

A black and white photograph of a winter forest. The ground is covered in snow, and several large, flat, snow-covered branches or pieces of wood are scattered across the foreground. The background is filled with a dense thicket of bare, dark trees and shrubs, their intricate branches creating a complex, web-like pattern against a lighter sky. The overall atmosphere is cold and quiet.

The Silver Lining

The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

February 1998

“GOD’S WORD IS PRACTICAL”

Sermon by Bro. Robert Meyer, Bluffton North, IN
Ecclesiastes 8 and Colossians 1:1-14

There is a lot of meat in what we have just read. There is a lot of things to be covered. “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ” not by the will of man as it says in some of the Gospels, but here it says, “by the will of God...” (Col. 1:1). When you think of God’s will, it is something we all really want to know, don’t we? We would like to be in God’s will.

I am not certain if there is anyone in this congregation that says, “I don’t care what God’s will is.” If that is where you are this morning, I venture to say you should take another thought at that—about whether you care what God’s will is for your life. Because God’s will IS for you to be saved. Not that your life might be filled with drudgery and have to, but your life might be filled with joy and abundance. He has that in mind, doesn’t He?

“By the will of God,” Paul is going to preach there. Imagine if we would have come to Paul, and said, “Paul, are you worthy?” We can read in Corinthians where he said, “For I am the least of the apostles...” (I Cor. 15:9). When Paul looked back over his life where he had come from, he said, “I am not even worthy to be called an apostle.”

Now this morning, is that how we feel? When we feel unworthy to be in a certain place or a certain position in life, we work a little harder, don’t we? We try a little more. We take another look at ourself and we say, “I want to be worthy.” This morning if we are sitting here as Christians and say, “Oh, I am thankful God has me,” we are in trouble!

But if we from the other perspective say, “I am the least of the brethren here. I am not even worthy to be called a brother, but only by the grace of Jesus, in whom we have

redemption through His blood and forgiveness of sins, I am thankful to be a Christian this morning. I am unworthy but I am thankful and there is nothing that I can do even in comparison of what God has done for me. The hope that I have, I can’t get anywhere else. The peace, the contentment, the joy, the love, I can’t get anywhere else and I am grateful to be a Christian this morning.” Is that how we are? Is that how we are on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday?

Once in a while it helps us to take a little look in the newspaper and see the havoc that Satan plays, the havoc that is in the world for those that don’t know Jesus. They go from one thing to the next looking for contentment and cannot find it. We have very simple understanding and have come to believe that we have a home awaiting in Heaven. I am unworthy to be called a Christian, but I am thankful.

“To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Col. 1:2). When I think of that title, Lord Jesus Christ, we have something that is rampant over even the Christendom today that we must be careful of. Everybody wants to know the Saviour but not many want to live underneath the Lord. That comes together—the Lord and Saviour. Saviour is wonderful!

I loved to be saved, but do we want the authority of God over us? Do we want to do those little things? Do we want to love the unlovable? Do we want to maybe hold our peace when someone else is chewing us out? Do we want to be totally and utterly fair in all of our business dealings when nobody knows and nobody can see and it is just us and our books—it is

just us and the deal? Or in school work for those of you in school and college, who is going to know if I “fudge” a little bit—a little bit here and a little bit there?

But our Lord says, “Be ye holy; for I am holy.” (I Peter 1:16). Our Lord said, “Love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Mark 12:31). Do I care enough about my neighbor that I would never even think of cheating him? Is that me? I want the advantages of being saved and the peace and the hope there is, but am I not willing to keep His commandments on a daily basis? That is something we need to think about. We can all apply it to ourselves. The minute we apply it to someone else, it loses its effect. It loses the message and it becomes judgment.

“We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,” (Col. 1:3). Every one of these verses that we read have some wonderful teachings that we need to apply in our life. The gift of prayer. Do we give Him our best? Or do we give Him our sleepy times? Do we give Him what we have left over? All we have to do is put it in a human way.

Last night I was at my sister’s
Sermon continued on page 46

The Silver Lining (Vol. 52, #2)
RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561
USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

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SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining

RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL, 61561

309-923-7513 (phone) 309-923-7359 (fax)
Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and
additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation.
Send zip number with address. Remember to send
changes of address. Send both old and new addresses
(with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining

RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

February 1998

Gossip

We hear a great deal in the world today that reminds us to be careful that we do not cause an accident that brings injury to ourselves or to others. Businesses go to great lengths to try to make the workplace a safe place to be. Governments at all levels pass volumes of legislation to try to make the world a safer place to live. As children of God, we need to be careful that we do not do something that would cause injury to another person. In addition to physical injury, there is another area of our life that needs attention that will also help reduce the pain we cause others. Gossip, the spreading of hurtful information about another person, can cause pain that is at least as serious as the physical pain caused by many injuries. "The words of a talebearer are as wounds and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly" (Prov. 18:8). This concept is so important that the exact words are repeated in Prov. 26:22. The scripture uses a variety of terms such as "evil speaking", "talebearers" and "vaintalk" to warn us against gossip. All are utterly condemned by the scripture. All of them are regarded so seriously that those who engage in them are in danger of spiritual destruction. "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridlenth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

Additionally James writes:

...the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body and setteth on fire the cause of nature; and it is set on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, ...is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison (James 3:5-8).

Our speech and our actions must be consistent. "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries?..." (James 3:11-12).

If we hear of someone who is the subject of a rumor and we spread the news of this situation, we can be guilty of keeping the unfortunate story going. If we keep the gossip to ourselves, we can help to put an end to it. "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth" (Prov. 26:20). We must be very careful that we do not add fuel to the fire.

Sometimes we are tempted to defend ourselves when we gossip by saying that the information that we spread around is true. That may well be the case but our speech need not be false to make us guilty of gossip or evil speaking. Anything that could be hurtful, whether true or untrue, can be gossip. The factor that determines whether or not a message is gossip is the impact that it has on the individual who is being talked about. When the scribes and pharisees took the adulterous woman to Christ, there is little doubt that what they said was true. They informed Christ of the sin of the woman and spread the news of the unfortunate woman. Christ did not defend her actions. He clearly referred to it as sin. But he also made the point very clear that the scribes and pharisees were wrong in what they said because their intent was wrong.

They were part of the problem rather than part of the solution. When we have some information about an individual or a situation, we need to ask ourselves why we are repeating the story. Are we repeating it just so someone else has the information or so they know that there is a situation that needs our prayerful attention?

We also need to ask ourselves what will be the likely result if we repeat an account of a situation. Will it edify or will it confuse and cause pain? Will it help the individual or will it hurt someone?

The closeness of the fellowship in our brotherhood affords us many opportunities to engage in fruitful spiritual conversation. We have many opportunities to uphold, encourage and exhort one another. All of these can be to our

spiritual benefit.

We must, however, be so very careful that this extensive amount of time that we spend together does not give Satan an opportunity to cause division through gossip. Either within our local congregations or among the various congregations throughout our land, there are ample opportunities that Satan can use to bring pain or division. When an unfortunate situation occurs, we must use utmost caution in what we say, why we say it, how we say it or to whom we say it.

Certainly there are times when unfortunate situations must be discussed. In these times we should share just enough information so that the hearer has enough information to pray about the situation but does not have all of the unnecessary details. We must also be careful that we not add to the account by filling in details that may not be accurate.

Sometimes we are tempted to say something about someone in an attempt to make ourselves look better at their expense. We never make ourselves look good by making someone else look bad, "...but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (I Cor. 10:12). Also, it is the approval of the Lord that is important, not the approval of man. "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth" (II Cor. 10:18).

Gossip can be very destructive and very hurtful. The wounds that it can cause can be very deep and long lasting. We can help avoid causing such pain if we weigh our words carefully and follow the Golden Rule. We are accountable for what we say. "But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (Matt. 12:30). If we would not want others to gossip about us, we must not gossip about them. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matt. 7:12).



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

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

Mission Committee

December meeting

The Mission Committee held their scheduled meeting on December 16, 1997. All members were present, with Bros. Ed Schwartz and John Lehman representing the World Relief Committee.

It is our practice to have two elders from the other Committee to sit in on both Mission and World Relief Committee meetings. This makes it easier for each to understand the work in areas where the efforts of the two bodies overlap.

Financial report

The financial report for the quarter ending October 31, 1997 was presented and discussed. Contributions received for this period for the Bible and Mission Funds amounted to \$151,965. Disbursements for the three months included \$46,826 from the Bible Fund for the purchase of Bibles and postage for our own Bible distribution program.

The Mission Fund distributed \$199,516 during the quarter. \$76,536 was for projects in the USA with the remainder being used for eight foreign countries.

European church building fund

The balance in this fund as of October 31, 1997, was \$372,590. The projects for which this fund is used are first approved by our European Board and then referred to the Mission Committee for approval. The major portion of the above mentioned monies has already been authorized for church building projects in Yugoslavia, Romania, and Hungary. Details are available from Bro. Gene Marti if anyone would like to see the

exact distributions.

We do not forward funds to our brethren in these countries until the actual building projects have started. We keep the funds here in the States so we can earn interest until they are needed.

Following are the church building projects that we are presently supporting in Europe.

Hungarian churches

On a recent trip to Europe, our brethren attended the dedication of the addition to the church in Hódmezővásárhely. This is one of the oldest congregations in Hungary and

constructing a small but adequate house of worship.

Croatian churches

As one of the ancient countries re-created by the division of the former Yugoslavia, this is a land of great adversity and personal suffering.

We have three congregations in Croatia that were very adversely affected by the internal fighting in that country. Members numbered around 300 before the war. Most of them found it necessary to flee their homes and seek refuge in Hungary.

Our brethren who are acquainted with Eastern Europe have known and

loved Elder Istvan Szemmelroth of Pogany, Hungary, who has taken a real personal interest in these refugees. In their small village, they have a house which was used as a refuge for the unfortunate brethren who had to flee their homeland due to the civil war. Most of them lost all of the few possessions they had.

They are now returning to Croatia and attempting to

rebuild their homes as well as their lives. It is hard for us who have so much, to relate to those who have so little, but we wish to assure you that this is reality.

Their church buildings were damaged or destroyed during the war, and they need assistance to build these structures. The Mission Committee agreed to contribute \$40,000 to rebuild the Croatian churches. The World Relief Committee had previously agreed to contribute \$40,000 from their disaster fund and special contributions that have been made for Yugoslavia.

None of this work could go on without your prayers and generous financial support. The Mission Committee and the recipients of our aid all thank you from our hearts.

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.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

the addition to their building was sorely needed. The Hungarian brethren were able to provide the major portion of the costs of this addition, but our committee approved an additional contribution of \$10,000 for this purpose.

The situation in Hungary is such that rampant inflation is creating a real hardship, especially for families with young children. Hungary came out of the Communist system with perhaps the best opportunity to embrace capitalism, yet the struggle is real. We believe that we are doing the right thing in helping them in their efforts.

Approval was also given for a contribution of \$40,000 to the building fund at Bekassamson. This old church needs to be replaced. They have a building site, and have started



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

The Galilean Home

A special report

One of the projects here in the USA which has received much enthusiastic support from our brethren is the Galilean Home in Liberty, Kentucky.

This home is a result of a deep conviction on the part of Jerry and Sandy Tucker. Some time ago, they felt directed by our Lord to provide a home for children who were virtual outcasts from society, not only in the USA, but abroad. The result of this vision is a home in a rural area of Kentucky.

The beginning

In the early 1970's, the Tuckers started adopting children. Some of the children had mental and physical handicaps. They legally adopted many children, but have cared for many others who were not adopted.

The Home accepts no state aid. To be yoked with the state, they must accept some of the state's standards which they consider to be in conflict with the scriptures. They have an on-campus school through 12th grade, which is open for the children of the area to attend. For the children who are not residents of the Galilean Home there is a tuition charge for those who can afford it.

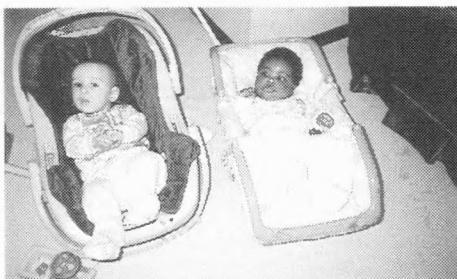
Our involvement

Our church's first visit to the Galilean Home ministries was in the summer of 1992. A couple of our brothers were inspired after reading the book, "Faith, Hope, and Room for One More." This book was written by Jerry and Sandy Tucker. It was through the interest of these brothers that a visit by a representative of World Relief first occurred.

A focus on other needs

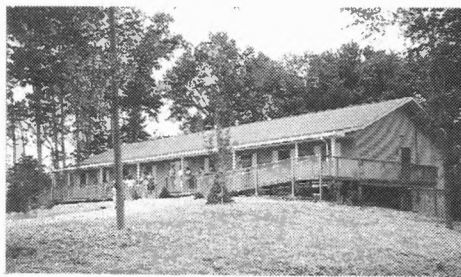
Along with the many children they have cared for, something new was added to their ministry. In the early 1990's, they

started caring for babies who were born to mothers in prison. There was a great need for a building to accommodate



these babies, and in 1995, World Relief built a dormitory to house those babies.

Galilean Home Ministries named this dormitory "Angel House". It is an attractive light blue vinyl sided building with a white front porch. There is a main floor and a walk-out basement. World Relief also provided a playground for the children of this house. Everyone who helped in the construction of this facility considered it a great blessing for them personally in addition to the blessing it brought to the Home.



From their newsletter

The following excerpt is from the December 1997 newsletter published by the Galilean Home. We print it in order that our own brethren can derive therefrom the purpose and goals of this ministry.

"This is the purpose of the ministry, serving children whom God directs, not having geographical boundaries, not judging the color of their skin or religious preferences. We have 70 children, give or take a few, who continue to need shelter, love, medical treatment, and spiritual nurturing. We continue to fulfill

this mission without state support and as long as you, our sponsors, continue to have faith in our vision, we will not waiver in our work. Even if we, someday, stand alone, we will continue to stand for God and maintain our convictions."



An invitation to visit

Some words from the Home in a recent correspondence to the Apostolic Christian Church were: "You have made a difference in the lives of many children. May God bless you one hundred-fold for reaching beyond your fences." The staff of the Galilean Home wishes to invite all of our brethren to visit them. As you travel to the hills of Kentucky, you can visit this unique home. They are doing an interesting, rewarding work.

Future plans

At a recent meeting, the World Relief Committee approved funding for erecting a building to be used as a wood working shop. Meanwhile, the Home received a number of commercial grade wood working tools as a donation. The proposed building will provide a working shop area while also serving as a training area for those who have an interest in wood working.

Those interested in volunteering for work teams for the new building or needing more information, please contact:

Bro. Gerald Fiechter
5676 N 600 E
Craigville, IN 46731
(219) 597-7494

- 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

<u>1998</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL — 15 YEARS</u>
January	4,424	4,424	416,622

* 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

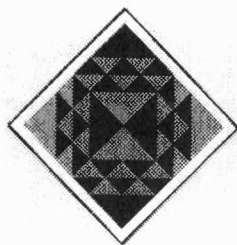
A very effective way of giving the pocket Testaments/Psalms/Proverbs (boxed), is to place the plastic box with label in hospitals, rest homes, motels, filling stations, stores, doctor, dentist, and eye doctor offices.

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 -



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

One of the ladies from Oakwood Estate showed me a poem to include in the Silver Lining this month. Her window looks out to a field between the homes and frequently we see several deer running from one woods to another. It's always a thrill to see these beautiful creatures! We also enjoy watching the birds in all seasons. Here's the poem that was an inspiration to her:

Counselor Needed

Gateway Woods, a residential child-care facility, is seeking a female counselor for an opening this spring. A Bachelors degree in Social Work or Counseling is required. A Masters degree in Social Work or Counseling is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management and consultation with the treatment team.

For more information/application please contact:

Jeff Schumacher, MS
Senior Counselor
Gateway Woods
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219)627-2159

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
(219)565-3499

What a lovely, graceful family
I saw the other day
When I looked out from my window
To see the deer at play.
And then there are the lovely birds
Who raise their voice in song
And look to build their family
nests—
I could watch them all day long.
It seems a peaceful garden,
A paradise on earth,
A temporary haven,
'Til the day of my rebirth.
Then I will see the kingdom
The Lord has promised me
And live in heavenly glory
Through all eternity.

—"A Prelude to Paradise", by
Dolores Karides from *IN HIS
PRESENCE*

Once a year the people who live at Linden and Oakwood enjoy going out to eat for Valentine's Day. This year everyone from Linden will go to Fairview Farms and Oakwood will have their banquet at Vonachens. Some folks from ACHH enjoyed the Globetrotters game in January and others are looking forward to the Ice Capades in February. Some of the ladies from the CILA homes enjoyed lunch out with Sis. Ruth Schu-

**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**

March 7-14

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

March 14-21

Contact Bro. Wayne Lehman
(South Bend)
(219)773-4373

March 21-28

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

March 21-28

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

April 1-8

Medical Dental Team (Juarez)
Contact Bro. Dave Wegman
(Bloomington)
(309)452-8079

November 4-12

Medical Dental Team (Creel)
Contact Bro. Dave Wegman
(Bloomington)
(309)452-8079

macher and Sis. Phyllis Farney.

Birthdays for March are: ACHH - Judy Grimm (6), Margo Ebert (12), Susan Crose (15), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Tom Christensen (20), Edna Haynes (23), Jon Wil-

helm (26), Nancy Meister (31). OAKWOOD -Maretta Rokey (6), Sheila Steffen (9). HAZELWOOD - Mike Bodtke (4). WAGLER - Anna Eberhard (15).

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

The most beautiful relationship imaginable: an eternally righteous and loving God wishes to be our Spiritual Father. The Creator, the King, the Judge — our Father! What graciousness could forge such a family relationship with created beings who defied and denied Him! But this grace is not just a present, a gift. This same gracious mercy is to be rightly understood only in the context of the relationship that He has carefully defined from the beginning of time. From Genesis to Revelation we see God speak of making covenants with men. In fact, God specifically laid out the different terms for these covenant relationships with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Israel, David and now offers to us the New Covenant of the crucified and risen Messiah. The promise is the family relationship that He offers — and it is on His terms!

Let's commit ourselves to understanding the covenants in Scripture. In them there is a three-fold cord of commitment (promise/provision), love (affection/grace) and law (teaching/discipline). What better way for us as parents to examine our own family relationships than in light of a perfect model: God the Father. Such powerful truths, such simple applications. Can we also model His commitment, love and law to our children?

This past month Kristen S. joined the Graf house and Shane C. (Schrock house) went to live with his mother. Also, Arnold M. came to our Foster Care program. Please join us in prayer as we seek to lead both young people and their parents to a family relationship with the Heavenly Father.

We welcome Sis. Melissa Frieden who has joined us as the teacher of our on-grounds school. We wish her much grace as she learns how to minister in this setting. We are also thankful that our out-going Board Members have been replaced by others who are willing to serve: Bro. Eldon Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Russell Manz (Junction, OH). We thank Bro. Sam Bachtold (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Bill Eisenmann (Latty, OH) for their faithful service. It's been our pleasure to work with committed Brothers of our Lord. The Board also just finished its annual Retreat. Please continue to pray for God's leading for the Board Members — they always have many weighty decisions to consider as they steer us toward the future.

This past month has also brought us many committed young brothers, sisters and friends as volunteers: Nick Zaugg, Paul Zaugg, Brad Schmidgall, Gene Butikofer, Brent Heiniger, Jim Wells, Brian Kellenberger, Becky Ifft, Rachel Stoller, Sara Knobloch, Rena Braker, Tessa Schambach, Rick Kaisner, Tom Koch. Also, please remember the annual Representative meetings. This year, in addition to the Representative meeting here in Leo (March 7), there will also be one held in Goodfield, IL (March 14) for the convenience of many of you. Contact your

HAITI/JAMAICA WORK SCHEDULE - 1998

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
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb 06-14	TBA	Jim Walter	Grd. School	10	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb 14-21	TBA	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	100%
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	100%
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	95%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 5-13	Kingston	Taylor SS	Deaf School	40	40%

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	

local Representative for details.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Molly Stickling

If I had to use one word to describe this past month, "Rain" would be the word. Up North, where you may be having snow, us down South have been experiencing lots of rain. For us at the preschool, that means lots of inside

time. We are still thankful though, because we were able to put into action our verse for the letter "P". Psalm 147:1, "Praise ye the Lord; for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." Singing! The children love to sing, and it is a wonderful way to praise the Lord.

One of our Bible stories this month was when Samuel anointed Saul. In our Bible story-

book, Samuel had a special "jar" hidden in his robe. At the end of the story, the teacher asked what was in that special jar. A child quickly exclaimed, "Cookies!" Any special jar to a child definitely holds cookies. The child was not embarrassed by her answer, but anxious to help answer whatever question was next. A reminder to not get discouraged when we have "wrong answers", but like a child,

eager and willing to see what God will do next.

We also spent time studying letters N, O, P, Q, and the color purple. Families and manners were also our themes this month. So as you might have guessed, we have some very polite little children walking around saying, "please, thank-you, and excuse me" at every opportunity!

Also this month, we held our annual pajama day. The children were all smiles and giggles as they came to school wearing their "special" pajamas. It was a fun day inside, even though the weather outside was rainy.

Spring break and vacation time is coming up. We would welcome anyone wanting to come visit the preschool. There are a variety of tasks available for willing servants, and the blessings of Christian fellowship and spending time with the children are heavenly. Anyone interested can contact the preschool at (205) 233-0591.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Reinhard

As we have come through the holidays and we settle into the New Year, it is a time for reflecting and looking back at the past. It is also a time for looking ahead to the future. What have we learned and in what area can we do better? What would the Lord have us to do differently this year?

Our congregation was saddened with the passing of our dear Sis. Anis Perry. She was the eldest person who was attending our church, and her example and diligence will be missed by all. May God be with her family, especially our Sis. Corrine Williams and Sis.

Hazel Vibbert in the days and years to come.

Sis. Dessie Siniard has not been feeling well and she has spent some time in the hospital this month. We pray the Lord will restore her to a good measure of health according to His will.

We are thankful for our visitors this month and we appreciate the fellowship they bring. Please continue to include us in your plans when you travel South.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

I Peter 5:7

We are delighted to have many loved ones visiting over the past weeks and months. Our winter residents have "come home". We have even been blessed with visits by three dear ones who were in Sunday School in 1968, coming to visit their folks from the west and east and in-between.

Christmas caroling was December 21, along with showers, thunder and lightening. The joy shared was a real spiritual blessing.

In Arizona, we count on the dry heat for our ails and ills, but are grateful for some much needed rain.

We know there is power in prayer; we feel it and see it. Our thanks was heartfelt December 28 when Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene Emch were in church again.

World Relief family night was January 9, with many doing numerous projects to help put joy in other's lives.

Our visiting ministers were

Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) and Elder Bros. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). We are very appreciative and ask God's blessing on you. The welcome mat awaits your return.

Bro. Marshall and Sis. Stacia Witzig were honored at a wedding reception January 11 in our Congregational Room. May the Lord bless you each day as you do His will in your lives toward building a Christian home.

Searching for God's peace for their soul's salvation and feeling they have been so blessed are Gabriel Hill and Anita Cowen. They and Jeanne Metzger look forward to giving their testimonies on January 17.

We pray for God's will and healing for our two oldest sisters, Sis. Gladys Fisher and Sis. Ruth Baer. Many others also need our prayers for on-going ails.

Mary Beth Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene) was hospitalized in January for surgery on her stomach and esophagus.

A group of brothers from Phoenix are helping construct an Orphanage Home in Mexico. How thankful we are to bear other's burdens.

During the weekend of January 17-18, it was our joy and privilege to have a foretaste of Heaven. Humility plus love equals unity. On Saturday night, we heard the testimonies of Gabe Hill, Jeanne Schlatter Metzger and Anita Cowen (Corven). Bro. Gabe and Sis. Jeanne came to the church by baptism. Sis. Anita came by transfer from the Church of the Nazarene. Relatives and friends came

from Illinois, Michigan and Arizona, as well as our many dear winter visitors. Our gratitude to Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) in sharing the labors of a joyous weekend. A fellowship dinner and singing was enjoyed by many in the evening.

Note of Thanks:

Greetings Dear Ones,

Since our daughter, Mary Beth, has been treated for her cancer relapse in 1997, we can testify that the church through Jesus has been a powerful source of strength to us. We wish to thank each one for the gifts, prayers and acts of kindness shown to our family. We covet your prayers as she continues to recover at home.

Your Least in Faith,

Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton

Thought for the times: Renew a right spirit within me.

Reminder: In March, your Silver Lining offering of \$11.00 is due. Please make checks payable to the church, marked for the "Silver Lining". If you pay cash, please put in envelope marked "Silver Lining". You may use the church collection box or give to your reporter.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Ministering God's Word to our congregation this last month have been Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), and Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), James Emch and Bill Dotterer (both of Phoenix, AZ). May God richly bless them and their families for their service.

Sis. Elena Kornja has been ill for a few weeks. She would appreciate the prayers of her brothers and sisters in the faith.

We have been having visitors from Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. Even though it is winter here in Prescott, it is usually mild compared to the eastern states. We enjoy and appreciate all the visitors!

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were privileged to have a visit from Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and his family on New Year's Eve. We are thankful for his willingness to serve on the pulpit. We enjoyed visiting with him at a New Year's Eve meal following church. We invite him and his family to come see us again sometime.

Our winter visitors started arriving during the holidays and we were able to visit with some of them at our New Year's Eve meal also.

Bro. Al Zeltwanger and Sis. Martha Blessman still need our prayers as they cannot assemble with us on a regular basis. Most of us that are younger cannot understand what it's like to be deprived of Sunday services and the fellowship that our Sunday worship provides. I would imagine Bro. Al and Sis. Martha have a deeper appreciation for Sundays than what I have. We need to remember to pray for those who are shut in.

Some in our congregation traveled over the holidays and some of us came home to visit from college. Everyone is back "home" now and we thank the Lord for their safe returns, some to Tucson and some to their home away from home.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Joshua Martinez

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

I John 4:19

Greetings of love across the many miles! February brings us its many wonderful images of love. We feel comforted and blessed knowing that our Heavenly Father's gift of love is vast, beyond measure and free to all just for the asking! May we strive to share the Heavenly gift of love with all we meet. Let's never hide that beautiful little light that glows within us!

In this month, we also remember our dear Elder brothers with our love and prayers as they meet for their mid-winter Conference. May our Lord provide an added measure of the Spirit as they discuss any concerns and problems that face our church. May God be with our faithful watchmen at that time and always. May His will be done in our precious faith and in all things.

We are thankful that our Lord has safely returned all those from our congregation who traveled to visit loved ones across the land during the holiday season. We are keeping in our prayers all those who are suffering from the effects of the flu season as well. We feel thankful for the wonderful work He has done in our lives. We feel especially blessed for the love that we share.

We welcome all who will visit us with open and joyful hearts and extend a warm invitation to all who will travel to our area to come worship with us. May God bless

you all and may you have a happy month!

“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another...”

I Thess. 3:12

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huetter

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

Zion's Harp #37

We rejoice with Bro. Victor Jevremov and Sis. Peggy Schulz (Silverton, OR) on their engagement. Sis. Peggy is the daughter of Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz from Oakville, IA. Their wedding date is set for March 15. We are so thankful the Lord has worked in their hearts and pray that He will continue to lead them each day.

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). We thank him for his love in bringing God's Word to us. May he be richly blessed.

Our prayers remain with our beloved Sis. Frieda Minger who has been ill now for a long time. May God continue to be by her side during her illness and comfort and bless her during her long, lonely hours. We sure miss her as she is very special to us. May we also remember others who are ill and pray for God's healing power.

We are enjoying many visitors from different congregations in

the U.S. and Hungary. Some we have met long ago and some for the first time. It is a wonderful blessing and we thank all who came. May each one feel God's nearness and visit us again soon.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter

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.

Now it is accomplished! With heart and with mind
To Thee, my dear Saviour, I now am resigned!

I'll ever be faithful in life and in death,
Abiding in Jesus unto my last breath.

Zion's Harp #209

We were glad to be able to travel to Detroit, MI on January 17-18 to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new brother in Christ, Peter Pfeiffer. It is a great encouragement and joy to have Bro. Peter with our Kitchener congregation. We also want to thank our Detroit brethren for their kind hospitality shown to us again.

We want to thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for coming to minister again to our congregation. We sure appreciate all our visitors' love, prayers and support.

We welcome all visitors who are in the area to come and worship with us. Please contact Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 or Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 for

more information and directions.

COLORADO, DENVER
Lynne Martin

In a month during which we celebrate love, isn't it wonderful to have the conviction that God knows all about us and still loves us? It is truly love in the purest form!

We are so thankful that God's healing hand has touched the life of Sis. Kris Bauman (Bro. Ben) of Goodfield, IL. She is the daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Leman. Sis. Kris was admitted to the hospital the Saturday before Christmas with meningitis. As she struggled between life and death, it was a very helpless feeling. The privilege and power of prayer becomes so evident during the most critical times of our lives.

Denver hosted the National Western Stock Show this past month. We certainly enjoyed and appreciated our many visitors who attended this event and took the time to worship with us.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

Ephesians 4:11-12

Our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan traveled to Europe with Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for the dedication of churches both

in Hungary and Yugoslavia.

It is a blessing to have visiting brethren to share out of God's Word with us. Bro. Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) was used as an instrument to impart to us His good teachings.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. May God bless those who have completed their duties and encourage brethren who are continuing or are filling new positions within the church. Whether we have an "official" position or not, every brother and sister is needed.

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."

I Corinthians 12:18

We rejoice with Erika Hoffman (Bro. Michael and Luann) as she turns her life over to Jesus Christ in repentance. May God comfort and guide her every step.

May God continue His healing of Bro. Corbin Bahler (Sis. Virginia) as he recuperates from illness over the past months.

Our prayers are with two dear families in the loss of their loved ones. Cheryl Farnham passed away and leaves her husband, Steven, and daughter, Shelby. Her parents are Bill and Judy Gottier Delaney, maternal grandmother is Sis. Elizabeth Gottier and her sister is Tracy Lee Delaney. May God be with them and the rest of the family. We also pray for the family of Hazel Dombek (John P. Sr.) who died Tuesday, January 13. Her children are John Jr. (Vicki), Paul (Beth), Sis. Jane Moser (Bro. James), Stanley (Bonnie), Willa Norwood (James Sr.) and Robert

(Sis. Lorraine). May God comfort these families in the days ahead.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

We often used this verse to comfort us when we are small in number. The other Sunday we reminded each other of this verse when we had to use a different room in the hotel that we could still feel the Lord's presence.

Our prayers are with Sis. Jill Martin (Bro. Ken) as she is under the care of her doctor.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). May the Lord richly reward them for their efforts. Other visitors were from Eureka and Peoria, IL. We are thankful for all that visit us and remind you it usually is not as cold and snowy here as it is in many other parts of the country, so come visit us this winter.

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.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

I Cor. 13:4-7

The sunny weather and warm temperatures which we enjoy have drawn others to our area. We are thankful to have many of our winter residents and other visitors assemble with us. Among those who worshipped with us were ministers, Bros. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) and his family, Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI) and Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL). May the Lord bless each of you for your willingness to serve us.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Mary Ann (Bro. Bill) Klaus in the passing of her brother, Jed Leman, at the Eureka Home, and we pray that the Lord will comfort her and her family during this time of loss.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ken (Sis. Joyce) Troxel as he had surgery. We trust that he will feel the Lord's healing hand as he recovers.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS
Anjie Baum**

This past Sunday many brothers and sisters from Sarasota and Ft. Lauderdale came to worship with us. We enjoyed a potluck dinner and the winter Ft. Myers choir sang. Our special thanks to the following ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Bros. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) for their service in bringing forth God's Word.

Big and small, we are constantly challenged to resist Satan's constant torment, for he hates those who love the Lord. No need to worry, though, if we have the Lord as the Light of our lives. Only He knows what tomorrow holds for us. The times that we let go and let God lead us are the times less spent worrying.

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

Matthew 6:33-34

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Melissa Sabo - Rachel Sabo

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

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

As our church begins to fill with our winter visitors and residents,

we look to the dawn of a new year with many emotions of hope, joy, fear, and happiness. We never know what a new year will bring, but if we keep our confidence and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we know that He will provide our every need. May we all seek to do His will to a greater extent and look forward to His coming with great anticipation.

We were blessed this month to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and ministering Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI).

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Eli Anliker and Bro. Gene Brueman. We hope for a speedy recovery and ask for your prayers for them also.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Peggy Camp

We are very thankful for the many visitors we had this month; especially for the visiting ministers and their families. Thanks to Bros. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL).

Most of the church remodeling inside has been completed. We are finishing up the painting and hope to get the carpeting done and the pews in by the first of February.

As always, we invite visitors to stop in Atlanta and worship with us. The church is located south of the city. From Atlanta, take I-85 south to Exit 13 (Rt. 138). Go west four miles. The church will be on the left. Services begin at 10:20 and 12:30. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Carlene Jepson

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

Sometimes our assemblies are small in number, so we appreciate all who have visited us. Special thanks to Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) who ministered the Word to us during the previous month.

ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Janice Horner - Carol Sauder

Hannah Leann was born to Cory and Alicia Young on December 15. Hannah's grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie Young, and Gary and Terry Brady.

Our Christmas program was held December 21. It's always heartwarming to hear our Sunday School children sing praises to tell the wonderful Christmas story of old.

In our New Year's Eve service, our Elder Bro. Everett Hari presented the following five challenges to the church: 1) Become a more prayerful church. 2) Develop more personal holiness. 3) Read the Word more. 4) Be more forgiving. 5) Love more. In addition, he humbly asked the congregation to keep him accountable to stay with the Word and to pray for him to have greater spiritual discernment as our shepherd.

We wish to welcome Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue Heimer from Taylor,

MO into our congregation. They have four boys: Seth, Levi, Casey, and Brock. Their new address is Route 1, Box 124, Colfax, IL 61728.

Alyssa Lauren Kieser was born January 10 to Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer Kieser (Sycamore, IL). Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Kieser and Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch (Lamont, KS).

As we enter another year, may we continue to pray for grace that we may live according to do His will and always remember there are two ways to go.

The Way and the Reward

Two ways, O man, are there for thee;

There are two destinations.
Upon the path to heav'n we bear,
The cross and tribulation.
The other path with joy abounds,
And yet no inward peace is found;
It leads thee to destruction.

His way at first may seem too hard,
Too steep, and full of sorrow;
Yet peace e'en now is its reward,
And bliss in God's tomorrow.
Who through the narrow gate doth
press,
An inner peace will he possess,
And very joy in living.

The broader way at first may seem
As though a pleasant pasture.
But in its path great dangers teem;
It ends in dark disaster.
In righteous anger God will cast
Into great agony at last
The unrepentant sinner.

Zion's Harp #106

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

Greetings of love to all the brethren!

To close out 1997, here's a few statistics for the year. In Bradford there were six baptisms, six births (four girls and two boys), one fu-

neral of a friend, and no weddings (although four of our brothers did get married in other congregations).

Two of the girls born came in December. Bro. John and Sis. Sara Ehnle were blessed with the arrival of Hannah Natalie on December 20. She joins her big sister, Rebecca, and two brothers, Jonathan and Luke. Hannah's thankful grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle and Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht (Princeville, IL). Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos also received the blessing of a healthy baby girl on December 30. Jamie MaKayla was welcomed home by Bro. Tyler, Jeb, Sandi, Chad and Cory. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorene Joos (Peoria, IL) and Norman and Hilda Rouse (Bradford). On January 17, Erin Elizabeth was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy Kieser. Erin joins her sister, Erica. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Sis. Gloria White (Princeville, IL). May God give His wisdom and guidance to the parents of these three baby girls to rear them up in the fear and love of the Lord. May He also continue to bless their families.

Our prayers are with Bro. Steve Ehnle (Sis. Karen) and Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth) in the coming year. Bro. Steve was selected for the duty of trustee and Bro. Bruce is our new usher. May God give them wisdom and guidance to perform their duties "as unto the Lord". We would also like to thank Bros. Ed Ehnle (Sis. Verla) and Don Duckworth (Sis. Delores) who retired from their posts as trustee and usher, respectively. May God bless them for

their years of service.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Emma Knobloch (Bro. Clarence) during her time of illness. We pray the Lord's healing hand will touch her and that she will receive comfort from His Holy Spirit.

We thank Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) for sharing the Word with us on Christmas Day. May God bless him and we invite him to come back soon.

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA**

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

As we mark February as a month to celebrate love, we don't hear much about the person whose name is associated with the greeting cards, candy, and flowers which are sent on St. Valentine's Day. Legend and history tell us that a young priest in the early church was named Valentine. Because he went against Emperor Claudius's edicts which called for weakening families by forbidding marriage, he was imprisoned, beaten, and eventually beheaded. While a prisoner, he befriended the jailer's daughter and corresponded with her on paper cut into shapes. His last note to her was reportedly delivered to her on the last day of his life (February 14) and was signed "Your Valentine." His martyrdom was later recognized with the title of sainthood, and out of those early church beginnings we have a day to focus on love.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

Two people more aware of that February 14 date on their calendars this year are Bro. Thad Heindold and Sis. Elizabeth Laubscher. Both of Cissna Park, they were recently engaged to be married. Elizabeth was a Parkland College student a couple of years ago, and Thad is at U of I and will be graduating this spring. They will be married the end of May, then moving to Wisconsin for employment. May God's love continue to grow in their hearts.

There is a Chinese proverb which states that there is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it. The current holder of the world title for prettiest child is Sheyenne Morgan Kaeb. Born on December 29, she is the daughter of Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelly Kaeb. We wish the Kaeb family much love, patience, and Godly direction as they make this transition to parenthood. Sheyenne's address is 339 N. 1800 E. Rd., Paxton IL 60957.

In the "transitions" area, we have had one of our fine young men complete his studies at Parkland College and enter Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Thomas Fehr, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb, has packed up and made the move south to further his education and become an engineer. We miss Thomas and pray that God will keep him in his care while he is away from his church and family. College students do appreciate mail, and Thomas receives his at 0109 Allen II - SIUC, Carbondale IL 62901-6726.

There was a celebration of milestone birthdays in the home of ministering Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlene Banwart. Their chil-

dren, Sisters Krista and Kara and Bro. Neil, coordinated a singing to honor their parents. The evening will surely be cherished as it is reflected upon. It was a real blessing to share songs of praise, laughter, conversation, and even some birthday cake with two who have given so much to our church. We wish them many more happy, healthy years of serving one another and our Heavenly Father.

"Being confident...that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. [That] your love may abound yet more and more..."

Philippians 1:6,9

We are thankful that a measure of health has been restored to Sis. Ila June and Jerry Hari.

Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) ministered to us while they were in town to spend time with their families. We thank these brothers and their families for coming and preaching the Word to us.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

I believe God calls us to find a balance in our daily lives. We need to be consistent in our prayer and Bible study times, but we must always be on guard against the tendency to become mechanical in these areas.

One of our home brethren shared a thought this month that was a "check" for me against that mechanical tendency. He asked if we are really praying that God's will be done or that God would simply bless our will. It made me

stop and think about my prayer attitude.

This month in Chicago has been a very stable and consistent one in that we have not had any moves, births or deaths, etc. Let us take comfort in the consistent elements of our lives...

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Hebrews 13:8

And let us also be challenged to...

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

Philippians 3:14

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Beth Steffen - Joyce Bauer

Three families have welcomed new babies into their homes this past month. Justin Todd was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Val Kaeb. Siblings, Amber and Nathan, and grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann, join in the welcome. Rachel Lynn was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger and sisters, Sis. Becky, Sis. Melissa, Sis. Val, and Katie. Grandparents are Sis. Margaret Kupferschmid and Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Rinkenberger. Caleb Waldbeser excitedly welcomes his new sister, Hiedi Jo. Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie Waldbeser are the thankful parents. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Edelman (Sabetha, KS).

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Sis. Leona Walder is enjoying a new grandchild, Samuel

Benjamin, born to Larry and Karen Walder. Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Kaeb have a new little granddaughter to love. Sheyenne Morgan was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelly Kaeb, making their Christmas quite special this year.

We are excited for Sis. Elizabeth Laubscher and Bro. Thad Heinold as they announced their engagement. Their wedding will be May 31. Their parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher and Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold. We wish them God's blessing as they look to the future together.

We are thankful that Emily Young and Renee Kaufmann have made a change in their lives. We look forward to their testimonies and baptisms on the weekend of January 24-25. Their parents are Melvin and Marilyn Young and Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann.

The angels in Heaven rejoice over every sinner that repents. We are grateful that Nick Walder has decided to seek the Lord in repentance. Nick's parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder.

January 7 was the date of our annual business meeting and election. New Sunday School teachers elected were Bro. Wes Kaufmann, Bro. Steve Walder, and Sis. Cyn-dee Anderson. Bro. Stan Maul was elected as trustee and Bro. Roland Young to the Fellowship Hall committee. May God be their guide in their new assignments.

The Christmas season always brings families together. When those family members are ministers, our whole congregation can gain a blessing from these visits. Those ministers visiting us this past month included Bros. Mark

Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). May God give each of you a special blessing for willingly sharing the Word with us.

Many from our congregation have gone to warmer climates for the winter months. We miss our "snowbirds" and look forward to welcoming them back in the spring.

Bro. George and Sis. Gladys Winger reached another milestone this past week. On Saturday, January 10, they celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary. What a joy to be able to share that many years together.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Al Hari with knee surgery and Sis. Ellen Hofbauer in her battle with cancer. May you feel God's nearness as you suffer the afflictions of the body.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Missy Banwart - Sandy Steiner**

We are thankful that Jared Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary) and Lori Knapp (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay) have turned their back on the world and are seeking the Lord in repentance. May God grant them much grace to lay a firm foundation.

On Wednesday evening, December 17, we listened to our Sunday School students bring forth the Christmas story in our annual Christmas program. May the verses and songs be hidden in each student's heart and bring forth fruit some day.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Joe Stol-

ler (Princeville, IL) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We thank them for their efforts on our behalf.

Our prayers are with Sis. Martha Rinkenberger (Bro. Charles) and Justin Steffen (Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda) who recently spent time in the hospital.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for the prayers, deeds of kindness, and cards during our daughter Carmen's illness. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and kindness. All was very much appreciated.

The Denny Wettstein family

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

December 28 was the wedding of Sis. Stacia Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) and Bro. Marshall Witzig (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lyla) of Phoenix, AZ. Our church was filled with family and friends as they were joined hand and heart in the Lord. We will miss Sis. Stacia since they will be living in Phoenix and wish them God's blessings. Ministering Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Richard Plattner (Peoria, IL) shared the special day with us.

After 28 years of faithful service bringing us the Word, Bro. Bill Gudeman has retired from the ministry. We appreciate his many efforts, love and concern for all of us, which extended far beyond his sermons. He has touched us all with his gracious manner and enthusiasm, and we pray God will

continue to use him to inspire us. May many blessings follow him and his wife, Sis. Evelyn.

Natalie Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean) was hospitalized for a short time and has recovered.

Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forest, IL) was with us for our New Year's Day service. We appreciate him coming and being with us.

We are always thankful for new babies in our church. Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer Kieser are happy first-time parents of little Alyssa Lauren who was born January 10. Her grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Kieser (Bloomington, IL).

Bro. Al and Sis. Joan Scheitlin are grateful for a new grandson. Phillip Carroll was born December 26 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Marsha Scheitlin of Leo, IN. Marsha's parents are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Iva Stoller (Latty, OH). May God bless these little ones and their parents as they care for these precious children.

January 14, God relieved the suffering of our dear Sis. Joyce (Bro. Paul) Weiss and took her home to be with Him. She taught us kindness and loving ways, but much more, through faith she taught us how to face death with unending courage and a smile. Our sympathy and prayers are with her family, Bro. Paul, and their children, Bro. Roger (Sis. Karen), Don (Deborah), John (Lisa), Sis. Candi (Bro. Tim) Aberle of Tremont, IL, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Eric) Schieler, the grandchildren, and brothers and sisters.

The Mansion of Heaven

This world, however beautiful, was never meant to be

The place that we would call our home for all eternity.
 And though we would not choose to leave, a loving God knows best,
 And in His time, He lifts us to a place of peace and rest.
 For He has built a mansion where His children will abide,
 Free from pain and sorrow, forever at His side.
 He said He'd never leave us to face our trials alone,
 And though sometimes we fail Him, He never fails us His own.
 And even when our choices are less than He would ask,
 He knows when human courage is unequal to the task.
 We cannot judge what happens, though tears and questions start—
 We can only see what's visible—God sees into the heart.
 And though there may be many things that we cannot explain,
 We can be sure it breaks His heart to see His children's pain.
 In loving arms He bears us to a quiet place apart
 Where He mends the wounded spirit and heals the broken heart.
 And though these ones we love so much have left our present sight
 And passed into a better world of majesty and light,
 Someday we'll be together in our Father's Home above,
 Where we'll thank Him for His mercy and praise Him for His love.

**ILLINOIS, EUREKA
 Dori Blunier**

Lo, He anoints my head with oil and
 heals my wounded spirit;
 He stays my soul, and after toil he
 never fails to cheer it.
 He makes my cup to overflow that I,
 refreshed, may onward go.
Zion's Harp #116

The encouragement of these words impressed me as we sang this hymn recently. Jesus is there to heal us, cheer us, and refresh us that we may continue to go on in "the way of holiness" as it is described in Isaiah 35.

We wish the Lord's blessings on

Bro. Michael Huber (Lamar, MO) and Sis. Kristi Luthi (Lamar, MO) as they were united in marriage on January 11. Bro. Michael, formerly of Eureka, is the son of Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber, and Sis. Kristi is the daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Vi Luthi.

We express our sympathy to the family of Helen Swing who died on January 10. She is survived by four brothers, Milton Rocke and Walton Rocke, both of Washington, Wilbur Rocke (Eureka), Richard Rocke (Streator), and three sisters, Sis. Ruth Schumacher and Mrs. Phil (Wilma) McCanless, both of Eureka, and Mrs. Arch (Clara) Knapp (Morton).

We want to thank Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) who recently visited us and taught us from the Word.

Our prayers are with Sis. Naomi Peters who has recently been in the hospital.

Sis. Janet Zimmerman is the new reporter for the Silver Lining. May we give her our support in her new responsibilities.

Notes of Thanks:

Words cannot express my heartfelt thanks for the cards, flowers, gifts, prayers and visits (especially the ministers) during my hospital stay and since returning to the Home.

Sis. Adella Kiefer

Our sincere, heartfelt thanks seems so inadequate at a time like this. The many cards, prayers, and gifts of love that were sent in our behalf during and after cancer treatment in Mexico were sin-

cerely appreciated. We pray that our God who knows and sees all things will richly bless and reward each of you.

In humble sincerity, your least one in our precious faith,

Sis. Laurene Zimmerman

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

Somebody Cares

Somebody cares and always will,
The world forgets but God loves you still,

You cannot go beyond His Love
No matter what you're guilty of—
For God forgives until the end,
He is your faithful, loyal friend,
And though you try to hide your face
There is no shelter any place
That can escape His watchful eye,
For on the earth and in the sky
He's ever present and always there
To take you in His tender care
And bind the wounds and mend the breaks

When all the world around
forsakes...

Somebody cares and loves you still
And God is the Someone who
always will.

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month: Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We thank each of them for sharing God's Word with us.

Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger welcome Toby Scott, born December 30, to their family. Toby is a brother of Alex, Wesley, Kent, Lean, Karla, Kirk and Ross. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alma

Steidinger. Ollie Steidinger is Toby's great-grandmother. May God bless all of them.

May God grant healing to Sis. Shirley Fehr (Bro. Warren) who was in the hospital, and also to Sis. Betty Bittner, who had an accident.

We pray God will grant grace to our Elder body as they meet for the mid-winter Conference at Bluffton North, IN.

Kathryn Broquard, 91, passed away January 11. We extend our sympathy to her family, Sis. Leona Broquard, Sis. Esther Hermann (Peoria, IL), and her brother, Ben (Peoria, IL). Also to many nieces and nephews.

Our annual business meeting was held January 12. We offer our prayerful support to those who have been elected to fill the new terms of office. We thank those who served previously.

In the year of 1997, we report 16 births (8 boys and 8 girls), 2 weddings, 12 baptisms and 5 deaths.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Mary Bachtold - Jean Knapp

"...and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:"

Acts 15:30

As in the time of the early church, when the apostles delivered the conclusions of their meetings at Jerusalem by letter to the "brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia" (Acts 15:23), we still today uphold this tradition by gathering together to hear the reading of the Memorandum. On Saturday evening, January 17, our Fairbury

brethren joined us in listening to the exhortations so lovingly given by visiting Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and our home Elder Bros. Art Bahler and Wayne Anliker. We thank our Elders for so willingly giving of themselves as they stand as watchmen on the wall for our spiritual well-being.

May our retiring Sunday School teachers, Bros. Fred Leman, John Schaffer, Paul Zimmerman and Wayne Zimmerman, feel our appreciation for their years of service in teaching our youth. May the seed they have planted in the hearts of our children bear fruit.

As family and friends gathered for the holiday season, our congregation reaped blessings through the Word from visiting ministers. May God bless Bros. Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and John Stoller (Leo, IN) for lending themselves in God's service.

Luke 15:20 tells us "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Likewise, we rejoice that Erik and Michelle Schaffer have turned their backs to the world and are seeking the Lord in repentance.

A precious baby girl, Annette Elizabeth, has joined the family of Bro. Kevin, Sis. Denise, and Josh Coffey. May they feel God's guidance as they raise their children in the fear and admonition of Him.

Plans are being made by Kyle Edelman (Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna) and Monica Ortega (Joe and Debra, Cropsey, IL) for a

March 7 wedding. Also announcing their engagement are Earl Leman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna) and Krista Edwards (Steve Edwards and Sharon Brydon, Forrest). May these two couples look to the Lord for guidance as they make plans for this important step in their lives.

Spending time in the hospital were Gene Schladenhauffen (Sis. Velma), Bro. Duane Schneider (Sis. Janny), Bro. Perry Honegger, Sis. Emma Ifft (Bro. Elmer) and Bro. Ben Traub (Sis. Irene). It is our prayer these loved ones will feel the Lord's nearness.

The Lord has promised to comfort those who sorrow. Our prayer is that Bro. Dan Schlatter will feel His comforting Spirit as he has experienced a loss in the passing of his brother, Henry (California).

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone that offered prayers on our behalf, sent cards, gifts and came to visit since Mike's surgery and recovery. May God richly reward each one.

Bro. Mike, Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman and family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Jan Beer

When we receive a personal letter from a distant friend telling us what is happening in their world, we feel "connected" with that person and are so glad they shared their life with us. That is how I have come to view the Silver Lining congregational reports—as letters from distant friends. In sharing the "life" of the Goodfield congregation, I hope we can all feel more closely connected in the Apostolic Christian fellowship.

Our dear Sis. Susan Schwenk became the bride of Bro. Dan Meister on December 21. Visiting ministers on that day were Bros. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). We rejoice with Sis. Susan and Bro. Dan and their parents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Myrna Schwenk and Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister (Peoria, IL). The couple makes their home in Peoria, but we hope they will visit us often. May God help you build that firm foundation for a strong marriage, dear Susan and Dan.

Bro. James Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) was home for the holidays and served the Goodfield congregation from the pulpit on December 28. New Year's Eve services were conducted by Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). Thank you, brothers, and your wives, for your service to us.

Two young people from our congregation were united as one on January 4; 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. Visiting ministers for the wedding were Bros. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). As Sis. Mari and Bro. Dana establish their home, we pray God's abundant blessings on them.

Also on January 4, the announcement was made of the engagement of our Sis. Anna Hohulin and Bro. Jason Lantz (Bluffton North, IN). Their parents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene Hohulin and Bro. Junior and Sis. Charlene Lantz, have been friends for years, so this is a special bless-

ing that will enhance their friendship. Our love follows this young couple as they make their wedding plans.

The evening of January 4, we gathered at the Fellowship Hall for Family Hymn Sing. The committee has set aside the first Sunday of each month from September through May for this special song service. What a delightful privilege to gather together and send our voices soaring to our Creator in praise and honor and love to Him.

Thank you, Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), for serving us from the pulpit on January 11. We rejoice with you and your wife that your son and daughter-in-law, Ross and Kitty, have recently given their hearts to the Lord.

Colton Edward Carroll took his rightful place in the family of Bro. Harold, Sis. Laura and Clayton on January 15. Along with his grandparents in the Goodfield congregation, Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Wiegand, we rejoice in his safe arrival and welcome him.

Like all "letters from home" we enjoy hearing all the happy news, but there is usually some sad news too. The best thing about sharing the sad news is that we can pray for each other when we are aware of instances of poor health, grief or pain. Our Sis. Lydia Hohulin (Bro. Bill) very recently lost her brother, Jed Leman. Our prayers for comfort are with her and her family. Our Sis. Kris Bauman (Bro. Ben) was hit with meningitis. We continue to pray for her complete recovery, and to thank God that He did not take her from us. Our prayers are with her and her family during her slow recovery. Several

in our congregation have met with accident, have had surgery, are awaiting test results or are in poor health. Although we don't mention you by name, our prayers rise to God on your behalf.

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

In preparing this month's Gridley portion of the Silver Lining, a song came into my mind very vividly. It is entitled, "Is My Name Written There" (page 211, Hymns of Zion). It is a gorgeous song.

Such a question is life's most vital one. Our daily motives and actions are linked to that concept—whether or not our names are written in the book of life (Rev. 20:15). After all, what is more important than having our name in that crucial ledger?

The song itself speaks to a solid value system: "Lord, I care not for riches, neither silver or gold; I would make sure of heaven, I would enter the fold." The believer is wise to focus on the things above, not on the things of the earth.

There are relevant questions that should ring in our hearts. Is my name written there on the page white and fair? In the book of Thy kingdom, is my name written there?

On January 11, Bro. Jason Schlipf was married to Sis. Jamie Rumbold (Roanoke, IL). His parents are Bro. John M. and Sis. Jill (Nussbaum) Schlipf. She is the daughter of Bro. Rollie and Sis. Carol (Rocke) Rumbold (Roanoke, IL). May God bless this union of hearts. And may God be thanked for drawing them together.

Alan Miller and Theresa Boian

were married on September 6, 1997. Her parents are Dan and Suzanne Boian (Chenoa). He is the eldest son of Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol (Schlipf) Miller. We wish this new couple God's nearness; and we appreciate their visits to our worship services.

Sis. Alice (Crout) Funk, 79, passed away suddenly on January 4. Her loss was a shock to the community. She is survived by her dear husband of 50 years, Bro. Alwin J. Funk. They had both been baptized on July 21, 1968. Also surviving are a son, Joe Funk, Tallahassee, FL; two daughters, Mary Ann Schwitters, Lakeland, FL and Nancy Damery, Springfield; and two sisters, Dorothy McAlister, Lakeland, FL and Barbara Armstrong, Secor.

Sis. Alice was energetic and well-organized in whatever she did. Her love and devotion to caring for her dear husband (who had been ailing the past few years) was a wonderful witness for the Lord. She always had a unique smile and was interested in visiting. Her quick passing saddens us all and we will miss her at church.

Little Whitney Butikofer had kidney surgery and is recovering. May God be with her.

Bros. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) were our visiting ministers.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for all the love and prayers, cards, gifts and well wishes when I had my surgery and during my recovery at home. May God richly bless each of you.

With heartfelt thanks,

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig

**ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Bro. Randy and Sis. Lisa Schrock welcomed home their new baby, Olivia Rose, born on December 23. Also welcoming her is her sister, Rachel, and her grandparents, Steve and Joyce Quinn and Jim Peterson and Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock. May the Lord grant them wisdom to rear this precious child.

Bro. Sam Pflederer was called Home. His funeral was January 12. May God comfort and bless his son, Bro. Bob; his daughter, Sis. Janet Meiss; his five sisters, Sis. Pricilla and Sis. Nathalia Pflederer, Alice Hirstein, Sis. Alma Wittmer, Eloise Carey; his 8 grandchildren; his 23 great-grandchildren; his nieces, nephews, and many other relatives and friends.

Our congregation wishes to thank Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) for bringing us the Word of our Lord. It is a joy to have brethren from other congregations come to minister and fellowship with us.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards and gifts I have received while in the hospital and at the Eureka Home. May God richly bless you all.

Sis. Ida Belsley

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Peter and Mabel Weber**

The time flies on, Christmas is a memory, yet some of its episodes

transcend the seasons. In "A Christmas Carol", Charles Dickens lets Ebenezer Scrooge change from a hard-hearted merchant to a man of generosity after the encounter with his deceased partner, Jacob Marley, who laments "I have to wear the chains I forged in life!" Scrooge's observation "A year older, but not a shilling richer" is followed by "I will change the way I live!" reminds us we will reap what we have sown and that a change in lifestyle is possible, and necessary.

Jesus performed His first miracle at a marriage. Marriage is a spiritual relationship, cemented by the Word of God and modeled after the example of Christ and His Church. Elder Bro. Wes Knapp pronounced Bro. Dan Meister and Sis. Susan Schwenk man and wife on December 21 at Goodfield, IL; and Deacon, Bro. Ron Schambach, pronounced Bro. Marshall Witzig and Sis. Stacia Schambach man and wife at Elgin, IL on December 28. They will reside in Phoenix, AZ where Marshall has studied and worked for the last five years. These were defining moments and we wish them long and happy lives.

We thank Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont, IL) for their visit on January 7 and his topic "Equally and unequally yoked" (II Cor. 6:14-18) for our family night service. Righteousness and unrighteousness cannot be yoked together as God and Satan do not cross over. We want the yoke of Christ, as He will pull with us, which is different from the yoke of bondage in which we were born. Like the beasts of burden, we are unable to take off Satan's yoke

by ourselves, but Christ took it off and gave us one that is easy and light. If we don't have the yoke of Christ, we have Satan's, as we must use one or the other, be it in leisure activities, marriage, business relationships, spending habits or any others. We want the yoke of Jesus because we know the alternatives. We could remove His yoke, but it would not make sense to do so, and if we tried putting it on again, it might not fit any more. How wonderful it is to be equally yoked in marriage to the most important person in our life. If we don't like the same things, our marriage would soon fall apart, but when Christ is part of it, it makes the way easy. If we walk with Jesus and sometime only see one set of footprints in the sand, it is because He carried us.

Our sincere good wishes go to Sis. Bridget Scholl and Bro. Rob Cupp of Bluffton North, IN; and Bro. Victor Jevremov (father of Sis. Rose Waibel) of San Diego, CA and Sis. Peggy Schulz (Silverton, OR) on their marriage engagements. May the blessings of God follow.

Sincere thanks were expressed to past office holders, and the newly elected encouraged, at our business meeting on January 11. Our new trustee is Bro. Dale Endress and new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Mike Waibel and Sisters Jan Stickling, Karen Meister and Serena Hoerr. In 1997, we had 10 church funerals, 14 baptisms, 2 weddings, and 157 regular church services, 29 by visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer used this occasion to request promptness at services, not to overstay at lunch tables but do our

visiting afterwards, respect the restricted kitchen areas, be in the sanctuary for services and don't stay in alcoves or foyer. Parents are responsible for their children, help prevent food, candy, toys from being left on and under rear benches and pick up papers from floors. Also, the Fellowship Hall is to be respected as the House of God. Bro. Chuck expressed gratitude for past support and the hope for future cooperation to keep good order in God's house.

Bro. Art Hermann (87) passed away at his home on January 16, attended by his wife, Pauline; son, Michael; other family members and Hospice personnel. Even as life was ebbing away the last three weeks, he maintained a brave and positive attitude to the end. We will miss Bro. Art but are thankful his suffering was not prolonged. We also mourn the death of Sis. Anna Sutter (81) at the Skylines, where she had been a resident for 10 years. May the consoling Spirit of the Lord abide with the families in bereavement.

We wish the healing mercies of God for Bro. Ken Plattner and Sis. Aldine Waibel who were recently hospitalized.

As we travel, especially abroad, we experience occasionally the temporal discomforts of Isaiah 28:20, "For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it." On January 11, Bro. Rick Plattner read and put the spiritual meaning on this passage. Sometimes we find things don't quite fit and we have to go back to the benchmark of the Word of God, get down on our knees and prove ourselves

whether we are in the faith and measure up to Jesus. Have we erred with the things of this world, have they had such an influence over us and changed us that we don't even realize the bed is getting shorter and shorter so there is no room any more to stretch out, that the covers are getting narrower and we can't cover ourselves no more? God's plan of salvation is sufficient. Colossians tell us we should not be deceived, completeness is in Jesus and nothing needs to be added. If we don't take the Word in its entirety, but pick and choose, it's no wonder the bed isn't big enough and the covers don't reach any longer.

Bro. Bob Waibel recently moved to the following new address:

Robert Waibel
8850 S. Woodcreek Drive
Oak Creek, WI 53154

He wishes to thank all for their visits, Bible studies, ongoing spiritual support, gifts, cards (over 100) for Christmas and his birthday, which have made a great contribution to his well-being. It was mentioned that the staff at his former facility could hardly believe the amazing network of support shown Bro. Bob by his church, family and brethren.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Sheryl Martin

"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord: thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs."

John 21:15

Does Jesus ask each of us this question and test our love for Him? Have we lost our "First Love" for Christ? May each of us be willing to surrender our all and strive to do His will each day so that we do not lose our First Love.

A precious little son, Tanner Colson, was born to first time parents, Bro. Brent and Sis. Debbie Graham, on December 15. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeannette Graham and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl.

A bundle of Christmas joy, Jessie Earl, arrived in the home of Mark and Sis. Paula Feucht on Christmas Day. His brothers, Joshua and Daniel, welcomed him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht and Pat (the late Norman) Stahl.

Brendan Ronald was born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Lori Streitmatter on January 13. He was welcomed home by his brother, Brock. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane Streitmatter and Sis. Martha (the late Bro. Loris) Kieser. May God grant these three couples His guidance and direction as they raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Believing that God has brought them together in faith, the announcement of Bro. Marvin Streitmatter and Sis. Sara Steffen (Remington, IN) was made known to the congregation. Bro. Marvin is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane Streitmatter and Sis. Sara is the daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki Steffen (Remington, IN). May God bless this couple as they plan their future together.

It is our prayer that Bro. Duane (Sis. Doreen) Elsasser and Sis. Vir-

ginia (Harry) King feels God's nearness during the time of their recovery.

We are thankful that our dear friends, Todd Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia), Esther Streitmatter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn), and a dear couple, Brad and Karen Metz, have made a beginning in the Lord through repentance. May God bless these converts as they strive to do His will.

O depth of love, in which past finding
My sins through Christ's blood disappear!
This is for wounds the safest binding,
There is no condemnation here.
For Jesus' blood thro' earth and skies
Forever "Mercy! Mercy!" cries.
Zion's Harp #221

Note of Thanks:

We sincerely thank everyone for their kind expression of sympathy for all the love, prayers, cards, memorials, telephone calls and help during Otto's affliction and passing away. Your support is much appreciated. May God bless each one.

In Christian Love,
The Otto Baer Family

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Valerie Wuthrich
Lisa Leman

We are thankful that God has blessed us again with visiting ministers to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Byron Stoller and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We

also thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for being with us for our monthly Bible study. We thank God for inspiring these brothers and it is our prayer that God will richly bless each of their families for their labors in the ministry.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Connie Hodel were blessed with a baby boy on December 29. Dillon has a big brother, Dalton, and two big sisters, Elissa and Rebecca, to help care for him. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris Hodel and Marvin and Sharon Lascelles.

We extend our sympathies to John and Sis. Barb Gastman in the death of John's father, Bernard. May God comfort those who have lost loved ones.

Funeral services were held for our dear Bro. Joseph Rassi on January 19. We sympathize with his daughters, Sis. Pat Rassi and Betty Lindwall (Ron), and his son, Bill (Jan), the grandchildren and all of the family. We will all miss Bro. Joe and we pray for the family that God will be their comfort during this time of loss.

The engagement of Bro. Scott Yordy (Larry and Edie) to Sis. Mandy Luginbuhl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina) was announced. We wish them the blessings and guidance of the Lord as they plan for their June wedding.

January 11 was the wedding day for our Sis. Jamie Rumbold to Bro. Jason Schlipf (Gridley, IL). Parents are Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol Rumbold and Bro. John and Sis. Jill Schlipf. Our prayer is that God will guide, direct and bless this couple as they walk hand in hand through this life together. "Thus united and in concord, Let us walk

the path of life; Hand in hand, O may love bind us, For each other's welfare strive." (Zion's Harp #237)

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

Deuteronomy 4:29

We are thankful that Darrick Knapp (Holly) has sought the Lord and has begun repenting. Our prayers are with every soul that has turned from this world and is seeking the kingdom of God. May they find the true peace that only our Lord Jesus Christ can give.

Hospital patients this month were Nathan Fischer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie), Bro. John Sauder (Sis. Esther), Bro. Ed Blunier, Sis. Pat Sauder, Bro. Jim Leman, and Sis. Cindy Leman. May they feel the prayers of the congregation and know the healing power of the Lord.

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

How thankful we are for visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL). We thank these brothers for their willingness to come and share God's Word with us. May God richly bless His willing servants.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Bernice Frank, Bro. Jeff Sinn, Sis. Ann Aberle, and Si Wagenbach. May God con-

tinue to provide and be with them and all who are sick and shut-in is our prayer.

The engagement of Adam Reinbeck (Bro. Larry and Sis. Barbara) and Kathleen Strobe (Paul and Sherry) was recently announced. We pray God's blessings for them as they are married.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Frieda Schaefer in the death of her sister, Sis. Emma Hartter (Eureka, IL); and Sis. Candi, Bro. Tim and Alan Aberle in the death of Sis. Candi's mother, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Paul) Weiss of Elgin, IL.

Our dear Sis. Ruth Frank was relieved of her earthly suffering and was called Home to be with God's children. We extend our sympathy to her daughter, Virginia, Robert and their children. May God comfort all those who are sorrowing is our prayer.

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

There is nothing quite as good as a fresh orange, just plucked from the tree. It is really something to look forward to! Now for those of you who live in warm climates where oranges are grown, you may take this for granted. It is something you are accustomed to—an everyday occurrence and not something to get excited about. But for those of us who have grown up in the Midwest, where the cold winter winds blow, picking a fresh orange from the tree in January is something special. It is something to look forward to when planning a vacation in a different part of the country. What anticipation and satisfaction we get from what some may see as ordinary!

Do we look at our salvation like that orange? Do we look forward to and anticipate its fulfillment in the new "country" called Heaven? Do we realize that Jesus was the fruit that had to be plucked from the tree of the cross; the fruit that had to die for our sakes? Or do we take it all for granted? After all, we continually hear the truth about salvation every Sunday and Wednesday. No new thing is preached, but always the same basic message is presented. It is an everyday occurrence to see lives changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is easy to lose sight of the miracle in all of this because it is with us all of the time. Let us pray that God will give us grace to always see our salvation as the wonderful treasure that it is. Let us live our lives remembering what a difference God's salvation makes in our everyday existence. Thanks be to God for His wonderful plan of salvation!

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), and Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). Thank you, brothers, for being with us and sharing in the Word!

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Maller

Trudy Eisenmann

"Jesus loves the little children."

The song continues, "...they are precious in his sight." Whether young or well-aged, whether born or unborn, God extends His tender mercy and divine love toward us. May we, through His love, uphold the value of life in our decaying

world.

With great joy we welcome the little lives of Colten James, born December 16, 1997, to Bro. Link and Sis. Catrina Rinckenberger; Taylor Benjamin, born December 21, 1997, to Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime Maller; and Felicia Faith, born January 8 to Darren and Sis. Tricia Scheumann.

Others in our congregation are beginning a new life in Christ: Angie Steffen (Steve and Charlotte), Miriam Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene), Deon (Bro. Bill and Sis. Donna) and Amy Steffen, Lane Gerber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl), Corey Steffen (Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena), and Amy Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie). Praise God! Four others were baptized on January 11: Bro. Bryan Meyer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet), Brothers Ben, Mark and Michael Reinhard (Bro. John and Sis. Pam). We thank Bros. Steve Ringger and Bob Meyer who shared with us in the ministry and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (all of Bluffton North, IN), for being with us for the afternoon baptism services.

Thanks also goes out to Bros. Dave Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Bob Meyer and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner who shared with us in the wedding of Bro. John Johnson (Steve and Judy) to Sis. Nicole Reinhard (Bro. Vic and Sis. Peg) on January 4.

Also united in marriage were Jeremy Wolf (Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola) and Michelle Biberstein on December 20, 1997; and Joe Caffee (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky) and Cheryl Wass on December 27, 1997.

We also share the joys of those announced for engagement: Bro. Jeremy Greenway (Cinthia Greenway) and Sis. Tina Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy) of Bluffton North; and Bro. Klint Moser (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean) to Sis. Amy Lantz (Bro. Dan Jr. and Sis. Charlene).

We extend prayers on behalf of Bro. Luster Heyerly (Sis. Martha), Sis. Lucille Reinhard and Bro. Ervin Moser (Sis. Lu), during their times of illness.

Our sympathy also extends to the families of Bro. Lenard Steffen who suddenly passed away Monday, December 29, 1997 (Sis. Ilean); and for Earl Geyer of Decatur, IN who died after an extended illness.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Lori Steffen - Rhonda Maller

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

Eccles. 3:1

As we enter a brand new year with our list of resolutions, may our first one be that we will willingly submit to the seasons God has purposed for each of us in 1998. May the desire of our hearts be to do the will of the Father.

Two couples believe that 1998 is their season for marriage. Bro. Jason Lantz (Bro. Dan and Sis. Charlene) announced his engagement to Sis. Anna Hohulin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene) of the Goodfield, IL congregation.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Tina, to Bro. Jeremy Greenway (Bluffton, IN).

Jeremy is the son of Cynthia Greenway. Tina's son, Hunter, age 16 months, is very happy to have a daddy. We rejoice with both of these couples and their families. May God richly bless and guide them as they plan their weddings.

Another bundle of joy has joined our congregation. Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime Maller welcome their firstborn son, Taylor Benjamin, on December 21. His grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller and Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz.

"A time to be born, and a time to die;..."

Eccles. 3:2

Bro. Fred and Sis. Rhonda Ruppel and their sons have already entered a season of mourning as they laid Rhonda's father, Bro. Leonard Steffen (Sis. Ilene, Bluffton), to rest on New Year's Day. Our hearts grieve with them in this sudden loss. We are thankful for God's promises and know they shall meet again on Heaven's shore.

In closing, we wish each of you a blessed coming year.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Pam Huber

"For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up."

Eccles. 4:10

What a blessing it is to have such friendship with our Lord Jesus! Who else cares so much about our little problems and concerns? He is always there to help us when we

fall and is always faithful even when we are not.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee
Thou wilt find a solace there.
Hymns of Zion #161

To find a friend like this on earth is truly a double blessing. Let us remember to always try and be this sort of friend to those we encounter.

"If in the fellowship of service I seek to attach a friend to myself, so that others are caused to feel unwanted; if my friendships do not draw others deeper in, but are ungenerous (to myself, for myself), then I know nothing of Calvary love."

—*Amy Carmichael*

Heaven surely rejoiced with us as we welcomed five new souls into the fold. January 11, Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) joined us for the testimonies and baptisms of Sara Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), Stuart Gutwein (Bro. Harv and Sis. Ellen), Nathan Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev), Philip Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret) and Missy Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Nancy). We also enjoyed having ministering Bros. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) with us that day.

Ryan Lee Neihouser was born January 3 to Bro. Marty and Sis. Angie and was welcomed home by brothers, Evan and Seth. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally Nei-

houser. May God bless them with wisdom and strength as they raise their family in the ways of our Lord.

We also pray for God's blessings on Mary Gutwein (Doug and Mary Lew) and John Mone (Ann Marie) as they joined their hearts in marriage on December 13. The couple now resides in Lexington, KY.

May the Lord comfort the family of Pauline Smith who passed into eternity last month. Pauline was from the Chicago area and was a sister to our dear Sis. Madeleine Gutwein (Bro. Fred).

In the hospital this past month were Sis. Louise Onken and Bro. Jim Bogart who had surgery. May God grant you a complete recovery as we trust in His sovereignty.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Anna Marie Stoller

*In Memory of our Loved One —
That Broken Chain*

We little knew that morning,
God was going to call your name,
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

—*author unknown*
submitted by Bro. Edward Frank

The sadness that Bro. Ed and his family endure since the loss of Sis. Lea has been joined with a song of gladness over the peace of heart, mind, soul and body that

Molly Frank has experienced. Molly (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) has been announced as having found peace with God and desires baptism. This event is planned for the weekend of January 24-25.

Sis. Sandy Heinold has completed the grueling course of therapy required due to osteosarcoma. She has spent many hours in the hospital, has felt her body weaken from the strain, and now begins the recuperation period. Inspiring to all of us has been the faithful spiritual endurance that we have seen in Sis. Sandy and Bro. Glen and their children during this difficult time. God is truly faithful to those who continually call upon Him, and we must humbly thank him for hearing our supplications.

Loving prayers rise for Sis. Connie Knoblock and Rachel Feller during their ongoing therapy treatments.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Various afflictions of the body have kept some of our congregation from attending church from time to time. We thank God for His mercies as they are restored to a measure of health. We welcomed Bro. Gene Stoller back to church. Sis. Maudie Grueter was hospitalized following a massive heart attack. She is thankful to be home again and has made some improvement. Our prayer is for restored health as He wills.

Phillip Carroll Scheitlin was born on December 26, 1997, to Bro. Steve and Sis. Marsha. He remained in the hospital until his respiratory problem was cleared up. He was welcomed home by his

brother, Jacob. This special little boy was also welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Al and Sis. Joan Scheitlin (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva Stoller (Latty, OH). May God richly bless them all as they grow in love for each other.

We welcome Bro. Dana and Sis. Kim Plattner to our congregation; also Sis. Missy Frieden. May they feel at home with us.

On New Year's Eve we started with a service at church, and then went to the Fellowship Center for food, singing, a program with meditation and prayer at midnight.

Our topical Bible study for January was conducted by all of our local ministers, Bros. John Stoller, Marvin Stieglitz, Lynn Stieglitz and Brace Wieland. The topic was based on Titus 2:11-14. Then Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) concluded with verses 1 and 15 from Titus 2. Their thought was that we become a better church body. Some thoughts expressed were:

More prayerful

Personal holiness

All be forgiving in our relationships

Spend more time in the Word

Love and show compassion as Christ loves us

Keep your leadership accountable

Sound the warning against sin

Goodness is not natural aside from the Grace of God

Ungodliness and worldly lust has a wide range

Commend for doing well, but never think we can't do better

As Christ's ambassadors, live a life as a child of God

The Grace of God teaches us

how to live

We need a vision to look forward

A desire to share our vision and hope with another

We wait with anticipation together with the Holy Spirit for deliverance from our temporary body

Make changes in our daily living as we focus on the One who is coming

The definition of peculiar people is, one who is the exclusive property of one person

We being many are one body, a family, with Jesus as our Head (Eph. 1:22)

Sound doctrine is correct teaching

The power from the pulpit is in proportion to the prayers of the congregation

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1

May we look to Jesus who became a servant for our sakes, loved us enough to give His life on a cruel cross. By the grace of God may we all love one another as He commanded us. "...God is love" (I John 4:8)

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). God mightily used them to enrich, encourage and admonish us.

INDIANA, MILFORD Renee Beer - Linda Beer

Bro. Glen and Sis. Kate Price have been shut-in for a time. We miss their presence and hope they can feel God's courage. Regg Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) underwent eye surgery and is doing well.

We appreciate the following brothers who came to share God's Word with us: Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH), and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). May God's wisdom and knowledge fill them that they can be used as an instrument for Him.

We offer our sympathy to Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Cockburn and family in the death of his mother, Alice Cockburn, of Altoon, PA. Also to Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne Troup and family in the loss of his mother, Mildred Springston, of Corona, CA. May these families feel God's comfort and strength in the loss they feel.

Kathy Price (Bro. Glen and Sis. Kate) and Michael Kohl, of Goshen, plan to be married February 14. We pray they will be blessed as they establish a new home.

We rejoice with Sis. Kari Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) who gave her testimony and was baptized January 10-11. We are thankful she felt her need of a Saviour and could surrender her life to Christ. We pray she will always have that wonderful peace that can only come when our hearts are right with God. To be assured of God never leaving us, never being too busy to hear our pleas, and always in control of our lives is worth more than anything this world can offer. We thank Elder Bro. Bill

Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) for serving us that weekend.

Peace is the divine gift of the ability to remain faithful, calm and patient in spite of the panic of unfulfilled dreams, unpleasant circumstances and unavoidable uncertainty.

"...I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandment! then had thy peace been as a river..."

Isaiah 48:17-18

Peace like a river flows through my soul;
I've been forgiven, cleansed and made whole.

—James Walbert

May God's peace flow sweetly to your soul and may our desire in all things be His will.

Get right or get left—Jesus is coming soon.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Patti Bahler

A recent story told of this incident in the life of a young boy. Johnny's sister needed a blood transfusion. The doctor had explained that she had the same disease the boy had recovered from two years earlier. Her only chance of recovery was a transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the disease. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was an ideal donor.

"Would you give your blood to Mary?" the doctor asked.

Johnny hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble. Then he smiled

and said, "Sure, for my sister."

Soon the two children were wheeled into the hospital room — Mary, pale and thin; Johnny, robust and healthy. Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny grinned.

As the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, Johnny's smile faded. He watched the blood flow through the tube. With the ordeal almost over, his voice broke the silence. "Doctor, when do I die?"

Only then did the doctor realize why Johnny had hesitated, why his lip trembled when he agreed to donate his blood. He'd thought giving his blood to his sister meant giving up his life. In that brief moment, he'd made his great decision.

Johnny didn't have to die to save his sister. Each of us, however, has a condition more serious than Mary's, and it required Jesus to give not just His blood, but His life.

It is with great joy that we report another soul has answered God's call so that Jesus' death was not in vain. Rachel Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita) began the new year as a child of the King.

It is also with great joy that the engagement of Sis. Sara Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki) to Bro. Marvin Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane, Princeville, IL) was announced. We wish them God's love and guidance as they plan for their June wedding and a life-long relationship as husband and wife.

We thank Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for bringing us the gospel. May both families feel God's nearness and blessing for sharing with us.

"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces;..."

Isaiah 25:8

On January 3, our dear friend, Loren Wilson, passed from this life into eternity. We wish to extend our prayer of love and sympathy to his wife, Sis. Velma. May she feel the comforting and strengthening hand of the Lord in her time of sorrow.

We also said farewell to Amanda Price (Sis. Jayne Price) this month when she left for England where she will study until April. She can be contacted at the following address if anyone would like to send a note of encouragement to her:

Amanda Price
Harlaxton College Manor
Box 36
Grantham Lines NG321AG
ENGLAND
ap39@ueharlax.ac.uk

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Jennifer Mangold
Sue Beebe**

This time of year in northern Indiana, things can look rather bleak—cloudy, gray skies and a colorless landscape seem to dominate our days. If I am not careful, my attitude can become rather bleak also. However, we know that true joy in living does not come from anything we are surrounded by, but from what is developed within. A poem I came across by Vincent Burns says "Make Your World Beautiful":

Begin with just the simple things:
A word to speak, a song to sing,
A prayer to say, a note to write,
A hand to help, a lamp to light
To lead another through the night.

Make your world beautiful...
Awake to beauty, come aware
Of all the good in which you share,
The love that round about you lies,
And you will see with glad surprise
How close you live to Paradise.

We joyfully welcomed Bro. Matt, Sis. Jennifer, Andrew and Benjamin Mangold back to our area at a singing at the home of Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn Frank.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 14. May the Lord bless all who tirelessly give of themselves on behalf of our little congregation.

We were blessed by the visits of several visiting ministers and their families this past month: Bros. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), and our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). We thank you for allowing yourselves to be used of the Lord and hope you will come back again soon.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher - Ken Susdorf

Before us is a future all unknown,
a path untrod;
Beside us a friend
well-loved and known—
That friend is God.

There is not much news here in our Valparaiso church this month. We trust everyone had a blessed Christmas season.

Our only visiting minister this month was our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and his wife, Sis. Judy (Chicago, IL). Our thanks to you for coming to fellowship with us and to share God's Word with us.

We have a new, beautiful little face in our congregation. Darrel

and Sis. Janet Walker welcomed Naomi into their home. Her two older sisters are Abbey and Emily.

"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."

II Thess. 3:16

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler

As we begin a new year, we are thankful we can trust that the Lord will be beside us each day. We began our new year as a church by having our annual business meeting. We appreciate the efforts of those whose terms of office ended, and pray God's blessings on those who begin anew.

We wish to thank the ministers who visited in the past month. We enjoyed hearing Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA). May God bless them for lending themselves in service to our Lord.

We were sorry to have to say farewell to Bro. Roger and Sis. Kathy Wiegand. The Lord has led them back to the Gridley, IL congregation. They will be sorely missed in our congregation, but we wish them the Lord's richest blessings in all of their endeavors.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Pat Kyburz were happy to welcome a new grandchild into their family circle. John and Colleen Jacoby are the happy parents of Garrett Jon Jacoby. Also welcoming little Garrett are grandparents, Tom and Joann Jacoby (Frankfort, IN). May God bless this little one and his family.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Karla Gerst - Edith Massner

We were thankful for the visits of Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and their wives. May God bless and sustain them as they continue to humbly do His will.

On January 4 we had our annual election. Bro. Dick Taeger was selected for trustee, Sis. Lorna Knapp for the Women's Kitchen Committee and Sis. Karla Gerst for the Silver Lining. We express our sincere appreciation for the ones who have served their terms: Bro. Milo Weissinger, Sis. Dorothy Taeger and Sis. Monica Eisenmann.

Bro. John Rowell and Sis. Edith Massner have spent time in the hospital. We are thankful we can pray for one another. What a comfort! May God continue to provide His healing touch according to His will.

Note of Thanks:

I'd like to thank everyone for their cards and gifts and especially their prayers during my illness. I appreciate it very much.

Bro. John Rowell

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

February—next to cold winter weather, I guess February makes me think of hearts, and now as I think of hearts the words of a song come to mind. I hope we can answer "yes" to all the questions in this hymn.

Is Thy Heart Right With God?
Have thy affections been nailed to
the cross?
Countest thou all things for Jesus

but loss?
Hast thou dominion o'er self and
o'er sin?
Over all evil without and within?
Is there no more condemnation for
sin?
Does Jesus rule in the temple
within?
Is thy heart right with God?
Washed in the crimson flood?
Cleansed and made holy, humble
and lowly,
Right in the sight of God?

Our sympathy is extended to Clarence Thoman at the passing of his wife, Dorothy. May God be his Comforter.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Ruth Schupbach as she adjusts to her new surroundings at the Good Samaritan Nursing Center in West Union, IA.

Our thanks to Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for sharing God's Word with us on New Year's Eve.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Delores Reinhard

All the way my Saviour leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy
Who thro' life has been my guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

Some of us here in our small congregation have traveled many miles over the past holidays to be with family and friends, and we certainly are thankful to God for His traveling mercies.

We have had several days off and on of ice this winter. Today is a beautiful sunny near zero winter day with no snow or ice presently.

We wish to thank our visiting

ministers who came and fed us from the Word of God. They are Bros. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

As our college students will soon be leaving us and going back to school, it will leave an emptiness with us. We will miss them. We pray God will be with them and how often do we think of them or how often do we write or call and let them know they are missed? A word of encouragement we all like to receive. How freely do we give it?

"You took the good things for granted; now you must earn them again. For every right that you cherish, you have a duty which you must fulfill. For every hope that you entertain, you have a task that you must perform. For every good that you wish to preserve, you will have to sacrifice your comfort and ease. There is nothing for nothing any longer."

—George Washington

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Sharon Gerst

We are grateful to God that He has again granted us visiting ministers to share His Word with us. They were Bros. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) and Carl Wyss (Washington, IL). We appreciate these brothers' willingness to teach us from His Holy Word.

Our church has been blessed to have several members and friends move to the Iowa City area. Convert Gwen Bruellman from West Bend has moved to Iowa City to work at the VA hospital as an occupational therapist. Sis. Christy

Gress, also from West Bend, has moved to our area to attend Kirkwood Community College. Also, Bro. Gene Butikofer has moved to the Davenport area to work as a substitute teacher. We also welcome into our midst our friends, Dave and Jennifer Maul and Dave McClure. We will enjoy having them all worship and fellowship with us.

As Valentine's Day approaches, may we remember God's great love for us.

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

We enjoyed seeing the joy and excitement on the faces of the dear Sunday School children as they brought forth the story of the birth of Jesus for our Christmas program. May we ever keep this true joy in our hearts as we continue in this new year that stretches before us.

Visiting ministers who were willing to be used as instruments to bring forth His precious Word at Christmas were: Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), and Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). Also we thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) for ministering to us at our New Year's Eve service.

Our hearts rejoice to know that four dear souls have found their peace since they have started repenting. Prayers of thanksgiving are felt by Willis and Lori Nester, Laura Metzger and Jerilyn

Knobloch. Provings and baptisms have been scheduled for February 21 and 22.

Family and friends gathered together to share in the witnessing of wedding vows between Bro. Jerry Nohl and Sis. Kristi Kellenberger on January 4. May God bless this union as they establish a new Christian home. We also appreciated ministering Elder Bro. Art Nohl, Bro. Dale Zeltwanger, and Bro. Beirne Messner (all of Morris, MN), and Bro. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ) who so willingly gave of themselves for the occasion.

A darling baby girl has been born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Trinda Meyer on January 6. Madeline Mae is joined at home by her brother, Reagan, to complete the family circle. Happy grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Great-grandmother here in Lester is Sis. Emma Meyer.

Our prayer for those who are afflicted in body is that they will experience the Lord's healing and comfort. Surgical patients have been Bro. Howard Mogler (Sis. Lollie), Bro. George Meyer (Sis. Charlyn), Otto Knobloch (Anna), Bro. Frank Moser (Sis. Verna), Sis. Beth Feuchtenberger (Bro. Tim), Bro. Mike Schmidt (Sis. Mavis), and Emil Wulf (Liz). Spending time in the hospital were Grant Metzger (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana), Sis. Elizabeth Peasley, and Bro. Larry Peterson (Sis. Emily).

A farewell song was sung for Sis. Mary Knobloch as she has moved and taken employment in the Tremont, IL area following her graduation from college. We will miss

Sis. Mary and pray she finds happiness in her new surroundings.

Each New Year we examine the record to reflect on the happenings of the past year. In 1997, thirteen babies were born and four souls were laid to eternal rest. Nine souls were gathered into the fold and were baptized and there are nine more converts awaiting baptism. May we rejoice in the many blessings God has given us in the past year and be ever ready for His second coming.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Debbie Wagenbach

Melody Steiner

We have truly been blessed, once again this month, with the birth of two precious little girls.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Luann Schmidgall welcome into their hearts and home their first daughter, Rose Lynn. Big brother Jared is happy to have a new playmate.

Thankful for the safe arrival of their third daughter and fourth child, Brittney Joann, are Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Lanz. Helping to welcome her to their family are big sisters, Kelsey and Alyssa, and big brother, Braydon.

Rejoicing also with new grandchildren to love are Jared and Rose's grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Schmidgall and Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty Metzger (Lester, IA). Also, Kelsey, Alyssa, Braydon and Brittney's grandparents are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach. May the Lord be near these families as they strive to raise the little ones entrusted to their care.

We recently held our annual business meeting. We are thankful to those who served in different

offices, to help care for the physical needs of our church. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been elected to serve new terms. They are: Trustee - Bro. Tom Steiner; Fellowship Center Trustee - Bros. Brent Eberhardt and Monte Lanz; Cemetery Comm. - Bro. Brian Tapp; Sister's Comm. - Sisters Monica Wagenbach and Charlene Wagenbach; World Relief Sewing Comm. - Sis. Janet Lanz. May each one feel our support as they carry out these duties.

We're thankful for the many visiting ministers we've had this month. They include Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO).

IOWA, PULASKI

Lisa Knecht

God has blessed Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubel with a precious son, Joshua Paul. He was enthusiastically welcomed by his siblings, Sara, Jonathon, Ruth Ann, Rachael and Amy. We pray for God's nearness throughout Joshua's life. Grandparents are Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Richard Teubel and Marvel and the late Gene Christy.

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) for assisting our Elder Bro. Doug Schock in the Memorandum services. May they feel our prayers of support as they continue to carry out the Lord's

work. Also with us was Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). We appreciate his part in the services on Sunday.

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr

Berniece Banwart

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) with us for New Year's Eve services. The following Sunday, Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) served us. We thank these brothers who faithfully bring forth the Word by His Spirit.

It seems we have had sickness come to many of our loved ones. Our prayers are with Bro. Gary Schneider (Sis. Sue) as he had major heart surgery. Other surgical patients have been Sis. Verda (Bro. Don) Bruellman, Mavis (Bruellman) McGuire (Jeff), and Bro. Edwin Wirtz (Lucille). Others that have been in the hospital for various tests and care have been Sis. Betty Rose Banwart (Bro. Albert), Sis. Ruth Dodd, and Bro. Ivan Schmidt (Sis. Evelyn). Some are required to have further treatment and we want to uphold them in our prayers as they endure bodily afflictions.

We extend our sympathy to Lydia Edwards on the death of her daughter-in-law, Linda Edwards (Gary), of Byron, GA. We also remember Elisabeth Good on the passing of her grandfather in Illinois.

Sis. Lena Grimm, our oldest

member, was privileged to share her 98th birthday with family and friends on January 10.

Sis. Lena was converted and baptized in August 1918. On February 20, 1920, she married Bro. Eli Grimm at West Bend, where they lived all their married life rearing 13 children. All are alive today and 11 of them were present for this occasion. She has 67 grandchildren, 116 great-grandchildren, and 21 great-great-grandchildren.

Bro. Eli passed away November 14, 1988. She lived alone for a time but now lives at the West Bend Care Center. She yet enjoys visits from family and friends. Though her mind is not always clear and hard to express herself, she calls older members and relatives by name. She especially enjoys singing of the old hymns. She wonders why she got "too old" and now longs for her Home above.

Do we appreciate the labors and faith of our older brothers and sisters who contended for the faith to preserve a church for us today?

Where there is love the heart is light,
Where there is love the day is bright,
Where there is love there is a song
To help when things are going

wrong,

Where there is love there is a smile
To make all things seem worthwhile,
Where there is love there's quiet

peace,

A tranquil place where turmoils

cease—

Love changes darkness into light
And makes the heart take "wingless

flight"—

Oh, blest are they who walk in love,
They also walk with God above—
For God is love and through love

alone

Man finds the joy that the saints
have known.

—Helen Steiner Rice

JAPAN, SHIODA**Reiko Furuya - Willis Ehnle**

The sermon Sunday morning on January 11 concerned "Looking for a City" based on Hebrews, Chapter 11. Abraham, by faith, looked for that city; Enoch had faith and he walked with God. Enoch did not die a physical death but was translated much like the saints are to be translated upon Christ's return for His own. (Ephesians 4:17 and following). Translated means to be changed from a physical person to a spiritual person with a spiritual body.

The city which they looked for, and for which we also look, is unshakable and can stand the strongest earthquake, if there were earthquakes in Heaven. It is filled with abundant joy.

As we look for that city, we are to love God with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind, and we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. Faith is important and our faith is supposed to produce obedience and righteous conduct.

Here at the Shioda Church we have made it a practice to have a Christmas Eve church service. This past Christmas, however, as the 23rd of December is a national holiday because it is the birthday of the present emperor (Christmas day is not a holiday), this service was moved up a day to 3 p.m. on the 23rd. The service was followed by a Christmas meal together in the church, with many delicious rice dishes.

The next day, on the 24th, Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle left for America where they spent the Christmas and New Year holidays with their children and four grandchildren. They also visited

Willis' sister and her husband in Phoenix, AZ and returned to Japan on January 9. In their absence, the lay brothers conducted Bible classes.

Bro. Toru and Sis. Junko Saegusa visited their daughter, Michiyo, who is studying in England.

We have recently had the heaviest snow fall ever recorded in our area. It was a little less than two feet here but it was about four feet near Mt. Fuji, about a 45 minute drive from our home and church. The roof of the local Jr. High School gym collapsed with the weight of the snow. However, the snow was beautiful and gorgeous.

KANSAS, BERN**Holly Meyer
Lori Baumgartner**

"...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

Luke 10:27

As I read this verse, I had to think that if we truly do feel this much love toward our Lord, then showing love and compassion toward others will come naturally. For by serving others we are serving and loving our Lord and God. When love for God and for others prompts all that we do or say throughout each day, we will not care if our sacrifices are unknown or our work unpraised for we will have a beautiful peace deep within our hearts.

Worthwhile living is not being happy, but making others happy. Not getting, but giving,

Not in being fortunate, but in being brave and cheery in misfortune.

Not in knowing, but in doing.

Not in winning, but in losing with a smile.

Not in living a long time, but in living to some purpose.

Not in receiving honors, but in deserving them.

Not in enjoying yourself, but in sympathizing with others.

Not in pleasing man, but in pleasing God.

—*Author unknown*

We are thankful for the labors of love put forth by our Sunday School teachers to prepare for our annual Sunday School Christmas program which was held on December 21. It is always a blessing for us to hear our youth tell the story of Christ's birth through song.

Special church services were held on Christmas Day and on New Year's Eve. We appreciated the visitors that were here to worship with us.

Our hospital patients during the past month were Arlene Bauman and Julia Plattner. Bro. Dennis Esslinger (Sis. Gerty) is home following recent hip surgery. May the Lord provide healing, according to His will.

Our annual business meeting was held January 13. For those who have been assigned certain duties in the church, we offer our prayers and support. May each one have a willing attitude to be of service. All of us were reminded of the all-important duty that each of us must take responsibility for and that is prayer. May we each do our part to pray for our church that it may continue to be a haven for each sin-laden soul that seeks salvation.

"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

James 5:16

Note of Thanks:

Thanks to all who made our 60th wedding anniversary special with cards, gifts, and flowers. It was a very happy occasion. We were glad so many of our family could be with us. God bless you all for your love and kindness.

Bro. Emil and Sis. Grace Strahm

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Joleen Sinn**

We would like to thank Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) for sharing with us Christmas Eve. It is such a blessing when Bro. Bob and his family visit us.

We had our annual business meeting the second Wednesday of January. We want to thank those who served us in this past year. May God bless you for your labors. We also want to ask God for guidance and wisdom for those chosen to serve in the new year. May God bless you in your labors.

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

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

Genesis 2:18

On December 6, April Miner (Rex and Kathy) became the bride of Cody Lawson (David and Charlene). April is the granddaughter of Sis. Mildred Farney. We pray that the Lord will richly bless their

marriage.

We had one hospital patient this month. Sis. Edna Reed had surgery to repair a broken hip. Our prayer is that she may feel the comforting, healing hand of the Lord as she recovers.

Our Silver Lining subscriptions are due in February.

**KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Julie Bahr**

Our annual election was held this past month. Our deepest thanks and appreciation to those who served faithfully in the various capacities of God's work. We ask for God's wisdom to be upon those who will be filling those positions.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to grandparents, Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene Anliker. Daughter, Sis. Julia, and Todd Pyle (Kansas City) are the parents of a tiny new son, Garrison Todd, born in January. A big sister, Aubrey, is at home. Also, our congratulations go to grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch. Their daughter, Sis. Jennifer, and Bro. James Kieser (Elgin, IL) became first-time parents of a new little daughter, Alyssa Lauren. What a blessed privilege to be given a new life to nurture and dedicate to our precious Lord.

Our hearts are thankful for our visiting ministers: Bros. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA) and Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS). Thank you for sharing God's precious Word.

I noticed one year ago to date, I had reported that our dear friend, Martha Hughes, was in poor health and had celebrated her 85th birthday with a card shower. At

this writing, dear Martha had departed from this life. Her funeral and burial service was held on her date of birth. Our deepest sympathy and our prayers are extended to her dear brothers; especially Bro. Roy (Betty) Wernli, and also to those who are her surviving family and grieve her loss.

The healing hand of God was upon those who had some surgery this past month: Bro. Albert (Sis. Jeanie) Edelman for another eye surgery, Stacey Zimmerman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb) and Justin Isch (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane), both with oral surgery.

We rejoice that God has called a dear young soul to serve Him. Andrea Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) has expressed her wish and desire to come to repentance and become a disciple of Christ. We can only ask for God's directive Spirit upon her.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Brenda Grimm**

Our time is not always God's time as was shown to us when our Sunday School Christmas program had to be held at an earlier time of the day due to freezing drizzle. We are thankful for the love God has for us.

Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) brought God's Word to us.

Our prayers are with Bro. John Plattner who was in the hospital.

Sis. Helen Strahm has moved from her apartment to the nursing home. May God help her to adjust to this change.

December 28 was the arrival date for Ashley Kay Grimm,

daughter of Bro. Darin and Sis. Marci Grimm. Bro. Gerald and Sis. Ruby Grimm and Eugene and Judy Edelman are thankful grandparents.

At our New Year's Eve service it was expressed in thinking on the upcoming year and passing of the old year that we have to learn from our past mistakes and not take them with us. There is a verse that life is like a narrow bridge where there is only room for today and today's problems and not for tomorrows or a year ahead. Also, we were reminded we shouldn't have to make new year's resolutions because each time we bow before God we should be resolving to do our best.

It thrills our hearts that Trent Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) has begun to repent. We pray there will be many turn their lives around this year and follow the path God wants for them.

Once we let Jesus in our hearts, we need to keep it a fit place for Him to stay there.

We welcome a family from Wichita to our congregation, Bro. Greg and Sis. Patti Rudin and their three children. We hope they feel a warm reception among us.

Daniel and Cheryl Wenger are excited first-time parents of a daughter, Lexi Danielle, born January 12. She also brings joy to her grandparents, Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger and Phil and Alice McClain.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Charles W. Terry wishes to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy after his passing. Thank you for all the love, help, cards, memo-

rials and support. We are very grateful and may God bless each of you.

Sis. Esther Terry and family

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Marla Stoller**

Another semester has come, and with it, many changes. We welcome Bro. Rodney Menold (Bern, KS) and Brett Plattner (Alto, MI) to Kansas State. We will miss the presence and encouragement of Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle Plattner, as they have graduated and taken up residency in Sabetha, of Bro. Korbin Beyer, who is interning in the Detroit, MI area, and of Nick Moser, as he interns in Iowa. May each feel the joy and peace of following Christ wherever He leads.

Our hearts rejoice with Trent Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm, Sabetha) as he has made the decision to turn his life to the Lord. "...and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God." (Isaiah 35:1,2). May God grant each of us the grace to be that blossom in the adverse conditions that surround us.

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) was our guest minister for Christmas morning services and again on the following Sunday. We appreciate the ties that we have with Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen and

their family.

December 28 was the wedding day for Sis. Jodi Reimschisel and Bro. Cory Metzger. They have our prayers for God's blessings as they establish their home and Sis. Jodi continues her studies at the Wichita Branch of the KU Medical Center.

Nathan Carnahan is back in the Wichita area and is reasonably able to cope with his health problems at this time. He continues to be in our prayers.

Bro. Virgil Barth has been able to assemble with us on a limited basis. It is so good to see him and Betty when they are able to come to church.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Patti Rudin and their three children have moved to Sabetha where they both have employment. We will certainly miss them in Wichita but we could not ask them to pass up this opportunity. We have been enriched by their presence for the nearly two years they assembled with us.

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Doug and Rebecca Germann**

This past month we appreciated visiting minister, Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), who came with a group to fellowship with us. Also, Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI) came to share the weekend with our group. We appreciate the efforts these brothers made on our behalf and thank our other visitors from various congregations who have made a visit to the Bluegrass state.

Recently our family finished reading the book, "Fire in the Zurich Hills". This book tells of the early Anabaptist struggles in the

area around Zurich, Switzerland. The early believers did not have it easy and were persecuted with fines and imprisonment if they were baptized as adults or preached adult baptism. In one case, Felix Manz, an early Anabaptist leader, was caught and condemned to death. On his way to be drowned in Lake Zurich, a voice was heard in the crowd saying, "Felix, look up and stand firm, be true. Don't falter now. The crown is near." The voice was none other than Felix Manz' mother encouraging him to the end. What sacrificial love this mother had for her son and what commitment she and these others had for the cause of Christ. It reminded me of a saying I have in my classroom:

The next time you have Bacon and Eggs for breakfast remember...

The chicken was involved and the pig was committed!

Brethren, the Word of God says to "Examine ourselves to see if we are in the Faith." I had to think of the faith these early brethren had and the obedience they exhibited. Are we involved merely in the church or are we committed to the church, and God's Holy Word? Let us examine ourselves to this end, that the faith may flourish and souls be converted.

As always, we welcome any visitors to stop and fellowship with us if you plan to be in the area. We have Wednesday evening services at 7:00 p.m. EST, and Sunday services at 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. EST. If anyone would like information about places to see and visit in the area, or any of our State Parks, please write: The Germann's at 737 Wellington

Way, Lexington, KY 40503 or call (606) 224-8710.

Note: Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic have a new address:

The Baltics
Kentucky River Campground
P.O. Box 5005
Frankfort, KY 40602

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Melanie Kaeb
Michelle Oesch

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 in Thy spirit, Thou makest me new.
Zion's Harp #209

The Lord has richly blessed our congregation this past year. On Sunday, January 4, four souls were baptized to a newness of life. Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) were on hand to help Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen with the provings and baptisms. Other visiting ministers sharing the day were Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL). The new members of the bride of Christ are Sis. Sarah Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna), Sis. Laura Blough (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie) and Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim Koehl (Dennis Koehl and Linda Koehl-Jones).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Margaret and Sis. Christine Wingeier and Sis. Hulda Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) on the passing of their sister, Clara Kimble.

We extend our congratulations to Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb

and Bro. Duane and Sis. Cathie Schrenk on the celebration of their 25th anniversaries.

Illness and surgeries this month included Sis. Darleen Goodwin (Rick) and Sis. Elouise Blough (Bro. Lloyd). We are grateful that Nick Blough has had a good recovery following a fall from a ladder. Our prayers are with them. May God bless them!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

We have had a very light winter so far in Michigan; however, we have had some snowfall. One day the snow was falling in these huge lazy flakes that you could easily see with the naked eye. The beauty of each snowflake really caught my attention. Each one was so perfect and beautiful, but so different from all the rest. It made me think that if God cares so much about His creation that even the snowflakes are so incredible, then how much more must He treasure us who have souls and hearts and minds with which to love Him. If He creates each snowflake so perfectly, how much more perfectly has He created each one of us? Maybe part of His perfection includes a handicap or special need that the world would classify as "imperfect", but we know that it is in our weakness that God is strong. Psalm 139:16 says "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." While we were still in our mother's womb, God knew us and had a plan for our lives. The God

who creates perfect snowflakes has a perfect plan for you.

We had several spend time in the hospital this month. They were: Jane Wackerle (Randy), Sis. Mabelle Wackerle, and Sis. Minnie Freidinger. We pray that they have felt the healing touch of Jesus as well as His strength and grace in difficult times.

Last month we neglected to mention the very joyful news of souls that have made a covenant with their Lord. Bros. Paul, Nathan and Joel Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth, Remington, IN) all had the privilege of giving their testimonies and being baptized on the same weekend. What a wonderful time this must have been for Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth as well as the Remington church. Our Elder Bro. Andrew and his wife, Sis. Maxine, also rejoiced as the grandparents of these three new brothers in the Lord. We pray God's special blessings on their new life in Him.

We were pleased to once again have Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) with us. He helped our Elder Bro. Andy with the Christmas Eve service here in Bay City and, as always, it was a joy to have him and his wife, Sis. Mary, with us.

"...yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for thou art with me..."

Psalms 23:4

Our congregation shares in the grief and loss experienced by our dear Sisters Esther Meister and Martha Rezmer at the passing of their sister, Anna Sinn. What a

comfort to know that the Lord walks with us through that "valley of the shadow". We pray that God will continue to be with Sis. Esther and Sis. Martha as they adjust to this very difficult change in their lives.

May the Lord grant you His blessing and favor in the month ahead.

Reminder: February is the collection month for Bay City.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kristie Meyer
Manuela Denes**

On New Year's Eve we read Psalm 116 and our first sermon of the New Year on Sunday we read it again. I have reread it many times as I can't help but think that God is trying to teach us something as He always does. We read about the love and mercy of God and are assured that He will help us in our time of trouble. No one is exempt from having trials throughout life, and how reassuring it is to know that God will be there for us.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Jason and Sis. Gayla Stoecker in the passing of their grandmother, Grace Piper, from Burlington, IA. Grandmothers are special people and we pray that the entire family may be comforted.

Our prayers continue with Sis. Maria Sabados, Sis. Anna Magyar, and Sis. Ann Tachar as they have spent time in the hospital. May they continue to find strength in God.

We want to thank Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) for ministering to us this month. God bless him for being used in God's service.

A baby boy, Ezekiel Lamar, was born to first-time parents, Kevin and Dorothy Haines. Grandparents are Leland and Katie Haines.

We welcome Bro. Korbin Beyer from Sabetha, KS who has moved here for his internship in accounting and also welcome Matt Skinner from Rockville, CT.

January 17-18 we were blessed by the testimony and baptism of Bro. Peter Pfeiffer of Kitchener, Canada. We had many visitors and enjoyed the fellowship of others with like mind and faith.

As this Sunday, in the morning and in the afternoon we read in Revelations, it reminds me to be prayerful in all things and to stay close to the Lord. As the time for the Lord's return seems closer and closer, may we find strength in God and grace to overcome the ways of Satan, who would like nothing more than to destroy us.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

Ministering Bro. Don Miller announced the following information: at the close of 1997, we had 48 members, 26 Sunday School students, 110 average attendance, the sorrow of 4 deaths, the joy of 4 births, and the blessings of 4 baptisms.

"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Job 1:21

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Todd Messner (Sis. Renee), Jason Messner (Nancy), Jodi Messner and Sis. Stephanie Knobloch (Bro. Damon) in the passing of their grandmother, Sis.

Pearl Lienemann, of Winthrop, MN.

We are thankful that our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) has regained his health and strength and came to minister to us this past month. May God richly bless him and his dear wife, Sis. JoAnn, for all their love extended to our congregation.

Craig and Sandy Bentz welcome a son, Jacob Allen, born January 13. Excited to have a brother, is big sister, Jennifer. Grandparents are Ron and Connie Vander Klomp of Bloomington, MN and great-grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ethel Bednarski. Our best wishes to this dear family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are unable to assemble with us from week to week. We especially think of Sis. Esther Lienemann, Bro. Joe Bednarski and Sis. Vera Schmidt. May they ever feel God's nearness and love for them.

We can never thank God enough for His love, mercy, grace, forgiveness and peace that He has bestowed upon us. May we ever be thankful for His divine love.

It Will Always Be Amazing

It will always be amazing
How God loved and cared for me
When I had no time to listen
As He tried to speak to me.

I was young and very foolish
As I went my self-willed way.
Still He blessed me with His mercies,
And watched over me each day.

And He never loved me less, He
Just seemed to love me more,
Waiting patiently for me, to
Let Him enter my heart's door.

Then one day I felt so lonely
And I turned to God above.
Trusting Jesus as my Saviour,

I found God's redeeming love.

It will always be amazing
His forgiveness, oh, so sweet,
And my emptiness He filled with
Wondrous peace and joy complete.

Now for years we've walked
together.
He's the dearest Friend to me.
There in gladness and in sadness
By my side He'll ever be.

It will always be amazing,
God's unfailing love and grace,
And one day in Heaven's glory
I'll behold Him face to face.

—Beverly J. Anderson

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Linda Schmidgall

Nancy Wulf

We've had a tough month at our home. Our son rolled his 3-wheeler and suffered serious head injuries. It would have been tougher if we hadn't in all things seen the glory of our Heavenly Father quietly preserving us through it all.

No, our son was not wearing a helmet (and I would beg of you to make your kids wear them!). These kinds of accidents are not often kind, but the Lord was with him and chose to let him return to full health. We felt the curtain of prayers surrounding him, and have seen that God's mercies are great. May God bless each of you who so often lift other people's burdens to Him in prayer. Don't ever doubt He doesn't hear. We are thankful to know that He does hear, and answers as He will.

Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) spent a Sunday with us recently. May God bless his labors of love.

Rejoicing over the direction God has given them, Bro. Jerry Nohl and Sis. Kristi Kellenberger were united in marriage on January 4.

Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl, and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger (Lester, IA).

Also rejoicing are Russ Koehl and Beth Ehnle who have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl and Bro. Curt and Sis. Jane Ehnle (Princeville, IL). A June wedding is being planned.

Bro. Dwayne, Sis. Kay, Tristan and Shanda welcome with open arms a sweet little girl, Natalie K Feuchtenberger, born December 31, 1997. Grandparents are Bro. Jeral and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger and Bro. Eddie and Sis. Lois Koehl.

On January 12 we learned of the death of Rose Greiner (wife of the late Otto Greiner). We extend our sympathies to her family.

Hospitalized was Bro. Noah Nohl. We are thankful he is doing well again.

Statistics for 1997 are as follows: 11 births, 3 converts, 2 baptisms, 6 weddings, and 3 deaths. We rejoice with those who rejoiced in this last year, and weep with those who weep. May God be ever present in this year of 1998.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Becky Braulick - Jan Messner

Greetings from snowy Minnesota!

We don't have much news to report this month but we were just sitting here thinking of our elderly and the following clipping from the newspaper was given to us to share with all of you...

"Yesterday was the saddest day of my life. I buried my mother. And now many thoughts come to my mind that make me even sadder. I

recall the many times I meant to call her and ask if there was anything she needed, but I seldom got around to it. I recall the day I ran into Mom in the bakery. Her winter coat looked so shabby and worn, and I thought, "Gee, I've got to take Mom downtown and buy her a new coat." But I never found the time. I was too busy. On her last birthday, I sent her an azalea plant, but I forgot to enclose a card. I have wanted to get over to see her, but there was a football game that day, so I never made it. The last time I saw Mom was at my cousin's wedding. She looked so old and tired. I told myself, "I must send Mom to Florida to visit her brother and get a little sun," but I just never got around to buying the tickets. If only I could turn back the clock, I'd buy Mom that coat and spend every birthday with her and take her any place she wanted to go. But it's too late now and I am heartsick. Please print this letter. Maybe if I had seen one like it, I would have done things differently."

Grieving Son

We must never forget the importance of our families, be they young or old because tomorrow is promised to no one. Thoughts are nice, but doing means more. When we think of doing for someone, the blessings come when we actually do follow through.

Our surgical patient this month was Idabelle Witt (Don). May God be at her side as she recovers.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Pearl Liene-mann wishes to express gratitude and deep appreciation for all the

prayers, kind deeds and expressions of sympathy during the loss of their loved one.

God Bless you,

Darrel, Jane Redmann & family

Carol Ann Messner & family

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brent Kellenberger

Ministering Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) and their family were with us this month. We are thankful for their willingness to travel and visit us. Our doors are always open to visitors.

Garrison Todd Pyle was born to Todd and Sis. Julia Pyle. He will join big sister, Aubrey, in their home. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene Anliker (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Gary and Sheri Pyle. We rejoice with Todd and Sis. Julia and pray God will grant them guidance and wisdom as they raise this new child.

Sis. Anna Lou Aberle was hospitalized this month after a fall on the ice. We are thankful she is home and recovering. Ice has been a major problem for us several times this year. I recently saw a man attempt to get in a car after an ice storm. In a split second, the man was on the ground. If we don't give Satan enough credit for his power and deceit, we could suddenly find ourselves on the ground. Only with God can we be victorious. Let us stand firmly on His Word and not compromise with the world. One slip could prove fatal.

"Christian, walk carefully."

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Carolyn Banwart

Martha Kellenberger

During the past month, we have been blessed with several visiting ministers and their families, including Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), and Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS). We truly appreciate their willingness to serve, and pray that God will reward them for their labors on our behalf.

Recently, Sis. Anna Marti moved to the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka, IL. We know she will be missed here, but we are thankful that she will have family close by her in Eureka, also.

Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera) and Jessica Luthi (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jodi) spent time in the hospital. We are happy to report that both are home now and recovering.

On January 11, we witnessed the wedding of Sis. Kristi Luthi and Bro. Michael Huber. Parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Vi Luthi, Bro. Gary Huber (Eureka, IL) and Karen Huber (Morton, IL). As they establish a Christian home together, we extend our wishes for God's richest blessings.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

The weather outside may have been cold and gray in January, but the atmosphere inside our church was especially warm and joyful. On January 3 we gathered to hear the testimony of faith of Cindy Hann, and on Sunday we witnessed her baptism. Surrounded in love by her husband, Jerry, and sons, Tim, David and Philip; her parents, Jack and Sis. Nancy Gould; and her sister and brother-

in-law, Sis. Becky and Bro. Mark Funk, and nephew, Bro. Rick Winn, made the weekend memorable for Sis. Cindy. Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) carried out this work.

We once again had reason to rejoice as we met and welcomed Sis. Wendi Mathis to St. Louis. Sis. Wendi graduated from college mid-term, and has begun her new career at Famous-Barr. She expressed confidence of God's guidance and direction in her life as she prayerfully considered this big step in her life. We pray that she can feel at home here. She is originally from Indianapolis, IN.

Ministering Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) also visited us and brought us God's Word this past month. We have been richly blessed.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Tina Sutter

Even though our fingers and toes are cold, we hope you find warmth in your heart as I did after our annual soup supper held on January 17. It was a blessed event because everyone was working together and fellowshiping for a Godly cause. And God did richly bless our efforts. Thanks to all who contributed!

We have been blessed to have two guest ministers with us this month: Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA). We are thankful for those who are willing to travel and do God's work.

We all joined together for our annual business meeting on Janu-

ary 7.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

III John 1:4

Become a detective for falsehood by studying the truth. Saturate your mind with truth; when anything else is present, you will detect it.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:"

Deut. 6:5-6

On New Year's Eve we had a potluck supper and then held church services. It was very cold that night.

A new year is here and we pray that it will be a blessed new year for us all and we pray that many hearts will turn to God.

Karla Shamback and Todd Green were married December 27. She is the daughter of Paul and Lisa Shamback and a granddaughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Lois Shamback. Todd is the son of Dick and Gail Green. They are going to live in Atlanta, GA.

Holly Graves is engaged to Matthew Cremisico (Clifton Park). Holly is the daughter of Bro. Floyd Jr. and Sis. Linda Graves and Matthew is the son of Len and Sharon Cremisico. They are planning a March 21 wedding.

On January 14, we had a singing at Brookside.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We appreciate our brothers and sisters in the various church offices and duties; and we wish to thank those retiring and welcome those coming into these duties. We thank: Sis. Barb Graf on the kitchen committee, Bro. Joe Miller on being usher, and Sis. Sarah Henico for being a Sunday School teacher. The ones coming in are: Sis. Carolyn Miller on the kitchen committee, Bro. Doug Milosevic for usher, and Sis. Rosanne Graf and Sis. Nan Steidl in Sunday School. We appreciate all the kind and loving help we get from our brothers and sisters. Some of the duties are defined by formal positions that are described, but we realize there are many kind deeds that are done and assistance that is given in addition to the titled positions that we have mentioned. We would like to thank those dear brothers and sisters.

Sis. Helen Burr, age 86, passed away January 12. Her husband, Bro. Fred, preceded her in death, and she is survived by a daughter, Jeannie Weisman; sons, Philip, Loren, and David; 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

We appreciated Bro. Mark Steiner ministering to us recently.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

We have enjoyed having several visiting ministers sharing with us in the last month. It was especially nice to have ministering Bro. Ben Wiegand and Sis. Michelle (Philadelphia, PA) and their children with us. Having once attended the Columbus congregation, it was wonderful to have them back in our midst again and to get re-acquainted with their family. Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and ministering Bros. Wallace Ramsier and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) also visited with us this month and shared the duties on the pulpit with Bro. John. We appreciate these brothers' efforts so much!

During our yearly business meeting, a hearty thank-you was extended to those office holders who have worked diligently in the past year. Serving the coming year as Sunday School Superintendent and Trustee will be Bro. Bill Sauder and Sunday School teacher and Kitchen Committee member will be Sis. Becky Sauder. Our prayers are with them as they assume the duties of their new positions.

It is our prayer as this new year begins, that new souls will move into the Columbus area to help our church family grow. Job transfers and college graduations have taken a heavy toll on our attendance and we pray that the Lord will lead others to our congregation in the coming year.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Shortly before Christmas, Bro. Roger Gasser's doctors told his family and loved ones that he was too ill to live through the night, but God saw fit to once more spare his life. Bro. Roger (Sis. Sue) still has his "ups and downs" now that he is back home, but his confidence lies in the One who is always in control.

"Attitude" has become a common topic of discussion among the young and old, world and church. Although it often has a negative connotation as in "attitude problem", this need not be the case, especially among the believers. Maybe we can all work on developing more positive feelings about the word "attitude" during the month of February. As we customarily take extra efforts to express our love to others around the 14th of the month, could our frame of mind be such that we take more time to remember those who are not so lovable? It's the least we can do considering that our Father in Heaven loved and cared for us even in our most wretched and unlovable state.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Heidi Hackenjos

On December 17, we gathered together to hear our Sunday School children and young adults relate the Christmas story through verse and song. We appreciate all of the efforts and trust God will be their rich rewarder.

We praise our Heavenly Father as more souls have found peace with God and man. Tara Laukhuf

(Bro. John and Sis. Marcia), Trent Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Jeff Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn), and Kurt Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) are awaiting a time when they will give a testimony of God's work in their lives. "Depart vain world, with all your sin! From bondage I am free. A humble offering do I bring; My heart I give to Thee!" (Zion's Harp #163)

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as Doug Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) and Corbin Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) have begun a walk with the Lord and not against Him. May they feel the prayers of all the brethren to strengthen them as they submit to the Lord's guidance and direction.

The Christmas holiday brought many visitors into our midst. We are especially thankful that Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) was with us. We pray the Lord will continue to give words of life and truth to all our ministering brothers. "Let watchmen stand before the temple door! With constant zeal and firm devotion, Against the enemy they do implore. Their pealing calls throughout the world resound; Salvation, Lord, in Thee alone is found." (Zion's Harp #111)

Bro. William Sr. and Sis. Florence Stoller have recently commemorated their 50th wedding anniversary. In the days of great lack of life-long marriage vows, we can draw great strength from such an example. "This union of our hearts shall stand through grace in Jesus; We walk the path of life, While cheer and trust increases. Where God in

truth abides, Where two join hand and heart, We find a three-fold cord, Not lightly rent apart." (Zion's Harp #79)

Ross Laukhuf (Larry and Charlotte) has undergone back surgery in the recent months. Sis. Helen Schlatter (Bro. Ben) has suffered a stroke in the past month. Our prayer would be that God's healing power would be on both of these our loved ones. As with all things, we want the Lord's will to be done.

Bro. Willis and Sis. Elaine Stoller welcome another grandson, Jacob Aaron, into their lives. May parents, Brent and Angie, strive to teach this little soul the ways of God. Brothers, Chase, Brock, and Bobby, along with grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Wirts, also give warm welcome to the new addition.

As always, we begin the new year in the house of the Lord and 1998 was no different. After being reminded of the ways of the Lord, we held our church business meeting. Elder Bro. Ray acknowledged that throughout the 1997 year our congregation experienced the following changes: 5 deaths, 9 births, 6 marriages, 5 baptisms, and 14 converts. As we reflect, may the faithfulness of the Lord in the past year give us courage to continue on into the future. "Awake, ye witnesses! Be burning in deepest love; inflame also our hearts; Let from above descend upon us. The fiery tongues that with their flaming darts, Rise up and melt together we implore, In fervent heat the faithful evermore!" (Zion's Harp #192)

The following brethren were supported by votes to fulfill these

offices: Sunday School - Bro. Byron Dunham (Sis. Jodi), Sis. Kim Sinn (Bro. Tom), Sis. Deb Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon), and Sis. Jodi Stoller (Bro. Dale); Church trustee - Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet); Fellowship Hall trustee - Bro. Randy Wenninger (Sis. Joni); World Relief Sewing - Sis. JoAnne Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith); Kitchen Committee - Sis. Shirley Stoller (Bro. Mark); and Gateway Woods Representative - Bro. Donn Steffen (Sis. Karen). As they serve in the coming year, may our prayers give them grace to carry out their duties and responsibilities. We wish to thank and ask the Lord to bless those who have fulfilled these duties during the past year.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Cari Mann

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

Acts 3:19

There can be no greater Christmas present than to hear that a loved one has started repenting. We rejoice with Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura Ramsey as their daughter, Olivia, and with Bro. Dick and Sis. Caroline Sauder as their daughter-in-law, Missy Sauder (Greg), both started repenting just before the holiday. It is with prayerful hearts that we would encourage them in taking the most important step of their lives. May they ever feel the love of the family they will be joining.

We wish to offer our prayerful support to Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis.

Wendy) who has been elected to the position of Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. As he assists Bro. Marvin Beer in guiding our Sunday School children, may he ever look to our Heavenly Father for guidance.

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

II Cor. 5:20

What a blessing it is when we can have visiting "ambassadors" for Christ. Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) joined us for a Sunday this month. How thankful we are that he and some of his family could join us.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Bro. Bill and Sis. Sophia Sabo in the passing of his sister, Irene Cerveny. May our prayers ever go with them and comfort them in this time.

After a particularly frustrating day, one of my co-workers commented to a second co-worker that he didn't seem like he was having a good day. The second one answered "Oh, but every day's a good day!" I really had to appreciate his answer. Can we as children of God say that every day is a good day? Or do we tend to moan and complain about how many bad days we have? Let us all strive to have the attitude that every day is a good day.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Carla Stoller - Lucy Gasser
Visiting ministers recently have

been Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). We are thankful for faithful preaching of the Word by our visitors and by those who live among us.

We share the joy of our newly engaged Bro. Aaron Gasser and Sis. Debra Hartzler who have chosen a March wedding date. Their parents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH).

Sis. Betty Baltic has moved to Kentucky to join her husband, Bro. Dan. He has been working there for several months. Five of their children, Rachel, Emil, Steven, Katrina and Minnie, have moved, also. They will be worshipping with the Lexington congregation. We hope that we will see them often as they visit those of the family who will remain in our area.

Our thanks and appreciation to those who have finished their terms of office. We want to support and encourage those who have been elected to continue in the various duties. Bro. Bob Dotterer is our new Sunday School Superintendent. Bros. Mike Atanasov, Everett Stoller, Jon Widmer and Tony Stoller are the new trustee, nursing home director, microphone operator, and usher, respectively. Sis. Beth Pelfrey is on the kitchen committee. Sisters Nettie Baltic, Diane Stetz and Marilyn Trent are added to the nursing

home auxiliary.

Bro. Carl Ingold (Sis. Erma) has had to return to the hospital. Surgical patients in the past month were Sis. Eva VanNostran and Ron Winkler. We pray that they will experience God's blessed healing. We are happy to hear that Ron Winkler has decided to seek his salvation in Christ Jesus.

Two families experienced the loss of a loved one recently. Leonard Acker, the father of Boyd (Barbara), passed away. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren will miss him, too.

Gerhart Aebi died of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; a daughter, Pat Graham (David), and two grandchildren. Three sisters, Sis. Yvonne Beery and Ellen Hess (Dale) of our congregation, and Sis. Marie Beery (Bro. Richard, Phoenix, AZ), also survive. We offer sincere sympathy to both families.

OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

Acts 6:4

Our visiting minister for the month was Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL). We thank him for stopping at Sardis on his way south and for willingly bringing forth the Word.

"...with all thine heart." Is going to church our number one priority? "...with all thy soul." Do we long for peace or would we rather bend the rules? "...with all thy might." Do we exert all of our God-given mind and strength to take

care of our children, to preserve our precious faith?

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller - Ruth Gasser

All the way my Saviour leads me
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy
Who through life has been my
guide?

Hymns of Zion #21

We are encouraged that God is still calling and leading souls in His tender mercy. We're happy to hear that Rachel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary) has allowed the Lord to lead her and she can feel His peace. We look forward to hearing testimonies in the near future.

We felt the leading of God's Spirit as ministering brothers shared the Word with us. Our thanks go to Bros. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) for their service on our behalf.

Hearts and lives have been drawn together this past month. On December 24, Michele Durham became the wife of Mark Zollinger (Bro. John and Sis. Marge). On January 10, Boyd Nieman (Bro. Charles and Sis. Delphine) and Terri Lancaster joined hand and heart in marriage. Bro. Aaron Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois) of Rittman and Sis. Debra Hartzler (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Jane) have felt led to become one in the Lord, and their forthcoming marriage was announced. We wish God's rich blessings to these unions. May true Christian love and charity be the foundation on which they build their marriage.

...Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,

Here by faith in Him to dwell...

Our prayers are with Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth) and his family in the loss of his younger brother in an auto accident. May God speak peace to their hearts in their grief.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it."

Psalm 68:11

Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) recently visited and shared in the ministry. We appreciate his willingness to serve and are thankful that God always provides for our needs through the Word.

The love of God manifests itself in His care for our every need, both physical and spiritual. We are thankful for His healing touch in the life of Bro. Paul Rywalski (Sis. Teresa). Paul has returned to Toledo from hospitalization in Cleveland. We pray that his recovery may continue.

Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Kevin, to Jennifer Culbertson. As they plan their life together, may they look to God for His will and blessings.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he

knoweth them that trust in him."

Nahum 1:7

There was some trouble here in the Portland area when an ice storm hit us around mid-January. Because of power outages and icy road conditions, we could not have our regular service on Sunday, January 11. We are thankful that the Lord brought us safely through the storm and that, even though big tree limbs are scattered all around, our church building and homes were not damaged.

We are very appreciative of the visiting ministers this past month. We had the pleasure of having Elder Bro. Leroy Messner and his wife, Sis. JoAnn, with us from Winthrop, MN. Our thanks also to our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton, OR. May the Lord bless you for ministering unto us.

As always, we encourage people to come and worship and sing with us. We do love visitors!

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Elder Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer (Rittman, OH) were here the last weekend of November. We enjoyed their visit and were especially thankful for Bro. Henry's valued teachings in church on Sunday and also on Saturday evening when, with our own Elder Bro. Art Metz, Holy Communion was served. This is such a blessed privilege established by our Lord Himself. We are thankful for the opportunity to participate and for our Elders that are willing to help us understand both the seriousness and the blessing of

this sacred Lord's Supper.

One of the special events enjoyed every year at Christmas time is the various Christmas caroling nights. Many different age groups get together throughout December to sing to elderly, shut-ins and nursing homes. One uncommon such gathering warmed the hearts of Bro. Lewis and Sis. Gloria Kuenzi in their home, though not a sound was made. The group was this year's beginning Sign Language Class and they had learned four Christmas songs in sign language. As is often the case in activities such as caroling, the "givers" went away feeling that they had received much more than they had given.

Another group that felt "it is more blessed to give than receive" was the group that went to Juarez, Mexico in December to help the less fortunate with World Relief Housing projects. More than a dozen people, members and friends, young and old, made the trip. Their many experiences and memories have left deep impressions and surely their efforts were much appreciated. May God bless their efforts to serve Him by serving others.

The engagement of our Sis. Peggy Schulz and Bro. Victor Jevromov of the San Diego, CA congregation was announced last month. Sis. Peggy's parents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz of Oakville, IA. Our prayers are with them as they and their families work together to plan their wedding. The date has been set for March 15 here at the Silverton church.

A wedding reception was held this month for Bro. Eldon and Sis.

Alice Metz, who were married December 7, 1997, at Rockville, CT. Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz and Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan Hoffman (Rockville, CT) are the parents. It was especially nice that Alice's parents, brother and sisters could also be here for the Oregon reception. May God bless Bro. Eldon and Sis. Alice's new home and these new family ties.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

We extend our sympathy to Ed and Connie Baer and their family in the passing of Ed's father, Otto Baer, of Princeville, IL. May the Lord provide loving comfort for the family.

We are thankful for Sis. Rachel Clough's fruitful and safe journey to Jamaica with a World Relief work team to help with the construction of a Deaf School for children.

Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) was our visiting minister this month. May God be his rich rewarder for so willingly lending himself in the Lord's service.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold**

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Philippians 4:6

The power of prayer...all of us have probably heard or maybe even spoken these words to someone else. Have you really thought

about the power of a prayer? Prayer allows us to talk to God who is the Creator of the universe, all-knowing, and omnipotent. This is almost beyond our human comprehension. Through prayer we can make our requests known to God as well as give Him the praise, honor and glory He is so deserving of.

Some or maybe all of us have also experienced the power of prayer. Maybe we were going through a difficult or seemingly impossible situation and through prayer, God helped us through that situation. Maybe one of our relatives was sick, and we asked God that they might be healed; God answered our prayer. Whatever the circumstance we are going through, let's not forget that God is only a prayer away. He will hear and answer our prayers no matter if the situation seems hopeless or impossible to us. When God does help us, let us not forget to thank Him.

This past month we were privileged to have Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). We thank God for these brothers' willingness to minister God's Word to us and pray that God will richly bless them and their families.

We were saddened to learn that Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller have moved to the Sarasota, FL area. We have enjoyed their love, fellowship and friendship over the past years and will greatly miss them. We wish both of them well as they set up their new home and pray that the Lord will bless and keep them in His tender loving care.

Please join us for our worship services. We usually meet on the

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Upcoming services are planned for March 1 (Detroit, MI); March 15 (Bradford, IL); April 5 (Latty, OH); April 19 (Remington, IN); May 3 (Champaign, IL); and May 17 (Sarasota, FL). Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN area) if you plan to be in the Nashville area to worship or visit.

**TEXAS, DALLAS
Eric Strassheim**

The winter months here in Texas have brought much rain. The city has been washed and cleaned by God. It is a good reminder of our own filth, and we are thankful that Jesus has continued to wash and cleanse us of our sins. We are sad to have lost Bro. Keith Klotzle from our congregation. He has accepted a new job offer with more potential in California. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) with us this month to preach God's Word. We have also been thankful for all of the other visitors we have had with us in the past few months.

Services will be held on the first and third Sunday of every month. If you are in the area, and would like to stop by, contacts are Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp (972) 867-4074 or Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102.

**TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz
Melva Messner**

We are enjoying our growing church membership. It gives us

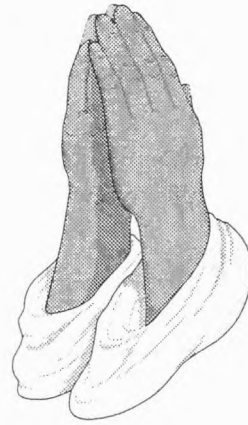
Silver Threads

Was It You?

Did you think of us this morning?
As you breathed a word of prayer?
Did you ask for strength to help us
All our heavy burdens bear?

Someone prayed, and strength was given
For the long and weary road,
Someone prayed and faith grew stronger
As we bent beneath our load.

Someone prayed, the way grew brighter
And we walked all unafraid,
In our heart a song of gladness.
Tell me, was it you who prayed?



pleasure to see so many familiar faces and also other members and friends that we haven't met before, assemble with us.

We appreciate having Elder Bros. Ken Sauder (Sis. Sue, Mansfield, OH) and Ed Aeschleman (Sis. Nancy, Philadelphia, PA) and ministering Bros. Roy Ehnle (Sis. Donna, Bradford, IL), Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Athens, AL) and Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) minister unto us. We also are happy to have retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Sis. Clara,

Lamont, KS).

We were reminded that we are going down the Valley of Decision. The world is the Lord's but Satan is happy if he gets just a little bit of us. So each of us will have to decide which path we wish to tread.

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when

we love God, and keep his commandments."

I John 5:1-2

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Ben and Sis. Wilma Blunier wish to thank all who sent cards and gifts or otherwise participated in celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. All was very much appreciated.

Sermon continued from page 2

house and it was late and I am the type of person that likes to go to bed a little bit early. We had come a lot of miles and I love to be with my family and I love to talk. I got the pillow out and started slumping over and pretty soon I was missing some of the conversation. I know how that probably made them feel because I know how it makes me feel when somebody falls asleep. How do you think it makes our Creator feel when we don't give Him the best of our day?

At the time when we are crisp and the time when we are fresh, give Him the first fruits. It says that in the Word. It says, "Give Him the first fruits." He doesn't want what is left over of our money. He doesn't want anything that is left over. He doesn't want the sheep that are left over. He wants us first and the first fruits of our prayers, of our love, of our time, and of our material wealth. Because if He knows He has our first fruits, He knows He has it all. May we do that for Him? The blessings would be out of this world!

"Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints," (Col. 1:4). Again, that commandment of love. I saw a sign coming into church this morning, and I think it said, "Love is the complete answer. Love is the total answer." You have probably seen the billboard many times. It is on Route 40 coming in before you get to War Memorial Drive. It's on the right side, but I'm not sure.

I had to think about that thing of love. Yes, true love is the answer to everything. It solves all the problems. In fact, there was a song

back in the seventies that said, All We Need Is Love. I think it was sung by the Beatles. All we need is love, and that is true if we define love in the proper way. But if we define it as total acceptance of everything you do is okay, everything that everybody does is okay, we just all love one another and we accept everything that everybody is doing, I don't see that as Jesus' love.

If I do that to my children, they would be absolutely and utterly destroyed; if everything they did, I said, "Oh, that is wonderful for you! That is just great." There are times when I have to tell my children, "That is not in the standards of God's Word. I don't see it in the Good Book here, and I don't see any examples of Jesus ever making any compromise in the Word." Jesus did not compromise; yet, He is the essence of love.

So love is the answer, but the love of Christ is the answer. Let's make sure that we don't redefine what love is into apathy. If we accept anything and everything, pretty soon we don't care about anything any more, and our love has turned to a lukewarm apathy—"I'll accept you but I don't care about you, but I accept everything you are doing."

In fact, the opposite of love in my book is not hate at all. There is at least some emotion there, but that we have a problem with in the United States; well, I have a problem maybe in my own heart sometimes.

I don't even want to put enough effort into somebody that rubs me wrong to even hate them, much the less love them. I don't even have enough effort; I just have apathy. I don't even care about

them. That is not what Jesus wanted.

Jesus wants us to look to the well-being of all those around us, not just our friends, not just our family, but most of all, the unlovable. Those that rub us the wrong way, those that are inconvenient to minister to, that is when the test is on of the love of Christ.

"For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;" (Col. 1:5). That is where we learned it, isn't it? Have you heard it anywhere else of an eternal hope, anywhere other than the Word of the Gospel? That is why we must keep coming to the Word in our church settings, and in our personal meditations each week.

I need to hear the story over and over and over of how if I have faith in Jesus' shed blood, I will live like I have faith in Jesus' shed blood. I will be thankful and righteous in a holy life, not out of guilt, not out of "I should have" and "Do I have to?" But I will live a righteous life because I am unworthy to be called a Christian. I am so thankful!

If we live that way and we have that hope, there is nothing better than hope! Have you seen someone that has lost hope? Have you seen the runner that gives it all he has and tries to get to the front to keep up with the front pack? Maybe towards the end of a race and when he knows it is hopeless, he lets down and he coasts in. He decides second place is good enough. That is losing hope, isn't it?

May we not be the Christians that lose hope. May we always have our sights on Heaven. I think when we look at this world, we get too massive of doses of the hope-

lessness of this world, without the offsetting massive doses of the hope that Jesus Christ would have for us, we could lose our hope.

Let's surround ourselves with people. Let's surround ourselves with the setting. Let's surround ourselves with the Word of hope, the Gospel. Let's don't stray from it.

"Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:" (Col. 1:6). Another concept. Another concept that is tough to handle is bringing forth fruit. That pleases God when His children bring forth fruit!

The end of religion is not coming to church. That is not the whole duty to come to church. To come to church we would say, "I gave God my Sunday; that is enough. I'll go with it from there. I gave Him two hours on Sunday." No, He gave us two hours today, or three hours. This is for us. We didn't give Him anything this morning. He gave us everything.

What we can do through the week is bring forth fruit.

Is there any other way for people to know that we are Christians if we don't bring forth fruit day in and day out? I have a heart that is filled with love and thankfulness.

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;" (Col. 1:9). It talks of two concepts there of not ceasing to pray. Sometimes, I think, we feel like our prayers are not answered. We feel like maybe God doesn't even hear our prayers, but we have to believe.

If we look in the Book of Revelation, it says that the prayers of the saints are like incense that rise up to the Father (see Revelation 8:4). But He smells that incense and He smells that fragrance of our prayers, but the time is not right. It is not time to fulfill the prayer. Let's don't cease praying. Let's don't give Him up. He hasn't given up on us, and aren't you glad that there are those who never gave up

on us?

When we were in our unconverted state, those of us that are saved, they didn't give up on us. Our grandparents kept praying and our parents kept praying and, dear friend, we are not giving up on you either. We love you. We want you to experience the peace that passes all understanding. We want you to experience a hope in the midst of a hopeless world when there is not a lot of good news.

We are living in the good times. All we have to do is wait for the bad times. One of these days, it will turn and we will not be in this prosperous mode that we have enjoyed. I hardly know anything else other than prosperity. My generation hardly knows anything other than prosperity and it only got better the next year. There are a few dips.

Dear friend, there is hope beyond anything you can ever imagine in being saved and having reservations in Heaven. Make yours today.



Faith of our Fathers

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. I John 4:1

The caution of John, in those latter days of his life, still ring in our ears yet today. The truth does not change and the truth of the Holy Word of God teaches us in these dark times as well as it has taught mankind throughout the ages. There are spirits and there is a Holy Spirit of God. We first have to be aware of the Holy Spirit before we can "try" the spirits of deception.

The true believer, who has received the Holy Spirit of God into their soul, can with little difficulty try the spirits, providing that the Holy Ghost is not quenched....*If any man thirst, let him drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)* Believing that the KJV is indeed the infallible Word from God, the question might arise as to the reference of God's Spirit that indwells the soul of man as the Holy Ghost, rather than the Holy Spirit as it appears in all other versions of the English language. The answer may be very simple, however very important.

The Holy Spirit of God and the Holy Ghost are the very same Spirit and yet the usage of the word Ghost instead of Spirit is quite noticeable in the KJV Holy Bible and implies an important message. (All other versions of the Bible, written in the English language, remove the word "Ghost" and replace it with "Spirit.") We are aware that the Holy Ghost is a part of God, which if provided a cleansed place to dwell, will indwell that cleansed place in the soul of man. God the Father,

the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost are three in one. As to the change in the term from Spirit to Ghost, it may be simple and yet important as to remind us that when a "Spirit" leaves the body it is referred to, in the dictionary, as a "Ghost." How humbling it is to see how clearly God planned His usage of terms in the Holy Bible. God the Father is a Spirit, Jesus Christ the Son is a Spirit, and the Holy Ghost that God gives to indwell the soul of a cleansed, converted man is a



And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,

Act 2:3,4

Spirit. Can we even comprehend that the Spirit of God actually dwells in us as the Holy Ghost?

A guide, a comfort, a chastiser, a small still voice dwelling in us that will lead us through the trials and tribulations of life. This most wonderful gift, the Holy Ghost, is truly a part of God in us creating it's own seal upon us, that nothing can remove it from us except our own willful sin or carelessness. If the Lord

God has provided us with a part of Him in us to live faithfully upon earth, what more could we ask of Him? Surely with the unction of the Holy Ghost, one would think that we could not stray from God's Holy Will, however it does happen. It happens out of the natural lust within the physical body; the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. What it takes is a desire on our part to strive toward perfection and with God's grace we can find the way in this life to be pleasing to Him.

To help in the warfare with Satan, God gives us a whole arsenal of weapons. *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with Truth, and having on the breastplate of Righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace; Above all, taking the shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of Salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:* Ephesians 6:13-17 After reading this scripture and visualizing the powerful weapons of God that we can use in our warfare with Satan, we really have no excuse not to please God except for our desire to do what is right and holy.

We can not comprehend how much God wants to help us. The Holy Ghost, Grace, and the Word of God are all directed toward building our faith in our great God and helping us with our walk of faith. The Word of God, the KJV Bible, has led the people on earth for almost 400 years. It must grieve the Lord when

He hears the world saying that no one understands the old fashioned language of the KJV Bible. The world would set about to change the Bible and with that change lessen the impact and power of the Word of God. If the Holy Ghost has sealed itself in our soul, we will have no problem understanding the unction of the Holy Ghost through the reading of the Living Word of God.

It is also very difficult for us to comprehend the unseen Angels and the Spirit activity around us. There is a whole dimension or spiritual realm beyond our clouded eyes, which sees things as through a veil. The Word of God mentions numerous times about the work of the Angels to help, protect, and intervene in the lives of God's children. The Angel that opened the prison door for Peter, the Angel that smote Herod, and the Angel of the Lord that appeared unto Mary in a dream are just a few mentions of this spiritual realm beyond our clouded eyes. Our Lord God wants to give us every advantage possible to defeat Satan. (We must be very careful, however, to worship God and not the Angels.)

Let us consider the example of the power of God as revealed to Elisha's young servant in II Kings 6: 11-23. Here was an impossible situation for man to understand. The King of Syria was sore displeased with Elisha, for he had revealed to the King of Israel every move of the Syrian King. So the Syrian King ordered his army to go to the location or city where Elisha dwelt to surround the city and kill him. When Elisha and his young servant went out early in the morning, the servant was astonished and afraid when he saw the great Syrian army surrounding them. He cried out, *Alas, my master (Elisha)! how shall we do?* And he (Elisha) answered, ***Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*** The Lord heard the

prayer of Elisha and opened the eyes of the young servant. What the servant saw was the tremendous spiritual world of God. *And he (the servant) saw: and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.* The army of Syria could have been annihilated by God's army on the spot, but Elisha was directed to handle the situation different than someone with less faith might have done.



Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.
II Kings 6:16

Elisha prayed for blindness to come over the men and then Elisha told the Syrian leaders that they had the wrong city and he would lead them to the correct city. What Elisha did was lead them right into the capital city of Samaria and into the presence of the King of Israel. The King of Israel asked if he should smite them? Elisha, directed by God, showed mercy and said to feed them and let them go. Was mercy the right thing to follow? Without any question it was. After they were fed with great provisions, they were sent home never to return. *So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.*

As we war against Satan, let us remember that the Holy Ghost that is in us is far greater than he that is in the world. Man's inventions, as mighty as they are, do not come close to the power of God and what He could unleash if He desired.

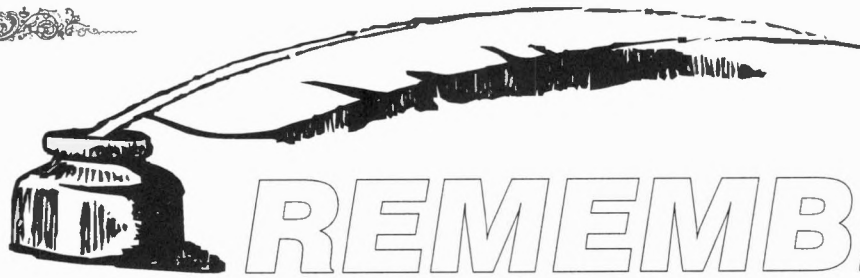
Smart bombs, missiles, radar technology are nothing compared to the help we get from God if we are faithful and humble. God will "lead us not into temptation" if we have a desire to remain free from sin and pray for the grace to accomplish His will.

Pilate was proud of his power when he spoke to the Lord in John 19:10,11. *Then saith Pilate unto him (Jesus), Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.* From there on Pilate was humbled and tried to release him, however the Jews prevailed and our Lord was crucified according to God's plan. Again it was said that Jesus could have called out ten thousand Angels to annihilate all of the Roman soldiers, but He willingly bore the cross of Calvary and died for us as the propitiation for our sins.

Spirit, by whose operation faith and hope and love are given, source of holy conversation, bearing seed and fruit for Heaven; Spirit, by whose inspiration Prophets and Apostles spake, visit us with Thy salvation; Dwell with us for Jesus' sake! It is our constant prayer that God will lead the true believers in such a way that the Church, the Bride of Christ, will remain pure and unadulterated by the world.

The Spirit of God in us, the Holy Ghost, is what we need to have our heart in harmony with, in this day of turmoil, in combination with the Word of God, so we do not stray from the truth, which we know will set us free.





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The visit of Elder Henry Geistlich of Meilen, Switzerland (a contemporary of Bro. Samuel Froehlich) to the newly-established American churches took place in the late spring and summer of 1866. This ongoing series contains excerpts from that historic diary.

In the second installment, Bro. Geistlich has just left the ocean liner (from Europe) and is entering the New York City area to begin his American visit.

May 28 (Monday): I had to hire a rig (which cost me \$3.50) to take me to the home of Bro. Hornef, who lives in Williamsburg. I was able to find him. It is very dangerous for an immigrant to go about in New York because there are many vagabonds. A person is unable to trust anyone unless he is accompanied by an acquaintance who looks after him.

The city on the inside is just the opposite as it looks from the outside. Coming in from the sea, the region looks wonderfully nice, and although the climate seems pleasant, the people are more rough, and have less feeling than those in Europe.

May 29 (Tuesday): At Williamsburg, New York. The weather is rainy. Today I began to write a letter home, but could not finish it. On Monday evening I went with Bro. Hornef and Anna to get our trunks. We had some trouble getting them. Ships are always arriving. It was reported that 1,300 immigrants had arrived since Saturday.

June 1 (Friday): At Williamsburg, New York. Today at noon I read a chapter (Genesis 22) concerning the act of Abraham offering his son Isaac. Never before today did this chapter affect me so greatly. It touched me so much I had to weep. How must Abraham have felt, as on the third day, he raised his eyes and saw the place before him, where the Lord told him to offer his only son, whom he loved, as a sacrifice to the Lord.

Because Abraham was obedient to

the Word of God, it was counted to him for righteousness. Through this he (Abraham) became a father and a model to all the faithful here on earth. I thought, O that the Lord would give us such a faith and such a heart that we would be as faithful and as obedient as the heart of Abraham was.

June 2 (Saturday): At Williamsburg. The weather is pleasant. Yesterday I sent two letters, one to Basel and one to Zurich; and today one to Bern, and one to Elder Josef Bella. I wrote this morning and this afternoon accompanied by Sister Wink, lately of Basel. We made several calls on the brethren.

June 3 (Sunday): At Williamsburg. Weather rainy. Today there was church, both in the forenoon and afternoon. It was given to me to speak, yet I was somewhat occupied, as I did not find the real spiritual association among some here...not the real earnestness or seriousness. I found too little hunger and longing for the Word of God. There are, however, several lovable brethren here. A special one is Bro. Hornef. He is a pattern and model for the church. But they regard him too little. How good it is if we have a hunger for the Word of God.

In the evening there was a singing which was followed by reading a chapter, and a prayer.

June 4 (Monday): At Williamsburg. The weather is fair. Today we left Williamsburg accompanied by several for New Bremen (i.e., the Croghan-Naumburg area). Our trip from New York City was by railroad over the Hudson River. The railroad went over much water and swampy land. The larger villages through which we traveled were Roseville, Hudson, Shoreliede and Judiken. From there we took a stagecoach to Lowville, arriving at an hour past midnight. We went to bed and had good lodging. From there we went to New Bremen and Croghan.

June 5 (Tuesday): At Lowville, New York. We hired a rig to take us to Croghan. It cost \$5.00. On the way we met dear Bro. Virkler, whose home is some distance from home. This is the "Virkler" area with a large church here. The country is quite hilly, although it has been settled for quite some time. It looks rather wild, containing much timber and brush land. The thought came to me, surely people cannot make a living here as I had not yet seen any nice meadows or farming ground.

I said to Bro. Virkler, "If one looks at this region, one cannot see how the people can make a living."

He laughingly replied, "Yes, my brother, the people here are prosperous. Here it is as with Jacob as they stood before Pharaoh, who asked what his occupation was, and he replied, 'Thy servants are shepherds.' The raising of cattle is a chief occupation here. There is much cheese made, and the returns are good."

A brother from New York City who accompanied me here asked Bro. Virkler how much land a man must have to make a living for a family. He replied, "It might make a big difference what kind of man he is."

"There were two men in Israel, in the Old Testament, the one being satisfied with very little and lived an orderly life. The other had much and wanted to add more to it. These men were Naboth and Ahab. And so there is just much difference yet today."

This conversation was a blessing to me; also important concerning the brethren here and the condition of the church. I felt inwardly good. I could feel happy among the brethren. They live close together and through raising cattle, have a pleasant and quiet life.

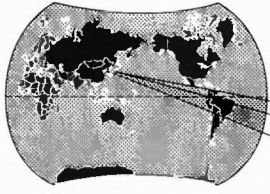
By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

More on the Geistlich Diary

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“Is It Essential?”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The first time I ran into this question was when I was asked if confession of sin is essential (for salvation). Of course, we all know that to unburden ourselves to God and to someone else in whom we have complete trust for confidentiality, is a very good thing, both for our spiritual life and our mental health. However, the thief on the cross was short of time so he didn't get a lot of things done that the Bible teaches and suggests for the believers to do. Nevertheless, Jesus told him, "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)

Speaking of what is essential, Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." (John 3:7). This sounds very essential. For salvation we need to have spiritual life, not just physical life. In Romans 8:6 we read, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." It follows that the spiritual mind is essential for life and peace, al-

though it doesn't say to what extent our minds must be spiritual. Some believers think about spiritual things more than others, partly out of fascination with the unknown, perhaps.

In I John 2:4 we read, "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." That hurts. After teaching us, "For by grace are ye saved through faith," (Ephesians 2:8), we are now taught that we must keep His commandments, in effect, that it is essential that we do so. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught the importance of obedience when He said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21). I don't mean to scare anyone unnecessarily, but doesn't this sound like if we have true faith, we will at least try to be obedient to what the Bible teaches, especially

in the New Testament? Please correct me if I'm wrong. I, too, want to know what the Bible teaches on this matter of what is essential.

What are His commandments spoken of in I John 2:4 quoted above? The New Testament is full of commandments, albeit, not with the consequences for disobedience which were experienced in the Old Testament. Then, in many cases, it was physical death.

Some scriptures which sound like commandments to me are "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." (I John 2:15). Also, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning..." (I Peter 3:3). Surely we should at least try to be humble, Godly, and modest.

Let's think about what is essential for salvation, what is essential for obedience, and what is essential for attaining to the really abundant spiritual life, and do them all.

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Sabetha, KS - 1907

The Sabetha Church was established in 1907, when it became very difficult for brethren to travel over unsurfaced roads to Bern, KS. In 1914 it became a necessity to build an addition onto the original building.

Early in the 1950's, crowded conditions again caused the planning of a new building, which was built in 1956. That edifice serves the Sabetha congregation yet today.

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