Kummer realized there is no place in Heaven for sinners and felt the need to give their hearts to Jesus and enter into His two-way covenant. On Sunday morning, Bro. Ken Hoerr meditated on Luke 15. Are our hearts too gospel-hardened to answer the call to the wedding banquet? Jesus invited

those from the by-ways to furnish it with guests. One person came without a wedding garment, was identified and was speechless. Many are called, few chosen. The call is going out right now and often the response is minimal. The story of the prodigal son shows one who wanted to go a different way, for the pleasures of sin for a season. If we live in sin, we must come to ourselves (verse 17), go home and ask for forgiveness. Our Heavenly Father is pursuing each sinner. Don't you want Him to welcome you Home?

Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) was our guest minister on October 19 (John 19:1-17). In our hearts, we must look like Jesus, Who made us in His likeness, and be afraid to disappoint Him. Have we mocked Jesus? We have, in our unconverted life, because we said we didn't need Him. Have you seen Jesus? Every time you saw your dad and mom pray, you saw Him. We are given so much, and asked so little. If we are not giving our hearts to Jesus, we are delivering Him to the cross. But no words of condemnation need be in our vocabulary if we walk with Him in humility. Where is Jesus in our lives? Walking beside and embracing us as a brother, or is He just a picture being led away to the cross? Let's hope He is right beside us.

Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) assisted Saturday evening with the testimonies and Sunday with the baptisms. He mentioned that the path has been laid; come to the Lord and taste and see because today is the day of grace. For the benefit of the many guests he gave a brief summary of conversion. We must believe there is a God Who sent His Son Jesus and that changes must take place at the time we become accountable, recognize ourselves as sinners, repent and get a new heart and mind. Confession of

sins is necessary so they have no more power over us, make all things right, and when we receive peace, we are a candidate for baptism. In baptism we become a brother or sister to Jesus and member of the congregation. In the prayer of consecration, the Holy Spirit is received and sealed into the heart to walk faithfully for the rest of our lives.

"Behold I come quickly"...we think this is far away but it could be today. We are unable to understand why Adam and Eve sinned, but Satan deceived them first and then told them a lie. From that point on, humanity started to die, not live forever, and that sin carried on through the ages to today. Man is not getting better and better, but degrades more and more because of sin, which bears a high cost. But today is the day of grace. Unrepented sin keeps us out of Heaven; today we have the opportunity to conquer it, be born again and have a home in Heaven. We are sinners by nature and when sin is involved, we try to hide it. But God knows our hearts. Adam tried to put the blame on Eve; God held him responsible. He pronounced judgment but also gave a way out by Jesus coming into this world and allowing Himself to be crucified, pay the price of sin and be the victor over sin and death. We experience trials in our lives because of sin. Once the trump sounds, it will be forever too late. What have we accomplished for Jesus? Is our name written there? Was it ever there? Or has it been blotted out? (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer on Genesis 3 and Rev. 22 on 10/26).

Bro. Ken Hoerr meditated on Rev. 16 in the afternoon. God is not only a loving God but also executes judgment. If you go into eternity with your sins, you remain in a fixed position of condemnation. He is our Creator and ultimate Judge Who

can only accept holy people. We don't need to hear what's pleasant to the ear, but that which is convicting. Do we have our reservation for the final flight from earth to Heaven to meet our Lord?

We sincerely thank the above mentioned brothers and also Elder Bros. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bros. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) for bringing us the inspired Word of God.

We share the joys of the marriage announcements of Sis. Jill Meister to Bro. Jesse Schroeder (Roanoke, IL); and Bro Matt Ginzler to Sis. Christine Romersberger (Gridley, IL) with them and their happy families.

Hospital patients were Sis. Gladys Haefli, Brenda Hoerr, Betty Miller, Mildred Stichling, Bro. Art Hermann and Luke Hoerr (4). Luke had to be rushed to Intensive Care with a respiratory virus but feels fine again. At a traumatic time like this, we especially treasure the love and support of our brethren and Bro. Jack and Sis. Jody Hoerr wish to express their deep gratitude for the many prayers offered on behalf of Luke.

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## ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Sheryl Martin**

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

*Isaiah 9:6*

As the Christmas season approaches, let us always remember the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour,

Jesus Christ.

On October 26, several from our congregation attended the wedding in Rittman, OH of Bro. Chad Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) and Sis. Laura Lee Riley (Mr. and Mrs. Dale Riley, Seville, OH) as they were united together in marriage. They plan to make their home in the Bradford area. May God bless this couple as they begin their lives together in faith and strive to do His will. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (I Cor 13:13).

We rejoice that God has blessed two families with sons on October 24. Korbin Lee was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara Wagenbach. He is welcomed home by his brothers and sister: Keith, Kent, Stacey, and Kaleb. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN).

Ethan Ray was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys Martin. His sisters, Michelle and Melinda, welcome him home. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Edna (the late Bro. Ray) Martin and Bro. Ray (the late Sis. Eunice) Klumpp (Bradford, IL). May God grant these two couples His direction and guidance as they raise their children.

In sorrow and pain  
Thy trust do retain  
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.  
*Zion's Harp #46*

On October 30, our dear friend, Marian Riley, passed away. We wish to extend our prayer of love and sympathy to her husband, Ken, and children, Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. John) Wieland and Ken II.

Our hearts were saddened in the sudden death of Bro. Dale Blunier who passed away from life to eternity on November 12. We wish to

express our sincere sympathy to his dear family, Sis. Joyce, Bro. Darin (Sis. Keri), Sis. Janel, Bro. Doug, David and Dustin, in the loss of their loved one. May both of these families feel the comforting and strengthening hand of the Lord in the time of their sorrow.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to Sis. Debbie (Bro. Brent) Graham, Sis. Arlene Martin, Candice Herrman (Sis. Jill), and Bro. Leonard (Sis. Marie) Menold during the time of their illness.

Our friend, Kirk Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene), has turned his life from the world and has made a beginning in the Lord through repentance. May God grant Kirk mercy and grace as he strives to do God's will.

### *Christmas Carol*

Our song of praise to God ascend,  
And there with angels' voices blend.  
The day of gladness now is here;  
Sing hallelujah with good cheer.  
Hallelujah!

From Heaven in the dark of night,  
He came and brought eternal light.  
Behold now how this light divine  
Throughout this pilgrim's dale doth  
shine.  
Hallelujah!

And in the Father's image pure  
He came earth's trials to endure.  
He leads us with a gentle hand  
To that long cherished, happy land.  
Hallelujah!

He, who in glory there doth reign,  
Did dwell on earth as humble man;  
That through His noble sacrifice,  
We find the path to paradise.  
Hallelujah!

And when our days here are  
complete,  
As brethren, we our Lord shall meet,  
And be transformed before His sight  
To glory and celestial light.  
Hallelujah!

*Zion's Harp #7*

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

Bro. John and Sis. Jill Bradle were blessed with a baby girl, Mindy Renee. Mindy has a sister, Heidi, and a brother, Jason, to love and share God's blessings with. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle and Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL).

Kevin and Sis. Janice Braker have also been blessed with a baby girl, Kelly Marie. Kelly was welcomed home by her brothers, Jon and Jake. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Michaleen Braker and Leon and Nina Rogers. May God bless these young families as they love and care for their children.

How thankful we were to report in last month's Silver Lining that Elsie Herbst Zimmerman was baptized on October 9. Just two weeks later on October 23, at the age of 89, our Sis. Elsie passed from this life into eternity. We extend sympathy to her family and praise God for her salvation.

How thankful we are to report that souls are turning to the Lord in repentance. Michael Bates (Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane), David Brooks, Matt Stoller (Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg) and Bethany Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Mary) have made a new beginning in the Lord and we wish them God's grace as they take this important step in life.

We wish to remember those in our congregation who have spent time in the hospital or have had surgery. We are prayerful for Bro. Bob Hohulin (Sis. Marie), Bro. Don Sauder (Sis. Wilma), Bro. Jerry Getz, Bro. Dave Fischer, Bro. Les Luginbuhl (Sis. Judy) and Ed Hodel.

November 16 was the engagement announcement of Bro. Zach Sauder and Sis. Kasey O'Shea. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni Sauder and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Chicago, IL). May God

grant His grace and blessing on these two and their families as plans are made to establish a new Christian home.

We thank Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for visiting us this month and preaching the gospel. Also, Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) who presented our Bible Study. Bro. Wayne spoke on greed in the life of a Christian. Thank you for the encouragement and kindly admonition to help us walk closer to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**  
**Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb**

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound. For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands."

*Psalm 92:1-4*

How thankful we were to have Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN) minister God's Word to us. We pray God's richest blessings on them and their wives for their labors of love.

Our dear Sis. Rose Knapp was called "Home" to be with our Heavenly Father October 18. We extended our deepest sympathy to her sisters, nieces, nephews, and many friends who will miss her.

We had loved ones who have recently spent time in the hospital this past month: Sis. Elsie Sinn, Bro. Reuben Schweigert, Bro. Glenn (Sis. Dorothy) Stuber, and Sis. Margaret Koch. Ruth (Fred) Endress is

recuperating at home after a serious fall. We pray God will provide and bless each of our loved ones according to their various needs.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Blunier, along with Luke, Sarah, and Judah welcome Ethan Isaiah born October 7 to their family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts (Forrest, IL) and Wayne and Sis. Marjorie Blunier (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Cathy Koch are thankful parents of Andrew Charles born November 15, and is welcomed home by sisters, Lori, Heidi, Elsie and Angela; grandparents, Bro. Robert and Sis. Doris Baer and Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch. May God's richest blessings be with our loved ones as they love and teach their children.

*Notes of Thanks:*

We, the family of Rose Knapp, wish to thank her church family for their prayers, visits, cards, food and donations in kind expression of sympathy. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and kindness; all was very much appreciated.

*The Rose Knapp Family*

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all of you for making our 50th wedding anniversary so enjoyable, with so many cards, gifts, and family dinner. It was a day we will long cherish and remember. God bless you all.

*Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Schweigert*

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
**Sue Ruppert**  
**Denise Romersberger**

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."



*II Corinthians 4:16*

It is amazing what we spend in this country to make ourselves look good. People buy fitness machines to build up a beautiful body and cosmetics to cover up imperfections. Some people even go to the extent of having cosmetic surgery.

In the above verse, the Apostle Paul has a comment about the way we see ourselves and a commentary with a solution to what we see. Paul also encourages us to focus on the inside. Christians grow from the inside out. As God's Spirit imparts our heart with the message of love, forgiveness, and acceptance in Christ, we are renewed daily. Paul says we are to look not on the outside or what is seen, but on what is unseen, "for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Cor. 4:18)

We need to set aside time for spiritual growth. Read God's Word daily, take time for personal and family prayer, go to church, and thank God for the gift of His Son as well as all the many other blessings God bestows upon us. We should not fret that we are growing older. We should rejoice that, by God's grace, we are growing stronger in faith and in devotion to Him.

Our congregation has been uplifted and is rejoicing because of God's direction. Two of our brothers have been added to those who minister to us. Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie) and Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda) now speak to us from the pulpit. We will continue to pray that the Lord will work through them, and that they and their families will feel the support of all of us.

Guest ministers who shared with us this month were Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and Bros. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), who pre-

sented our monthly Bible Study.

A couple of new faces have arrived to bless their families. Jason Robert Folkerts is the newest member of the Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda Folkerts' family. Sisters, Amy and Rachel, and brother Jared welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand (Eureka, IL) and Ron and Dorothy Folkerts (Washington). Trent Carl Wyss is the second son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane. Troy is the proud older brother. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Rachel Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss.

Undergoing surgery this month was Sis. Sue Ruppert, who is now recuperating at home. Sue cherishes the prayers and other support that the church family continues to uphold her with.

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**

**Kim Maller**

**Trudy Eisenmann**

As the snow drops from the sky, I am reminded of the verse from Isaiah 45:8 "Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the Lord have created it." God's work outside our homes and inside our hearts are both wonderfully amazing!

We appreciate the Lord's work in many lives. We thank Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) for sharing with our congregation in the marriage of Sis. Jamie Johnloz (Gary Johnloz and Candy Inskeep) and Bro. Luke Rinkenberger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne) on November 16. Also united in marriage on November 9 was Sis. Deb Neuenchwander (Bro. Charles and Sis. Doris) to Bro. Gary Garman of Leo,

IN (Louis and Sis. Ruth Garman). We rejoice with them all.

Desiring salvation in their lives are Andy Yergler (Bro. Kim and Sis. Sue), Kurt Klopfenstein (Bro. John and Sis. Linda), Jeff Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda), Robbie Parker (Karen Bailey), and Kyle Pfister (Bro. Chris and Sis. Shari).

Bro. Tim Franklin is announcing his engagement to Sis. Stacey Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy, Bluffton North, IN).

Our congregation has added three more young ones: Jesse Lee, son of Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn Gerber, on October 26; James Kolten, son of Bro. Doyle and Sis. Lisa Weil, on October 28; and Calvin Gregory, son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Katie Isch, on November 12; God's wonderful creations!

Our prayers are extended for Bro. Hal Kipfer (Sis. Janean), Bro. Dan Lantz (Sis. Gladys), Sis. Elizabeth Schwartz (Bro. Kenneth), Bro. Ezra Reinhard, Bro. Bill Neuenschwander (Sis. Mildred), Sis. Helen Stoller, and Joel Reinhard (Bro. John and Sis. Pam).

Merry Christmas to you all!!

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH**  
**Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen**

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, wherunto thou has attained."

*I Timothy 4:6*

We extend our loving thanks to visiting Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) who ministered words of truth to us this past month. May God bless Bro. Dan and his wife, Sis. Jenna.

What a joy to have souls turn from the sin of this world and give

their hearts and lives to our Lord and Saviour. Darren Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois) and Kent Rockwell (Mr. and Mrs. Kevin King) are both repenting. May they feel our love and support as they begin a new life in Christ.

It was a privilege to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of five souls. Our new brothers in faith are Bro. Seth Fischer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Chad Aeschliman (Bro. Alan and Sis. Deb), Bro. Zachary Geisel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy), and Bro. Seth Drayer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Jan). We also welcome our new Sis. Megan Anderson, a close friend of Bro. Denny, Sis. Jan and their family. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) for assisting Bro. Phil on this special weekend.

October 5 was the wedding day for Bro. Bruce Drayer and Sis. Heather Brudi. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Jay Brudi. May Bruce and Heather feel the Lord's blessing as they become "heirs together of the grace of life:" (I Peter 3:7)

Three families welcomed little ones into their family circles this month. Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val Kipfer are the grandparents of Luke Josiah, born October 6 to Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer (Leo, IN). Nicole Marie, born October 8 to Bro. John and Sis. Tammy Baumgartner, is the precious little sister welcomed by big brothers, Chase and Quinn. Grandparents are Bro. Truman and Sis. Marge Baumgartner and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline Gerber, both of Bluffton North. October 30 marked the arrival of Graham Burke, baby son of Bro. Jason and Sis. Mandy Troxel. He is welcomed by siblings, Hilary and Evan, and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Jo Troxel.

Our prayers have been with Bro.

Steve Ringger who had back surgery and little Connor Pfister (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherri) who was diagnosed with high blood sugar. We continue to pray for Bro. Ivan Frauhiger.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Baumgartner have recently joined our congregation. We gladly welcome them and their children, Blane, Brendan and Carly. Brad's parents are Bro. Galen and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner of Bluffton North.

In contrast, our congregation said good-bye to Bro. Jon and Sis. Tammy Leman and their daughters, Elsie and Lillian, who have moved to the state of Washington for Bro. Jon's work. We will miss them, but we pray that they will continue to feel the Lord's guidance.

On the weekend of September 21, we hosted the Jr.-Sr. high school get together for converted young people. It was a wonderful time for spiritual growth and fellowship.

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

*Ephesians 5:20*

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### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."

—Charles Wesley

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

*Romans 5:10*

The birth of Jesus on this earth must have been bittersweet to His Heavenly Father. Only He realized what a supreme sacrifice it was at

that time. But to send His Son to these people who would scorn and mock Him, beat Him, and spit upon Him would also be reconciling those who loved Him to Himself. "Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth" the song goes on to say, so that we may live with Him eternally.

The joy of that reconciliation has been found recently by Phil Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret), Stuart Gutwein (Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen) and Nathan Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) as they were announced for peace this month. We pray for their continued growth and strength as they take their place in the body of Christ.

We rejoice with Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz and their children, Sis. Cheree, Jordan, Mahlia, Obed, Ezra, Simeon and Selena as they welcomed Mieke Joy into their family on November 5. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Nate Gutwein and Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz. May God continue to bless their open, loving hearts as they raise their family.

The engagement of Heather Gutwein (Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen) to Eric Rodriguez (Mr. and Mrs. Victor Rodriguez) has been announced. We pray for God's grace and blessing as they walk this path together.

Those who spent some time in the hospital this past month were Sis. Velda Overmyer, Sis. Louise Onken and Erica Putt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna). We are thankful for their continued strength and healing.

*Note of Thanks:*

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all you loved ones for the lovely cards you sent me for my 80th birthday. God bless you all.

*Priscilla Anliker*

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## INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

### Lynn Dotterer

Congratulations to our Bro. Matt Ackerman and Sis. Missy Stratton who were married in her home church of Taylor, MO on October 5. They are making their home in Greensburg, IN and are assembling with us in Indianapolis.

On October 25, we hosted an outreach weekend. Many young college students came and helped our Indianapolis community by painting, raking leaves, cleaning windows and more. Jesus says in Matthew 25:40, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Bro. Nathan Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Wendy Mathis shared their testimony on October 25 and were baptized the following day. It is exciting to know that the angels in Heaven are rejoicing over these two souls who have chosen to serve our awesome God. We thank Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) for sharing the day with us.

We thank Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames of Apostolic Christian Family Services who came to Indianapolis on three consecutive Wednesdays and conducted a marriage seminar for us.

On November 2-3, the Princeville, IL choir hosted the Indianapolis choir along with Taylor, MO and Valparaiso, IN churches. All from Indy who attended had a wonderful time fellowshiping and singing with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

On November 3, little Samuel Graham was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Greg and Sis. Lisa Stieglitz.

## INDIANA, LACROSSE

### Anna Marie Stoller

A poem by James W. Riley hangs

on a wall at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, and it reads:

Dear Lord! Kind Lord!  
Gracious Lord, I pray  
Thou wilt look on all I love  
Tenderly today!  
Weed their hearts of weariness;  
Scatter every care  
Down a wake of angels' wings  
Winnowing the air.  
Bring unto the sorrowing  
All release from pain;  
Let the lips of laughter  
Overflow again..."

Riley Children's Hospital is a large medical facility full of sick children, and one of those precious little children was recently from our own church. Rachel Feller, twin of Hannah and daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie, submitted to surgery for a malignant tumor. She has returned home, attended a day of kindergarten, and we thank God for a good prognosis. Prayer and concern will still be needed as Rachel begins radiation treatments.

Jenny Massner (Bro. Randy and Sis. MaryLynn) had a short stay in the hospital and is feeling better. Sis. Lina Bock is in our prayers as she recovers from a stroke.

During this holiday season, families anticipate joining together for fellowship, reminiscing, and happy times. Along with the joy and comfort of family togetherness will drop some tears of sadness during the holidays this year. God has allowed a vacant chair and a silenced voice in the family circle of Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea Frank, because Sis. Lea was suddenly called Home to her eternal rest. Sis. Shirley, Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn (South Bend, IN), Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan, Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla (LaCrosse), Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine (Eureka, IL), Sis. Barb and Bro. Bill Stoller (Latty, OH) and Sis. Deb and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) will deeply miss

their loving, peaceful mother. She and Bro. Ed taught their children the way of salvation, and she was blessed to experience all of her children finding peace with God. The grandchildren have begun following this example, and Sis. Lea often expressed her love and prayers for her family. Our heartfelt prayers are with Bro. Ed, his children and grandchildren as they adjust in the difficult days ahead.

Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), along with Bro. Todd Feller, conducted the funeral service for Sis. Lea. Bro. Ervin opened the Holy Word of God to Proverbs 31, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil." Those who knew Sis. Lea and loved her agree that she was priceless! God blessed us with a precious gem and a wonderful example of a Godly woman. Bro. Ed remarked, "She always stood by me. She never failed me."

The absence of Sis. Lea's quiet, solid, comforting presence will be mourned by the entire congregation. Sis. Lea often displayed her love by a gentle arm around the shoulder, a soft smile and a few words. At this time of Thanksgiving, we give God thanks for those priceless "Mothers" of faith who have weathered many storms and held fast in their faith and devotion to God.

Farewell, farewell, let me go on  
That endless rest to share;  
Be faithful till the Saviour calls,  
Farewell, till we meet there!

*Hymns of Zion #194*

Visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Bros. Larry Wenninger



(Latty, OH), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

Joining the warmth and love in the family circle of Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold is their first grandchild, Tyra Jean, born to Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy Knobloch of Lester, IA.

Bro. Ned and Sis. Natalie Stoller are graduating from college in December. "Give me wisdom, Lord...that I may see the hidden path Thou has set for me." (Edna Jaques)

A navy blue, wool winter coat was accidently taken from the coat rack after Sis. Lea Frank's funeral. Perhaps someone reading this will discover they have the wrong coat!

To each one who reads the Silver Lining, we extend our wishes that you will feel the deep peace and love that came to this earth when Jesus was born. May you feel blessed until your cups "runneth over"!

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### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We welcome Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand and their little son, Demetrius. They came here from Denver, CO to serve at Gateway Woods and it is a joy to have them in our church family.

We enjoyed hosting the "Singles over 25" fellowship, October 25 and 26. The exhortation on Saturday afternoon was on "Becoming Gold", and to mold our lives as related in Colossians 3. Speakers were Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Brace Wieland (Leo) and John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). Bro. John Stoller was moderator. Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene were among the many who stayed over for Sunday. It was a blessed weekend and we thank Bro. Jim for sharing the Word with us.

We were blessed November 2, when the group that went to Israel

together this summer, came for a reunion. Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) and Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) were among the group. We appreciated the messages shared from God's Word.

Bro. Gary Garman and Sis. Deb Neuenschwander were united in marriage on November 9. Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) had the wedding service and Bro. John Stoller sealed the vows. Bro. Gary is the son of Louis and Sis. Ruth, and Sis. Deb's parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris (Bluffton, IN). The newlyweds have returned from their honeymoon and live in Fort Wayne, IN. Our prayer is the Lord's grace continue to provide for their every need.

Bro. Neal Widmer was here for our Wednesday evening Topical Bible Study. Bro. Neal and Sis. Kristine came from Wolcott, IN and he spoke on "Grace, Faith and Works". He said, "Grace is of God, faith is of man, and works the product of man's faith in God's grace" and compared these three elements to electricity. There will be no light (works) unless we are plugged (faith) into the source of power (God's grace). Thank you, Bro. Neal, for your insights; it was an encouragement.

On November 15, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. John Stoller served us Holy Communion. It was very impressive as Bro. Phil read and meditated on Isaiah 53. It was a time of renewal which was enhanced by the beautiful snow fall, our first this season.

It was good to have Sis. Velma Bollier (Jack) back in church, and she was happy to attend again, after being confined at home with heart problems, and ill effects from the medication.

Sis. Mary Lantz was 93 on August 30. She lives at the Cedars Nursing

Home and is always cheerful when we visit her, even though in poor health. She does go out with her children and grandchildren on some holidays, but is pretty much confined. Her husband, Bro. Dave, passed away many years ago, but she still misses him. He died in her arms on the way to the hospital. She often says how much she appreciates her faith in the Lord. We pray the Lord's comforting Spirit be with her.

A time for giving and receiving. When is it not a time for giving and receiving? A story from Reminisce Books—"The Christmases we used to know", "Bighearted Parents' Kindness Never Forgotten" by Vivian Webb:

There were 10 kids in our family and we were not well off. When Dad was injured in a farm accident and couldn't work for a year, things got even tougher.

One Christmas in the early '60's, when I was about 10, we kids came home from school and found Mom busy baking cakes. She was decorating them with peppermints and other delicious treats we hardly ever saw. In particular, I recall a beautiful coconut cake. We couldn't wait to taste all those goodies.

But then Mom explained that none of it was for us. In the next valley was a poor family, she explained. She said the family's father was out of work and the mother wasn't able to take care of her family because of nerve problems.

I got to go with Dad to deliver our truckload of goodies. The kids were as excited as if we were Santa himself.

About 25 years later, I was driving a school bus and saw the mother of one of my riders in her yard. I recognized her as part of the family my parents had helped so long ago and mentioned to her daughter that I used to know her mom.

The next day, the woman was waiting for me. She told me that she had never forgotten our family. "If it hadn't been for your mom and dad, we would've gone hungry that Christmas," she explained. At that moment, I was awfully proud of my poor but bighearted parents.

May all our hearts be filled with a giving spirit this holiday season. The Lord bless you all.

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**  
**Renee Beer - Linda Beer**

Give me a spirit of praise, dear Lord,  
That I may adore your name,  
Sing praise from the depths of a  
grateful heart  
To the One who is always the same.  
—*Dame*

We were blessed when the Washington, IL choir brought forth beautiful songs of praise and honor to our God. We thank them for their effort of love.

Those who have faced illness, injury or hospitalization were Sis. Carol (Bro. Alvin) Haab, Sis. Connie (Bro. Steve) Beer, Bro. Marvin Wieland, Everette (Sis. Leona) Price, Sis. Rachel (Bro. Sam) Beer, Marlene (Brian) Stewart and son Dustin, Ray (Rosemary) Piper, Regg (Bro. Fred) Beer, and Bro. Lee (Sis. Sandy) Beer. We pray God's healing hand can restore our loved ones who still suffer. We know God's heart is tender toward the downtrodden and defeated. He knows our name and numbers our tears. (Psalm 56:8). Sometimes God offers no explanation or interpretation of His response to our request and cries except to say "This is my will for you."

Brian Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) and Mandy Parker were wed on November 8. We pray they will feel God's hand of blessing on

their lives together.

We thank Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Tom Troxel (La-Crosse, IN) for sharing God's Word with us. May we hunger and thirst after His ways that He would not only be our Saviour, but the Lord of our lives in every action and thought.

We look forward to hearing the testimony and the baptism of Kari (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) Beer. We know the greatest distance in this entire world is from the head to the heart. It is not enough to know we need God (in our head), but we need to put into action (with our heart) that complete surrender and turning around as we yield to God. We have all been born of the flesh, but God continues to call asking that we be born again by His Spirit. When we allow the Spirit to fill us and control us, a wonderful peace fills our being.

What will you do with Jesus?  
Neutral you cannot be.  
Someday your heart will be asking,  
What will He do with me.  
—*anon.*

Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere.

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**  
**Patti Bahler**

A story I read recently said Charles Spurgeon and his wife would sell, but refused to give away, the eggs their chickens laid. Even close relatives were told, "You may have them if you pay for them." As a result, some people labeled the Spurgeons greedy and grasping.

They accepted the criticisms without defending themselves, and only after Mrs. Spurgeon died was the full story revealed: All the profits from the sale of eggs went to

support two elderly widows. Because the Spurgeons were unwilling to let their left hand know what the right hand was doing (Matthew 6:3), they endured the attacks in silence.

As we approach this Christmas season, may the Holy Spirit move our hearts to freely give not only to family and friends, but to those around us in need. Our Lord instructs us in Matthew 10:8, "freely ye have received, freely give." May this be our mission this holiday season and in the year ahead as we thank Him for the free gift we have received.

Several ministers have visited us this month and freely given of themselves to further the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), and Bros. DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA).

On November 15, Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) came to assist Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler in reading the Memorandum to our congregation. Many thanks to these brothers for graciously sharing these exhortations with us.

On October 18, Lee Waibel (Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue) and Jodie Moore were united in marriage. We wish them the Lord's blessings and guidance as they begin their life together.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori Scheitlin and their children in the death of his father, Bro. Kenneth Scheitlin (Burlington, IA). As we share in the sorrow and loss of Bro. Ken, we rejoice he now resides in his Heavenly Home.

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**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**  
**Marci Neuenschwander**  
**Sue Beebe**

Christmas is that special time of year when we celebrate the Saviour's birth. This holiday has always filled me with a sense of wonder as I think of the purpose for which Christ came to earth. To think that He loved us enough to live among us, die for us, and offer us the gift of salvation is sometimes difficult to understand. May we never take for granted this marvelous Gift.

In spite of the hustle and bustle of this season, I pray that each of us will find time to thank God for the many blessings He's given us. Family, friends and material comforts are important, but not as much as eternal life. For this we say, "Thank You, Lord. Amen."

Thank you to the Latty, OH congregation for lending their services this past month.

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### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

#### Cheryl Bucher - Ken Susdorf

"There are friendships that we cherish..." Our Valparaiso congregation was blessed to be invited to Princeville, IL for the weekend. Many of our congregation participated. When we left on Sunday, our cups were overflowing! Everyone was so warm, the food was delicious, and the Christian fellowship was such a blessing. It was truly our privilege to have been invited and we appreciate each effort made on our behalf. May God bless you!

Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia Thomas have gained a new son-in-law as Jeff Nehl and their daughter, Summer, were united in marriage. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Our thoughts are with Sis. Aldine Frieden (Bro. Roy) on the passing of Sis. Aldine's brother, Dick Heinold. May God be your Comforter and peace at this difficult time.

As we approach Christmas, may we each remember the true inter-

pretation of the season. Where would any of us be without the birth of our precious Saviour and Lord Jesus? May we all feel His nearness in an extra special way this Christmas season.

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### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

#### Beckie Lehman - Jodi Bahler

Once again a year draws to a close and we anticipate a new year, clean and fresh, ready to serve the Lord. Before the old year passes we have the joy of commemorating Christ's birth. May His love bless us during this special season as we remember the rich gift of His Son.

We were blessed in this past month to enjoy many visiting ministers. Those who came and served so willingly were Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) also served in assisting with the Memorandum reading. We are thankful for each who lent themselves and wish God's blessings on them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Reva Waibel (Bro. Leon) who has been hospitalized this past month. We pray that God will help her through the long hours of recovery.

We rejoice with Derek and Lee Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell), as they have found peace with God. We look forward to hearing their testimonies of faith and, Lord willing, witnessing their baptisms. May God's guiding hand be with them.

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### IOWA, BURLINGTON

#### Monica Eisenmann

#### Edith Massner

Our dear Bro. Kenny Scheitlin was called Home to rest by his Heavenly Father on October 22 after over

a four-year battle with cancer. His patience through it was an inspiration to all of us! We extend our deepest sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Charity, and family: two daughters, Sis. Lynn Townsend (Bloomfield, IA), Lucinda Larson (Burlington); and four sons, Bro. Rolyce (Remington, IN), Clair (West Burlington), Bruce (Burlington) and Rodney (Rockford, IL); three sisters, Sis. Mildred Frank and Sis. Lucille Rauhaus (Oakville) and Sis. Arlene Weissinger (Burlington); two brothers, Don (Denver, CO) and Rollan (Mediapolis, IA).

Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bros. Paul Eisenmann and Fred Eberhardt (Burlington) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) shared the funeral services. Bro. Kenny was the son of Bro. Gustav and Sis. Elizabeth Messner Scheitlin. He married Charity Nicholson on October 25, 1952. He will be missed by our small Burlington congregation.

We wish God's blessings and protection on little Samantha Nicole born to Christina Beyer. Grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Barbara Beyer (Burlington). Another precious bundle arrived in the home of Kirk and Caroline, Kyler and Kody Massner. He was named Kace Daniel. Grandparents are Ken and Rose Massner (Burlington). May the miracle of birth cause us all to glorify God!

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### IOWA, ELGIN

#### Gloria Frieden

Christmas, according to my dictionary, has this meaning: "The yearly celebration of the birth of Christ. A time marked by special church services, sending of greetings and giving of gifts." Since it truly is a gift giving season, I decided to see what God's Word says on this subject.



1. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

2. "He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity." (Romans 12:8)

3. "God loveth a cheerful giver." (II Cor. 9:7)

4. "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack." (Proverbs 28:27)

5. "Give alms of such things as ye have." (Luke 11:41)

6. "If thy enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat..." (Proverbs 25:21)

7. "He that hath two coats let him impart to him that hath none, and he that hath meat, let him do likewise." (Luke 3:11)

8. "Freely ye have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8)

9. "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." (I Cor. 13:3)

10. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine  
Lord, I will forever and always be thine.  
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,  
Baptized with thy spirit, thou makest me new.

After hearing his testimony of faith, we welcome our friend, Gene Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Lav-erne), as our brother in faith. We know God will go with him as he now goes into battle for his Lord.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). May God richly bless them for their faithfulness in His service.

## IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Delores Reinhard

Lord God, we honor Thee  
And praise Thy mild compassion,  
That Thou so gracefully  
Dost hear our supplication!  
Thy love is truly great;  
Thy mercies are untold;  
Thou givest food and drink  
For Spirit, flesh and soul.  
*Zion's Harp #13, vs. 1*

When we get up in the mornings, we don't know what the day holds for us. Let us always have a thankful heart for what the Lord has done for us. If we would start to count our blessings and write them all down, we wouldn't get done for a long time. One of those blessings we have to be thankful for are our visiting ministers that come and refresh our hearts with encouragement from God's Word. They are Bros. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). We also want to thank our own home Bro. Brad Funk for his love and efforts in serving us when he has to be alone. May God encourage each one and give strength to those who are entrusted to do God's service.

We have recently concluded listening to the Conference tapes. May each one of us be strengthened as we carry the admonitions in our hearts and strive to do better this coming year. There is so much spiritual food contained in the Conference. I encourage everyone to listen to them.

So now again Thou hast  
To us a blessing given.  
Our handiwork is blest  
By Thy good word from heaven.  
Thou blessest food and drink  
Our needs to satisfy.  
Therefore, we give Thee thanks;  
Our song shall rise on high.  
*Zion's Harp #13, vs. 2*

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Phil Webber and Sis. Jan on the passing away of Phil's aunt, Sis.

Luisa Sununovic, of Stari Banovci, Yugoslavia. Our prayers are with them as they think of loved ones so far away in distant lands.

We rejoice with Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Funk as they have been blessed with their first baby boy, Joel William, born November 14. He is welcomed home by his little sister, Jaelah. Grandparents are Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) and the late Bro. William and Sis. Verl Funk of Garden Grove.

### *Holiday Hurry*

The hurry begins with Thanksgiving  
The flurry that follows it, too  
The awareness of days fast  
approaching,  
The preparedness we all must do.

The scurry is part of the pattern  
The turvy, how topsy it gets  
The hastening of tasks must go  
faster!  
The wasting of time we regret.

The everyday pattern keeps  
changing  
The holiday season is here  
The urging now makes us move  
faster  
The surging of tempers is near.

This hurry-up feeling at Christmas?  
This flurry from country to town?  
This holiday, let's make it different.  
This very day, let's slow it down.

How quiet it is at the manger,  
How calm and how peaceful the  
sight.  
How free from the noise and  
disturbance  
How hushed is the stable this night.

How gentle is Mary, His mother  
How calm Joseph stands at her side  
How peaceful the scene here before  
us  
How placid it makes us inside.

The quiet returns to our living  
The calm and the peace are there,  
too.  
There placidness last to our nature  
Shows softly and quietly through.

What difference such peace and

such blessing.  
 What hope for our hurry-up souls.  
 What quiet and calm such a reaching  
 of ultimate joy. What a goal!

—author unknown

May our hearts see beyond the false brightness of the tinsel, to the only true light, Jesus Christ. We wish each and every one a Blessed Christmas Day!

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### IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharon Gerst

Iowa City has been blessed to have several visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL). We are thankful that God spoke to us through these brothers.

On November 8-9, some of the Lamar single brothers and sisters came to enjoy a weekend of fellowship with us. We appreciated them coming to our little church and staying with us. What a blessed faith we have, that we can feel the same spirit and love with those from afar.

A little bundle of joy has been added to Dan and Ruthann Schrock's family. Anna was born on October 22. Her big brothers are Ryne and Aaron.

This is a season of gift giving. The most precious gift ever given to mankind was God's own son, Jesus Christ. May we all remember that Jesus is the reason for the season, as we celebrate this joyous time.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

*II Corinthians 9:15*

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
**Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold**  
 Feeling that God has directed their lives to be as one, we are happy

to learn of the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Jerry Nohl to Sis. Kristi Kellenberger. Bro. Jerry's parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl (Morris, MN) and Sis. Kristi's parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger. Their marriage date is planned for January 4, 1998.

We are always grateful to hear when souls have turned their lives over to God and have allowed Him to change them. We rejoice with Sally Heyer who has been announced for peace and is awaiting her proving and baptism.

Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy Knoblock are thrilled with the birth of their firstborn on November 9. A sweet little baby girl has arrived and she is named Tyra Jean. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold (LaCrosse, IN).

Many of their relatives and friends helped Emil and Ruby Feucht celebrate 60 years of married life recently. May they enjoy the years together and be blessed with good health in the time to come.

Hospitalized this past month was Sis. Paulina Knobloch. We miss seeing her on Sundays and hope she can join our fellowship before too long. Surgical patients have been Sis. Zelma Knoblock (shoulder replacement) and Bro. Donn Moser (Sis. Joyce).

As this letter is written, we have learned of the sudden and unexpected death of our Bro. Carl Feucht. A complete obituary will be conveyed to you next month.

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### IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach Melody Steiner

Stephanie and Billy Massner are happy to have a new baby brother to love. Jonathan Charles is the new little bundle from Heaven sent into

the hearts and home of Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois Massner. Also thankful for his safe arrival are his grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis Knobloch and Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall. May the Lord be with their family as they strive, with His help, to raise these little ones.

The weekend of November 23, we were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of five dear souls. They were Jaclyn Schaar (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy), Ashley Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy), Laura Siegle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Leann), Brad Schmidgall (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) and Trent Kuntz (Bro. Bob and Sis. Edra). Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) were with us to assist Bro. Ed in this blessed work. How thankful we are to have five precious lambs added to the fold.

We also thank Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) for ministering to us. May the Lord bless him and his family for his labors of love.

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### IOWA, PULASKI Lisa Knecht

There are many things in life  
 we cannot understand,  
 But we must trust God's judgment  
 and be guided by His hand.  
 And all who have God's blessing  
 can rest safely in His care,  
 For He promises safe passage  
 on the wings of faith and prayer.  
 —Helen Steiner Rice

We extend our love and sincere sympathy to Sis. Lynn Townsend, her husband Danny, and their children, during her father Bro. Kenneth Scheitlin's illness and death. We receive much comfort in Psalm 23: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me...and I will dwell in the house of

the Lord for ever.”

As we commemorate Christ's birth, may we, as the shepherds, continue following the star that leads to God above.

Wishing each of you a blessed Christmas!

### IOWA, WEST BEND

#### Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

Our congregation spent a most blessed time the weekend of November 1 and 2. On Saturday night we heard the testimonies of three loved ones and witnessed their baptisms on Sunday. We welcome to our brotherhood Sis. Lyndi Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa), Bro. Matt Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy), and Bro. Gene Butikofer (Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne, Elgin, IA). May the Lord grant them grace and the power of His Holy Spirit to build on no other foundation but Christ the Solid Rock. Among the many visitors were Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), who assisted in this important work, and Bros. Paul Butikofer, Dale Moore and Floyd Frieden, all of Elgin, IA.

Other visiting ministers during the past month were Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN). May God bless them for serving us in the ministry.

It seems our congregation has had its share of hospital patients this past month. Bro. Verner Wirtz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Kent Banwart (Sis. Beth) have been in and are home again. Bro. Fred Wirtz (Sis. Hulda), Bro. Silas Metzger (Sis. Della), Bro. Art Banwart (Madelaine), and Frank Thomann are still hospitalized at this writing. We want to include all of these dear ones in our prayers so that they will feel God's nearness and comforting hand as they endure bodily afflic-

tions.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Melissa Zaugg's home has been blessed with a precious baby girl, named Anna Elizabeth. Big brothers, Colton and Dylan, are thrilled to have a little sister to love. Grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg and Don and Jane Banwart. Anna's great-grandparents are Sis. Frances Zaugg and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr. Best wishes and God's blessings go out to Bro. Dave and Sis. Melissa as they raise their little family. We must all pray earnestly to God every day for direction in teaching these precious children so that some day we can be together in Heaven.

Our hearts were filled with joy to hear that Gwen Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne) has been granted the wonderful peace from God. We pray that she will always rejoice in the Lord and her salvation in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

#### *A Christmas Meditation*

Our thoughts oft return to the day  
long ago  
When Heaven looked down on the  
grief and the woe  
Of a world so estranged from the  
Father above  
That He sent His dear Son in His  
infinite love.

O joy to the world! Fallen men to  
redeem  
The Saviour was born, what a  
wonderful theme!  
This message of love reverberates  
clear  
From Jesus Immanuel, year after  
year.

A personal friendship by prayer  
must be won,  
And pardon by faith from God  
through His Son.  
Though nations reject His true  
peace and good will,  
The hearts of the faithful these  
blessings will fill.

Though old be the world, the years

passed away,  
The joy and the peace of that first  
Christmas day  
Still lingers and fills the Christ-like,  
the pure;  
The joy of the birthday of Christ  
will endure.

The birthday of Jesus has joy for the  
soul,  
And men with the angels His  
praises extol!  
For God in His Son still dwells  
among men;  
All glory to God for this Christmas  
again.

—Bro. Henry Beer

How thankful we are that Christ  
truly does still dwell among men!  
Let us seek to please the One whose  
birthday we are celebrating, and  
bring praise and honor to Him while  
including Him in all our Christmas  
plans and activities.

### JAPAN, SHIODA

#### Reiko Furuya Willis Ehnle

On November 16, Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle preached about "Greetings and Comfort" from the first chapter of II Corinthians.

Paul wrote, "Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." We find the same greetings by Peter in I Peter 1:2, worded as follows: "Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied." Our church has a wonderful and unique custom of saying, "Greetings, Sister" or "Greetings, Brother" (in Japanese, "Aisatsu Moshigemasa"). To add the words that Peter or Paul used, gives an even deeper meaning to our special way of greeting.

The message was also about "Comfort" which is mentioned in verses 3 and 4. The emphasis was on "That we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." We are com-



forted of God because we have peace and are ready to meet Him. With that comfort, we are to comfort others. However, if we have not experienced a trial which someone else is experiencing, we can only wish them God's grace but we cannot say that we know how he or she feels. But we can't give comfort to others if we don't go to be with them, if we don't call them on the telephone, or write to them. It is God's will for us to comfort others so long as we are not bothering them.

At the end of the meeting, we prayed that we would be able to comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

On the same day, November 16, we had our annual business meeting. The meeting was opened with prayer and the reading of I Cor. 14:33, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace." We are reminded that there should be order and self-discipline in the church.

Among other things, it was decided that Sis. Reiko Furuya and Bro. Willis Ehnle would both contribute to the writing of the Shioda news for the Silver Lining.

### **JAPAN, TOKYO**

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

Many in our church celebrated Thanksgiving together in American style at the home of Bro. Andy and Sis. Chris Aberle on November 24. With the American sisters and brothers taking turns at hosting, this is a tradition we have been keeping for many years. It is a special time of fellowship, besides feasting on a meal that is not everyday food for us in Japan.

We had special guests this month from Tremont, IL. Bro. Earl and Sis. Marsha Koch fellowshipped with us on November 9 and enjoyed traveling with the Aberle family, even as far as Hong Kong.

We, Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus, have moved recently and our new address/phone number is below:

2-25-8 Sanda-machi,  
Hachioji, Tokyo, Japan 193-0832  
Tel (from the US)  
+81-426-68-4064  
Tel (from within Japan)  
0426-68-4064  
Fax is same as Tel.

We are enjoying a much larger home than our precious two places. The location is within very reasonable driving distance from Bro. Andrew's parents, plus, closer to both Tokyo and Shioda churches. We feel very blessed as the Lord faithfully continues to provide for our needs.

### **KANSAS, BERN**

#### **Holly Meyer**

#### **Lori Baumgartner**

On a recent trip to a city, I couldn't help but notice the never-ending activity of people coming and going with so many schedules, deadlines, and appointments to meet. Everyone seemed so preoccupied with their own worries and concerns. My mind traveled back 1,997 years to another city—the city of Bethlehem where Joseph and Mary, who was great with child, traveled to be taxed. The city must have been filled with many people from the surrounding towns, as there was no room for them at the inn. No one in that crowded, busy city even realized the wonderful miracle taking place in the humble stable that night, the night that Christ was born. God chose to reveal the good tidings (through His angels) first to the lowly shepherds out on the quiet countryside. And the shepherds made haste to seek out the Christ child in the manger. All of this is really no different today. We must remove ourselves from the hustle

and bustle of life in order for the Lord to speak to us and reveal His promises to us. During this beautiful Christmas season, may we each take the time to remove ourselves from our busy surroundings and praise our Lord for sending His Son to this earth as a baby for the sole purpose of being our Saviour.

We are so thankful for Kimberley Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) who has realized her need for a Saviour and has made a beginning in repentance. We pray that she may be able to lay a firm foundation.

October 25 marked the wedding date of Ryan Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn) and Nicole Stauffer (Robert and Cora, Manitowoc, WI). We welcome Nicole to our congregation and pray that they may feel God's nearness and direction as they establish their home together.

We have appreciated the visiting ministers who have assembled with us and shared God's Word with us: Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Ministering Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) was here on Saturday, November 8, to present a marriage enrichment seminar entitled "Greater Love". May the Lord bless each one for their willingness to serve and for making the effort to come to our area.

We rejoice with Roger and Sis. Liz Brey who on November 7 were blessed with twins, Nolan William and Nicole Elizabeth. The happy grandparents are Dale and Dorothy Brey and Harvey and JoAnn Hartter, all of Sabetha.

Sarah Popkess, her husband Ed, their children, Hunter and Hogan, and her parents, Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm, are in need of our prayers. Sarah was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. At the time of this writing, she is undergoing tests in New York City. She is



expected to have brain surgery later this week. We do not know what the future holds for Sarah and her family, but we just pray that they may feel the Lord's nearness.

Bro. William Metzger has had to spend time in the hospital. We are thankful that he is back home.

We are presently listening to the tapes from our Brotherhood Conference held in Gridley, IL. Words can hardly express the gratitude we feel that our rich heritage has been preserved for us. Despite the evil around us, let us each do our part to hold fast to our faith that we may pass on the "Faith of our Fathers" to our next generation. What greater gift could we give to our children?

We rejoice with Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucy Rokey who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. We are thankful that God has blessed them with a long and happy marriage. May He continue with them throughout their remaining time together.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank all of the beloved brethren who remembered us with cards, flowers, gifts, or phone calls on our 60th wedding anniversary. You helped to make it a special day. God bless you all.

*Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucy Rokey*

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**KANSAS, KIOWA**

**Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr**

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

*Luke 2:11*

May every heart be warmed with the love of Christ and filled with thankfulness to our Heavenly Father. And may we share these gifts not only in this season but also in

the coming year.

Lord willing, our Sunday School has planned to go caroling and also to have a program to celebrate the birth of our Saviour with our church.

May the Lord bless each of you this Christmas season.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

*Luke 2:14*

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Mary Kay Wenger  
Brenda Grimm**

Babies will bring special joy in the homes this Christmas season of several families among us.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jean Wenger were blessed with a daughter, Heidi Jean, on October 23. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nancy Bachtold (Fairbury, IL) and the late Sis. Viola Bachtold.

Paul and Sharon Mills are grateful parents of a son, Levi Paul, born October 25. Welcoming a new grandson are Bro. Walter and Sis. Mildred Strahm.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Mary Plattner and Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte Aberle have a new granddaughter, Courtney Marie Plattner, born October 28 to Steve and Becky Plattner and Kelly (10) and Megan (2).

Sophia Brownlee, age 6, is excited to announce she has a baby sister named Lillian Marie who arrived November 7. Happy parents are Steve and Sis. Selena Brownlee. Bro. Larry and Sis. Linda Bailey and Jim and Mildred Brownlee are thankful for their new granddaughter.

Trisha Kellenberger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn) and Matthew Gibson (Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gibson,

Ozawkie, KS) announce their engagement. They plan to be married on June 6, 1998.

Bro. Gene Kellenberger (Sis. Marian), Sis. Irene Aberle and Sis. Mary Aberle had surgery this month. We pray for a full recovery.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Charles and Sis. Esther Terry on the passing of his sister, Elta Bloomcamp.

On October 29, Sis. Leona Kraft passed away at the nursing home where she resided for many years. We extend sympathy to her niece, Sis. Caroline Banwart.

We appreciated having in our midst ministering Bros. Glen Funk and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO).

We are listening to the Conference tapes from the general Conference. May we be more appreciative of the faithfulness of the ones who have gone on before us and strive to uphold our most precious faith.

We have discontinued our Sunday evening singings until after Easter and will again resume with Wednesday evening services after Thanksgiving.

May each one have a blessed new year.

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**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Marla Stoller**

What an encouragement to witness answered prayers! We rejoice with our new convert, Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger, West Bend, IA), as she begins the beautiful life of serving our Almighty God. As I look out of my window at the snowflakes peacefully floating down from the heavens, I am reminded of a poem I got as a convert:

Your life lies before you as drifts of

pure white snow,  
Be careful how you tread it, for  
every step will show.  
—author unknown

We are thankful for the ministers who have willingly traveled to share His precious Word with us. Encouraging us to stand fast through temptation and trial were Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS). May the Lord bless each one for helping us along the pathway of life.

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### KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

The weekend of November 15-16 held special blessings for our congregation. Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) was present to direct Katie Wertz's testimony and baptism and now she is our sister in faith. We were blessed with a busload of visitors from West Bend, IA as well as from other of our churches where Katie's decision brought joy. We especially thank Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan for their sacrifice of love and time in the interest of our Wichita church.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline Carnahan's son, Nathan, was able to come home for several weeks. Nathan's health problems seem to be stabilized and he and his wife, Rhiannon, have returned to the military base in Hawaii. Also, I'd like to belatedly mention that their son, Jason, was married to Jenny Barnes on October 4. Jason and Jenny reside in Paulding, OH. These families are dear to us and we pray for God's working in their lives.

Another late report relates to the birth of Ian Paul Reimschisel on September 18. He is the son of Mark and Lynnette and the first grandson

of Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel.

As was reported last month in the Gateway Woods article, Sis. Missy Frieden has been employed as the full-time teacher for their In-Grounds Education Program. We will miss Sis. Missy in Wichita but we certainly wish her God's richest blessing in this endeavor.

Bro. Virgil Barth underwent major surgery on October 29. The Sunday before, Bro. Virgil selected the song, "I need the prayers of those I love." That afternoon he offered the closing prayer in which he expressed thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father. One could sense his humble sincerity and gratitude for God's working in his life. Today, I found a note on the bulletin board from Virgil and Betty saying that he is improving each day and hopes to be with us soon.

Bro. George Greiner's strength is succumbing to physical infirmities. Our prayers are for comfort to him as well as to Sis. Ann as she and the Hospice workers minister to his needs.

On a recent Sunday, the ministering brother was speaking of temptations. As he pointed out, according to James 1:13, God does not do the tempting. He is the remedy when Satan strikes with his deception. May we ever be on guard.

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### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug and Rebecca Germann

How quickly the days pass and another article for the Silver Lining is due, when it seemed like the last one was just put through the fax machine. As we gather our thoughts for the past month, we have much to be thankful for! With the Thanksgiving Season upon us, we feel most unworthy for the many blessings that are ours when we realize how far short we fall from the goal.

Visitors this past month included ministering Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and his family, and Elder Bros. Andy Stoller and Wendell Gudeman and their wives from Smithville, OH and Francesville, IN respectively. Holy Communion was served the weekend our Elders were here and the Memorandum shared with the church.

We also want to extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Dan Baltic who is working in the Louisville area. Sis. Betty and some of their younger children hope to join Bro. Dan sometime in the near future. We wish them God's blessings in this endeavor.

This past year we have had many visitors from across the country to come and fellowship with us here in Lexington. As much as we enjoy our fellowship within the brotherhood, we must each consider what we are contributing individually to that fellowship. If not careful, we might become caught up in the "group" and the vision of "working out our soul's salvation" could become blurred as we rely upon someone else to carry out the work, contend for the faith, or support the beautiful doctrine of our faith. This very point was brought to my mind recently as I read a book report done by our eldest son. In the book, *Young Man Be Strong*, the story was told of a band that blended together very beautifully. One day the Conductor wanted to review each player's work as a solo and found one trumpeter that could not play his part. He had apparently just gone through the motions and when called upon to play his solo, he no longer could hide behind his fellow musicians. Eventually, we too will stand before the "Great Conductor" to play our solo, not as an ensemble. What a beautiful lesson to learn while we have the breath of life. We can and should strive to blend our

lives together and be in harmony with our precious faith, each doing our best. So, with a new year upon us, may we each strive to serve the Master, and lay aside those things that would so easily beset us in our spiritual race.

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## MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Melanie Kaeb  
Michelle Oesch**

### *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.

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

As we enter the holiday season, it is a time of new beginnings and a time of partings. Converts Rob and Kim Koehl have found peace and are looking forward to their baptisms. Brett Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen) has begun his repentance. We rejoice with each new lamb.

Our congregation has also been blessed with two new babies this month. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Susan Steffen and big brother, Zachary, welcomed Levi Jacob into their home and hearts. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen and Ron and Kay Jenkins. Sarah Jane was welcomed into the home of Jason and Angela (Schutte) Sixberry and children, Justin, Leanne, and Travis. Sis. Virginia Schutte is the great-grandmother.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Wally and Donna (Waibel) Gerst and their family as they mourn the passing of Donna's father, Bro. Joe Waibel, of Bay City, who served as our Alto Elder for many years.

Sis. Delilah (Bro. Elmer) Schrenk was called Home to be with the Lord

on November 9. She was 88. Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) shared in the funeral service. Sis. Delilah will be missed by her family: Dick and Janice Schrenk (Indiana), Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk (Athens, AL), Dana and Linda Koehl-Jones, and Bro. Duane and Sis. Cathie Schrenk, and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sis. Delilah is also survived by four sisters: Clara Kimble (East Jordan, MI), Sis. Hulda Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Margaret and Sis. Christine Wingeier.

Sis. Bertha Wingeier had minor surgery this month and is taking it easy for a few days. Eric Blough (Gordon and Trisha) fell out of his tree stand and suffered a badly broken leg. He will have to spend many days at home recuperating while his leg is in traction.

We rejoice with the Zaagman family as Ronald has completed his final chemotherapy treatment after a 15-month regimen. We pray that he continues to regain strength and will stay healthy.

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## MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Rhonda Knochel  
Marlene Mosher  
Peggy Jackson**

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. It is so exciting to be entering another Christmas season. Stopping to think on Christmas as we celebrate it today, you can't help but notice some of the differences between our Christmas experiences and that first Christmas almost 2000 years ago. We buy treasure, items of value and worth to us, to give to those we love. Jesus left behind the treasure of Heaven to give those He loved the gift of Himself. We are welcomed into the homes of family with laughter and love. Jesus was rejected by those around Him and instead was welcomed with the

sounds of animals that shared His room. We sleep in the warmth and comfort of our homes and beds dreaming of "sugar plums" and other Christmas joys. Jesus slept in a manger fulfilling the will of the Father and waiting for the day when He would give His life for us. We go to the protection of our beautiful churches to worship Him at His birth. Shepherds came to a stable, that was probably nothing but an open cave, to worship the Saviour. We give gifts that satisfy earthly desires, but somehow leave us wanting more. Jesus was given gold because He is a King, frankincense because He is our High Priest, and myrrh because He was going to die so that He could fill that hunger in our souls.

We have several items of news to share with you this month. Bro. Jay and Sis. Carla Schlatter have a new addition to their family, Alexander Royal. He was welcomed home by big brothers, Nicholas and Andreas, and big sister, Natasha. Alexander's grandparents are Bro. Vladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ontario). We wish God's richest blessings on their precious little bundle.

Special thanks to Bro. Jim Plattner and his wife, Sis. Marlene (Princeville, IL), as they served us through Bro. Jim's gift in the ministry. We were richly blessed by their time here.

In a month of hello's to a new precious life, we also said goodbye to retired Elder Bro. Joe Waibel. Although we are happy that he is "safe in the arms of Jesus", we also know that he will be greatly missed. His years of experience and his wisdom were an inspiration to many. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

Also this month, we had several spend time in the hospital. Among them were: Sis. Shirley Wright (Bro.



Gary), Marcie Cowan (Stacey), Bro. Winsor and Sis. Loretta Mosher, Sis. Ella Schlatter, and Mary Ramseyer (Dale). What a privilege that in times of sickness and suffering we have a wonderful Counselor and Great Physician to turn to. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16). We pray that each one will be touched with the healing hand of the Creator.

As you celebrate Christmas, may you always remember to look to the cross for it wasn't in the birth, but rather in the death that Jesus bought our freedom. May God bless each one!

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## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kristie Meyer  
Manuela Denes**

As we enter the Christmas season, may we all stop and think about the "reason for the season". It is more blessed to give than to receive, so let us remember those less fortunate than us, in prayer and in other ways we can to make it a brighter holiday for them.

We were privileged to have visiting minister Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) here to assist in the reading of the Memorandum.

It was also a pleasure to have Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) visiting us this month.

A truly blessed weekend was had by all who were in attendance of the testimonies and baptisms of Jason Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay) and Sasha Mojic (Lazu and Ranka). To help in this special event was Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and we thank him and all the

other visiting ministers who were with us this month.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Walt Bauer as he passed away on October 30. Life is so uncertain, as son, Ron (Mary) Bauer, and daughter, Jan (Joe) Kavulich, have felt in the past several months.

Elder Bro. Joe Waibel (Bay City, MI) passed from this life into eternity on October 20. As a brother of Sis. Perseda (Bro. Floyd) Wieland, and grandpa of Bro. Greg Schlatter and Sis. Jennifer (Bro. Troy) Schrock, I'm sure he will be greatly missed.

On November 12, H.R. Cannon, father of Sis. Marti (Bro. John) Gleichman, and grandfather of Bro. Alan and Sis. Pam Gleichman, passed away. He was from Atchinson, KS and was 95 years old. Our sympathy goes to each one who has felt a loss.

As in our congregation and as in all congregations, we say goodbye to some and hello to others. We were saddened by the leaving of Sis. Ethel Rambeau as she has moved to Florida. She was always a joy to greet and though it is our loss, it is Florida's gain.

We welcome Sis. Dorothy Reineck who has moved to our congregation, as she is closer to family and many friends here.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those in our congregation who have experienced surgery or illness: Bro. Dan Knochel (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Joyce Germaine (Bro. Milan), Sis. Anna Tachar, and Dan Kujawa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene).

May you have the gladness of Christmas

Which is hope;  
The spirit of Christmas  
Which is peace;  
The heart of Christmas  
Which is love.

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## MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

"Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

*II Corinthians 13:11*

Saturday evening, November 1, we were privileged to hear the reading of the Memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) in this labor of love. We pray that our Heavenly Father will help each one strive to have a closer walk with Him. May we continue to support, give words of encouragement and pray for our dear Elder brothers. Also a special thanks to these brothers for sharing God's Word on Sunday and for Bro. Joe returning the following Sunday to labor on our behalf. May God be their rich rewarder.

"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*

Sunday, November 16, was a joyous day for Bro. Rudy Haerr and Sis. Michelle Leman as they were united in Holy Matrimony in Goodfield, IL. We pray God's blessings on them as they endeavor to serve Him together. A warm welcome is extended to Sis. Shelly from our congregation. Many of our brethren and friends attended this special occasion, so we were very thankful that Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) came to minister to us that day.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Carter and Amy Leuthold as he is undergoing Neutron Radiation treatments in Seattle, WA.



Jesus, in Luke 10:30-37, gave us a beautiful example of how to be a Good Samaritan. May we take the time during this Holiday season to reach out and help those who have special needs.

### Bless Caring Hearts

Lord, bless the hearts of those who  
care  
For others every day...  
The ones who to the helpless souls  
Are bright and shiny rays.

Bless the ones who minister  
With ready, out-stretched hands  
To every wearied traveler  
Upon this pilgrim land.

Lord, bless the hands and feet of  
those  
Who tend to all in need...  
The shut-ins and the many folk  
Who live upon the streets.

Oh, bless the Good Samaritan  
Who sacrifices self,  
Who always goes the extra mile  
To help somebody else.  
—Loise Pinkerton Fritz

“And she shall bring forth a son,  
and thou shalt call his name JESUS:  
for he shall save his people from  
their sins.”

*Matthew 1:21*

### Jesus, Our Saviour

In fulfillment of the scriptures  
Jesus came to earth,  
Not as a man, but as a child,  
His was a humble birth.  
There were no crowds to greet Him,  
No party nor fanfare,  
Just a simple setting,  
He entered unaware.  
But the reason for His coming  
Is one that must be told...  
He's the key to our salvation,  
Prophesied from days of old.  
He took on human nature  
So He could bear our sin  
Upon the cross, in place of us,  
Eternal life to win.  
What greater gift could we receive  
Than His abounding grace...  
The promise that we'll one day share  
His presence face to face!  
—Frances Gregory Pasch

May each of us keep the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts as we approach this Christmas season. Because He loved us, God gave His most precious gift, His only begotten Son. We should be ever grateful for this precious gift of salvation. A very Blessed Christmas to each of you.

### Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for the beautiful cards with inspiring messages and gifts of love sent to me for my 86th birthday. May God bless you all.

*Sis. Esther Lienemann*

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### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Linda Schmidgall  
Nancy Wulf

And when our days here are  
complete,  
As brethren, we our Lord shall meet,  
And be transformed before His sight  
To glory and celestial light.  
Hallelujah!  
*Zion's Harp #7*

What a beautiful promise Christ's birth gave us, that we can now hope for eternal life. May this thought be the focus of our joy in this blessed Christmas season.

We thank Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) for spending a Sunday with us recently. May God bless your efforts in your service for Him.

We rejoice with Bro. Jerry Nohl and Sis. Kristi Kellenberger (Lester, IA) as God has so directed their paths to lead to one another. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger. Their wedding is set for January 4 in the new year.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy Koehl, along with Melinda and Stacy, welcomed with open arms a precious

gift from Heaven, little Ashley Charity, on October 27. Sis. Gladys Koehl and Bro. Willy and Sis. Hilda Steffen (Lamar, MO) are Ashley's grandparents.

Ben Furrer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill) had a 4-wheeler accident. God's mercies are great when Ben has suffered no permanent injuries.

There are others among us who have suffered illness or pain, and we just want to offer prayers and hope that God will be with you in this Christmas Season. That through it all, we may rejoice with our whole heart for His most precious Gift to us, His Son.

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Becky Braulick - Jan Messner  
Greetings!

We know it is getting to our cold, snowy season when our snowbirds start to head south for the winter. We wish them all a safe journey to their destinations and we hope they enjoy their warm winter season; may they keep us close at heart as we will them.

The remote, stark conditions of Christ's birth shows us the faith that Joseph and Mary had to be able to follow God's will in preparing themselves for the birth of His Son. It is truly a testimony to all of us. May we all remember this precious gift that God gave us. With this Christmas season upon us, what better time is there to willingly give of ourselves to others.

Gene Schmidt welcomed a new grandson, Landon Wayne Fehr, on October 12. Parents are Bro. Anthony and Sis. Lila Fehr (Minneapolis, MN). Also, Dan and Karen Messner brought home their new little bundle, Lucas Daniel, on November 11. Grandparents are Duane and Mona Messner and Herman and Vera Hahn of Gaylord. We would like to congratulate these

parents and we pray that they will look to God to guide them in raising their children in His way.

We would like to thank Pulaski, IA Sunday School Bible Class for coming up this past month and spending time with us here in Winthrop. What a blessing it is to establish friendships and ties with loved ones from our churches in different areas.

Our Sunday School recently hosted our annual 55 and over supper. It was a very nice evening and how nice it is for our youth to be able to spend time with our older generations and how much they can learn from them. God bless them all for their efforts.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Bernadine Messner (Bro. Ray), Vernon Messner (Bro. Harold and Sis. Gerry) with a fractured hip, and Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin) with back surgery. May God grant them sufficient strength in the coming days and we pray for their quick recovery.

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brent Kellenberger

Our church welcomes Kristi Kellenberger to worship with us, as she is attending Kansas State and is not able to make the long trip home to West Bend, IA every weekend. We rejoice that she has made the decision to turn her heart to the Lord in repentance.

Our prayers are with our dear Elder Bro. Gene Marti who is working in the Lord's vineyard overseas in Eastern Europe. We trust that the Lord will provide a safe return.

Sometimes it seems that we dwell on our past mistakes all too often, and through our constant looking back, we lose our heavenly vision. The Apostle Paul, through the inspiration of God, penned a verse that we can use to counter this prob-

lem.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

*Philippians 3:13-14*

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR Martha Kellenberger Carolyn Banwart

As we approach the holiday season, may we remember that Christ is the center of Christmas.

Funeral services were held on November 1 for Sis. Leona Kraft. She was residing at the Rest Home in Sabetha, KS. We extend our sympathy to her stepchildren, step-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. We appreciated having Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Sis. Nadine, Lamont-Gridley, KS) assist with the services.

Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Sis. Karen, Fort Scott, KS) was here to assist Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi in reading the Memorandum. We appreciate their efforts in exhorting and warning us of the many concerns of the church and Elder brethren.

Also, we want to thank Bros. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) for their services in proclaiming God's Word this past month.

Sis. Anna Marti had a knee replacement and we are thankful she is home again. May God continue to be with her and grant her health and strength.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Betsy Schrenk

"...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

*Luke 15:10*

We rejoice with the angels and marvel at the work of the Lord. Our friend, Cindy Hann, has heard the Lord's call and confesses peace in her heart. She desires to be grafted into the body of Christ. We look forward to hearing her testimony and witnessing her baptism on the first weekend of the New Year, January 3 and 4.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Bros. Mark Gerber and Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL). We thank them for so faithfully bringing us the wonderful Word of God.

At this most blessed time of year, I want to leave you with these thoughts:

#### *God's Gift To You*

Not in a package  
but in a manger...  
Not under a tree  
but nailed to one...  
Not for a price  
but freely given...  
Not for a season  
but for all time.

—author unknown

We all know precious souls who need to realize their need for Jesus, God's most awesome gift. Maybe 1998 will be the year!

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Tina Sutter

God is real and He is answering prayer! Another soul has come to be washed in the blood. We are so thankful that Rachel Hoerr has accepted the invitation to peace and salvation through our Lord Jesus

Christ. We hope many will prayerfully lift her up through this renewing process.

Bros. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) have been with us this month. We are grateful for visiting ministers who desire to be used as servants for the Lord.

We are also thankful for the people who organize the events for the youth. Our Bible Class hosted Peoria, IL on November 2. We also participated in ACYF in Gridley, IL on November 9. Because Christ is the center of these gatherings, it is sure to be a blessing to all. We all need a place to belong.

Sarah Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) was hospitalized this month. Prayers on her behalf would be appreciated.

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

*I Cor. 10:13*

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**NEW YORK  
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG  
Anna Mellnitz**

“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

*II John 1:8-9*

On October 18, our visiting minister was Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). We had a covered dish

meal and a singing. On Sunday, October 19, we were blessed as Bro. Mark brought us the Word of God.

On November 9, we had visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS). We enjoyed a covered dish meal. Then we were blessed to be able to listen to the reading of the Memorandum of the recent Brotherhood Conference. We are thankful to these brothers for giving of their time in reading the Memorandum. We pray they are richly rewarded for their willingness to bring forth God's Word to us on Sunday. We are thankful that Jesus has promised to never leave us but has provided us with good counsel from the shepherds of the flocks.

Sis. Edna Sturtze has been admitted to a nursing home and Sis. Carolyn Virkler has been confined to her home and has not been able to assemble with us. We pray that God's healing hand will be with her. Dan Getman (Tracie), son-in-law of Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney, had major surgery. He is doing fine and was able to assemble with us Sunday. Andrew Mangold (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jennifer) fell and broke his arm. We pray for God's healing hand to all who have had surgery or suffered sickness.

Lewis and Cynthia Courtney's son, Noah Avery, came home from the hospital in Baltimore, MD on September 28. He is doing fine. He is the grandson of Nat and Sheila Virkler.

Jennifer Elizabeth Benton was born to Mary and Brian Benton of Macetta, GA, and is a granddaughter of Gilbert and Betty Widrick, and great-granddaughter of Sis. Berdena Widrick.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of Hazel Virkler who passed away on October 24. She was the wife of the late Bro. Parry An-

drew Virkler. She leaves eight children.

On November 15, Calvin Leon Ebersol passed away. He is the son of Sis. Mabel and the late Bro. Leon Ebersol. We extend our sympathy to the family.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank the Croghan-Naumburg congregation for your deeds of kindness, cards, letters, and most importantly, your prayers at the death of our loved one. God's blessings to you all.

*The Robert Beyer family*

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**OHIO, AKRON  
Diane Jarrett  
Joyce Gasser**

Both sons of Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn Miller, John and Bro. Joe, are graduating from Akron University with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. We wish them well in their professions.

Bro. John Graf is worshipping again with us after being in the hospital; Bro. Leo Heib was hospitalized; Bro. Eric Spangler had ear surgery; and Sis. Martha Palitto had work done by an oral surgeon. We pray for God's blessing on each one.

Charlotte Kaufman and her daughter, Karen, have safely returned from a three week trip to India and Nepal, stopping over in London on their way home.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Amy Palitto were blessed with a baby girl born November 17 and they named her Laurel Ann. The new baby is also welcomed home by a sister, Micah, and a brother, Corey. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto and Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol Beery (Rittman, OH).



## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Nancy Banks

Greetings from Columbus! Visiting with us this month were Elder Bros. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and ministering Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH).

We look forward to the approaching holiday season as a special time spent with family and friends. May we remember and reach out to those who are without the support of a loving family. The holidays can be a lonely time for a single mother, an elderly person or someone who has fallen on hard times.

May the blessings of this Christmas season be with you and yours!

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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Sandra Manz

The household of Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn (Latty, OH) has undergone change as two of their daughters have married two of our brothers in the past month. Sis. Cindy Sinn and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emy) were married on October 19; and Sis. Sandy Sinn and Bro. Neil Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth, Latty, OH) were married on November 9. We feel blessed to have these two sisters join our congregation and wish both young couples a fulfilling and Christ-centered marriage.

On October 25, some of us were privileged to view slides of the Holy Land as presented by Bro. Leslie Pulfer (Sis. Wilma, Tremont, IL). We thank them for enlightening those of us who may never observe firsthand the culture and land where our Saviour trod.

On November 1, Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) and our Elder Bro. Bill read and discussed the Conference conclusions. We place our trust in the exhortations offered by our Elder body

knowing that any reproof is intended only for the safety of our undying souls. May we find grace to be submissive.

Experiencing the miracle of childbirth for the first time were Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Manz. Taylor Kathleen arrived safely on November 13. Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz, Tom Leatherman and Carol Bentreth welcome their new granddaughter and will add her to their prayer list.

We offer our sympathy to Steve and Linda Schrenk and family at the passing of his grandmother, Sis. Delila Schrenk (Alto, MI). Those closest to her knew that her thoughts and desires were in Heaven.

"How fitting that the shepherds were the first to hear the news

For 'Shepherd' was the tender name our precious Lord Himself would choose."

—*B.J. Hoff*

Once the shepherds were past their initial shock and fright, one can only imagine the thrill of listening to the strains of music sung by the heavenly choir on that first Christmas. May the love, joy, and peace brought to earth by Jesus rest in your hearts.

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## OHIO, LATTY

### Joyce Klopfenstein

### Kathy Sinn

During the past month, we were privileged to hear the Conference letter read and expounded upon by our Elder Bro. Ray Sinn and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). We all need to strive daily to maintain the faith of our fathers as it was handed down to us. Are we each doing our part to strengthen and maintain the faith?

Also during the month we were

blessed by a visit from Bro. Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH). May the Lord continue to bless our ministering brothers as they sound the warning in season and out of season.

Our congregation was also blessed as another soul gave a testimony of his faith before the brethren. Greg Greutman (Kristy) was given words by the Holy Spirit to testify of the work of the Lord in his life. We wish Bro. Greg and Kristy much grace and peace as they continue to raise their family in the nurture of the Lord.

We wish best wishes to Bro. Herman and Sis. Viola Schlatter as they commemorate their 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless their lives together.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Stoller and their family are in need of our continued prayers as their son, Lonnie, passed away during this month. Included in those prayers should also be Lonnie's wife, Shirley, and his three daughters as they likewise go through a period of adjustment. May the Lord give all of them a peace that in life we "see through a glass darkly". However, by trusting in the Lord, His grace will be sufficient for all of our needs.

Another wedding brought many visiting brethren into our midst. Sis. Sandy Sinn (Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee) and Bro. Neil Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) were united in Holy Matrimony on November 9. As Sandy and Neil begin their lives together, may they continue to put the Lord first each day. May they feel the warm welcome among the Junction brethren, but also visit often in Latty. Among the visitors were ministering brethren, Bros. Sam Schlatter and Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

As the weather cools down and the snow flurries come, several of

our brethren travel to the southern states for the winter. Our thoughts and prayers go with them as they part from us. We wish them God's blessed nearness during this time of separation.

We rejoice with the angels as another soul has surrendered her life to the Lord. Jaymee Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne) has begun the steps of repentance. Many prayers ascend to the Father heart as another soul leaves the world behind. Let us continue to pray for those who have not yet taken this step in their life.

As the Christmas season is approaching, let us slow the pace to remember that this season is to be an honor unto God—not a huge success for the shopping mall. As we gather with families, may we remember those who are not so bountifully blessed with this earth's goods. Let us continue to keep Christ in Christmas as well as in our lives.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to express our appreciation and gratitude for all the get well cards, gifts, your many prayers, and words of encouragement during Herman's (Dick's) recent heart attack. Also, our sincere thanks for all the money, cards, gifts, and tokens of love given to us in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless and reward each one of you for your kindness and great love shown to us.

*Bro. Herman and Sis. Vi Schlatter*

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

"That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be

acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost."

*Romans 15:16*

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. They included Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). How thankful we can be that we have brethren who are willing to give of their time and themselves so that we may be fed by the Spirit. May the Lord bestow His richest blessings on them.

"And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people."

*Luke 3:18*

This month we had the reading of the summary of the General Brotherhood Conference. The brethren kindly exhorted us to ever strive to keep the faith of the generations that have gone before. May each one of us continue to strive to uphold our portion of the faith.

"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

*I Cor. 1:9*

We are blessed to add to our fellowship this month several new brothers and sisters. We pray that Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly Baumann and Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura Ramsy and their families and Sis. Lena Jampen feel welcome in our congregation as they are now making Mansfield their home church. How thankful we are to have this precious fellowship and those loved ones who want to be a part of it.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Helen Bricker (Bro. Richard) who recently had five by-

pass heart surgery. She is at home slowly recovering. May God restore her to good health again.

Recently a friend was sharing with me that their minister had shared the story of the lame man who encountered Peter and John and asked them for alms. Peter and John had no money, but they gave him what they could. In the name of Jesus, they told him to rise and walk. Not only did he get up and walk, but he went leaping and jumping into the temple (Act 3 paraphrased). The minister's message was that we should all be leaping in faith for the Lord. My friend said he ended with the question, "What leap of faith will you be taking this week, this year for the Lord?" This is a very thought-provoking question. May each of us strive to leap in faith for the Lord, trusting that where we cannot do this thing or the other, if it be His will, the Lord can.

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

*Luke 2:7*

As the Christmas season once again draws near, let us each one remember the humble birth that is the entire reason for the season. Christ was born in the still of the night. Therefore let us each one strive to keep the peace of Christmas in our hearts and in our homes.

*Note of Thanks:*

A sincere thanks to each one who remember me with prayers, phone calls, flowers, cards, and visits while in the hospital and at home. May God richly bless you for your thoughtfulness and prayers.

*Sis. Helen Bricker*

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**OHIO, RITTMAN****Carla Stoller****Michelle Dotterer**

On October 26, Bro. Chad Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) and Sis. Laura Lee Riley (Dale and Sharon) were united in Holy Matrimony. May God bless them abundantly. We will certainly miss Sis. Laura Lee.

We are thankful that Bro. Jim Plattner ministered unto us. Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Earl Gerber and Gary Brown (both of Forrest, IL), and Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) also ministered unto us recently and we are thankful for their labors.

Elise Elaine was born October 27 to Bro. Darrell and Sis. Shirley Rufener. Grandparents are Bro. Chester and Sis. Roma Rufener. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, for Elise has been in the hospital.

On November 5, Jaret Thomas came into the world. His parents are Dan and Amy Fugate and his siblings, Nicholas and Haylee, welcome him home. Grandparents are Lloyd and Diane Fugate and Rex and Carol Young.

Sis. Myrle Rufener was hospitalized recently. We are thankful she is assembling with us again.

We rejoice that Tony Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne) has turned to the Lord in repentance. Also, Dana Easterling has answered God's call and has begun her repentance. We wish them both much grace.

**OHIO, SARDIS****Joy Indermuhle**

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

*Psalms 127:3*

With much joy and thankfulness,

Bro. Dana and Sis. Joy Indermuhle welcomed Caleb Levi into their hearts and home on November 5. Caleb's dear grandparents are Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle and Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard (Toledo, OH). May God always give of His abundant grace that we might teach our children to love and serve Him.

We thank Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) for being with us this month and for willingly bringing forth God's Word. May God be His rich rewarder.

As we look forward to Christmas and the happiness it brings, may we remember to keep Christ as the center of our family gatherings, for without Him there would be no Christmas.

**OHIO, SMITHVILLE****Edith Miller - Ruth Gasser**

In the beauty of the snowflake,  
Falling softly on the land,  
Is the mystery and the miracle  
Of God's creative hand.

—Helen Steiner Rice

With the changing season, we again observe many miracles about us. The greatest miracle of all was the gift of God's Son. "...to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." (Isaiah 61:1). May we rejoice as the angels did many years ago, and keep this the center of our celebrations this Christmas.

As the earth goes through it's seasons, the soul of man goes through many seasons, especially in 90 years of living. Sis. Clara Hartzler and Sis. Mildred Hartzler have reached that milestone this year. Sis. Clara is the widow of Bro. Ben Hartzler, who proclaimed the gospel for many years in the Rittman and Smithville churches. Sis. Mildred's husband,

Bro. William, was a song leader and was called Home 41 years ago. We appreciate the steadfast faith of our forefathers. May God continue to bless and sustain these dear ones.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

*Isaiah 43:2*

Bro. Don Stoller has been through repeated hospitalizations and much physical suffering these past months. May God give grace to him and his family in these trials. Also hospitalized this month was Jennifer Brewer (John).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank in the death of Bro. Gordon's sister, Phyllis Geiser.

We rejoice with Patty Indermuhle (Bro. Scott) who has found peace with God and man, and now awaits baptism.

**OHIO, TOLEDO****Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter**

"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them."

*Psalms 103:17-18*

Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard are delighted to welcome their first grandchild. Caleb Levi was born to Bro. Dana and Sis. Joy Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). May both parents and grandparents in this family find the blessings God gives to the faithful.

The tie that binds hearts to-



gether in fellowship is a wonderful blessing. We will miss Sis. Dorothy Reineck as she has moved and will be assembling with the Detroit, MI congregation. How thankful we can be that there will come a time when the fellowship for the body of Christ will no longer be limited.

*Note: Silver Lining subscriptions are due in January for the Toledo congregation. Please see one of your reporters.*

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### OREGON, PORTLAND

#### Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

The year is coming to a close again and as always, it seems to be a time to reflect on the past as well as on the new year ahead of us. It is a great comfort to know that only the Lord knows exactly what lies ahead of each one of us and we do not need to worry so much about the unknown, for He knows what is best for us... "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

On Sunday, October 26, Bro. Bob and Sis. Pearl (Pfister) Miller celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They moved from Illinois (Gridley/Roanoke) to Oregon in 1948. Their six children and their families (some from out-of-state) spent this day with them, as well as other relatives and friends who were able to come. It was good to see the entire Miller family together to honor their loving parents. Their love and hospitality have touched the lives of many. Their dedication to the Lord, our congregation, their family and each other is very strong and one can see how the Lord blessed them for it. May God continue to bless them with good health, strength and happiness in the coming years. Our congregation

appreciates Bro. Bob so much; also the fact that he, at his age, has the willingness and is able to stand before us each Sunday without fail, to bring us God's Word.

Billy Berg (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Berg) underwent knee surgery on November 11. Although there was a little more damage than was anticipated initially, everything went well and Billy is recovering. After a period of healing and therapy, he should be able to resume all his activities. Our thoughts and prayers are with him. He sure is missed in our small congregation (and in Sunday School) since he moved to California to attend college there. May the Lord guide and direct him and keep him safe.

In conclusion, we thank all who visited us this past month. As always, we do enjoy the company and the extra voices for singing! Our special thanks to the ministering brethren who shared the Word with us: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), all from Silverton, OR. May the Lord bless them all for the efforts on our behalf.

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### OREGON, SILVERTON

#### Rosa Lee Kuenzi

How fitting that just five days before Thanksgiving we had the privilege of witnessing the baptism of three dear souls who had just pledged their faithfulness to the Lord. As they were greeted by their new brothers and sisters and the friends of the church, one of the songs we sang was "Now thank we all our God" (Zion's Harp #236), a favorite any time and especially at Thanksgiving. New brothers and sister to the Lord are Sis. Dawn Kuenzi (Urban and Sis. Diane), Bro. Karl Dettwyler (Bernie and Margaret) and Bro. Jeremy Kuenzi

(Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann). May God grant them much grace in their Christian walk.

Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (West Bend, IA) were here for this special weekend. We really do appreciate Bro. Wayne's loving service; and also our other visiting ministers this past month, Bros. Garth Steffen and Robert Miller (Portland, OR).

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### PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA Franz Soni

"And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies."

*Hosea 2:19*

Bro. Merle and Sis. Beverly Rocke hosted our Sunday School picnic. We thank all who participated and a special thank you to the Sunday School teachers.

Christopher Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) was recently hospitalized and we thank God for His healing powers.

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

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### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

#### *The Christmas Guest*

It happened one day near December's end when two neighbors called on their old friend Conrad. Conrad said unto them, "Old friends, at dawn today the Lord appeared in a dream to me and said, 'I'm coming your guest to be.'" So the friends

went home and left Conrad alone for this was the happiest day he had known in a long time. All of his family had passed away, and Conrad had spent many a sad Christmas day.

So he listened with only joy in his heart, and with every sound he would rise with a start. So he ran to the window after hearing a sound, but all he could see was a shabby beggar whose clothes were ragged and worn and whose shoes were torn. Conrad, however, was touched, and he went to the door and gave the beggar a coat and some shoes. The man went away with a grateful heart, but Conrad noticed the time of day and wondered what made the Lord so late.

When he heard a knock, he ran to the door, but it was only a stranger once more...a bent old lady with a shawl and kindling on her back. She asked for only a place to rest, so Conrad invited her in and told her to sit at his table and sup.

Then out of the stillness, he heard a cry, "Please help me and tell me where am I." So again he opened his friendly door and stood disappointed as twice before. It was only a child who wandered away, and was lost from her family on Christmas Day. So Conrad beckoned her in, wiped her tears, and then led her back to her home once more.

As he entered his own darkened door, he knew the Lord was not coming today for the hours of Christmas had passed away. So he went to his room and knelt down to pray, and he said, "Dear Lord, why did you delay, for I wanted so much your face to see?" Soft in the silence a voice he heard, "Lift up your head for I kept my word. Three times my shadow crossed your floor and three times I came to your lowly door. I was the beggar, the woman, and the child. Three times I knocked and three times I came in. Each time I

found the warmth of a friend. Of all the gifts, love is the best, and I was honored to be your Christmas Guest."

—summarized by Gwen Leuthold from "The Christmas Guest" by Grandpa Jones and Bill Walker

Especially during the holiday season we are reminded of the less fortunate people in our country and around the world through the efforts of the Salvation Army (bell ringers, Angel Tree program, etc.), food drives and food baskets by various organizations, church collections, etc. As the Lord has truly blessed us with many material and spiritual gifts, may we remember those at Christmas and throughout the coming new year who have not been as blessed as we have. Pertinent to us remembering those less fortunate, Jesus, in Matthew 25 spoke the following account of what it shall be like on the Great Judgment Day.

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

*Matthew 25:34-35,37,40*

We were privileged to have ministering Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), their wives, and other visitors from Mansfield, OH and

Princeville, IL. May the Lord richly bless all of you for traveling and worshipping with us.

Our new 1998 church schedule has been sent to all of the Apostolic Christian Churches. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please call one of the numbers listed below. Churches that have been scheduled for services in the new year are as follows: Jan. 11 (Gridley, IL); Jan. 25 (Congerville, IL); Feb. 1 (Akron, OH); Feb. 15 (Tremont, IL); March 1 (Detroit, MI); and March 15 (Bradford, IL). (Note: Services in January were postponed to the 2nd and 4th Sundays due to the holidays.) If you plan to worship with us, please contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 353-3940; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 851-8864; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN area).

### TEXAS, CENTRAL AREA Lois Gray

We extend our thanks to this month's visiting ministers: Bros. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) and Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn, Elgin, IL).

Our worship services are held at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. We meet in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy 71 except for the first Sunday of the month, when there are no services, and the last Sunday when services are held at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top. Please note that beginning in January, services on the third Sunday will be held in San Antonio. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 338-4222; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; and Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-





# Silver Threads

## Too Busy

Too busy to read a chapter a day  
 Too busy, yes, much too busy to pray.  
 Too busy to think of our wasted past,  
 In this whirlwind of life we know won't last.

Too busy to speak a word of cheer,  
 To the heart-broken friend, who stands so near.  
 Too busy to help him lift his heavy load,  
 That he's trying to carry on life's rough road.

Too busy gathering in dollars and dimes,  
 But for the worthwhile things we haven't time.  
 The devil keeps whispering, "Hurry, grab your share,  
 Why waste so many hours in prayer."

Too busy to heed the orphan's cry,  
 And with a glance we hurry by.  
 Some day we, too, will lift our voice to the sky  
 For not one of us is too busy to die.

Perhaps when we reach the pearly white throne  
 God will be too busy to call us His own.  
 So let us calm down to a slower pace,  
 To be ready to meet Jesus face to face.

—Selected

1968. Please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We heartily welcome visitors.

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### TEXAS, DALLAS Dee Rapp

Through the ages of the Bible, God has bestowed many gifts upon His chosen people. First to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

He gives us: children (Psalms 127:3); the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38); spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:11); righteousness (Romans 5:17); eternal life (Romans 6:23); to name a few.

But before He could give those gifts to us, He had to make the greatest sacrifice of all, His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 4:10). In this season, remember that God did not sacrifice His only Son to establish denominations, but as the 1) gift of salvation

through redemption and 2) establishing THE way for us to have a personal relationship with Him, now and in all eternity. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

We want to thank the brothers who have faithfully served us this past month. Dallas services are held on the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 and 12:00 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 (972) 867-4074 or Bro. Bill Zeltwanger at (409) 249-5102.

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

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

*Isaiah 9:6*

During this Christmas season, let us remember the lowly birth of our Saviour. Also, when we hear rumors of war, let us remember that he was called "The Prince of Peace".

We are happy to have the winter residents returning for the winter season. Retired Elder Bro. Paul Fehr and his wife, Sis. Anna; our elected usher, Bro. Richard Bricker, and his wife, Sis. Helen; one of our trustees, Bro. Russell Stoller, and his wife, Sis. Melvane, are here.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

one, we need to have some zeal in our life. We need to have some interest in our life. You know, a lot of times, we hear the saying, "If you don't succeed, try, and try again." It is an old saying that we used to hear many times.

It is a little bit like Zacchaeus. He was short. He could not accomplish, because of his height, what he wanted to accomplish. He wanted to see the Lord, and he couldn't see because he was short. At that point, he had an option in his life. He could decide that it really wasn't worth the effort to see the Lord or he could use his imagination and find a way to see the Lord.

Perhaps there are times in our lives when we face a similar situation. Perhaps we have a concern that we bring to the Lord and want an answer. Maybe the first time, we do not seem to get an answer.

Then, we are presented with an option. We can stop there and assume that the Lord didn't hear or didn't care or it was too small for Him to address. Or, we can try again. We can try a little harder and a little more diligently.

It took Zacchaeus a little more effort to go up in that tree. But it was an effort, in his mind, that he felt was worthwhile. Indeed, as we read the account, it was worthwhile!

Jesus came to the place where Zacchaeus was and He noticed that effort. He didn't just make a note of that or make an account of it to those around him, but we know Jesus knew what Zacchaeus had done. He told Zacchaeus to come down and He acknowledged him and wanted to go to his house.

That probably surprised Zacchaeus and it probably surprised those around him just as much. Those around him knew that Zacchaeus perhaps wasn't the kind of man that he should have been.

Now Jesus, the One whom they respected and revered, was going to

go to this man's house. He was going to be a guest of a man that was a sinner. I don't know what those people thought they were, but it seems that they were quick to acknowledge that Zacchaeus was a sinner.

Then we have another beautiful teaching in this short story. Zacchaeus, all of a sudden, realized some of the things that he had done in his life were not right. He realized that there must be some undoing and some making right of those things.

Again, he was probably faced with a decision and an option. He could decide that it really didn't apply to him, or he could have chosen not to even say anything and just go along with Christ when He was at his house to whatever He said.

But Zacchaeus came under conviction for some of the things that he had done. He wasn't asked by the Lord, but he willingly offered recompense for some of the things that could have been a problem in his life.

Jesus appreciated that so much and this came from Zacchaeus willingly. Without giving him an ultimatum, telling him that he had to do this or else, this came from the heart of Zacchaeus. He would give half of his goods to the poor, and if he had been dishonest, he would restore that.

Jesus said, "This day is salvation come to this house." (Luke 19:9). A beautiful end to a beautiful account of a man that was no different than many of us. He was a man that at one time was not right with God and came seeking help. He acknowledged his sin and wanted to make it right. Jesus simply said, "Salvation is come to this house today!"

Many times we have to go back to that time in our lives when we followed a similar path. We came and acknowledged that something wasn't right. We wanted to see the Lord. Maybe we wanted to see the

Lord for a number of times, but there was a time in our lives when many of us were determined at all cost to see the Lord.

We were not going to let little things get in our way. We became very determined, even as Zacchaeus did. Then, we put forth that effort, we showed our determination, and that allowed our faith to grow and perhaps show a little, and salvation came to our house. It was a wonderful day!

Then we have a beautiful account here. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost." (Luke 19:10). Jesus didn't come only to try to save the house of Israel. He certainly tried to clear them up in a lot of their thinking. He tried to, with authority, cause them to think in a right way.

He came and He reached out to everyone. He didn't come as a king and He didn't live as a king. He was never too much or too good for anyone. Even as a number of times we have read how He would reach out to those who had needs—those that He felt had a real need in their life for Him. That is where the Lord could really work.

That is when He worked in our lives—when we acknowledged that need. The need was always there, but we did not always acknowledge it.

We read together of another parable that He spoke about here—the parable of the pounds. We have several similar accounts in the Word of God that tells us a little bit about the message He is trying to bring out when He speaks of these accounts.

It says here that a nobleman "...called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come." (Luke 19:13). Then he went away. He distributed to each the same.

In other accounts, as the account of the talents was a very similar parable, to some he gave more than

others. The end result of both parables is very similar.

Whether we are given much or whether we are given little is not the important thing. We read this account here, that when the nobleman came from his journey to visit those whom he had given his pounds or his money to, there was quite a difference in how they used those pounds.

He told them when he left, to "occupy". Perhaps that was a word that meant different things to different people because some occupied very well. They took and used what they had been given, and gained some on it and got some return on it.

It is always refreshing to note that Jesus didn't really take into account just how much each one had brought. He didn't say that the one who had gained ten pounds from the one pound was any different or any better, more or less, than the one who had gained five.

In this particular account, He tells them that they had a little different authority over the cities, whatever that might mean. But the real teaching comes when he came to the servant that only brought the one pound that he had been given.

He said, "Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layest not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow." (Luke 19:20-21).

I guess sometimes when I read that account, in my own weak way of thinking, I say, "What is so wrong with that? What is so wrong with at least preserving the one that we had—saving it, keeping it wrapped up and clean and being able to at least produce it when the Lord would ask?"

But I think we have to look at the whole story, or the whole account here. I think we have to put our lives into play here and see where we fit.

It appeared that the one who brought one pound simply was afraid to put forth any effort.

I believe that if he would have taken that one pound and if he would have put forth a very wholehearted, diligent effort, by the end of the term that he had, he somehow, by circumstances, he would have ended up with only a half of pound. I believe he would have had a better standing with the Lord than what he did. He lacked effort. He lacked diligence. He lacked the ability to try.

We all started out somewhere in life with a number of pounds. Whether many or few, no one is keeping track, I don't believe. No one really cares what another person has as far as what they have been given in pounds or talents. A lot of times we read into the account of the talents as abilities. It could very well be abilities. It seems to make a lot of sense.

The Lord doesn't want us to stay as babes all our converted life. There is a time when we will only have one talent or one pound. When we begin in our walk with the Lord, most of us probably wondered if we even had one pound or if we had a talent.

There is going to come a time when the Lord is going to ask us to give an account of just what we have done with what He has given us. If we go back to what He has given us, most of us are pretty appreciative of what we have been given.

But there was a time in our life, when we felt pretty unworthy. It seems that we were given so much. Then certainly the Lord is not out of place in asking that we do something with what we have been given, and that we bring some return on what we have been given.

He does not require that our one pound brings ten or that it might bring five. But I believe He does require that we prove our love to

Him, that we show that we do love and appreciate Him and His sacrifice that was made in our behalf. We are not worthy.

We can go back to that many times throughout our lives. All that we have is out of the goodness of the heart of God. Not in any way could we ever be worthy. All that we can do in our life is just our reasonable service, and that is always humbling.

We don't really accomplish much in the eyes of God. When we have done our very best and come to the end of our life, we have accomplished only what was required of us, nothing more. The Lord may require from some of us more than others. He may require something of you that He would not require of me.

So we want to avoid looking at other people's lives. Rather, we want to look at what the Lord would have us to do. We want to be careful that we do the very best and the very most that we can. When we get done with this life, all that we can bring the Lord is just a little over a pound so we can prove we did everything that we could do.

If we had some unfortunate situations and circumstances, I don't think that we are going to be in danger of judgment. Maybe I read that wrong.

This was a horrible judgment that this one man had to face. They took away even that which he had. In other places, we read that he was cast out into outer darkness. But it causes us to realize that life is serious. Our walk here is one that we need to be very careful in.

Certainly, we want to do all that we can for the Lord that at His coming, we might be found worthy and acceptable and even welcomed into that reward that is prepared for us.





## Faith of our Fathers

Let the Peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with Grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him. (Colossians 3:15-17)

### An Analogy from the Corn Plant

We are like the plant of corn in so many ways as it grows "...for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19). First just a young sprout emerges out of the soil and is so fragile to the elements of the weather. Storms press hard upon the young tender plant and the rains from above as well as the sun give forth the nourishment to grow. The young tender plant becomes a stalk, which can grow straight and true. As in our hearts, there comes a time when the ear shoots forth and that which makes the increase in our soul is ready to be pollinated by the small still voice of God's Spirit and Word. As we grow older, the "ear" or our soul grows and matures while the stalk or our body gets weaker. Finally, at the end of our days the stalk gets dry and dries up, however the ear gets more and more beautiful. It is in the ear that we find value. The stalk is nothing after it serves it's purpose and is cast to the ground from whence it came. The ear, on the other hand, is harvested and stored until it is used for it's intended purpose. Maybe God will use of our increase, one kernel, to bring forth another plant to His Glory and Honor.

Let us consider this ear, our soul, and see how the corn plant can teach us a lesson. When the plant is going through the conversion process and is producing an ear of value

that will last, many things can happen. First, if the plant was not well rooted or grounded, the stalk (our physical body) may grow crooked and be very difficult to be pollinated (receive God's Word). Second, if the tender stalk would not receive the needed nourishment, (God's teaching from parents and Church), we would not expect a very healthy plant and thus it would be likely that the ear (our soul) would lack quantity and quality. Third, if there would not be exposure to the rain and sun (Word from God), we could expect no ear at all. How will it be when we are harvested? After the husks of life are pulled away, will the soul that we are, bring forth an hundred fold just like some beautiful ears of corn that are filled to the tip? On the other hand, it is possible that when we are exposed to the Harvester's (God's) hand, we will be an under-pollinated, crippled ear with little or no increase. We, as God's children, do have control of the increase we as a soul bring forth and we thank God that we have the Word (King James Bible) to teach us how to bring forth that increase.

### Thanksgiving in our Heart

Even though Thanksgiving is past for this year, we still want to thank God in all things. The word says, "*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another*

*in the fear of God.*" Ephesians 5:20,21

How do we thank God? Do we only thank God in prayer? When do we thank God? Can we thank God in all things? Let us address the last question first because it is the most difficult to answer.

There are two stories that need to be shared at this point on this written page. The first is about a Kansas family.

On a peculiar day in July, many years ago, a young family stood outside their home, which was about a mile from the lush wheat fields, watching the skies getting dark with thunder clouds. The father of four children, stood with his arm around his son, who was now old enough to help plant and tend the crops, while he held his little daughter in his other arm. The other two children could sense that there was trouble coming as they gazed first at the dark clouds and then at the worried expressions on the father and mother's faces. The heavy storm clouds predicted earlier in the morning were surely on their way.

"Children," said the father, "I believe it is time we go to the house." One of the little children began crying as they ran for the protection of the house. Once inside, father said, "Children, God has taught us in the Bible that he will let nothing come over us that we can not bear and what ever happens in the next few hours, we can rest assured that God will take care of us."

The storm broke with a fury and



hail came down in such abundance that it drifted against the barn and machine shed. In some places it was a foot deep. "Oh," cried the mother, "our crops are all gone." Tears streamed from her eyes as she wept over the storm, which was past as soon as it had come upon them. The children were scared and crying when father said, "Now children, stop your crying, for the Lord has taught us to be thankful in all things. That means good and bad alike." He got down on his knees and thanked God for the ice, he thanked God for their protection and safety and he thanked God there on the kitchen floor for his wonderful family. After that prayer everyone felt much comfort. One of the little children looked up at her father and said, "Are you really thankful for the hail?" Father looked down with a wide grin and replied, "Sure my love, let us go gather some up and make ice cream."

After they finished gathering up the ice and the ice cream was made, they again sat down at the table and prayed, thanking God for the many blessings they had so bountifully received. There never was such sweet ice cream and even mother, for just a moment, had forgotten about the devastation outside. She glanced at the sweet corn in the garden as they had been gathering up the ice and was pummeled into quiet depression as she seen nothing left but foot high stubs. Inwardly she sobbed, but did not want to spoil the children's anticipation of the ice cream treat. In her heart she wished for the strength of her husband, however she just could not find the

peace that he seemed to have. (*Beloved, it is that way at times. Wives are sometimes strong and sometimes it is the father who is strong. Whatever the case, at such times we must pull from the strength of the other rather than becoming bitter at each other because one seems to have more peace about a particular trial.*)

When all had finished with the ice cream treat and the children had gone off to play, father beckoned to his wife and said, "Come, let us go to the wheat fields and see the damage." As they traveled about three quarters of a mile down the gravel road, a miracle seemed to be materializing before their eyes. The tall grass in the ditch, which had been crushed by the icy hail, was beginning to grow before their eyes. On second glance, they could see that the hail had not dropped here and their wheat fields were safe. A little tousled by the wind but safe. Tears streamed down their eyes as they again looked to heaven with thanksgiving in their hearts. It was a thankful household that laid their head upon their pillows that night.

### A Midwest Storm

Sometimes the ending is not as good and we struggle, even though we shouldn't, with the reasons why. At another time in another place a family watched the storm clouds form as silent lightning betrayed the fact that a horrible storm was coming. The family took shelter in the basement and huddled together as they could feel the pressure change from the tornado that was predicted to head their way. In this case it was not the father that

prayed aloud for his children, but rather the little 8 year old son. "God, save us," came the quivering little prayer from his youthful lips. There was a lot of damage to the farmstead, however the house did not lose a shingle from the roof. Forty three trees were twisted off at the roots, however the trees close to the house were spared. When the family went to bed that night, there was a prayer of thanksgiving that should have come much earlier in the evening.

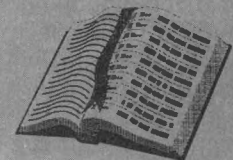
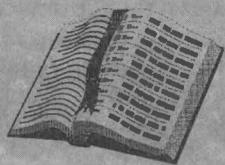
### We Thank God for All Things

Thanking God is a privilege that we can exercise anytime. Thanking for the trials and tribulations of life are difficult and do not come automatically, however we read in the Word, "*Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*" (James 1:3) It is that patience that is one of the rewards for the trials of life and another is the dependence in God we find so necessary. If only we can keep our place close by the Lord, trusting in Him to help us grow, even as the tender corn plant, so we might bring forth 100 fold increase.

Our particular trial may be different such as a death in the family, sickness and sorrow, loss of a job, or depression. If through the trials of life we can grow closer to the Lord, then surely we can thank God for the good and the bad that affects our life.

### Remember:

*"Only Fallen Trees  
Are Measured."*





# REMEMBERING

## Our Spiritual Heritage

### XII - Preserving the Faith

The purpose of studying history is to learn from the past and then apply those insights for a better future so long as the Lord tarries.

To be informed about the past helps us avoid mistakes. It also allows us to glean the positives of yesteryear in order to make our spiritual pathways more steady.

The matter of commenting on the future of the church—and its preservation—is speculative. We see through a glass darkly. But vision and casting our glances forward are done with the intent of keeping the faith intact; and by looking back we can enhance our ability to look ahead.

In preserving the faith we can take heart in the scripture that says (regarding the church), "...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:19)

The Lord Jesus also said, "...and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20)

The Lord's words are very comforting as we ponder the church's preservation. Surely we can become energized and vigorously hopeful—and indeed positive—when we rest our forward glances on the foundation of those two promises.

And yet, we must also consider some sobering warnings from the Word. The Apostle Paul wrote, "This know, also, that in the last days perilous times shall come" (II Timothy 3:1). He also decried the condition of those "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (II Timothy 3:5).

Paul further taught, regarding the end, "for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first..." (II Thess. 2:3).

It is in such a context that the future welfare and preservation of the faith must be considered. It suggests that al-

though perilous times will come (indeed are here), the evil of the times will not prevail against the church. In this there is a beckoning call of optimism.

The Word also teaches that "all who will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (II Timothy 3:12). Yet, in all of this, the Apostle Paul in commenting on the worsening conditions of evil said, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them." (II Timothy 3:12,14).

In the future, the church will prosper if our collective attitude of reverential fear of God remains intact—and is enshrouded with humility. The prophet Isaiah described the heart that God fa-



vors: "...even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembleth at my word" (Isaiah 66:2). Lowliness of mind should never be absent in the church!

We live in perplexing times, and often can become almost overwhelmed by the evil around us. We can become discouraged and sorrowful in witnessing the nation's moral decline. We must, however, keep our perspectives (and concerns) in a proper context. History provides a context.

Christian pilgrims of ages past faced far greater evils and many stayed true to God. In the early church, believers were thrown to the lions. They met in the catacombs. Yet, they held fast to their faith.

History further informs us of the brutality of "Christian" wars, the Inquisition, the Crusades, and the suffering of the Anabaptists (who endured burnings, beheadings, drownings, and having their tongues ripped out).

Today, we have it far easier; and our

beliefs are protected by the nation's constitution. Freedom of conscience renders this era as the golden age of the church. Our resources, both secular and spiritual, have never been greater. The fields are white unto harvest. We should seize on our plentiful resources and maximize our efforts for the glorious cause of Christ.

In the future, we should promote the gospel without compromise. Nonconformity to the world and separation from sin should continue to be upheld. We should beseech God for zeal to draw souls to the truth, and do so without compromising our high standards of sanctification.

For the welfare of our beloved faith, we should not lose sight of our historical context. And yet, as the generations come and go, an awareness of the zeal of our founding forefathers tends to grow dimmer and dimmer.

Let us re-acquaint ourselves with the God-given fervor of Bro. Samuel H. Froehlich and his early associates who, in fleeing religious falsehoods, set out to sincerely re-establish a church based on the Word. They went out and preached an uncompromising, undiluted message and a religious awakening occurred. In 35 years, 110 congregations were formed—or, an average of a new church every four months for 35 years. A historian from Bluffton College (Ohio) said, "The Froehlich movement was like the time of the apostles." That is our legacy!

To preserve the faith, let us remember an important scripture: "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 Cor. 15:58)

To preserve the future, we must preserve the past.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: *The Geistlich Diary*

# *The Light Of Hope*

## *From Across The Ocean*



# 希望の光

## “The Supernatural”

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

There is a difference between someone who believes the miracles in the Bible could have happened but didn't, and someone who believes they could not have happened because they are supernatural. The former is in better shape than the latter because he or she believes in the supernatural, in miracles, and probably believes in an Almighty God. The latter probably believes that everything is materialistic and that if science can't explain how and why something happened, it didn't happen—we just imagined that it did. True science is good, but science is not the whole story.

Something else to consider about the supernatural is the source of the power which causes the miracle to occur. In Revelation 19:20 we read, “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him.” The fact that Satan, as well as God, has power to work miracles, means that we have to be extra careful not to go chasing af-

ter anyone who performs a miracle.

The birth of Jesus Christ was supernatural and it is heartwarming to think about and consider that aspect of this wonderful event. This is clearly the work of the Heavenly Father, as Satan would surely be against the coming of the Saviour, God's Son. Satan desired for the baby to lose His human life before His birth, on the long and arduous journey to Bethlehem, or at the hands of King Herod who ordered all babies to be killed, under two years of age. Matthew 2:16, “Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof.”

The conception of the baby, Jesus Christ, was a miracle performed by the Holy Spirit. We read in Matthew 1:18, “She (Mary) was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” Many people do not accept this, for some strange reason. I say

it is strange if someone who believes in God has difficulty believing that this miracle could very easily take place. God is not God if He doesn't perform miracles, if He is limited to those things which are natural and commonplace.

That night, when shepherds were watching their sheep in the fields near Bethlehem, an angel appeared unto them with tidings of great joy. “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God.” (Luke 2:13). One angel appearing to one person can be explained away as an apparition or something imagined, but when many angels appear to a group of shepherds, it is clearly supernatural, an event of the spiritual world.

During this Christmas season, let's bathe ourselves in the wonderful atmosphere of acknowledging and remembering and glorying in the fact that the birth of Jesus Christ was God revealing Himself in a special way, in a supernatural way.

# 希望の光





## **Cissna Park - 1881** *(pictured in 1939)*

Brethren of German descent first found their way to the prairies of Cissna Park around 1870-1880. Large gatherings resulted in numerous remodelings of the church. In 1949 a new edifice was constructed and remodeled in 1972. The fertile prairies drew many brethren, however, by the Grace of God, the Cissna Park church has been blessed through the years and is one of the larger congregations today.

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