

A black and white photograph of a garden path. The path is made of light-colored stones or gravel and curves through the scene. On either side of the path are various plants, including tall irises with long, narrow leaves and some flowers. In the foreground, there are smaller, leafy plants. The background shows more foliage and a bright, possibly overexposed area.

The Word of God

*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the
Word of our God shall stand forever.*

February 1999

“JESUS CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN”

Sermon by Bro. Dan Kilgus, Remington, IN

Jeremiah 24 and Luke 21

This is somewhat of a timely chapter, isn't it, loved ones? As we think about the second coming of Jesus Christ, how do we feel about that this morning? First of all, I guess we need to ask ourselves, do we believe that is going to happen?

Throughout the Old Testament and throughout the Books of the Prophets, there were prophecies and there were things that were foretold of events that were going to take place in the future.

One of those major events that has affected each one of our lives today, personally, was the coming of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. We can read and go through and get a glimpse, and it is nice that we have the privilege of reading prophesy after it has been fulfilled. We can kind of go through and see how the pieces fit together.

When we think about the prophesy of the coming of Jesus Christ, we can go back and we can read in the Book of Isaiah how there would be a Saviour come and how He would take away the sins of the world.

It is just exciting to read that, but we can also see and understand how possibly confusing it may have been to the people that it was presented to before the coming of Jesus Christ, because it had not happened yet.

We know that in our lives if we take our things on a day-to-day basis, it is hard to grasp things in our lives and understand those things that had not happened yet, whether it is a milestone in our life, whether it is becoming a child of God, whether it is getting married, or having a family, or being a grandparent, an aunt or uncle. It

is hard to comprehend what that would be like if it had not happened yet.

But through the Scripture we can get a glimpse of how God was preparing the people for events that would happen throughout their lives. One thing that we can rest assured, and I am so thankful, is that we don't have to go back through this Book and pick and choose what may or may not be true. We don't have to decide that this applies and that doesn't.

Many times in business we may get a book or a policy or whatever it may be that would help us out. We go through that and I am sure that even in college this may be the same way, that as you are working toward a project, you may find some reference material that you go through and are wanting this to all come together to the end to make this final presentation. You go through and say, "This may apply and this doesn't. This chapter is something that we need to hang onto, but this chapter here really doesn't apply to what we are going after."

Loved ones, through this Word of God we need to put our whole emphasis and our whole strength into it knowing that it is true and knowing that what is in there is going to happen—those things that are prophesied are going to happen, even as we have the privilege of looking back and seeing that they have taken place up to this point. Even in our very day, we can see that those things are taking place.

I am not even going to pretend to tell you that I have it figured out because I do not. Even the front

page of the papers this week is making all that emphasis on that peace agreement over there in the Middle East. We can read about that and we can see how the pieces are coming together. It tells us that there is going to be a one-world government and there is going to be a money system that will be common to all.

Sermon continued on page 47

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

February 1999

Remember Them Which Have the Rule Over You

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation" (Heb. 13:7).

We are living in a time when respect for authority is seemingly decreasing at an alarming rate. Governmental authority is scoffed at, many employees defy their supervisors, school officials no longer are respected by many of the students and parents, respect for parents seems to be seriously eroding, in an alarming number of families husbands and wives do not respect each other, and most important of all, respect for the authorities of the church is at a seriously low level.

God has established an orderly plan for authority and those who deviate from His plan run the risk of causing confusion for themselves and for others. We are instructed that "...rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil..." (Romans 13:3).

Although it is a serious problem when citizens disobey government, when employees defy their supervisors, when students disobey teachers and when children are not obedient to parents, undoubtedly the most serious of all are those situations in which church authority is disobeyed. This authority is from God and therefore disobedience to church authority is disobedience to God. Gamaliel recognized this when he cautioned the Pharisees not to resist the work of the Apostles when he said "...if this work be of men, it will come to nought, But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God" (Acts 5:38-39).

What are the responsibilities of those who are under Godly authority? What is their duty? When the Children of Israel fought the Amelekites, the Israelites prevailed when Moses held up his hand but when he let his hand down, Amelek prevailed. To assure victory, "...Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going

down of the sun" (Ex. 17:12).

Many passages of scripture emphasize the importance of submission to Godly authority. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation" (Ro. 13:1-2).

It is the duty of each of us to hold up the arms of those who have the spiritual oversight of us. Instead of undermining, which is so often the case, undergirding is our responsibility. Each individual who will endeavor to walk as close to God as possible and who will willingly submit to Godly authority helps to hold up the arms of God's servants.

Those who take the liberty to go beyond the standards of the church and engage in activities which have long been the subject of warning by our church leaders often try to justify themselves by making the claim that they are not hurting anyone by what they are doing. What they fail to recognize is that there is the potential for damage to the faith that may not be immediately evident, but the long term impact is that it brings confusion and division into the church, and it seriously undermines the credibility of those who are in positions of authority. The negative impact on the unconverted can have eternal significance.

Likewise, friends of the faith closely observe the activities of our brothers and sisters. When they see those who have repented, who have been converted and who have been saved by the shed blood of Jesus Christ doing those things that they have been asked not to do, it can seriously undermine the work of the church. It sends a message that disobedience to the teachings of the church is not a problem and it gives the impression that the standards of the church are not important. If these so called little things are not important, it can plant the idea in the minds of those who observe that perhaps none of the standards of the church are important. Since the doctrine and prac-

tices of our church are based upon the Word of God, those who disobey church authority are disobeying God.

Many of the main line denominations had sound doctrine and practices in their churches many years ago. Over time the doctrine and practices upon which the early church was built have eroded to the point where there is little resemblance to the standards as they are defined in the Word of God. These changes did not come suddenly. Over a long period of time one tenant of faith after another was ignored and finally dropped from the churches' standards until they reached the point where serious undermining of the plan of salvation occurred.

The trend in our brotherhood is going in that same direction. More and more brothers and sisters are engaged in worldly activities and "...that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes" (Deut. 12:8). If we follow the example of the world, we place ourselves at risk of destroying the very foundation upon which our faith is built.

We are cautioned in the scripture "Where there is no vision, the people perish..." (Prov. 29:18). Our brotherhood has a vision. The Word of God provides that vision. It is the responsibility of our church leadership to uphold this vision and it is the responsibility of the members of the church to uphold the church leadership. If we ignore the vision and the leading of God through His servants, the vision will fade and the people will perish.

As is described in I Cor. 12, God has provided an orderly distribution of spiritual gifts throughout the Church. If all of the parts do not work together, the body (church) will fail. Those who were placed in positions of leadership in the Church have a duty to provide scripturally sound leadership. Those who become part of the church have a duty to "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account..." (Heb. 13:17).



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

European Board Reviews the Past Year's Efforts

Instability is increasing

As we look back on the efforts of our brethren at home and abroad to reduce suffering in Eastern Europe, we give thanks for all the outpouring of support from our congregations everywhere.

Personal experiences of those who have been in Romania, Yugoslavia, and Ukraine tell us that the lifestyle continues to deteriorate. Generally speaking, the reports we read in the news media concur with our own sources.

Financial chaos is evident

The economic and financial situation is approaching total chaos. Day after day life continues to worsen, and the cold of winter stalks across the troubled land. Hunger, cold, and misery follow for thousands of families. The basics of food, clothing, and shelter are gotten only by a hard struggle. Money value and the average income are extremely low, while inflation rises almost daily. Most families are finding it hard to make ends meet, and many are simply not doing so. Hundreds of thousands of people are unemployed. Many live in city apartments with little or no income, struggling to survive.

The poor resort to stealing

With every other beat of the heart, one person dies of hunger in the world. In this desperate situation, stealing becomes a way of life for unbelievers. Boys are seen grabbing loaves of bread from old women who are taking them to the market to earn a little money. People break into potato cellars and steal vegetables or preserves.

Subsistence farming is vital

Most people can survive only if they have gardens or receive help from outside the land. In some parts of Ukraine, fields of crops are unharvested because collective farms did not have fuel to operate equipment. Adequate repair parts are nearly impossible to find, and very expensive. Village residents go into these fields with horses and wagons to harvest what they can by hand.

Reports from CAM and ICM

Our brotherhood is aware that the European Board, as well as some of our other Boards, work together in coordinating humanitarian aid supplies and shipping with Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) as well as with Iron Curtain Ministries (ICM). We communicate with each other to share news of conditions, and also to avoid duplication of efforts.

We met with both groups, located in Holmes County, Ohio, in October, 1998, and in November a group from ICM visited the Bluffton Distribution Center on an evening when the food parcels to Romania were being packaged. ICM pays ½ of the cost of these packages, averaging well over \$100,000 per year. We are thankful to be able to work together.

Information from CAM sources

CAM reports that a believer told them that in the past they had harvested 20 to 30 bags of potatoes, but this year there will probably be none. Their garden lies in ruins. 80% of the people in their area, including themselves are unemployed. They have no money, and their hope for a harvest now lies in the mud and rots. As they look at this sorry situation, they wonder how they can survive. In spite of all this they cling to their faith and bring

a testimony of trusting the Lord. This should be a lesson for all of us.

ICM efforts in East Europe

ICM has a program of furnishing garden tillers with various attachments. Our brethren in Ukraine have received this help also. ICM has contacts in Russia, and reports come in that financial ruin faces that tortured land. Lawlessness is rampant, and the Mafia controls much of the commerce. Through previous efforts, each congregation of our brethren in Ukraine has a tractor, purchased several years ago, which helps them to grow food.

What we are doing?

With gratitude to Almighty God, we feel we can relay the message that our own brethren in East Europe are getting assistance in their great need. Each country is being handled a little differently because conditions are not exactly the same. The financial support necessary to make this possible is coming from our brotherhood, and is a humbling thing to see both from our viewpoint as well as the viewpoint those who are receiving assistance and trying to do the best they can with it.

Modern day communication is working for us all in these efforts. We have telephone and fax contact with these brethren each week. It is good to know that their suffering has been greatly alleviated by our ongoing programs of assistance.

Yugoslavia

At this time we have a channel to provide aid in Yugoslavia, and it is working. Because of local conditions we do not send material aid to this country. Money is being furnished for many different purposes. Among these are church building or remodeling projects, vehicles, money for fuel and necessities of life, and for self-help programs. It is the goal of the European Board to help

them help themselves, and while there is a great difference in background and cultures from ours, things are going well.

Romania

Each month two food packages weighing about 42 pounds each go to recipients in Romania. Some of the food is bought from CAM at low prices. Foodstuffs also come in from various sources in the USA. Gathering of supplies, sorting and shipping, as well as loading the sea containers is done at the Bluffton Distribution Center. 792 boxes are packaged by volunteer groups on a Thursday evening. Items such as rice, powdered milk, cocoa, rolled oats, yeast, flour, and vitamins are received in bulk and repackaged in suitable sizes for individual use.

Often canned soup, canned meat, beans, homemade soap, detergents, health items, cough syrup, pain killers, and candy also find a place in these packages. Needless to say, all of this is very welcome on the receiving end. Your brethren have been to these countries, and wish to let you know that the diligent efforts on the home front are sincerely appreciated, and reach their destinations to help the needy.

Ukraine

The economic and political situation in this land of turmoil is very similar to that of Russia, because of their close ties during Communist years. It seems so ironic that this breadbasket of the former USSR is experiencing so much hardship. With fertile land and potential for large harvests they are now in almost a famine situation. It does not make sense to our mindset, but the old system left traces which will take years to overcome.

However, for our own brethren, the situation is not nearly so critical as in

some other parts of the country. Over 90% of them have capabilities of subsistence farming. One of our brethren was given a loan to raise 8 hogs from suckling pigs. The finished animals were slaughtered and the meat distributed among our needy families there. He received market price for the fresh meat, and was able to pay his loan back as well as have a surplus to finance another

also positive. It is a long way from total tyranny to free enterprise, but there is reason to hope that initial steps have been successful.

Because of the difficulties with the regime and the Mafia, we have discontinued sending material aid to Ukraine. Instead we are sending the money, for the goods are available locally if they have dollars or deutschmarks, ie. hard currency.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.



And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:8-9

year's efforts. He hopes to nearly double his production in 1999.

This is a tremendous encouragement to us, because it fits a program of self-help, teaching the benefits of a work ethic, while small enough to avoid the attention of the Mafia. We hope to expand this type of program among other brethren.

Our brethren in Breidenbach, Germany, have furnished sewing machines and fabric for a similar small enterprise, and to date the results are

How can you help?

We recommend that anyone wishing to help may make donations to their local Treasurer-representative, specifying the funds for East Europe. He will then forward the funds to the national treasurer.

If you wish to help in church building, funds can be forwarded to the Mission Committee, specified for the East Europe Building Fund.

Thank God and our brethren

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth." 2 THESS 1:3

With a spirit of deep humility, your European Board expresses our

gratitude for the loving support for the work. We also ask that in addition to financial or physical help you will pray that guidance can be given to utilize all resources to the glory of God and the benefit of the needy.

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE SENT TO:
Apostolic Christian Mission Committee
European Board
P.O. Box 23356
Overland Park, KS 66283

- 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

**BUSINESS CAREER
OPPORTUNITY**

Gateway Woods has an opening on our office staff team for a brother or sister who would manage 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
(219) 565-3499

**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 and fax 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 going through some changes with our Houseparent Staff this winter. 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

**Western United States 23rd
Annual Apostolic Christian
World Relief
Informational Meeting**

Tremont, IL
Saturday, March 13, 1999

Registration 9:00am CST
Meeting: 9:30am - 4:00pm
Lunch & Supper Provided

All treasurer representatives, sewing ladies, soapmakers, and all other interested persons supporting our World Relief Activities are encouraged to attend. Overnight Accommodations are provided.

For more information contact:
Tim Aberle at 309-925-5403

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
941-756-2887 or write to:**

WWII Veterans, 713 E Perry St,

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Proverbs 29:18 states "Where
there is no vision, the people per-
ish...". Almost three thousand
years after these words were writ-
ten, it has become popular for our
modern corporate world to estab-
lish vision statements for compa-
nies and agencies. It has been
shown that vision statements can

Mexico Work Teams

Construction - Juarez

February 27-March 6

Contact Bro. Jeff Leman (Bluffton)
(219) 565-3815

Construction- Juarez

March 6-13

Contact Bro. Kurt Ifer (Bluffton)
(219) 824-2829

Construction - Juarez

March 13-20

Contact Bro. Mike Fiechter (Bluffton)
(219) 597-7330

**Construction - Agua Prieta
Housing Project**

(Carpentry and Masonry)

March 13-20

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

or

Bro. Mike Fiechter (Bluffton)
(219) 597-7330

Medical - Creel

March 23-31

Contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann
(Princeville)
(309) 385-1082

Construction - Juarez

March 27-April 3

Contact Bro. Bob Meyer
(Bluffton North)
(219) 824-3236

give purpose, direction and unity
to organizations. In keeping with
Proverbs 29:18, we at ACHH an-
nounced our Agency Mission state-
ment: "Serving According to God's
Purposes" last month.

In all of our homes this vision is
actualized in a variety of ways. At
our larger facility, our residents
have been snowbound for a couple
days. Usually 70 residents from
this home leave every day, Monday
through Friday, for work sites,
work training programs, or devel-
opmental training programs.
When these residents are unable

NOTICE

In anticipation of dedication
and open house, we are collect-
ing names and addresses of
those who live in the Atlanta,
GA area. Please submit to:

Tom Waldbeser

2910 Maple Vista Ln.

Lawrenceville, GA 30044

to go to work, alternative, creative
activities must be developed by
staff. There are typical options for
the people. Some folks choose to
watch personal TV's or would look
at magazines, listen to music,
make phone calls, etc. However,
due to our changing population at
ACHH within the past few years,
we are now using a wide variety of
assistive technologies to help resi-
dents with more involved chal-
lenges. If visiting ACHH on a
"snow day" or on the weekend, one
could see computers being used
with touch screens. Also switches
using another body part, such as
using one's head, which may be
connected to a cable to activate a
switch when hand functioning is
impaired can be seen. One will also
notice some physically challenged
residents are positioned in a spe-
cial chair, on bean bags, on mats,
or on special floor wedges. Some
residents are involved in sensory
stimulation activities as well. Spe-
cial mirrors, lights, moving objects
or switches that activate radios,
etc., are typically used. Some resi-
dents seem to benefit a great deal
from some of these optional leisure
activities. We do have a group of
residents that are practicing for
Special Olympic events. These are
usually the more active individu-
als. Special Olympics basketball is
right around the corner, and this
will be followed by track and field
events in the spring.

HAITI/JAMAICA WORK PROJECTS - 1999-2000

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	Jun 4-12	Kingston	(*)	Deaf School	40	0%

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
 (*) = Held for possible Bible Class Participation

At this time all the work team slots have been filled for the 1999 season, with the exception of the one listed above. As the project dates for the year 2000 become available, names of volunteers and/or Sunday School Groups may be registered for future reference by the Caribbean Board of the World Relief Committee.

Life at our other homes can be very different than at our large facility. It may be rare that these individuals would stay home from work. If they must, leisure activities would be similar to activities which most of you choose.

At Linden Estate, one of our 16 person homes, there is different news to announce. On January 18, 1999, Jenny Steiner will be moving to that home. Jenny has been living with her parents, Jeff and Mary Steiner, here in Morton. She will continue to attend Morton High School after she moves to Linden Estate. We certainly want to welcome her to our agency and to Linden Estate. We look forward to learning and growing with Jenny.

Birthdays in March are: ACHH - Judy Grimm (6), Margo Ebert (12), Susan Crose (15), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Tom Christensen (20), Edna Haynes (23), Jon Wilhelm (26), Nancy Meister (31). OAKWOOD ESTATES - Maretta Rokey (6), Sheila Steffen (9). HAZELWOOD - Mike Bodtke (4). WAGLER - Anna Eberhard (15).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Rachel Fessenden

I had the opportunity to participate in our annual staff training retreat. This is a unifying time that Gateway Woods staff anticipates. We get to "come apart" and refresh ourselves in the Lord! Bro. Will Schieler was one of the presenters and his topic was "The Word of God & Prayer". He encouraged us to go to the Lord through solitude, scripture, and song so that we can effectively encourage our residents at Gateway Woods. I Samuel 30:6 "...but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God." Bro. Will also gave us three questions to reflect upon as a final challenge: (1) Am I more aware of God than I was a month or a year ago? (2) Is the Bible progressively becoming the standard of how I make life's decisions? (3) Am I more like Jesus? May we ask ourselves these questions and through His grace and mercy, become more like Him. During our share and prayer time at the retreat, staff members expressed

how the Lord directed them to Gateway Woods. It was exciting to hear how the Lord works when we choose to listen to Him and surrender to His will. One sister expressed how she's been challenged spiritually and appreciates the encouragement and accountability she's found in our local body of believers. If God has placed our ministry upon your heart, please continue to pray that He may direct you to the necessary training or experience for a position He may have for you. If He isn't leading you here, then we also ask for your prayer support as we work with troubled youth and their families. Our vision is that God will be honored and obeyed through help and healing provided to troubled children and their families who then may bless others. Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf have welcomed Kevin H. and Keith M. into their house. They've said good-bye to Tricia R. and Jackie S. Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer have welcomed Brandon K. and Tabatha W. into their house. They've said good-bye to Jamie G. while Tyler G. has gone into one of our local Christian foster homes.

The Fiechter House has welcomed Kevin H. and Emily W. They've said good-bye to DeSharla M. and Robert H. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter will be leaving Gateway Woods the first part of February and then Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand will be taking over the household. This creates an immediate need for Alternate Houseparents. Other immediate job positions are for a Counselor, a Business Manager, and an On-grounds School Teacher.

We rejoice with Sis. Melissa Frieden (our current teacher) as her engagement to Bro. Tadd Gerst was announced.

Snow, ice, and temperatures have caused many delays and cancellations for our local schools. Students have had two days of school in the last thirty-one days, including our winter recess. Can you imagine the energy, excitement, fun, work, discipline, and memories that the residents have experienced here? Oh, and think about the dedicated Houseparents! Everyone will be thankful when school is back in session. May we always have a "grace-motivated" desire to do His will and find strength through His Spirit. "That he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all fullness if God. Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abun-

dantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Ephesians 3:16-21)

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

February is our time for studying the five senses, emotions, and the color red. As we learn about these topics, we cannot help but think of the greatest emotion of them all, love. It is truly amazing what can be accomplished when we have love one for another. A child that has been a problem, can blossom under a hand of love. A strained situation can be dissolved when love comes into the picture. All of the emotions are powerful, but love is the greatest of all. "Now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (I Cor. 13:13)

We welcome Sis. Erin Mott (Morton, IL) to our Preschool. Sis. Erin has moved here to Athens and she will help teach here at the Preschool. We are glad to have her aboard and look forward to getting to know her and gaining from her input. We have been gradually building our enrollment back up and are looking forward to a good end of the school year and a busy summer. If anyone would be interested in coming down to volunteer some time this spring or summer, we would encourage you to let us know as soon as possible.

We have a small sponsor program here 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 sponsoring a child through their preschool years, please contact Sis. Joan Reinhard at (931) 424-5838 or call the Preschool at (256) 233-0591.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Joan Reinhard**

We are always encouraged to have someone new worshipping with us. Sis. Erin Mott has recently moved here from Morton, IL to help out at the Preschool. Sis. Erin had been going to college in Champaign, IL and we are pleased to have her in our congregation. We pray her time at Athens will be a rewarding experience for her and our congregation.

Many, many thanks to the two groups of brothers and some friends who volunteered their time and effort here at our church to take out the old carpet in the church and did the work of putting in the new. Our old carpet was in need of replacing and the new carpet does look nice. The volunteers were from Congerville and Eureka, IL and Leo, IN. May the Lord bless your efforts to serve him by serving others.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

Psalm 29:11

Christians everywhere are ignoring the Word of God, yet the Word of God is the only thing that will save our (any) church. Not only must we pray more, we must

be more loving and gentle!

How timely is II Timothy 3:1-5; 14-17, and now let's memorize verse 14; there is room for you on the rock.

We thank Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) and Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN) for messages on December 25 and Bro. Ron was our New Year's Eve minister.

On December 29, Bro. Mick, Sis. Delores, Kristi and Kimberly Hill moved to Mansfield, OH. They moved to Phoenix seven years ago, and we miss them. Let us pray for one another.

We heard the engagement of Sis. Willow Beres and Bro. George Gramm on New Year's Eve. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beres and Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm (Gridley, IL). We pray for God's direction as they plan a June wedding.

On January 9, Michael Emch and Suzanne Shaver exchanged wedding vows at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church. His parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cathy Emch. Her parents are Rodger and Debbie Shaver.

Mike's sister, Sis. Kelley and family came from Indiana and grandparents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene Emch, also attended. We pray for God's guidance and blessings on this marriage, plus our continuous love to enfold you.

Sis. Gladys Fisher and Sis. Shirley Blunier (Gaylord) were hospitalized. Sis. Shirley was a surgical patient.

"In the Lord put I my trust..."

Psalm 11:1

Feeling it is the will of the Lord, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer, Sis. Beth and Sis. Rebecca are

moving to the Lamar, MO church area where their son, Bro. David, has lived several years. Bro. Bill is from one of our pillar families and all will be sorely missed. Our thanks for years of service to the Lord. May the Lord bless each of you as you relocate.

Bro. Nick Knobloch showed slides of World Relief work projects at our monthly family relief meeting.

Phyliss Schacherbauer passed away January 16 after a lengthy illness. Arrangements are pending as we must mail the Silver Lining post haste. Our sympathy to her family here at this time, Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Sylvia Blunier (Roanoke, IL), Gaylord and Sis. Shirley Blunier, and nephew and niece, Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy Blunier.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Even though Prescott is at 5500 ft. altitude, we have been having beautiful spring-like weather with no precipitation since Christmas. Our visitors think it is great since there is so much snow back East right now. Almost all our visitors get taken to see our future church lot, and during the day we can stand out there in the sun with no sweaters or jackets on, and look toward the mountains. We are very thankful to the Lord for the beautiful location of our lot.

The Lord ministered to us this last month through Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bros. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). May God richly bless them for their service to us and Him.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We have had several visiting ministers the past few weeks. Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) have each been with us for services in the past month. We thank them for their service on the pulpit and ask that the Lord bless each one.

Our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and his wife, Sis. Nancy, spent last Sunday (January 17) with us. We enjoyed having them with us for the day and invite them to come again soon. We know Bro. Jon has a busy schedule and we appreciate their efforts to come and fellowship with us.

We are starting to see many winter visitors passing through each Sunday so our Sunday gatherings are a little bigger than usual. We are also welcoming some of our "regulars", visitors that stay with us through the winter and we are thankful God has allowed them to come and winter with us again.

I'm sure our weather has been a delight to our visitors as we hear of the extreme temperatures and conditions in the midwest and eastern parts of the country. We are having warmer than normal temperatures with our highs in the mid-70's and an abundance of sunshine each day. As I write this, I have my back door open to let in a cool breeze!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

Greetings from sunny Southern California! God has blessed us with warm sunshine for much of the new year. We hear that He has

blessed many of you with an abundance of snow. Some of our holiday visitors had unexpected extensions on their vacations because of Midwest weather. Our God, who has created the heavens and the earth, has promised us that all things work together for good in the lives of those who love Him. Could this include the weather?

This month we were privileged to have several visiting ministers: Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA).

The church here in Altadena has an urgent request for your prayers in the coming months. Our dear Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley) has been diagnosed with cancer. At the time of this writing, test results are not all in, and treatment has not yet been scheduled. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley have demonstrated a wonderful trust and confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ, strengthening all of us in this time of uncertainty. "And the things of this earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glorious grace." (hymn)

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

We had a blessed evening on December 20, as our Sunday School children presented to us the account of Jesus' birth in song and recitation. Our thoughts also went to the cross where His blood was shed for our sins.

We were thankful to start our new year with a baptism. Our friend, Ralph Zimmer, became our brother in Christ on January 3. Ralph will soon be 90 years old. We pray the Lord will bless Bro. Ralph

and his wife, Lindy, with His abundant grace and the nearness of His Holy Spirit throughout the days ahead.

We were so thankful to have our dear Elder Bro. John Klotzle and his wife, Sis. Lois, with us once again. We pray the Lord will bless him for his efforts on our behalf and that his strength might continue to increase.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER

CANADA

Laura Baxter

"Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Micah 6:6-8

It is good to be reminded of the importance of walking humbly with God, loving mercy and doing justly. We can come before God with all kinds of good works, valuable things, and even things we love very much to please Him, but the honesty, humility and love of mercy is what the Lord requires of us. What is in our heart is more important than what is offered by our hands.

"What therefore God hath

joined together, let not man put asunder."

Mark 10:9

Bro. Tim Tomic (Kosta and Erna) and Sis. Melanie Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne, Alto, MI) were married on January 3. We are very thankful to have Sis. Melanie as a part of our congregation now. May their union bring glory and honor to God.

We are thankful for our many visitors and volunteers this past month. May God bless your efforts.

We are also thankful for the labors of our visiting ministers, Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI).

We were also able to have our annual business meeting on January 16. We pray that God will help those that have been given new responsibilities in His church. Our new Sunday School teachers are: Bros. Wayne Saddler and Tim Tomic and Sisters Alison Saddler and Miriam Fortenbacher. Bro. Jim Baxter will be replacing Bro. Walter Fortenbacher for trustee as Bro. Walter's term expired. We thank each one who has given time and efforts to help our local congregation run smoothly.

We were greatly inspired by the Bible Study Elder Bro. Mark Bahr presented after our business meeting. The topic was "Spiritual Benchmarks" based on Ephesians 4:22-32. May we continue to work to "put off" the old man, be renewed in the spirit of our mind, and "put on" the new man which is created in righteousness and true holiness.

As we continue to progress with

our church building project, we thank each one that have volunteered, organized and prayed for us. We appreciate your support. At the time of this writing, we have completed most of the interior painting, the cabinets are installed, and we look forward, Lord willing, to the trim being installed and the flooring finished. Anyone interested in volunteering for skilled or unskilled labor may contact our local project coordinator, Bro. David Fortenbacher (519) 656-2650.

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.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

We rejoice with Rob and Janet Binkowski on the birth of their daughter, Marley Jean, who was born December 26. Loving brothers are Nicholas and Austin. Her grandparents are Walter and Maureen Binkowski and Bro. Gene and Sis. Ellen Kupferschmid.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. May God bless those who have completed their terms or are continuing or filling new positions within the church.

Prayers arise for loved ones that have recently been in the hospital or have been sick. May He heal according to His will: Sis. Anna Tschudin, Sis. Emma Herzig, Sis. Hannah Schneider, Bro. Lloyd Luginbuhl and Alan Schulz (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lois).

We sympathize with the family of Bro. G. Frederick Zahner who passed away on January 15. He leaves his beloved wife, Sis. Leah (Schneider) Zahner. Predeceased is his former wife, Sis. Frieda (Moser) Zahner. He also leaves his son, Wilfred (Rachel), and daughters, Sis. Fredricka Whitman (Bro. Wilfred), Wilma Foley (John) and Sis. Linda Leite (August), and other family members and friends. May God pour in the balm of Gilead and comfort those who are left behind. May He also comfort the family of Bro. David Sr. and Sis. Marlene Galat and family on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Anna Galat. Our prayers are with Morey Weiss (Donna) and other members of the family on the passing of his sister, Sis. Gladys Weiss. May God be with each of these families.

Our welcome extends to Sis. Betty Virkler who has moved from New York. We are happy that she will be among our brotherhood to fellowship with us.

Note of Thanks:

In much appreciation, we thank you all for the many prayers, cards, and gifts of love to our family in the loss of my beloved sister, Gladys Weiss. Many thanks also in remembering me during my recent knee replacement surgery and recovery.

*In Christian love,
Morey and Donna Weiss*

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"Let your light so shine before men..."

Matthew 5:16

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."

Proverbs 22:1

Bro. Matthew Aeschleman let his light shine during his short time on this earth. This month the company for which he worked named a building after him. His widow, Sis. Jill, and his parents, retired Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy (Philadelphia, PA), were in the area for dedication of the building. Sis. Jill's parents, Bro. Gene and Sis. Delores Metzger (Lester, IA), accompanied Sis. Jill. Although it was not a regular "Church" Sunday, we met in a home and Bro. Gene had services.

Our other ministers this month were Bros. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). Other visitors this month were from Morton and Princeville, IL and Lamont-Gridley, KS. We were blessed this year with many of our family visiting for the holidays.

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. If you are making your travel plans for Spring, please note we will meet only two Sundays in April (4 & 18), in May we will meet four (2, 16, 23 and 30). 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.

**FLORIDA
FT. LAUDERDALE
Kevin & Kristine Krieger**

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness...”

II Peter 3:9

With the passing of the New Year, we have been reminded that, as humans, we are so ready to make a resolution, but not as willing to see it through. Isn't it wonderful to know that our Heavenly Father is the true example of dependability in His complete dedication to the promises He makes to His children.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako. They have moved into our area and will worship with us in the winter months. We always appreciate the additions to our congregation during the winter months. It is such a blessing to see the church filled and be afforded the opportunity to meet and greet our brothers, sisters and friends on each Sunday and Wednesday night.

Our congregation is looking forward to our Annual Spaghetti Dinner which will be hosted by our Sunday School. Our adult choir will sing and the Sunday School children have prepared a program for us.

We also had the rare opportunity to greet a dear sister from Hungary. Our Bro. John Hejja's sister, Sis. Gizi Hejja, visited with us for a short time and we appre-

ciated her warm smile and also the news she brought from our congregation in Hungary.

As always, we so appreciate the visiting ministers that share the Word of God with us. Visiting with us this month were Elder Bro. Wes Knapp and his wife, Sis. Mildred (Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Steve Baner and his wife, Sis. Donna Lou (Gridley, IL).

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Anjie Baum**

Have you ever noticed the natural instinct of children to imitate their parents? Frequently our children not only repeat what we say, but their every action seems to mirror what they see in us. I've often thought what a blessing it would be if it came so naturally for me to mirror Christ, to follow His example. Our children trust in us to show them how to live, placing upon us the responsibility of looking to Jesus for how we ought to live. How might we reflect Christ onto our children? We can start by praying, “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer,” (Psalm 19:14).

The northern chill has brought us many winter visitors. We recently held another barbecue/potluck dinner and had well over one hundred in attendance. We would like to express our appreciation to visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

Praise to our Father for His gift of healing upon Bro. Charlie Mann who recently underwent surgery.

Bro. Charlie has recovered well and has returned to our church services. We truly enjoy having Bro. Charlie and his wife, Sis. Mary Ann, as winter residents.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Rachel Sabo**

We wish to thank our many visiting ministers this past month who were so willing to share the Word with us. They were Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), and Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Ted Hirstein presented us two very important questions that we each need to ask ourselves: How sanctified is my life? Would the Word support my actions and decisions?

I recently read the following in one of our church nursing home newsletters:

Attitude

The longer I live,
the more I realize the impact
of attitude on life.
Attitude, to me, is more
important
than the past, than education,
than money, than circumstances,
than what people think or say
or do.
It is more important than
appearance,
giftedness or skill.
It will make or break a
company... a church... a home.
The remarkable thing is...we

have a choice every day
regarding the attitude
we will embrace for that day.
We cannot change our past, we
cannot change the fact that
people will act in a certain way.
We cannot change the inevitable.
The only thing we can do is play
on the one string
we have, and that is our
attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10%
what happens to me
and 90% how I react to it.

And so it is with you...
we are in charge of our
ATTITUDES.

—author unknown

Let us pray every morning to
maintain a positive, Godly attitude
for whatever that day may bring
our way.

Our dear Sis. Marie Reardon
was seriously injured in an auto-
mobile accident on December 20.
After being in a coma for nearly
three weeks, she is now recovering
and is in rehab. Let's continue to
keep Sis. Marie and her family in
our prayers. Our prayer list for the
blessings of health and strength
also includes Bro. Terry Miller,
Bro. Leo Funk, and Sis. Marge
Pittman. We are thankful to have
Sis. Marge back in church after an
extended absence due to knee sur-
gery.

We extend our sincere sympa-
thy to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Mar-
garet Pflederer on the recent loss
of Lloyd's brother, Ray, in Illinois.

Caleb Stephen joined the family
of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne Streit-
matter on November 30. Jeffy and
Gabe are happy to have a third boy
in the family! Grandparents are
Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmat-
ter and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian

Fischer (Ft. Scott, KS).

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Keith and Carol Kaufman

"Feed the flock of God which is
among you, taking the oversight
thereof, not by constraint, but
willingly; not for filthy lucre, but
of a ready mind: Neither as being
lords over God's heritage, but be-
ing ensamples to the flocks. And
when the chief Shepherd shall ap-
pear, ye shall receive a crown of
glory that fadeth not away."

I Peter 5:2-4

Our thoughts and prayers are
with our dear Elders as they
gather together for our spiritual
welfare.

We want to thank Bros. Jeff
Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and War-
ren Zahner (Rockville, CT) for
ministering God's Word to us. May
God richly bless each one who has
come to Atlanta and shared in fel-
lowship with us. We appreciate
each one who comes.

Anyone in the Atlanta area,
please let us know of your plans.
Sunday services are at 10:15 and
12:30. We also meet the second
and fourth Wednesday of each
month at 7:00 p.m. The church is
located at 6225 Campbellton-Fair-
burn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85
south to Exit 13. Go west four
miles. The church will be on your
left. Contact Bro. Linn Stoller
(770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer
(770) 502-8629 or Bro. Keith Kauf-
man (404) 243-6232.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Sheila McCoy

"...every man's heart shall
melt."

Isaiah 13:7

As we slip and slide on the icy
sidewalks and highways this win-
ter season, let us be reminded how
spiritually we can slide the wrong
way as easily. Let us recall the
stories in the Old Testament
where the Israelites would go so
quickly from worshipping God to
idols. So as we would sprinkle salt
on the sidewalks to melt the ice, let
the hardness in our hearts be
melted by the admonitions of
God's servants.

We are appreciative to our min-
isters for their messages to be dili-
gent in our walk with our Lord.
Our visiting ministers this month
were Bros. Fred Knapp (Con-
gerville, IL), Tom Schambach (El-
gin, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL)
and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna
Park, IL).

On a recent Saturday, a group
went to help Gary and Sis. Doreen
Moser shingle the roof to the new
home they are building. We are
grateful Trent Steffen wasn't hurt
when he fell off the roof. "In every
thing give thanks..." (I Thess.
5:18). We are thankful for all our
snow as it provided some cushion-
ing for Trent.

Another group that same day
painted at the women's shelter in
Rockford, IL. As we were re-
minded in a recent sermon,
"Therefore to him that knoweth to
do good, and doeth it not, to him it
is sin." (James 4:17)

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Janice Horner
Carol Sauder**

We enjoyed seeing the joy and excitement on the faces of the Sunday School children as they brought forth the story of the birth of Jesus for the Christmas program on December 20. May we all keep this joy in our hearts all year long.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

December 20 was also the day we heard the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Andy Kaufmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie) to Sis. Marie Gutwein (Francesville, IN). She is the daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol (Francesville, IN). They plan to have a May wedding.

We heard some more exciting news on January 10, as Sis. Sharon Kieser's (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma) engagement to Bro. Rocky O'Shea (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean, Chicago) was announced. They are also planning a May wedding. As these young couples prepare for their wedding, may they feel the love and prayers of their church family. And may they ever look to God for His leading in all their plans.

New Year's Eve, Bro. Mark Streitmatter presented a special Bible Study on the Year 2000. We are so thankful Bro. Mark was inspired to point us in the right direction. We were encouraged that the most important thing is to be spiritually prepared for the Lord's

return, for we know not the time when He will come. We are thankful we know who holds the future and that we can put our trust in Him.

We were happy to hear that Tiffany Virgil (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev) and Amber Finley (Mike Finley and Sis. Kathy Finley) have taken a step of faith to follow the Lord. The angels in Heaven are surely rejoicing! We wish them much grace.

We would like to extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Helen Bauer and her family. Sis. Helen's son, Glenn (Lenox, IA), passed away on January 5. May God be near you in the days ahead.

We've appreciated the visiting ministers that have shared God's Word with us this past month. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) were able to be with us on December 20 for our Sunday School Christmas program. Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) was able to share Christmas Day with us. May the Lord bless them and their families.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD*
Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:"

Revelation 2:25-26

A new year is before us, but before we focus on 1999, let us reflect a little on 1998. It was a year filled with many joys and blessings from our Lord. But for each of us, there were also crosses, and, for some,

even sorrow and heartache.

There were 10 births to Bradford couples in 1998 (5 boys and 5 girls). There was also 1 death, 2 baptisms, and 2 weddings in Bradford (4 Bradford members were married).

Looking back, can we not see how the Lord provided for us and comforted us through our troubled times? Would we ever want to live a year without the help of God, now that we are His children? Let us "strengthen the things which remain" in our Church, and even drive the world out where it has crept in, so that our children will have the opportunity to serve the Lord in true obedience to His Word.

Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel Dietz were blessed with a baby boy, Levi Benjamin, on January 12. He joins Nathan, Caleb, and Anna at home. Grandparents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell Dietz and Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Elgin, IL). May God give Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel the wisdom and grace needed to rear their children to love and fear Him.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knobloch have moved into the Princeville area recently and have made the church there their home church. We will miss them in Bradford and pray that God will bless them at their new location.

We had many visiting ministers in the past month for which we are always thankful. Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) visited us. Also visiting us this month were Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), and Ed Fritz

(Washington, IL). We are thankful that we can still hear the truth brought forth from our pulpits by humble brethren.

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Samuel & Pamela Furrer**

The God of love my Shepherd is,
And He that doth me feed,
While He is mine, and I am His,
What can I want or need?

—George Herbert

February is the month that our American culture focuses on love. While this is typically the romantic version of love and involves many flowers and candies, it is also a time we let others know that we care about them, value their friendship, and are glad they are a part of our lives. Although we focus on this as a holiday during the month, we know that we care for and about one another all through the year. I recently read an account of two young brothers who were entering Sunday School. The teacher asked their age and birthday, and the boys said they were seven years old and born within a month of one another. When the teacher remarked that such a situation could not be possible, one of the boys said, "It's true. One of us is adopted." Interested, the teacher inquired "Oh, which one?" The boys looked to one another, smiled, and one said, "We asked our father that a while ago, but he said he loved us equally and couldn't remember which of us was adopted." We are all either already in that situation with our God or we have the chance to be. God loves us so much as His chil-

dren that He makes us co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17). Isn't it wonderful to think that as God's adopted children we share in the inheritance of His Son Jesus? That's a lot better than a box of chocolates and a dozen roses!

The Christmas season brought our Bro. Andy Kaufmann a special gift of love as he was engaged to be married to Sis. Marie Gutwein of Francesville, IN. Andy is in his last year with us as a student, and is from the Bloomington-Normal congregation. We know that the Lord of love will bless them as only He can and will lead them as they establish a new life together.

Leah Waibel, five-year-old daughter of Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy, has recently undergone surgery to correct a foot problem. She is recovering exceptionally well and will have a similar procedure on the other foot when the first one is completely healed.

Bro. Greg Johnson recently completed his undergraduate studies at the U of I. He is now spending January through March as a coordinator of mission work being done in Haiti. His address for letters is: Greg Johnson, ME-BESH, MFI Box 15665; West Palm Beach, FL 33416-5665.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). We extend our appreciation to these brothers for their willingness to do the Lord's work and minister to us. They will surely be rewarded for their efforts.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

I have heard that there are no two snowflakes exactly alike. I really do not know how anyone can make such a claim unless all snowflakes were observed, but when I consider the boundless creativity of our God, it comes as no surprise. The unique intricacies of a snowflake are really quite beautiful. Equally beautiful is a countryside scene covered with a blanket of freshly fallen snow. Amazingly, the uniqueness of each snowflake is built upon to make the beautiful blanket. It reminded me of the beauty of unity among the brethren. We are each individuals and all have unique intricacies just like the snowflake, but an even larger beauty can emerge as we draw together in unity. Certainly we do not lose our uniqueness. That might be more like melting each snowflake and stirring it. Instead, the snowflakes are all still in the blanket, but are so close that the uniqueness is not as visible as a single snowflake.

Our Bro. Phil Waldbeser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan, Cissna Park, IL) and Sis. Charlotte Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley) became unified as one on Sunday, December 20, 1998, in Lester, IA. We congratulate Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte and pray God's blessing in the years ahead.

Two additional couples have expressed a desire to take that step of marital unity with the announcement of their engagements. We want to congratulate Bro. Korey Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy, Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Megan Ringger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla) from Gridley, IL; as well as Bro. Rocky O'Shea (Bro. Tom and

Sis. Jean) and Sis. Sharon Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Wilma) from Bloomington, IL. May God bless these two couples as they each make wedding preparations.

Finally, we have the joy of welcoming two newcomers: Susan Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Joshua Martinez (Altadena, CA). We pray that they can both feel very appreciated in our congregation.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Beth Steffen
Darlene Walder**

We have been blessed this month with joys and saddened with sorrows. The Christmas season brought many families together to rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Our loved ones mean so much to us when we maybe don't see each other for a few months and then we get together for a long weekend or overnight. We remember happy days gone by and recount them with a smile. We also remember those we love that have gone on to be with Jesus and our heartstrings tug at the thought of that special person we miss so dearly.

*In Loving Memory of
John David Edelman
Who left us on January 19, 1998*

You left us so quickly on that
morn;
Our hearts were sad and, oh, so
torn,
But we trust in God's will,
For He is with us still.

He must have loved you so,
That He took you, to be with
Him.

You're resting in that Happy
Land,
Some day we'll understand.

We miss you and love you dearly
still.

We are thankful for the many
Memories you left behind, for us,
Until we meet again.

—submitted by *Urb and Sis.
Judy Edelman and family*

“Weeping may endure for a
night, but joy cometh in the morn-
ing.”

Psalm 30:5

We also want to remember our Sis. Emily Eisenmann at the death of her dear husband and our brother in Christ, Ray. He left his earthly home right after Christmas leaving behind also his family, Merle and Elsie Eisenmann, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Dean and Sandy Eisenmann, Keith and Kay Eisenmann, and all their children. We remember also his siblings from other areas as well. Our prayers are with each of you at these times of loss for those you loved so much.

We have had some grandparents in our congregation this past month that have been blessed with precious little babies to hold and cuddle. What a special way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Bro. John and Sis. Jayne Conrad are first-time grandparents of little Alexander Philip. He is the son of Bro. Phil and Sis. Heather Conrad (Chicago, IL). Sis. Marguerite Bauer is Alex' great-grandmother. Also Urb and Sis. Judy Edelman are happy grandparents of Madison Renee Ifft. She is the daughter of Matt and Susan Ifft (Fairbury, IL). She is welcomed by two sisters,

Brianna and Erin.

First-time parents of a precious baby girl are Bro. Dale and Sis. Susan Waldbeser. Her name is Brianna and her thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser and Sis. Wilma Walder and the late Bro. Charles.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL). We appreciate each brother that is willing to be used and it makes us realize that we should all be willing to spread the gospel of salvation.

Those that we knew of that are having health struggles are Bro. Charlie Mann, Bro. Bill Rinkenberger, Sis. Tillie Rudin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner. They all had surgery of various sorts and we hope for a speedy recovery for each of them. Also, Sis. Laverne Farney and Sis. Mary Knapp were in the hospital. Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Bauer have had health setbacks and we appreciate every time we get to see them and fellowship with them.

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

Ephesians 5:31

Bro. Philip Waldbeser (Chicago, IL), son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser, and Sis. Charlotte Nester (Lester, IA), daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester, were joined in Holy Matrimony just prior to Christmas. We wish them God's nearness.

Note: A reminder to the Cissna Park subscribers, our Silver Lin- ing donation will be collected in the month of February.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Glenna Rinkenberger
Sandy Steiner**

On December 17, Max Lamar was born to Jason and Michele Garey. Big sister, Tanner, wel- comes him home. Thankful grand- parents are Bro. Vern and Sis. Judy Wettstein and Richard and Mary Garey of Eureka.

December 20 was the wedding day of Bro. Kevin Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Ra- chel Stoller (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie) of Eureka. May they ever look to the Lord for direction, strength, and wisdom as they walk life's pathway together.

Our congregation has two newly engaged couples. Bro. Grant Rinkenberger was announced to Sis. Rachel Ifft of Forrest, IL. Par- ents of the couple are Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger and Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft (Forrest, IL). Sis. Julie Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri) is en- gaged to Bro. Jaron Schlipf (Bro. John and Sis. Jill) from Gridley, IL. We wish both of these couples God's blessings and guidance as they plan for the second most im- portant step in their life.

Three souls have found peace with God and are awaiting bap- tism. They are Lucille Blunier and Curt and Brad Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue). May the Lord be especially near them in this time.

Our prayers and sympathy go to Sis. Renae (Bro. John) Dietrich in the death of her grandfather, Bro. Charlie Kupferschmid, from

Roanoke. May God comfort her heart.

Sis. Mary Lou Ott recently un- derwent foot surgery. We pray for God's healing and nearness in this time of recovery at home.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach**

We are happy to announce that our three young converts, Bryan Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie), Krystin Kellenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia) and Aubrey Schmidgall (Rick and Sis. Cindy), have found peace and await baptism. We look forward to hearing their testimonies on Feb- ruary 13 with baptisms following.

God has once again brought a soul, searching for the truth, into our midst. We are grateful that Lori Battuello could find the truth here and has turned to God in re- pentance. As her spiritual family, we need to care and pray for her.

Many in our congregation have lost loved ones this past month. Bro. Georg (Sis. Hilde) Schu- macher lost a brother who resided in Colorado. Sis. Cora (Bro. Bill) Schambach also lost a brother in Texas. Arvid (Cindy Schambach) Miller's father passed away in Florida. Bro. Walter Schambach said goodbye to his sister, Eva, who resided in our nursing home.

On December 23, our Sis. Gladys Weiss, who lived here many years, passed away in Kansas where she lived in the Sabetha home. She was a dear sister of Sis. Pat (Bro. Howie) Schifferer, Bro. Paul, and Bob (Eleanor) Weiss. Our condolences go out to each of our loved ones.

Last month, Sis. DeLores (Bro.

Lyle) Kellenberger underwent surgery and is recovering at home. Bro. Morris (Sis. Nina) Willaert has spent time in the hospital and plans to move into our nursing home with his wife. May we each look to God in time of need and thank Him for His nearness.

Two new brothers were chosen to serve on our nursing home board: Bros. Bob Buckheister and Keith Leman. We thank Bros. Norm Schock and Bill Kinsinger for their efforts.

We were blessed with many vis- iting ministers on Christmas Day: Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), and Bros. Wayne Laubscher and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). It was a blessing to have them with us.

January 9, our dear Bro. Bill Gudeman and his wife, Sis. Eve- lyn, celebrated 50 years of living faithful to God and to each other, with an open house hosted by their children. How evident it is that those who live close to God and one another share a happiness that could only come from above.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks for the many kind expressions of love extended to us for our 50th anniversary. The many, many beautiful cards, flow- ers, and gifts are all so very much appreciated. We've enjoyed many blessings, not the least of which is our precious family who hosted this event and made it so special

Bro. Bill and Sis. Evie Gude- man

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Janet Zimmerman

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

St. Luke 15:7

We likewise rejoice with Crystal Blunier (Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen) and Kate Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine) as they have found grace unto repentance and have turned their back to the world.

I wish to die in my dear Jesus,
He holds me though all else
forsake,
And with His blood He bought
my freedom.

To His ensign my faith I stake.
In Jesus I will trust alway;
In Him I live and pass away.

Zion's Harp #247

What a comfort this hymn brings to those who are grieving the loss of their loved one. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Sis. Naomi Peters. Sis. Naomi died on December 29 after a battle with many physical afflictions. She leaves behind two brothers, Bro. Bill Kempf of Eureka, Marvin Kempf of Yates City, and one sister, Sis. Wilma Blunier of Champaign, and many nieces and nephews. We will miss Sis. Naomi as she was loved by all. We thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for helping with her funeral service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Caroline Moser as she bid farewell to her sister, Sis. Marie Kaupp, on January 6. May God fill the void that has been left in her life. We find comfort knowing that

our loved one is resting in perfect peace with our Lord and Saviour and that some day we shall be united in blessed eternity.

We are thankful for all of our visiting ministers we had this past month. With us on Christmas day were Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). Also with us later that month were Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bros. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO). May God richly bless them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Leroy Fehr (Sis. Wilma) as he recently was hospitalized with heart surgery. We also think of Sis. Stephanie Martin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri) who was recently hospitalized with surgery. May God's healing touch be with our loved ones as they spend time recovering. Little Harrison Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine) fell and broke his leg which required surgery. We hope he will recover quickly.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ruth Schumacher and Wilma McCanless on the death of their brother, Milton Rocke. He died January 15.

We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Lois Stoller who recently moved here from Bloomington.

Notes of Thanks:

A special "thank you" to everyone who sent me cards, gifts, telephone calls, and above all the many prayers that were uttered for me. I know they helped me through difficult days of illness

and surgery. May God bless each one for all their love and concern.

Sis. Cathryn Wettstein

I want to thank my loved ones and friends for the many gifts and cards I received at Christmas.

*Love in Christ,
Sis. Evelina Sinn*

For all the kind deeds, acts of love, cards and services after the loss of my sister, Sis. Marie Kaupp, my sincere thanks and may God bless you all.

Sis. Caroline Moser

We would like to thank everyone for the many kind deeds during Naomi's stay at the Home. The prayers, cards, and flowers were greatly appreciated. Also a special thanks to our ministers. May God bless everyone.

The family of Sis. Naomi Peters

God, Grant Me The Glory Of "Thy Gift"

God, widen my vision so I may
see
the afflictions Thou has sent to
me -
Not as a cross too heavy to bear
that weighs me down in gloomy
despair -
Not as something to hate and
despise
but as a gift of love sent in
disguise -
Something to draw
me closer to Thee
to teach me patience and
forbearance, too -
Something to show me more
clearly the way
to serve Thee and love Thee
more every day -
Something priceless and precious
and rare

that will keep me forever safe in
 Thy care
 Aware of the spiritual strength
 that is mine
 if my selfish, small will is lost in
 Thine!

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Sally Fehr
 Joann Zehr**

During the holiday season as families gathered together, we were blessed with Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and also Bros. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). May God bless each of them and their dear families.

May God bless the lives of three dear couples:

On December 19, Keith Huber (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna) and Shelly Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne) of Forrest were united in marriage.

On January 3, Bro. Nathan Teubel (Walter) and Sis. Jennifer Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay) were married.

Also, the engagement of Bro. Matthew Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) was announced to Sis. Janelle Lehmann (Art and Jana) from Forrest.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Reuben and Sis. Louise Bach in the death of his sister, Sis. Marie Schrof.

Several from our congregation have spent some time in the hospital: Bros. Bud Kelson (Sis. Sharon), Eugene Denick (Karen)

and Ed Hohulin, along with Sisters Mary Kaeb (Bro. David) and Esther Kiefer. May God extend His healing power to all.

As a new year begins, we reflect back on 1998. We had 6 funerals, 8 baptisms, 12 births, 4 weddings at the church and 3 weddings at the Fellowship Hall. Even though we do not know what lies before any of us in 1999, we are thankful we have been taught and have learned that God is in control and His help is "only a prayer away."

Note of Thanks:

We extend our sincere thanks for the many deeds of kindness and expressions of sympathy shared with our family during the time of Dad's death. God bless each one.

*In Christian Love,
 The family of Eli Meiss*

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
 Linda Anliker**

At this time of year, when we have snow covering the ground and the many imperfections in our yards, the verse that comes to mind is "...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;..." (Isaiah 1:18). New fallen snow is perfect and covers many blemishes just as Jesus' blood covers our sins and makes us pure within.

Similar to the purity of fresh clean snow, we are thankful for four souls, who in spiritual garments of whiteness gave their testimony of faith and were baptized on the weekend of January 9-10. We welcome into the Fold our new Bro. Michael Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Sis. Carrie and

Sis. Raya Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) and Sis. Jodi Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol).

Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupferschmid can enjoy the pleasures of being grandparents with the birth of two grandsons. Bro. Don and Sis. Barb, Blake, Shelby and Dakota welcome Skyler Mikel Lee into their hearts and home. His paternal grandparents are Sharon Hall (Roberts, IL) and Leo and Mary Hall (Arizona). Also welcoming a baby brother are Brooke, Kyla, Talia and Noland Kupferschmid. Ty Raydean's parents are Bro. Todd and Kim and his maternal grandparents are Robert and Cheri Kaisner (Fairbury, IL).

Thankful to see how God provides for those who put their trust in Him, we were happy to hear of two engagements. Planning an April wedding are Sis. Rachel Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Grant Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna, Congerville, IL). Sis. Janelle Lehmann (Art and Jana, Strawn, IL) and Bro. Matt Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane, Fairbury, IL) are planning a May wedding.

May our retiring Sunday School teachers, Bros. Craig (Sis. Trudy) Rudin and Harlan (Sis. Jean) Knapp feel our appreciation for their years of service to our youth. May the seeds that were sown in the hearts of our children bear fruit.

We thank Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna

Park, IL) for sharing God's Word with us.

Loved ones spending time in the hospital were Reuben Metz and Bro. Wendell (Sis. Kathy) Dotterer. We pray for God's healing and restoration.

Laying down her earthly trials, Sis. Marie Schrof was called to her rest on December 30. We extend sympathy to her children, Ed (Sharon), Harriot (Dale) Farney, Glen (Janet), Carol (Louie) Knapp and Vernon (Angela), all of Forrest, IL; and to her brother, Bro. Reuben (Louise) Bach (Fairbury, IL). Also in our prayers is Bro. Harry (Sis. Til) Johnson and family in the death of his father, Wesley Johnson (Chatsworth, IL).

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

Visiting ministers since the last Silver Lining report have been Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), James Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). Our gratitude is expressed to these brothers and their wives for their yielding to the Holy Spirit for our benefit. We greatly appreciate being taught from the Word of Life by laymen who "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)

Warren and Gina Kloter (son and daughter of Sis. Janell and Bro. Kent) have peace with God and have been announced to the church for baptism. We rejoice that we can see the work of salvation in these young hearts. Sis. Gwen Kloter experienced conver-

sion a few years ago, so now the entire Kent Kloter family is covered by the blood of Jesus. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!

Sis. Charlene Monk (Bro. Dan) and Wanda Edwards (Gary) of our congregation have said "good night" to their earthly father, Bro. Charles Kupferschmid (Roanoke, IL), but look forward to saying "good morning" to him in Heaven one day. Our prayers are with them as they adjust to their loss.

When I attempt to keep informed about folks on the "sick list", I realize what a large congregation Goodfield has become! I regret that I do not do a very thorough job of reporting those who are ill or hospitalized. I have been informed that Sis. Florence Bauman has been moved to the Eureka Home and is in a great deal of pain from possible osteoporosis. Sis. Elsie Hohulin has been in the hospital for tests. The cancer that Sis. Kris Bauman has battled the last couple years has now reached her bones and liver. We trust God will give her the strength to bear the pain and provide for her, her husband, Bro. Ben, and their young family, Luke, Anna, Bethany and Abigail! Prayer is the most powerful aid we can give each of these dear ones.

Sunday, January 3, we were not able to hold services at our church meeting place because of the 15" snowfall the previous couple days. As each family held their own sort of worship service, a fresh appreciation for "church" may have been realized! The snow and frigid temperature caused school to be canceled for a few additional days after the holiday break. It was interesting to note that the monthly

Family Hymn Sing held a week later, on January 10, was very well attended!

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

As we write these Silver Lining articles each month, year after year, they reflect a record of both the joys and sorrows of God's people. Happiness and sadness are intermingled as the years pass.

Indeed, as life transpires uncertainties abound. Sickness, disease, and accidents occur along with times of joy such as conversions, weddings, and the birth of children.

We never know from day to day what will happen. Anxiety and concern fade in and out along with trust in and reliance on God's Spirit.

Joshua was wise in saying, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

This is a wonderful teaching of comfort in an often distressing world. God's Spirit, regardless of circumstance, can always be with us, whether in the classroom, the kitchen, the office, the factory, or the nursing home.

May God give us grace that we "mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous" (Prov. 2:21).

On Christmas Day, Sis. Megan Ringger was announced to be married to Bro. Kory Kaeb (Roanoke, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger. His parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb of Roanoke.

On January 6, Bro. Jaron Schlipf and Sis. Julie Schrock (Congerville, IL) were announced for marriage. Her parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock of Congerville. He is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Jill Schlipf.

May God be praised for directing these two couples; and may the future be joyous for them.

Sis. Ashley Romersberger was seriously injured in a snow accident that required several weeks of convalescence. She is recovering, but has been confined to bedrest.

Other hospital patients have been Sisters Esther Kaupp and Jan Meiss. Bro. Dick Kiefer was in the hospital briefly. Donna Butikofer, who is repenting, recently had surgery.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Bro. Todd and Sis. Marcy Stoller and their daughter, Jessa, welcome into their hearts and home, Marisa Rose. Marisa was born on December 18. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Feucht and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Barbara Stoller. May the Lord give Marisa's parents Godly wisdom as she grows.

Sis. Charlene Hirstein was called Home on December 31. May the Lord comfort and bless her two daughters, Christa Fuller and Michelle Gordon; her son, Scott; her nine grandchildren; her four sisters, Phyllis Green, Sherrill Jones, Jean Linderud and Carol Sus; and her many other relatives and friends.

We are thankful to Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Greg

Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Peter and Mabel Weber

The first services scheduled for 1999 had to be canceled due to a swift 15" snowfall and heavy drifting (3-4 feet in the parking lot). We are greatly indebted, once again, to our hardy, indomitable snow-removers, Bros. Carl, Carl II, Ryan, Jack and Andy Hoerr (Have an ICE DAY).

We thank our visitors for worshipping with us over the holidays. Family ties are strengthened as the observance of the birth of Jesus becomes a uniting event. "For unto us a child is born" (Isaiah 9:6). We are all of the "us" and should watch for the signs of "Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" because He has words of eternal life; and where else can we go? He is the "Everlasting Father", "I am" (right now), "The Ancient of Days." 700 BC the people could only look forward to the Messiah: "The Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). The wise men looked up the Scriptures and went to Bethlehem. God has allowed us to study His Bible and gave us signs of a Messiah Who was foretold so many years ago. Put Christ back in this busy time for He came to give us salvation and conquered death and hell by leaving Bethlehem, the City of Bread, to become our Bread of Life and going to Calvary. (Bro. Dave

Obergfel 12/20).

"Joseph thought on these things" (Matthew 1:20). Is our thinking right? "Fear not" is all Joseph needed to know. The world doesn't believe Jesus was born of a virgin, but with God all things are possible. If we cannot believe this, we have a problem and anything we do today makes no difference. Will you unwrap the little babe from His swaddling clothes and see what He is all about? Is there room in our hearts for Him...today?...tomorrow? We are invited to go and look, as the shepherds did. (Bro. Rick Plattner 12/25).

Close to their 40th anniversary, Bro. Harold Herrmann (63) experienced a short but terminal illness and went to that better Home on December 30 after a critical operation. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer mentioned his Andrew-type traits of quiet reserve and support and also how Paul and Silas were released from prison thru an earthquake (Acts 16), which set them free and later caused the jailer and his family to repent, comparing it to the event which came upon the Herrmann family. The choir sang "Will the Circle be unbroken?", which always evokes thoughts of deep concern and fervent hope in every family. Severe weather made it necessary to postpone the funeral and hold part of the committal service in the Church foyer. We express our sincere sympathy to Sis. Ardith and her family and pray the Lord will fill the void in heart and home with His loving presence and promises.

Born at Gridley in 1903, Sis. Marie Kaupp went to her heavenly Home on January 6 at the Eureka Home. She had worked for many

years in California and returned to Illinois in 1979. We have pleasant memories of her dignified ways and express our sympathy to her sister, Sis. Caroline Moser, and her family. Cordelia Musselman passed away at the Skylines on December 28 and we wish her family the comfort of our Heavenly Father.

Simon Traub, Bros. Ken Plattner, Rolland Scholl and Sis. Lucille Beyer and Mary Lawless were patients. What a relief when hospital intensive care is followed by intensive caring at home.

Bro. Ryan Hoerr's marriage announcement to Sis. Joy Herrmann of Princeville took place on December 20 and we wish them the Lord's blessings as they prepare for a life together.

Despite considerable cultural and climatic divergences (85 to zero), a group of 66 volunteers (40 from Peoria) felt touched and richly blessed by God as they labored from January 1-9 on the dining room, kitchen and clinic as the 140th work team to the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (CCCD) near Montego Bay, Jamaica. It was a rewarding spiritual and physical experience under the Lord's auspices.

Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Amy Ginzel (and Emma) have moved back from Olathe, KS and Bro. David and Sis. Pauline Teubel have joined us from Lester, IA. We welcome them and appreciate their fellowship.

"Too busy to pray!" was Bro. Dave Obergfel's topic for our family night service on January 6. To pray is not natural as we are taught to be self-sufficient (or the boss will get somebody else), but

when we are drawn to prayer, we want something and prayer gives us a feeling of peace and revitalizes us. When we work, we work; but when we pray, God works. Quit questioning and start praying... "casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7). "If his son asks bread, will he give him a stone?" (Matthew 7:9). His answer may not be what we want, but what we need. When we cast our cares upon Him, we develop a relationship with Him. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6). Start with adoration, praise, thanksgiving (for spiritual, material and relationship blessings), ask Him and submit your cares to Him, praying for legitimate things. We all have a mountain which doesn't go away, but focus on God instead and He will help. We have to go over or around it, but it will slowly go away. Make a list of things you are praying for and write down the answers God has given over a period of time. Find time to pray undisturbed and be quiet and let Him talk to you because your voice is the sweetest voice in all the universe...and God wants to hear it. Thanks, Bro. Dave.

At our annual business meeting on January 10, Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer thanked the various office-holders for their diligence during the year and their financial reports. Outgoing trustee Bro. Dave Hoerr III will be replaced by Bro. Dean Martin.

Sheryl Martin

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes: and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight."

Psalms 119:33-35

Believing that the Lord has brought them together in faith, the engagement of Sis. Joy Herrmann and Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Peoria, IL) was announced to the congregation. Sis. Joy is the daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Maryann Herrmann and Bro. Ryan is the son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Debbie Hoerr (Peoria, IL). May the peace and love of God reign in their hearts as they look to Him for His direction and guidance as they begin their future together.

On January 14, Holly Anna was born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deonna Streitmatter. She is welcomed home by her siblings: Julie, Ryan, Nolan, and Wendy. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Floran and Sis. Twyla Streitmatter and Bro. Lloyd and the late Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington, IA). May God grant them His grace and strength as they raise their children in the fear of the Lord. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10)

It is our prayer that Bro. Bob Wieland and Bro. Alan Martin may feel the healing hand of God due to a stay in the hospital.

Our friend, Cordelia Musselman, passed from life into eter-

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

nity. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to her family.

Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle's (Shioda, Japan) son, Tony, passed away. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the Ehnle family.

The Best Refuge

In sorrow and pain Thy trust do retain

In Jesus the merciful Saviour.

When burdened with care,

When thou wouldst despair,

Then call on thy loving

Redeemer.

He'll lighten the load, And level the road

And bear thee on hands of compassion.

He's gentle and kind, Rich blessing thou'll find;

His Word give thee peace everlasting.

Zion's Harp #46

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Lisa Leman

Boni Stoller

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

St. Matthew 6:33

On Christmas Day we rejoiced with the wedding engagement announcement of Bro. Kory Kaeb and Sis. Megan Ringger (Gridley, IL). Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb and Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger (Gridley, IL). May God bless this couple as they plan their wedding and continue to put the Lord first in their life.

"To every thing there is a sea-

son, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;"

Ecclesiastes 3:1,2

The Roanoke congregation gathered together for the first two times in 1999 for the funeral services of Bro. Charles Kupferschmid and Bro. Larry Aeschleman. We are thankful for the quiet, strong example of faith these brothers showed us and are saddened to say farewell, yet thankful that they could go Home to be with their Heavenly Father. We extend our sympathy to the Kupferschmid family. May God comfort the heart of his wife, Sis. Jean; and their five sons, Joe (Nancy) Kupferschmid, Don Kupferschmid, Dale (Nora) Kupferschmid, Bruce (Deb) Kupferschmid, Neil (Tamara) Kupferschmid, and two daughters, Sis. Charlene (Bro. Dan) Monk and Sis. Wanda (Gary) Edwards.

We also express our love and sympathy to the Aeschleman family. Surviving are his wife, Doris; one son, Michael; and one daughter, Susan. May God be with both of these families in the days ahead.

We are thankful that Sis. Carol Schwab is continuing to recover from surgery. There are others from our congregation that have had out-patient surgery or illness this month and we want to remember them and their families in our prayers.

May God bless our visiting minister this month, Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL). We hope Bro. Art will feel welcome to visit anytime.

Note of Thanks:

We, the family of Charles Kupferschmid, wish to express our deepest gratitude and thanks to our ministers, to our families and friends, for all the prayers, visits, cards, gifts of love, and food showered upon us during his illness and death. We most humbly thank each of you for your love and kindness, which will never be forgotten.

Sis. Jean Kupferschmid and family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barbara Dill

Barbara Kaeb

"Salt is good; but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another."

Mark 9:50

Our visiting minister this past month has been Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). We thank him for his willingness to come and labor in our behalf.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Beth, Bro. Todd Stuber and family in the death of Sis. Beth's grandmother, Anna Galat (Mansfield, OH). May God comfort those who are sorrowing is our prayer.

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;"

Hebrews 5:8

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Dan (Sis. Shirley) Steiner, Bro. Glenn (Sis. Dorothy) Stuber, Bro. Ralph (Sis. Matilda) Koch, and Bro. Earl (Sis. Marsha) Koch, who have been or are in the hospital at this time. We pray

God's healing power be with each one who is in the hospital or is recuperating at home.

Our congregation has been blessed with the safe arrival of three new babies. Noah Matthew was born December 15 to Nate and Nichole Zuercher. His sister, Amanda, and grandparents, Bro. Curtis and Sis. June Zuercher, welcomed him home. Bro. Dale and Sis. Susan Glueck are parents of Chloe Katherine born January 3 and was welcomed home by a sister, Amelia, and grandparents, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam Frank and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck. Nicole and Whitney are excited big sisters of Jordon Matthew born January 8 to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Rebekah Wagenbach. Little Jordon's grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister and Si and Sis. Lavonne Wagenbach. May God grant these parents wisdom to raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."

Proverbs 20:11

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger

"But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you."

Matthew 5:44

There are some people who are so caring that you can't help loving them. There are also a few people

who make it difficult for us to love them. These people are negative or hateful. Some are only concerned with themselves. We tend to ignore them or treat them the way they treat us.

Then we read Jesus' words, "Love your enemies and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you." To us it may seem impossible, but not so for God. To God, we may be difficult to love and concerned only with ourselves, but God loves us unconditionally. He died for all of us, the good and the bad. Just like the sun that rises on the evil and the good, so Jesus sacrificed Himself for all people. Jesus loves us so we also are to love everyone. Our daily failure to live up to God's commands drives us back to His love, grace, mercy and forgiveness won for us on the cross. Jesus, lead us to love our enemies and deliver us from hatred and revenge.

We were once again blessed to have the Word of God spoken to us by our own ministers as well as the following guest ministers: Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), and Andy Klaus (Tokyo, Japan); and for Bible Study, Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL). It is a privilege to hear the Word of God spoken in its truth and purity. Thank you all for allowing the Spirit to work through you.

Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori Leman are the thankful parents of a little girl, Carli Anna. She was welcomed home by sisters, Kendra and Kandace, and brother, Clayton. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss of Washington, and Bro. Jim and the late Sis.

Myra Leman of Roanoke. We wish you all God's blessings, and Carli, we welcome you to our church family.

Sis. Sue Ruppert underwent outpatient surgery this month. She thanks all of you who sent cards or flowers or telephoned with your concern and support.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Beth Aschliman
Catrina Rinkenberger

As we just went through the Christmas season, we were warmed by the voices of our Sunday School students as they sang songs of Jesus' birth. Also warming hearts, Jamie Kauffman (Leon and Sis. Cindy) has decided to follow His will and begin a new life in Christ.

Warming the heart and home of Walt and Sis. Sherry Snodgrass on January 11 is son, Zebulun James. Welcoming him home was older sister, Amanda. Grandparents are Gary and Darlene DeVault, Walt Snodgrass Sr. and Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard. Also rejoicing in a new birth are Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Lantz who are the grandparents of little Saddle Jo, born January 2. Parents and big sister are Joe and Cybil and Madison Dunnuck. Bro. Dan and Sis. Tricia Tucker also received the gift of new birth when daughter, Meadow Brooke, was born on December 31. At home is big sister, Timber Danielle. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth Baumgartner and Jerry and Sarah Tucker.

Beginning a new walk together in 1999 are Sis. Aimee Meyer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) and Bro. Phillip Stoller (Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan).

We wish you God's richest blessings on your engagement!

We were saddened by the death of our Sis. Luella (Steffen) Aschliman (Bro. Harold), but we rejoice knowing that she's in Heaven. Surviving are sons, Bro. Bruce (Sis. Lisa), Steve (Karen), Jon (Nila), and daughters, Pam and Yvonne (Rex) Myers. Brothers are Bro. Ramon (Sis. Lorena), Robert (Betty), Bro. Leroy (Sis. Elizabeth), and sister, Sis. Dina Fae Moser.

In the hospital this month we have had Sis. Marie Drayer (Bro. Herman Sr.), Sis. Minnie Isch (Bro. Elmer), Sis. Lucinda Steffen (Bro. Ralph), Bro. Harold Geisel (Sis. Ellen), Sis. Irene Reinhard, and Bro. Kenny Schaeffer. Our prayers are with you all.

We were blessed to have had visiting ministers, Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL) and Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN). We are always thankful for those who come and share God's Word with us, whether near or far.

**INDIANA,
BLUFFTON NORTH
Lori Steffen
Rhonda Maller**

Oh worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.
Hymns of Zion #5

We were all blessed when the Sunday School worshipped the

King in praise at our Christmas program. May our hearts cultivate the same fullness of joy that we witnessed in the faces of our children as they praised God for the birth of His Son.

We are also grateful to visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN) for coming and sharing the Word of God with us. When winter storms canceled two Wednesday evening services and one Sunday, we were reminded of what a precious privilege it is to come freely into the house of the Lord. Do we have His Word hidden in our hearts? Do we really know the songs of praise we sing together? We were exhorted to be prepared should we someday lose our freedom to worship and fellowship together.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bros. Jerome Rauch (Sis. Virginia) and Obed Gerber (Sis. Henrietta) as both spent time in the hospital. We are encouraged that both are recuperating and once again are able to join us in fellowship.

Congratulations to Sis. Aimee Meyer (Bro. Bob Jr. and Sis. Anne) on her engagement to Bro. Phillip Stoller (Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN). Bro. Eric Craighead (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay) has also announced his engagement to Sis. Annie Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee, Bluffton, IN). We rejoice with both couples and pray that God will bless this very special time in their lives.

Our congregation has also witnessed two couples exchange vows of Holy Matrimony the beginning of this month. On January 2, Bro.

Ryan Corkwell (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Corkwell) and Sis. Sarah Troxel (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Jo) joined hands in marriage. Bro. Cameron Fry (Bro. Denis and Sis. Deb) and Sis. Jenni Frauhiger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene) followed in their footsteps on January 17. God's blessings to both couples.

"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

Ephesians 5:33

Sis. Ida Gerber was called Home to be with Jesus. Though her loved ones will miss her, they rejoice that Sis. Ida has fought a good fight, has finished her course, and has kept the faith.

As we begin a new year, let us exhort each other to holiness.

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Thess. 5:23

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Pam Huber**

"And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

Acts 3:5,6

How much more did that lame man receive than silver or gold!

This week my heart was burdened with the question: have I been telling others of the love of my precious Saviour? May we faithfully glorify God in word and deed each day.

We look forward to the time when converts, John and Jessica Murray, will share the story of God's work in their lives as they were announced for peace. We continue to pray for your growth and grace in the Lord.

Earlier this past month our Bro. Brian Huber discussed some points of raising a Christian family during our regular Wednesday night service. We were encouraged and came away with ideas to strengthen our areas of weakness. Also, a Bible study on Christian character was conducted by Bro. Chris Huber. He challenged us with the thought: are we building a structure that looks good on the outside or one that will last? We really appreciate the time and effort they both put in preparing and praying about the topics they presented. It was truly a blessing to us all.

We rejoice with Sis. Marie Gutwein (Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol) on the announcement of her engagement to Bro. Andy Kaufmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL). May God bless this time together as you await your wedding day.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Evelyn Pelsy as she has been unable to join us for church lately, and for Bro. Albert Schini who has been in the hospital. God's protective, healing hand be on you as you recuperate.

Thanks to visiting ministers, Bros. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ)

and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) for allowing the Spirit to speak so clearly through them. The fellowship we shared with you and your families was a joy.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford

During our annual business meeting in January, we received reports from several brothers regarding activities in which our congregation is involved. Some of these activities focus on service to the church, such as teaching, ushering, property maintenance and financial stewardship. Other activities reach outward into the community and the world, such as local Bible distribution and outreach, and work projects and missionary efforts beyond our nation's borders. A multitude of opportunities awaits those who are willing to serve! The Lord provides resources, energy and time as we pray for direction from Him in these areas.

Bro. Jeremy Freed and Sis. Natalie Stoller were united in Holy Matrimony and are now making their home in St. Paul, MN. We hope they will return to see us once in a while. May they seek the Lord's guidance in all they do.

After a mild fall, winter hit the midwest with an icy blast and plenty of snow. In fact, Indianapolis church services were canceled on a Sunday and also on a Wednesday night. After our extended absence one from another, many of us discussed how we hungered for the "fellowship of believers" during that time of isolation. We feel a renewed appreciation for the privilege of coming together, worshipping the Lord and listening to

His Word.

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

Psalm 122:1

INDIANA, LACROSSE Anna Marie Stoller

"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken..."

Psalm 37:25

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalm 107:1

Those brothers and sisters who are pillars in the faith gain our respect as we observe them endure the trials and joys of life with strong faith.

Sis. Grace Heinold (Bro. Aaron) has recovered from surgery and is able to attend church. The absence of our loved ones from the assembly reminds us how precious and binding the Christian greeting is.

Sis. Grace expresses the feeling of her heart, "I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for the many prayers, get well wishes and gifts since my surgery and since I am home. I'm doing quite well now. May God bless each and every one."

Sis. Grace and Bro. Aaron mourn the passing of Bro. Ray Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), who was a brother of Sis. Grace. In addition, we praise God that Bro. Aaron and Sis. Grace were spared from injury in a car accident.

The hearts of Bro. Ed Frank and his family have been grieved with the death of Bro. Larry Aeschle-

man, brother of Bro. Ed's late wife, Sis. Lea.

Sis. Martha Peters celebrated her 93rd birthday with a reception at Parkview Haven. Many of us were not able to attend due to poor weather, but we love Sis. Martha and pray for her.

Another dear sister that we miss is Sis. Lina Bock who resides at Parkview Haven in declining health. How thankful we are to know God will not forsake His children.

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

Eph. 5:20

With thankful and peaceful hearts, Sis. Natalie Stoller and Bro. Jeremy Freed became united as one in the Lord. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller are rejoicing parents. May God always be present in the lives of this new family and bless their presence in the Minneapolis, MN congregation.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Dan Beer (Milford, IL), Ken Wuthrich (Indianapolis, IN), and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). The service of these brothers on Natalie and Jeremy's wedding day was deeply appreciated.

It is difficult to put into words the feelings of our hearts as another brother in our congregation has been diagnosed with cancer. Bro. Lynn Feller (Sis. Mary Ann) is a pillar in our church family and his own family, and our prayers rise to the only source of strength

in times like this — our Father in Heaven. As this dear family faces the unknown, may they experience that God's Word is true, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (II Cor. 12:9)

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

Bro. Ron Bollier and his family (Indianapolis, IN) came "home" for Christmas. Bro. Jack and Sis. Velma Bollier were happy to have family come and our church family were blessed with the message Bro. Ron delivered. He spoke how all the world needs peace and we can have the true peace by giving glory to God.

Other visitors were Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Greg Stieglitz and family (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Randy Gasser and family (Detroit, MI) on New Year's Eve. Bros. Paul and Greg delivered the evening message at church. We thank them for giving of themselves for our edification. We then spent the closing hours of the year in family sharing and reflection at the Fellowship Center.

Bro. Dave, Sis. Sharon and Bro. David Pfister drove to South Hamilton, Maine, to see their new granddaughter and niece. Sara Noel was born December 12 to Karen and Dwight Smith. Congratulations to all.

Congratulations and God's blessings to "first-time parents", Bro. Dana and Sis. Kim Plattner, who welcomed Taylor Josiah on December 29; and Bro. Dave and

Sis. Jodi Kieser who welcomed Zachary David on January 6. Taylor's grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Jayne Plattner (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat Meister (Peoria, IL). Sis. Shirley Kieser and Bro. Al and Sis. Vicki Hartzler (Princeville, IL) are Zachary's grandparents. God was very gracious to bring these precious babies before and after our big, big snow storm.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Jane Stieglitz and her family whose father, Ted Wiess, died on January 17, at Bay City, MI after an extended illness. We are thankful he surrendered his heart to the Lord.

We also share our sympathy with Sis. Jenny Sauder at the passing of her cousin, Mrs. Randy Sutter, of Bremen, IN.

Love, that ever shall continue
Step by step doth gently lead;
Love, that sayeth; "Peace be
with you,"
And for me doth intercede;
Love, I give myself to Thee,
Thine to be eternally.

Zion's Harp #80

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Marguerite Hoerr
Pam Beer**

We stand once more on a
threshold
of a shining and unblemished
year,
Untouched yet by time and
frustration,
unclouded by failure and fear...
How will we use the days of this
year
and the time God has placed in
our hands,

Will we waste the minutes
and squander the hours,
leaving "no prints behind in
time's sands"...

Will we vainly complain
that life is too swift,
that we haven't the time to do
good,
Our days are too crowded,
our hours are too short
to do all the good things we
should?

We say we would pray
if we just had the time,
and be kind to all those in need,
But we live in a world
of a planned progress
and our national password is
speed...

God, grant us the grace
as another year starts
to use all the hours of our days,
Not for our own selfish interests
and our own willful,
often-wrong ways...

But teach us to take time for
praying
and to find time for listening to
You
So each day is spent well and
wisely
Doing what You most want us to
do.

—Helen Steiner Rice

The new year brought our annual business meeting and the election of new officers. We pray for and support those who were voted into new positions. They are as follows: Sunday School - Bro. Bob Bowerman, Bro. Steve Beer, Bro. Brent Beer, Sis. Sue Bowerman, and Sis. Sandy Beer; Trustee - Bro. Alvin Haab; Food Committee - Sis. Carol Hurd; World Relief Sewing Committee - Sis. Judy Longcor; Silver Lining Reporters - Sis. Marguerite Hoerr and Sis.

Pam Beer. We want to extend a special thank you to those whose terms have ended for the dedication and time that they gave to them.

We wish to extend our love and prayers in sympathy to Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle from our Shioda, Japan, congregation in the loss of their oldest son, Tony. Sis. Lois grew up and was married in our Milford congregation and many here want to show their love and support to the family at this time.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Rochelle Ward
Beth Virkler**

How special it was to gather together in our church on January 17 after missing two Sundays due to snow. It just makes our fellowship seem all the more precious.

Spending time in the hospital this month was Jesse Stoller, ten-year-old son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller with an appendectomy. Duane Waibel (Bro. Harold and Sis. Arleta) had surgery following a car accident, in which his life was miraculously spared. Finding his vehicle in flames after rolling over, some anonymous soul pulled him out before any medical crews arrived. Duane's family may never know who this was, but they still praise our merciful God for this act of protection.

Planning a July wedding is Stephanie Gish (Joe and Sis. Cheri Frantz) who recently announced her engagement to Ben Standish of Rensselaer, IN.

Our annual meeting resulted in three new Sunday School teachers: Bro. Kurt Bahler (Bible Class), Bro. Greg Schneider (3rd-5th) and

Sis. Tereasa Fry (Preschool). May the Holy Spirit guide them in nurturing the hearts of our youth. Also, two trustees were appointed: Bros. Fred Wahl and Alan Schambach, along with two new Silver Lining correspondents.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone who supported us during the passing of our husband and father, Bro. Harold Schieler. Each card, each visit, every kind word and deed was very appreciated.

Sis. Lorene Schieler

Bro. Will and Sis. Sue Schieler

Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol Gutwein

Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Isabell

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Jennifer Mangold
Sue Beebe**

"For he saith to the snow, be thou on the earth..."

Job 37:6

"When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures."

Jeremiah 10:13

We have certainly seen God's power exhibited throughout January as we have received much snow and wind, resulting in our being unable to gather to worship on several occasions. Even though the weather has been an inconvenience to us, it can also be a time to slow down and reflect on all that God has done for us.

We are thankful that Sis. Mildred Meister is continuing to improve from the surgery she underwent a couple months ago. Her address is Bremen Healthcare Center, 316 Woodies Lane, Bremen, IN 46506.

Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and his wife, Sis. Sharon, and their family fellowshiped with us on December 27. We thank him for bringing us the Word of Life.

A note about our winter schedule: From January through March, we often hold midweek services in our homes or the local nursing homes. Anyone wanting to fellowship with us on Wednesdays during these months, please feel welcome, and call one of our ministers ahead of time for the time and place of our services.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher
Hope Bucher

1999 is here and I would like to share "Thoughts to Ponder" which was shared with our family on Christmas Day. It is very thought provoking!

I Asked...

I asked God to take away my pride, and God said, "No." He said it was not for Him to take away, but for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole, and God said, "No." He said her spirit is whole, her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience, and God said, "No." He said that patience is a by product of tribulation. It isn't granted, it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness, and God said, "No." He said

He gives blessings. Happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain, and God said, "No." He said, "Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow, and God said, "No." He said I must grow on my own. But He will prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked for Strength...and God gave me difficulties to make me stronger.

I asked for Wisdom...and God gave me problems to solve.

I asked for Courage...and God gave me danger to overcome.

I asked for Love...and God gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for Favors...and God gave me opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted...I received everything I needed...My prayer has been answered.

On New Year's Eve, our congregation was blessed to gather and enjoy a special time of sharing around God's Word. It was an inspirational time of being together and starting another year.

Recently many of us donated supplies in the form of buckets, mops, and various cleaners as parts of "Care Packages" for homeless people in a local shelter. The packages will include a gift certificate for groceries and a quilt made by our Ladies' group. Most importantly, they will include a Bible and information about our Sunday services.

Before us is a future all
unknown,
A path untrod;
Beside us is a friend

Well-loved and known—
That friend is God.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman
Mary Beth Lehman

As the busy holiday season is past and the new year begun, we are thankful for God's faithfulness and promises. Unusually enough we do not have any special news to report this past month. Due to inclement weather, we have had several church services canceled which has made us appreciate even more the times when we can gather together. So for this month, we are simply thankful that no one has had any serious illnesses or accidents, and that we have the blessing of worshipping our Lord in a peaceful land.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karla Gerst
Judy Gehring

Our hospital patients this month have been Bro. Jody Eberhardt, Bro. Mike Schumacher and Sis. Betty Baker.

We are saddened by the death of Phillip Schumacher of Aurora, CO. He was a brother to Bro. Mike Schumacher.

Bro. Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO) spent a Sunday with us. He started out by saying we were in church to receive a blessing and to give honor and glory to God. Our scripture was St. Mark 4:1-29 and Eph. 4:11-16. A few of his remarks were: What do we do with our talents? We all have at least one. We have a responsibility to God for our own life. What is the soil of your heart like?

Elder Bro. Ed Lanz spent Sun-

day afternoon of January 17 with us for our annual business meeting. He read from Psalm 103 and Acts 22. Bro. Ed mentioned that a brother at Oakville that morning said "If some of you here today are not converted, why aren't you?" Bro. Ed mentioned we should have a lot of thankfulness in our hearts for what the Lord has done for us.

Our new trustee is Bro. Leo Banwart. We thank Bro. Marvin Woodward for his many years of service as trustee.

Sis. Ingrid Buster and Sis. Jean Eberhardt will be on our food committee. We thank Sis. Verna Woodward who faithfully served the last two years.

We want to thank our ministers for another year of bringing forth the blessed Word of God. God's special blessings to Bro. Paul Eismann, Bro. John Rowell and Bro. Fred Eberhardt.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

How are you coming with your New Year's resolutions? No doubt, no matter how sincere your intentions, you are finding that Satan is making it very difficult to be successful. But let's not become discouraged, but rather seek God's grace anew each day to be victorious over the enemy of our soul. Our desires and good intentions are not hid from God, but He also knows how weak and nothing we are. So often I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul when he said, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that

I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do."

As we seek God's mercy and forgiveness for our failures, we find that a truly repentant heart can, again, be encouraged to press on and "Pull For The Shore".

Trust in the life-board, sailor,
all else will fail,
Stronger the surges dash
and fiercer the gale
Heed not the stormy winds,
though loudly they roar;
Watch the "bright and morning
star",
and pull for the shore.

Gospel Hymns #51

On December 20, we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Greg Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) to Sis. Gwen Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne, West Bend, IA). We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they make plans for their February 21 wedding and their future life together.

We are thankful that little Luke Butikofer (Tom and Darla) is home again after spending a few days in the hospital.

Notice for Elgin, IA: Our Silver Lining dues of \$11.00 is due this month.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Visiting ministers this past month include Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). We want to thank these brothers for lending themselves on our behalf.

Moving to our area to seek employment is Steve Worthington. We want to welcome you, Steve, and pray for God's continued guidance in Steve's life as he turns his back to the world.

We also want to welcome Todd Mogler from West Bend, IA (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler). Todd has found employment here after graduation from Iowa State.

We wish Steve and Todd the best as they join us in southern Iowa.

A question we were challenged with one Sunday: Can others see God through us?

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Sharon Gerst

Another year has quickly past and we thank the Lord for His bountiful grace and mercies we have felt throughout the last year. Our little church was grateful for the visitors who worshipped with us this past month. We are also thankful for visiting ministers, Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), who broke the Bread of Life with us. May their willing service in the Lord's work be blessed.

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold
Sue Warner

On New Year's Eve we heard the statistics for our congregation for the past year. We have had 4 deaths, 11 births, and 8 baptisms. We are thankful for our blessings and for God's mercy. We pray that He will be near us in the new year and that we will all be ready if 1999 is the year for us to meet Him.

We have once again enjoyed

hearing God's Word over the pulpit this past month and are thankful for our ministers who have shared it with us. Visiting ministers were: Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), and Bros. Ken Eisenmann and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Dale Moore and Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Beirne Messner and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Doug Grimm and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). May God bless them and their families.

We rejoice that God is still calling and souls are still heeding His call. Benji Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley) and Joann Meyer (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla) have begun their repentance. We pray that God will be near them.

On December 20, Sis. Charlotte Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley) was united in marriage to Bro. Phil Waldbeser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan, Cissna Park, IL). We bid Sis. Charlotte a fond farewell, and wish Sis. Charlotte and Bro. Phil many blessings in their life together. They will be attending church in Chicago, IL.

We are pleased to welcome Bro. Duane and Sis. Ann Wulf and their young daughter, Cassidy, to our congregation. They have moved to our area from Columbus, OH. We hope they will feel welcome here.

We bid sincere sympathy to

Mary Metzger (Keith) on the death of her mother, Margaret Bly.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the many souls in our congregation who have been hospital patients or who suffer bodily afflictions. Hospital patients were Grant Metzger (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana), and Bro. Ernst and Sis. Ella Metzger. Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Sis. Marie) and Sis. Marlys Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch) were surgical patients. Sis. Marlys, Bro. Fred Metzger, Jr. (Sis. Esty) and Bro. Denis Meyer (Sis. Jill) are all undergoing medical treatment at this time. We pray that God will grant strength to our loved ones and their families, and heal them if it would be His will.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

**Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach**

Our annual business meeting was held on January 10. We are thankful for the labors of love our outgoing committee members have provided. May God bless the efforts of those who have been elected to replace them. Those with expiring terms are Bro. Sean Gray (Cemetery Trustee), Bro. Troy Massner (Fellowship Center), Bro. Ron Massner (Church Trustee), Bro. Chris Grimm (Church Usher), Sisters Charlene Gerst and Emma Jean Lanz (Kitchen Committee). Filling these positions will be Bros. Robby Lanz, Tom Lanz, Paul Hay, and Sisters Joleen Gerst and Martha Wiegand. Additionally, Bro. Aaron Schmidgall will serve as Head Church Usher, Bro. Conrad Gerst as Head Song Leader, and Sisters Leanne Siegle and Bonnie Wagenbach, Sr. on the World Relief Com-

mittee.

We appreciate our visiting ministers and were privileged to have several this past month. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI); Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) for lending themselves in the Lord's service.

IOWA, PULASKI

Lisa Knecht

"Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life."

Proverbs 4:13

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) with us to share in the reading of the Memorandum. We cherish the fatherly advice given in love by our Elder brothers which helps direct us in our spiritual walk of life. Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) shared God's Word with us on Christmas morning. Our congregation wishes to thank these brothers for their willingness to serve us.

IOWA, WEST BEND

**Berniece Banwart
Eunice Fehr**

The holidays seems to bring many families together. Along with these gatherings we were blessed to have visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign,

IL), and Bros. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), and Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). We appreciated their visit and for lending their service to the Lord.

Sis. Edna I. Banwart and Pearl (Eli) Gerber submitted to hip surgery and Bro. Jim (Sis. Sandy) Knobloch was hospitalized after an injury to his hand. We are thankful that Jamie (Linda) Schmidt escaped serious injury in a snowmobile accident. All are home recuperating and expect a good recovery.

Bro. John, Sis. Wendy and Heather Fehr welcomed Michael John on December 17. Bro. James and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler are the grandparents.

Believing God has directed them, Sis. Gwen Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne) and Bro. Gregory Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) of Elgin, IA have announced their engagement and are planning for a February 21 wedding.

As the year came to a close, we reminisce over the past 12 months. We have had sorrow mingled with joy. We reported 5 weddings, 13 births, 4 deaths, and 7 baptisms. The Lord has surely blessed our congregation and as we begin the new year, let us put all of our trust and faith in Him as He promises us grace sufficient for the day.

Today Is All There Is
How should we live life? Just as
the Lord gives it.
One day at a time—That's how
we ought to live it.
Yesterday is memory and
yesterday is gone;
Today is ours to live—Then

leave the past alone.
For time is parceled out in a day
by day measure,
And life, day at a time, grants
purpose and pleasure.
The future has its gladness but
also its sorrow,
But it hasn't arrived. Then
forget about tomorrow.
The past is in God's care and the
future is His;
Today is yours for living—Today
is all there is.

—Perry Tanksley

JAPAN, SHIODA Willis Ehnle

We had New Year services on January 1 at 10:30 in the morning. Bro. Akito Inoue and his family were with us to start the new year with the Lord.

Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle went to the States on January 5, and with their other three children, were able to be with their son and brother, Tony, prior to his death. Two days before he had become infected with a strong bacteria, strep pyagenus, apparently through a sore throat. The flight from Japan to California takes about 9 hours which equates into 9 hours of prayer, "Dear God, please have mercy on Tony."

Note of Thanks:

The family of Tony Ben Ehnle wish to express appreciation for the cards, letters, words of comfort, gifts and attendance at the funeral service for Tony at Princeville.

JAPAN, TOKYO Marie Inoue

We are already well into the new

year, and we were richly reminded in the ministry to now and then (and especially when faced with trials) to look back and see how graciously the dear Lord helped us over hills and valleys. May this be strengthening for us as we face a new year.

A special afternoon of singing was enjoyed on January 17. That day we also enjoyed visitors, Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi Sinn (Silverton, OR). They are visiting Heidi's brother and family, Bro. Andy and Sis. Chris Aberle. We appreciate their efforts to fellowship with our brethren and friends.

Our joys were turned to mourning as we wept with our brethren who faced deep loss in their families. Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle's oldest son, Tony, passed away. Cathy Suttor (Dr. Randy, South Bend, IN) also was taken from this life. Cathy was the oldest sister of our Sis. Chris (Bro. Andy) Aberle. Both of these individuals carried heavy crosses of poor health for many years. The family members showed much love and patience to them, and may our dear Lord fill the empty spot with His comfort and nearness.

KANSAS, BERN Jill Hartter Holly Meyer

"...for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy on his afflicted."

Isaiah 49:13

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner and Bro. Carroll and Roberta Plattner on the death of their father, Bro. John Plattner, of

Sabetha. May they feel the Lord's comfort, as well as our friend, Hal Prichard, who had quite a lengthy stay in the hospital due to a serious illness. We praise God for his recovery this far and pray that he can continue to improve as the Lord wills.

Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and his family blessed us with a visit, and he also brought forth the inspired Word of God which we so greatly appreciated. It was wonderful to come together and hear the Word of God again as special services were held on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. We thank our own ministers for laboring in the service of the Lord!

A new grandchild was born on Christmas Eve to Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner of our congregation. Chloe Ann was welcomed into the family of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Bahler (Wolcott, IN). Older sisters Abigail, Emily, Hannah and Sarah, are sure to be excited and willing helpers. Then on New Year's Eve, Joshua Douglas added to the family circle of Doug and Lana Parton, and Heather and Kyla. Happy grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Marge Edelman. May God grant much wisdom to these parents as they strive to bring up their children in this world.

Many Bible-based teachings were given on just how to do that as Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) braved the cold and snow to come to Kansas and present the child training seminar, "Bring Them Up." We appreciate his efforts and thank him so much.

A good crowd came together recently for our annual business meeting. It was a blessed evening

as we all worked together to elect Brothers and Sisters to fill the various duties that are needed to keep things running smoothly. We give our support to those elected and pray for a good year as we worship our Lord and Saviour together!

Several months ago, it was reported that our friend Benjamin Strahm (Elwin and Mary Strahm) was serving our country in the Marines. Here is his new address for anyone caring to write to him:

Pvt. B J Strahm 513867703
2/5 Fox Company 2nd Plt.
Box 555473
Camp Pendleton, CA
92055-5473

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

We would appreciate you joining us in prayer for our hospital patients this month. Bro. Raymond Banwart (Sis. Kathryn) had some testing done and Bro. Lyle Fischer (Sis. Lillian) had knee surgery. We thank the Lord for being with them and ask that He continue to bless their recoveries.

As the world is busy getting ready for Valentine's Day, let us remember the true gift of love.

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

John 3:16

Love is not selfish. By God's grace and His guidance, let us share this love with those around us.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling

Janice Bahr

Oh, I'd love to journey hither
To Thy house with thanks and
praise,

And with all Thy children thither
Joyful voices to Thee raise,

When their knees to Thee
they're bowing,

And with thanks their hearts
o'erflowing,

When Thy blessing, pow'r and
light

Fills their hearts with sheer
delight.

Zion's Harp #157

How thankful we can be for the freedom to assemble with others of like mind and faith. We can all look forward to that time when we will be privileged to worship our Lord in eternity.

We were blessed with a visiting minister this month as Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and his wife assembled with us. May the Lord bless them in their service to Him.

Our congregation gathered for services at the rest home this month. This is always a special blessing and we appreciate those who minister to us each Sunday.

February is the month for our church to collect donations for the Silver Lining.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

Brenda Grimm

Jesus, lowly Saviour, was a
humble child,
came on earth to enter humble
hearts and mild.

Hymns of Zion #70

The wonderful story of the birth of the Saviour was brought forth in verse and song during our Sunday School Christmas program.

We were thankful for have Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bros. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) and Edwin Strahm (Elgin, IL) with us this month.

We extend sympathy to several families who have lost loved ones. May God fill the void in the lives of those who are left behind.

On December 23, Sis. Tillie Wenger passed away at the hospital. She is survived by her son, LaVon Wenger (Sis. Erma), and daughters, Sis. Linda Bailey (Bro. Larry), Sis. RoseAnn Knoblock (Bro. Steve) and Mary Lou Kellenberger (Dan) of Sabetha. Other local survivors include a brother, Milan Strahm, and sister, Eva Alderfer, of Sabetha.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Lucille Kellenberger, Bro. Calvin Weiss (Sis. Dena) and Bro. Oliver Weiss (Sis. Marie) who are survivors of Sis. Gladys Weiss who passed away on December 23. Burial was in Elgin, IL.

Bro. John Plattner passed away at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home on January 4. Sincere sympathy to his sons, Bro. Don Plattner (Sis. Ada), Bro. Eldon Plattner (Sis. Waneta) and Bro. Carroll Plattner (Roberta) of Bern, and Bro. Howard Plattner (Lowell, MI); his brothers, Bro. Henry Plattner (Sis. Loree), Bro. Ben Plattner (Sis. Mary) and Walter Plattner (Joyce); and his sisters, Sis. Tillie Menold, Marie Plattner, Helen Plattner and Alice Deaver (William), all of Sabetha, and

Laura Keim (Gary) of Fairview, KS.

The new year has arrived with joy in the home of Eldon and Lana Kaster of Bern, KS. Gabriel (7) and Jacob (4) are very excited to have a sister. Kaitlyn Pearl Kaster was born January 3. Grandparents, Roger and Rowena Kaster of Bern and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger are thankful for the new addition.

Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) conducted an informative workshop meeting on bringing up children. We thank him for sharing with us and may God further direct him.

Our prayers are with Sis. Mildred Strahm (Bro. Walter) who was in the hospital.

Plans are progressing for an expansion to the Sabetha Church to begin early this Spring if God permits. We continue to look to Him for direction and ask for your prayers in this large expansion project.

More love to Thee, O Christ,
more love to Thee!

Hear Thou the prayer I make
on bended knee;

This is my earnest plea:

more love, O Christ, to Thee,
more love to Thee,
more love to Thee.

Hymns of Zion #114

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Bro. Derek Funk has an overseas address as follows:

Derek Funk
HHC - 16th CSG
CMR 412 Box 883
APO AE 09165

He also has this e-mail address:

funknblue@yahoo.

On December 16, Cody Michael was born to Liza and Chris Scanland. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline Carnahan.

The Sunday School Christmas program scheduled for December 20 had to be postponed due to the freezing drizzle that beset us that day. It was rescheduled for the afternoon of December 27. We appreciate the willingness of the teachers and students to be flexible. May the doers be blessed as we the hearers were!

Jacqueline Reimschisel, granddaughter of Bro. Max and Sis. Judy, has been diagnosed with leukemia and is undergoing treatment for the affliction. The treatment will continue for two years. Unfortunately, her medical insurance does not cover the cost of the medicine. We have been given the opportunity to share this burden by contributing to a fund set up for that purpose. Jacqueline is the oldest of Mark and Lynette's four children. She and her parents covet prayers for her problems.

Prayers of concern have been lifted for Betty Barth. She has been hospitalized and homebound recently. She and Bro. Virgil are a precious part of our congregation.

We were saddened to learn of the tragic and untimely death of Jeff Groom of Corbett, OR. Jeff and Sue worshipped with the Wichita congregation years ago when they lived in the area. Sue is a sister to Sis. Roseann Reeves.

The theme of the January carry-in dinner was dedicated to the retirement of Bro. Al Langhofer from the pulpit ministry. Bro. Al and Sis. Judy's Wichita children,

grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were invited as special guests. During the singing that followed the dinner, the men's group sang a selection of three songs whose titles reflect Bro. Al's ministry—"Stand Up For Jesus", "Faith of our Fathers", and "How Great Thou Art".

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug & Rebecca Germann

A special thanks to the many visitors who came to visit Lexington over the past year. On December 27, Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kay, Bloomington, IL) came to share the weekend. Then on January 24, Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) came to spend the weekend. Many thanks to these brethren for taking time from busy schedules to minister to our needs.

We are so fortunate to have timely reminders in order to keep our ship of faith on course. While scanning an article in a magazine one evening, I looked twice at a word thinking it was the word "Apostolic" and might be about the Apostolic Christian Church. Instead it was the word "Apostate". It said that the process of apostasy is the departure from the Christian faith, it's principles and it's practical aspects. The convictions of a church once held and practiced do not die overnight the author stated. This sad condition can be due to a replacement of affection from spiritual things to carnal things, loss of appreciation for time-proven applications, a difference between what one believes and what one practices plus several other areas. Throughout the Old Testament, God's people were

warned to turn from their wayward living. In II Chronicles 7:14 it says, "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." However, if we shrug our shoulders and become conformed to this world, in a few years great loss will be experienced in order to save a remnant of the church that still wants the truth of God's Word. God's Word is truth and will not be mocked as the following poem says so beautifully:

Last eve I paused beside a
blacksmith door,
And heard the anvil ring the
vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the
floor,
Old hammers worn with beating
years of time.

"How many anvils have you
had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these
hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then
with twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers
out, you know."

"And so," I thought, "The Anvil
of God's Word,
For ages skeptic blows have beat
upon,
Yet, though the noise of falling
blows was heard
The Anvil is unchanged, the
hammers gone."
—John Clifford

MICHIGAN, ALTO Kristen Plattner Michelle Oesch

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His word
What a glory He sheds on our
way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and
obey.
Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

We sang this song recently in Sunday School and one of the brothers afterward talked about how we often struggle with the concept of trusting and obeying God's will for our lives. Yet when we try to do things our own way, we fail miserably. What a comfort it is to know that we don't have to rely on our own strength, that God is there to help us every step of the way. "How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings." (Psalm 36:7)

We witnessed the marriage of two souls on January 3 as Sis. Melanie Kaeb and Bro. Tim Tomic vowed to put their trust in the Lord and each other. A winter storm that weekend kept many who were traveling from coming, but we are thankful that the Lord provided a full church for their special day. Their parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb and Kosta and Erna Tomic. We will deeply miss Sis. Melanie as she makes her new home in Kitchener, Ontario, and we pray for her and Bro. Tim that they will look to

their Saviour in all their endeavors.

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome two new faces to our Alto family. Sis. Gretyl Schlatter from Latty, OH is here attending school at Michigan State and Bro. Eric Spangler is moving here from Iowa City, IA for a job relocation. It is exciting to have them here to worship with us and may they find it feels like home!

We enjoyed having Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) here to share the Word with us. Throughout the day we were reminded of how privileged a nation and people we are. We must be thankful and never take for granted the opportunity we have to hear God's Word be spoken and to come to church and be among God's people.

We rejoice to know he is with the Lord, but will miss his earthly presence. Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner and their family have suffered the loss of Bro. Howard's father, Bro. John Plattner (Sabetha, KS). We pray they may feel the Lord's comfort. Even though we know death comes to all, we are saddened when those earthly ties are broken.

Our annual business meeting was this past month and we appreciate all those who gave of their time in the past in doing the Lord's work. Those newly voted into offices and willing to be of service are: Bro. Paul Jackson (Sis. Margaret) for Woodhaven representative, Bro. Duane Schrenk (Sis. Cathy) as trustee, Bro. Brian Knupstrup as usher, Sis. Laurie Steffen (Bro. Terry) on the World Relief committee, and Sis. Melva Oesch (Bro. Joe) and Sis. Penny

Erismann (Bro. Ron) on the kitchen committee. Those willing to remain in their positions are Bro. Terry Steffen (Sis. Laurie) as secretary and Bro. Otto Schlatter (Sis. Pat) as treasurer. May each one find a blessing in the office they hold. "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us." (Romans 12:4-6)

We wish Jamie Steffen (Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta) special congratulations on his graduation from Ferris State University. He will be accepting a job in the Detroit area soon and we pray for the Lord's guidance and direction as he makes his home there. We will miss him and wish him God's blessings.

We also rejoice with Doug and Marilyn Byam at the birth of their new grandson, Andrew Douglas, born in Oregon to Craig and Nancy Pieringer. Big sister, Anna, welcomes little Andrew home.

In the hospital this month was Bro. Rob Koehl (Sis. Kim) for knee surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

We here in Michigan have really experienced a good dose of winter in the last month or so. It began rather slowly with the temperatures dropping to the bitter cold levels. I always love to watch the seasons come and go, but I never look forward to the bitter cold of

winter, especially winters without snow. Last winter we had very little snow and, although mild, it dragged on endlessly. This year I feared that we would have no snow at all, or very little, but still suffer the bitter cold. Then God did something absolutely spectacular—He dumped approximately 20 inches of snow in our area in a period of two and a half weeks. Was it ever beautiful! It covered the earth with its gleaming whiteness and drifted in huge snowy swells in the fields and yards. The drab lawns and dead flowers of fall were covered in a perfect blanket of beautiful, white, silky snow. Looking out over God's handiwork, all we could do was stand in awe of Him. Suddenly the bitter cold seemed worth it, the cloudy days seemed brighter and when the sun dared to shine again, I felt as though I was getting a tiny glimpse of what Heaven may be like—breathtaking beauty.

Sometimes as we walk our Christian way of life, it gets hard. The temptations seem greater, the battles to overcome seem more and more difficult to fight. Sometimes we may even experience persecution because of the stand we choose to take for the name of Christ. Sometimes it just feels like life is a bitterly cold winter with no snow. Take heart! Jesus said, "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). All of our struggles will be worth it when we look upon the face of the One who saved us. He is worth the momentary pain of the cold of life and to see Him will be far more precious than the beauty of snow.

We had several members of our congregation spend time in the

hospital this month. They were: Sandy Knochel, Sis. Edie Wieland (Bro. Daryl), Bro. Allen Wackerle, and Sis. Laura Wieland. It is our sincerest prayer that each one will be restored to complete health under the guiding hand and protective will of the Heavenly Father. How wonderful it is to know that we are carefully watched by the Great Physician.

This month also saw the passing of Bro. Clem Wieland (Sis. Elizabeth) from Latty, OH. Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Clem's immediate family here in Bay City: Bro. Howard Wieland (Sis. Pauline), Sis. Laura Wieland, Sis. Allie Wieland, Sis. Millie Wieland and Sis. Helen Wieland. We also extend our sympathies to his many family members and friends who are unnamed. It is always hard to say goodbye to those we love, but it is also a comfort to know that they are safe in the arms of Jesus.

May God go with each one in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kristie Meyer
Manuela Denes**

In this day of technology when there are so many machines that make things go fast, is it any wonder that we are used to getting what we want and getting it now. The Lord tells us to be patient and to wait on Him.

"The Lord is good to those who wait."

Lamentations 3:25

We have had several brothers, sisters and families who have had illness, surgeries and accidents be-

come part of their lives. I am sure the prayers and God's presence has been a comfort to all.

Sis. Esther Orscik is still recovering from her surgery.

Bro. Frank Denes started radiation treatment for cancer. Sis. Ann Tachar had quad bypass surgery and is recovering at home. Our prayers also go with Sis. Marie Reardon's family (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) as she is recovering from a serious car accident in Florida. Our prayers go with each one. It is so easy to take advantage of our health when we are doing well, but let us never forget those who are not as fortunate.

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

Hymns of Zion #74

We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Floyd Wieland (Sis. Perceda) and Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis. Rosie) as they have lost a brother, Bro. Clem Wieland (Latty, OH); and to Dorothy Le-man (Chuck) as she has lost a sister, Phylis Schacherbauer (Phoenix, AZ). May God be ever near them as they continue on without them.

As lives begin and end every day, we want to welcome into the world, Bailey Williams. His parents are Paxton and Denise Williams. They have two other children, Amanda and Colby.

Our congratulations go to college graduates, Curtis Kaisner and David Metz. May God bless

them as they achieve these goals in their lives.

Note of Thanks:

I wish you knew how much I appreciated your prayers, cards, telephone calls and sending food, flowers and visiting me at the Metropolitan Hospital, since my surgery and recovery. God bless and reward you all.

Sis. Esther Orscik

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

We were blessed with five babies born in 1998. The last one was Ethan Benjamin, who arrived on December 26. His excited parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Ruth Moser. Ethan's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Moser (Morris, MN) and Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand (Eureka, IL).

We welcome Bro. Kevin Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy, Morris, MN) who is doing his student teaching in the area.

We are thankful that God's traveling mercy was with each one over the holidays. The size of our Sunday gathering has returned to normal.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Dianne Kellenberger Nancy Wulf

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.
Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in Heaven,
Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

We thank Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and his family for being with us Christmas day. May God bless your efforts on our behalf.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Jodi Schieler, Austin, Erin, and Paige welcomed Noel Kristen on December 28. She was truly a special Christmas gift for them and grandparents, Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila Schmidgall and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler (Fairbury, IL).

Welcoming Rachel Marie on January 11 are Bro. Dave and Sis. Janet Schmidgall. Her grandparents are rejoicing with them, Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger and Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall (Forrest, IL).

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Floyd (Sis. Vila) Schmidgall and Sis. Rose (Terry) Schott. Once again, we don't know what this new year will bring, but we rest in the knowledge that God provides for our needs in ways that are better than we could ever know to ask for.

Our statistics for 1998 surely show a means for thankfulness. We rejoice with our 7 converts, 9 baptisms, 2 weddings, and 10 births. And for the 5 deaths, we pray God is still surrounding those loved ones who remain with His comforting arms of love.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Ann Messner
Becky Baulick**

Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner and family of Washington, IL spent time here visiting family and friends. What a won-

derful homecoming it is for those who wait for loved ones; how much greater it will be when we meet Jesus face to face. We can't fathom or put into words the scene which lies ahead of us.

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead."

Acts 10:38-41

These few verses are an explanation of God's purpose for sending His precious Son, Jesus, to earth. We as mortals see the truth, know the truth, and are saved by the truth.

He Loves You!

It's amazing and incredible,
But it's as true as it can be,
God loves and understands us all
And that means YOU and ME—
His grace is all sufficient
For both the YOUNG and OLD,
For the lonely and the timid,
For the brash and for the bold—
His love knows no exceptions,
So never feel excluded,
No matter WHO or WHAT you
are
Your name has been included—
And no matter what your past
has been,
Trust God to understand,

And no matter what your
problem is
Just place it in His Hand—
For in all of our
UNLOVELINESS
This GREAT GOD LOVES US
STILL.
He loved us since the world
began
And what's more, HE ALWAYS
WILL!

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brent Kellenberger

Once more, we are confronted with the departure of loved ones from our Kansas City congregation. Bro. Kent Steffen has moved to central Illinois to take a new job. We will miss him at church as well as at our single group functions. Bro. Jon and Sis. Amy Ginzel are also leaving and returning "home" to Peoria, IL. We will miss them all and hope they continue to feel God's direction.

We also are welcoming two loved ones into our church family. Matthew Wirtz has come to us from Iowa State, where he has finished a degree in engineering. Bro. Kent Kellenberger has transferred from Iowa State to Kansas State. We look forward to having the extra fellowship these two will bring. We pray they will be blessed in their newest phase of life.

Another soul has turned to Jesus Christ in repentance! We rejoice with Quinton Snyder, his family, and the angels in Heaven. May God bless and be near you throughout your earthly walk. Quinton is the son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara.

As college students head into a new semester, our prayer is that

they will look to God and His Son for all guidance and strength. We are thankful for His providence to us in so many ways. We serve a wonderful God!

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS). We greatly appreciate these loved ones who willingly preach the Word.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Kristi Huber

Carolyn Banwart

We were thankful to have Bros. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Doug Grimm (Sis. Jeryl, Sabetha, KS) minister God's Word to us this past month. May God bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

We welcome Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer and their two daughters, Sis. Beth and Sis. Rebecca, to our congregation. We are thankful God has led them to our area and trust He will bless and provide for them.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

The St. Louis church warmly welcomes Sis. Rachel (Stoller) Schrock. She and Bro. Kevin, who has been here studying occupational therapy for a year and a half, got married in Eureka on December 20. Most of our congregation was able to attend the wedding, and we didn't have Sunday services here in St. Louis for the first time in ten years. We wish them God's continued blessings as they establish their home together.

I have been writing for the Silver Lining for a long time, and I

cannot remember another month when we had no visiting ministers. This was mainly due to Christmas, but also the weather. After unseasonably warm weather, we got snow and ice as we welcomed the new year, as did so much of the Midwest, and many plans were changed. When I think how faithfully the larger churches have so faithfully served us through the years, it is truly a cause for thanksgiving.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Peg Haerr

We wish God's blessings to the following couples who have recently become engaged. Carrie Hoerr (Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee) currently attends church in Washington, IL and is engaged to Michael Sherman of Peoria, IL. His parents are Gale and Sharon Sherman of Yates City, IL. Also, Dana Meyers (Danny and Jody) is engaged to Tom Pearn (Danny and Sue, Quincy, IL).

Recovering from surgery is Sis. Marian Pflum (Bro. Lyle). Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris) was injured recently, also. We pray that God will lend His healing hand in both lives.

Our annual business meeting was held January 6. We welcome Bro. Joe Yackley (Sis. Jerilyn) as our new trustee and Sis. Cheryl Stratton (Bro. Mike) will be serving on our kitchen committee. We thank Bro. Shon Haerr (Sis. Peg) and Sis. Barb Heimer (Bro. Rod) for their past service.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

Ephesians 2:5-7

This is a new year and we pray that many will look to Jesus and His wonderful teachings and His wonderful love.

The winter has brought a lot of snow and cold weather.

On New Year's Eve, we had a potluck supper and a singing after. It was good to assemble near God on New Year's Eve. We also had a singing at Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor Herzigs at the end of December.

Sis. Celia Virkler (Bro. Lowell) had surgery on her arm, but she is doing fine.

On December 29, my brother, James Wooschlager, from San Antonio, TX passed way. He leaves a wife and two children; and three brothers and two sisters, Sis. Cora Shambach (William) of Elgin, IL, Sis. Anna Mellnitz (Lowville), Ralph Wooschlager (Seneca Falls), Fredrick Wooschlager (Utica) and Harold Wooschlager (Newfield). His mother and father, Bro. Herman and Sis. Iva Wooschlager, and three brothers predeceased him.

On Saturday, January 16, we had a singing at Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney's home.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

In this new year, we have a new baby in church born to Bro. George and Sis. Tina Gal. The little girl was born December 14 and named Heidi Maria and she has a brother, Adam, who also welcomed her into their home.

Sis. Janet Graf was hospitalized and is now assembling with us. Bro. Tibor Zsoldos is home after being hospitalized. Mara Henico continues to undergo treatment for leukemia, including the stem cell transplant procedure.

We appreciate our brothers and sisters in the various church offices and duties and thank those retiring, and welcome those coming on. We thank Sis. Alice Greenbank on the kitchen committee, Bro. Art Graf as Nursing Home Trustee, and Sis. Audrey on the Auxiliary, Bro. Mike Palitto and Sis. Gail Spangler in Sunday School, Bro. Tim Schar as usher, and Bro. Carl Graf as trustee. Bro. Carl has been asked to continue helping to finalize some business matters in which he has been so active.

The ones coming in are: Sis. Joan Greenbank on the kitchen committee, Bro. Don Gasser as Nursing Home Trustee and Sis. Carol on the Auxiliary, Bro. Mark Palitto and Sis. Amy Relgin in Sunday School, Bro. George Gal as usher, and Bro. Todd Graf as Trustee. Bro. Carl Graf has been asked to be on the Board of Directors at Gateway Woods. We appreciate all the kind and loving help we get from our brothers and sisters. Some duties are defined by positions described, but there are

many kind deeds that are done and assistance given in addition to the committees mentioned.

Sis. Lois Schamback will have her "four-score" birthday as she was born March 1, 1919.

Bro. and Sis. Dave Schamback submitted the following:

"For your thoughts, prayers, visits, cards, calls, and gifts during my (Dave's) recovery and this Christmas season, we sincerely thank you. God has been so good to us and we praise Him for His love and healing mercies. We are enjoying our new home here in Rittman, OH. God bless you for your thoughtfulness."

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

There has been plenty of snow in our area this month, making travel hazardous at times. Our children have all had extended holiday vacations because of low temperatures and snowy roads and the month has passed quickly.

We were happy to see our dear Sis. Sara Adam return to Columbus this week after an extended visit with family in Szeged, Hungary. It is so nice to have her back with us after a three month absence.

On January 16, Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) read the Memorandum to our congregation and the following day, our annual business meeting was held. We wish to take this opportunity to thank those who served in various positions this last year. Especially in a small church such as ours, many have to double up their duties and we appreciate their tireless efforts. Appointed as Sunday

School teacher was Sis. Becky Sauder with substitutes being Sis. Lori Whitman and Bro. Larry Banks. Bro. Andy Hunyady will continue to serve as our World Relief Representative and Bro. Larry Banks will be the Leo Children's Home Representative. We welcome Sis. Anita Stein as our new Silver Lining Reporter. Elected as Trustees were Bros. Nathan Steiner and Larry Banks. Bro. Jason Whitman was elected to be our Usher for the coming year and Sis. Lori Whitman and Sis. Nancy Banks will serve on the Kitchen Committee.

As this will be my last column for the Silver Lining, I wish to thank the staff of the Silver Lining for their patience with this reporter.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

God's majesty has certainly been displayed in the wintery blasts that have swept our nation. For some, it has been a pleasure; for others, a drudgery. Most of us have made it safely through this phase of the season, however, for which we are thankful.

The engagement of Bro. Sam Schlatter (late Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther) and Sis. Linda Morrison (Mansfield, OH, late Bro. Robert and Sis. Kate) has been announced. We are thankful that the Lord has brought them together and wish His blessings and guidance over them. An April 4 wedding date has been set.

Once again, Sis. Anna Manz was hospitalized for a few days. Our convert, Lee Rose (Sis. Inez), was also sent to the hospital for special tests. We wish them both

peace in their hearts when days seem lonely and discouraging.

Our annual business meeting was held with the following offices filled: Trustee - Bro. Dennis Schlatter (Sis. Laurie); Usher - Bro. Corbin Schlatter (Sis. Audrey); Kitchen Committee - Sis. Dorothy Dietrich (Bro. Gus); World Relief Committee - Sis. Laurie Schlatter (Bro. Dennis). We offer a big thanks to those whose terms have expired and a prayer of support to those who have new duties to perform. Several times during the meeting, we were reminded that the main purpose of keeping the business and physical functions of the church in order is so that, more importantly, the spiritual aspects can continue unhindered, and more souls can find their salvation.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind words of support over the past few years that I have been correspondent. I know that everyone will continue to support Sis. Cindy Schlatter (Bro. Warren) who will be your next correspondent.

OHIO, LATTY

**Kathy Sinn
Heidi Hackenjos**

We wish to extend sympathy to the friends and relatives of Helen Huff who passed away during the month.

During the past month Jessica Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn) was hospitalized. We are so thankful that she can gather with us once again. May this time of physical healing cause a deeper appreciation for the healing power of God.

Koertland Beyer (Peter Beyer

and Sis. Luann Beyer, Oakville, IA) gave a testimony of his faith and the work of the Lord in his life on December 26. He was then baptized, becoming a brother in the Lord. Elder Bro. Ray was assisted by Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) in carrying out this work. Ministering Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) were among the many visiting brethren who traveled to be with us for the blessed weekend. As we heard during the testimony, God's grace will continue to be a part of our life as long as we remain humble children to God. Let us strive to that end.

Our sympathy also goes to Sis. Tootie Stoller (Bro. Ralph) and Sis. Mary Eisenmann in the passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Ray Eisenmann (Sis. Emily, Cissna Park, IL). May God provide a comforting spirit for this family during this time of loss.

The congregation gathered to begin the new year by worshipping the Lord. As we journey through the coming days, may this be our aim and desire. Following the service, our annual business meeting was held. Elder Bro. Ray gave a year summary for 1998. In our congregation for 1998 we experienced 15 births, 11 deaths, 12 baptisms, 19 converts, 4 weddings, and a reuniting in the Lord of one couple. These numbers provide "proof" that the Lord is still working in the souls of men. May this give us strength and courage to press onward.

The result of the job changes were announced on January 10 and are as follows: Sunday School - Bro. Bob Graf (Sis. Joan), Sis. Ruth Stoller (Bro. Craig) and Sis. Joni Wenninger (Bro. Randy);

Church Trustee - Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Jodi); Fellowship Hall Trustee - Bro. Eric Rager (Sis. Sherri); World Relief Representative - Bro. Phil Grant (Sis. Gloria); Song Leader - Bro. Byron Dunham (Sis. Jodi); Church Treasurer - Bro. Mark Sinn (Sis. Diane); Kitchen Committee - Sis. Karen Steffen (Bro. Donn); and World Relief Sewing - Sis. Roberta Stoller. May the Lord richly bless these brethren as they are given opportunity to serve in a new manner. We give many thanks to those who have completed their term of service.

We rejoice with Brent Steiner (Sis. Andrea) who has been announced as having peace with God and man. As Brent awaits the opportunity to give a testimony of his faith, may the Lord continue to stand by him meeting his every need.

The Lord has called Bro. Clemens Wieland (Sis. Elizabeth) from this life into one of eternal day. Our prayers are extended for Sis. Elizabeth, their daughters: Diane Gerber and Suzanne Freeman (Larry), and their families during this time of loss. We also wish to remember his family in the Latty congregation and those who assemble elsewhere. In the days to come, may this family circle be drawn ever closer to the Heavenly Father.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

We thank our Father in Heaven for He hears and answers our prayers. Serving God's Word to us were Bros. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH).

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores Hill and their daughters, Kristi (17) and Kimberly (14), who have moved from Phoenix, AZ. Their new address is 2123 Random Drive, Mansfield, OH 44904. Their phone number is (419) 775-1223.

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

Numbers 6:24-26

Missy Sauder (Gregory) and Olivia Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) have confessed peace with God and man.

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

Genesis 2:18

On January 3, Sis. Linda Morrison and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) announced their engagement.

Am I sick and pressed with grief,
No one near to give relief,
Jesus, my Physician dear,
and my Helper will be near.

Hymns of Zion #277

Our hospital patients this past month were Roma Them (John), Bro. Ollie LaRue, and Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine).

Calvin Patrick was born on January 12 to Sis. Lucy and Bro. David Baumann. Anthony and Nicole are excited about their new little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Oscar Wirz (Argentina) and

Bro. Michael and Sis. Florina Baumann.

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Lynda Beery
Lucy Gasser**

Ring the bells of Heaven!
there is joy today,
For a soul, returning from the
wild;
See! the Father meets him
out upon the way,
Welcoming His weary,
wand'ring child.
Gospel Hymns #622

Beginning a new way of life with the first month of the new year are Julie Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev), Anna Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy), John Calame III (Bro. John, Jr. and Sis. Jody), Jeff and Darlene Lanz (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane), Anne Widmer (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Alice) and Don Steiner (Sis. Debbie). May they experience the forgiveness they seek and the peace which can be found in submission to the will of God.

We extend support and encouragement to those elected to office at our annual meeting. New duties have fallen to Sis. Jan Hartzler, Bros. Tom Jenkins, Dale Hartzler, Novco Atanasov, and Dan Baltic. Their offices are kitchen committee, trustee, song leader, fellowship hall director, and usher, respectively. Also, our thanks to Sis. Karen Hartzler, Bros. Dale Everhard, Bob Hartzler, Leon Rufener and Mark Acker who have finished their terms.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Lori Riggenschbach have a new daughter, Carissa Alene, born to them on January 2. She joins Joshua, Crystal, Cymbal,

Charity, Jacob, and Jeriah. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Riggenschbach and Boyd and Barbara Acker.

Brett Zachary was born January 6 to Bro. Bill and Sis. Monica Bauman. He joins Brooke, Brandon and Bryce in their family. He arrived early and had to spend extra time in the hospital. His grandparents are Marion and Sis. Delores Bauman and Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder (Akron, OH).

Jeremy Nathan was born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Linda Schar on January 12. He has a sister, April. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri Ramsier and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

Jesse Benjamin joined the family of Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller on January 17. Jesse's brothers are Jordan, Jeran, Javan and Joel. Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle and Bro. Everett and Sis. Marjorie Stoller are their grandparents. May God bless all parents with love and wisdom as they strive to rear their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Spending time in the hospital were Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Wilma), Mabel Goodwin, Bro. Kenneth Rupp (Sis. Lillian), Sis. Cheryl Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie), and Sis. Myrle Rufener. We pray that they and others who are not well find healing, courage and comfort according to their needs.

Visiting ministers who brought God's Word to us on Christmas day were Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). We are thankful

they come to visit their family members who live among us.

May Bro. Ernie Stetz (Sis. Diane) find comfort at the passing of his father from this life.

The weekend of January 16-17 we were blessed to hear the testimonies, witness the baptisms, and welcome into our fellowship Bros. Barry Winkler, Scott Steiner, and Ron Winkler and Sis. Jodi Dotterer. We appreciated having Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) here to assist our Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer. Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) also shared the Word with us that day.

OHIO, SARDIS
Angie Figel

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:"

Hebrews 10:24

Surely such beautiful scripture cannot help but become part of our lives as we see so many around us who are in need of love and good works. Sis. Rosella Figel has been hospitalized during this past month and has underwent surgery. Our prayers have been and will be with her and her family during these difficult times.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want thee forever to live in my soul;
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;

Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Hymns of Zion #210

We are happy to report that three young souls in our congregation have this desire to be perfectly whole and to have Jesus live in their soul. We wish much grace and God's blessings to Kristin Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily), and also Bonnie and Becky Dotterer (Dale and Sis. Elaine), as they begin their walk with the Lord.

We are also so very thankful that peace has been granted to Tom Dotterer (Keith and Sis. Linda), and we look forward to hearing his testimony sometime in the future.

On December 31, Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller were blessed with the arrival of a new baby girl. Heidi Renee is welcomed by brothers and sisters, Beth, Holly, Craig, Sarah, and Corbin, and also grandparents, Sis. Lucille Blough (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller. May God's blessings be felt in their home as they seek to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Our thanks to our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL). May God be their rich rewarder as they seek to bring forth the Word in truth.

January 16 was the date chosen for the wedding of Matt Beaumont and Carla Ramsier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie). May God be the center of their home as they begin their life together.

May our Lord grant His healing touch to those who have had to spend time in the hospital this

past month. We are thankful Sis. Carol Schuster (Bro. George) and Bro. Ralph Marty (Sis. Marie) are both doing better at this time.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

We are always thankful to welcome visitors to our congregation. Among those who have been with us recently was Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) who ministered to us. May God reward his efforts.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup

He Knows

I know not what awaits me,
God kindly veils mine eyes,
And o'er each step of my onward way
He makes new scenes to rise;
And every joy He sends me,
Comes a sweet and glad surprise.

O blissful lack of wisdom,
'Tis blessed not to know;
He holds me with His own right hand,
And will not let me go,
And lulls my troubled soul to rest
In Him who loves me so.

Gospel Hymns #181

This time of year, these particular two verses seem to sum up the thoughts one might have looking forward towards a new year. Reflecting back on the past year, there is much to be thankful for. And when we look forward, we should put our trust in the Lord. The end of this millennium is approaching and the world is giving a lot of attention to that fact and is making predictions which may

cause anxiety in some people. It should not be for those who put their trust in God.

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe."

Proverbs 29:25

We thank Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR) for visiting our congregation and ministering unto us. It is very much appreciated, as always. Our thanks to all visitors who came to Portland this past month. Please come again! May the Lord bless and keep us all now, as the new year unfolds.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We are pleased to welcome dear brethren from Rockville, CT to our Silverton congregation. We often say "from near and far" and this is as far East as our USA churches go to as far West as they go. The distance in miles from Rockville, CT to Silverton, OR is over three thousand miles but still we find that our hearts are very close. Sis. Jennifer Kloter (Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon, Rockville) has felt the Lord's leading in moving here and has found employment near here. Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana Schneider and Samuel, Lydia, Jacob and Christian have been brought to the Northwest with Bro. Tim's occupation. We hope they feel the love and welcome of the congregation and the continued nearness and blessings of our Lord.

There has been a lot of activity lately with the various committees planning and putting their plans into action for the upcoming mid-winter Elder Conference to be held

February 16-20, here in Silverton. We consider it a great privilege that we have long awaited and pray that all can be done with the abundant love and grace of our Lord. We want to remember to pray for a spiritually blessed outcome, as well. It is easy to become so caught up in the physical activity of any event that we overshadow the important part. Oh, to be more like Mary than Martha, but it is a comfort to know this story and to know that this struggle is timeless. A special prayer for the safety of all who will be traveling to and from the Conference.

Bro. Jeremy Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) was again in the hospital and would appreciate our prayers and words of encouragement. He faces surgery again in January and will need to drop out of college for this term. His address is: 6840 Burnett SE, Salem, OR 97301. Bro. Greg Wackerle and Walter Klopfenstein (Karen) were surgical patients in the hospital this past month. May God bless them, and all who are ill, with His healing mercies.

May God bless Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) for his willingness to bring us the Gospel message when he was here recently.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Merle and Bev Rocke

We all have once again turned our calendars forward and have begun a new year. May we take the time to ponder our many, many blessings of the past year and take inventory of areas where we can improve on our imperfections to better serve our dear Lord. It

seems we all do have room for improvement.

Our little church enjoyed the blessing of going Christmas caroling as a group to some of the folks who are not able to be out and about as we are. It is a joy to watch the young children singing along and to see the faces light up of those for whom we are singing. That certainly brings the joy of Christmas to our hearts. After our caroling on two different nights, we then gathered afterwards one night at Bro. Dave and Sis. Carolyn Roberts for refreshments and fellowshiping and the other night at Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschlemans. The evenings were enjoyed by all.

We once again invite all to come and visit us whenever you are in the area. We are always very thankful for our visitors.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

Call upon Him in your
sorrow—He is Comfort.

Call upon Him in your
weakness—He is Strength.

Call upon Him when you're
fearful—He is Hope.

Call upon Him when you're
lonely—He is Love.

—Hallmark Cards, Inc.

On January 17, we were saddened to learn of the passing of Sis. Rachel Hodel (Eureka, IL). We sympathize with Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin and the rest of the Hodel family. We pray that God will send His comforting Spirit to be with you all during this difficult time.

This past month, we were

blessed with visiting ministers, Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL). We were also blessed with other visitors from Roanoke, IL; Latty, OH; Congerville, IL; and Eureka, IL. We truly thank the Lord for our ministers and their willingness to labor in God's vineyard and pray that the Lord will bless them and their families as well as all of our visitors.

Our upcoming services are scheduled for April 11 (Cissna Park, IL); April 18 (Tremont, IL); May 2 (Sarasota, FL); May 16 (Bloomington, IL); May 30 (Bluffton North, IN); June 6 (Rockville, CT); June 20 (LaCrosse, IN). If you are traveling in the Nashville area, please join us for worship services. On the Sundays not listed above, we usually meet for a tape service. Please call prior to joining us 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.

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 Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Sis. Sue, Mansfield, OH), and Bros. Brian

Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN), John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN) and Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, 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

We are happy to have most of our winter residents here in Zapata; among them is our Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Sis. Suzanne, Mansfield, OH).

We were privileged to have ministering Bros. William Gerst (Sis. Judy, Alto, MI), Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Roy Ehnle (Sis. Donna, Bradford, IL) and Galen

Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS). We thank them for bringing us the Word.

Also retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Sis. Clara, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and retired ministering Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Sis. Hazel, Winthrop, MN) are spending some time with us this winter.

The following churches were represented at our fellowship breakfast the morning of January 14, 1999: Bay City, Morris, Latty, Rockville, Forrest, Eureka, Goodfield, Mansfield, Lester, Winthrop, Elgin, Illinois, Oakville, Champaign, Alto, Athens, Gridley, Peoria, Bloomington, Tremont, Leo, West Bend, and Burlington.

We wish sincere sympathy to our winter resident, Sis. Wilma Blunier, on the death of her only sister, Sis. Naomi Peters, from Peoria. The funeral was held in Eureka IL. Our prayers were with them as they traveled in such stormy weather.

January 16, Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder and Bro. Leland Plattner read the Memorandum to us.

January 17 we had our annual business meeting. Bro. Harley Bruellman was elected to be trustee taking Bro. Paul Leuthold's place and Sis. Georgia and Bro. Leo Messner were elected on the kitchen committee to take Sis. Melva and Bro. Rollie Messner's place.



Sermon continued from page 2

I was listening to the radio just about a week ago and there was a financial guru of some sort and I am not sure what his position was, but they were asking him questions and he was not at all spiritually based. They were talking about the yen, the peso and the dollar and this and that and all the different currencies that is in the world today.

They asked him that with the way technology is today where every bank is tied into another bank electronically, what is the possibility or what is the realization that our money system could be one? He said, "Oh, it is very real, and in the very near future it will be that way." He said the pieces are there.

It is coming together, loved ones, and we can rejoice if we have that hope. If we don't have that hope, we have an opportunity to do something about it, don't we? If we don't have that hope or don't even have that desire, loved ones, let us pray for it. The things we see today, even as we can go back and read almost current events through the prophecies of those prophets, let us pay attention.

Let us look on those things realizing that God is in control throughout this whole turmoil that we have in our government system. Sometimes we wonder where things are going. Where are things going and what is going to happen and where is it going to end up? Go to the back of the Book. God is in control, and God's Will will prevail.

There is nothing that is going to disrupt God's plan because God is Almighty. We are specks of dust, loved ones, but yet God is so Almighty that He knows us each one individually and He loves us. He

gives us a charge and He gives us responsibilities while we are here on this earth.

We can go back to these first few verses of this chapter about this widow. What she gave really was not useful. The actual physical pennies that she put into that box, it wasn't useful. If you would measure them up to the abundance and to the excess that was being put in by those other people, it was nothing, but she gave everything she had. Why would that even be in this Bible? Why would God even choose to inspire the writers to put something like that in here? We can apply it to our lives, can't we, that God wants that from us?

Does He want our money? That may be necessary but He wants our all, and then those other things will fall in line. He wants our pennies, the things that are us, the things that we have, our talents, whether they are pennies or whether they are one hundred dollar bills. God gives unto each one of us talents but He wants us to use them in His glory.

In verse four, Jesus said, "For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had." (Luke 21:4). For all these have of their abundance.

You know as the stock market was getting kind of shaky here the last few weeks, what was the concern? The biggest concern that I heard was, "What is going to happen to my abundance? What is going to happen to the money I had saved? What is going to happen to the things that I have put in and am counting to get something back out for future whatever it was?" But in the case of this

widow, she had given everything she had to the work of the Lord.

Loved ones, as we go through this life, we have to keep it all in perspective, don't we? We have to keep it all in perspective and so many times we are distracted because of what is around us and those things that we are exposed to.

But let us never lose sight of the fact that Jesus Christ came and Jesus Christ is going to come again. Jesus Christ has walked on this earth and He has laid down His life. He has gone to the cross and He shed His blood for each one of us for the covering of our sins. He is going to come back to receive those that are His. I don't know when that is going to be. It would be interesting to know, but yet, I am not sure that I would really want to.

As we go through this Book and as we read the different things that Jesus Himself said to watch for, what was the very first thing He said before He said one thing? He said, "Be not deceived." Don't be deceived and I know that even personally, I have changed my view on the thought of deception. I think maybe in the not too distant past, I thought that none of us will be surprised when we receive our judgment from God. None of us will be surprised because I thought that if we were truly honest with ourselves, we would know whether we are walking with God or not.

Satan has a tool and it is very powerful and we are warned against it time and time again, and that tool is deception. That tool, deception, would be used against us to make us think that we are okay, make us think that we would

Sermon continued on next page

Sermon continued from page 47

welcome our Lord and Saviour at any moment, but if we would be deceived, loved ones, we would not be ready. If we would be deceived, we would not be prepared.

How can we avoid that? In verse thirty-six, it says, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:36). Watch and pray. That is what it is all about.

Loved ones, there are so many things that may not even be sin, that would take away this watching and praying. It would take our time and our thoughts and take our ambitions away from watching and praying. We can go back to those words of Jesus where He said, "Don't be deceived; watch and pray. Watch and pray until I come again." Watch and pray until we see Jesus, because Jesus is going to return. We know that even in times past, even as it would be today, men are wondering, "When?"

In verse twenty-five, it says, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring. (Luke 21:25). That is just current events, loved ones. It is current events as we look out and see what is happening on the earth today. We see the hurricanes. How many hurricanes have we had this year? How many hurricanes are we up to compared to times past?

I don't know the details of these or the facts behind them, but I am probably pretty ignorant when it comes to these prophecies. But yet, if we just have our eyes open, and we are paying attention, we will see these things and we will realize

that there are things happening today that should make us sit up and think.

In verse twenty-eight, it says, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28). Is it discouraging, loved ones, to think that Jesus Christ is going to come again? Is it discouraging to think that the end may be near? Jesus said to look up, your redemption draweth nigh.

When we think about that, loved ones, maybe if I could speak for you and for all of us, the first thing that we may think about, when we say, "I would love to look up and be encouraged but there are those I know that are not ready. There are those I know and love aren't ready and I know it and they know it."

That is why we are here today, that we want to preserve a faith, that we want to be an encouragement, and that we want to be a light unto those who are walking without.

Loved ones, if there is any of you sitting here today knowing that if Jesus Christ would appear right now, you would not be ready, pray for that desire, pray for that grace that God will give you so you can be ready. God will break down those barriers because Satan would want to build them up and tell us to wait and tell us to put that off.

It just comes to my mind again, about a few weeks ago we heard right across this pulpit that the day that Satan is telling you to wait for is not going to come. Today is the day of salvation. Then those of us who have this hope, those of us who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus

Christ, let us be living, let us be watching and let us let our lives be examples unto those who are without.

Where is our devotion, loved ones? Are we devoted? Are we committed to this walk of life?

I had the privilege to spend some time in San Antonio a week ago, actually a little more time than I had planned. In the middle of that city, there is a place called the Alamo. Many of you are familiar with that. A lot of that still stands and they tried to preserve it just the way it was at the time when it fell.

Within the walls of that Alamo, they knew that there was a battle coming. They knew there was a force and they were strong. They were outnumbered and not enough men and they knew there was a force coming, that they themselves were not going to be able on their own strength to overcome it. But they held their ground. Their motto was "Victory or Death". They were committed to fight for the freedom and to fight for the things they believed in. I even have to ask myself today, "Where is my commitment and how strong is that?"

Are we committed, loved ones, as a child of the King to fight, to stand up and to be counted as one of His children? Has that line been drawn in the sand and have we committed ourselves that we will stand? In that case, death was victory, because the message went out through that. In our case, death will be victory. This life isn't victory. This life isn't where it is at, but there is a better life, a better Home that is going to be eternal.

We can look at these prophecies, we can look at the signs of things

Silver Threads

Ten Scriptural Convictions

...which every man much teach his family in order to protect them from the destructive influences of wrong desires, false philosophies, and Satanic temptations.

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God and the final authority for my life.
2. My purpose in life is to seek God with my whole heart and to build my goals around His priorities.
3. My body is the living temple of God and must not be defiled by the lusts of the world.
4. My church must teach the foundational truths of the Bible and reinforce my basic convictions.
5. My children and grandchildren belong to God, and it is my responsibility to teach them Scriptural principles, Godly character, and basic convictions.
6. My activities must never weaken the Scriptural convictions of another Christian.
7. My marriage is a life-long commitment to God and to my marriage partner.
8. My money is a trust from God and must be earned and managed according to Scriptural principles.
9. My words must be in harmony with God's Word, especially when reproofing and restoring a Christian brother.
10. My affections must be set on things above, not on things in the earth.

that are around us and we can become concerned, but, loved ones, if our hearts are right, if we are watching and praying, if we have repented, if we have been converted and baptized into the blood of Jesus Christ and God has spoken that peace unto us, let us stand fast. Let us look up because our redemption draweth nigh. That is what it is all about. If we

are not in that position, let us look up because our redemption can draw nigh.

Today is the day of salvation. Today we have an opportunity. Today Jesus Christ is waiting to hear from us.

As we go through this chapter, we realize that time on this earth isn't always going to be the way we know it today. There is coming a

finality of life as we know it. Jesus Christ is going to come again. It is going to happen. It is hard to comprehend because we don't know what that is going to be like. We have never experienced it, but it is going to happen. Jesus Christ is going to come again, and it may be very soon.

Are we watching? Are we praying? Are we ready?



This concludes the series on the Geistlich Diary.

Monday, September 17. On the ocean: It is well for us if we have a God to whom we can pray any time who is a fortress in time of need. Today I heard that a person on our ship (who was in the first cabin) going from New York to England became insane, demanding a gun from the sailors, but received none. I thought how sad is life without God. Indescribable is the grasp of death into which people fall, who continue in sin. But a person who is relieved of his sins has reason to thank God and our Saviour daily for the redemption and blotting out of sins.

Many a time I felt glad that the Lord did reveal to me His salvation, as in a trip like this. One can remain contented in the hands of God, on land and on sea, and if the waves roll high so one can see the mountains of deep water, the ship going up high and then down in the deep. Then one can look confidently to the Father who is in Heaven, and also feel as we sing in that song, "rejoice, for the end is coming." Today our ship made 314 miles.

Tuesday, September 18: The weather is rainy and stormy. This morning about 10:00 we saw the coast of England. Because it was very foggy and rainy, and a strong wind blowing (being about one-quarter of a mile from the coast), we barely missed hitting a large rock cliff, which are numerous in the channel. If the merciful God had not watched over us, all could easily have perished, but the good Shepherd saved us. Today our ship made 316 miles.

Wednesday, September 19: Since last evening, we sailed along the coast of England. This is a dangerous channel as it is narrow and has many large rock cliffs.

Thursday, September 20. On the sea: Weather fair. Today our voyage went on, luckily our ship made 155 miles. This is our last day on the sea. About 10:00 we caught sight of land. I have often watched the ship; how victoriously it moves onward, ploughing its way through the high waves. What is the cause of this? The machinery? No, not alone the machinery, but the power in it which consists of three parts: water, fire and steam. These three working together move the machines which in themselves alone are dead.

A believing person is in the same manner supplied but not made of man. God is the Maker through Jesus Christ. If the faith and love through the Holy Spirit are working together, therefrom comes a great power with which we can overcome the world and all the obstacles which we meet in our daily life; and with our ship of Faith we sail through sorrows and death into that eternal haven of peace. Heroically, we sail through our allotted span of life driven from this power of God. We can say with the Apostle, "Who can separate us from the love of God and our Lord Jesus. Amen." After landing here in the harbor, we took a train into Bremen. From there we took a train to Vegesach arriving at 7:00. The brethren here were filled with joy and entertained us gladly.

Friday, September 21. Vegesach, Germany: The weather is rainy. Today I was stricken and sick. Bro. Legenmann read the 145th Psalm. These words became very important to me, which read, "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him. He also will hear their cry and will save them." God can and will not forsake His children.

Saturday, September 22. Vegesach, Germany: I was sick today and wished I was at home, but I must be patient and wait. I have the confidence that the Lord will help, for He has helped until now. Oh, that we only have a Godly life within us and are in communion with the Holy Spirit, for the life is in the Son, we live in Him and He in us, and we shall stay in Him until the end.

Sunday, September 23. Vegesach, Germany: This morning I felt very much burdened, but after a vigorous prayer to God, I felt somewhat better. I read several chapters in the New Testament, in Hebrews, Chapter 5, which was especially important to me. How the Son of God had many heavy hours and sorrow and pain until He had ended this life's journey. He had to call and pray, with voice and tears, to His Heavenly Father many times.

I could feel many times on my trip how true God is in all His promises to them that honor Him. Oh, how good is it if the Lord can, in His love and grace, reveal Himself to us and fill our hearts with light and love. Whoever says he knows God, must also show it with his works here in this life.

Monday, September 24. Vegesach, Germany: Today Bro. Legenmann took us to Bremen. From Bremen we went to Hanover where we had to wait, for quite awhile, to go on to Cassel. I became quite impatient but could do nothing but wait. Traveling was a burden to me.

Tuesday, September 25. Cassel, Germany: From Cassel we went to Frankfort where we arrived at 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 26. Frankfort, Germany: The past night I slept well. I am thankful to the Lord for all the goodness and love He lets me feel daily. From here we went to Heidelberg and then to Flinsbach, where there was great joy among the dear brethren as we arrived.

Thursday, September 27. Flinsbach, Germany: Last night I slept in a good bed, the first one I had for quite a while. I was very glad among the dear brethren, who came from all directions, from Neuhof and Willenbach. All rejoiced in my safe return. To whom must I be thankful for it all? To my dear God and Father in Heaven, who led me twice safely across the large ocean. I am unworthy of all the good the Lord did to me.

Friday, September 28. Flinsbach, Germany: Today I visited in Sinsheim.

Saturday, September 29. Flinsbach, Germany: Today I visited Catharine's brother and bade them farewell, going to Strasburg.

Sunday, September 30. Strasburg, France: This forenoon we held a members' meeting. In the afternoon we had a funeral, burying the late sister Krutemann. Many brethren went along to the grave. With the help of the Lord I preached the funeral sermon. We sang hymn #104 at the grave.

Monday, October 1. Strasburg, France: Today I visited with the brethren here at Strasburg.

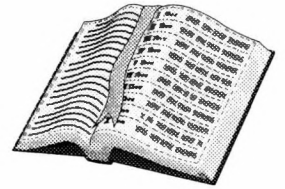
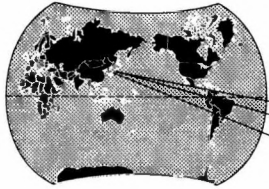
Tuesday, October 2. Basel, Switzerland: Today we arrived in Basel. This evening there was church. I was very glad to see the dear brethren at Basel again, face to face. Today I again feel much indebted to the Lord for my safe journey.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
An analysis of the Geistlich Diary

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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"We Are Neighbors"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

I recently noticed that in the story of the good Samaritan in Luke 10, the lawyer asked the Lord Jesus Christ the question, "Who is my neighbor?", and Christ replied by asking the lawyer the question, "Who was neighbor unto him who fell among thieves?" The lawyer was wanting to know who he is supposed to love, but Christ rather taught him, and all of us, how we are to love, assuming that anyone in need is our neighbor.

A possible answer to the lawyer's question might have been, "Anyone who lives within 3 miles of your home is your neighbor." That would have made the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself, a little more manageable. Christ's indirect answer puts no limit on whether or not you know the person or where that person lives. The criteria is simply that that person has a need for your love and my love, and everyone has that need, therefore everyone is our neighbor.

I am comforted to know that

Christ sometimes did not answer questions, such as when being questioned by Pilate. "But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled." (Mark 15:5). At other times, Jesus only gave indirect answers, such as in the case of the question, "Who is my neighbor?" The reason I am comforted is because I sometimes do not answer questions when asked. When I was a young brother in our church fellowship, another brother reportedly said of me, "He is a nice brother but he doesn't answer my questions." There are other loved ones whose questions I have failed to answer immediately, although if given a lot of time to meditate and consider, I am happy to reply to any question. I have felt that I need to repent of my lack of consideration for my questioners. However, maybe it is all right to resort to deep thought and meditation before answering some questions. Christ took His time in telling the story of the Good Samaritan in answer to a question

which could have been answered with the reply, "Anyone in need is your neighbor." We remember it better because of the story.

On January 5, our precious son, Tony, died in Oakland, CA after only two days of hospitalization. Lois and I arrived at his bedside just one hour before his death. We talked to him, prayed for him and quoted John 3:16 in our prayer. Our other three children were by his bedside, too. Tony could not respond.

We had a funeral service for Tony in California which was attended by friends in that area. We needed a place to bury Tony and were granted permission to bury him in our church cemetery in Princeville, IL. There was a short service for Tony in Princeville and there is where I had the strong feeling that all of you precious people who attended were neighbor unto us. We may not do so well as you did, but we will try to be neighbor unto you. After all, we are neighbors.

希望の光



Toledo, OH - 1893
pictured in 1941

Over a century ago, brethren from Europe and parts of America worshipped in an upstairs hall of one of the member's house. The fore hall was used for services while the rear of the hall was used for lunch.

In 1904 a new church was built (pictured) and remodeled in 1929, just before the Great Depression struck.

In 1956 the present edifice was built and serves the congregation today.

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