

The Silver Lining



He giveth snow like wool: He scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes.

December 1998

"JONAH'S JOURNEY TO NINEVEH"

Sermon by Bro. Dale A. Frank, Oakville, IA

Jonah 1 and Acts 25

We know that if we would have read further into the next chapter, then Paul begins his defense to King Agrippa. At the end of the next chapter is where Agrippa said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (Acts 26:28). King Agrippa was a man who knew of what the Bible said, and so when he heard of Paul's defense, he knew what should be done and what was right.

In Jonah we read a story that is not new to any of us, is it? We read it in Sunday School and remembered it, didn't we? If we would have read the whole book of Jonah, we would have seen the whole story. Perhaps we can highlight it, and I know that you all know that. But Jonah was a man that God had chosen to go and speak to the people of Nineveh and to tell them of their great sin and the need to repent in their lives. They were wicked people; no doubt about it. There was much wickedness in their city.

That doesn't mean they were evil necessarily and bad people, but there was sin in their lives and they were wicked because they were doing things contrary to the Word of God, and they were not listening. God wanted to give them an opportunity and I think there is a wonderful thing about that. It shows us the compassion that God has. He is going to tell us where we stand and He is going to give us an opportunity to do something about it, just like He gave those people of Nineveh an opportunity.

Jonah was determined not to go there. Why? Because he knew the wickedness in that city and he figured there wasn't any use

in going to that city.

He figured why in the world would he go to that city and tell them of the seriousness of their lives because they are not going to change anyway. Nothing is going to happen, but God had sent him and God wanted him to go. God wanted him to go into that city and talk to those people. Of course, God knew all along what would happen, didn't He? But Jonah did not want to go.

As I think about that, beloved, I think of the time when I was told that I need to stand up and proclaim the Word, and I really didn't want to do that. Perhaps wherever we might be in life, there is something that we think is too big or too hard or too much to ask. That is where Jonah was at. He said, "This is too much; I can't do that. These people would probably rail on me and make fun of me and they don't want to hear this anyway."

He did not want to go so he ran away from God. How many times in our unconverted life and maybe even in our converted life, did we run away from God, because we did not want to hear the message that God was telling us? We didn't want to do or go where He wanted us to go. Yet, beloved, we have to come back to this realization, we can't run away from God. We can't say "No" to God, but we can. But if we really want to go to Heaven, we can't say "No" to God, can we?

We have to be willing to do what He tells us to do. We have to be willing to go. We have to be willing to stay. We have to be willing to speak the Word, or to be silent. But we must be the light and example and witness

for Jesus Christ in the way we live our life. It means that we must stand out.

When Jonah walked into the city of Nineveh, he was not just an ordinary person walking down there. I am sure they knew who he was and it didn't take very long and they started listening to him and they knew he wasn't just an ordinary person.

Sermon continued on page 47

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2. Eureka, IL
3. Junction, OH
4. Portland, OR
5. Prescott, AZ
6. Remington, IN
7. Rockville, CT
8. Sardis, OH
9. Tremont, IL
10. Tucson, AZ

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

December 1998

The Hour Is Come

"Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify Thee" (John 17:1). For thousands of years the promise of God, made in the Garden of Eden to send one who would defeat Satan, was waiting to be fulfilled. From the perspective of mankind, it would seem as though God waited a long time to keep His promise.

God didn't wait a long time. He simply waited until the time and events were such that it was the right time to send His Son to earth to fulfill the promise of a Saviour. God's timetable differs significantly from man's timetable. We are instructed in His Word that we should "...be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (II Peter 3:8).

Although there will be "...scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (II Peter 3:3-4), we must remember that "the Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (I Peter 3:9).

Time is measured as the interval between two events. The finite mind of man is unable to grasp eternity (timelessness) as God can, so we define our "intervals" with events that we can grasp. The interval between Christ's first coming and His second coming has been so long in the minds of man that there are many who question whether His second coming will occur. However the Bible tells us, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night,..." (II Peter 3:10).

For children, time often seems to pass rather slowly, especially as they look forward to special events. Christmas, a birthday or some other special activity that is exciting in the mind of a child seem as though they will never come. As we all know, eventually the event arrives, is

soon over, and the children look forward to the next exciting event.

As individuals mature, time seems to go faster. They realize that these regularly occurring events will quickly come and go and often they find themselves thinking about events which may occur only occasionally in their lifetime. As in their childhood, they wonder if these widely spaced events will really come to pass.

In early adulthood, a decade seems quite long but it eventually ends and a new one begins. In old age, even these events come and go quickly and time slips away very rapidly and one begins to think about time in a different manner - perhaps in lifetimes. The time when grandparents or parents lived passed quickly and they were soon gone. The lifetime of each one of us also shall quickly pass away and the promises of God will be clearly seen.

Often the passage of time is looked at as an opportunity to make a clean start. A new year brings new opportunities; a new decade brings a new outlook; a new century brings a new era. We are now hearing a great deal about the coming of a new millennium. Some look forward to it with great anticipation, others with great fear. For a Child of God, there is no need of fear. Our reaction should be to recognize that each passing event brings us closer to the time we will meet God.

Many seem to expect that a "new" period of time will in some way suddenly make all things better, as though the changing of a page on the calendar can make things different. While we do not want to minimize the importance of time as a way to help us organize our lives and to help us realize that we so quickly are drawing closer to the end of our allotted span, we need to recognize that of all the different ways of reckoning time, perhaps only two are of eternal significance. These two are the interval between our birth and our death and the interval between Christ's first coming and His second coming.

We all recognize that we will not live

forever. In our youth we expect that we will live to be quite old. Youth seems to give us a feeling of being invincible, that there is no need to be concerned about the end of our life. But, the hour will come, and none of us know when we will be required to give an account of the activities in our lives. We cannot avoid it.

Perhaps we feel we are at an age that we expect to have many more years to live. We may be very healthy, young, and strong and have every reason to believe that the end of our life is many years away. Even so, there is another interval that we need to think about. Christ has already made His first appearance on earth, and we have God's promise that He will return. The Word of God gives us this assurance and it gives us much instruction about His second coming.

It would seem that most, if not all, of the prophesies which must come to pass before His return have been fulfilled; therefore He could come at any time. When He does return, His people will be called to give an account of their lives. Those who expected to have many more years to prepare for His Second Coming will be disappointed if they have not become a Child of God. Christ taught us to "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh" (Mt. 25:13). John wrote "Behold, I come quickly:..." (Rev. 3:11).

We have no promise of long life, or even of tomorrow. We must realize that time is fleeting and our life will soon end. Whether, in our minds, it will be soon or many years in the future, for all of us we will reach the point when "The Hour Is Come". We "...shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Ro. 14:10-12).

The interval that God has given us will soon end. Let us all use that time to prepare for our meeting with our Lord.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Apostolic Christian Publications Serves Our Brotherhood

We wish to use this month's page to outline some of the services the Mission Committee provides in making wholesome and spiritually edifying items available to all.

Bookstore in Eureka

Apostolic Christian Publications, located in Eureka, Illinois was created with the following purpose. "To create, print and distribute religious material and publications relating to the needs of the Apostolic Christian Church of America and to disburse the funds we receive from brethren and friends who wish to share their blessings with others. The focus of this nonprofit corporation is to promote the spiritual growth and religious training of the Church."

Our bookstore is located on the south side of highway 24 on the west edge of Eureka. There is a sign saying "Apostolic Christian Publications."

Bibles and hymn books

Bibles in the King James Version are in stock in a number of different styles, sizes, and type size. We wish to provide a source for this version, which is the one approved by our fellowship. Versions of this translation are sometimes limited in other book stores, and this is kept in mind as we stock our inventory.

Hymn books are also kept on our shelves. Most of these cannot be found in commercial book stores. We stock Zion's Harps, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle Hymns, Gospel Hymns, and Hymns of Christmas. The leadership of the church has a strong desire to continue to have these traditional hymnals available to our brotherhood in a time when they could not be procured elsewhere.

Sunday School materials

Over the years our brethren have gone to great lengths to prepare and publish materials that would be acceptable to our heritage of faith. Each of these have been approved, and are offered in our bookstore as a service to our local congregations.

These items include our Sunday School Curriculum, Sunday School lessons, Bible School materials, and other supplementary items. Every effort has been made to keep the costs low. Some of the materials are furnished with no cost.

Bible story books

In recent years we have received permission to publish and print Bible story books for young children, suitable for home use as well as in Sunday Schools. As with many other traditional publications, these became unavailable commercially when more "modern" versions appeared.

We thank God that He opened the way for us to be able to continue to have these books available to our brethren and friends, and we encourage you to use this as a source for literature that has stood the test of time and continues to be edifying.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15



Cassette tapes

Over the years, brethren have done research and carefully prepared talks or Bible studies on specific issues and needs. A catalog of titles is available on request.

Froehlich material

We also stock books and tapes taken from the writings of the founder of our faith, Bro. Samuel Heinrich Froehlich. The original translations of some of his writings have been redone to make them easier to read.

Stop in and visit us

Our hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. We wish to extend a sincere and friendly invitation to anyone who is in the area to stop in and visit us. In the world in which we live, it seems that those values which served believers so well in the past are diminishing. It is our hope that we can help keep a supply of scripturally based items which will help preserve the foundation of our precious faith.

Ordering policies

Orders are received via mail, phone, or in person. At this time, we do not have a fax machine. Orders are shipped via UPS daily. Payment is made by cash, check, or money orders. We do not accept credit cards. Invoices are sent with each order. A pre-addressed envelope is enclosed for easy payment. Price lists are sent once a year to all congregations in care of the elder or lead minister. If you would like a price list, please call or write to the following address.

Apostolic Christian Publications
805 W. Cruger St Box 52
Eureka, Illinois 61530
(309) 467-3611



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

For which one of these did not Christ die?

A young Haitian woman

"Who is walking across the field and up the hill to our home, Mother?" "Bon Jour. Koman ou ye?"

(That means, "Good morning, how are you?" Differences in languages are just one of the cultural differences our brethren have to deal with when they work in foreign countries.)

"I am 20 years old. No, I haven't been away from home for many years. I had polio when I was very young and haven't walked since. I usually sit here and watch all others come and go. Cite Lumiere? No, I've never been there. I have no way to go and no money. Learn to walk? How could I? Yes, I am willing. Mother, may I go with Frankel? When? Oh, yes I can go tomorrow."

"Here comes Frankel. Oh, he says he will take me all the way down the hill to the clinic for the handicapped at Cite Lumiere. Please don't drop me! How beautiful is the view from here. I can see all the way across the mountain."

The next day at the clinic

"What are you strapping onto my legs? How are these going to help me walk? I can stand! First this foot, then the other one. Hold me!"

Three weeks later

"I am walking without any help! But can I keep these braces? I have no money. What? People gave money to provide them for me? Who? The Apostolic Christian Church? Churches in the USA made up by people who have never seen me? And most of them have never been to Haiti?

Thank you, Lord Jesus, and please, Lord, bless them whoever they are and wherever they live. I will never be able to repay them!"

Making a difference

The above scenario is an actual situation that has been changed only slightly to illustrate the type of work going on in one part of Haiti where our brethren who support World Relief are making a real and visible difference. These illustrations were observed the week of October 12, when the World Relief evaluation team visited Hospital Lumiere at Bon Finne.

Helping the children

As the team walked further through Hospital Lumiere, they saw others who have benefited from the loving gifts of our brethren and friends.

A six month old baby who needed an operation for a bowel defect from birth. A little boy with 3rd degree burns on his

face from a fall into the charcoal fire his mother was using to prepare their supper. Children with TB receiving medicine and instructions on a proper diet.

His leg was broken!

A 14 year old boy was lying on a hospital bed with his leg in

traction. Three days ago a horse he was riding fell on his leg. His family carried him to the hospital on a stretcher.

The doctor said, "Yes, your leg has a bad break. We must operate and put a pin in place to hold the bone. You will have to stay in the hospital for several

weeks. Someone must stay with you to provide and prepare your meals. It will cost \$200."

The boy responded, "My family can only pay \$133. We just don't have any more. Our banana tree was washed out by Hurricane George and we lost our pig in the flood. Oh, you have a fund that can be used to help with my expenses? Who contributes to this fund? People from other countries? Who are they? You say people who love the Lord and want to help others? Why do they care enough to help me? They don't know me."

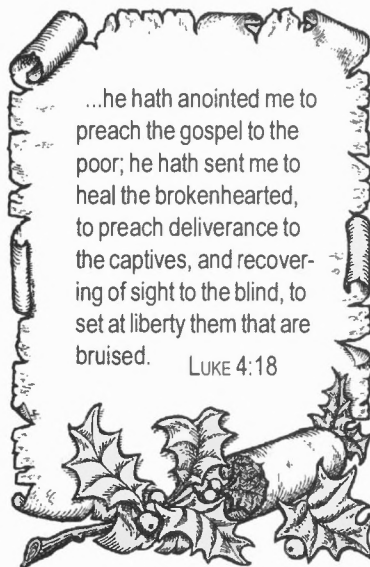
It was explained to the boy that they may not know him, but they know Jesus Christ and have been taught about Jesus' love that made Him willing to die for them, so that they could go to heaven. One way they can show their love and appreciation is to share their abundance with others.

Recipients extend thanks

Those who receive the gifts from our loving and generous brethren ask us to convey their thanks. Many of them, as they are told about the love of Jesus, also thank Him. We will never know how many are healed on earth, much less how many will enter into the kingdom of God and someday will meet us at the feet of Jesus Christ.

How does this happen?

It happens through those who have been blessed with much and are prompted by God's spirit to share. God inspires men like Frankel who carry a young lady miles to a hospital because she can't walk. He provides nurses and doctors who are willing to serve the needy. God works miracles in providing for the support of care givers in remote areas. He does it through people who are praying, caring, and sharing. He does it through people just like you. To Him we give the glory, and to you the recipients say "Thank You!"



- 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.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DISTRIBUTE THEM. Continue to bring used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle, or Gospel Hymn Books to:

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

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 Bible Distribution Center, 1780 N 450 E, Bluffton, IN, 46714.

Old and New Testament Tapes - KJV Bible - Available
Pulpit Bibles - Red Letter - Self-Pronouncing - K.J.V.
- Available At Bluffton Bible Distribution Center -
A shipment of Haitian (Creole) was received.

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION CENTER MOVED TO BLUFFTON, IN

The Bible distribution center at Leo, IN has been closed and a new center opened up in Bluffton at a location adjacent to the Bluffton Distribution Center. By mid-December, it should be staffed on a part-time basis, with an answering machine in place to receive incoming calls when no one is there. *Contact: Bro. Leon Gerber, 1254 S Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714, 219/824-5587.*



Counselor Needed

Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a male or female counselor. Qualified persons for this position must hold a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field. A Master's degree is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management, and consultation with the treatment team.

For more information, please call one of the brothers listed below:

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

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
219/565-3499

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.



ALTERNATE HOUSEPARENTS

We're doing a little bit of musical jobs with our Houseparent Staff this fall. Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol Schrock will be leaving Gateway Woods this November after six-and-one-half years. Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer are planning to take over their house, with Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee Bauman (Goodfield, IL) joining our team as Alternate Houseparents.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter are planning to leave Gateway Woods in February of 1999 after seven years together as Houseparents. As Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand plan to take over the Fiechter House, we have another opening for Alternate Houseparents.

We pray at our Staff and Management Meetings that God will move in the hearts of those that HE wants to be here. He already knows how things will turn out and we rest in that. If you are interested in any of these positions, please prayerfully consider these openings and contact the Gateway Woods office at 219/627-2159. Each of these positions offers competitive wages and benefits.

For more information, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Tim Sauder, Box 151, Leo, IN 46765, (219) 467-2159
Phil Stettner - Counseling Elder, (219) 565-3499

TEACHER NEEDED

The Apostolic Christian Preschool of Athens, Alabama is currently looking for teaching help. The position needs to be filled immediately by a sister or brother in good church standing. Additional qualifications include at least some college training with preferably a bachelor's degree in child development, elementary education, or related field. After training, the teacher may be asked to also assume the coordinator position.

If interested in the job, please contact your local elder, and with his support, send your resume to Bro. Lavoyd Moore at 15448 Hwy. 72 W., Athens, AL 35611 or call him at (256) 232-2035. Contact may also be made with Bro. Bill Schlatter (419) 393-2621 or Bro. Ken Indermuhle (740) 483-1593.



GATEWAY WOODS AUCTION

Sale Date for 1999:
Saturday, August 21, 1999

WORLD WAR II VETERANS

(12/7/41 - 8/14/45)

Members & Friends

Date set for veterans of WWII
Gathering at Latty, Ohio.

June 5-6, 1999
(55th Anniversary of D-Day)

Make Plans Accordingly

Further info will be sent in the
future to those who mailed in cards.

Others interested call
419-399-5106 or write to:

WWII Veterans, 713 E Perry St,
Paulding, OH 45879

OPENING FOR DIRECTOR OF NURSING AT CEDARS RETIREMENT HOME, LEO, IN

We have an opening for a Director
of Nursing.

Requirements: R.N. background,
managerial skills, love for the elderly.

For more information, call:

Bro. John Klopfenstein
219/627-3934
or write:
15028 Reservoir Rd, Box 8
Leo, IN 46765

BUSINESS CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Gateway Woods has an opening on our office staff team for a brother or sister to assist with our financial operations. We are looking for someone who desires to serve in a ministry that heals children and reunites families, rather than in corporate America. This is a key full-time position that offers responsibility, management and creativity. If you have been trained in the areas of accounting and/or finance and possess good analytical, organizational, communication and computer skills and are interested in using these skills in a ministry setting, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 467-2159

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Our Vision....

Serving According To God's Purpose

- Believing God's promises are true
- Directed by Christian values
- Believing we are called to serve
- Believing all people have dignity and potential
- Giving our best to help others achieve their best

The Home has been providing services for 27 years and we have felt clear about the Home's purpose and what we believed in, but we have not always felt that we communicated it to others clearly. We wanted to have a clear way to communicate that purpose and belief to others such as new staff, the community, new families, etc.

After much thinking and soul searching, the Board of Directors has adopted the above statement. The overall vision statement reflects that we are here and giving services because it is God's calling. The additional points reiterate our belief in God and the call to service according to His Word. They also state what we believe about the peo-

CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

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

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

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

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

Long Book tapes may be ordered from:

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

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

ple we serve and their dignity and potential.

This statement will be used in our training material for staff, our communication with families and state agencies, in our orientation material and we hope other places where it will bring glory to God, and communicate His love for all of us.

Birthdays for January are: ACHH - Stephen Penn (8), Edith Wagenbach (8), Bruce Steffen (19), Jackie Willett (19), John Eddy (27), Tom Sides (31). OAKWOOD - Laverna Zobrist (25). LINDEN - Mary

HAITI/JAMAICA WORK PROJECTS - 1999

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, E-mail: hlwitzig@dpc.net.

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 1-9	Deaf Village	Phil Gutwein	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 1-9	Montego Bay	Mark Criss	Deaf School	40	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 8-16	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	10	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 15-23	Les Cayes	Dean Pashek	Grade School	10	100%
Haiti	S.E.E.D.	Jan 22-30	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	7-9	100%
Haiti	Medical	Jan 22-Feb 1	Les Cayes	Bob Pflederer	HospLumiere	10	100%
Haiti	A.W.A.	Jan 29-Feb 6	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Wells	4	100%
Haiti	S.E.E.D.	Jan 29-Feb 6	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	7-9	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb 5-13	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	10	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Feb 19-27	Cotes de Fer	Tom Hitz	Grade School	10	100%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Feb 26-Mar 6	Puits - Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	10	40%
Haiti	A.W.A.	Mar 5-13	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Wells	4	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 5-13	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	10	70%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 5-13	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	90%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 26-Apr 3	Les Cayes	Stan Descarpentrie	Grade School	10	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 27-Apr 3	Montego Bay	Kent Kloter	Deaf School	40	50%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 3-10	Montego Bay	Dan Hoerr (*)	Deaf School	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 14-22	Deaf Village	Andy Bauman	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 4-12	Montego Bay	(*)	Deaf School	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 4-12	Kingston	(*)	Deaf School	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 17-24	Knockpatrick	Jay Maibach (*)	Deaf School	40	100%

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 possible Bible Class Participation

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX
Earl Sauder	309-387-6357	309-387-6357
Harold Witzig	309-266-6263	309-266-8575
Mark Criss	309-243-9271	
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591
Dean Pashek	517-662-7685	517-662-7099
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	219-261-2885
Bob Pflederer	309-266-5853	309-676-8455
Stan Descarpentrie	309-467-3898	
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	248-351-4629
Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	309-691-6793
Jay Maibach	330-939-5234	
Kent Kloter	309-965-2727	309-965-2220
Phil Gutwein	219-843-1761	
Dan Hoerr	309-243-9271	

Schramm (13), Karen Blunier (14).
540 DETROIT - Rhonda Gerst (12).

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

Lisa Kipfer

A few nights ago, we had given permission to a child to set the table at night to help give them more time in the morning for their other special chore. As I was turning off all the lights to go to bed that night, it was still, quiet and dark. It hit me how odd the table looked all set for ten or so and ready with no one sitting there to eat. At first, I thought of the rapture. This would be how people would find things if all the people in the house were Christians and ready for Christ's return. People would find things left as though the occupants left in a hurry and with no idea it was coming. I thought it would be great when Christ returns, but what happens while we are waiting for His return?

This also hit me how much we focus on the future. We are moving into the Schrock House next week as full-time Houseparents and it will become the Kipfer House. My mind lately has been in the future. How will we get all moved in and packed in time, how are we going to deal with this issue, etc. These things are fine, but we cannot forget about the day that the Lord has given us—today. He hasn't promised us that we will have anymore days than the one we are living. This helped to change my focus and take time to do God's work today. The future will be here soon enough—focus on the day at hand. Take time to tell your loved ones that you love them. Take time to tell someone about Christ's salvation. Do these things today and don't focus on tomorrow.

Each day brings a new change

here at Gateway Woods. Laura E. has been welcomed at the Fiechter household. The Schrocks said goodbye to Courtney H. and Fiechters said farewell to Amanda T.

During the past grading period, five of our residents made the honor roll. They are: Stephanie A., Jamie G., Jessica G., Mandy O. and Trisha R.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee Bauman (Goodfield, IL) will be here soon to begin where we did just over two years ago as Alternate Houseparents. We welcome them to our team, our campus and our church. We still have other immediate openings for Alternate Houseparents, a Counselor and a Business Manager (see the notices in this issue). We are praying that brothers and sisters will answer God's call and our needs and that others will seek training and experience that will prepare them for ministry with troubled children and families. As has been said before, each staff member is an answer to prayer.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Joan Reinhard**

"Mary, the Lord is with thee. Do not be afraid. You are going to have a baby named Jesus." This is one of the lines of the Christmas Play that will be put on by the children on December 18. We plan to combine the youngest Sunday School class and the Preschool students, as we put on this play for the Grandmas and Grandpas, brothers and sisters and friends.

The Preschool is closed for two weeks during the Christmas holidays and then we start back to school on January 4, 1999. We pray that the Lord will bless the Preschool in the New Year to come and that we could realize more, the great things He has done.

We have an immediate need for another teacher here at the Preschool. Please consider this need and pray that the Lord's will could be done here. If you or someone you know would feel led to Athens to help out, please call Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035.

We have a sponsor program here at the Preschool for those families who do not have the means to pay the full tuition for their child to attend Preschool. If anyone would be interested in helping to sponsor a child through their preschool years, please contact Sis. Joan Reinhard at (931) 424-5838 or call the Preschool at (256) 233-0591. Any amount would be helpful and we would pray that the Lord would add the increase to the planting and watering that is being done.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Joan Reinhard**

Christmas time again. How quickly the time is passing. It is hard to keep up and even young people are saying that time is flying by. Surely these, too, are signs of the end of time soon approaching. As we celebrate the first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and anticipate with great joy the day we set aside to commemorate this event, I wonder how eagerly we are anticipating the Lord Jesus' second coming. Are we putting as much thought and action into getting ready for His return as we do in celebrating His birth? Are we working to tell others about Him so that none would have to miss the invitation? As I ponder these and other questions, I know there is work to do in my own life, and I would challenge you to take a close look at yours.

We are thankful that Bro. Tom Schrenk is doing better after a brief stay in the hospital in Kentucky and in Huntsville, AL. Bro. Tom has some heart trouble, but he is home

now and is doing better.

On Saturday, November 14, we combined the Sunday School classes and the Preschool for a Harvest Festival at the Fellowship Hall and had a very nice turnout. Everyone young and old alike seemed to enjoy the evening and the time spent together.

On Friday, December 18, we will again combine the youngest Sunday School class and the Preschool students as they put on a program for their families and friends. This will consist of a play in which the children will tell the story of Jesus' birth. The children enjoy this very much and by the time December 18 comes, many of them can do their parts as well as everyone else's.

We have a Christmas dinner planned for the church as well as caroling and other activities, so during this busy month, let us take time to enjoy the goodness of the Lord and the best gift ever given—His Son.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

We of the Phoenix congregation send Season's Greetings in the name of the Lord, to all of you, especially our beloved seniors who have retired elsewhere.

We are enjoying winter visitors, and also welcome back our winter residents.

Baby Alyssa Jean arrived October 23 and made Bro. Marshall and Sis. Stacia Witzig first-time parents. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach (Elgin,

IL) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Leila Witzig (Peoria, IL). May God's Word be our new parents' book on "How to raise Alyssa".

A very pleasant autumn day, interlaced with some much-needed showers, was a great day for our Sunday School church picnic on October 25. Fellowship and fun was enjoyed by the young, and the rest of us came for the picnic and Sunday School program. The 78 children sang and recited Scripture, as did our Young Group. After the choir sang, we all enjoyed our fellowship singing. The Lord was truly praised, and we were in the presence of His love! God's blessings on our teachers and every helping hand who made this another great event.

We are thankful Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) brought us messages on love and repentance and conversion. Oh, the joy of serving the Lord!

Funeral services were held here October 28 for Sis. Ora Schrenk who died in Eureka, IL on October 23. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, Bro. Loren Knapp and Bro. James Emch had the service and our choir sang. Internment was in the church cemetery beside her husband, Bro. Henry Schrenk. Bro. Richard Schupbach presided at the gravesite.

We enjoyed years of fellowship with Bro. Henry and Sis. Ora, and extend our sympathy to sons, Bro. Loren (St. Louis, MO) and Wayne (Phoenix), and their families and other relatives in Phoenix.

Our sympathy to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser and Ann on the death of their uncle, Bro. Sam Kieser, in Illinois, on November 2.

We, as a group, extend sympathy to Sis. Lucille and family also. They spent many winters sharing Christian fellowship with us.

"Seek peace and pursue it." Justin and Stephanie Gramm have found peace with God and want to

pursue it by being baptized into the Apostolic Christian Church in January. We are rejoicing with their parents, Bro. Gregg and Sis. Denise Gramm.

As we bid farewell to Bro. Chris Wuthrich on his return to Illinois, we welcome Sis. Sarah Nelson from Morton, IL and Heather Taylor from Oregon.

Loved ones, be assured God is as close to you as you let Him be.

We are thankful to each one who attends our local World Relief meetings and their work of knotting comforters for the less fortunate. A new project just undertaken will be making girls' dresses.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness" was very much the rule for our church in early November. Much was accomplished by many willing hands. The Lord knows you by name and you will be blessed! We are all thankful to those who were able to help.

Our sympathy is extended to Bob and Arlene Farney on his aunt's death, Sis. Laverne Roth.

Get well prayers are being said for Floren Klopfenstein, who is hospitalized. Let us include Mary Ella also, as caretakers carry a terrific burden.

God has the power to guide the many caretakers in our church. We are all thankful for them.

Notes of Thanks:

My special thanks to everyone who sent cards, gifts of love, telephone calls and above all your prayers during my recent illness, treatments and recovery. May the Lord richly bless you.

Sis. Cathy Emch

We thank you very much for your prayers, deeds of caring, cards and love during my recent illness. Our church family is very dear to us. May God bless you.

In His love,

Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those that remembered me with prayers, cards, flowers, and gifts of love during my recent knee replacement surgery and recovery. Also, a special thanks to the Young Group that came and sang for me. That was great. Everybody has been so kind. I love you all and God bless you.

Love,
Sis. Toni Bentley

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

Our ministering brothers the last two months included Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), and Bros. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN), Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Ken Lawson and James Emch (both of Phoenix, AZ). There were a couple Sundays we did not have a minister and were unable to get the phone service from Phoenix, but we were still able to sing praises to God and enjoy fellowshiping with each other. It makes us more appreciative of the ministers, their wives and families that travel the many miles to serve us. We pray that God will richly bless them for serving the small congregations that do not have ministers.

Once again, the building of our church is in a waiting mode. The plans have been taken back from the city for revision, so we will probably not be breaking ground till spring. We are trying not to be discouraged, only disappointed, knowing that God has reasons for the delay. We want to wait for God's timing in everything we do, knowing He will bless us. Pray for us that our faith will be strengthened during this time and we will stay united in the

spirit of love.

May God bless all of you during the holiday season, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Fall arrived this week in Tucson. We had daytime temperatures in the 60's and actually had to break out our jackets. It was a welcome change from our unusually warm weather we had been having. It didn't last, however. Today I had to turn on the air conditioner in the car as our high was in the 70's and the sun was brightly shining. Our forecast calls for the low 80's for the first part of next week.

The last report Bro. Bob Haas received was an encouraging one reminding us that God truly does answer prayer. We will continue to hold Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole up in prayer as his recovery continues.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Joshua Martinez

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

Isaiah 9:6

Greetings of love from California! May each of you enjoy a special blessing in this time of rejoicing in our Saviour's birth. May this Christmas season fill your lives with peace, joy and thankful hearts. May you feel His nearness and His love every day.

Joy and thanksgiving only begin to express the feelings in our hearts at the overwhelming blessing of visitors this past month. We are grateful for the dear visiting ministers that recently shared the Gospel

message with us. They were Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Richard Plattner (Peoria, IL). May our Father bless these brothers for allowing the Lord to work through them. We appreciate the encouraging and challenging messages from all our ministering brothers.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our dear winter residents who have been brought back to us safely. We thank Bro. Reuben and Sis. Chrystal Luthi (Morris, MN) and Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edie Wieland (Bay City, MI) for the love and added warmth they bring to our Altadena family every year.

Our prayers for God's nearness and healing touch were answered for our loved ones in Altadena who were hospitalized this past month: Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois) and Aaron Yaussi (Ann). We pray our Father will grant an added measure of comfort, strength and faith to all who suffer from physical or other afflictions.

We bid a sweet and sad farewell to two of our Altadena family who have moved away recently. We pray for God's blessings upon our dear Sis. Adela Chavez who moved to the Ixtlan, Mexico area and our dear Bro. Mike Howell who moved to Bay City, MI. May they always feel our love across the many miles.

As always, we extend a warm welcome to all who will be traveling to sunny Southern California. As God has given us Jesus, the greatest gift of all, may our hearts, as well as our lives, show our thankfulness and joy. May the love and beauty of His promise fill your hearts every day. Have a happy month!

"O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord." (Hymns of Zion #40).

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot describe the love that overflows from my heart for each member of my dear Altadena family. I will miss you all (and California winters) immensely. Thank you for being shining lights to me. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord continue to shine His divine countenance upon you and give you peace, love and happiness. God be with you until we meet again.

Bro. Joshua Martinez

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov

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

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

Hymns of Zion #36

As we reflect upon the birth of Christ, may our thoughts continue on from Bethlehem's manger unto Calvary's cross. May our hearts overflow with thankfulness for this precious gift of salvation.

This past month we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and his wife, Sis. Kathy, spend a Wednesday evening with us. May the Lord bless him for his willingness to serve us.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our dear Elder Bro. John Klotzle in his health problems. We pray the Lord's healing hand will be upon him.

Bro. Rory Strahm was recently hospitalized. He is now home and doing much better for which we are thankful. In our small congregation, we truly miss each one when they are absent.

We will miss Bro. Mike Howell and pray the Lord's blessing upon him as he moves back to Bay City, MI.

We wish to thank our visitors for coming this past month. We have felt it a blessing and privilege to have had you here.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA

Laura Baxter

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Isaiah 9:6-7

The zeal of the Lord of hosts has performed this beautiful miracle of Jesus Christ being the Son of God, born of a virgin, living a sinless life, dying on the cross and shedding His blood, and arising from the grave to establish His kingdom with judgment and justice forever. Let us remember the true reason we observe and celebrate the Christmas holiday and do so to the glory of God.

We are thankful for our visiting minister, Bro. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), and all the other visitors we had this past month. We are also thankful for our own minister, Bro. Mike Ursu, who

has so willingly served in the local ministry for us.

Some of us were able to travel to Detroit on November 6-7 to attend the marriage seminar presented by Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). We appreciate his efforts to share with us these Biblical truths. It is good to be reminded of our specific roles and responsibilities as husband and wife. May we hear and do these teachings.

We are very thankful and appreciative of the many volunteers that have helped on our church building project this past month. The outside of the building is nearly completed and the plumbing, electrical, and some insulating is done at the time of this writing. A previous list of skilled volunteer laborers has been made by the National Building Committee and those on the list will be contacted at the appropriate time. However, there will be a need for general volunteer laborers throughout the project. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact our local project coordinator, Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 696-2881.

On the church building site there is a large rental house, and, along with local brethren, there is room to house about 20 volunteers. Also, for anyone wishing to do so, there is a motel within walking distance from the site; Heileberg Inn (519) 699-4413. Please continue to lift us up in prayer as we work to complete this wonderful project.

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
Yvonne Lehman

"And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver

them from the wicked and save them, because they trust in him."

Psalms 37:40

The thought was shared at our Bible Study, as we were studying this chapter, that we have His Word which "is a lamp unto our feet". We don't need to have the light go way out in the distance to find our way, but when He provides the light unto our feet for the next step to show us the way, it is sufficient and there is where the light is the most effective for our day to day walk in the direction and turns which are always before us. This is where we need to trust. If we could see way off in the distance how all would turn out, then the need to trust in Him would seem to diminish. We would not need to walk by faith. Trust is an act that is a result of our faith, which believes.

On Saturday, October 31, a Harvest Season World Relief afternoon and evening was held for parents, grandparents and kids alike to make soap, nursing tray favors and mending kits for the Tarahamara Indians in Mexico. We were able to deliver some of the nursing tray favors to the Aurora Care Center on Sunday, November 22. The Sunday School children hand delivered the favors and sang many songs to the residents. The smiles on each face reflected the love and good will towards all men.

We, here at Denver, wish to extend a warm welcome to Sis. Lanette Meyer. Lanette has moved to Colorado from Kansas City. She has experienced God's faithfulness in His provisions to her for employment and providing for her the wishes and requests made known to Him. Yes, He still answers prayer. Welcome, Sis. Lanette, and may you feel the love of the brethren here in Denver.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman traveled with the World Relief Medi-

cal and Dental team to the Copper Canyon area near Creel, Mexico, to provide medical and dental help to the Tarahamara Indians and Mexican people. The need there was great with approximately 1,900 people being treated the four days that the team was there. Some of the people only spoke Tarahamara, but God's love is still apparent for His language or geographical boundaries. Aren't we thankful for that? None of us had the choice of what family, nation or circumstance we were born into. But God's Word and Spirit is abundant just for the asking. We who have much, have the responsibility to give of ourselves...for we know to whom much is given, much is required. We thank God for examples of willing workers in the vineyard. There are always sacrifices involved, but also we know the rewards are great. Do we pray for our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ? We each have a part in the body of Christ.

On Sunday, November 15, we enjoyed the message by Bro. Thomas Schrenk (Athens, AL). We thank Bro. Thomas for giving of himself and allowing the Spirit to teach us.

It is good to think on this thought. God's standards have not changed. In a constantly changing world, the one thing that does not change is God's standards. We have to read the Word of God in order to really know Him, His perfection and His holiness. Let's get to know God. He is Holy, He is perfect, even if we, His ambassadors, are not.

Why Jesus Came

If all the people in the world
Today could only know
Why Jesus came from Heaven to
us
As a baby long ago.
Could know the love He felt for all
Who lived on earth that day.
And know He still loves each of us
In the same special way.

Then we would study how to live
As He wants us to do,
To be unselfish and be kind,
Love and help others, too.
God's love would fill all of our
hearts
And what a change we'd see!
No one would fight, or hurt, or
kill...
Think how nice that would be!

Let's plant the thought within our
hearts
And help others to sow
This love for Jesus in their lives,
So all the world can know.
—Alyce Pickett

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE **Cherie Galat**

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

Luke 2:11

As we approach this holiday season, may we strive to pattern our lives after the humility and meekness of Christ.

We are thankful for dear brothers who proclaim the Word. May God continue to bless Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) for his service.

Bro. Keven and Sis. Sara Grasso have been blessed with another child, Lindsey Ann. She was born on November 1. Leandra is now a big sister. Grandparents are Robert and Anita Grasso and Sis. Maxine Bahler (the late Bro. Lee).

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Sis. Jennifer Kloter (Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon) as she moves to Oregon. We are confident it is God's will and ask for His nearness in whatever decision she makes in life.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

Ephesians 5:25

We witnessed the marriage of Bro. Paul Hany (Bro. Peter Sr. and Sis. Virgene) and Sis. Betsy Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl).

Our prayers are with Sis. Edna Gottier as she recovers. May He also be with Sis. Dorothy Barton (Bro. Norman) as she was moved into a nursing home.

Prayers arise for those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Mildred Donze passed away on November 4. Also, Kathleen Schneider (Norman) passed away recently. May God comfort family members, Sis. Lavina Ballasy (Bro. Norman), Bro. Wilbur Schneider (Sis. Marge) and Sis. Helen Luginbuhl (Bro. Roy). May He be with both of these dear families as they deal with the loss of their loved ones.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"A multitude of heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:13-14

May we ever praise God for the gift of His Son; not just for coming as a babe, but for shedding His blood and rising again to cleanse us from our sins and giving us the hope of a home in Heaven.

Our ministers this month were Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors this month were from Tremont, IL; Rockville, CT; Leo, IN; and Forrest, IL. We appreciate all who come to visit us when they have business in the area.

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. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30. 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. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635.

We will not be having services in Washington D.C. on December 27, 1998, due to the travel of the members of our church to be with their families over Christmas. We encourage anyone who will be visiting in the area that weekend to assemble at Philadelphia, PA on that weekend.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS
Anjie Baum**

The North Ft. Myers congregation has been blessed with many visitors this past month. We are starting to see our winter crowd develop. It is such a blessing to see a few extra cars in the parking lot and a few extra people in the pews. Most of all, we appreciate the common bond of faith we share with our brothers and sisters, no matter where they are visiting from.

Many of us recently enjoyed the annual picnic at Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy Beer's home. Our thanks to Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy for again opening their hearts and home.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness com-

prehended it not."

John 1:1-5

We will soon be celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. I personally am so thankful for the privilege of knowing Him as God, having existed from the beginning; knowing Him in the form of His Word; knowing Him as Creator of all things; and knowing Him as the light in my life. Most importantly, I am thankful that He lowered Himself to the level of flesh and bone, born in humility and innocence—to later sacrifice Himself in humility and innocence.

Sadly, there are many who do not comprehend. May we all take the opportunity to share the meaning of Christmas with those who are still in the darkness.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Melissa Sabo
Rachel Sabo**

Our month has been filled with bitter and sweet, as we have had many visitors, but then two funerals in a three-day period.

Glen Tom passed away after an extended illness. He worshipped with us for many years. Then we lost one of our young sisters in a car accident. Sis. Lindsey Maibach, 17, (Allen Maibach and Sharon Lucia and granddaughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach) went to be with the Lord on Thursday, November 9. We extend our sympathy to all the family.

Our Sis. Marge Pitmann was in the hospital again, this time for a knee replacement. We hope God's healing hand will be with her as she goes through rehab and recuperation.

Our visiting ministers were: Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Dale Eisenmann (Chi-

cago, IL) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). May God bless each one for their untiring labors, and also our home ministers as they sound the warning and do the Lord's will that we will know the truth and be ready when the Lord calls us Home.

Footprints

One night I had a dream...
I was walking along the beach
with the Lord
and across the skies flashed scenes
from my life.
In each scene, I noticed two sets of
footprints in the sand.
One was mine and one was the
Lord's.
When the last scene of my life
appeared before me,
I looked back at the footprints in
the sand; and, to my surprise,
I noticed that many times along
the path of my life,
there was only one set of
footprints,
and that it was at the lowest and
saddest times of my life.

I asked the Lord about it:
"Lord, you said that once I decided
to follow you,
you would walk with me all the
way,
but I noticed that during the most
troublesome times in my life,
there is only one set of footprints.
I do not understand why you left
my side when I needed you most."

The Lord said:
"My precious child, I never left
you during your time of trial.
Where you see only one set of
footprints...
...that's when I was carrying you."
—author unknown

GEORGIA, ATLANTA **Keith and Carol Kaufman**

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

We are so thankful that God has granted His abundant grace to our beloved ministering brothers to fulfill this scripture. What a blessing to hear loving admonitions and encouragements as we strive to be faithful. May God richly bless Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) for preaching the Word to us and for bringing others with them to share in the fellowship. We look forward to seeing all who would stop in on their way to Florida this winter.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Luke 2:10

As Christmas approaches, are we remembering what the "good tidings" are? Does it bring joy to our hearts? Do we spread the "good tidings" to others that they may know the true meaning of Christmas?

We have heard the last of the Conference tapes and look forward to continuing to meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00. If you are in the area, please make plans to join us. Each visitor is greatly appreciated. Sunday services begin at 10:20 and 12:30. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 13. Go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please let us know of your plans: Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629, or Bro. Keith Kaufman (404) 243-6232.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE **Sheila McCoy**

"...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

I Corinthians 1:21

We are grateful to Bros. Edwin Strahm and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) for being our visiting ministers. We were reminded by Bro. Ed that we need to prepare our hearts not just on Sunday morning but all week long so it will be as the good soil and the seed that is the Word of God may bear fruit. Bro. Ed recalled the story of Lot's wife that all she did was look back and she became a pillar of salt. God expects more of us than not going back to our sinful ways, but we shouldn't even look back with desire as Lot's wife.

The weekend of November 1 was invite-a-friend at Belvidere. We had the privilege to gather for a hymn singing on that Saturday evening. On Sunday, a dinner was served after church. It was a time of blessed fellowship and we thank all those who came to visit us in Belvidere.

Our friend, George Eason, and Carol Steffen (Elgin, IL) were united in marriage on Saturday, November 14. We pray they will look to our Heavenly Father as their guide and strength. We will miss George's ready smile here in Belvidere as Elgin will now be their church.

ILLINOIS **BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL** **Carol Sauder** **Janice Horner**

The family of Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura Kieser had a very exciting and busy month. We are rejoicing as their son, Andy Kieser, was baptized on October 25. May the Lord continue to guide and direct him always. The following weekend their son, Joe Kieser, announced his engagement to Carrie Brandt (Atlanta, IL). Her parents are Hank and Becky Brandt (Atlanta, IL). Another joyous occasion followed two weeks later, on November 15, as Sis.

Sharon Kieser's (their daughter) engagement was announced to Bro. Shannon Witzig (Gridley, IL). His parents are Bro. Roger and Elaine Witzig (Gridley, IL).

The Lord is so good. He is the giver of all good and perfect gifts! He has given Bro. Eric and Sis. Katrine Haefli a healthy baby boy, Eric Robert II, born November 7. He is welcomed by his sister, RuthAnn, and grandparents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL), and Bro. Robert and Sis. Eileen Haefli (Peoria, IL).

Angels are surely rejoicing in Heaven as we have five friends that have taken a step in faith to follow the Lord. We want to lift up Andy Howell (Jim and Sis. Eloise, Gridley, IL), Heidi Hartter (Bro. John and Sis. Bev, Eureka, IL), Heather McGee (new to our church from Lincoln, IL; her parents are Gregory and Bess Reisselman and Michael McGee; all from Lincoln, IL), Amber Albritton (Chuck and Sis. Marsha) and Jennifer Knapp (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay). May they be a light to the world.

We are remembering Bro. Scott Meiss as his grandfather has passed away this month. May you have many memories of him. Sis. Hazel Huette's sister has also gone to be with the Lord this past month and wish her and her family much grace. Our hearts were saddened to hear of the death of Sis. Wilma Kieser's father. We extend our loving sympathy to her family; and his granddaughter, Lisa Hall, and her family. May God grant His comforting Spirit to all who are sorrowing.

On November 15, we were privileged to have "Heart to Heart" group sing at our monthly hymn sing. We enjoyed a very blessed evening of beautiful hymns and encouraging words brought forth by them. May God continue to work in their hearts and give them the inspiration that gives honor and glory to God.

We also want to thank the Junior Choir for taking the time to so unselfishly sing to our congregation. The touch of God's hand is seen on the faces of these little ones and God is so pleased when they sing praises to Him. This past month, the Lord has provided our congregation with Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), and Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) for the testimony and baptism, and Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) joined us for a Wednesday night to bring us His Word. It is such a blessing to study God's Word and to fellowship together, for which we are thankful.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"...behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21

As Christmas and the new year draw near once again, can we not help but think of how the Lord has possibly delayed His second coming and granted more time and mercy to the unbeliever? Though we long for our Heavenly Home, can each of us not think of one more soul we would like to see at peace with God before He comes again? As we draw near to the celebration of Christ's birth, let us remember to be thankful to God that He has sent His Son so many years ago to pay the dreadful price for our sins. Now we can live our lives with a hope and purpose knowing that we have a Heavenly Home waiting for us if we are true and faithful to the Lord!

We humbly pray for God's heal-

ing hand to be near several who have been in the hospital recently. Bro. Jerry Kieser (Sis. Wilma) and Bro. Ben Ehnle (Sis. Audrey) are recovering more each day and we are thankful that they can assemble in church with us. Rebecca Ehnle (Bro. John and Sis. Sara) is out of the hospital and is recovering at home at this time. We pray that God will restore each of them to full health and grant them a quick recovery.

It brings us sorrow to report the death of Bro. Sam Kieser in the first part of November. May God comfort the hearts of his wife, Sis. Lucille; and Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman, Sis. Bonnie Kieser, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser, and the rest of his family as they mourn the loss of their loved one. A true pillar in the church, he will be missed, but we take comfort in the fact that he is at Home in Heaven.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Walt Herrmann and Craig Martin (both of Princeville, IL). We thank them for coming and sharing the Word with us.

"Finally, brethren, farewell"; and may God bless each one of you in the new year.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Samuel and Pamela Furrer

"To every thing there is a season...A time to be born, and a time to die..."

Eccles. 3:1-2

Births are commonplace in our church with many young families. Deaths are uncommon. This past month the working of God's timetable for the seasons of life has brought us both a birth and a death.

Rachel Lynn Walder formally entered the family of Bro. John and

Sis. Lisa Walder on October 23. She joins the Walder family as the little sister of Laura and Kyler. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder of our congregation are her local grandparents. We welcome Rachel and wish her family many blessings in bringing her up.

On October 26, our church family experienced the passing from this life of one very dear woman, Beulah (Alt) Weeks. As was explained in the funeral service, "She was a teacher..."

Beulah, who was 85 years old, had been a teacher of home economics in Illinois schools many years ago, but she continued to teach. Whether through teaching others to crochet and knit or simply teaching by example through her quiet manner and doing for others, we should surely be better people for having had the opportunity to know her for the years she gathered with us. It is at times like this that we realize how quickly we can slip from life to death with little warning. Beulah is survived by her children, Jerry and Barbara Weeks. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those to whom Beulah meant a great deal.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and ministering Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL). Our sincere thanks to these brothers and their families for giving of their time to travel to Champaign-Urbana to be with us and assist our ministers.

As the Christmas season is upon us and the closing of another year is very near, we're afforded the perfect occasion to reflect upon the gifts and blessings that we have been given. Both small rural areas and the larger cities around us have people who are suffering in poverty or other conditions which are very unfamiliar to us. I remember when I realized the very different conditions in which some people live. As

a young child in Sunday School, we delivered baskets of food to needy families in our community. This provided a brief glimpse into homes that were not as well furnished or perhaps not as warm and comfortable as our own. As an adult working with high school students, I come into contact with many reminders of these realities on a regular basis. These young people are living a much more difficult life than most of us have ever known. Their Christmas gifts will likely be much more limited than most of their classmates'. The opportunity is here for us to share of our love and blessings.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

On November 7, we had the joyous opportunity to listen to the testimonies of four converts. On Sunday, November 8, we welcomed our newly baptized brother and sisters into our spiritual family. We will continue to pray for Bro. Jarod Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon), Sis. Kristen Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon), Sis. Katie Gudeman (Dan Gudeman and Sis. Rebecca Gudeman), and Sis. Gretchen O'Shea (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean) as they continue this journey in the Lord.

When we listen to the testimony of a soul, it certainly "primes" the heart for the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons. Each of the four converts expressed so plainly how abundant their life had become since they allowed Christ to come in and direct their steps. I hope to mentally return to the thoughts expressed that night as I celebrate the entrance of our Saviour into this world.

"I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

John 10:10

Among the many visitors we had for the baptism weekend, were many ministering brethren: Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL), retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA).

We also want to thank Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) for assisting in our Holy Communion service on October 24.

It is with warm congratulations that we welcome a newlywed couple, Bro. Jason and Sis. Natalie Stratton. We pray that they can feel at home as Sis. Natalie completes a three-month internship.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Beth Steffen

Darlene Walder

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation, heed the Word of God today." ("Repent Ye" in Zion's Harp #52). We rejoice with Grant Heino (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol) in his acknowledgement of his need for a Saviour. Our Family of Faith continues to grow stronger when souls see their need of a personal Saviour, Jesus. God bless you.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Kaufmann have again been blessed with two precious great-grandchildren. Little Courtney Marie Plattner and Nathaniel Sauder are their new additions. Babies are a little touch of Heaven—so precious and so dear.

Our visiting Elders and ministers this past month have been Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Greg

Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL). Bro. Alfred led a Wednesday night Topical Bible Study and we were all reminded of a very serious question we must ask ourselves every day: "What would Jesus do?"

Lord, throughout this day
As I try to follow You
Let this be my rule to live by:
What Would Jesus Do?

In all my actions, help me
To be honest, fair and true,
To make all my decisions by:
What Would Jesus Do?

And let me promise each new day
To live my whole life through
In love and peace, remembering:
What Would Jesus Do?
—author unknown

We continue to pray for those that have been laid up for different reasons. Those that have been hospitalized or had surgery are Sis. Doris Knapp, Sis. Loretta Baumgartner, and Clayton Walder. There are many that need continued care from their earthly physicians but we know our greatest physician is Jesus Christ and it is in Him that we find true peace.

In the past we have gained new families and then sometimes we must say goodbye when those special members of our family in Christ move to a new community. They physically may move away but that special place we hold in our hearts for them will always remain. Sis. Helen Hoffman has chosen to be nearer her daughter's and their families in Bloomington and Sis. Is Bauer has felt directed to buy a home in Champaign and will make her home there. We hope these sisters come to Cissna Park often.

God continues to bless us with special people that marry and make Cissna Park their home. We ask the Lord's blessings on Bro. Nathan and

Sis. Denise Walder's recent marriage. Their parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder and Sis. Velma and the late Bro. Steve Rinkenberger, all of Cissna Park.

We were saddened to say farewell, yet thankful that Sis. Esther Steiner could go Home to be with her Heavenly Father. Her life left many rich memories for everyone around her and we think especially of her family members here in Cissna: Sis. Helen Lackey, Sis. Louise Manz, Martha Farney and Grace Farney and those that are from other areas. "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:8)

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Glenna Rinkenberger
Sandy Steiner

God of unlimited compassion,
Thou never ending fount of love!
With countless hosts in meek
 submission
We praise thee now, O Lord, above
For grace and patience Thou hast
 shown
Ere this created world was known.
Zion's Harp #75

We were again reminded of God's unlimited compassion and unending love on the weekend of October 17 and 18 as we witnessed the baptism of Jared Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary). We are told in the Bible that even the angels in Heaven rejoice with us when a soul allows the Lord to convert their heart. We thank Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) for serving us on this special weekend.

God calls each of us in different ways and at different times, but we can be so thankful that He is patient and continues to call lost sinners out of this dark world. Bonnie Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat) has heeded the call and begun upon the way. May the Lord grant her much

grace to turn her back upon the world and to yield her all to Him.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Katherine Zimmerman in the death of her sister, Sis. Ora Schrenk (Phoenix). May the Lord comfort her heart.

On November 8 and 15, our congregation hosted Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship and was blessed with evenings of fellowship and song. May these times help our young people appreciate our precious faith and increase their desire to become a part of it someday.

Other visiting ministers in the past month were Bros. Bruce Hohlman (Goodfield, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL). May they continue to be willing servants of God.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

Paul Schifferer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy) and Lisa Harp (Robert and Ann of Indiana) were married September 23. May God add His blessings to their marriage. Also planning to be married is Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy's daughter, April, to Mike Swanson (Paul and Pauline) of Cary, IL. We certainly wish them God's blessings as they make plans for their future.

Best wishes to Kim Schambach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy) and Jim Bloomer who were married October 24. They are making their home in Texas. May God go with this new couple wherever life leads them.

Our hearts were touched with sorrow when we heard of the death of our aged Sis. Edna Bolliger. Among those mourning her are dear niece, Carol Kellenberger (Bro. Lloyd), and their children, Amy and Drew, and her great-niece, Sis. Vicki Kellenberger (Bro. Ken). Sis. Edna will be missed by us all.

October 23 was the birth date of

Maxwell James, born to Roger and Mary Kay Smithberg. Alexis is excited for a new brother, as are the grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy Kinsinger and Barbara Smithberg. May God bless them as they raise their children.

George Eason and Carole Steffen were married November 14. We welcome George into our congregation and rejoice that he has found the grace to seek the Lord in repentance.

We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) assemble with us. God bless them for their labors of love on our behalf.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Janet Zimmerman

On Saturday evening, November 7, we gathered together in the Lord's house to hear the reading of the Memorandum. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) with us for this service. We also appreciated the ministry of Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) that weekend.

On Sunday, November 15, we witnessed the baptisms of three precious souls. We welcome our new sisters in faith, Sis. June Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Sis. Rachel Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Helen Fisher (Bro. Eli). We are thankful for the peace and love of God that is evident in their lives. We appreciated the ministry of Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN), retired Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL).

We also had two visiting ministers for our mid-week services recently. They were Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Vernon

Wettstein (Congerville, IL). We thank each one for being with us and hope they visit us again soon.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber as they are recuperating at home from injuries sustained in a car accident.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Rocke and their little daughter, Jennifer. We are thankful that it is God's will for Eureka church to be their home.

We express our sympathy to Ed and Sis. Barb Meiss on the death of his brother, Bro. Earl Meiss, of Morton. He died October 21. We also express our sympathy to Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr on the death of his stepfather, Richard White, of El Paso. He died November 15.

With Christmas season upon us, may we think of the true meaning of Jesus' birth which the hymn writer so kindly expresses in the hymn "The Babe of Bethlehem", Hymns of Zion #36.

"Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

II Thess. 2:16-17

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for all the cards, prayers and money while I was hospitalized and since I've returned home. May God bless you all.

Sis. Becky Bradle

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr Joann Zehr

We rejoice with Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal Miller in their new son, Joel Ryan, born October 21. He has a sister, Brooke, and a brother, Seth. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and

Sis. Norma Fehr and Bro. Chris and Sis. Betty Miller (Congerville, IL).

Also, we are happy for Troy and Teresa Cottrell in the birth of a new daughter, Abigail Marie, on November 6. She has a brother, Benjamin. Grandparents are Larry and Doris Cottrell.

Our Sunday School Bible Class hosted the Remington and Congerville Bible Classes on October 25. This is always a special blessing and we appreciated Bros. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL) for their teachings.

We extend our sympathy to John and Eunice Stork in the death of John's father, Henry Stork. The loss of a parent is always felt.

Bro. Phillip Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Lana Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola) were married on October 18. Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Glen Riggerbach (Smithville, OH) were with us.

Also, Bro. Chad Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) of Forrest and Sis. Kim Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra) were married on November 8. Bros. Marvin Dotterer and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) were with us. May God bless these two dear couples as they establish their homes and may God bless the ministers for bringing the Word of Life.

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and may each one be blessed for their willingness to serve.

Many blessings were ours the weekend of November 14-15 as we welcomed two brothers and two sisters into our fold. They are Darl Rassi (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane), Randy Peiffer (James and Caroline), Caroline Vanscoy (Mother of Sis. Carol), and Jodi Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay). May God help each of us to walk close to Him and to do His will. We thank Elder Bros. Doug

Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) for their labors of love as well as Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL).

As we again approach another Christmas Season, we are so reminded of the birth of Jesus, but may we always keep forefront in our minds that it is through the shed blood of Jesus that we can find peace in our hearts.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

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

As the angels in Heaven rejoice, so do we as another soul is learning of the blessed story of Christ and is opening wide his heart's door and letting the Saviour in. We pray that the Lord will grant Nathan Kelson (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri) much grace as he begins this new walk with Him.

Bro. Chad Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Kim Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy, Fairbury, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony on November 8. We welcome Sis. Kim to our congregation and pray that God will grant them many blessings as they walk together as husband and wife.

A precious bundle of love has arrived in the home of Rick and Lori Patton. Austin James is welcomed by big sister, Miranda, and his grandparents, Kermit and Barb Patton (Decatur, IL) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz.

We were privileged to have residents from the Morton Home for the Handicapped spend a day of worship with us on Sunday, November 15. These loved ones are all special to us and in the eyes of the Lord.

"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

Psalm 34:11

May Bro. Ken (Sis. Deb) Roth and Bro. Ken (Sis. Carol) Edelman feel the prayerful support as they have been selected to teach our children in Sunday School.

May God bless Bros. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) for being willing to share His Word with us. We appreciate having them in our midst.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Wayne (Sis. Eleanor) Honegger and Sis. Pauline Wiegand. May God restore health according to His will to these loved ones.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Sharon Adams and her daughters, Sisters Shawna, Jenny, Kelli and Amber, in the death of her mother-in-law and their grandmother, Ruth Adams (Dwight, IL).

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

My apology to David and Lorraine (Kieser) McKnight for failing to report the birth of their son, Jeffrey Daniel, on August 29. Sis. Marie and Bro. Alfred Kieser of our fellowship are the happy grandparents. May God bless this new family.

On October 20, Mariah Lura was born to Sis. Peg and Bro. Ted Schieler. BJ is glad for a new sibling and Sis. Marcy and Bro. Bob Schieler are happy to have another grandchild. We pray God's blessing on this family also.

Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL) have been visitors in our pulpit recently. Thank you, brothers, for your self-sacrificing service to us.

Another avenue of service is World Relief projects. Plans are under way for a group to go to Jamaica in March. If you feel a conviction to do this work, please contact Bro. Kent Kloter for more information. Are we willing to leave our "comfort zone" to serve others?

Our Family Hymn Sing on November 8 was a contrast of joy and sorrow! The Bloomington choir lifted praise to God in such beautiful melody—what a joy for us to hear. One song was dedicated to our Sis. Jodee and Bro. Tom Bauman who are following God's will for them to serve at Gateway Woods in Leo, IN. The Baumans have been impressed by the Spirit to do this work, so we would not hinder their going, but we will miss their youthful zeal and their friendship. Jodee, Tom and Breanna, Godspeed to you; go "brighten the corner where you are", but please come back to visit as often as you can! We love you.

Raising children in the "fear and admonition of the Lord", pulpit ministry, World Relief work, hymn singing, Gateway Woods—all are examples of service to our Lord and Saviour. These good works don't buy our ticket to Heaven—only the blood of Jesus can do that—but they afford us wonderful opportunities to express our appreciation to Him. What area of service has the Lord laid on your heart?

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our dear loved one in faith, Sis. Ethel Meiss, 78, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on October 22. Seemingly in good health, she was stricken with a heart-related

aneurysm and died within an hour or so.

Sis. Ethel was reserved and somewhat quiet in personality. Yet, in death she left a resounding message for those who survive: prepare your soul to meet your Maker. Life is fragile and none of us know when we will receive our summons from on High. We have no promise of tomorrow.

By the grace of God, she had been wise. She had sought her salvation years ago, and lived an overcoming life. She had made preparation, and was ready when her unanticipated end came. May that crowning aspect of her life be a message to all who knew her.

Sis. Ethel is survived by two sons, Jerry Meiss, Bloomington, and James Meiss, Chicago; two sisters, Sis. Betty Klopfenstein and Sis. Hazel Huette, Normal; and one brother, Clyde Koehl, Tarpon Springs, FL.

She had been married for 53 years to Bro. Kenneth Meiss, who passed away on June 1, 1994.

Bro. Shannon Witzig was announced to be married to Sis. Sharon Kieser of Bloomington. He is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig. Her parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura Kieser. May God be praised for drawing these dear souls together. We wish them much happiness in the Lord.

Bro. Tim Kaupp escaped serious injury while working. A UPS driver, his truck met a strong gust of wind (on a slippery highway) and flipped over forward. By God's mercy he was spared and received only bumps and bruises. He was hospitalized briefly.

Sis. Carol Miller was in the hospital for surgery this month.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL).

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chi-

cago, IL) spoke here on Wednesday evening, November 4, on the topic, "The Principle of Tradition."

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Bro. Levi Pfister was called Home on November 5 at the age of 93. He had been a resident of the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home. May the Lord comfort his family. They are his wife, Sis. Faye; his three sons, Thomas, John and Robert; his daughter, Sis. Patricia (Loris) Knobloch; his two brothers, Arthur and George; his sister, Sis. Cora Pfister; and his 13 grandchildren.

The Morton congregation had cause to rejoice as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Paul Grimm and Sis. Bridget Metzger on October 24-25. Bro. Paul is the son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Grimm and Sis. Bridget is the daughter of Bro. Merlin and Sis. Judy (West Bend, IA). May they continue to seek the Lord's guidance in all they do.

Sunday, November 8, was "Invite a Guest Day" for the Morton congregation. We enjoyed the fellowship of new and old acquaintances from many congregations. The day ended with a potluck dinner followed by a singing at the Fellowship Hall.

It is a privilege to be able to get together for fellowship throughout the month. On October 21 we had our Fall Sunday School Potluck at the Fellowship Hall. On November 13, families met for the Friday Night Fellowship activity to sing and visit with the Restmor residents. More fellowship and pizza followed at the Fellowship Hall.

The Morton Choir traveled to Pulaski, IA the weekend of October 31 - November 1. They wish to thank the Pulaski congregation for the wonderful hospitality and the love shown to them.

We wish to thank the ministers and their families who visited the Morton church this month. They were Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

Note of Thanks:

Thank you to everyone who showed such love, kindness and support during the death of my husband, Earl Meiss. The many cards, prayers and visits were very much appreciated.

Sis. Edith Meiss and Family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

We thank our ministering brothers, whose efforts blessed us again this month. Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathleen Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) visited us on October 18. Bros. Richard (a.m.) and Dave Obergfel gave us many good teachings. Repentance and faith go hand in hand and finally grace brings us to Heaven, with works being the by-product of faith. His Word is the revealed will of God. (Ephes. 2). In II Timothy 4, Paul says "my time is up and I am ready to go". Hezekiah needed more time to put his house in order and after he had cried three days, God gave him another 15 years (II Kings 20). Into which category do we fall? We are in a spiritual battle and Satan is playing to keep. Get prepared with the sword and the shield and take the offensive against him. Our lives don't measure up to Paul's but we hope some day to receive that crown of righteousness. We must encourage each other to keep running and praying and the Lord will stand with us and strengthen us in all situations.

Bro. Mike Rieker meditated on portions of Joshua 4, 5 and 6 on October 25. Double-walled Jericho is comparable to the walls before us.

The city measured approximately ten acres and its conquest took place 1400 BC. Rahab acknowledged God and was later mentioned in Hebrews 11:31 as one of the persons of faith. And as the Israelites were saved in Egypt by the blood on the doorposts, so she was saved by the red cord hanging out of her window. In chapter 4 we read about the 12 memorial stones in Jordan, in chapter 5 about the circumcision of all males before entering the Promised Land and how the manna stopped when they entered it. Their shouts did not bring down the walls, only the power of God could accomplish it. The more we realize Who is in power, the better off we are. God told them to do, and not to do, certain things, just like He talks to us today. The genealogy in Matthew 1:5 indicates Rahab (Rachab) may have been part of the lineage of David. We take a humble sigh and recognize that the Lord is Lord, is in control and can deliver us. Let's trust Him like Joshua did.

"...neither desire to be with evil men"...(Proverbs 24:1). Are they who we want to be with? Where is our treasure? Do we become comfortable with the things of this world or do we choose a different path? Where do we find counsel but in God's Word. There is a lot of bad counsel in this world and we can always find someone to validate our doing evil. Let's aim to brighten the corner where nobody is. Acts 27:1..."and when it was determined"...Are you willing to let God determine your destiny and be in His will? Paul said it wouldn't be a good time for the trip but they took other counsel. Let us be still and let God's Word speak to us. The south wind blew softly and everything seemed well, but there will be a Euroclydon also in our lives and all hope will be taken away! The apostle Paul experienced the downside, but stood fast. Without faith it is impos-

sible to please God. The world is full of shortcuts but one day we hope to stand approved before Him. (Bro. Rick Plattner, 11/8).

Rick Hodel (son of Richard and Bonnie) is presently in Helsinki, Finland, to work on interbank introductions of the new Euro, the European currency for the 11 EMU countries, which becomes effective January 1, 1999. It will eventually replace European currencies so when traveling there we will no longer need to change into francs and marks, just into the Euro. This is considered to be a big step for economic and political unity in Europe and world globalization. Do we see it merely as progress or a move toward apocalyptic end times?

Ann Leman, Sis. Marian Reutter and Fred Aeschleman were hospital patients. We are thankful they could return home and as of November 15, we are not contributing to any census.

Bro. Earl Meiss (81) passed away on October 21. He is the father of Bro. Bob Meiss and we extend our sincere sympathy to him and his family.

Alyssa Jean (#1) was born to Bro. Marshall and Sis. Stacia Witzig on October 23. Our hearty congratulations to her parents and grandparents. They moved recently to 4113 E. Mountain View, Phoenix, AZ 85044. Sis. Stacia was in a serious car accident a year ago and continues to need our prayers. We also rejoice with Bro. Eric and Sis. Katrine Haefli (Bloomington, IL) and their parents in the birth of their second child, Eric Robert II, on November 7.

Sis. Anna Schneider celebrated her 95th birthday at the Skylines and wishes to thank everyone for the greeting cards, gifts and visits making her birthday such a special day. She stated she never received so many birthday cards in her life and says "May God bless you all."

Okoboji, IA was the place where Wally Geyer officiated at the wedding of Dan Geyer (Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb) to Michelle Wirtz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila, West Bend, IA). They are residing in Bloomington, IL and we pray for their happiness in the years to come.

January 3 has been designated for the annual Silver Lining collection. The expenses for computerization, printing and mailing are \$11.00 per subscriber (6,300 nationally). Contributions are needed and will be appreciated.

Three 2-hour marriage seminars by Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) were well attended and we thank Bro. Jeff for his timely and well-organized messages.

We thank Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell (Burlington, IA) for their visit on November 15. The Lord speaks through and to his servants as they break the bread to every need like He did by the Sea of Galilee.

"...to God be the glory, great things He has done..." Give glory to God as the source of good. Glory is mentioned 400 times in the Scriptures and represents honor, praise and worship directed at an Almighty God. It is better described by examples than definition: Exodus 24:17, "And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel" and in the New Testament it is known through Jesus, with us and within us. Peter saw the glory of the Lord while walking on water and it calmed his fears. Other disciples also experienced the glory of the Lord through various actions. The glory of man must be kept in its place as he is like "grass which withereth, and the flower fadeth" (Isaiah 40:8). We thank Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein (Francesville, IN) for their visit on November 4 and Bro. Steve for his meditation on "Glory" for

our family night services.

It was a timely message for this season and reminds us of Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward man."

We wish you blessed holidays and God's guiding Spirit in the New Year.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:8-11

A daughter, Tamera Ann, was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Grace Herrmann on October 18. Tamera has been in the hospital for the past couple weeks. Her brother, David, and grandparents, Bro. Howard and Sis. Maryann Herrmann and Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov (San Diego, CA), anxiously await her arrival home.

First-time parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Ann Herrmann, welcome Andrew Howard into their home on November 5. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Maryann Herrmann and Jack and Lois Klenworth.

A double blessing was given to Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Metz as twin daughters, Hope and Haley, were born on November 8. Their sisters, Larissa and Allison, welcome them home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz (Forrest, IL) and Mark and

Ruthann Martino.

Hannah Marie brought joy to the family of Bro. Rick, Sis. Joyce, Zachary and Ethan Rumbold as she was born on November 7. Raymond and Joan Rumbold and Robert and Geneva Morse are thankful for their new granddaughter.

May these four families look to God for His direction and guidance as they put their trust in Him in raising their families.

B.J. Elsasser (son of Bro. Brian and Sis. Mary Beth) was in the hospital for heart surgery and Angie Massner (daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis Knobloch) had foot surgery. Lydia Meyer also spent some time in the hospital. May God grant them a speedy recovery.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Stoller family in the passing of their brother, Richard. Also, we wish to express our sympathy to the family of Sam Kieser.

Our friends, Brandon Graham (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette) and Troy Endress (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann), have made a beginning in the Lord through repentance. May they prayerfully seek out God's will as they make this change in their lives.

"Count your many blessings, name them one by one." We are thankful for the visiting ministers we had this month: Bros. Ed Knecht (Portland, OR), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). This is truly one of the blessings we have in our faith, to be able to travel across the land and meet brethren of the same faith.

The Babe of Bethlehem

The blessed story of the Christ,
The Babe of Bethlehem,
Is worthy of our song and praise,
And stirs the hearts of men.
The fullness of God's love divine,
surrounds the Christ so mild

Alas, how many only know
the Saviour as a child.

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

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

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

Hymns of Zion #36

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, visits of encouragement and gifts since Dallas' accident. Dallas had emergency surgery to repair a skull fracture. He has made excellent progress and we are hopeful for a complete recovery. A small risk of seizures and meningitis will be ongoing concerns. We appreciate your continued prayers.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee Herrmann

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Lisa Leman Boni Stoller

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

Psalms 100:4

We wish to express heartfelt thanks to ministering Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) for spending the weekend of November 7-8 with our congregation. May God

bless the precious Word that was kindly ministered to us.

On October 25, the Roanoke Bible Class hosted the Eureka Bible Class and we are thankful that Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville IA) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) came to help bring forth His precious Word. We thank these brothers and their families for their time and effort in teaching our youth.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our brethren who have faced physical illness this month. Hospital patients this month were: Bro. Charles Kupferschmid (Sis. Jean), Bro. Earl Bowald (Sis. Martha), Sis. Ruth Hodel (Bro. Warren), Sis. Norene Herbst, Bro. Lyle Martin (Sis. Mary Lou) and Bro. Ray Reckhemmer. We also pray for God's nearness for our Bro. Larry Aeschleman as he is faced with an uncertain future with his illness.

We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker, as they welcome a new granddaughter, Olivia Grace. Olivia's parents are Bro. Reggie and Sis. Lora Wuethrich of Indianapolis, IN. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Francesville, IN). May God bless this new family.

We extend our sympathy to our Sis. Carolyn Aeschleman on the death of her brother, Bro. Earl Meiss (Morton, IL).

Our sympathy is also extended to our Sis. Christa Moser (Bro. Glen) on the death of her mother, Sis. Laura Roth (Kiowa, KS). May God bless and be near to comfort these families at this time.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank each and every one who helped me celebrate my 90th birthday by sending such sweet and loving thoughts in cards, gifts, flowers and visits. You all helped make it a special time. God bless

each one of you for your deeds of kindness. They will never be forgotten.

Sis. Dorothy Bittner

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Barb Dill
Barb Kaeb**

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 41:10

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. We greatly appreciate Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), and Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Vernon Wettstein and Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Roger Sauder (Fort Lauderdale, FL) for their willingness to come and minister God's Word to us. May God richly bless them and their families for their labor of love.

We rejoice with Sis. Mary Knobloch (Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor, Lester, IA) and Bro. Nelson Koch (Sis. Nancy and Bro. Cleo) as their engagement was announced. We pray for them as they plan their future lives together, and may they rely on the Lord and do His will.

Hospital patients this month were Trent Hopkins (William and Maizie) and Zachariah Garman (Sis. Sara and Steve). May God continue to be with them and all who are sick or shut-in, is our prayer.

We were privileged to hear the testimony of Philip Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) on Saturday, October 31, and to witness his baptism on Sunday, November 1. We wel-

come him as our new brother in our most precious Faith.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger**

"But the fruit of the Spirit is...gentleness...temperance: against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23

Gentleness and temperance come at the end of the list of fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5, but they are by no means the least of the fruit. They describe characteristics desirable for all Christians and particularly fathers. Fathers who treat their children with gentleness and temperance balance their authority role in the family with the equally important task of providing their children with a safe, nurturing environment. Without these fruits, discipline turns to abuse. Exercising gentleness and temperance, fathers model the very behavior that prepare their children for their turn as parents.

Our Heavenly Father treated us with gentleness and temperance when we fell short of His perfect will. He did not strike us down in His anger and wrath, but instead gave us His Son to be our Saviour. Jesus also modeled gentleness and temperance when He willingly suffered for us on the cross.

Thank Thee, Jesus, for treating us with gentleness and temperance. Send us Thy Spirit so that we may show these fruits in our lives.

This month we were privileged to have the following brothers visiting us on the pulpit: Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL). They all spoke the Word of God in its' truth and purity. Also present for the "25 and older" weekend were Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and E-

lder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). The brothers spoke on "Bearing Fruit". Thank you, brothers, for your time and efforts.

We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Sharon Martin in the loss of her father, Bro. Earl Meiss, of Morton. May she and her family feel God's comforting Spirit.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Millie Dreeste's daughter, Joyce, was united in marriage to Richard Teehan in St. Louis on October 31. We wish the couple God's richest blessings and pray for many years of happiness.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Millie Dreeste also became grandparents again when their daughter, Sue, delivered a baby girl, Margaret Nicole Muhr. We wish Sue and her husband, Dave, a joyous reunion when Margaret comes home from the hospital. She was born premature on October 30. Congratulations to all.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sharon Martin became grandparents again when their son, Andrew, and his wife, Chastity, had twins on August 26. The babies' names are Brandon Andrew and Brooklyn Abigail. Both are doing fine. We are so happy for the new arrivals and wish them all God's blessings.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Maller

Trudy Eisenmann

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Philippians 2:13

It is always encouraging to see how God can work in believers' hearts and we have seen some evidence of this in our midst! As Bluffton and Bluffton North hosted College Weekend, October 17-18, the Word has taken effect in many hearts. We welcomed Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) who shared a

message of truth with us, as well as Bro. Bob Meyer, Jr. (Bluffton North, IN).

On October 25, we witnessed the marriage of Bro. Joshua Maggart (Bro. John and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Becky Maller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise); and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) was with us rejoicing. On November 1, Bro. Rich Pfister (Al and Becky) and Sis. Amber Rager (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann) were also united in marriage. And on November 15, Bro. Brian Clark (Richard and Connie) and Sis. Annette Nestle (Cindy Courtney) also exchanged vows.

This month was the celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Harry and Sis. Lula Baumgartner.

Anticipating a similar union are Bro. Cameron Fry (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Debbie) and Sis. Jenni Frauhiger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene), our newest engaged couple. What a witness the Christian marriage is!

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger and retired Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL), as well as Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) joined us on Sunday, November 8. We are very thankful for the time and effort all of our dedicated ministers give.

We know God has been very real in the lives of our people. Five more souls have experienced peace and are ready for baptism: Brooke Giltner (Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda), Chris Steffen (Bro. Bill and Sis. Donna), Amy Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie), Brenda Girod (Sis. Carla) and Phillip Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean).

Twelve more individuals are seeking God's forgiveness: Alyssa Kipfer (Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy), Lane Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda), Beth Tonner (Bro. Eric and Sis. Rhonda), Bryce Isch (Bro. Les and Sis. Ann), Blare Gerber (Bro.

Rex and Sis. Lavon), Justin Reinhard (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan), Walter Scace, Jason Klopfenstein (Bro. John and Sis. Linda), Luke Gerke, Stuart Reynolds, April Kipfer (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda) and Brandy Ringger (Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy). Praise God for those who are finding Life!

A new life has come into the Frauhiger home. Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally welcomed Kaitlyn Irene on October 21. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger. Kaitlyn joins sister Livia at home.

Another sibling has been added to Tony and Amber Gerber's home. A baby boy, Braxton Anthony, was born on November 6. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Gerber and Bro. Arlin and Sis. Roxanne Heyerly.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi Reinhard delivered a new girl on November 4. Desiah Marie has Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene for happy grandparents. With Jenni's engagement, this makes a pretty exciting month for the Frauhiger household!

Our prayers go out on behalf of Sis. Luella Aschliman (Bro. Harold) who had been hospitalized and now resides at Meadowville Health Center. May the Lord be your strength.

Our Bro. Harry Aschliman passed away on November 16. He has a son, Rex Aschliman, and a daughter, Kay Fairchild. Our sympathy to the family is given from the body of Christ.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Lori Steffen

Rhonda Maller

"There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that

which ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

I Cor. 10:13

Obtaining victory over temptation was the focus of College Weekend, held here at Bluffton North in October. Over 350 of our single brothers and sisters across the nation joined us for fellowship and teaching. Their presence was a blessing to all of us. Our love and thanks to each of you. We also are grateful to all the ministers and parents who helped to make the weekend a success. We appreciated Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) who brought words of truth and conviction on Sunday morning.

"In days of youth seek ye the Lord..." On November 7-8, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of three new brothers in Christ. We rejoice with the families of Bros. Kellan and Kelby Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki) and Bro. Krent Reinhard (Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen). May God continue to bless and guide the steps of these young men who sought the Lord in days of youth. We are also thankful for Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and Bro. Allen Stoller (both of Bluffton) who assisted Bro. Phil and exhorted us in the Word on this special Sunday.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger are thankful that their son, Michael, has answered the Lord's call. We pray for his continued growth in the Lord.

God has blessed Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger with a precious baby daughter, Kaitlin Irene. She joins big sister, Livia. Grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Cheryl Ringger (Bluffton) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger. Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene have been blessed with a second new granddaughter this month with the birth of Desiah Marie to Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodie

Reinhard (Bluffton).

Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene are also enjoying another addition to their growing family. They are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Jenni, to Bro. Cameron Fry (Bluffton). Bro. Cameron is the son of Bro. Denis and Sis. Debbie Fry.

Our congregation is thankful for the inspiring and convicting messages brought to us by visiting minister, Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL). Bro. Clark called the unsaved to come to the cross before it's too late. Believers were exhorted to be salt and light, to have hearts which bring forth fruit.

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen."

II Peter 3:18

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

Matthew 14:27

Our friend, Craig Erb, passed from this life in a tragic accident this past month. We pray for his family that through this "tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Romans 5:3-5)

Hope is alive and well with the birth of four little ones in our congregation this past month! One set of grandparents, Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna Wuethrich, have received a double portion of blessing with two grandchildren. Tim and Sis. Sally Wuethrich welcomed Cassie Marie into the world on October 28 along

with siblings, Grace, Timmy, Logan and Max, and grandparents, Les and Rosie Pfladderer. On November 8, Henry Solomon was received with joy by Scott and Sis. Colleen Wuethrich and their daughters, Ingrid and Ivy, and grandparents, Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna Wuethrich, Mr. and Mrs. Allyn Onken and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bisher.

Also blessed with a son are Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger. Hogan Abraham, born November 9, was welcomed by Serenity, Jasmine, Eli, Gideon and Boaz. Thankful grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Evenly Ringger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne Vogt. On November 14, Bro. Brad and Sis. Barb Neihouser were blessed with a son, Luke Bradley. His sister, Cecilia, and brother, Kirby, welcomed him into their hearts along with grandparents, Bro. Andre and Sis. Lois Neihouser and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette Putt.

Another celebration of hope is marriage. Jeremy Gutwein (Gordon and Judy) and Becky Antzloff (Ron and Mary) were wed October 17. We wish them God's blessings and direction as they establish their home together. We also have another wedding to look forward to as the engagement of Bro. Phil Leman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret) and Sis. Amber Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi) was announced. May the Lord strengthen their love as they continue to follow His will for them.

Sis. Donna Gutwein (Bro. Rodney) had surgery recently and we pray that God's healing hand be upon her. Sis. Evelyn Pelsy (Bro. Vernon) has spent a few weeks in the hospital this past month due to hip surgery. We pray for her continued strength and grace as she undergoes therapy.

Thanks to Bro. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for visiting this past month and imparting God's Word with us.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Gail Bradford

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:13

Our cup of joy overflowed as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of five precious souls: Sis. Jenny Cook, and Bros. Dan Schafer, Shaun Wuethrich, Joel Zeller and Mark Zeller. Their testimonies revealed how much they want to live for the Lord and respond daily to His grace. We also learned how much they appreciated encouragement and support during their repentance.

Little Tyler Alexander joined the household of David and Nicole Witzig on October 23. We welcome him into our fold!

We thank the two visiting ministers who served us this month: Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN).

About 65 people participated in the fall outreach program, visiting nursing homes, youth facilities and the elderly to sing, read the Bible, and help with yard work and maintenance. Inspiring stories shared Saturday evening at Eric and Ginny Zeller's brought tears of gratitude for God's providence. We learn so much about God when we reach out to others.

Ryan Bucher (Bro. Ardie and Sis. Leann) and Heather Chichester (Jeff and Sharon Chichester, South Bend) have announced their engagement. They plan to marry on March 20, 1999. We wish them God's richest blessings as they look forward to that day.

We experience many milestones along the road of life, memorable moments that affect the rest of our

days. We can have more joy in the happy moments, and find more help in the sad ones if we allow God to walk by our side.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalms 27:1

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

II Cor. 12:9

Sis. Lina Bock has had a stroke and is unable to communicate with those of us who love her. At a time like this, Lina will be relying completely upon the strength and grace of God. We love her, pray for her and miss her infectious smile in our midst.

Freida Pfladderer has been hospitalized. She is 97 years old; has been very alert, and has been special to the LaCrosse congregation for many years. Lina and Freida reside at Parkview Haven in Francesville.

At the time of this writing, our dear Sis. Grace Heinold is undergoing surgery. The faith that Sis. Grace and Bro. Aaron have always relied on will carry them through, but they will also have the support of all who know and love them.

With Thanksgiving approaching, do you ever wonder who those that do not serve our true, living God give thanks to? What does Thanksgiving mean to people? What does Thanksgiving mean to all of us? May our cups overflow with thankfulness, praise, and honor to our gracious Father in Heaven.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

On October 30, we had an all-church wiener roast and singing at Gateway Woods. It was the climax of the caring and sharing with our local ministers during the month of October. Each day they received something from someone as a show of appreciation for their faithful service.

Welcome, Sis. Daniele Stickling. May you rejoice in your service at Gateway Woods.

We are happy to welcome Bro. John Willis back home after his summer employment in the western states.

We are thankful for the healing process of several in our congregation. Sis. Tina Schumacher and Sis. Pat Fischer both had surgery. Sis. Maudie Grueter is still confined to her home, but was able to enjoy her 92nd birthday. A scrapbook made by the families of the congregation was her "best gift ever".

Those of us who attended the World Relief meeting at Smithville, OH were impressed with the ongoing efforts of relief. The committee offered tapes of the meeting to each church. If there is anyone at Leo interested in listening to them, contact me.

Sis. Lucille Frank has moved to Christian Care (Bluffton, IN) due to health problems. She has a lovely apartment there, but is hospitalized at this writing.

Among our visiting ministers was Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH). He shared some of his experiences in his Wednesday evening message, which left an impression on all of us.

Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN), Ron Bollier and family and Greg Stieglitz and family (Indianapolis, IN) were welcome visitors and we thank them for their willing service.

Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluf-

fton North, IN) was here on several occasions, including testimony and baptismal service, and he helped Bro. John Stoller serve Holy Communion on November 14. We thank him for his labor of love.

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:3-4

David Pfister (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon) gave his testimony on Saturday evening, November 14, and was baptized into the fold of Jesus Christ on Sunday. We welcome our new brother and may he continue to rejoice in God's grace.

Teagan Iris Bowie was born November 12, at home, to Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy. Alicia and Lydia rejoice to have a sister join their younger brothers, Matthais and Will (Dunkin William). We all rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings.

St. Luke in verse by Alvy E. Ford

Chapter 1: Old Zacharias is promised a son;
Through unbelief, he is left smitten dumb.

Mary is chosen to mother the Lord.
John is delivered, the Spirit outpoured.

Chapter 2: Mary, at Bethlehem, brings forth a Son,
Lays in a manger; redemption's begun.

Jesus conceived by the blest Holy Ghost.
Shepherds are told by the Heavenly Host.

The Saviour is Born

In a manger on a peaceful night,
When stars above were shining bright,

Jesus into this world was born
At Bethlehem, on Christmas morn.

This little child did rapture bring
And caused the Heavenly Host to sing.
The wise men found Him from afar,
Led by a bright and guiding star.

King Herod the little child had sought
After the news to him was brought.
He wished to harm this child so fine,
But God was watching all the time.

His fate on earth was sorrow and woe,
Due to many who despised Him so.
To be a Saviour was His calling
As sin on earth became appalling.

He was beloved by many also,
Who followed wherever He did go.
He had a loving disposition,
And blest them on His earthly mission.

Though many ages have gone by
Since Jesus came for all to die,
He does the contrite sinner hear
And to His own is very near.

*(to glorify God,
by Bro. Henry Kipfer)*

INDIANA, MILFORD

Linda Beer

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God..."

John 1:11-12

When Jesus Christ came to earth two thousand years ago, they could only find room for Him in a lowly cattle stall! Angels sang as the hosts of Heaven saw their Beloved One emerging on earth in the form of a little baby at Bethlehem. But the humanity to whom He came did little more than look up from their daily tasks. Oh, a few shepherds

went to see Him. A wise man or two, who had seen the star in the East that heralded His birth, paid homage to Him. But the world in general gave little heed to the Son of God who was born among them.

As Christ comes to us, do we open our heart and life completely to Him? What a high calling we have and how much God loved us to sacrifice His only Son. We show our love for Him not only by yielding our will to His, but adore Christ with affection and actions that express a heart of unquenchable gratitude. Christ came as a servant to us (Philippians 2:7) and we adore Him by serving others; encouraging, having compassion, esteeming others higher than ourselves, bearing with one another, giving. These are works that follow our surrender to God.

Yes, God gave His Son, and thus gave His all,
That we on this world might be free
From shackles of sin incurred by the fall,
And go forth His servants to be.
—H.E. Rolfe

Bro. Cap and Sis. Mary Ann (Sauder) Beer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married October 17, 1948, in Goodfield, IL and have spent their 50 years here in the Milford area. We appreciate their Godly lives and examples to us.

Bro. Glen Price (Sis. Kathryn) and Sis. Carol Hurd (Bro. John) submitted to surgery. Daron Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane) had a traumatic hand injury. We pray each of these can feel restoration daily and soon be able to take their rightful place in their home and work.

We were blessed to have Bros. Glen Price Jr. (Sarasota, FL), Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Ed Fritz (Washing-

ton, IL) and Bob Beebe share God's Word with us. We thank these brothers and pray God will fill them with His knowledge and direction as they speak.

Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Haab are new grandparents. Parents of Clayton are Lowell and Rose Bender and sisters, Kami and Kyla.

We offer our sympathy to Bro. Will Schieler and Sis. Sue in the passing of his father, Bro. Harold Schieler, of Remington. May they feel God's comfort.

"I was lost but Jesus found me..." We rejoice to have Sis. Sonya Beer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) as part of our fellowship. May she always draw near to Christ and radiate His love as she furthers her education in Lafayette.

We were happy to learn Daron Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane) has answered God's call to live for Him. May God's grace fill his life!

Another year I enter, its history unknown,
Oh, how my feet would tremble to tread its paths alone!
But I have heard a whisper; I know I shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee and I will give the rest."
—author unknown

1999—COULD THIS BE THE YEAR? ARE WE READY FOR THE TRUMP TO SOUND?

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Luke 2:10

The well-known Christmas hymn, Joy to the World, is one of the most joyous of all Christmas hymns. This carol omits references to shep-

herds, angelic choruses and wise men. It emphasizes instead the reverent but ecstatic joy that Christ's birth brought to mankind. At last it happened as "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". The entire Christmas season should be filled with solemn rejoicing as we contemplate anew God's great gift, providing the means whereby sinful man might live eternally.

We extend a special thank you to Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) for spending an evening of Bible study with us on "A time to speak and a time to keep silent." May God bless him for sharing the Word with us.

We also want to thank Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for coming to help our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler share the Memorandum with us. Many thanks to these brothers for graciously sharing these exhortations with us.

Bro. John Laukhuf also shared the gospel message with us this month and we thank him for his willingness to serve.

On October 24, Megan Isabell (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane) and Rick Reyes were united in marriage. We wish them the Lord's blessings and guidance as they begin their life together.

Our dear Bro. Harold Schieler was called Home to rest by his Heavenly Father on November 16. We extend our deepest sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Lorrene, and family: two daughters, Sis. Diane Isabell, and Sis. Carol Gutwein (Francesville, IN); and son, Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN); and two stepsons, Rex Clauss, and Tom Clauss (Chicago, IL).

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for the birthday cards, gifts and money given to Maurice during his 70th birthday celebration.

Sincerely,

Bro. Maurice and Sis. Eileen Getz

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Jennifer Mangold
Sue Beebe

Our love and prayers have gone out to two sisters who have faced medical problems this past month. Sis. Marci Neuenschwander and Sis. Mildred Meister both were hospitalized and released.

Our dear friend, Micah Frank (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn), will be seeking employment in the Seattle, Washington area. We all pray God will continue to watch over him in his pursuits.

Our congregation has been blessed with the ministering service of visiting Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We know the Lord will bless these servants and their families for their willingness to travel and speak God's Word.

We all look forward to next week's Thanksgiving program provided by our Sunday School. The Lord always seems to speak to us adults when the young ones bring forth His name in praise.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher
Hope Bucher

Our annual Harvest Supper took place last Sunday, November 15. We of the Valparaiso congregation were excited over the full house of visitors who came to take part. A group of sisters from Purdue came to sing, the Francesville mixed choir, the LaCrosse and Valparaiso Bible Classes and a children's group from Valparaiso all raised their voices in praise to God.

The harmonies and words were just beautiful, so fitting to praise our Lord. Following the program, we then enjoyed a dinner provided and served by the men of the church.

Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) were our guest ministers for the day. I trust they received a rich blessing for their labor.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Tom Troxel and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (both of La-Crosse, IN). Thank you for coming and sharing with us.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia Thomas are first-time grandparents of Tyler Robert, born to their daughter, Summer, and her husband, Jeff Lehl, recently. We wish them Godly wisdom in raising their new little son.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Beckie Lehman
Jody Bahler

What glorious state, to be a lamb
of Jesus,
To feel the faithful Shepherd's
loving grace.
In all the earth there is no higher
standing
Than this—to follow in the
Saviour's ways.
What all the world could never
give,
A lamb of Jesus from its Shepherd
will receive.
Zion's Harp #16

We are thankful that two more dear souls could be gathered into the body of Christ. Jeremy Schieler and Marla Schieler (Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy, Bloomington, IL) were baptized on October 25. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler on this special weekend.

Our minds were stirred and our souls were fed as we listened to the reading of the Memorandum on November 14. We thank Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) as

well as our dear shepherd, Bro. Alfred Bahler, for sounding the timely warnings. It would be our sincere prayer that each soul would search their own heart, and seek to obey the counsel of our Elder body.

We apologize for failing to mention that Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) brought the message of salvation to us last month. Thank you, Bro. Wayne; we always appreciate your visits!

Arlin Daniel came to bless the home of Anthony and Patsy Blades (Flemingsburg, KY) on November 4. Arlin's siblings are Landon, Emma Rose, Evan, Leah, Emory, Levi and Clara. Grandparents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler.

May we each one be thankful for the Christ child whose birth we celebrate in this joyous season, and then even more for His blood that was shed on the cross.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Judy Gehring
Karla Gerst

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so:
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
—*Hymns of Zion #176*

One of these "little ones", Robert Henry, was born to Christina Beyer. Welcoming him home are his big sister, Samantha, and his grandparents, Bro. Henry and Sis. Barb Beyer. May the birth of each little child remind us of how we should be childlike and dependent on our Heavenly Father.

As we come into the Christmas season when we commemorate the miracle of our Saviour's birth, may we always be mindful of the true purpose for which He came to this earth. "But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19). May we do the same!

Be not content this babe to know,
Nor stay at Bethlehem,
But go with Christ to Calvary's
brow,
Beyond Jerusalem.
'Tis there men learn to know the
Christ,
For there He bore man's sin.
Then open wide the door of heart,
And let the Saviour in.
—*Hymns of Zion #36*

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night."

As I think on this verse and the shepherds out in the fields, I assume this was a night like most other nights. They were just doing their job, as usual, caring for the sheep. They had probably heard prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, but not really thinking this might be the night. Suddenly, there was a great light, a multitude of angels, and the angel of the Lord saying "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Are we not today, like the shepherds, going about our daily routines, believing that Jesus will again return to this earth but giving little thought that this ordinary day, seemingly like all others, might be the very day our Lord returns? Let us be watchful, prayerful and ready!

Spending time in the hospital this past month have been Bro. Elmer Butikofer (Sis. Lydia) and Sis. Caroline Butikofer (Bro. Lawrence). May they feel God's presence and be comforted in knowing that He is always with us and will help us in

our every need.

Our thanks to Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) for bringing his family for a weekend visit and sharing God's Word with us. God bless you!

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Recent visiting ministers to our congregation include Bros. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL). We are thankful for those who come to worship and fellowship with us.

Whether Christ was born in December or not, this is the time of the year we all traditionally acknowledge His birth. The shepherds accepted Him, the Wise men expected Him, the King rejected Him, the Innkeeper neglected Him, and now what about us...? The "hymn" much of our country will sing this year might be titled, "Oh, Come let us IGNORE Him."

We wish you all a blessed holiday season and coming year.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Sharon Gerst

God has blessed us with two visiting ministers this month, for which we are thankful. Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) shared God's Word with us. May these brothers be richly rewarded for their efforts on our behalf.

We had a wonderful weekend on November 14-15. Several brothers, sisters and converts from Oakville, IA and Elgin, IL young groups came to Iowa City to worship with us. We thank them for encouraging our little church with their zeal and enthusiasm in their walk with God.

Note of Thanks:

We want to sincerely thank eve-

ryone for their prayers, visits, phone calls, mail, and other deeds of kindness while Carrie and then Kaelen were in the hospital. We appreciated it all so much. May God always bless each and every one.

In His Love,
Bro. Ted, Sis. Carrie and Kaelen
Wiegand

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold
Sue Warner

We rejoice along with the angels in Heaven that Justin and Jodie Metzger have begun their repentance. Our prayers are with them as they seek to turn their backs on Satan and find the true joy that only comes from following Jesus. Justin and Jodie are attending church in Minneapolis, MN.

On October 19, Elisabeth Rose Feucht was born to Bro. Roy and Sis. Melisa. Ruth, Philip, and Benjamin are her siblings. Grandparents are Sis. Martha Feucht (the late Bro. August) and Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb Moser (Oregon City, OR). May God grant them and all parents the grace and wisdom to teach their children about Him.

Our hearts were saddened at the death of Lou Moser who patiently suffered bodily affliction for a long while. We pray that God will comfort his wife, Tina, who lovingly cared for him, and their children: Judy (Leo) Weber, Sis. Audrey (Bro. Mark) Metzger, Sis. Polly (Bro. Rodney) Metzger, and Mike (Kathy), as well as his grandchildren. We appreciate the words of comfort brought forth by Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and our home ministers.

We also extend heartfelt sympathy to Deb Leuthold (Carl) on the death of her mother, Pearl Hoff.

We had a blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Jim and Betty Leuthold and Kyle Knobloch

(Becky). We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. Duane Farney who was with us. May God bless these new soldiers of the cross and help them to be true.

We are always grateful to our brothers who feed us from the Word of Life. May God bless our visiting ministers, Bros. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

The engagement of Sis. Mary Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie) to Bro. Nelson Koch (Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy and the late Bro. Jim) of Tremont, IL was announced. Sis. Mary is formerly from Lester but now attends church in Tremont. We wish them God's nearness as they plan for their marriage.

On November 7, Marty Knobloch (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger) and Martha Kuenzi (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary) were united in marriage at Silverton, OR. Many family and friends were able to make the trip to Oregon for this special occasion. We welcome Martha to our congregation.

November 14 was the wedding day of Craig Metzger (Bro. William and Sis. Charlotte) and Kelly Peterson. We congratulate these couples and wish them God's richest blessings.

There are many in our midst with physical ailments. Sis. Eleanor Popkes, Tina Moser (Lou), and Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Bro. Melvin) were surgical patients. Bro. Denis Meyer is undergoing medical treatment. We are thankful to have Bro. Rodney Mogler in our midst again after a serious accident. We pray for his continued healing. May the Great Physician be near each one and grant strength and healing where it is His will.

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

A precious little life
The Lord to us did share,
May we raise and nurture him
In Thy love and tender care.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Angie Birkner are thankful for another precious son, Jaden Edward, born November 8. Brother, Justin, welcomes him into the family, as does grandparents, Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger and Joyce and the late Conrad Birkner.

Our congregation appreciates each one who has traveled to be with us this past month. We wish to thank the Morton Choir for sharing a weekend of song and fellowship with us. We also want to express our appreciation to Bro. Phil and Sis. Jan Weber (Garden Grove, IA) for giving us an interesting "tour" of the country and people of Yugoslavia while sharing their slides with us. It has renewed my appreciation for the freedoms we still have in this country of America. May our prayers be fervent and frequent for those in distress in other lands.

As Christmas approaches, may each one feel the awe and wonder of Christ's miraculous birth and, most importantly, of His deep love and spiritual concern for all mankind.

IOWA, WEST BEND

**Berniece Banwart
Eunice Fehr**

We were blessed by the Word coming forth from visiting ministers. Bros. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Doug Grimm (Sis. Jeryl, Sabetha, KS) were here on separate Sundays.

We rejoice with Betty Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula) as she has found peace with God and man. We are looking forward to hearing her testimony in the near future.

The death angel has called Bro. Edward Zaugg Home on November

4. He leaves to mourn his passing, Sis. Helen, and children, Sis. Marvella (Bro. Larry) Wickman, Bro. Bill (Connie) of our congregation, along with Roger (Joyce) of Minneapolis, MN and Beth of Ottumwa, IA. Also, her sisters, Sis. Elma Mogler, Eva Banwart and Ruby (Robert) Besch of our community, and Leah (Ken) Frank of Battle Creek, MI along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Congratulations go out to Jeff and Jessica Wickman as they became parents for the first time to a little boy, Colton Dean, on November 7. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella Wickman and Jim and Nancy Kacmarynski. Great-grandmother is Sis. Helen Zaugg.

On November 9, Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita Fehr welcomed Garth Byron into their family circle. Excited to have a new baby brother are Colleen, Deanna, Evan and Felicia. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA). Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr. May both of these couples look to God for direction in raising their precious gifts from Him.

On October 17, two couples exchanged their wedding vows. Jeni Kellenberger (Joel and Teresa) and Jeff Hanselman (Don and Rita) will be making their home in the Iowa City area. Later in the day, Jeni's cousin, Bryan Kellenberger, and Kelly Harris were married. Their parents are Warren and Moira Kellenberger and Mr. and Mrs. Norm Harris. We wish both of these couples God's blessings in their married life.

Jodi Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice) and Cory Berkland (Jeff and Jo) have announced their engagement and are planning a February wedding.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Willis Ehnle

We had a fellowship meeting on November 3 in the Hachioji area which is west of Tokyo and between our churches. The meeting was for just one day and it gives our small churches the opportunity to all get together for worship. The building where we met was in a beautiful wooded area, with mountains nearby.

Bro. Andrew Klaus spoke in the morning on Matthew 24 about the end times, and about the need for Bibles in some parts of the world. In the afternoon, Bro. Takaaki Miyagawa showed a film explaining the work of the New Life League, an organization here in Japan that has the most modern printing press for printing Bibles. In their October letter they state that they now print a 1216 page Bible in just 2.7 seconds. I thought I must be reading it wrong, but evidently it is true. They really put out the Bibles, especially for China, but for many other countries, too.

Sis. Tamino Inoue, Bro. Akito's mother, 90 years of age, fell out in the yard, over the noon hour, and broke her wrist. We visited her this past Sunday and she is recovering with strong faith and good courage, wondering what God is trying to teach her.

KANSAS, BERN

**Holly Meyer
Lori Baumgartner**

As the Christmas season approaches, our hearts are stirred once again by the beautiful scriptures that speak of Christ's birth.

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

of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Isaiah 9:6-7

Oh, how the children of Israel must have looked forward with great hope to the birth of the Christ, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

Today, we as believers are so thankful for God's gift of salvation sent almost 2,000 years ago. Yet we look ahead with great anticipation, and often a yearning for Christ's second coming. When He returns, He will come as a judge, not as a Saviour. We pray that we are ready and all of our loved ones too.

On October 25, we were privileged to witness the wedding vows of Sis. Natalie Lehman and Bro. Jason Stratton (Taylor, MO). Sis. Natalie's parents are Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie. Bro. Jason's parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl of Taylor, MO. We pray for God's blessings on their life together.

Two from our congregation, Sis. Darlene Meyer (Earl) and Bro. Paul Grimm (Sis. Katie), spent time in the hospital during the past month. We wish them the Lord's nearness as they continue to recuperate.

On October 30, we began our first session of tapes from the Brotherhood Conference. We appreciate the many kind exhortations given by our various Elder brothers. Whether we be single, married, young, middle-aged, or elderly, the timely topics speak to each of us. We each have a responsibility to do our part in upholding our precious faith.

Our church enjoyed an evening of fellowship and singing at our Fall wiener roast on October 31. Because of cold, rainy weather, this event

took place indoors at our Fellowship Center.

We have had many visiting ministers among us during the past month. They were Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and Bros. Kent Heimer and Dave Marquart (all of Taylor, MO), and Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). May the Lord bless each one for making the effort to come visit us and for their willingness to bring forth the Word.

One of our visiting ministers recently shared the true account of two sisters-in-faith who were traveling. They entered a McDonald's and ordered their breakfast to go. As they returned to the parking lot, a husband and wife sitting in a pickup next to their vehicle spoke to them and thanked these sisters for "brightening their day". They stated, "Everyone in that McDonald's looked as if they could hardly face another day, but we noticed the bright smiles on your faces and we know that you have the love of Jesus in you." As we go about our daily work, let each of us allow the love of Jesus to shine forth from our lives.

We wish each of you a blessed Christmas.

Note of Thanks:

Amy and I would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who gave encouragement, visits to the hospital, cards, phone calls, and gifts of love during my illness. We really felt the prayers from our many churches across the nation. It's a blessing to be part of such a wonderful faith.

In Christian Love,
Christopher Menold

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Joleen Sinn

My Father's Bible

I often think of childhood days
When 'round the table there,
Our father oft would read God's
Word
And lead in earnest prayer.

And near the table on a shelf
There was a little nook,
Where father laid his spectacles
And kept the sacred Book.

And when the evening meal was
past
Unto the shelf he'd go,
And read to us from God's good
Word,
That we its truths might know.

And peering o'er his spectacles,
He watched if we took heed -
God's Word commanded reverence,
In thought and word and deed.

Ah, would that men might in
these days
Evaluate God's Word,
And use it in their walk of life
As their shield and Spirit's sword.

Those children of that inner day
Are women now, and men,
Still read the book their father
read,
And heed it now, as then.
—Henry Beer

What a gift God has given us of Christian families. As we see the different generations grow and start families of their own, we pray that they will continue to pass along the ageless teachings of our Heavenly Father.

Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn have become first-time grandparents as Bro. Phil and Sis. Rebecca Braker (Lamar, MO) welcome little Hannah Jean into their home.

We missed Bro. Lyle Fischer (Sis. Lillian) at church and heard he was at home after a fall. We pray the Lord will grant him healing and that he will be able to worship with us again soon.

KANSAS, KIOWA

**Darcy Kisling
Janice Bahr**

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

Luke 2:11

May each of you truly be blessed as you celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

We rejoice with Brandon and Marianna Farney as they celebrate a gift from Heaven at the birth of their second child, Brian Benjamin, born on October 25. Grandparents of the newborn are Bro. Tom and Sis. Gay Farney. May they always seek to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We were indeed blessed to have Bro. John Willis (Leo, IN) gather with us for about a month as his work kept him in Kansas for a while. Our prayer is that the Lord will reveal His will to Bro. John that he may be of greatest service to Him wherever he resides.

Sis. Sophia Kircher was hospitalized and is now at home again. Her cheerful face is always a very welcome sight at church.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion #218

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Sis. Laverne Roth (Bro. Raymond) on her passing this month. With our human hearts we grieve, and at the same time rejoice in the knowledge that Sis. Laverne has cast off her earthly body for one that is heavenly. May the Lord comfort her family and friends as only He is able.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr

Our visiting ministers recently have been Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). Our heartfelt thanks to all our ministering brethren for encouraging, not strangling, our spiritual lives.

Our children derive great pleasure from knowing their "work" has a purpose and a destination. The rest of the church, as recipients, are not only encouraged but blessed as well, to have them in our midst. Recently we witnessed the enthusiastic joy of our children as they participated in our annual Sunday School Fall picnic. Their "work" was manifested in great fellowship together!

As we approach Christmas, the work and effort we see the children put forth in proclaiming the miracle of Jesus' birth once again has such a great purpose and destination! Directed towards the listening souls, the message brings forth encouragement and blessings to all.

The death of our dear Sis. Doris (Bro. Roy) Bahr was inevitable, with acute leukemia, but seemed far too soon to the family that loved her. Sis. Doris left us peacefully and was laid to rest on November 7. "Now all the pain and grief is over and every restless tossing passed; she is now at peace forever, safely Home in Heaven at last." The support and love shown to us by our dear Christian loved ones, was so greatly cherished. Thank you each one for your kindness. In Christian love, Roy, Brian and Julie Bahr

Our heartfelt sympathy is also extended to Sis. Dorothy Young in the death of her brother-in-law, Roy (Phosa) Brown, and then also her nephew passed just as quickly. Both father and son of whom passed away within one week. Life's span is so

quickly fleeting! May God indeed comfort Sis. Dorothy and her sister, Phosa, in this great loss.

Another new year is approaching as well as more winter cold. I heard it said once, "One kind word can warm up three winter months!" All of us need Christian friends like that by our side! Let us be truly thankful for one another. "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." (Proverbs 16:24)

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Mary Kay Wenger
Brenda Grimm**

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our
tears,

And there, sometime, we'll
understand.

Chorus: Then trust in God thro'
all the days;

Fear not for He doth hold thy
hand;

Tho dark thy way, still sing and
praise,

Some time, some time, we'll
understand.

Hymns of Zion #165

We extend sympathy to the families who have lost loved ones. A loss of a sister was felt this month by Sis. Arleta (Bro. Harvey) Wenger, Rosalie (Bob) Lohman of Sabetha, and Mary Ann (Leonard) Rieger (Forrest, IL) when Minnie Carol Mabie passed away on October 17 at a care center in Thornton, CO. We feel a loss in our congregation since Sis. Doris Bahr passed away on November 7. She had been hospitalized in a Topeka hospital prior to her death. Survivors include her husband, Bro. Roy, who resides in an apartment here. Bro. Roy and Sis. Doris moved to our area from Lamont-Gridley in 1996.

We thank Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bros.

Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) who shared with us many good teachings from the Word.

A bundle of joy blessed the lives of Bro. James and Sis. Sandy Hartter and sons, Jesse and Elijah. Andrew Lowell Hartter was born November 1. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

Tim and Margaret Edelman and their family welcomed Hannah Jo into their family circle on November 9. Sis. Marjorie Edelman and Mary Ann Koch are happy grandmothers.

At this time of the year we have ended our Sunday evening singings and are listening to the Conference tapes. After Thanksgiving we will begin our Wednesday evening services. May we strive to each do our part to keep the faith. Among the many gems of spiritual insight we have heard is how important it is to train our children before the world influences them and the many judgments we have to make in our life. We pray for God's blessings on each one as we embark on a new year.

There were shepherds abiding in
the fields,
Keeping watch, keeping watch
o'er their flocks by night.
And the angel of the Lord came
upon them,
And the glory of the Lord shone
round about them,
...And they were sore afraid,
And the angel said unto them,
"Fear ye not, fear ye not,
For behold I bring you good
tidings of great joy,
Which shall be to all people, to all
people;
For unto you is born this day,
in the City of David,
A Saviour which is Christ the
Lord."
Then suddenly there was with the
angel
a multitude of the heavenly host,
And praising God and saying,...

Glory! Glory! Glory to God in the
highest!

On earth peace and concord,
Unto mankind good will and
favor...

How shall I, Lord, receive thee
And how Thy grace extol?

My spirit's crown and glory,
O bridegroom of my soul!

Give me the understanding
How full of light and grace

My soul may e'er esteem thee,
In rev'rence sing Thy praise!

Hymns of Zion #300

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Kristi Kellenberger

The fall semester is rapidly coming to an end and the end-of-semester rush has begun. Exams, research papers, and final projects seem to be the main concerns throughout the campus as students run the race against time. And yet, it seems little preparation is being made for a much more important deadline which may be only a few weeks away, or couple of days, or even today: the return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May we live each day with the thought that our every action is our preparation for God's final exam. If we were to take it now, would we pass or fail?

We rejoice with our new convert, Jamie Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise, Bern, KS), and her decision to give her life to God. We were also blessed to be able to witness the testimony and baptism of Bro. Trent Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon, Sabetha, KS).

May God bless all those that traveled to worship with us the past couple of months. We appreciate and enjoy the wonderful fellowship and support. We give our special thanks to those that came and shared the Word: Elder Bro. John Lehman, Bros. Darrel Stoller and Galen Rokey (all of Bern, KS), Bro. Bill Emch and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Randy

Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS). We would also like to express our appreciation to Bro. Gene Lehman and his wife, Sis. Verna, for traveling from Wolcott, IN to share with us in a Bible study on the church in Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6).

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Construction is under way for a new ground level dining room to better accomodate our church needs. The addition, 50' x 30' is being added to the northeast corner of the existing building. This is a tremendous undertaking for a small congregation. Much prayer has accompanied the decision making. Pray that the Lord will continue to guide us.

A monthly home singing schedule has been initiated for our congregation. Those who are able meet in a home to enjoy a fellowship of song on the third Friday evening of the month.

Several in our congregation have lost loved ones. Funeral services for Lydia Langhofer (Topeka), sister-in-law of Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer, were held on November 7. Bro. Godfrey Miller's sister lost her struggle against cancer on November 7, also. The memorial brochure contained the following verse that easily could have come from Sis. Doris Bahr's lips.

I am home in heaven, dear ones:
Oh, so happy and bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in heaven at last.
There is work still waiting for you.
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth—
You shall rest in God's own land.
When that work is all completed,

He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Doug and Rebecca Germann

Once again we have been fortunate to have many visitors this past month. The weekend of October 25, Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) shared the pulpit with Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) and we had other visitors from Mansfield that weekend. On November 8, Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH) came with a large group that had gone to Jamaica last year. A special gathering was held to share memories of the work done in Jamaica and a singing followed. Many thanks to these families and ministers for sharing of their time and talents.

In other local news, we wish Bro. Dan Baltic God's blessings as he assumes new duties as our Bible class teacher. May God be with all our Sunday School teachers here and across the land as we prepare today's youth to be tomorrow's members.

As another Christmas season approaches, and the year 1998 becomes history, may we reflect upon the blessings bestowed upon us and thank our Heavenly Father.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristen Plattner
Michelle Oesch

With the holiday season here, we become filled with emotion. Family reunions, travel, gifts, loneliness for those we can't be with—the list goes on. These are memories that we are building and bonding with families and friends. Let us then reflect on another harvest, the Son being born on this earth to show His ultimate sacrifice, and a "look-back" over the past calendar year and a "look-ahead" into the last year of this cen-

tury.

At this time, let us look a little deeper to see God's bigger plan. It can best be illustrated through a story.

There was an artist who painted a picture of a young man who was playing chess with the devil. The loser would have to become the servant of the winner. In the painting, the devil declared check mate in three moves. The young man's pale face reflected the horror upon hearing those ominous words of certain defeat.

But a chess master stared at the picture, studying all the configurations of the various pieces. Suddenly he shouted, "Young man, there is a move you can make!"

The painter had overlooked a possible combination of moves; it was not checkmate after all. Christ came to earth to tell us that it only looks as if Satan has us in his grasp.

God has a plan worked out in the counsel of eternity. Christ came to earth to fight against the Serpent. God, our Creator, did not overlook His plan for Salvation. It is through Jesus we can be forgiven and set free. The Son of God declared "Checkmate." Satan is out of moves. Live through the power of Jesus' name and be victorious.

We thank visiting minister, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, and his wife, Sis. Lorene, from Detroit, for spending a Wednesday evening service with us. We also extend our sympathy and were saddened to receive news of the loss of their granddaughter, Sis. Lindsey Maibach, from Sarasota, FL. We do not know when that day will be for those we love will be called Home. Tell those you love and care for how special they are to you. Take time today—it can be so meaningful and encouraging.

We are thankful to see Sis. Bertha Wingeier and Sis. Sandy Steffen back into our fellowship. May each day bring God's strength and heal-

ing.

Wishing warm and loving thoughts to several who will be traveling south for the winter. Each of you will be missed. God's blessings and a safe return come springtime in Michigan.

Congratulations to grandparents, Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen, on the birth of Grace Elisabeth. Grace is the daughter of John and Jill Casper of Glendale, AZ.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

As I was contemplating the Christmas season, my thoughts focused on a saying that I'm sure many of you have heard before: "Wise men still seek Him." What a wonderful thought! Have you ever contemplated the story of the wise men? They were very learned men, perhaps even in positions of real authority amongst their people. They probably were also responsible for spiritual insight in their portion of the world. Even with all of this they had seeking hearts and so, at Jesus' birth, and the appearance of that glorious star, they went in search of a newborn King. Isn't it interesting that God revealed to them the birth of His Son by using something that only they, in their knowledge, could fully comprehend? Isn't it interesting that they immediately began the two-year journey to Bethlehem, following only a star, and a yearning to know the King that it heralded? Some would not have thought this so wise; after all, kings were common place at that time, but they knew this one was special. Today, wise men still seek the newborn King, the young Messiah, the crucified, risen Lord. And although there is no longer a star to point the way, a longing heart can find what they seek from God's written Word. The wise men

looked to the heavens and although today we won't see His star, we can be watching for the glorious return of Jesus—that baby born so long ago—the one that wise men still seek.

We always enjoy visitors in Bay City and get a special joy when we have visiting ministers. We were blessed to have Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and his wife, Sis. Mary, with us this month. It is always such a blessing to listen to Bro. Hartzell bring forth God's Word. May God bless him for his services of love.

All of us from time to time experience some of the frailties of the body and are always so thankful to know that the Great Physician is in control. Bro. Dean Pashak (Sis. Connie) and Sis. Barb Knochel both had surgery this month. We are thankful that they are both getting better and pray for God's healing hand to completely restore their health.

We were saddened by the loss of a dear sister in faith. Sis. Mae Guenzel went Home to be with the Lord after fighting a long, hard battle with illness. We are thankful that Sis. Mae now has perfect health and is Home with the Lord she loved. We will really miss her and her kind, gentle spirit. She was a real witness to all of us here in Bay City. Our sympathies are with her remaining family.

It is our prayer that you have a wonderful Christmas and if you've never felt a need to seek Jesus, we pray that you will seek Him in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kristie Meyer
Manuela Denes**

As the year passes by, it seems hardly possible that the Christmas season is once again upon us. May we keep in remembrance the true

meaning and remember those who are less fortunate than us.

Our prayers go with Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha Szilagyi as their health has not enabled them to worship with us for some time. May God be near them through their times of need and always. As we get older, we have afflictions that slow us down, so also do young babies have things that need attention, as Connor Moilanen (Karl and Kerry) spent some time in the hospital. May God bless Connor and his family.

We were reminded of how precious our time on earth is and how we use it, as a teenager in her prime of life was taken from those who loved her. Sis. Lindsay Maibach (Sarasota, FL), daughter of Alan and Terese Maibach and George and Sharon Lussier, and sister to Courtney, Brooke and Drew, will be lovingly remembered by many. She has many relatives who are in our congregation and we want to express our sincere sympathy and prayer support for all the family.

Our sympathy and prayers also go to Sis. Lynette Moser and her family as her grandmother, Sis. Laverne Roth (Bro. Raymond, Kiowa, KS), has passed from this life into eternity.

We were blessed to have Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) come and minister the Word to us. We want to thank him for being used in God's service.

Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) also joined us for a topical Bible Study on "Establishing Priorities". We were reminded that in our busy lives we need to remember that God should take priority in our lives at all times. We want to thank him for ministering the Word and for reminding us of the benefit of establishing our priorities according to the Bible.

We know what a person thinks, not when he tells us what he

thinks,
but by his actions.

—Isaac Bashevis Singer

We were also privileged to have Bro. Jeff Thames, Sis. Brenda and their family (Washington, IL) here. We thank our gracious God for the blessed fellowship, for the ministry of the Word and for the beautiful Biblical instruction Bro. Jeff provided Friday evening and Saturday morning on strengthening our marriage relationships. Whether married or single, there was definitely something to take away and make improvements with our relationships. Our thanks go to him and his family for their time in preparing this and presenting it.

Our congratulations go to David deReyna (Ray and Joann) and Karen Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary), as their engagement has been announced. May God bless them as they plan a future as husband and wife.

Our prayers go with those of our congregation who go to Florida for the winter. We look forward to have them join us again in the spring.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

This is the time of the year that we celebrate our Saviour's birth. With all the activities of the season, let us not forget the real meaning of Christmas.

We rejoice that Justin and Jodi Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kris, Lester, IA) have heeded the Lord's calling. We pray that they will build their faith on a firm foundation.

We had the privilege of hearing the Memorandum. Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) were here to assist our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN). We thank these brothers for their love and concern

of preserving the church.

We also thank Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) for sharing God's Word with us.

We welcome Joyce Fehr (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte, West Bend, IA) who has found employment here.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Dianne Kellenberger
Nancy Wulf

Born in a manger so lowly,
 Over Thee dark shadows fall;
 Yet Thou art Saviour most holy,
 Yet Thou art Monarch of all.
 Maiden bends lovingly o'er Thee,
 Singing so soft 'mid the gloom;
 Angels and seraphs adore Thee,
 Yet for Thee earth had no room.

Shepherds are seeking Thy
 manger,
 They the glad message have heard;
 Seeking the heavenly stranger,
 Heeding the heavenly word.
 Prophets in visions foretold Thee,
 Shepherd and Saviour from sin;
 Yet we so lowly behold Thee,
 Was there no room in the inn?

Sleep for the angels are near Thee,
 Star-beams are crowning Thy
 brow;
 Lullabies gentle shall cheer Thee,
 Kings at Thy manger shall bow.
 Hark as the echoes are ringing,
 Down from the radiant sky;
 Blessing to earth Thou art
 bringing,
 Prince and Redeemer most high.
Gospel Hymns #880

May the focus of your Christmas season be on the Star of Bethlehem, and may your days be blessed and bright, wherever you are this December.

Little ones truly are the heart of Christmas, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Shadow Schaefer rejoiced to welcome Elena Lee on November 3. Equally rejoicing grandparents are

Bro. Cork and Sis. Pam Fehr and
 Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Carol Ann Messner
Becky Braulick

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

Matthew 1:21

May the glory of God's gift to us, Jesus Christ, fill us with hope and wonder this Christmas season.

"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3

We rejoice! A blessed weekend was shared by us and many visitors from the testimony and baptism of Bro. Dick Van Deest (Sis. Nancy) the last weekend of October. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol, Sarasota, FL) lent their services for the weekend. We were reminded that we have a choice: to partake of the Lord's table offering joy, peace and life everlasting, or Satan's table where we are offered the city of Never (hell) where we are trapped and can never repay our credit cards of sin.

The day of the Lord is at hand.

"And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord come."

Joel 2:30-31

"And thou, my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a will-

ing mind; for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever."

I Chronicles 28:9

We can take comfort as believers from these scripture verses.

We had our annual "55 and over" supper again this year. Our guests were acting as our Sunday School teachers. The theme was "the fruit of the Spirit". They also related how and why they came to the Lord. A special thank you to our youth—the church of tomorrow.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord:"

Psalms 127:3

EmmaJo Marian was born on November 13 and is welcomed home by big sister, MacKenzie, and Bro. John and Sis. Joleen Elder. We wish them God's blessings. Grandparents are Sis. Julia (the late Bro. Jim) Messner and George and Charlotte Elder (Arlington Heights, IL).

Hospital patients were Sis. Geri (Bro. Marvin) Messner, Bro. Ken Messner (Margaret) and Gene Schmidt. We pray for God's healing.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brent Kellenberger

The weekend of November 7-8 was one of great rejoicing as two souls were added to the flock of Jesus Christ. Bro. Mark Miller and Bro. Brandon Emch declared that they had repented, become converted, and were ready to be baptized. It is truly wonderful to see God performing miracles among us yet today. We thank the many family and friends that traveled to witness this great work of God. It was truly a blessing for our congregation. We are especially thankful for

Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and also ministering Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS). May God reward you for your willingness to serve.

This month we have also had two all-church wiener roasts. It's been a blessing to get together and enjoy the beauty of God's creation on these cool, crisp evenings.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Carolyn Banwart
Martha Kellenberger**

We welcome little Hannah Jean Braker, born October 29 to Bro. Phil and Sis. Rebecca. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller and Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS). May God grant them the wisdom needed to raise her according to His plan.

Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) was with us for the reading of the Memorandum. Also visiting this past month was Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL). We appreciate them, thank them for their willingness to labor on our behalf, and trust God to reward them.

As the Christmas season nears, and our lives seem especially busy, let us remember: "Be not content this babe to know, Nor stay at Bethlehem, But go with Christ to Calvary's brow, Beyond Jerusalem. 'Tis there men learn to know the Christ, For there He bore man's sin. Then open wide the door of heart, And let the Saviour in."

Notes of Thanks:

We want to thank all our friends and relatives who attended our 50th anniversary celebration. Those who drove many miles to be with us made it special. Thank you all for the beautiful cards you sent. Thanks to our children and grand-

children who hosted it. God bless you all.

Bro. Martin and Sis. Edith Hohl

Thank you for all the lovely cards we received in October. The beautiful handwritten messages were truly appreciated. May God bless you.

Sis. Caroline Banwart and Sis. Marie Marti

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

A frequently quoted verse in small churches is Matthew 18:20, spoken by Christ: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Although we always have more than two or three assembled, sometimes our groups are small. But Christ is faithful, and we rejoice in the evidence of His presence in our midst during our worship and fellowship.

Visiting ministers and their families are appreciated very much, as are all of our visitors. This past month we were blessed by three ministers coming to serve our little congregation: Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Charles Marti (Lamar, MO).

Our family was reminded of how fleeting our lives are on this earth. Loren's mother, Sis. Ora Schrenk, died on October 23, at the age of 83. She had been living at the Home in Eureka, IL for 3 1/2 years, where she had received loving care. To have this care available for a loved one who can no longer care for herself is wonderful. Because she had so much family in central Illinois, we arranged for a visitation and short service at the funeral home in Eureka on Sunday evening. A choir from the church sang and Elder Bro.

Tom Hoffman had the service. Then we flew out to Phoenix for a church funeral and burial on Wednesday, October 28. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, who knew Sis. Ora all of his life, had the service. A meal was prepared for us at the church by the sisters there. We appreciated the love and efforts made both in Eureka and Phoenix on our behalf. We have a wonderful fellowship in the Apostolic Christian Church.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Tina Sutter

Greetings loved ones, in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Hope we all have made the most of this year since it is almost to become history. As I see the years flying before my eyes, I know that I need more of one thing—Him. That is more of His love, more of His forgiveness, and more of His grace. I don't know about you, but I just can't seem to get enough.

Stacy Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine) was married to Jody Fessenden (Don and Judy Fessenden, Palmyra, MO) on November 14. We are thankful that God has brought them together.

Bro. Jason Stratton and Sis. Natalie Lehman were married on October 25. Sis. Natalie's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS). Bro. Jason's parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton. It is so refreshing to see the love and respect for each other and God shared by new couples. May the Lord bless them on their journey.

The Lord is answering prayers! Two dear souls have turned to the Lord, who are Ellen Gehring (wife of Bro. Brad Gehring) and Sarah Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally). We are rejoicing with the angels that the love of Christ is still being desired. It is a peace and joy much needed and sought after by all.

Vernon Huber has again experienced heart surgery in Peoria this month. We are thankful that Vernon is recovering and doing well.

Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) brought forth the Word at Taylor recently. We are thankful that they are willing to stand before us and proclaim God's truth.

As the Christmas time is nearing and gifts have been searched for, bought, and wrapped for many, I thought this verse was appropriate:

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

Matthew 7:11

Have faith in the Lord, He loves you!

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz**

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."

Psalms 105

Thanksgiving is just a week away. We must remember to give thanks to God for the many blessings He has given us.

On November 14-15, we had Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and other brothers and sisters from Rockville with us. On Saturday evening we had a potluck supper and then we were blessed to be able to listen to the reading of the Memorandum of the recent Brotherhood Conference. We are thankful to Bro. Kevin for giving of his time to help our Elder Bro. Duane Farney. We pray he will be richly rewarded for his willingness to bring forth God's Word on Sunday.

We are thankful that Jesus has promised to never leave us but has provided us with good counsel from the shepherds of the flocks.

On October 23, Sis. Mable Ebersol passed away to her heavenly reward. She spent many years in the nursing home. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

When a Christian dies
Precious is the prize
Lasting joys for days of sorrow
Rest from conflict on the morrow
Follows when he dies
Follows when he dies.

Hymns of Zion #248

On November 9, Renata and John Dawson were blessed with a baby boy named John Lewis Dawson VI. His grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae Virkler and Karen and John Dawson. Great-grandmother is Sis. Loretta Graves. May God bless him as he grows up.

Bro. Ted Herzig has recovered from heart surgery and was able to assemble with us. We pray that God will continue to help him improve.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

The wedding ceremony of Sis. Susan Bako and Bro. Jozef Kocsis was solemnized November 1. Jozef was a Romanian Nazarean who had been living in Budapest and came to Akron, giving his testimony and was taken into our fellowship. Sis. Susie is the daughter of Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako. We pray for the Lord's blessings to be upon them.

Mara Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah) was diagnosed with having leukemia and is now home from a Cleveland Hospital, awaiting further treatment at Cleveland. We pray for Mara that the treatment will be effective and she can have good health again.

We appreciated Bro. Gene

Lehman (Wolcott, IN) ministering to us recently.

Sis. Esther Graf will be having her "four score" birthday on January 4, as she was born January 4, 1919.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks**

It has been a busy month for our little congregation. Members and friends gathered for our fall Church clean-up, raking and gathering leaves, mowing the grass for one last time and doing some interior cleaning. Even our young helpers admitted the next day that they were a little blistered and sore, making us older ones feel a little better about being stiff!

November 8 was a blessed day as a large group from the Latty congregation worshipped with us. Elder Bro. Ray Sinn was our visiting minister for the day and a pizza supper was held afterwards for fellowship. We are thankful for those who travel to be with us.

Our second World Relief family night was held with many church families and friends and college students in attendance.

Other visitors with us this month have been Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH).

The Columbus congregation wishes everyone a blessed holiday season filled with love, faith and hope.

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Sandra Manz**

"Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free." (Hymns of Zion #36). As I scanned through several booklets of Christmas poetry looking for a possible entry for this December writing, I was surprised to notice how many

poems mentioned not only Christ's birth, but also His death and glorious resurrection.

"...He was crucified and buried
and rose again in glory
And His promise of salvation
Makes the wondrous Christmas
story
an abiding reassurance
That the little Christ Child's birth
Was the beautiful beginning
of God's Plan for Peace on Earth."
—*Helen Steiner Rice*

May the Christ Child's love reign
in the hearts of you and your loved
ones throughout this special season.

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday,
and today, and forever."
Hebrews 13:8

Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL) served us the weekend that the Memorandum was discussed. Even though the format was a little different this year, the message of love and guidance was still unchanged. May our Lord richly reward Bro. Ervin in this life and in all eternity.

We are so happy to report that Peg Bauman has decided that she needs to make things right with her soul and is seeking the Lord in repentance. We know that He is faithful to provide the necessary grace and to answer the prayers of a meek and submissive heart.

OHIO, LATTY
Kathy Sinn
Heidi Hackenjos

We want to thank Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for gathering with us during the month. May we continue to pray for the truth each Sunday and Wednesday evening or when the brothers stand to minister God's Word.

We want to extend sympathy to the family of Joshua Reinhard (Bro.

Tim and Sis. Joan, Athens, AL). Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn are aunt and uncle of little Joshua. Even though his time on earth was short, the loss will be felt by the family members. Our prayer is that the Lord will strengthen the family circle and give courage to them to continue to strive toward the Heavenly Home.

Jack Schlatter (late Bro. Ben and late Sis. Helen) was also called Home during the month. His family consists of a sister, Marlene, and two brothers, Rick and Ben (Cindy). During this time of loss and parting, we trust the Lord will be a guiding force in the lives of the remaining family members. As they contemplate the answers to many questions, may those questions include "Am I also ready to die?" With thoughts and prayers, we continue to remember this family.

The Lord has indeed answered many prayers for the souls of men. Our congregation has been blessed with several souls who have begun to seek the Lord in repentance. They are: Matt Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay Beth), Trina Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen), Lora Huss, Joni Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne), Heidi Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam), Heidi Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky), and Jennifer Manz (Marvin). Prayers continue for these precious souls as they now fight against self and Satan, but allowing God to convert their mind, soul, and heart. We also see the field white unto harvest, so let us continue to remember those who have not taken this step of faith. "Singing, praying, God adoring, Fills the newborn person's mind; From the world to God returning Strength and power he will find. And in all his operation, Showing that regeneration, Surely maketh all things new, And gives grace God's will to do." (Zion's Harp #187, vs. 5).

We also rejoice with Katie Zuber (Brant) as she has been announced for having peace with God and man. As she nears the time for her testimony, we trust the Lord will bless her with a measure of continued peace and strength. Then as she walks the narrow path of life, may the Lord be ever near to guide and direct her.

Simeon David was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Jennifer Shepherd. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Deb Wenninger and Dave and Judy Shepherd. May the Lord bless this young couple as they bring up little Simeon and his sister, Shayla.

On November 14, the brethren gathered together for the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) assisted Bro. Ray with this work. As the brothers sound the warning, we need to be extra thankful that a warning is still going forth. We then need to heed the warning and strive with more diligence on the narrow way that leads to the Heavenly Home.

Note of Thanks:

We want to sincerely thank everyone for your prayers, cards and encouragement following Jaymee's death and Joni's injuries in their accident. It was truly humbling to feel the power of the Holy Spirit when so many of the Lord's army were motivated to pray for our family. Let's remember all our friends of the truth with equal zeal.

Bro. Keith, Sis. Joanne Klopfenstein and family

Once again this year we see the early arrival of Christmas to the retail stores, and we wonder at the motive of this. Do managers really seek to remember the Lord's birth or to make an extra dollar? But more importantly, how do we enter into the Christmas season? Let it be our goal to expect less material goods and give more time to the

Lord. Let us decrease the amount of hustle and bustle and increase the moments of time in remembrance of the Christ, the Son of God.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

On October 25, we had our annual Fall Outing at the Richland Rural Life Center. Our Sunday School students enjoyed playing games. We had a potluck dinner, sang and were reminded of the faith of our fathers.

Our fathers, chained in prisons
dark,
Were still in heart and conscience
free:
How sweet would be their
children's fate,
If they, like them, could die for
thee!
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!
Hymns of Zion #85

Sis. Sarah Rice, Bro. Dave Eyerly (Sis. Edna), Sis. Betty Beer (Bro. Ben), and Bro. Richard Sauder (Sis. Caroline) have all been hospitalized this past month. May the Lord's healing hand be upon each of these loved ones.

We are thankful for Josh Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Connie) who has found peace in the Lord, and now awaits baptism.

We always appreciate visitors. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Ken Sauder in the reading of the Memorandum. Also ministering to us was Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH).

Bro. Marvin Beer (Sis. Robin) was re-elected as our Sunday School Superintendent. Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy) was re-elected for our Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Lilly) was elected as our Rittman Nursing Home representative.

Our hearts were saddened by the

sudden death of Sis. Alice Groh. We extend our sympathy to her sister, Sis. Lucille Groh. May God comfort her and her family during this difficult time.

Special thanks to Sis. Cari Mann for writing our article for the Silver Lining the past 5 1/2 years. May God richly bless her.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lynda Beery Lucy Gasser

Sis. Martha Bauman (Bro. Jerry) and Sis. Marian Klotzle have spent time in the hospital. We're thankful that they are back home again and we wish them the blessing of good health.

News of young people seeking forgiveness for sins is cause for joy. Laura Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat), Ryan Riggerbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Gail, Smithville, OH), Heidi Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori) and Ethan Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail) have responded to the invitation to salvation through the blood of Jesus. May God's grace abide with these young people. In the world about us we hear that we need to declare our rights and demand privileges, but we find true peace and joy in total trust and surrender to God's leading in every area of our lives, whether in small daily matters or in career or marriage decisions. We trust God for eternity. Let us trust Him for here and now.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Marge Boltz have a new granddaughter, Reese McKenna, born October 22 to Rich and Renee Stahl. Randy and Sis. Bev Moore are thankful for the birth of grandson, Hunter Lee, who joined the family of Bob, Kristie and Alex Moore on November 5. May each newborn child be taught the way of Truth.

Joe and Sis. Amy Cannon and their family are mourning the loss

of Joe's mother who passed away after a long illness. We extend our sympathy and pray that they will be comforted.

In the Gospel Hymns #473 we are reminded that "we gather together to ask the Lord's blessing," to be chastened, to learn His will, to pray that He will defend us, and to praise His name. This is our prayer at Thanksgiving time of the year and every time that we assemble ourselves around His Word. As we experience the Christmas season, let us go quietly about our daily duties and be as ready to receive and share the messages of the gift of the Saviour as the shepherds on the hills about Bethlehem were, and eagerly seek Him and bring our gifts to Him.

Note of Thanks:

Sincere thanks for cards, gifts, and especially for the prayers for me during my recent hospitalization and recuperation.

Love in Christ,

Sis. Barbara Mathys

OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up..."

James 5:14-15

There have been many sick and afflicted with bodily ailments in the past month. Our prayers continue for Sis. Rosella Figel as she needed to have another operation. Sis. Hazel Riggerbach is once again able to assemble with us and we are thankful she is recuperating from her illness. Sis. Virginia Riggerbach (Bro. Dale) had eye surgery and we pray

her eyes will heal properly. May God be with all of these dear sisters and if it is His will, grant healing.

As we approach the Christmas season, may we search for and find the blessings found in giving to others in need, caroling to shut-ins, enjoying the beautiful Christmas hymns, and being with family. We can become so wrapped up in the "holiday hubbub" (getting just the "right" gift or decorating the house just so) that we forget the true reason for Christmas is to remember Christ's birth and ultimately His death.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:40

On November 7, Smithville was host to the Eastern United States World Relief Meeting. We appreciate all those who took the time to attend this meeting and also to those who keep us informed as to the many ways we can be helpful to those who are less fortunate.

Ministering to our spiritual needs during the past month have been Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), and Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We

thank these brothers for serving us, and trust God's blessings will be upon them.

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

John 14:27

We rejoice that this peace has been given to Kirby Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta) and Brad Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb). We are looking forward to hearing their testimonies in the near future.

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

Hebrews 11:1

Believing through faith that God brought their lives together, Bro. George Schuster (Silverton, OR) and Sis. Carol Kiser (Bro. Henry and Sis. Bertha, Rittman, OH) were united in marriage on November 15. We wish them God's blessings as they establish a home together in our area. We welcome Bro. George to our community and trust he will be able to feel our love and support as he adjusts to new surroundings.

Deana Marty (Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Lou) and Scott McCune chose October 24 as their wedding date. May God's blessings also be with them as they begin their life together.

The engagement of Bro. Seth Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee, Toledo, OH) and Sis. Faith Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois) was recently made known. May God be with them as they prepare for this important event in their lives.

Several from our congregation have had to spend time in the hospital this month. We trust God's healing and comfort will be felt by Sis. Elaine Marty (Bro. Ed), Robin Steiner (Kurt), and Bro. Mark Maibach (Sis. Julie).

We welcome to Smithville Bro. Corbin Stoller from Latty, OH and Chad Manz from Junction, OH, who are attending college in this area.

As the holiday season is now upon us, may we remember to think not only of ourselves and our families, but also to reach out to those who

might be especially lonely at this time of year.

O list to the story that never grows old,
Its tidings of joy repeat,
The Saviour is come by the prophets foretold,
To Bethlehem's quiet street.
The miracle star shines in splendor above,
The stable so dingy and worn,
So humble a cradle for One who is Love,

And there Jesus Christ is born.

—*Gospel Hymns #865*

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

Isaiah 30:21

How thankful we are that we can depend on God's guidance in all the decisions that we face. Bro. Seth Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee) and Sis. Faith Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois, Smithville) have felt this guidance bringing their lives together. May God bless them during their engagement as they make plans to serve Him together.

We always appreciate having Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) join us for mid-week services when business brings him to Toledo. May God bring forth the increase from his service to us.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Betty Fetter are happy to welcome a new grandson. Rhett Colton was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy Fetter of Washington, D.C.

Reminder: Silver Lining contributions will be collected in Toledo in January.

OREGON, PORTLAND

**Mary Berg
Louisa Gallup**

As Thanksgiving Day is approaching fast, let us take some time out of our busy schedules to think about the many things we can be thankful for. And above all, let us thank the Lord for the best Gift of all.

We were reminded of this Gift as we sang this hymn recently:

Then come into our midst today;
Impart Thyself to us, we pray.
This cup and loaf are proof and
sign
Of this, Thy covenant divine
In Jesus' blood.
Zion's Harp #200

Our congregation enjoyed the privilege of holding a Communion Service on Sunday, November 15. As one grows spiritually, it sure has a more deeply felt blessing for each participant. The tremendous sacrifice made for us is almost too much to understand! May we have the willingness, together with the Lord's grace, to live a true Christian life in today's world. We thank the Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) and Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) for their efforts on that special Sunday. May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve.

Our dear Sis. Margaret Banwart has been hospitalized again some time ago for pneumonia. She did recover enough to be moved temporarily to the Mountain View Rehabilitation Care Center in Oregon City. We hope and pray that she will soon be able to go to her permanent residence in Oregon City.

We thank our visitors who made the extra effort to travel to Portland and worship with us. Special gratitude to the ministers: Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michelle) from Silverton, OR and Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Mar-

lene, Princeville, IL).

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

A large group, including many children, gathered recently to hear Elder Bro. Andy Stoller's (Smithville, OH) very informative talk on raising children in a God-fearing home. Bro. Andy gave us many encouraging, challenging and proven examples of effective ways to bring about the harmonious home life we all desire...and bring our children to responsible, respectful adulthood. Ways that would help parents be the examples that would help lead our children to a sincere and close walk with Christ. Clearly, this is one of our most important responsibilities in life and one for which we will surely be accountable. May God grant us all the needed grace for this wonderful and humbling task. A task that can seem endless and exhausting some days, joyous and rewarding some days and is over so much sooner than we realize at the time.

November 7 was the wedding day of Martha Kuenzi and Marti Knobloch. Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi and Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger (Lester, IA) are the parents. Elder Bro. Art Metz and Bro. Ed Knecht performed the marriage ceremony. We in Silverton will miss Martha and we pray that God will bless the home that she and Marti are establishing together in the Lester area. Come back and visit us often, Martha and Marti!

Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) came and with our Elder Bro. Art Metz lovingly served Holy Communion to us on Saturday night, November 14. This is such a blessed privilege. As we often do, we sang the first four verses of Zion's Harp #200 before taking the Lord's Supper and the last four verses afterwards. The final lines of the last

four verses seemed to summarize our goal: "We journey on. For we are Thine. To be Thine own! Before Thy Throne!"

With joy we recently heard the announcement that Jill Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan) feels she has peace with God. She has been repenting for several months now and believes our merciful Lord has forgiven her sins and filled her heart with peace. May she continue in grace and faith all through her life. Let's keep her in our prayers as she awaits baptism.

We are very thankful for our visiting ministers of this past month. They were Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Robert Miller (Portland/Oregon City, OR).

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**

Merle and Bev Rocke

"Give thanks unto the Father." (Zion's Harp #75). We are approaching the time of year that our nation observes a holiday, called Thanksgiving, which our forefathers established. It is a time that we can all ponder our many, many blessings for which we daily thank our dear Lord. May we never take these blessings for granted.

One of the many blessings is the capability to travel many miles to visit our loved ones across the country. For this we are very thankful as we once again enjoyed many visitors in our congregation this past month. We also appreciated having our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan and his wife, Sis. Cheryl (Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and his wife, Sis. Loretta (Alto, MI), and Bro. Warren Zahner and his wife, Sis. Bonnie (Rockville, CT), with us. It is so uplifting to be able to sit under the sound of God's Word being preached, another blessing for

which we are very thankful. Our little congregation, along with many visitors, gathered at Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand's for an evening of lifting our voices in song which was enjoyed by all, including the children. Whenever the opportunity arises that we are able to have a church potluck, everyone looks forward to it and is willing to help in many ways. Again, a blessing that we do not want to take for granted.

We would like to extend an invitation once again to all to come and visit us if you are ever in the area. We appreciate company very much and find it very uplifting.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

The Three Trees

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!" The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to Heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day, three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree

and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest; I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to Heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his shining ax, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feedbox for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, nor with treasure. She was coated with saw dust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river; instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" the once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feedbox. "I wish I could make a cradle for him,"

her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew she was holding the greatest treasure in the world. One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through with the wind and the rain. The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out His hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew she was carrying the King of Heaven and earth. One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

This past month we welcomed many visitors from Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana. We extend a special thank you to our ministering Bros. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). May God richly bless both of you and your families for your efforts in traveling and allowing the Lord to use you in His ministry.

The 1999 Nashville Church

schedule was sent to all churches this past month. It should be posted on your Church bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact one of the names listed below. We meet for services on the first and third Sundays of each month and usually meet for tape services on the other Sundays. Please call prior to attending services to assist us in meal planning. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 353-8835; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946. The following churches have been scheduled for services January through March 1999: January 3 (Oakville, IA); January 17 (Roanoke, IL); February 7 (Detroit, MI); February 21 (Rittman, OH); March 7 (Elgin, IL); March 21 (Athens, AL).

TEXAS, CENTRAL Dan and Pam Sauder

We are grateful to those who travel many miles to worship and bring God's Word to us. Visiting ministers this month include Bros. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) and Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie, Morton, IL).

Central Texas services are held on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month. The third Sunday we meet in the San Antonio area at

the Comal County Senior Citizens Center in New Braunfels. The last Sunday we meet at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home at Round Top. The remainder of the month we meet in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy. 290.

Visitors are always welcome. For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 266-0178; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (210) 651-4996.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

Our winter residents are beginning to return for the winter season. We are always glad to see and greet them. Some that are here now are: our elected usher, Bro. Richard Bricker, and his wife, Sis. Helen (Mansfield, OH), and our treasurer, Bro. Russell Stoller, and his wife, Sis. Melvene (Latty, OH).

Bro. Willis Sauder and his wife, Sis. Pauline, have been spending some time in Zapata since 1992. They did not come last winter because of health reasons. We are so glad to see them here again this fall. Bro. Harley Bruellman and his wife, Sis. Adele (West Bend, IA), are here

now. They plan to go back for the holidays but we did appreciate Bro. Harley helping lead our singing and look forward to their return after the holidays.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

We are getting ready for the Christmas season. Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Christmas! It is time for families to get together, time when hearts are filled with joy, to give and share; the joy of seeing a young child's eyes sparkle with pleasure when they open a gift; and a wonderful aroma of a table arrayed with a bounteous meal.

This is all part of Christmas for many of us, but then we think of those who do not have food and clothing and hopefully in some way we can share with them.

The greatest gift of all is the love God our Father gave to us by sending His son, Jesus, to die so we can have salvation. Let us try to repay God in a small way by living the fruit of the Spirit and be forgiving every day.



Sermon continued from page 2

But they heard the message, didn't they?

So Jonah started running away from God. You know, there was that ship that was rocking and rolling and about ready to be flooded and he was down there asleep. He was so relieved that he was getting away from God that he was sleeping through the storm.

Sometimes people talk about having a peace and they are running away from God. The peace isn't because God is giving it to them; it is a peace that comes because they stopped fighting and Satan won, and God stopped convicting them perhaps.

Then the master of the ship came and said, "Awake, you sleeper. We are about ready to drown here. What is going on?" Jonah knew what the problem was, didn't he? He knew all along and he knew he was the cause.

These men said, "Why hast thou done this?" (Jonah 1:10). Is that what someone is saying to you, to me, today, "Why are you running from God? Why aren't you listening?" I hope there is not one here that would think that.

He told them, "Throw me into the sea." Here is something that applies to us all, "Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not..." (Jonah 1:13). How many times, when there is a problem in our life, do we try to solve that our own way? How many times do we not really want to do what God wants us to do, and that is to rely upon His Spirit and His power?

So they were going to solve this problem with their own strength and their own power. We can just imagine, can't we, that they were rowing for all they could because they didn't want to throw this man over into the sea for they knew he would surely perish. They did not want to be held accountable for that man's life. But they couldn't get anywhere, could they?

Finally, what did they do? They said, "We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for

this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee." (Jonah 1:14).

I had to think as we read that, Jonah had to be thrown over in order to save that ship, but someone else had to die for you and for me. Jesus Christ had to die that we could go free from the burden of sin and that our spiritual ship would not sink. What happened? Immediately the sea became calm.

Here again we see how God works. "Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows." (Jonah 1:16). There was a man who was running from God and he was not doing the right thing, but in the end, God was glorified and He was honored. These men made vows recognizing the power of this God of Jonah was far greater than any god they had prayed to because all their gods did nothing. Yet, immediately the sea calmed when Jonah entered the sea. They knew that this God was far greater than any god they had even seen before.

Jonah was not done. A great fish swallowed him up and then later on spewed him out on the earth. We know from reading the book of Jonah what happened, don't we? We know that later on he went to the city of Nineveh. He preached in that city and told them what would happen and told them that God was going to destroy them.

The heart of the king was moved and the people declared they must sit in sackcloth and ashes and show their humility. God spared the city. One of the things I always remember about that is that at the end of Jonah, how Jonah sat out there and watched the city just waiting for it to be destroyed, and how angry he was when God did not destroy it!

Why did not God destroy it? Because He saw them humble themselves. Why did Jonah want to see them destroyed? Because he wanted the prophesy to be fulfilled. He felt cheated. I hope in our hearts we can always have the compassion of Jesus Christ.

In the life of Jesus, the thing He really wanted to happen was for those people to respond—to respond to the Word and to let it work within their hearts that a change can happen. When He speaks to you and to me, He wants in our hearts to happen exactly what happened in the city of Nineveh—that we humble ourselves before Him, dedicate our lives to Him and be willing to follow where He directs us so that He might give us the peace and the Spirit and that we might do what is in His will.

I hope in our lives we can always rejoice when a soul reaches that point in their life, and we can say, "I am so thankful," even though some things might have happened that even hurt us personally. How often perhaps a parent will have a child come and want to repent and they sit there and recite all the things that happened that have caused them grief.

Has there ever been a parent that said, "I will not forgive you, my child?" I never heard of it and I can't imagine that happening. When we can finally see the change in their lives, isn't that what we really want? Isn't that what we are praying for? Certainly, then we rejoice, don't we?

God was displeased with Jonah because he did not rejoice in that. He had to even remind him that he needed to remember that this was not his work; it was God's work. As we think of our lives perhaps, sometimes we struggle with different things.

I often think of the Apostle Paul because he was a man that went and worked against the church. He even brought people to prison because they believed in Jesus Christ. He thought he was doing what was right. He had a great zeal but he was directed the wrong way. Then there came a time when God had to strike him down and that was on the road to Damascus. God struck him down and said, "I am going to use you." But He also said, "You are going to

Sermon continued next page

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have to go through some persecution because of your new faith and new love for Me. You are going to have to be persecuted."

Here was part of that persecution. He was back in Jerusalem and they were persecuting him. They wanted to destroy Paul. Why? Because he brought unto them the message of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Why didn't they want to hear that message? Because they had crucified Him. They did not want to be responsible for bringing death unto the Son of God. They did not want to hear about it and they certainly did not want to hear about the fact that He rose again because that meant that it fulfilled the prophecies.

So they did not want to hear what He had to say. They began to find fault with Him and be able to put Him to death. How often in our lives is that what we try to do? We can do as Jonah and run from God or else we try to destroy Him and we can't do either one, can we? Yes, they thought they had destroyed the plan of salvation when Jesus died upon the cross, but that only fulfilled what was supposed to happen.

Now Paul was spared his life in Jerusalem and taken to Caesarea and was judged for what he had done. What happened? They couldn't find anything really wrong, but it was their great desire to do away with this man. When Festus came into office, they thought they would try again. Beloved, if we had been Paul, could we have gotten a little discouraged? Think about it. We found this new faith. We went out and we spoke on it and talked to the Gentile people and they received it. We came back to Jerusalem, the land of our heritage, the people who were supposedly to be of a religious mind and spirit, and they rejected it.

How would we respond to that? Sometimes it is hard for us to understand that, isn't it? Yet, sometimes the greatest persecution doesn't come from the outside, it comes from the inside. That is what was happening here. It was coming from

within those people that should have been a support. I hope that never happens in our faith. But that is exactly what the devil wants, isn't it? Unless we are careful, it will happen.

We must walk prayerfully and always put the Word of God first. If they would have done that, they would have heard the message that Paul was bringing and they would have rejoiced because they would have said, "Yes, I see!" But they did not want the condemnation that was in their lives because they had killed the Son of God, so they ran away and tried to destroy Him. We can't do that. Instead we have to let it work with us.

Paul was on his way to Damascus when he was struck down. He wasn't told to go back to Jerusalem. He was told to go on to Damascus and there God would show him what to do. Again, in man's mind, that probably didn't seem like the right thing to do. It would seem only logical to go back to Jerusalem, a city that was supposedly the City of God, but that wasn't God's plan.

Today we have to realize there are times that things seem logical to man, but it is not the right way. We can read of that in the Word. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12). There is a way that seemeth right unto man.

I think it is a warning to us, beloved, a warning that just because something is supposedly religious does not mean it is right. Let's use the standard. Let's use the measuring block, the Word of God, the stick that we use to say, "Is it really right, or is it wrong?"

Festus was a man just like anyone else who wanted to find favor among those people. He was willing, later on, to bring Paul to Jerusalem because he wanted favor among those people. He wanted those Pharisees to be his friends. No different than Pilate who wanted them to be his friend.

Pilate knew that Jesus was an

innocent man. Festus knew that Paul was an innocent man. But the decision of what to do has to be separated from our own human instincts, because if we don't, we will find ourself on the wrong road. Pilate yielded. He was afraid—afraid for his job, that is what it amounted to. He was afraid that if he did not do what they wanted, they would complain to Caesar and Caesar would remove him and he would lose his position.

He was more afraid of his job than he was of a God who was in control. Paul was not willing to go back to Jerusalem. Paul said, "No, I am here and I am going to stay here." I marvel often of how this thing worked. Paul was a Roman and he was also a Hebrew. Because he was a Roman, there were a number of times that he was not beaten, although there were a few times he was and because he was a Roman, he also had the opportunity to appeal to Caesar, which brought him to Rome which also then spread the gospel.

Was it not through persecution that the Word prospered? Was it not through persecution that Paul brought on the church in Jerusalem that caused them to go into the small towns around? When they went out, they took with them the Word of Life by their life and conversation. We see then that good came out of it all. At the time, the people had to wonder, didn't they? "Here I am trying to do what is right and now I get into this persecution."

They didn't understand. It was God's way of spreading the Word of Life. They didn't have the kind of communication system we have today and so they had to have some way of spreading the Word. That is how it went out through the persecution and it was through the persecution of Paul that he ended up in Rome so they could bring to the people of Rome the plan of salvation.

"Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done

no wrong, as thou very well knowest." (Acts 25:10). Because of that, he did not go back to Jerusalem and we know that they were laying in wait to kill him on the way back, but he never went. He went to Rome instead.

On the way, he spoke about the Word of God wherever he went, whether it was on the ship, or to the people on the island where they had the ship wreck or if it was at Rome. Wherever Paul went, what did he do? He spoke about the Word of God (we read that) everywhere he went. He was not afraid to tell them, and there were a number of times he had to escape to try to save his life. But each and every time, what was his most important mission in life? To tell about Jesus Christ and Him crucified, about this plan of salvation because he wanted everyone to know of it, to hear of it, and to be exposed to it because he rejoiced so much in it.

We don't find that as an offensive thing; we find that a comfort because we believe the Word of God and we believe that He truly did die. That gives us a hope as he spoke to the Corinthian people, he said He was the first fruit of the resurrection. He was that first fruit and because of that resurrection of Jesus Christ, we believe that there is also that resurrection for each one who will live according to God's Word.

That is the wonderful beauty of the Word of God. He gives us hope. We look around us and we become discouraged sometimes, don't we? We see things that cause us to be dismayed. When we see that human beings can be so cruel to each other, that they can just go out and destroy each other and have no remorse at all, it causes us to be stricken in heart and wonder how can that happen.

Then we come back to the Word of God and there is hope. There is a better place. Jesus Christ was not contained by the grave. He went to live with the Father. He went back to that heavenly mansion to be with the Father where He was at the

beginning. He was there in the first book of this Bible. He was there when Adam was created. He was there all through the generations of the Israelite people and then He came upon the earth.

I wonder sometimes if we really think enough about what Jesus did. If you and I were in Heaven, would we want to come here upon this earth? I kind of think of it a little bit like living here in the United States and then maybe someone would say, "Okay, I want you to go live in some town in South Africa: You will not have any running water, nor any showers and you will have to really work to have enough food. You will have a lot of persecution. You are going to be outnumbered and you're going to be kind of an outcast." How would you like that? I don't think too many of us would volunteer for that, especially if we knew that we were going to end up dying in the end.

Yet, that is hardly a good comparison because Heaven is so much greater than this country we live in. Really, hell is so much worse than even the jungle somewhere. We really can't hardly grasp it, can we? Yet, here was Jesus Christ living in this wonderful and glorious place called Heaven with the Father and had a closeness—so close that He and the Father were together at all times and they had a oneness about them and He left that place.

We look around and say, "It isn't too bad around here sometimes." Yet, in comparison to Heaven, this isn't a very good place to be living. Not only that, He wasn't even respected by the people He came to try to help. There is a desire in all of us to try to help somebody once in a while and when we help them and they appreciate it, it makes us feel like it was worthwhile, doesn't it?

If we go out of our way for somebody and we can tell they really appreciated that, it really makes us feel glad that we did it. When we go out of our way and we get the feeling they really didn't care whether we did it or not, it makes us think and

wonder why I did that. I think that is maybe how Jesus felt when He came down here and so many people rejected Him and, yet, He found comfort in the fact that there were a few who really appreciated Him.

May it be in our hearts and minds that we will always show our appreciation to Jesus Christ in every aspect of our life and that we can try to reflect His life as much as possible. If we can do those things, it causes us to be drawn closer to our God.

Paul ended up going to Rome, didn't he? He ended up talking to Agrippa and again, beloved, what did he say? "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds." (Acts 26:28-29).

Beloved, that is our thought today that there would be, not only an almost, but that each and every one as we hear the Word of God, that we would not almost want to follow Jesus Christ, that we would not almost want to do His will, that we would not almost repent and let God convert us, but that we would altogether with a willing heart and a gladness in our spirit turn to God and let Him work with us, lest that day come upon us unaware—the day of the return of Jesus Christ. Will it be a glorious day, or will it be a day we will regret? It really depends on our attitude. It depends on what we are going to do with the shed blood of Jesus Christ.





The diary of Elder Henry Geistlich of Switzerland continues. In 1866, he traveled to America and visited all the existing American churches. His trip was tiring. He kept a detailed diary of his trip. There will be two more issues on the Geistlich diary.

Saturday, September 1 - Sardis, OH: Today I wrote a letter to the brethren in Hungary. These dear brethren are in my fondest memory.

Sunday, September 2 - Sardis, OH: Today we had church three times, also the Lord's Supper. I did not preach the evening sermon as I felt sick and tired and longed to go home. I felt so bad that I thought it was not possible to preach today, but the Lord helped me and revealed Himself gracefully.

Monday, September 3 - Sardis, OH: We had church in the forenoon; and in the afternoon a proving and baptism. This was the third one we had since I came to America. I was blessed today in this our last meeting in America. I was delighted with the dear brethren here. In our parting we sang the 114th hymn which reads:

*"We tarry in this blest and tranquil
union
Ye loved ones now the parting hour is
nearing
Our hearts are yet in close
communion beating
In Jesus name we bid the farewell
greeting."*

It is true our souls united in sweet union and our thoughts arose to Christ our Lord and Saviour. Thanks be unto the Lord for His goodness and love.

Tuesday, September 4 - Sardis, OH: Today we left on a steamboat for Pittsburgh, PA. I am glad and thankful to God that the time for returning home has come. Thanks be to God for all the love, favor and grace He bestowed upon us until now.

Wednesday, September 5 - Pitts-

burgh, PA: We arrived here at Pittsburgh at 11 a.m. after sailing all night on the steamboat. I slept but little although the night was quiet. I was greatly strengthened through vigorous prayer to the Lord. In Pittsburgh we went to a German hotel, where we had good lodging. In the city there is very much business as there are many factories.

Thursday, September 6 - Philadelphia, PA: We rode the entire night. Dear Bro. Josef Bella said to me this morning that he was very tired; also mentioning that one has to bear much here, and that it would be pitiful for one to have nothing here nor hereafter. But God would that we be saved, as God in Christ did redeem the world and established under us the Word of redemption. Philadelphia is one of the nicest cities in America, but I would not care to live in it as the turmoil (noise) here is almost unbearable. I hardly ever saw the ungodliness as great as it is here. In the big cities, it is always the greatest.

Friday, September 7 - Williamsburg, NY: This morning I arose early after I had prayed and read the 16th Psalm. I took my money to the exchange of Mr. Eschman and Stapfer in New York, Bro. Rausp going with me. Now the time of parting has come. Many brethren went along to the ship, which was a mail ship from Bremen, the *America*. Our farewell was touching. On one hand I had pain as I bade the dear brethren adieu and on the other hand I was glad that the time for going home had come. Dear Bro. Bella went along to the harbor. As the ship was about to sail, there was much bustling. One could hear music and noise and laughing and crying. At 1:00 the ship moved away from the harbor. The brothers wept on shore. It was hard for them to part from me. Along with our ship, two others also left, one for Hamburg and one for England.

We sailed all afternoon along the coast, the sea being quiet, but soon in

the evening the ship began to rock and some felt quite sick. I felt fairly well. I again committed myself unto God that He would be our helper and protector on the sea for only He can bring us to our destination.

Sunday, September 9: Today we passed in quiet devotion on the sea.

Monday, September 10: The weather is fair, somewhat stormy. The ship sailed with open sails, but it rocked considerably. Many or nearly all on board were seasick. I felt some better. Today we also met one steamship and two sailships. We traveled 298 miles.

Tuesday, September 11: The weather is pleasant. Today was a pleasant day, all was better, and I felt fairly well. We caught sight of one sailship. Considerable homesickness came over me. My hope is that the Lord will bring me home safely. I am greatly delighted in the gracious help and protection of the Lord, which He bestowed on me on my trip to America. I was not without danger, but the Lord protected me. If I look back over all, I must say, I am unworthy of all that Thou hast done for me. I will praise and thank the Lord all the days of my life, for all the mercies He has shown me. Today our ship made 297 miles.

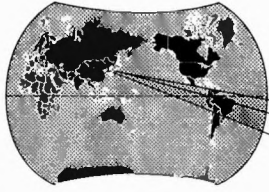
Wednesday, September 12: Today was a glorious day. All was well in the Lord my God. How wonderful are the ways and leadings of God, if we consider them from our youth on, we can say, as we find in the scripture: "His way is on the sea and his hand on the great waters." My hope is that He will bring me, along with all His faithful, into that Eternal Haven of peace. Today our ship made 280 miles.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
The Geistlich Diary continues

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

“The Word Was Made Flesh”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The gospel of John doesn't tell us much about the birth of Jesus Christ, but it does tell us “The Word was made flesh.” (John 1:14). Let's investigate why John calls Christ, the Word.

Communication has always been important and it usually takes place through language, or words, whether written or spoken. God spoke directly to Adam and Eve as recorded in Genesis 3:8, “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.” God may still speak to some by using His voice, but for the most part, He now speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. Christ's teachings are recorded there. He may also speak to us through friends and through circumstances.

It follows that God communicated with us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore, John calls Him, the Word. By His lowly birth He tells us that it is good to be humble, that

there is much virtue in the simple life. In Ecclesiastes 4:6 we read, “Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.”

When Jesus was twelve years old, He taught us that we should be spiritually minded and that we should be about our Father's business. In Luke 2:49 we read, “Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?”

Jesus taught us of the Father's love. He said, “For God so loved the world...” (John 3:16). He also taught us that we should love one another. “This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you.” (John 15:12).

Christ communicated to us the plan of salvation, “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28). He also taught us about hell, “Where the

worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched.” (Mark 9:48).

After Christ's resurrection, He ascended to the right hand of God, the Father, where, “He ever liveth to make intercession for us.” (Hebrews 7:15). He is still communicating on our behalf and we are fortunate to have Him as our great high priest. “Thou art a priest forever...” (Hebrews 7:17). God communicates with us through Christ. He is the Word.

Communicating at Christmas time is a part of Western Culture, which includes America and Europe, and that's not all bad. Communication among human beings is a wonderful thing, and when that communication is extended to include conversation and fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ, it is even more wonderful. This Christmas we shall surely have a wonderful Christmas. The Word was made flesh.

希望の光



Maywood - CA 1930

During the Great Depression, a few families met in homes of brethren until a small building, which resembled a house, was built. The pictured church was dedicated in 1938. Many of the soldiers of that time found refuge there. An addition was built on in 1952. In 1952 the church at Maywood lost many of the brethren as they attended a new church that was closer in proximity to the brethren. By 1980, only six brethren remained.

Maywood, CA, a blessed church, diminished as time went on due to circumstances beyond it's control.

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