

# *The Silver Lining*



*She is not afraid of the snow for all her household are clothed with scarlet.*

December 1999

## “BE WILLING TO SHARE”

*Sermon by Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer, Akron, OH*  
Exodus 12:1-14 and II Corinthians 8

We opened in the Old Testament to a passage which, no doubt, we have often read together. It is a very familiar passage. The Lord spoke to the Israelite people there through Moses and through Aaron, and He told them of the importance of that which they were about to observe.

The Passover was described to them and it was so important because that observance was to mark the beginning of the year for them. It would be the first month of the year from that point on for those people. When we stop to think about it, not just in an earthly sense, but in a spiritual sense—the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. This, of course, was a prophecy of that.

The sacrifice of the Lord Jesus is really the beginning, isn't it? The beginning of one's spiritual life. Now we were not there when that happened, but when we recognize that that sacrifice was made for us, when we recognize that there was a Perfect Lamb—just as these people were instructed to take a lamb without blemish—there was a Perfect Lamb that was sacrificed for us. When we recognized that in the depth of our heart, and realized that that was done for us, that was really the beginning of our spiritual life, wasn't it? That was the beginning of a new life for us.

They were instructed that they should take the blood of that lamb and use it to mark the side posts and upper door post of the houses where they resided, and that when the Lord would see

that blood, He would pass over that house. Those places where that blood was not present, the angel of God entered in and the first born in every household was killed.

We can hardly imagine the great lamentation and the great sorrow and great weeping that occurred throughout that land. So that indeed was a very momentous time, not just for the Egyptians, but above all, for the Israelite people for it marked the event by which they were released.

Also the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus marked the event by which we could be released. At that time, we may not have recognized our bondage. We may not have recognized that we indeed were servants of Satan, but as we grew in the understanding and knowledge of the wonderful plan of God, we could see the great importance of what the Lord Jesus has done for us.

It should be that we are, therefore, willing to devote to Him anything and everything that He would ask us to do for Him.

Now in this passage that we read here in the eighth chapter in Second Corinthians, some of it deals with our earthly life. Some of it deals with how we use the material things that God has given to us for our use. Sometimes we speak of our things, our house, our car, or whatever it might be. Sometimes that way of speaking, we know what we are talking about, but we should all remember that those things are just for our temporary use. We

haven't in any way created them. We haven't in any way produced them for surely we are going to leave them. There will be nothing of this earthly life that we can take with us.

So the encouragement here in this chapter is in part to use it wisely. He said here, “Moreover,

*Sermon continued on page 45*

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches. Please collect in:

### January

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

Next correspondence due:

### For January Issue

(16 Nov. News - 15 Dec. News)

**Due: 20 December 1999**

The Silver Lining (Vol. 53, #12)  
RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561  
**USPS 496780**

Published Monthly By The Apostolic  
Christian Church of America

*Counselors:*  
Wayne Anliker, Ervin Knecht

### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Silver Lining  
RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL, 61561  
309-923-7513 (phone) 309-923-7359 (fax)

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

The Silver Lining  
RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

December 1999

### Our Precious Greeting II

The previous article discussed the importance of greeting brothers and sisters with godly love. It is a holy greeting and it includes a kiss of charity. This article will focus on the history of the greeting and explore when the greeting is appropriate.

In the New Testament, the commandment to greet one another with an holy kiss or a kiss of charity occurs five times. There are numerous examples in both the Old and New Testament when the greeting with a kiss was practiced.

The Bible provides us with numerous examples of the greeting with a kiss of charity to show love and forgiveness at a time when human nature might have called for revenge. Imagine how dramatically the following accounts would have changed if there would have been revenge instead of a kiss of charity.

After Jacob had stolen Esau's blessing by deceiving his father, he and his brother were separated for many years. Jacob had run away to escape his brother's hatred and after many years had a desire to return to his father's house. This required him to meet Esau whom he feared because he thought Esau would take vengeance for what Jacob had done years earlier. As he returned home, "...he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him: and they wept" (Gen. 33:3-4). Esau's willingness to forgive his brother was evident by his expression of love for Jacob.

Joseph, having been sorely mistreated by his brothers, was in a position of authority that would have made it possible for him to exact a severe penalty from his brothers for what they had done. Instead he "kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him" (Gen. 45:15). Years of deceit and wickedness were freely forgiven. Joseph, a man of authority in Egypt, was a man of compassion and forgiveness in his heart. Although sold into a heathen nation, he retained his godly spirit of love.

Likewise, the father of the prodigal son had ample reason to be upset with his son. However, when his son "...was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck and kissed him" (Lk. 15:20). The wasted years, the riotous living and the irresponsible attitude of the younger son were forgiven by a father who understood the need of a son with a broken and contrite heart. The father's kiss of love was evidence of the father's forgiving spirit.

These are examples of the kiss being a symbol of love and forgiveness at a time when human nature might have called for revenge. Imagine how dramatically each of these accounts would have changed if there had been revenge instead of a kiss of charity.

Other examples of a kiss of charity occurred when some of God's people faced hardship. When Paul was parting from the brethren at Ephesus, "...They all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him. Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more" (Acts 20:37-38).

The early Christians practiced the greeting with a kiss as an act of love and unity at a time when the number of Christians was small and when persecution was profound. The early Christians were encouraged, strengthened and sustained by the loving support they received from one another. The same benefits of a Christian greeting are available to us today. Paul described it as a holy kiss to distinguish it from ceremonial or lustful acts which were so prevalent at that time.

Various histories of the early Christian church indicate that the greeting with the kiss was a token of affection that had its beginning in the early days of Christianity and lasted, to varying degrees, throughout the centuries even to our day and time.

Unfortunately, the practice of this greeting began to break down among many Christian groups by the end of the fourth century. The Anabaptist movement, which grew out of the Reformation in the sixteenth century, was largely responsible for

a significant return of the greeting with the kiss, a practice which continued among various Christian groups until the present.

There are times when the question arises concerning when it is appropriate or inappropriate to greet with a holy kiss. Clearly it is appropriate when we are in our churches or in our homes. Other places such as our fellowship halls or other gatherings where the group is predominately those of our brotherhood would also be times when this special greeting would often be deemed appropriate.

We do, however, want to protect the sacredness of our precious greeting. If the greeting would be practiced in an atmosphere which would bring reproach upon the Church, it would not be edifying. If this greeting would be accomplished in a manner that would appear to be lustful as described in Romans (Chapter 1:20-32), it would not be to the honor and glory of God. While we do not wish to cast aspersions at others, we must remember the scriptural directive that we "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you" (Mt. 7:6). Those who have little knowledge nor appreciation of the scripture "...speak evil of the things they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption" (II Peter 2:12). We would not want to give Satan an opportunity to bring reproach from the world upon the children of God, and "turn the truth into a lie" (Ro. 1:25).

The greeting of our brethren, as brothers and sisters of Christ, is a precious greeting. It provides us the opportunity to show our love for the brethren, to demonstrate forgiveness, to promote charity within the church and to greet one another in a manner that shows our concern and compassion for the children of God. We do not want to let the evil forces of Satan deprive us of the love and unity we can gain from the proper use of it, nor do we want to display it in a manner that would give the world an opportunity to dishonor our Lord and our Saviour.





## 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

### Our Needy Brethren How long must one work to be able to buy it?

Listed below are prices of consumer goods in the open market and shops in Eastern Europe. Our brethren visited these markets in October 1999 and recorded these prices. The cost is shown in the approximate number of hours a person must work at average wages to pay for the items.

--These numbers could vary.



### Romania

Product                      Hours to buy

#### Food

1 loaf of bread = .5 hours  
2.2 lbs. oranges = 2 hours  
Small jar jam = 1.1 hours  
Ketchup = 1.5 hours  
1 liter milk = .4 hours  
½ lb. butter = 1.2 hours  
1 dozen eggs = 1.4 hours  
1 liter sunflower oil = 1.6 hours  
2 lbs. sugar = 1 hour  
2.2 lbs. salt = .3 hours  
18 ounces pasta = 2.1 hours

#### Household necessities

1 bar Palmolive soap = .7 hours  
20 napkins = 2.4 hours  
Laundry soap = 2.5 hours  
4 rolls toilet paper = 2.4 hours  
Serving bowl = 8 hours

#### Appliances & fixtures

Light fixture = 34.8 hours  
Telephone = 543 hours

Iron = 102.6 hours  
Coffee maker (60 cup) = 33.7  
Apartment size gas range = 218 hours  
Full size gas range = 725 hours  
Bathtub = 185 hours  
Soft drink = 15.5 hours  
Pack of chewing gum = .4 hours  
Towel bar = 12.6 hours  
Small freezer = 715 hours  
Washing machine = 1060 hours  
Toilet = 86.3 hours  
Water heater = 162 hours

#### Clothing

Men's shoes = 25 hours  
Women's shoes = 15 hours  
Women's hose = 25 hours  
Stockings = .7 hours  
Lady's suit = 49.7 hours  
Sweater = 29.5 hours  
Scarf = 1.9 hours  
Men's slacks = 41.5 hours  
Men's suit = 97 hours

#### Items for children

Box of Wet Wipes = 11.1 hours  
24 Pampers = 9.2 hours  
Jump seat = 37.3 hours



### Ukraine

When our brethren were in Ukraine in October 1999, they were told that virtually none of our members or friends in that country have a full-time job. They work only from day to day as opportunities appear. The following reflects prices in the open market on the day our brethren visited this market.

Product                      Hours to buy  
**Food**

4.4 lbs. pears = 1.5 hours  
10 lbs. potatoes = 6.6 hours  
2.2 lbs. walnuts = 7.3 hours  
1 lb. tomatoes = .5 hours  
1 lb. sausage = 3.2 hours  
1 lb. cheese = 2 hours  
1 lb. pasta = .9 hours  
1 lb. onions = .3 hours  
1 lb. cooked turkey leg = 2.3 hours  
1 lb. raw turkey leg = 1.7 hours  
½ lb. coffee = 16 hours  
1 lb. fish = 1.5 hours  
1 dozen eggs = 2.2 hours  
1 loaf bread = .6 hours

#### Household necessities

Shampoo = 2.6 hours  
Toothpaste = 2.2 hours  
Toothbrush = 2.3 hours  
8 rolls toilet paper = 2.4 hours  
Soap = .5 hours

#### Clothing

Jeans = 11 hours  
Pullover = 5.8 hours  
Shirt = 5.9 hours  
Men's shoes = 31.3 hours  
Stockings = .6 hours

Most things are available in the open markets, but few have the financial means to pay for the goods. This is the reason our brethren continue to ask for assistance in the form of money rather than goods.



Contributions directed toward this effort can be given to your local Treasurer-Representative or sent to:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORLD RELIEF  
EUROPEAN BOARD  
C/O JERRY BAUMAN, TREASURER  
9652 STERLING ROAD  
RITTMAN, OH 44270



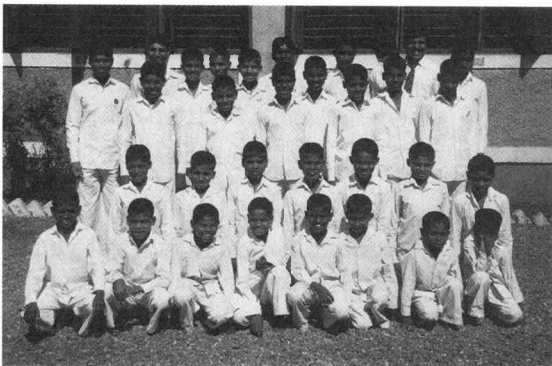


## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

### Rural Gospel & Medical Missions of India

In previous articles we have included descriptions of the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission (RGMMI) founding in 1938, its organization, goals, responsibilities, activities and how our church became involved. For this month's article it was felt that it might be interesting to know what occurs on a daily basis in that far off land of India on the mission's compounds. As has been earlier described, one of the important segments of the mission operations is the orphanage and boarding. There is boarding at both Khardi and Nasik. Presently there are a total of 68 boys. There are 43 girls sponsored by the mission at another Christian facility. Following is a description of a day in the life of a typical boarding boy at either mission compound.



#### Orphanage/Boarding A Typical Day

He gets up at the sounds of the rising bell at 5:30 in the morning. After finishing his morning chores, he joins his group for the early morning devotion from 6:15 to 6:30. He joins in the singing of praise and devotion to our Lord and listens or reads from the Holy Bible. He spends quiet time of about three or four minutes in prayer and meditation.

After the early morning devotion, he along with the other boys come outside and join in the physical exercise of jogging, running and stretching from 6:30 to 7:15. Basic exercises are done under the guidance of the seniors and the housefather. By this time, the breakfast is being readied by the cook and he has the morning tea and chappatis as breakfast from 7:30 to 8:00. After breakfast he readies himself to come for the Daily Devotional Service in the Church. He joins for this service along with the other boarding boys and the staff of the mission. An initial 10 minutes are spent in singing

choruses and hymns and also learning from the staff some new spiritual songs and choruses. The Daily Devotional Service is from 8:30 to 9:00 and is led by a staff member. The staff of the Spiritual Arm contributes meditations for this service, which is read and further elaborated by the concerned staff who is leading the service.

After the church service he goes to the study room/dining room and spends about 90 minutes, which is from 9:15 to 10:45, in studies. The homework given by the teacher is completed; the portion to be taken for the day by the teacher is read so that he can understand the topic better. From 10:45 to 11:30 he spends doing some gardening. Tending to the plants, grass and flowers is enjoyed by all the boys.

At 11:30 he has some snacks of cooked beaten rice and starts getting

ready to go to school by wearing the school uniform and packing his school bags. He walks to school along with the other boarding boys. School is from 12 noon to 3:00 in the afternoon. There are five teaching sessions of 35 minutes each with 5 minutes small recess between each session.

He comes for lunch at 3:00 in the afternoon and has a quick lunch of rice, curry and vegetables and leaves within 30 minutes for school. The school reopens at 3:45 PM and he attends the three teaching sessions until 5:30 in the evening.

He comes back to the boarding campus and has some recreation and games of cricket, volleyball, etc. until 6:30 PM. From 6:30 to 7:00 PM he joins the other boarding boys in singing sessions and prayer and scripture reading.

He has dinner at 7:00 PM consisting of millet or milo bread, curry and pulses. After dinner he goes to the study room for studies and completion of the homework. During this time he reads the lessons taken by the teacher during the day and also learns the answers to the questions on the topic studied. At 9:30 PM he joins his colleagues and friends for the closing prayer conducted by the housefather and at 9:45 PM goes to bed.

Dr. Parkhe who oversees the mission including the two housefathers who look after and teach the boys has furnished the above description. It is through the loving and generous support from our churches that this important service can function.



## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

The Apostle Paul exhorted us to be in a state of thankfulness when he said, "In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:18). What did he mean? Could this really be true? Are we to be thankful for death, disabilities, burdensome times, evil in the world, the unfairness of life, etc? Maybe the context of the scripture indicates to the Thessalonians, though living in difficult circumstances, to be thankful in every circumstance, but not necessarily for every thing. We take comfort in this thought around our facilities at ACHH. We realize that our residents have special challenges. When we observe a resident or staff member expressing thankfulness, even though they may be dealing with especially difficult circumstances, we all are changed. Thanksgiving becomes a part of our character, and not just a day set aside to thank God for His blessings.

We quickly move from the Thanksgiving to Christmas holidays, don't we? Our residents participate in a wide range of activities, events and festivities to celebrate Christ's birth as well. Some activities include: special holiday decorating, shopping, Christmas carolers (and some homes Christmas carol to others as well), seeing friends or family, presents, special foods, the Peoria Church Christmas Party at the Fellowship Hall, the group homes' Christmas dinner at the Morton Fellowship Hall, special services at church, driving through East Peoria to see the lights, Christmas activities in individual homes or facilities and many others. As you can see, people with special challenges enjoy participating in a wide range of events and activities at holiday times, or really any other

time of the year as well. We pray all Silver Lining readers will have a blessed holiday season as well.

JANUARY birthdays at **TIMBER RIDGE** are: Nicole Delicath (6), Stephen Penn (8), Edith Wagenbach (8), Bruce Steffen (19), Jackie Willet (19), John Eddy (27), Tom Sides (31). At **OAKWOOD ESTATE**: Laverna Zobrist (25). At **LINDEN ESTATE**: Mary Schramm (13), Karen Blunier (14). At 650 **DETROIT**: Rhonda Gerst (12).

---

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

**Jill Gramm**

"...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Phil. 2:3). Heard of that verse? But how do you put it into practice? A minister in Leo was discussing it and mentioned that we know we should esteem our brother with whom we disagree, so sometimes we pretend we do, when in our heart, we really don't esteem them. He challenged our congregation to spend our energy on figuring out why we are not esteeming them instead of spending energy on pretending. When we view ourselves in the light of God, we find humility and esteem for others are evident.

I'm embarrassed to say how short of a time it was before I had the opportunity to put that advice into practice. I was at odds with one of my brothers, self-righteously thinking that he didn't know what he was talking about. The Lord spoke to my heart, convicting me that I was not esteeming him higher than myself. When I asked myself why I was not esteeming him, I realized that it was because I thought I knew more than he did! When I returned to the situation with an open mind, I was humbled to discover his great insight and blessing that he gave to others.

Congratulations to Alternate Houseparents, Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Angie Zimmerman, on the birth of their first child, Aletheia Christine.

On October 31, we enjoyed an all-church wiener roast at Gateway Woods' campus. Leo's four ministers were recognized for their service with the local church.

Our new residents are Jake M., living with the Bauman's, and Andrew H. at Kipfer's. We said good-bye to Jessica G. from the Kipfer house. She returned home to live with her parents. Victor B. went home from foster care to live with his mom, Zsuzsanna, who attends church here in Leo. Gateway Woods School welcomed its first foster child to attend school full time on campus.

In an effort to determine the current involvement and future interest of Apostolic Christians in foster care, we have distributed to Elders, Local Church Representatives, Board Members, and individuals a regional foster care survey in IL, IN, MI, and OH. If you have recently been foster parents or have a further interest, we want to hear from you. Also, this survey is available on the Internet at <http://www.gatewaywoods.org/survey>.

We will have a staff opening for an Assistant Houseparent in March 2000. Single sisters, please pray about this position and consider applying. God may want you to share His Word with the teenagers of northeast Indiana. See the notice in this issue or call our office for more information.

---

## **ALABAMA, ATHENS**

**Pam Moore**

A colleague of mine at work, commented today, "This has been the fastest year of my life!" As I thought about it, I had to agree, it has also been the fastest year of my life. It seems the year just started, and already we are preparing for

the holidays! I had to wonder during this fast-paced year, have I taken time enough for God, to reflect on His blessings, guidance and will for my life? I know, without a doubt, that I have fallen far short of spending time with God, my Father, and Jesus, my Saviour.

During the past month we were saddened by the death of Sis. Ruby Moss (Bro. Marvin), however we believe she will rejoice in her heavenly home.

The fourth weekend in October, the Preschool Board Meeting was held. Following the Board Meeting on Saturday, we enjoyed fellowship and singing Saturday evening, and church on Sunday, with a potluck lunch, before saying farewell. We thank each one who took the time to travel to Athens, to support our Preschool.

That same weekend, we were doubly blessed by three Russian visitors; Colonel Alexander Safonova, his wife, Irena Safonova, and their interpreter, Larissa Mikhailova, from the Republic of Petrozavodsk, Karelia.

The colonel is the head of all prisons in his republic, and has allowed Bibles and Bible Study Guides to be placed in these prisons. Their interpreter is instrumental in translating the English Bible Studies into Russian. We learned a great deal of their republic in Russia, and of their Christian faith and beliefs. It was a very educational experience for everyone, from the youngest to the oldest. We thank God for bringing people from different areas of the world together, to serve Him and bring the Bible to everyone.

October is also the month we have a fall festival for the children. It is always a fun time for children and adults alike, and provides an alternative to the Halloween holiday.

As always, we welcome anyone who will be in the Athens area to worship with us. Church is at 10:00

a.m. on Sundays and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Contact Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-0629 if you have any further questions.

---

### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.”

*Titus 2:1*

As we listen to the tapes of our dear Elder brothers summer Conference and read of the sound doctrine in Titus 2 and 3, our beloved Apostolic Christian Church shall prevail if we adhere and pray to God. Our Phoenix congregation is enjoying a short sermon before a Conference speaker on Wednesday evenings this year.

On October 24, we enjoyed our Sunday School Church Picnic at Horizon Park. Fun, festivities, food and singing were enjoyed by many. We are grateful to everyone for your efforts to again make our picnic a very special time of Christian fellowship.

The World Relief project meetings are accomplishing help to others, besides knotting quilts.

Our sympathy to Sis. Denise Gramm, Bro. Gregg and family on the death of her grandfather, Bro. Ezra Feller, of Cissna Park, IL.

Prayers have been uttered for our hospital and sick at home folks. Sis. Verna Pueschel, Sis. Shirley Mohrman, Bro. Richard Schupbach, Sis. Katherine Laukhuf, Bro. Ray Blunier, and Floren Klopfenstein. Marsha Banks suffered a broken ankle when she stepped in a pothole in the workplace parking lot.

Our November temperatures are in the 80's and 90's but we send Season's Greetings and love to all.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). We truly appreciated your la-

bor for God.

We enjoyed a Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, November 14. Thanks to Sis. Cindy (Bro. Eric) Langhofer and her committee and to everyone who did the numerous tasks to make such a special weekend.

There was a short singing before Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich read the minister vows to Bro. Herb Knochel Jr. (Sis. Laurie). Elder Bros. Sinn and Gudeman directed us to Scriptures that remind us of the responsibilities of the congregation and ministers.

“Be ye kind one to another.” (Eph. 4:32)

“Be ye followers of God. Walk in love.” (Eph. 5:1-2)

Dear ones, let us pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17) that God's love will give us strength and peace to uphold the doctrine and traditions of our church, revering and respecting Almighty God.

Don't walk in front of me  
I may not follow  
Don't walk behind me  
I may not lead  
Walk beside me  
And just be my friend.

—Albert Camus

---

### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

As Christmas approaches and we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, let us remember in prayer those who have lost loved ones this year and need extra support and comfort.

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there



be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.”

*Rev. 21:3-4*

Our ministering brothers last month include Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). We thank them for their love and support. May God bless them and their families for their service for Him.

---

### ARIZONA, TUCSON

#### Lisa Knapp

We appreciated visits from Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) on the same day, November 7. Bro. Curt Kaufman would have been alone on the pulpit that particular Sunday so the visiting ministers were a special blessing. Then the following Wednesday, Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) was with us for services. Thank you all for your work on the pulpit. May God add His blessing.

We held our church cleaning on November 6. Many thanks from the trustees to everyone who set aside time on that Saturday to do some much needed work on God's house.

Not much else to report this month. Our weather is unusually warm for this time of year. Today's (November 12) high is expected to be 90 degrees. We should be getting back to normal temperatures, around 80 degrees, next week.

---

### CALIFORNIA ALTADENA Jim Klotzle

“Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to

make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.”

*I Chron. 29:12-13*

Our God reigns over us and gives us strength day by day, and just as stated in I Chron. 29, we give Him our thanks and praise. This is important not only during the Thanksgiving season, but for the rest of our lives.

While thanking God and praising Him, it is necessary to remember those people who have invested in our lives and to show them our gratefulness. Gratefulness, or the state of being appreciative for benefits received, is not dependent on our current situation. Rather, we must choose to be grateful, looking beyond our present condition and concentrating on what lessons can be learned in every situation. As we show our gratefulness to those who have invested in our lives, let's remember the ultimate investment of the One who redeemed our souls with His blood.

We welcome back Bro. Reuben and Sis. Chrystol Luthi and Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edie Wieland who have returned to southern California for the winter.

We are thankful that Sis. Lanae Aberle is in good health and able to fellowship with us again.

Bro. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR) shared the pulpit with our ministers this month and we thank him and his family for their visit.

---

### CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO Peggy Jevremov

We are thankful Bro. Rory Strahm is able to assemble with us once again. Even though his progress has been slow, Bro. Rory has a smile on his face and a positive attitude.

Our dear Bro. Ralph Zimmer

passed away on November 5 at age 90. He had only been ill a short time when God took him Home. We are thankful that he did not have to suffer long but we truly miss him in our little congregation. Our sympathy and prayers are with his wife, Linde, who cared for him so faithfully. Elder Bro. John Klotzle and Sis. Lois gathered with us for a memorial service for Bro. Ralph.

Among our visitors this past month were Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz (Silverton, OR), Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), and Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters (Mansfield, OH). We pray the Lord will bless each of our dear Elder brothers for their labors on the behalf of our little flock.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy Fulop and their children as they await a decision from the immigration department.

---

### KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA Laura Baxter

“Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord;”

*Hebrews 12:14*

God is holy and He expects His people to demonstrate by their life and conduct that they are holy (Lev. 11:45, 19:2, I Peter 1:16). Holiness signifies that we have been set apart for God's service and as a result, we conduct ourselves in a way that is befitting those that are separated. By God's grace, believers are called to sanctify themselves (Lev. 20:7, I Th. 4:7), cleanse themselves from all defilement (II Cor 7:1), forsake sin (Ep. 4:24, 1:4), live a holy manner of life (II Pet. 3:11, Luke 1:74-75, I Pet. 1:15),

and experience fellowship with God in His holiness. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness, the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein...but the redeemed shall walk therein:" (Is. 35:8-9).

We have been blessed with many visitors this past month. We thank each one and especially our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan - Naumburg, NY), and Bros. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Art Ingold (Rittman, OH). May God bless each of you for your labours in our behalf.

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

---

### **COLORADO, DENVER**

#### **Mark and Kelly Ramseyer**

We count it a wonderful blessing and great encouragement that Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Beyer, along with 3-month-old Sophie, have allowed God to direct them to move to the Denver area. As you read last month, Kansas City's big loss was our big gain. Not only are we excited to have another young family join us, but several of us in Denver have known Ken's family or Amy's family for many years and look forward to the many anticipated visits from them. We've already enjoyed the company of Elder Bro. Mark (and his ministry) and Sis. Bev Bahr, Amy's parents, from the Detroit church, and are planning on their return. Ken and Amy and Sophie, we welcome you and pray that God will increasingly show you His grace and wisdom in our church and through our lives.

Earlier in October, several people from church went to Mexico to do some painting, plumbing, electrical work and other construction/maintenance in an orphanage. It was evident from their conversations the next Sunday that they worked hard and enjoyed the time to share their talents with others, as well as spending time with each other. We're thankful they were willing to be used to further God's work and to provide excellent examples to us and the recipients of their work. Thank you Bro. Mike Katanic, Bro. Mike Martin, Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn Hohulin along with your children, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman along with your children.

I've been in a quandary the last couple weeks, not knowing whether I should elaborate about Thanksgiving because it is not given enough emphasis; Christmas because we'll all be focusing on it by the time we read this; the new millennium because this will be the last publishing in this one; or an experience I had a few weeks ago because its impact on me may generate some thought for you. Should we be concentrating on being thankful to God for His incalculable gifts, celebrating the birth of the only way we'll ever get to Heaven, contemplating how we can be better servants in the future, or trying to touch someone else's life in some small way? Which is the most important to spend the time and space thinking and writing about? Which should we be doing when Jesus returns? Which do we wish to be doing when someone else is watching? Which would Jesus be doing? Do you suppose there was ever a single day that Jesus wasn't thankful without being wanting? Do you suppose there was ever a single day that Jesus wasn't glad He was the Son of God so that He could provide an av-

enue to Heaven for everyone? Do you suppose there was ever a single day that Jesus didn't think about doing His Father's will? Do you suppose there was ever a single day that Jesus didn't touch someone else's life? Do you suppose there was ever a single day that Jesus didn't do all of these all day long? Do you suppose there was ever a single day that Jesus didn't wish that we would be just like Him?

We send our sympathy and condolences to Sis. Deb Leman, her husband, Bro. Mike, and their four boys. Soon after they returned home from Mexico, Deb's young niece died. From my experiences at funerals, there are no words to ease the pain, only time and support from the Comforter. We wish His comfort for you and your family.

We enjoyed the visit of our Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) along with Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO). They reacquainted friendships, shared the Memorandum, and again supported us here. Thank you.

---

### **CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat**

"The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he."

*John 4:25-26*

Even as Christ has come in the lowly manger on that blessed morning, He continues to beckon those unto repentance and to heed His tender call. May His kind entreating through the Word and gentle promptings of the Holy Spirit bear fruit in the hearts of men and women during this

Christmas season.

A soul has heeded that call in recent days. Our prayers are with Gardy Moreau as he endeavors to begin a new walk with Him in repentance.

Heavenward, then take your journey;

Let your course in faith be trod;  
Face the crafty adversary  
Boldly as a man of God...

*Zion's Harp #52, Repent Ye!*

"And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go."

*Genesis 24:58*

The engagement of Bro. Nathan Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Miriam Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret) of Kitchener, Ontario, Canada was announced. As they prepare for a life together in the Lord, may they continue to look to God for all their needs and direction.

What a blessing it is to have continual instruction regarding our Christian walk here upon this earth. The Memorandum was read and we are thankful that this opportunity is afforded unto us. May God bless the dear brethren who assisted our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in this service: Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Robert Walder (Congerville, IL). Also ministering unto us in past weeks were Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ). It is our hope that these brethren continue to receive prayerful support of the brethren and the grace of God to carry out His will.

Our sympathies and prayers are with two dear families who have lost loved ones in death. May God be with the family of Bro. Emanuel Gerber: his wife, Faith; son, Vaughn (Skip); and daughter, Joy

Senger; his grandchildren; and his brothers, Bro. Earl (Sis. Esther, Forrest, IL), Bro. Everett and Bro. Melvin (Sis. Millie), both of the Rockville congregation; and sisters, Sis. Marge (Bro. Gene) Fehr, (Roanoke, IL), Sis. Rosetta (Bro. Elmer) Stoller, (Forrest, IL) and Betty (Burt) Ensirink, (CA). Also in our prayers and thoughts is the family of Raymond Stomberg who recently passed away leaving his dear sister, Ingrid; sons, Bro. Ron (Sis. Judy) and Robert, and his extended family. Special memories often flood our mind of days gone by when we have spent precious moments with our loved ones. May He pour in the healing balm and comfort each one.

From time to time, our dear brethren undergo surgery and spend time in the hospital. Our prayers are with Sis. Florence Kloter (Bro. Wilbur) as she recovers. May He also watch over Ernest Limberger during his time in the hospital.

---

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

As we celebrate this joyful time of the year, may we all remember why Jesus came to live on the earth. Many from our congregation will be traveling during the holidays; we ask the Lord to bless them and all who will be traveling.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bros. Jerry Isch and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT, and Tremont, IL. We are always glad when business or vacation brings loved ones to our area.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, lo-

cated about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors, we gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635 or Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

---

### FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS Anjie Baum

O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord!

Adore: to worship with profound reverence; to pay divine honors to; to love greatly; to regard with the utmost esteem, affection and respect. (Webster's)

Let us each take time to adore our Saviour this Christmas season.

This past month our gracious Bro. Victor and Sis. Dorothy Beer opened their home and hosted their annual picnic and fellowship dinner. Our thanks to them, again, for their hospitality.

Our Bro. Art Keller recently underwent surgery for kidney stones. He has had a difficult recovery, and we continue to pray for his return to good health. Also, Bro. Roland Keller was recently hospitalized, and our prayers are certainly with him as well. We think of our dear friend, Clarence Peters, too, as he is recuperating in Ft. Myers.

We would like to extend our appreciation to our Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) for traveling and ministering to us.

---



## FLORIDA, SARASOTA

### Rachel Sabo

We are so thankful to report the conversion and peace given to our three converts, John Krstec, Virgil Kaeb and Tim Kaeb. We pray for God's continual grace and strength to be upon them.

In November Sarasota had an appreciation dinner for our dear retiring minister, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sandee Price. May the Lord ever be near as they begin this new phase in their lives.

Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) was our visiting minister this past month and we wish to thank him for serving us.

Sis. Maria Bartoni recently spent time in the hospital. Let's continue to pray for her and for any other loved ones suffering afflictions.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

To all my brothers, sisters, and friends, I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your prayers, cards, flowers, gifts of love, and all the phone calls I received while recuperating from my heart attack and heart failure.

*Love, Bro. Glenn Blume*

## GEORGIA, ATLANTA

### Keith and Carol Kaufman

The blessed story of the Christ,  
The babe of Bethlehem,  
Is worthy of our song and praise,  
And stirs the hearts of men.  
The fullness of God's love divine  
surrounds the Christ so mild  
Alas, how many only know  
The Saviour as a child.  
Our saving hope is all in vain,  
If here our love should cease,  
For in the Man of Galilee  
We find the gift of peace.  
'Tis not the babe,  
but Christ, the Man

who walked in Galilee;  
'Tis not the manger,  
but the cross,  
that sets the spirit free.  
Be not content this babe to know,  
Nor stay at Bethlehem,  
But go with Him to Calvary's  
brow,  
Beyond Jerusalem.  
'Tis there men learn to know the  
Lord  
'Tis there He bore man's sin.  
Then open wide the door of  
heart,  
And let the Saviour in.  
*Hymns of Zion #36*

As we approach the time of the year that we celebrate our Lord and Saviour's birth, may we remember the reason He came. The children are looking forward to telling us about Christ's birth.

We are thankful that Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) was able to be here on a Wednesday evening and a Sunday. May God richly bless you for your willingness to labor on our behalf.

Our prayers are with Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser and their family at the passing away of Bro. Tom's grandfather (Bro. Ezra Feller, Cissna Park, IL). May God comfort and bless them.

Bro. John Brewer hosted our annual wiener roast where we could enjoy a blessed evening of fellowship and the children could enjoy the time they spent together. The weather was ideal.

We were sorry to hear that Phil Snare (Deon) received a stress fracture to his hip. But we are very thankful to hear that it is healing good and he should soon be able to resume normal activities.

The paving of the parking lot has been completed and the final grading and back-filling hopefully will be done soon. We look forward to holding open house and dedica-

tion in the near future. If you have friends or family in the Atlanta area, please let us know of their current address and phone number. Thank you.

With winter approaching, we are looking forward to having many visitors. Please let us know of your plans. Sunday services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. Song service is held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn, Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 13. Go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 463-0701 (new phone number) or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335 to verify our schedule and so we can plan Sunday lunch better.

## ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

### Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). We are ever thankful that Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria have family in our congregation so that we can have them visit us regularly.

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

*Psalms 133:1*

We had invite-a-friend the weekend of November 6-7. It is such a blessing to renew friendships and to see friends again. We want to thank all of those who visited us in Belvidere that weekend.

Several men in our congregation worked on a community project shingling and painting a widow's garage on a Saturday in October. "And let us not be weary

in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9).

On a Tuesday evening in October a church service was held in Madison for our college students there and for those living in Wisconsin. We want to thank our ministers for their willingness to travel and to spiritually feed us.

Our Bible Class joined Elgin's and Chicago's for ACYF in Roanoke. We hope that through these experiences, our students will be drawn closer to our Lord.

Sis. Heidi Schock (Bro. Ted) was a surgical patient. We hope that her recovery will continue to go smoothly. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16). The family mentioned that they were grateful for the many prayers on Sis. Heidi's behalf.

*If Jesus Came To Your House*  
 If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two,  
 If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do?  
 When you saw Him coming  
 would you meet Him at the door,  
 with outstretched arms in welcome to your heavenly visitor?  
 Or would you have to change some things before you let Him in?  
 Like burn some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?  
 I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored guest and the food you'd serve Him would be the very best.  
 And you'd keep assuring Him that you were glad to have Him there,  
 that serving Him in your home was joy beyond compare.  
 But what about your family's conversation?

Would it keep up its normal pace?  
 And would you find it hard at times to say a table grace?  
 Would you be happy if He would stay forever on and on?  
 Or would you sigh with great relief when finally, He'd gone?  
 You know it might be interesting to know the things you'd do,  
 If Jesus came to your house to spend some time with you.

Watch and pray that when the Master cometh  
 if at morning, noon or night,  
 He may find a lamp in every window  
 burning clear and bright.

---

**ILLINOIS  
 BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL  
 Sara Streitmatter**

On October 17, we had our invite a family potluck and hymn sing. We enjoyed all the visitors that came and spent the day with us. Two of the visitors were Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL) who shared God's Word with us. We thank them and their families for coming.

We wish to express sympathy to Bro. George Stimeling as this month his mother, Bernice Stimeling (Morton), passed away on October 23. We know Bro. George, Sis. Shirley and family will miss Bernice very much. We pray you will have many wonderful memories of her in your heart.

First-time parents, Scott and Sis. Erin Martin, brought home a baby girl born on November 6. "Rebekah Jane is the cutest baby", says Scott. Grandparents are Carolyn Jennings Lenz (Inveress, IL), Robert Jennings (Park Ridge, IL), and the late Bro. William R. and Sis. Jane Martin (Morton).

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Margaret Walter welcome a daughter-in-law to the family as their son, Brian (Arlington Heights, IL), was married on November 6 to Kristin Fox (Mt. Prospect, IL). Her parents are Tom and Gloria (Grusy) Fox (Mt. Prospect, IL). May they seek the Lord's direction as they start married life.

Fred (Remington, IN) and Sis. Mary Basharn also welcomed a daughter-in-law to their family. Ryan Basharn married Shelley Lambert (Terry and Karen, Remington, IN) on October 16. The new couple lives in Remington, IN. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Exciting things are happening in Bloomington-Normal as this month we saw our new church get under way. The ground breaking ceremony was on October 24. Many attended and were able to dig some dirt. The Jr. Choir sang and Elder Bro. Everett Hari had a message. Now as we drive by we see many large land movers at work. We pray for God's protection for the workers and for His continued direction.

---

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD  
 Chad and LauraLee Plattner**

Our congregation was blessed this month with two births. Sarah Christine was born to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth Endress on November 8. Her big brother, Matthew, is excited to have her home. Grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn Endress. On November 16, Bro. Chad and Sis. LauraLee Plattner's second child was born. Javan Eric is welcomed home by his big brother, Jesse. Grandparents are Dale and Sharon Riley (Seville, OH) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville, IL).

We were thankful to have with us visiting ministers, Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN).

Our prayers are with Bro. Verle Kieser as he underwent knee surgery and is spending a couple weeks at home recovering.

---

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

"Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."

*Exodus 4:12*

This has been a busy, blessed month for us. Our church has been considering the direction of the Lord in placing another brother into the ministry. Seeing that the way was open to go ahead with this, we have added Bro. Darren Plattner to our pulpit. We realize that the ministry will be an adjustment for Bro. Darren, Sis. Sue, and their three young children, and they have the church's prayerful support as they take this new responsibility. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart and ministering Bros. David Wiegand and Brian Waibel welcome their new co-laborer in the ministry of the Gospel.

A housewarming was held for Cory and Jodi (Fehr) Berkland. Originally from Iowa, they moved here some time back for work and graduate school. Their newly-warmed home is at 1616 Ivanhoe Way, Urbana, IL 61801. We are very glad to have Cory and Jodi here with us as an active part of our church family. Only a few weeks later, we bid farewell to Bro. Rick and Sis. Rachel Meyer. Rick has completed his studies at the University of Illinois and they have gone on to employment in the Chicago area. Our loss is Chicago's

gain as this couple has been so giving to our church, particularly to our Sunday School. After the potluck, singing, and the giving of a gift from the church, the Sunday School children presented Rick and Rachel with a simple book made of memories and notes of thanks from each of the children. We know that the Meyers are following God's direction and we wish them rich blessings.

Visitors this past month included The Missionairs, a men's vocal group from the Goodfield congregation. We were blessed by their presence and voices at the church hymn sing.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton IL), and ministering Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park IL), Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). These brothers brought the Word to us through both sermons and Bible studies, and we thank them for the time and effort put into these endeavors.

Last Christmas, a local school administrator issued his annual letter to his staff, reminding them of the special time of year and wishing them many blessings. That Christmas was to be his first since the passing of his father, and he wrote with that in mind. He told of how three children growing up during the Depression had hoped for only simple gifts for Christmas. One of these children was his father, who wished for a toy airplane. He had asked for a wooden airplane instead of one of fancy aluminum with dual propellers because he knew that money was tight. His sister asked for a doll, and his brother Jim hoped for a ball glove. They waited patiently. At last, Christmas morning came and they could hardly wait to go down the stairs to look under the tree. Upon

reaching the tree, they were stunned. There weren't any toys at all. They rushed to their parents, sure that some mistake had been made. They were told that no mistake had been made, they just hadn't been good enough that year.

In the years that followed, that experience had a profound effect on the young man who had hoped for a simple wooden airplane. He decided that perhaps the embarrassment of being poor caused his father to forego gifts, or perhaps the simple stress of providing food and shelter was all his father felt he could do for his family and it pushed out his even thinking about what Christmas meant to his family. However, that boy grew into a man who made a point of making Christmas a very special time of giving to his family. The administrator closed his letter saying that the passing of his father had put a different focus on his Christmas. His sister suggested traveling to visit their uncle Jim, his mother only wanted to do what he and his sister would do, and he just wanted another Christmas with his Dad. He went on to say that his plans were to celebrate what his two fathers had taught him. His earthly father had taught and demonstrated the power and importance of giving. His Heavenly Father had taught him the same lessons through the giving of His Son. Each of us has an opportunity to make long-lasting memories for ourselves and others this Christmas as we celebrate the giving of the Babe of Bethlehem and the giving of gifts one to another. Have a very blessed CHRISTmas.

---

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO  
Jill Rager**

On Saturday, October 23, Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) joined us for Holy Communion. Although



Bro. Nate is not an unfamiliar face in the Chicago church, it was refreshing to have him join us as the Spirit refreshed our hearts with the true meaning of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross.

Other visitors that refreshed our spirits were ministering Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). These brothers blessed us by their willingness to allow the Spirit to speak through them.

The men's singing group, the Mortonaires, refreshed our hearts via song on October 31. It was a listener's haven to sit in the congregation and drink in the results of many hours of practice. It was easy to sense that this group could not only sing in true musical unity, but also praise our Saviour with that same unity of spirit. Many thanks to all of our visitors this month.

As Christmas quickly approaches, let us be sure to pay a visit to that quiet scene in Bethlehem, where our redemption began its walk on earth.

---

### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Cheryl Eisenmann**

**Darlene Walder**

Greetings!

Thanksgiving and Christmas are almost here and then it is the new year. Who are we trusting for our future? Jesus says, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." And preceding this verse He said, "But... Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:34,33). Food, drink, clothes, our Heavenly Father knows that we have need of all these things. Are we afraid of Y2K? Our faith and perfect assur-

ance should lie only in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL), Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) and our faithful shepherd, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler. We are grateful every time brothers lend themselves to the furtherance of God's Word.

We were saddened at the death of two very faithful and loving brothers in our congregation. Bro. Elmer Bauer went to his eternal Home after suffering from burns to his body. He was well up in years and it was hard to see a man of such vigor in his old age have to be laid up with so much pain. We sympathize with his daughter, Sis. Judy, and her siblings at the loss of a dedicated father. Also, after a very long and blessed life, our retired Elder Bro. Ezra Feller was laid to rest. Many people have fond memories working with him in his stewardship and he was a man of high character. Words spoken at the cemetery fit his life so perfectly. They come from the book of Micah, "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?" (Chap. 5:8). We think and pray for his wife, Sis. Edna, and his children. Sis. Joan and Bro. Fred Waldbeser and Sis. Loretta and Bro. Ken Bauer are from our congregation along with other children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren from many other locations. I think of the patriarchs of old when I think of Bro. Ezra's offspring. We also received word of the passing of Bob Reece. He is the father of our friend, Judy Knapp. We hold her and her husband, Wes, and son, Mike, up in prayer.

We rejoice with two new converts, Joanna Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth) and Katie Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally). We trust in the Lord that He will direct their paths.

On November 14, we were fortunate to have many visitors come to our Invite a Guest potluck. It was an enjoyable weekend for everyone who participated.

Bro. Gary Farney had knee surgery and has our prayers as he recovers.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Bro. Elmer Bauer would like to express their heartfelt thanks for all the expressions of love and sympathy shown to them at his passing. Everything was appreciated very much. Thank you and God bless.

---

### ILLINOIS CONGERVILLE Glenna Rinkenberger Renaë Dietrich

This month we rejoice in the baptism of Sis. Bonny Rinkenberger. What a blessing to see the way the Lord continues to work in the lives of those around us.

We were grateful for the many ministers visiting us this month. Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), and Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) all served the Lord on our behalf. May they continue to be led by the Spirit and feel the prayers of those in the congregations.

Hospitalized this month were Becca Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann), Sis. Sarah Dietrich, Keith Walder (Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita) and Sis. Emily Wettstein (Bro. Denny). May the Lord's healing hand gently surround them as

they regain strength.

---

## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Peggy Heiniger**

**Norma Schambach**

Bro. Bill and Sis. Cora Schambach celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary October 24 with an Open House hosted by their children. God has blessed their 50 years together, and we wish them His continued blessings.

As we reflect on this past year, we see how God has so richly blessed our church. We realize that none of these blessings would be possible if it were not for the gift of His Son so many years ago. Through this great gift comes salvation and if we have salvation, we have everything.

It is easy to appreciate the good in our lives, but can we be thankful for the things we usually complain about?

I am Thankful for...

...the mess after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

...the taxes I pay because it means that I'm employed.

...the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.

...all the complaining I hear about our government because it means we have freedom of speech.

...the lady behind me in church sings off key because it means that I can hear.

...my shadow who

watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.

...the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.

...the piles of laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby.

...weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive.

...a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.

...my huge heating bill because it means I am warm.

...the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means that I'm alive.

We always appreciate our visiting ministers and their families. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) for bringing us God's Word.

Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Albert) Schambach spent a short time in the hospital. We are thankful she is home and assembling with us again.

---

## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Janet Zimmerman**

Be not content this babe to know,  
nor stay at Bethlehem,  
but go with Christ to Calvary's  
brow,

beyond Jerusalem.

'Tis there men learn to know the  
Christ

for there He bore man's sin.

Then open wide the door of heart  
and let the Saviour in.

*Hymns of Zion #36*

It would be good if we would take time to read all three verses of this beautiful Christmas hymn and ponder the meaning of these words. We are reminded of Christ's meek and lowly birth at Bethlehem and the great price He paid for our sins on Calvary, to set our spirit free.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

*II Corinthians 9:15*

We have so many reasons to be thankful for as we assemble together. We were especially thankful to be together the weekend of October 30-31 to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls. We welcome our new sisters and brother in faith, Sis. Holly Sumner (Corina), Sis. Rachel Stoller (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry) and Bro. Jacob Rocke (Bro. Rob and Sis. Jan). It is always so encouraging to hear of the miracle God can work in the hearts of men. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) with us. We also appreciated having Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) speak to our 8th grade and Bible Class students. We had many other visiting ministers assembled with us. We appreciate each one.

We have three new babies to report this month. Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky Martin are the thankful parents of Braden Jay born on October 18. Braden is welcomed home by two older brothers, Brant and Bryce. Braden's grandparents are

Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judie Knecht and Sis. Edna Martin (Princeville, IL). Bro. Mike and Sis. Judy Mangold were blessed with their first child, Charles Michael III, born on October 20. Charles was named after his grandfather, Bro. Charles, and Sis. Mary Mangold (both deceased). Maternal grandparents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue Waibel (Remington, IN). Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Rocke and Jennifer welcomed into their hearts and home Jessica Ann born on October 27. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev Rocke (Philadelphia, PA). May God grant each of these dear parents the grace to raise their children to His honor and glory.

As a congregation we bid farewell to Sis. Katie Blunier who has moved back home to Minneapolis, MN. Her new address is The Mayfield, 2850 Market Place Dr., Apt. 327, Little Canada, MN 55117. We have appreciated Sis. Katie assembling with us in the past and will miss her very much. May God be with her in this transition in life. "The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another." (Hymns of Zion #104)

Our love and sympathy is extended to Sis. Ida Belsley on the death of her sister, Sis. Wilma Sauder, of Roanoke. May God grant unto our dear Sis. Ida an extra measure of comfort.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and his wife, Sis. Mary, with us on November 6 to help our Elder Bro. Ervin in reading of the Memorandum. We were glad that they could be with us again on Sunday. We heard so many wonderful teachings and exhortations. May we do our best to apply them to our daily lives.

"Nevertheless we, according to

his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

*II Peter 3:13-14*

Our prayers are certainly with Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Wettstein. At the time of this writing, Sis. Heidi has been hospitalized as they await the arrival of their twins.

We also continue to pray for Sis. Laurene Zimmerman and her dear helpmate, Bro. Leland, and their family as Sis. Laurene battles her illness with cancer. May God be with them and grant them strength and grace from above.

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

*I Peter 5:7*

*Reminder:* January is collection for the Silver Lining in Eureka. Address changes would be appreciated.

## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Sally Fehr**

**Joann Zehr**

On October 24, Sis. Betsy Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys) was united in marriage to Bro. Todd Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy) of Forrest. May God add His blessings to their union and home. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), and Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) who were with us.

On October 31, our Bible Class hosted the Peoria and Cissna Park Bible Classes and we thank Bros. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) who were here. It is always inspiring to

see our youth gather with us.

Other visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO). May God bless each one.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Mark Runyon (Julie) who lost his sister, Margo Diamond.

Our Sis. Helen Sohn, 91, passed away on October 29. She was a quiet example of a single sister who served her God. We extend our sympathy to Sisters Betty Sohn and Lucille Sohn (Forrest, IL) and Leroy Sohn of Lombard.

Several from our congregation have met with illness or accident and spent time in the hospital: Sisters Emma Meister and Mary Beth Maurer and Troy Steffen (Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola). May God grant His healing powers.

We rejoice with Bro. Phillip and Sis. Lana Steidinger in the birth of Naomi Love on November 5. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young. We wish them God's guidance in rearing their new daughter.

As the Christmas season approaches, may we each reflect on the real reason and meaning of Christmas—the greatest gift ever given to man! If each of us will take advantage of this gift and the shed blood of Jesus, we can face 2000 with our faith anchored in God.

## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp**

**Linda Anliker**

The blessed story of the Christ,  
The babe of Bethlehem,  
Is worthy of our song and praise,  
And stirs the hearts of men.

*Hymns of Zion*

As we enjoy the festive time of



Christmas, let us remember the reason for the season. Christ who came as a babe in humble birth gave Himself at Calvary for all the sins committed in the world, including ours.

Uniting their hearts and lives in marriage on October 24 were Sis. Betsy Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Todd Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy).

Seeking God's guidance to become husband and wife were Sis. Molly Frank and Bro. Josh Zimmerman. Their parents are Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman. May these couples always welcome the Lord's guidance in their marriages.

Visiting ministers bringing forth the Word of God to us were Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve us.

As Sis. Sandra Schneider has been given the responsibility of Sunday School teacher, may she seek the Lord's guidance as He is so able to provide.

We were privileged to have residents from the Morton Home for the Handicapped worship with us this past month. We thank the staff who came with them.

Bro. Leroy (Sis. Janita) Koehl, Kyler Edelman (Kyle and Monica), and Helen (William) Fehr spent time in the hospital. We are grateful for each one that regains strength and health and pray God will be near all that suffer afflictions of the body.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Earl (Sis. Esther) Gerber and Sis. Rosetta (Bro. Elmer) Stoller with the passing of their brother, Bro. Emanuel Gerber, of Rockville, CT.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

I would like to express a special thanks to my family and my church family for the many cards and flowers that made my 80th birthday so very special. May God bless you all.

*Sis. Leona Steffen*

A big thank you to all who remembered me on my 75th birthday with cards, gifts, and flowers. I appreciated it all so much. May God bless you all.

*Lorene Boner*

#### **ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein**

Again, we rejoice in the baptism of four dear souls who were taken into the church on October 31. They are Bro. Doug Dohman, and Sisters Elise Kaupp, Tina Gramm and Kate Ringger. Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) was here for this blessed occasion.

May God be with these new members. His Spirit will draw nigh to all who will draw nigh to Him. Even though we live in perilous times—and amid much evil—God's Spirit allows us to stay true and faithful if we follow His commandments.

On November 17, Bro. Curt and Sis. Cassie Meiss became the parents of a daughter, Macey Joy. She is the sister of Gabe, 6, and twins Parker and Tanner, 3. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger and Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss. Children are an heritage of the Lord; and we rejoice with Bro. Curt and Sis. Cassie and their family.

November 20 was the birth date of Kaylynn Mae Schlipf, the first child of Bro. Jason and Sis. Jamie Schlipf. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Jill Schlipf and Bro. Rollie and Sis. Carol Rumbold (Roanoke, IL). A first child is a spe-

cial blessing. We wish this dear couple much grace and wisdom as they train up their daughter in the Lord's ways.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

Bro. Harold Stoller and Sisters Ada Christensen and Vyra Stoller were hospitalized; also Willis Aupperle was in the hospital this month.

Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane Gramm observed their 50th wedding anniversary on November 6.

Sis. Ollie Witzig, 85, passed away on October 24. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Bro. Silas. Also surviving are a daughter, Janet Hauser, Gridley; and a son, John Witzig, Orlando, FL; and five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A brother, Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), and a sister, Rowena Hartter (Carlock, IL) also survive.

For several years, Sis. Ollie suffered from a weak heart. Yet, she paced herself and was able to attend church. Her interest in people and her friendliness will be missed. She loved to read and found much enjoyment in this pastime.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and love given to us on our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless you for your kindness.

*In Christian love,*

*Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane Gramm*

#### **ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich**

As we are in the midst of the holiday season, there are loved ones among us experiencing many emotions. It is a time of rejoicing in that we remember and celebrate the

birth of our Lord. It is a time when many are reunited with family and loved ones. However, there are those that have experienced loss in the last years and they may be facing the holidays with sorrow in their hearts. Let us take time to remember to pray for them and to acknowledge their pain. How thankful we are for the Holy Spirit who is able to comfort.

Sis. Hilda Yentes passed away on October 22 at the age of 99. She had lived at the Peoria Skyline Drive Home for many years. Surviving are many nieces and nephews. May the Lord comfort and bless them all.

Our dear Bro. Kenneth Kaiser died very suddenly on November 11 at 76 years of age. May the Holy Spirit continue to wrap His arms of comfort around the family. They are his wife, Sis. Mavis; his two daughters, Vickie Green (Gary) and Julie Shafer (Michael); his son, Doug (Cindy); his brothers, Bro. Lester and Bro. Harry; his sister, Sis. Edith Hohulin; and his five grandchildren.

On Sunday, October 25, the Morton Bible Class hosted the Bloomington and Princeville Bible classes. It is a time to form bonds of friendship among the young people. The Morton congregation enjoyed having them with us. Many thanks to the high school Sunday School staff and their wives for all the effort they put forth.

On November 5, we enjoyed a Family Night activity which included singing at Restmor followed by pizza and fellowship at the Fellowship Hall. This is an annual event where all ages come together and enjoy one another.

On November 6-7, the Morton choir was hosted by the Garden Grove, IA brethren. Many thanks to them for the love and hospitality shown during the memorable weekend.

On November 20-21, Morton hosted the Benefit Dinner. The Bible Class and young group served a wonderful meal. A group singing praises to the Lord followed it. The group was open to anyone who wanted to participate and included an age range from 13 to 83 years. This event is truly a church-wide effort and anyone wanting to help with food, serving, or singing is welcome. The donation proceeds will go to the high school mission trip of 2000, Rural Gospel Medical Mission of India Girls Home, Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, AL and local needy families and Sunday School work projects. A huge thank you to all whom attended and were so generous.

We wish to thank Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word to us. May He reward their efforts.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

A special thank you for remembering me with prayers, cards, and gifts for my birthday. They were greatly appreciated. May God bless you.

*Bro. Vernon Kaiser*

In the passing of our dear husband and father, we wish to thank everyone who sent us cards and brought us food and for the many prayers and many donations to St. Judes and to Timber Ridge.

*The loving family of Kenneth Kaiser*

### **ILLINOIS, PEORIA**

#### **Peter and Mabel Weber**

Thanks, Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), for your visit and ministry on October 20 on Proverbs 29 and Acts 8. To be rescued from sin is a daily battle against Satan and our selfwill as we are the battleground between Satan and

God. If we reflect the light of the Lord, people can see more clearly. Why was Philip told to go to the desert? Don't question, just do it. Thru it the eunuch found salvation. The Word will stand forever and if we stand on the Word, we can stand forever also.

October 31 was a beautiful and blessed day with many guests from neighboring congregations and three visiting ministers, whose meditations were much appreciated and are briefly summarized: Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL): When Satan brings fear and tries to discourage us, God has promised to anoint us with His Spirit and we need to reflect back how good God has been to us; Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL): We have to remind ourselves that eternity goes on and on and be prepared to say "Nicht fuer uns!" on many occasions. When we sit in the waiting room of an intensive care unit for news about our loved one, we realize God is in control; Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL): Today we are strongly motivated; Monday morning we need to boil down all we've heard to our everyday lives.

Bro. Ken Hoerr concluded his message "The Last Call to the Churches" on November 3 for our family night service: Rev. 3:1-6 SARDIS (Dead Church). A wealthy and successful community with Christians who are dead, without life and sinful inside, still a remnant was faithful. We need to go back to the basics, which brought 3,000 converts at Pentecost. We must remember the life-changing events of our repentance and conversion, be ready and watch. If we are ready to change and are open, we can overcome and be secure and Jesus will confess us before the Father.

Rev. 3:7-12 PHILADELPHIA (The Church Christ loved). A small city and productive gateway to the

East, without condemnation. Jesus was in control of the Church, where the message was the Word of God. How big and important is God to us and how much influence does He have in our lives? The Church, while living purely, is still persecuted. Let's be like this Church and be prepared, building it to the honor and glory of God.

Rev. 3:14-22 LAODICEA (Lukewarm Church). A prosperous and affluent city, but much has been eroded, and the Church was poor, naked, blind and allowed the world to overtake it. By aqueducts, hot water was brought into the city from Hierapolis and cold from Colossae, which made it lukewarm and Jesus was repulsed by it. Don't let sin permeate the Church. Are we lukewarm about reading the Word, prayertime, serving, sharing? The solution was to buy gold, raiments, medicine, which were all available in the city. Do we do God's work by our own efforts and become lukewarm in the process? The spiritual battle is going on today and we have to sound the message. The sand is getting low in the hourglass and now is the time to heed the call. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer: We are reminded of the seriousness of life, where some things can be changed and some are fixed. Are we prepared to meet our Maker? Today we have the opportunity to search our lives to see how we stand with God. Are we certain we have a home in Heaven?

We thank Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for his visit and ministry on November 7 on John 15. We will be judged by the fruits of the Spirit and the highest calling is having Jesus in our hearts and be covered by His blood and be totally dependent on Him. Many times His answer is "no" but we can be assured He will take care of us. He is all-knowing and we can't get away with anything.

Aletheia Christine (#1) was born October 23 in Ft. Wayne, IN to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Angie Zimmerman and we congratulate the happy parents, grandparents (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Suttor), great-grandparents (Elder Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian Hemmer) and great-great-grandmother (Sis. Matilda Suttor).

Frank McCall (Sis. Frances Wiegand) was baptized at his home on November 12 and we welcome him into our brotherhood. May the Lord provide for his spiritual and physical needs and let him find comfort in knowing that many are praying for him.

Hospital patients were Bro. Bob Plattner, Don Geef and Sis. Martha Schaefer. May they experience the results of the Lord's healing powers.

Sis. Hilda Yentes (99) and Marie Hoerr (81), both residents of the Skylines for some time, went to that better home in October and we extend our sympathies to their families.

We thank the Sunday School for portraying the Christmas story. The events before, during and after His birth are again new and inspiring. Gabriel told Zacharias that their son, John the Baptist, would prepare the way for Jesus. Six months later he informed Mary of Jesus' birth. Wise Caspar (Frankincense), Melchior (Gold) and Balthasar (Myrrh), who had studied astronomy in the East, were led by the unusually bright star to the stable and presented their gifts to the King of the Jews..."For unto us a child is born: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:6). Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the Messiah when He was brought to the temple for purification, and when the family fled to Egypt, the

gifts of the Magi could have paid for the trip and living there until Herod died. Caesar Augustus reigned over the pagan Romans at the time and there was great persecution until Constantine I finally declared Christianity the state religion in 318. In 455, The Vandals (a barbaric German tribe) plundered Rome, which marked the beginning of the decline of that empire. Since then, Christianity has spread throughout the earth, not without many aberrations, but the beginning of the third millennium finds the Apostolic Faith alive and well.

In a recent opinion poll about the most influential person of this millennium, the German printer Johann Gutenberg (1400-1488) was selected. He printed the first 200 Bibles in 1455 and within 50 years, 20 million books were published thru his invention, which reached a tenfold number in 100 years. His monument stands in downtown Strasbourg, France, which many of you may have seen while visiting that city, where Bro. Samuel Froehlich lived and preached from 1850 to 1857.

We wish you blessed holidays, a safe rollover past Y2K and a spiritual and healthy 2000.

Many brothers and sisters volunteer time, energy and talent to make The Silver Lining worthwhile and interesting. The annual cost of printing and mailing is \$11.00 per subscriber. Our collection will be on January 2. Please put your contributions in the boxes or mail them to Bro. Ken Hoerr.

---

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on

earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

*Luke 2:13-16*

On October 20, a son, Will Joseph, was born to Mark and Sis. Paula Feucht. His brothers, Joshua, Daniel and Jesse, welcome him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht and Pat Stahl. While looking to God for His guidance and direction, may they put their trust and faith in God as they raise their family in the fear of the Lord.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Lisa Wade are rejoicing in the birth of their son, Joshua William, who was born on November 9. His brother, Jacob, welcomes him home. Grandparents are George and Jane Wade and the late Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha Kieser. May the love and peace of God reign in their hearts as this new addition is brought to their home.

Believing that the Lord has brought them together in faith, the engagement of Bro. Robert C. Zimmerman and Sis. Kathy Streitmatter was announced to the congregation. Bro. Robert C. is the son of Bro. Robert L. and Sis. Madelyn Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Kathy is the daughter of Bro. Floren and Sis. Twyla Streitmatter. As this couple plans their future together, may they look to God for His grace and strength.

Our prayers are with Sis. Betty (Bro. Gene) Herrmann as she was sick this past month.

Glory to God in the Highest!  
In remoteness and near by us  
Ruleth He with might and grace.  
Let us bring our thanks and  
praise!  
Let us bring our thanks and  
praise!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Peace and good will to all na-  
tions!

Ye, the heirs of His salvation,  
Far and near, O sons of men,  
Praise the Lord with glad refrain!  
Praise the Lord with glad refrain!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Joyously sound ye His praises!  
Men, whom to His choice He  
raises,

Triumph to a high estate!  
We are bought by love so great!  
We are bought by love so great!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*Zion's Harp #9*

---

**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
**Boni Stoller**  
**Linda Hodel**

"Precious in the sight of the  
Lord is the death of his saints."

*Psalms 116:15*

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

*Hymns of Zion #248*

Truly we are comforted by these words as the Lord called Home one of His saints, our beloved Sis. Wilma Sauder, wife of our retired Elder Bro. Don. May God comfort him and her daughters, Mrs. Harley (Kathryn "Kay") Jorden of Glen Ellyn, IL, Sis. Lynne (Bro.

Phil) Hodel, Normal, IL; sons, Ben (Faye) of Loveland, CO, Bro. Frank (Sis. Kathy) of Roanoke, and Doug of Seattle, WA; and her eight grandchildren. We also want to thank them for their sacrifice in sharing her with us as she labored beside Bro. Don and encouraged him in his calling. She has left our church a legacy of the virtuous woman talked about in Proverbs. Funeral services were held October 31.

Why what we long for most of all,  
Eludes so oft our eager hand;  
Why hopes are crushed and castles fall,  
Up there, sometime we'll understand.

*Hymns of Zion #165*

Yes, truly we find it difficult to understand the tragic death of Lindsay Hodel, 16-year-old daughter of Neil and Lelia. We continue to pray that God will provide the comfort and strength to her parents, two sisters, Calla and Jenna, and to her grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorene Hodel and Lee and Marlene Mellin, all of Roanoke, as well as to all of her classmates and friends. She had just turned 16 years old on November 9, and funeral services were held November 16. May we all be awakened to the fact that when it is the Lord's time for us to end this earthly life, that we have our lamps trimmed and burning. And if we are not ready to meet our Creator, may we seek His grace to repent and be converted as the scripture guides us.

We are thankful for two souls who have begun their repentance and ask the Lord to guide them through their conversion. They are Shelli Fischer (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dori) and Todd Hinrichsen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue).

Visiting ministers bringing us the Word of Life this past month



were: Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), and Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) gave our topical Bible Study on the Holy Spirit.

We pray for healing to those who were hospitalized: Bro. Lloyd Aeschleman (Sis. Cynthia), Bro. Ben Fehr (Sis. Helen), and Willie Fortune, the Haitian who underwent heart surgery (staying with Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marybeth Zimmerman).

We take this opportunity to welcome Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr back to our congregation after worshipping in Arizona for 27 years. May each one strive to be a blessing where God plants us!

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

*Philippians 4:19,23*

*Note of Thanks:*

Deeply appreciating the many kindnesses shown to me, both by word and deed, during this past year that I have been in the nursing home and also in the process of moving from the duplex to the home. I take this means of graciously thanking everyone. May the Lord richly bless the labors of everyone, including the staff at the home; blessing them and their loved ones.

*Sincerely,*

*Sis. Norene Herbst*

---

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Barb Dill**

**Barb Kaeb**

"To every thing there is a season, 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;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"

*Eccles. 3:1-4*

Sheri and Chris Allen felt both joy and sadness on October 31 as Sheri gave birth to little Dallas Christopher and his stillborn twin brother, Jarrett Patrick.

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Dave and Sis. Joanna Sauder over the birth of their stillborn child, Samuel Adam.

Sincere sympathy goes forth to Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence Koch with the passing of Paul's brother, Elmore Koch. Likewise, we extend our condolences to Bob and Judy Mooney with the death of his mother, Mary Mooney.

May God comfort these loved ones in their losses.

Hospital patients from our congregation include Sis. June Zuercher (Bro. Curt), Sis. Emma Greiner and Sis. Barb Dill. Our prayers are with them and all that suffer bodily affliction.

Once again, we have been richly fed and want to thank our visiting ministers for coming and sharing with us. They are: Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). May God bless and reward them for their unselfish service to our God and to the brotherhood.

The wedding engagement of Sis. Marcia Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette) to Bro. Rob Dennis (Nancy Birkmeier) was announced November 14. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their wedding day.

*Note of Thanks:*

I want to sincerely thank all of you who remembered me with cards, gifts, and food during my 90th birthday. May God bless all of you.

*Bro. Elmer Brunner*

---

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**

**Denise Romersberger**

**Sue Ruppert**

"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

*Matthew 18:1-4*

The Washington congregation has been blessed recently with several babies born within a few weeks of each other. Newborn babies always remind us of the wonder of God's creative powers. How do those little fingers and toes grow into big fingers and toes? How do these helpless creatures grow, and learn, and become self-sufficient adults? How does God create something so wonderful from nothing? We can compare our spiritual growth to the growth of children. As we become mature in our faith, do we remember that God wants us to be as dependent on Him as these little babes? Or do we think we have to become self-sufficient? Do we always want to be held in God's arms, or do we constantly look for ways to be independent? God wants us to be as little children. God grant us the grace to remember this.

Ethan Edward Hodel is the firstborn of Bro. Eric and Sis. Gina Hodel. He was born on September 24. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz from Forrest, and Kent and Janet Hodel of Washington.

Morgan Ann Knapp was born on October 19 to Bro. Benj and Sis. Karen Knapp. She joins brothers, Brice and Evan, and sister, Valerie. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and Bill and Ann Killday. We welcome Bro. Ben and Sis. Karen and their family to our congregation.

Charles Michael Mangold III was born on October 20 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Judy Mangold. His grandparents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue Waibel of Remington, and the late Bro. Charles and Sis. Mary Mangold of Eureka. We are also glad that Bro. Mike and Sis. Judy have joined our congregation.

We lift all of these children and their families up to our Lord and ask for His hand to always be upon them.

Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico) shared a Wednesday evening with us. We thank Bro. Marshall for lending himself and always appreciate when both can fellowship with us. God's blessings on you for your efforts, both here and in Mexico. Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville) visited with us for our monthly Bible Study. His study on prophecy of the second coming of Christ was most interesting and thought-provoking. Thank you.

The Washington congregation extends our sympathy to retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder on the loss of his dear wife, Sis. Wilma. We were blessed to have known her. Her kind manner was always appreciated when she would come with Bro. Don to Washington services. May God grant comfort in

ways that are far above what we as humans can do.

We wish to welcome Bro. Eugene and Sis. Velma Kellenberger to our congregation. May God be with them in their new home.

---

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Beth Aschliman**

**Catrina Rinkenberger**

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL) here with us for testimonies and baptisms on November 13 and 14. Those welcomed into the fold were Sis. Sarah Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli), Sis. Stacy Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny), Sis. Tiffany Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy), and Bro. Todd Drayer (Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie).

We pray God's healing hand will be on Bro. Les Gerber (Sis. Rosemary), Sis. Barb Pfister, and Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona) as they all have been in the hospital this past month.

On September 9, little Tristan Michael captured the hearts of first-time parents, Bro. Harry and Sis. Robin Anderson. He is also the first grandchild of Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sutter. On October 27, Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan had another grandson born. This one was named Brendan Matthew. His parents are Matt and Kami Sutter. Brendan's other set of grandparents are Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena Steffen. Bro. Randy and Sis. Pam Holocher welcomed little Cole Matthew into their family on October 14. He is the son of Mark and Trina Holocher and little brother to Carli.

We are so excited to have a new minister help out on the pulpit. Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter are looking forward to serving the Lord in this way. We pray for them and their six children as they are

seeking to do His will.

Bro. Ray Heyerley, 88, passed away on November 6. He was the husband of Sis. Amelia. Also surviving are four sons, Ron, Galen, Stan and Lynn, and two daughters, Anita (David) Davis and Sis. Denise (Bro. Ed) Steffen. It's a comfort to know we can all be together in Heaven some day. Our sympathy also goes out to Bro. Herman and Sis. Marie Drayer in the passing of his brother, Dale. May God be the Rock they lean on during difficult times.

We wish God's richest blessings to Leanne Kaehr and Jason Douglas as they are planning their wedding for February. Leanne is the daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan Kaehr.

Alyssa Kipfer (Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy) is our new convert. We are so happy for her and pray she will feel God's grace during this time.

As the Christmas season is quickly approaching and we are busy with preparations for this blessed holiday, let's remember to keep Christ in Christmas. Have a beautiful holiday!

---

### INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

**Ann Meyer**  
**Rhonda Maller**

"And keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgements, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest and whithersoever thou turnest thyself."

*1 Kings 2:3*

We say thank you to our ministering brothers who give of themselves Sunday after Sunday to teach us to walk in His ways; who

exhort, chastise, bless, convict, and call us to a closer walk with Jesus Christ, our Saviour and King. Our thanks also to visiting ministers, Bros. John Stoller (Sis. Patricia, Leo, IN) and Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) who gave of themselves for our blessing. May God pour out His blessings and Spirit on them and their families.

Two sisters in Christ were added to our family of God this month. We enjoyed hearing the testimony and witnessing the baptism of Sis. Jessie and Sis. Jamie Longenberger. They are the daughters of Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy Longenberger.

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

*II Cor. 9:8*

We rejoice to announce our new convert, Janelle Steffen. She is the daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay. Because Janelle has hungered and thirsted after righteousness, she shall be filled.

Our hearts are filled with prayers for the families of Irene Kaehr (widow of Kelly) and Bro. Obed Gerber (Sis. Henrietta) who have been called to their reward.

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

*I Cor. 15:57*

We also offer prayers and support to those in our congregation who have experienced continued illness, hospital stays, or surgery. We ask the Lord's blessing on Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry), Bro. Dean Fiechter (Sis. Cyndee), and Sis. Mona Graham and her daughter, Carla.

Congratulations to Bro. Brad

and Sis. Lyndsay Zimmer on the birth of their first child, Will Bradley. The happy grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Cyndee Fiechter and Jim and Cheryl Zimmer.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

*Hebrews 13:8*

---

**INDIANA  
FRANCESVILLE  
Pam Huber**

"They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel."

*Psalms 106:13*

At this precious time of year, it seems almost impossible to forget God's greatest gift to us, as we make many preparations to celebrate Christ's birth. And yet, if our focus in on the doing, and not the reason behind it, then we forget all too soon. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107:15). I can't think of a better time to praise Him than right now!

We have had several causes for praise this past month. On November 7, Bro. Stuart Gutwein (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ellen) and Sis. Alivia Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene) were announced. We pray God bless their time of engagement as a chance to grow together in their relationship with the Lord.

Joshua Spiker (Joe and Sis. Cyndi Daniels) and Tracy received a gift straight from the hand of God on November 6 in their new baby daughter, Makayla Lynn. May "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).

We would also like to welcome Bro. James and Sis. Tanessa Washburn's foster son, Austin; and Sis. Angeline May from Remington who has moved into Parkview Haven. We pray you always feel at home with us and we make new ties here.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Larry Linback (Sis. Connie) as his mother, Anna, went to be with the Lord on October 29. "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." (Matt. 5:4). Sylvia Smith, mother to our dear Sis. Madeleine Gutwein (Bro. Fred), passed away on November 2. Our hearts ache with you and we pray God's comforting Spirit fill your loss at this hard time. Our prayers go out to Tom Salyers (Sandy) whose grandfather, Fieldone Rowe, passed on to his reward. "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator." (I Peter 4:19). "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (I Peter 5:7).

Many thanks to Bros. Randy Gasser and Keith Beyer for ministering God's Word over the pulpit, as well as in song as the Detroit choir joined them in singing God's praises November 6-7. A special thank you to Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) who came at a time of need. God bless you and your families for the effort.

Inspire, O Lord, each servant  
With love and ardor fervent  
Thy Gospel to proclaim;  
That, prompted by Thy Spirit,  
They work and toil with merit  
Unto the glory of Thy name.

*Zion's Harp #207*

*Note of Thanks:*

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thankfulness shown me on my 80th

birthday for my loving family and church family and for all the cards, gifts, and phone calls I received. May God richly bless each one.

*Sincerely,  
Sis. Helen Eshleman*

---

**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Lauretta Schafer  
Gail Bradford**

"...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

*Mark 1:14-15*

We rejoice that Benjamin Pearson (Bro. David and Sis. Becky) has heeded the Word that salvation is obtained by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and has begun his conversion. Grateful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Edye Mayer of Indianapolis.

We welcomed the efforts of several visiting ministers in the past few weeks. They included Bros. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). In addition, our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) shared the Word with us on a recent Wednesday evening.

The weekend of October 30-31 saw a multitude of young people from many of our churches witness their love for Jesus throughout the Indianapolis area. They visited a local nursing home, juvenile detention center for boys and for girls, several needy families, and helped with construction and home repair projects at several locations. They shared the impact of many meaningful experiences at a Saturday evening gathering at the home of Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuthrich.

We trust the weekend was edifying for one and all, and thank everyone who participated, including those in our own congregation.

We are pleased to welcome little Josie Gail Wuthrich, daughter of Bro. Ross and Sis. Erin Wuthrich of Lafayette, IN. She was born on November 16. Happy grandparents are Bill and Sis. Val Wuthrich (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Mayo (Morton, IL).

In this advent season, we have experienced new life (both earthly and spiritual). It is a good time to reflect on the evidence of God's power and majesty around us, most especially in the birth of His Son.

"I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?"

*Psalms 77:11-13*

---

**INDIANA, LACROSSE  
Anna Marie Stoller**

One of Thy children is coming home,  
Open Thy merciful arms,  
One of Thy children's too tired to roam  
Open Thy merciful arms...  
Oh, what a joy to be traveling home;  
Open Thy merciful arms.  
*Gospel Hymns #784.*

Sis. Carolyn Levy went to the bedside of her husband, Bro. Ralph, and found him sitting up. This was surprising to her since he had been so weak for some time. She gently laid him back and he asked, "Where am I going?", before taking his last breath. What a beautiful scene of earthly parting

for a couple who loved each other dearly on this earth. Sis. Carolyn rejoices that her husband has been relieved of the suffering of his life, though she misses his presence. Now she anticipates that glad day of reunion. Our heartfelt sympathy is with the Levy family: Bro. Roger, Sis. Sue and children, Bro. Bill and Sis. Janet Baumgartner and children (Leo), and our dear Sis. Carolyn.

Note of thanks: The family of Ralph Levy wish to express thankfulness and appreciation for the loving support, prayers, cards, visits, flowers, food, and memorials during the illness and death of our dear husband, father, and grandfather. May God bless and reward as only He can. Sis. Carolyn Levy, Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy, Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Baumgartner, and grandchildren.

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller and Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller have reasons for rejoicing, thankfulness, and happy family memories as they bid adieu to their Dad, Bro. Ezra Feller, of the Cissna Park congregation. Bro. Lynn stated that his Dad had nothing left on this earth, and now can rest in eternity after a life of service to the Lord and the church. Our love and prayers are with these dear families during earth's parting.

Thanksgiving causes us to reflect on the reasons for gratefulness. Those who have experienced the redeeming grace of our Lord have the greatest blessings of all, and other blessings flow from this. One of God's blessings upon His people is that of family ties. Sis. Molly Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) and Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette) of the Forrest congregation are engaged to be married. As these young souls join to form another family unit, may God bless their



home and their families with His presence and faithfulness to Him.

Five of our young sisters were spared recently on their way to a singing when a deer leaped in front of their car causing a collision. For the merciful protection of the Lord we give thanks.

Moving to our congregation from the Minneapolis church are Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed. We give Jeremy and Natalie our warmest welcome and wishes for God's blessings in abundance.

A statement from a recent sermon was, "We will never have to repent that we have repented. The sorrow of repentance brings life, and the sorrow of the world brings death."

---

**INDIANA, LEO  
Ethelyn Schlatter**

We miss Bro. Joe and Sis. Elsie Schlatter who moved from The Cedars to a home in Van Wert, OH.

We welcome Sis. Laurretta Schaefer who has taken a position as counselor at Gateway Woods. Though she returns home to Indianapolis on the weekends, we enjoy her happy presence during the week.

We also welcome the Joel Kaufman family from Japan. They will make their home at Leo until spring when they return to Japan.

We were blessed by a visit from Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL). He encouraged us to join our hearts in a spirit of worship, reading from Deut. 35:31. In the second reading, John 8:1-12, he prompted us to strive for a heart of mercy and compassion.

On October 31, our all church annual wiener roast was held at Gateway Woods. Appreciation was expressed to our local ministers for their faithful service after a hymn sing.

Aletheia Christine arrived on

October 23 to brighten the home of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Angie Zimmerman. Her grandparents are Rick Zimmerman and Sis. Raylene Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Judy Sutter (Peoria, IL).

At our family sing on November 6, the Kingdom quartet led us in the spirit of thankful praise as they began with the Zion's Harp hymn #236 "All Come and Thank the Lord". Their desire is to glorify the Lord and we were uplifted.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner and Sis. Maureen (Bluffton North, IN) visited one Wednesday evening and he related some of his experiences while visiting Eastern Europe with other Elder brothers. We have so much to be thankful for and need to remember them in prayer. Their life experiences are expressed in Zion's Harp hymns #46 and #90 according to their own admission.

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz lead our monthly Bible study. He talked on the "Historical Reliability of the Scripture". He related interesting historical facts related to Scripture. The bottom line is faith. Hebrews 11:6 "...without faith it is impossible to please Him;". The best reliability of the Scripture are changed lives. I Peter 3:15 "...sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear;".

Bro. Jason Pence expressed peace with God and gave his testimony of a changed life on Saturday evening, November 13, and was baptized on Sunday.

Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) served us the Lord's Supper Saturday evening. What a spiritual rejoicing we shared with each other.

"If there be therefore any conso-

lation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

*Philippians 2:1-2*

Bro. Gene Stoller had surgery on his hand, after an accident with a leaf blower. Our prayers are with him as he recovers at Regency Place Healthcare Center.

It is before Thanksgiving as I write this news. When we read it, Christmas will be very near. May the Lord bless us all as we remember the marvelous gift God gave to us in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 3:16)

---

**INDIANA, MILFORD  
Marguerite Hoerr  
Pam Beer**

Peace! peace! wonderful peace,  
Coming down from the Father  
above;

Sweep over my spirit forever, I  
pray,

In fathomless billows of love.

*Gospel Hymns #746*

Jeff Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and Rob Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) have experienced this peace firsthand and look forward to giving their testimonies and being baptized the weekend of December 19.

Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Pam) and John's mother, Sis. Maydene Lehman, were hospitalized this past month with a rare type of fungal pneumonia. Doctors think they contacted it cleaning out an old house. We are very thankful that they are back home and will once again be assembling with us.

Our Milford congregation was privileged to host a World Relief conference on Saturday, Novem-

ber 13. We want to say a special thank you to our local representative, Bro. Don Haab, and his wife, Sis. Martha, for all the work they put into making it a blessed weekend. We know they also appreciate all the work done by the brothers and sisters of the Milford congregation.

Bro. Art Haab's mother, Bernice Haab Wenger, passed away recently. She assembled with us for many years until she went to reside in a nursing home the last couple of years. We pray that Bro. Art will feel God's comforting Spirit in the months ahead.

As I write this column, Thanksgiving day is fast approaching and I thought the following poem by Helen Steiner Rice would help us all to remember to thank God for everything.

Thank You, God, for everything  
the big things and the small,  
For "every good gift comes from  
God"

the Giver of them all.

And all too often we accept  
without any thanks or praise  
The gifts God sends as blessings  
each day in many ways.

And so at this Thanksgiving time  
we offer up a prayer

To thank You, God, for giving us  
a lot more than our share...

First, thank You for the little  
things

that often come our way,  
The things we take for granted  
but don't mention when we pray,

The unexpected courtesy,  
The thoughtful, kindly deed,  
A hand reached out to help us  
in the time of sudden need...

Oh, make us more aware, dear  
God,

of little daily graces

That come to us with sweet sur-

prise  
from never-dreamed-of places  
Then, thank You for the miracles  
we are much too blind to see,  
And give us new awareness  
of our many gifts from Thee,  
And help us to remember  
that the key to life and living  
Is to make each prayer a prayer  
of thanks  
and every day Thanksgiving.

### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Rochelle Clark**

**Beth Virkler**

On October 20, grandparents Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue Waibel rejoiced over the birth of grandson, Charles Michael Mangold III, born to first-time parents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Judy of Washington, IL.

On November 2, 1939, Bro. Herb and Sis. Mary Jo Schieler were married. Their children hosted a reception to honor their 60 years of life together. In our short-term marriage culture, every anniversary remains an opportunity to praise our Great God for the love He puts in our hearts for each other.

Elder Bro. Dennis Warner and Bro. Wes Moser (both of Lester, IA) ministered to our congregation on November 6-7 during the baptism of Bro. Jeremy Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori). What a privilege to welcome another young man into the brotherhood with the holy kiss. "In days of youth seek ye the Lord."

Kylie Clauss (Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy) has chosen to seek the Lord in her youthful days also. How peaceful her eyes looked that first Sunday after turning her back on Satan.

Peggy (Sutter) Hillenberg, who's been attending our church for several years, has expressed her desire to become a part of our

fellowship. We welcome her along with her sons, John and Matthew.

Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) ministered to us on November 14 while in the area to attend his grandfather's funeral, Bro. Ezra Feller. We thank him and his wife, Sis. Susan, for their labors of love knowing the efforts required to travel to the midwest with three small children.

Our new church building remains on schedule with the exterior and parking lot all finished before Thanksgiving. We are looking towards our first service in the completed building, Lord willing, in March/April. This reality adds a reflective dimension to each current Sunday knowing how soon a major change is coming for our congregation.

Erika Schneider, 4-year-old daughter of Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi, experienced a tonsillectomy this month.

Lost and Found: Some time last spring a counted cross-stitched piece of handwork was left at Remington church on the coat rack shelf. It is a 12x18 baby-themed, cream background piece with a blue-stitched inset frame containing the letters of the alphabet along with numbers. Since it was almost finished, the owner can call (219) 261-2030 to claim it.

### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Jennifer Mangold**

**Sue Beebe**

"Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord."

*Proverbs 8:34-35*

We are rejoicing as two souls have heard the Lord calling them

unto Him and unto life! They are Luke Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi) and Kara Beebe (Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue).

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

*Psalm 16:11*

Seeking that path of life and experiencing the Lord's fulness of joy throughout her life was Sis. Mildred Meister who was called Home to be with Him on November 3. Our sympathy, prayers and love are extended to her family, especially Sis. Ernestine of our congregation.

Some of us were privileged to attend and help with the World Relief Meeting in Milford on November 13, which was for those of our churches in the Eastern United States. We live in a world full of needy people and we can be grateful that in our faith we have many opportunities to help those less fortunate. No matter what our talent may be, there are ways we can be used if only we have a willing heart. In II Cor. 9:7 it says, "Every man as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

On November 18, we were given an opportunity to help package items at Bro. Marty Langhofer's clinic for the use of veterinarians in Romania. Bro. Marty recently returned home from a trip to Romania, where he saw the many needs of the people firsthand.

He leadeth me! Oh! blessed thought,  
Oh! words with heavenly comfort fraught;  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
Still tis God's hand that leadeth me.

### *Hymns of Zion #162*

We bid a sad farewell to Sis. Marci Nuenschwander who has been led by God's hand to move back to the Bluffton, IN area.

Sis. Pauline Laidig has also recently moved to a new home in Goshen, IN and would be encouraged to hear from friends. Her address is: 1300 Greencroft Dr., Room 213, Goshen, IN 46256.

We are thankful that the Lord's protection was with Bro. Tom Frank as he was recently in an auto accident.

Our thoughts and special prayers have been offered this past month for Buicky Boriboune who spent three weeks undergoing therapy in Miami, FL and for Sis. Gigi Schafer and her friend Anna Lou Helmuth who accompanied him. We have been excited and encouraged by a measure of healing for Buicky, and pray the Lord's hand will continue to be upon him.

We were blessed with a Thanksgiving program brought to us by our Sunday School children. Their songs, verses and readings were a reminder to us of our daily need to give thanks for we truly are a blest people.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever."

*Psalm 118:29*

We were recently reminded by one of our ministers that when we hold the Bible in our hands, we hold the thoughts and desires of the Living God. Proverbs 30:5 says that "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in him." May we daily, reverently hold a Bible in our hands and seek God as our guide and shield.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and our Elder

Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). May God bless each of His messengers.

### *A Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank and express our appreciation for all the prayers, love, and kindness, and for all the beautiful cards during the illness and death of our beloved sister and loving aunt. May God richly bless you all.

*The Family of Mildred Meister*

---

### **INDIANA, VALPARAISO Hope Bucher**

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

*St. John 4:35*

Each year at harvest time, we enjoy a special program and dinner to thank God for His abundant provision over the past year. Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) was present with us for the day and spoke on St. John 4:35-38 during the program. We were so thankful for Bro. Doyle's encouragement to "Lift up our eyes" each and every day to seize the opportunities God gives us to reach out to lost souls for Him. The program was blessed by several special singing groups. A special thank you to the Ward sisters, the Purdue Young Group and a trio of young ladies from our LaCrosse and Valparaiso churches. Our Valparaiso Children's Group also sang a few beautiful songs about harvest time. The program was followed by a dinner prepared by the men. Thank you to all who attended and participated to make this day special.

---

**IOWA, BURLINGTON****Karla Gerst****Judy Gehring**

We were privileged to have Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) visit us this past month. Elder Bro. Ed Lanz was with us on a Wednesday evening. He mentioned we need to remember those in hospitals, nursing homes, and those confined at home: a short visit, a telephone call or a note would be appreciated.

Our two oldest sisters, Tillie Frank (who just celebrated her 96th birthday) and Ruth Reiman (who just celebrated her 93rd birthday), spent several days in the hospital. Last night my aunt, Sis. Pauline Heiniger, broke her hip and had surgery. May God be with all of these dear sisters in their shadow years of life.

Bro. Leo and Sis. Tami Banwart were blessed with another son. Brady and Savannah will enjoy Casey Ray, who was born November 16. His grandpa is Bro. Albert Banwart (West Bend, IA).

I thought this poem was very thought provoking:

Tw'as the night before Jesus  
came...  
...and all through the house  
Not a creature was praying not  
one in the house.  
Their Bibles were lain on the  
shelf without care  
In hopes that Jesus would not  
come there.

The children were dressing to  
crawl into bed,  
Not once ever kneeling or bowing  
a head,  
And Mom in her rocker with  
baby on her lap  
Was watching the Late Show  
while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose  
such a clatter,

I sprang to my feet to see what  
was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a  
flash  
Tore open the shutters and  
threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering  
eyes should appear  
But angels proclaiming that Je-  
sus was here.  
With a light like the sun sending  
forth a bright ray  
I knew in a moment this must be  
The Day!

The light of His face made me  
cover my head  
It was Jesus! returning just like  
He had said.  
And though I possessed worldly  
wisdom and wealth,  
I cried when I saw Him in spite  
of myself.

In the Book of Life which He  
held in His hand  
Was written the name of every  
saved man.  
He spoke not a word as He  
searched for my name;  
When He said "It's not here" my  
head hung in shame.

The people whose names had  
been written with love  
He gathered to take to His Fa-  
ther above.  
With those who were ready He  
rose without a sound  
While all the rest were left stand-  
ing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too  
late;  
I had waited too long and thus  
sealed my fate.  
I stood and I cried as they rose  
out of sight;  
Oh, if only I had been ready to-

night.

In the words of this poem the  
meaning is clear;  
The coming of Jesus is drawing  
near.  
There's only one life and when  
comes the last call  
We'll find that the Bible was true  
after all!

---

**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**  
**Heidi Butikofer**

What a day that will be when we  
can lay down our cross in exchange  
for a crown.

Following a long illness, Sis. Lydia Butikofer (Bro. Elmer) could finally be set free of the sufferings and struggles of this life. Our prayers are with her dear husband who has so faithfully remained by Lydia through sickness and health.

The Christmas spirit is again in the air. The Sunday School students are preparing for the annual Christmas program, a caroling date has been set, and many are planning and looking forward to family gatherings. It is truly a joyous season of the year, and it will be even more joyous for each of us if we will keep in mind the real meaning of Christmas and the affect it has on our eternal destiny. Because of the gift of God's Son, this Babe in the manger, we have this precious hope. Can there be any real joy without this hope?

---

**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Laura Funk**

We were privileged to host the Morton Choir November 6-7. We enjoyed the blessings of fellowship, singing with them and hearing the choir sing. We also appreciated Bro. Jon Zeller who accompanied the choir. We appreciate the efforts



this busload of loved ones put forth to come share with us. May the Lord bless you.

Also visiting us this past month was Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN). We appreciate the efforts these brethren put forth on our behalf.

May the real reason for Christmas reign in our hearts and minds as we enter this holiday season.

*The First Christmas*

An angel from glory, that first  
Christmas night,  
To certain poor shepherds  
brought courage and light.  
Fear not, said the angel, for to  
you I bring  
Glad tidings of Jesus, now born  
as your King.

An angelic anthem resounded on  
high,  
While shepherds, in wonder,  
gazed up at the sky.  
Then straightway to Bethlehem,  
leaving their sheep,  
They went to find Him in a man-  
ger asleep.

From visions, three wise men  
had followed a star  
To bring to the Saviour their  
tribute from far.  
Frankincense and myrrh and  
rich gold they did bring  
To lay before Jesus, fit gifts for a  
King.

Let all men have courage on this  
Christmas Day  
To follow the Saviour, and rancor  
allay.  
May hatred and discord and bick-  
ering cease,  
That all, through His mercy, may  
find lasting peace.

—Harold B. Franklin

**IOWA, IOWA CITY**

**Janette Schultz**

Greetings to all! We sincerely thank all of our visitors for traveling to worship with us this month, including ministering Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL). Not only was he willing to serve alone on the pulpit, but he brought several families with him to participate in both the worship services and in Sunday School. We had a very blessed day and trust the Lord will reward them all.

The second topic at the Brotherhood Conference was encouragement of believers to greater faithfulness. Among the encouraging words, several points were emphasized.

1. Remove not the ancient landmarks.

2. The absence of worldly things in our lives is not a measure of faithfulness but a manifestation of a converted mind and heart.

3. As he thinketh in his heart, so is he—Nurture the spiritual mind!

As we strive for more faithfulness in our service to God, may we fervently echo the words of P.P. Bliss in his song, My Prayer (Gospel Hymns #594).

More holiness give me, More  
strivings within;

More patience in suff'ring,  
More sorrow for sin;

More faith in my Saviour, More  
sense of His care;

More joy in His service, More  
purpose in prayer.

More gratitude give me, More  
trust in the Lord;

More pride in His glory, More  
hope in His Word;

More tears for His sorrows,  
More pain at His grief;

More meekness in trial, More  
praise for relief.

More purity give me, More

strength to o'ercome;

More freedom from earth-  
stains, More longings for home;

More fit for the kingdom, More  
used would I be;

More blessed and holy, More,  
Saviour, like Thee.

**IOWA, LESTER**

**Cindy Leuthold**

**Sue Warner**

We have cause for rejoicing in our midst as Betsy Doorneweerd (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marlys) has begun her repentance. We pray God will be near her and give her the grace to build on the firm foundation.

We are thankful that Kjert and Michelle Gramstad have been given the wonderful gift of peace. We look forward to hearing their testimonies of what God has done for them.

Our hearts were saddened at the death of Robbie Metzger, only son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella Metzger. We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella and Robbie's siblings, Sis. ReJean Knobloch (Bro. Dan), Sis. Rebecca VerBeek (Tim), Sis. Rachel, and Rae Lynn Leenderts (Aric), as well as his nine nieces and nephews, his grandmother, Sis. Elaine Kellenberger, and his great-grandmother, Sis. Lena Grimm (West Bend, IA). May God comfort their hearts with the assurance that their loved one is in a better place.

On October 30, Dallas Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl) and Amy Moser (Jim) were united in marriage. We congratulate them and pray that God will bless their union.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dawn Metzger and family welcomed little Levi Benjamin into their hearts and home on November 8. Levi has a sister, Miranda, and brothers,

Andrew and Joshua, as well as loving grandparents, Ed and Judy Martin, and Sis. Esty Metzger.

Little Emily Beth Popkes was born on November 11 to Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori Popkes and receives plenty of attention from her sisters, Kristy, Melinda, Julie, Deann, Jennifer, and Katie and Grandma, Sis. Eleanor Popkes.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). May God bless these brothers for their labors in the gospel.

Surgical patients in our congregation this month include: Ruth Feucht (Bro. Roy and Sis. Melisa), Edward Martin (Judy), Don Metzger (Pat), Bro. Paul Leuthold (Sis. Betty), Sis. Mary Metzger, and Bro. Andy Mogler (Sis. Freida). Our prayers are with these loved ones in hope for a speedy recovery.

---

**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Debbie Wagenbach**  
**Melody Steiner**

Another little bundle from Heaven has arrived into the hearts and home of Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni Massner. Big brothers, Trevor and Tucker, as well as big sister, Erika, help to welcome little Trenton Clark. Also thankful for his safe arrival are his grandparents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barbara Massner. May the Lord continue to bless Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni as they strive to raise the little souls He's entrusted to their care.

"He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he."

*Proverbs 16:20*

---

**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**Lisa Knecht**

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to the ministering brothers who visited our congregation: Bros. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Michael Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH), Roy Ehnle (Sis. Donna, Bradford, IL) and Kenneth Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO).

As the Christmas season is upon us, we think upon the Lord's humble birth and God's purpose for sending His Son. Oh, that His light could dwell within us and continue to shine until His return some day.

From heaven, in the dark of  
night,  
He came and brought eternal  
light.  
Behold now how this light divine  
Throughout this pilgrim's dale  
doth shine.  
Hallelujah!  
*Zion's Harp #7*

---

**IOWA, WEST BEND**  
**Eunice Fehr**  
**Berniece Banwart**

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Rodney Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) and Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL). We want to thank these brothers for lending themselves in the service of the Lord.

Believing they have been directed by God that they should become one, Bro. Karl Fehr and Sis. Denise Bruellman's engagement was announced. Their parents are Bro. James and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. David and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman. They are planning their wedding for January 16, 2000.

Hospital medical patients were Bros. Don Bruellman, Walter

Banwart and Silas Metzger. Bros. Mike Wirtz and Tim Mogler were overnight patients due to accidents. We are thankful they were spared from more serious injuries.

Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer Fehr are thankful for the arrival of Noah Daniel born November 13. Anxious to share their love with their new brother are Emma, Jack, Charlie and grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr and Gary and Pat Alberts of Ames, IA. Baby Noah was transferred to a Des Moines hospital and is undergoing tests. Our prayers are with this dear family and pray that God will heal Noah and they can soon be at home.

*The Joy of Giving*  
Somehow, not only for Christmas  
But all the long year through,  
The joy that you give to others  
Is the joy that comes back to you;  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The POOR and LONELY and  
SAD,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to make you glad.  
—John Greenleaf Whittier

Let us pause to remember that gift of love God sent to earth on that night so long ago, and to make room in our lives for Him whose birthday we now commemorate.

---

**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
**Ayako Inoue**

Greetings from Japan. It is nice that we are living in the same hemisphere and are able to enjoy the same seasons at the same time. The autumn leaves are beautiful now, and we have been enjoying the scenery, also the good walnuts from Shioda Church. There is a big walnut tree in the church yard!

We had a blessed time at our fall

gathering (Shu-Yo-Kai) held on November 3 in Hachioji, the countryside of Tokyo. The theme was "The Heavenly Kingdom". Bro. Akihiro Ito had the message, which was meaningful to all of us. When was the time that we most thought of heaven in our lives? Everyone would have a different answer depending on their own experiences, but we were all reminded once again that our final goal and hope is entering the heavenly kingdom, and if we keep our minds toward heaven, the Holy Spirit will work in us strongly.

This month, we were sorry to hear about the passing of Sis. Judy Bauer's father and Bro. Frank Sauder's mother. It was our joy to have Sis. Judy and Bro. Frank, Sis. Kathy and children living in Japan. We hope they can feel God's nearness as they miss their loved ones, and we will also be looking forward to meeting them in heaven!

Note from Willis Ehnle: Last month I mistakenly typed Bro. Akihiro Ito's name as Takehiro Ito. I am sorry for the mistake.

## JAPAN, TOKYO

### Andrew and Jana Klaus

We always enjoy visitors and recently we had Sisters Faith and Melody Klaus (Washington, IL) worship and fellowship with us for two Sundays in October. They are personally special to us (the Klaus family) as they are Bro. Andrew's sisters, and showered much love upon our four children, which they thoroughly enjoyed!

Sisters Faith and Melody could also join our church family for our annual "Shuyokai", or Fellowship Meeting, held this year on November 3 in the mountains of Hachioji. Bro. Akihiro Itoh of Shioda church was the main speaker and his topic was "Heaven". He told us that in

his travels to America and Hungary where he visited with many brethren from our churches, he was often asked to share his testimony which he willingly did, although it was quite an effort for him to speak entirely in English! But, something that struck him and stayed with him is when others would tell their testimonies to him, he often heard it said "I feared going to hell, and wanted to go to Heaven." And then, in Hungary, an older brother upon parting said to him, "Perhaps the next time we meet, it will be in Heaven." Bro. Akihiro was not taught from a young child, as so many of us have been, about Heaven and hell, so the above comments really struck him, and upon returning to Japan, he thought often about Heaven; what is it really like? Am I really ready to go there at any time? What do others feel about Heaven? So, this led him to speak on the subject at our Fellowship Meeting, which was thought-provoking for all of us.

After the meeting, we enjoyed lunch together and meandering through the area, taking in the beautiful fall scenery and petting and/or watching several different kinds of animals including sheep, ponies, goats, rabbits and guinea pigs—a bit unusual for many of us city dwellers here! Special thanks to the Shioda church for hosting this event, and to the Lord for richly blessing it!

Another blessed event was our Thanksgiving gathering on Sunday, November 21, after church, hosted by Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue. Those of us with American heritage take turns hosting it, and almost every year there's at least one Japanese person present who has never tasted turkey and other Thanksgiving foods before. The children performed a little play of "The First Thanksgiving" and "The First

Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation" by George Washington was read, reminding us again of the reason behind the holiday and how blessed we are. Although the meaning behind it is not from spiritual roots, Japan designates November 23 as its national holiday for "Thanksgiving" where the meaning is mainly to give thanks for the harvest and for those who labor for it. It is a good thing to have a thankful attitude.

I found a lovely Thanksgiving hymn in an old hymnal titled "Thanks to God!" written by August Ludvig Storm and translated in later years by Norman Johnson. The words are very inspiring to me, so I would like to share it.

### *Thanks to God!*

Thanks, O God, for boundless  
mercy

From Thy gracious throne above;  
Thanks for every need provided  
From the fullness of Thy love!

Thanks for daily toil and labor  
And for rest when shadows fall;  
Thanks for love of friend and  
neighbor

And Thy goodness unto all!

Thanks for thorns as well as  
roses,

Thanks for weakness and for  
health;

Thanks for clouds as well as sun-  
shine,

Thanks for poverty and wealth!  
Thanks for pain as well as plea-  
sure—

All Thou sendest day by day;  
And Thy Word, our dearest trea-  
sure,

Shedding light upon our way.

Thanks, O God, for home and  
fireside,

Where we share our daily bread;  
Thanks for hours of sweet com-

munion,  
 When by Thee our souls are fed!  
 Thanks for grace in time of sorrow  
 And for joy and peace in Thee;  
 Thanks for hope today, tomorrow,  
 And for all eternity!

Although the Thanksgiving holiday will be passed by the time this is read, it's my hope you will be blessed by these words, as I was. God be with you all.

---

**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Jill Hartter**  
**Holly Meyer**

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

*Isaiah 55:6*

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven over one soul, Martha Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona), who is repenting for her sins and desires to be a child of the King! We pray that she can establish a firm foundation on the solid rock of Jesus Christ.

Three couples from our congregation have welcomed new grandchildren into their family circles. Chris and Jill Dockins of Hooker, OK, became first-time parents to their daughter, Dale Rae, born on September 4. Bro. Don and Sis. Pat Menold are Dale's maternal grandparents. Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner became grandparents to Vinton John, born to Richard and Angela Robuck of Wichita on October 26. Vinton has one sibling, Isabelle, to help care for him. Paul and Mandy Simpson of South Bend, IN welcomed their first child, Hannah Marie, on November 11. Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter are Hannah's thankful grandparents. We wish all of these

parents God's wisdom in training and nurturing their precious children.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up...And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

*Deut. 6:6,7,9*

We also wish God's guidance to Bro. Lynn Strahm (Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby) and Sis. Sally Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth, Sabetha) as they have announced their engagement and are planning a winter wedding. May they rely totally on God as they prepare for a Christian marriage.

What a blessing to have Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) minister to us. We also enjoyed the fellowship and appreciated the efforts made by him and his wife, Sis. Joyce, to come to Kansas for the weekend.

Our retired Elder Bro. Lester Hartter was hospitalized for a short stay and we're thankful he has recovered so quickly. Sara Popkess (Ed, Topeka, KS) has just had surgery for a reoccurring brain tumor and is now recovering. Our love and prayers are with her and Ed, their sons, Hogan and Hunter, and extended families, especially her parents, Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm.

On a very cool, but beautiful Saturday evening, our annual Fall Picnic was held at Albany. It's always a special time during harvest, to reflect on God's blessings and the beauty of the changing seasons. A big thanks to the families who hosted this enjoyable event.

During the month of November, we have been listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. In December, we will join Sabetha and begin our Wednesday evening church services.

---

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**  
**Joleen Sinn**

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father:"

*1 Thess. 1:2-3*

Ministering to us this month were Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL). We thank these brothers for feeding us spiritually. May God bless them and their families richly.

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

*Matthew 11:28-30*

Amy Sinn (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joleen) has felt the call of God and has come to Him in repentance. We praise God for His boundless love and for continuing to call souls to repentance.

---

**KANSAS, KIOWA**  
**Jenny Stewart**  
**Laura Wagenbach**

We were truly blessed this past month to have several couples for a wonderful fall weekend. It is always enjoyable to have guests and



fellowship with our dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are planning to celebrate our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ's birth this month with a Sunday School Christmas program. We also plan to go caroling to sing praises of His birth.

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

*Luke 2:11*

Christmas is a wonderful time we set aside for the worship of our King's birth. Let us not get caught in the hubbub of the holiday season, but take time to thank God for sending His Son for our Saviour as a precious baby.

May He keep you and bless you this wondrous Christmas season.

---

**KANSAS  
LAMONT-GRIDLEY  
Sarah Somerhalder**

We were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new Sis. Andrea Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane). We welcome her and wish her much grace to walk this new path of life. Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) assisted in the testimony and baptism. We appreciate his labor of love.

We extend our sympathy to Joann Luthi (Bro. Lloyd) in the death of her sister, Betty Emigh.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Hannah Grimm and Tony Hines (Dora) who have been hospitalized this month.

Thanks to our many visitors who assembled with us this month. We especially appreciated ministering Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) for bringing the Word to us. May they be rewarded for their efforts.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft were blessed with 50 years together and Bro. Samuel and Sis. Clara Anliker were blessed with 25 years together. May the Lord continue to be with them during their allotted time together.

As the Christmas season approaches, let us focus upon its true meaning—rejoicing in the birth of Jesus Christ. Let us ever be thankful for the gift of God's only Son.

*Notes of Thanks:*

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and good wishes sent to us for our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless all of you, including our family for a very special memory.

*Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft*

We are overwhelmed by the love and good wishes, beautiful cards and gifts showered upon us for our 25th wedding anniversary. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you and may God bless you all.

*Bro. Samuel and Sis. Clara Anliker*

---

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

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ben and Sis. Mary Plattner on the passing of her mother, Lois Warrick, on October 26.

We have just concluded listening to the Conference tapes with the Bern congregation. After Thanksgiving we will begin Wednesday evening services. Our Sunday evening singings will be discontinued until Spring. We appreciate the closeness we have with the Bern church. They have been willing to share their church for our services together. We will be thankful to be back in our church and on a regular schedule.

Believing that God has led them to be united in marriage, Sis. Sally Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Lynn Strahm (Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby) of Bern have announced their engagement. We wish them God's guidance as they plan their February 6, 2000, wedding.

We extend best wishes to Stefany Kellenberger (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn) and Darin Lesmeister (David Lesmeister, Bonner Springs, MO and Ranae Wright, Topeka, KS) who were united in marriage on November 6.

May God grant healing where it is His will. We know there are always those struggling with earthly pain and affliction. Sometimes we do not know who needs our prayers. Sis. Mary Aberle and Sis. Evelyn Wysong have been hospitalized this month.

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change He faithful will remain,  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend,  
Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is has-

tening on  
 When we shall be forever with  
 the Lord,  
 When disappointment, grief, and  
 fear are gone,  
 Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys  
 restored.  
 Be still, my soul; when change  
 and tears are past,  
 All safe and blessed we shall  
 meet at last. Amen.  
*Hymns of Zion #191*

---

**KANSAS STATE  
 UNIVERSITY  
 Brandon Plattner**

We are thankful for many ministering brothers who have been with us in the past few months. These include Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), and Bros. Galen Rokey and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We were also thankful to have Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) with us for topical Bible studies. We wish to thank each of them for their service in the Lord's vineyard.

Our annual Christmas caroling has been set for December 8. We welcome anyone who is able to join us in spreading the good news of Christ's birth through singing our beautiful hymns. December graduates are Bro. Tim Lehman and Sis. Marla Stoller (Bern, KS). We want to wish them God's blessings as they leave us and begin a new phase of their lives.

As another semester winds down, schedules often become hectic. May we remember to not neglect our spiritual lives, as we were reminded in the familiar hymn, "Take time to be holy, Speak oft

with thy Lord. Abide in Him always and feed on His Word."

---

**KANSAS, WICHITA  
 Emma Miller**

The Wichita congregation enjoyed an "Invite a Friend" weekend October 23-24. Bro. Andy Moser and his wife, Sis. Diane (Valparaiso, IN), were among the guests. We were blessed with Bro. Andy's ministry and the fellowship.

Another blessing happened that weekend. Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk became second time grandparents late October 23 when Hamilton James was born to Josh and Glenna Kelly. Praise God for his safe arrival.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner (Alto, MI) were "home" for a family visit the weekend of October 30-31. It was so good to see them with their two sons who are attending Kansas State University at Manhattan. We also appreciated hearing Bro. Howard minister to us again.

Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO) spent the day with us on November 14. We also thank them for their love for us and for Bro. Don's ministry.

Bro. Phil Bowers has been homebound for the past month with medical complications. He faces possible surgery in the near future. We are keeping him in our prayers and we invite you to join us in the endeavor.

Our dear brother, Bro. Virgil Barth, left his pain and suffering the morning of November 12 and went to be forever with the Lord at the age of 83. Funeral services were held Monday, November 15. Bro. Virgil is survived by his loving wife, Betty, and four children: sons, Donald of New York, NY, Richard of Augusta, KS; daughters, Jolene Martin of Wataugua,

TX, and Paula LaPlantae George, Valley Center, KS; and a brother, Bro. John Barth, of Morning Sun, IA.

Traditionally, the second Sunday of the month is potluck supper night for the church families. This month the event included a wedding shower for Tim and Christina Funk who were married earlier this past summer.

---

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON  
 Alex Neukomm**

Sometimes I look at our small congregation and I wonder why God has allowed us to remain so small. God is providing for our congregation here in Lexington though and has recently blessed us in number and spirit with one more convert. Elaine Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) started repenting this last month. It is extremely strengthening and encouraging to see one more seeking the Lord's will in her life. We wish this for many more while God still extends His grace.

We appreciate all the visitors that make an effort to stop in Lexington; it's truly a blessing. We would like to thank visiting minister, Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), for bringing forth the Word this past month.

We extend a welcome to anyone. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (606) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (606) 273-8574.

---

**MICHIGAN, ALTO  
 Kristen Plattner  
 Michelle Oesch**

Thank You, God, for everything,  
 the big things and the small,  
 For every good gift comes from

God  
 the Giver of them all.  
 And all too often we accept

without any thanks or praise  
 The gifts God sends as blessings  
 each day in many ways.  
 And so at this time  
 we offer up a prayer  
 To thank You, God, for giving us  
 a lot more than our share...  
 First, thank You for the little  
   things  
 that often come our way.  
 The things we take for granted  
 but don't mention when we pray.  
 Then, thank You for the miracles  
 we are much too blind to see,  
 And give us new awareness  
 of our many gifts from Thee.  
 And, help us to remember that  
   the key to life and living  
 is to make each prayer a prayer  
   of thanks  
 and every day Thanksgiving.  
 —*Helen Steiner Rice*

When the Israelites were about  
 to enter into the promised land, the  
 Lord instructed His people to keep  
 all His commandments, love the  
 Lord with all thine heart, soul and  
 might. In Deut. 6:7 the verse says  
 "And thou shalt teach them dili-  
 gently unto thy children, and shalt  
 talk of them when thou sittest in  
 thine house, and when thou  
 walkest by the way, and when thou  
 liest down, and when thou risest  
 up."

In our great land called Amer-  
 ica, Thanksgiving should be a story  
 we talk about to our children.  
 Teach them to appreciate the sacri-  
 fices made so they could practice  
 their faith that was so precious to  
 them. It was a harsh, cruel begin-  
 ning. The earth was frozen and  
 food was scarce.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving,  
 take time to really thank the Lord  
 for His blessings and take time to  
 teach your children that God has  
 been faithful to those who are will-  
 ing to acknowledge and obey our  
 Lord.

Alto has much news to be thank-  
 ful for. The Lord has been faithful  
 and provided our congregation  
 with a new minister. Bro. Ted  
 Steffen and his wife, Sis. Sandy,  
 were given support, and may they  
 continue to feel the prayers and  
 love from their church family. El-  
 der Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City,  
 MI) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI)  
 participated in this activity. We  
 thank both of them and their wives  
 for their time and efforts. They  
 also assisted our Elder Bro. Aaron  
 Steffen with Communion. We felt  
 the weekend was a blessing as we  
 shared together as one body striv-  
 ing for one goal, to glorify our Fa-  
 ther and prepare our souls for our  
 eternal home.

Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT)  
 was a visiting minister. We are glad  
 he is able to come and share with us  
 as often as he travels through the  
 area.

Now it is accomplished!  
 I'm no longer mine:  
 Lord, I will forever  
 and always be Thine,  
 For thou hast created  
 and purchased me too,  
 Baptized with Thy Spirit,  
 Thou makest me new.  
 Now it is accomplished!  
 My freedom is gone,  
 As I am a captive  
 of God and His Son;  
 What freedom! O, I was  
 by Satan enslaved  
 To do his ill bidding;  
 but now I am saved.

What a blessing it was to hear  
 the testimonies and witness the  
 baptisms of two new sisters in  
 Christ. The weekend of October  
 23, Jamie Schrenk (Dennis) and  
 Rose Watson (Terry) were washed  
 clean of their sins and now walk in  
 a newness of life. It was encourag-  
 ing to our hearts that God is still

calling souls to Him and we cannot  
 help but pray that He will tarry yet  
 awhile, continuing to prick the  
 hearts of many. Elder Bro. Wendell  
 Gudeman and Sis. Marcella  
 (Francesville, IN) were here for the  
 blessed weekend. Bro. Wendell as-  
 sisted in the baptisms. Ministering  
 Bro. Tom Schrenk brought the  
 Word to our congregation. Bro.  
 Tom is a father-in-law to Sis. Jamie  
 and an uncle to Sis. Rose Watson.

We are thankful for the safe ar-  
 rival of two new little blessings to  
 the home of Jeff and Brenda Oesch.  
 Twin boys, Jeffery Bryan Jona-  
 than and Justin Arnith Joseph join  
 big brother, A.J., and sisters, Ve-  
 ronica, Sara and Brianna, at home.  
 The happy grandparents are Bro.  
 Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch and  
 Arnith and Lavina Stahl. We also  
 wish blessings to Sis. Rhonda  
 Rarigh on the birth of her first  
 grandchild, little Tallia Bee Rodri-  
 guez. Her parents are Sis.  
 Rhonda's daughter and  
 son-in-law, Andrea and Rio Rodri-  
 guez. We wish God's love and guid-  
 ance as they care for and nurture  
 their children.

---

**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Rhonda Knochel**  
**Peggy Jackson**

We have so many things to re-  
 joice in this month. We are so  
 thankful for the union of Bro.  
 Vince Schlatter (Gus and Sis.  
 Leann, Latty, OH) and Sis. Tessa  
 Schamback (Bro. Lee and Sis. Car-  
 olyn). Every time there is a wed-  
 ding, we are reminded of Christ's  
 love for His Bride, the Church. We  
 can rejoice not only in the marriage  
 itself, but in knowing that we are  
 part of an even greater marriage  
 celebration.

We are also very thankful for  
 our visiting ministers; they always  
 bring a special blessing to the  
 churches they visit as they teach

God's Word. Bro. Ron Kipfer and his wife, Sis. Linda (Bluffton, IN), spent some time in our congregation recently. We want to extend our most sincere gratitude to them for the time and effort put out on our behalf.

We also had the privilege of hearing the Memorandum this month. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and his wife, Sis. Bev (Detroit, MI), were with us for the weekend. Bro. Mark aided Bro. Andy in presenting the conclusions from the Elder conferences this year. A special thanks goes to Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev for their labor of love.

Our physical bodies are only temporary dwelling places until God calls us Home to be with Him. Sometimes we see just how temporary our bodies are when we struggle with illness or handicap. We had several from our congregation spend time in the hospital this month. They were: Frank Bragiel (Sis. Irma), Sis. Lena Wieland, Sis. Martha Rezmer, Sis. Florence Wieland and Sis. Inez Grew (Del). It is our sincere prayer that God's healing hand will be upon them in the coming weeks and that they will feel His nearness and grace. May God bless you all as we enter this holiday season.

---

### **MICHIGAN, DETROIT**

**Bonnie Bedolla  
Crystal Ramsier**

On November 14, our congregation was reminded just how fragile the power of men is. Just as people were starting to arrive at church, an electrical component on one of the poles outside the church malfunctioned. There was a series of loud popping noises and then a wire fell down, cutting off the electricity to the church and the assisted living home next to it. When inconveniences like this occur, it's nice to know that the power of God

is never temporarily unavailable.

Rich Popp Sr. and Rich Popp Jr. have experienced God's healing power. Bro. George Popp's son (Rich Sr.) received a kidney transplanted from his grandson (Rich Jr.). Sis. Bonnie Popp (Rich Sr.'s sister) and Bro. George have spent many hours waiting and praying during the surgery and they're thankful that both donor and recipient are recovering nicely.

Sis. Lorene Maibach (Elder Bro. Ben) also spent time in the hospital this month with some broken ribs. We pray that God's comforting hand will be on her as she recovers.

We were blessed to hear several visiting ministers share God's Word with us. Our visitors included Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Steve Pamer (Akron, OH). We are thankful for their willingness to be used in God's service.

Karlee Mae Baran brought a lot of joy to Craig and Sis. Pat Baran's home with her arrival on October 25. Kristie and Cody are excited to have a baby sister.

Our choir travelled to Francesville, IN on November 6-7. We enjoyed the hospitality and fellowship of the Francesville congregation and are thankful for a blessed weekend of memories.

---

### **MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder**

Many of us enjoyed a blessed weekend in Lester, IA, the weekend of October 16 when we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodi Metzger. We truly appreciate their support here.

Our prayers are with Aric and Rae Lynn Leenderts in the death of Rae Lynn's brother, Robbie Metzger.

With saddened hearts we bid

farewell to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed. They have moved back to Indiana and will be worshipping with the brethren at La-Crosse.

We welcome Sis. Kathryn (Olson) Blunier. She has moved here from Eureka so she could be closer to her children. We were reminded that it was 37 years ago when the second worship service was held here in Minneapolis at Sis. Kathryn's home.

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) in the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate and thank these brothers for their love and concern for the church and pray that we each can do our part in preserving it.

We enjoy the fellowship of visitors who come to worship with us. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ) with us and thank them for bringing forth the message of salvation.

As we approach Christmas, let us focus our thoughts on it's true meaning and not get entangled with the hustle and bustle of the things about us.

---

### **MINNESOTA, MORRIS Dianne Kellenberger Nancy Wulf**

"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*

A story sweet and wondrous,  
Like heavenly music swells,  
In chimings clear to all who will  
hear,



Ring out the gospel bells.

When grieving, brokenhearted,  
Because of sin and shame,  
We find a joy earth cannot de-  
stroy,  
Believing on His name.

This love, beyond all measure  
Of earth or sea or sky,  
Could only show its full overflow,  
When Jesus came to die.

Come, brother, come to Jesus,  
His Word was meant for you,  
His grace receive, His promise  
believe,  
and sing His praise anew.  
*Tabernacle Hymns #220*

Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) was with us November 7 to preach the Word. We truly enjoy the fellowship we have with one another.

Our sympathies are with Bro. Dave and Sis. Ilene Nohl in the death of her father, Gilbert Hunt, on November 6. May God comfort all the family in the loss of one so dear.

We rejoice with Andy Hacker and Echo Fehr as they became one before the Lord on November 20. Their parents are Bro. Cork and Sis. Pam Fehr and Charles and Deb Hacker (Hancock, MN).

Looking forward to that same event in their own lives are Randy Luthi and Jonita Lenards (Brandon, SD), the date being set for June 24, 2000. Randy's parents are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte.

Our hope for both couples is that they may know and feel the love of God, and that He will bless their unions.

May God provide His healing power in the lives of hospital patients, Cassidy Fehr (Randy and Lori), Sis. Dorie Zeltwanger and Sis. Edna Zeltwanger (Bro.

Kenny).

---

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Ann Messner  
Becky Braulick**

The Reason for the Season  
"Thou shalt call his name Jesus:  
For he shall save his people from  
their sins."

*Matthew 1:21*

Sometimes it is hard to have a Right Christmas. We are so busy trying to make a merry Christmas that when it is all over we know we have missed out on something. We hope this year you will have a Right Christmas.

A RIGHT Christmas is first of all focused on a person. Christmas marks the time in history when God entered our world to save us by sending His only Son, Jesus. He won salvation for us by coming to earth, living a perfect life, and dying on the cross to take our punishment for sin. He rose from the grave and is in Heaven today. Jesus made the first Christmas and He can make our Christmas a RIGHT Christmas. (tract league)

Our annual sisters' meeting was held. Our annual 55 and over supper was hosted by our Sunday School children. We appreciated the thought and time spent on making the gathering special.

Hospital patients were Bro. Roy and Sis. Rose Alice Howk. We pray for God's will in their healing and for their children and families.

Lucas Messner welcomes his precious new baby sister, Ellie Karen, born November 13. Thankful parents are Dan and Karen and grandparents, Duane and Mona Messner, of Gaylord. May the Lord bless them all.

*Happy New Year*

There is only one point in his-

tory where the old became new: that was when Jesus entered our world to make all things NEW. "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." (Rev. 21:5). When Jesus becomes the Lord in your life and replaces your self as Master of your life, a person becomes NEW. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become NEW." (II Cor. 5:17).

---

### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Brent Kellenberger**

On October 31, Bro. Brandon Emch became the fourth minister in the history of our Kansas City church. We are thankful that the Lord continues to provide for our every need. We pray that our Heavenly Father will help us all do our part in supporting Bro. Brandon in prayer, word and deed. We trust that God will bless him in the duties he has been given.

On the same weekend, we enjoyed the company of Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN). We appreciated the presentation he gave on his recent trip to Eastern Europe. We were not only informed about the situation in these countries and churches, but also encouraged to be thankful for what we have. May the Lord grant us grace to be cheerful givers, knowing the needs of others and the detrimental effects that riches can have in the believer's life! The question was put forth: Who is really unfortunate?

Our congregation is pleased to welcome another family into our midst. Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynne Musselman have come to us from the Bloomington, IL congregation. We look forward to having them and Zachary, Molly, Morgan and Nicholas assemble with us in the future. We pray that the Lord will

direct them as they establish their home in our area.

We are happy to report that our dear Sis. Anna Lou Aberle is back from the hospital and doing very well. It is a joy to have her assemble with us again.

Cindy Strahm (Bro. Ron) was recently hospitalized with head injuries due to a horse accident. We are thankful she has been able to return home, and we pray the Lord will continue to heal her according to His will.

Our other visiting minister this month was Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). May the Lord bless him for the effort put forth to come and share God's Word.

---

### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Kristi Huber  
Carolyn Banwart**

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) assist Bro. Lawrence in reading and explaining the Memorandum. May God bless them for their labors of love and concern.

We also want to thank Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) for ministering unto us this past month.

May the Lord comfort Bro. Martin and Sis. Edith Hohulin on the passing of her brother, Bro. Kenneth Kaiser of Morton, IL.

Jack and Betty Thieband have been in our prayers as they have been unable to assemble with us due to Jack's failing health.

May we remember the true meaning of Christmas during the holiday season. And as another year ends, may we count our many blessings that God has bestowed upon us and pray for His help and guidance in the new year.

---

### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Rachel Schrock**

"When we depart from this life, it is not how much we have left, but how much we have sent on that will count," encouraged one of our Elder brothers in the 1999 Brotherhood Conference. The St. Louis congregation has been spiritually fed this past month as we finished listening to the Conference tapes.

When a loved one departs from this life, a void is felt. We extend our deepest sympathies to our Sis. Cindy Hann and her family as her grandfather, Glen Gould, has passed into eternity. Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger and their family as their nephew, Robbie Metzger, has left this earthly life as well.

We have been blessed lately as the following ministering brethren have taught us what we need to do to prepare for our own departure from this life. These visitors include Bros. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) and Alan Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN). May God richly bless them as they labor for Him.

May God also bless Bro. Jeff and Sis. Robin Steffen and their family as they move to Phoenix, AZ. We will miss their presence here in St. Louis, but are thankful that the Lord has provided for them.

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, may we be thankful for all things. May we "be not content this babe to know...but go with Christ to Calvary." (Hymns of Zion #36).

---

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Peg Haerr**

Our annual harvest celebration was held October 31. After a

wiener roast, devotion, and games, everyone enjoyed a hayrack ride and the beautiful fall weather.

Recently, Bro. Mike Stratton's mother, Pansy, spent some time in the hospital. Sis. Rosie Massner (Bro. Allen) is still recovering from recent surgery. We pray God's healing hand will be upon them.

Our sympathy goes to Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm, and their family in the loss of Sis. Dona's father, Bro. Ezra Feller. May we all contemplate how beautiful Heaven must be.

The Taylor Bible Class traveled to Roanoke, IL for ACYF. It was inspiring to hear our youth singing praises to our Lord.

---

### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."

*Hebrews 6:1-2*

On October 24 we had visiting brothers and sisters from Rockville, CT; Akron and Rittman, OH.

On October 30-31, Hope Graves (Bro. Floyd Jr. and Sis. Linda) was baptized and has become a sister in faith. We are so thankful that God is still calling and giving peace to those who answer His call. Elder Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle assisted Elder Bro. Duane Farney in the proving and baptism.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ

for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

*Acts 2:38*

On November 13, we had the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Duane Farney.

I have had knee replacement and am at home recovering.

Correction: The name of the baby boy born to Louis and Cynthia Courtney (Virkler) is Elias Kennedy.

---

### OHIO, AKRON

**Joyce Gasser**

Michelle Hrubik (Jim and Violet) gave her testimony before our congregation and was welcomed into our fellowship. We appreciated Elder Bro. Andy Stoller visiting us and helping our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer for this testimony.

Bro. Carl Graf was hospitalized and is back worshipping with us again. Sis. Bonnie Bako was in the hospital for back surgery and is getting along well and we are glad she can again assemble with us. Sis. Alice Greenbank was very sick and in the hospital. She has been released, and we wish for her the Lord's comfort and relief.

---

### OHIO, COLUMBUS

**Anita Steiner**

Our visiting ministers for this month were Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL), and Bros. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH). We are thankful for these brothers who lend themselves week after week to teach God's Word unto us. We must remember to keep each one in our prayers.

On November 5, we had a World

Relief night. It is a chance to get together for fellowship and a reminder of how blessed we are. This Thanksgiving may God help us to count our blessings as we get together with family and friends.

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,  
When you are discouraged thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings,  
name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

*Hymns of Zion #116*

---

### OHIO, JUNCTION

**Cindy Schlatter**

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.  
Glory! Glory! How the angels sing;  
Glory! Glory! How the loud harps ring;  
'Tis the ransomed army, like a mighty sea,  
Pealing forth the anthem of the free.

*Gospel Hymns #622*

What a blessing it is to be able to report that two more souls have begun their repentance: Janice Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Matthew Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy). Our hearts are filled with rejoicing and we are indeed thankful. We trust that God will continue calling and pray that many more may find the grace to humble themselves and answer His loving call.

We also rejoice with our con-

vert, Greg Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra), who has found peace with God and man and now awaits the weekend that he can give his testimony and be baptized into the death of our Lord Jesus. May God continue to be with you as we all look forward to this blessed time.

Adam Pierre blessed the home of Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller on November 5. Big brother, Emil, looks forward to having a playmate. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn (Latty, OH). May God grant them wisdom to raise their children up to know and love Him.

Bro. Maburn Hale (Sis. Julia) spent time in the hospital this past month.

What a blessing it was to have Elder Bro. Jesse Beer with us for the reading of the Memorandum. Let us not only hear the words but also apply them to our lives that we can live a more sanctified life and be a better light and example to those around us.

We were thankful to enjoy a weekend of fellowship with a number of families from Eureka. We thank all those who made the effort to share the weekend with us, especially Bro. Steve Martin and Bro. Jim Vierling for sharing the Word to us. The blessing of Christian fellowship is surely one of the rich heritages of our precious faith.

---

### OHIO, LATTY

**Kathy Sinn**

**Heidi Hackenjos**

The Lord again has touched the lives of several of our congregation. Julie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne), Nichole Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen), Sam Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen) and Vinc Krzesinski (Bro. Keith and Sis. Connie) have begun their repentance. We con-

tinue to pray for them as they turn from the ways of this world and allow the Lord through their humble attitude to convert their lives.

We ask the Lord to continue to bless Ross Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) and Doug Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) as they were announced for peace. May this peace continue to dwell with Ross and Doug as they grow in the Lord.

Our prayers also include a plea for the healing of physical bodies. During this month, we ask this petition for Sis. Elsie Schlatter (Bro. Joe) and Bro. Ken Laukhuf (Sis. Marge). May the Lord's will be done in their lives. Also experiencing the Lord's healing were Kelsey Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Patty), Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Sis. Martha), and Sis. Eunice Gerber (Bro. Roger).

Several new bundles will be joining the others in the baby room at church. One of these bundles will be Connor Robert Baumle (Pat and Sis. Wendy). Welcoming Connor at home were sisters, Taylor, Madeline, and Blair. His grandparents are Robert and Sis. Janet Williamson and Bob and Fran Baumle.

Another bundle will be coming with Shawn and Shane Gerber. Kalin Ryan was the first born in their family. Kalin's grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie Laukhuf and Bob and Connie Gerber.

The next bundle, Adam Pierre Stoller, will come from time to time to visit us in Latty. Adam is welcomed at home by Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy and his brother, Emil. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn (Latty) and Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller (Latty).

On November 6, we gathered to listen to the Conference letter submitted by the Elder body. Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) assisted Elder Bro. Ray with this responsibility. We were also

blessed by hearing the Word of the Lord through Bro. Andy on Sunday. Let us receive the encouragement and admonitions which are still afforded us in this manner. And then our lives should reflect these words of wisdom in our every word and action. May we ever strive daily toward that Heavenly Goal.

Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) also visited our congregation and preached the truth of God's Word for us. May the Lord richly bless him and his family.

As the Christmas and holiday season approaches, our thoughts turn toward the Babe of Bethlehem. As we rejoice in His coming, let us prepare our souls for His return.

This verse from Zion's Harp #189 seemed to be almost a prayer. "Look upon with special favor, Those who ask of me, O Saviour, That for them my prayers may rise To Thy mercy I commend them; To each one such blessing send them, As they need; for Thou art wise." (vs. 8).

We certainly wish to send prayers of safety as several couples of our congregation will be traveling and wintering in the south. May the Lord watch between us until we meet again.

---

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

#### John and Marci Pfeiffer

Our prayers are with Bro. Ken Beer (Sis. Pat), Sis. Hedy Ormesher (Leo), and our friend, Anne Gromen. May God heal and comfort them as they recover from surgery.

We appreciated the visit of many singles during "All Ohio Weekend". The Lord's blessing be upon those who gathered with us.

Our annual Fall Outing was held on October 31. It was very enjoyable. We thank our Sunday School teachers for their efforts.

On November 13-14, our congregation witnessed the testimony and baptism of two young men. We welcome Bro. Mark Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay) and Bro. Josh Boliantz (Bro. Doug and Connie) into our brotherhood.

Glory be to God in heaven,  
Praise to Christ, our Saviour  
great!

Dearest child, we bid thee welcome

In our blessed brotherhood;  
From the wild tree thou art  
grafted

On this holy tree and root.

*Zion's Harp #34*

Elder Bro. Wesley Knapp (Goodfield, IL), and Bros. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) kindly lended their services that weekend.

Our friend, Tom Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Seda), is seeking his soul's salvation! Our prayers are with him.

---

### OHIO, RITTMAN

#### Lynda Beery

#### Lucy Gasser

Our congregation was privileged to witness the testimonies and the rebirth of four persons from burial in the watery grave, leaving the old sinful life and rising to a new life in Christ. The process of a conversion of a soul is a beautiful miracle with many similarities, but unique to each one who experiences it. November 7 was the "new birth" date for Rachel Miller (Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene), Laurel Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan), and Darlene and Jeff Lanz (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane). Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle



Hartzler. Other visiting ministers who served us that blessed weekend were Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), and Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH).

Elaine Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Lexington, KY) and Katrina Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane) have made known their intention to seek their salvation in Christ Jesus and walk by faith the narrow path to Heaven.

Three couples entered into marriage this past month. On October 16 Kevin Stoudmire and Melissa Murray (Gary and Sis. Susan) were married. Tom Troyer and Rhonda Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth) exchanged vows on October 23. November 13 is the day that Doug Rupp and Debbie Christian (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann) were united. May all three couples look to God for grace to keep their commitments lifelong.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian have a new granddaughter. Caitlin Elizabeth arrived early to Chris and Lisa Matie on October 24. She spent two weeks in the hospital before she came home to brothers, Cody and Taylor.

Several families experienced the loss of loved ones to death. Everett Emch passed away on October 27. His wife, Helen, and two daughters and their families survive him. Zane Bachman (Sis. Betty) has lost a brother, Byron, from Minnesota. Sis. Wilma Steiner died unexpectedly, on November 1. Surviving are two sons, Bro. Rich (Sis. Pat) and Bro. Dave (Sis. Lynn). Eight grandchildren also survive. May our Lord Jesus comfort all in their loss and may we be reminded to be ready at any moment to meet our Creator.

Sis. Carol Steiner (Bro. Carl), Sis. Vicki Pelfrey, Bro. Dwaine Indermuhle (Sis. Joan), and Larry

Hanzie spent time in the hospital. Others have had outpatient services or have met with accident. We pray they will find relief from pain and healing can begin.

In appreciation for his years of service as our shepherd, a singing was held on November 14 for our retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer and his wife, Sis. Martha. Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), and retired Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder were with us for the evening. The church was full and it was a blessed hour we spent together. None of us can know of the hours of visiting, counseling, sharing, and praying which were spent on our behalf. May God continue to bless them in retirement.

---

#### OHIO, SARDIS Angie Figel

I have been scorned by neighbors  
who had treasures.

I've been deceived by a friend I  
hold dear.

So many times I just wanted to  
give up.

When I remembered my Lord is  
right here.

I had questioned the loss of a  
loved one.

I wonder why it happened to me.  
But in prayer I've found an answer.

It was all quite plain to see.  
Another hill and sometimes a  
mountain.

Another road with rocks to hurt  
my feet.

But when He walks along beside  
me,

I can take it there will be no re-  
treat.

Let's remember to be a light to

those who feel especially burdened  
or lonely at this time of year.

Our prayers are with Sis. Hazel Riggensbach and her family as she has been hospitalized this month.

---

#### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Ruth Gasser Edith Miller

Baptized into Thy name most  
holy,

O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and  
lowly

Among Thy seed, Thy chosen  
host.

Immersed with Christ, I'm dead  
to sin;

Thy Spirit now shall live within.  
*Zion's Harp #41*

Four dear souls were added to the fold on the weekend of October 30-31. On Saturday evening we heard their expressions of how the Lord led them through their repentance and conversion. Then on Sunday we witnessed their baptism. Our new brother and sisters are Bro. Dana Nieman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay), Sis. Beth Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla), Sis. Kathy Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie) and Sis. Laura Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky). Here to assist our Elder Bro. Andy were Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). May the Lord ever be near each of these precious lambs as they go upon their way rejoicing. Also present that day to share in these blessings were ministering Bros. Ben Manz and Don Manz (Junction, OH), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), and Steve Pamer (Akron, OH). May God bless each one for lending themselves in His service. We also thank Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) for his recent visit

to our congregation.

We are so happy to report that another soul has turned her back to the world and is seeking her soul's salvation. We wish Darla Nieman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay) much grace to build her house of faith upon a firm foundation.

On October 30, first-time parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Gwen Riggenschach, were blessed with the birth of a new little son. Noah Davis is also welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Gail Riggenschach and Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller. May God's blessings be felt in their home as they seek to raise their child in the fear of the Lord.

Bro. Jim Ramsier (Sis. Dorothy) was hospitalized recently for open-heart surgery. May He feel God's healing touch as he recuperates.

---

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

Bro. Dave and Sis. GERALYN Beard have cause for rejoicing with the safe arrival of another granddaughter. Aaron and Sandy welcome Cira Lillithe to their family.

We are thankful to hear the Word brought forth each time we assemble. Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) visited us recently and served us in the ministry. May God add His blessings to the labors of each of our ministers.

---

**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Louisa Gallup**

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me..."

*Psalm 51:10*

Communion service was held here on Sunday, November 14. It certainly was a day to be remem-

bered, with very special visitors as well. Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) assisted our Elder Bro. Art Metz in holding the Communion service. We appreciate their labors on our behalf and wish to thank Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois especially for their willingness to travel to Portland to support us. May the Lord reward them all richly. Our thanks also to all who stayed and helped after the dinner that followed the Communion service.

We enjoyed all our visitors this month and hope they will return again when they can. We thank Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele, Silverton, OR) for ministering unto us. His efforts were appreciated by all.

The Christmas season is approaching fast...may every one have a blessed time together with loved ones; safe travel and good health. We surely do have so much to be thankful for, if we only would stop and think about it more often!

---

**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

November has often been the month for Holy Communion here in Oregon, giving us even another good reason for Thanksgiving. This fall we are thankful to have had Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) come and, with our own Elder Bro. Art Metz, serve us this most humbling and rewarding Lord's Supper. We do appreciate our dear Elder brethren and their willingness to be our loving, caring shepherds and watchmen on the wall. We pray we will each always seek our Lord's grace that we can be the willing and contented sheep of the flock.

We rejoice with Chad and Sis. Megan Walter at the birth of little Lorena Jo who was born on November 16. She is also welcomed by big sister, Andrea, and grandpar-

ents, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter and Mike and Anita Massey (Wilsonville, OR). May the Lord be their ever-present helper in every need in raising their family.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Garth Steffen of our neighboring Portland church. We really do appreciate the ministering brothers and their dear wives who make the effort to come and serve the Lord while serving us.

We want to remember in our prayers all who suffer various bodily afflictions and illnesses, sometimes keeping them from assembling with us and enjoying the fellowship of the church. One we are missing these past several weeks is Sis. Judie (Bro. Ed) Knecht. We pray for God's healing mercies on Sis. Judie and any others similarly in need.

Our new "Oregon Cookbook" shipment arrived and has been distributed. The Cookbook Committee sincerely wants to thank all who helped in any phase of this production. Special thanks to Fehr Trucking for the long haul from Iowa, where it was printed, to Oregon.

The year 2000. Just one comment on a subject too well covered by global, national and local media and by commercial interests. Let's remember it will still be "the year of our Lord" no matter what number is part of the phrase.

---

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**PHILADELPHIA**  
**Nathan Gasser**

"I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people."

*Psalm 35:18*

We truly have many reasons to

give thanks, for whether our congregation is "great" in numbers or not, it is surely great in faith. And may we all make an effort to "praise God among much people" this month. It used to be people celebrated Christmas, while overlooking the true meaning of the occasion. Now, many people celebrate "the holidays" and overlook Christmas in its entirety! As the year and the century draw to a close, we see growing signs of people, especially young people, seeking truth and meaning in their lives. We have a wonderful opportunity to reintroduce Christmas to those who are fed up with the endless commercialism of "the holidays" and who seek a truer meaning in the season. And in doing so, we introduce them to Christ, who alone can fill their need for truth and for peace.

We appreciate that Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) was able to share the Word with us this month. We are so thankful when others travel to visit with us and minister to us. Let us remember, in this season as throughout the year, that every one of us is a minister to those around us, and an ambassador for Christ. May we do our best to live up to this calling.

---

### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

**Gwen Leuthold**

#### *God's Boxes*

I have in my hands two boxes that God gave me to hold.

He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black, and all your joys in the gold." I heeded His words, and in the two boxes both my joys and sorrows I stored. But though the gold became heavier each day; the black was as light as before. With curiosity, I opened the black. I wanted to find out why and I saw, in the base of the box, a hole in which my sorrows had fallen out. I showed the

hole to God, and mused aloud, "I wonder where my sorrows could be." He smiled a gentle smile at me. "My child, they're all here with me." I asked, "God, why give me the boxes, why the gold, and the black with the hole?" "My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings, the black is for you to let go."

In this season of gift giving, may we consider all of the joys in our gold boxes and enhance the joys in the boxes of others. Let us thank God for each of the joys He sends our way and especially for the gift of the birth of His Son that we celebrate at this time of year.

This past month we welcomed ministering Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). We also welcomed the Sunday School class from Francesville, IN as well as many other visitors from Eureka, Princeville, Bradford and Roanoke, IL and Latty, OH. We especially thank our ministering brothers but all of our visitors as well for worshipping with us.

During this past month, the 2000 Nashville Church Schedule was mailed to all U.S. and Canadian Apostolic Christian churches. The schedule lists the churches scheduled to provide ministers on the first and third Sundays of each month. On the other Sundays, we meet for a tape service. Please contact one of the numbers listed below if you plan to worship with us to assist us with meal planning and there may be occasions when all of us are traveling.

Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946. Churches scheduled for January, February and March include: Congerville, IL (January 2); Akron, OH (January 16); Bradford, IL (February 6); Latty, OH

(February 20); Remington, IN (March 5) and Athens, AL (March 19).

---

### TEXAS, CENTRAL

**Dan and Pam Sauder**

Visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us this month include Bros. Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL), Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) and Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton, IN).

We want to express our appreciation to Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) for his efforts as Elder of our congregation. His retirement was effective in October.

December 12 is our only scheduled service for the month.

Those who live and worship in the Central Texas area would like to thank the churches and ministers that have supported us in the past. We continue to depend on you. As the service in Dallas has been discontinued, the first Sunday of the month will now be included in our schedule beginning 2000. January services and churches sending ministers are as follows: 9th, LaCrosse, IN at Austin; 16th, Bradford, IL at San Antonio; 23rd, Lester, IA at San Antonio; 30th, Tremont, IL at Bill Zeltwanger's.

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.

---

# Silver Threads

## Bethlehem's Manger - Calvary's Cross

Think! near two thousand years have gone  
Since that eventful day.  
Do we yet hear the angel's song;  
Or does earth's pomp hold sway?

That night of nights when love came down  
The world oblivious was  
That King of kings in David's town  
In stable slept...because

The inn was filled with pompous guests.  
The poor were turned away.  
Innkeeper failed the greatest test  
That God before Him lay.

In this our day and time do we  
Close our heart's door to Him;  
The star, the angels fail to see,  
And forget Bethlehem?

Wise men yet follow guiding star  
To seek the King of kings  
God sent to earth from heaven, afar —  
A wond'rous, marv'lous thing!

The greatest gift God gave that night  
Because He loved us so  
That all may seek that blessed Light  
Salvation's plan to know.

God's great Gift! LOVE in a manger  
(Yet to a cross it led).  
What do we see — only a stranger,  
Or one who for us bled?

That's why we call Him Saviour, Lord —  
He came to set men free  
From sin and self. (We have record)  
He died in agony!

Oh, go to Him at Calvary  
Find pardon, peace, release.  
He yet is calling: "Come to Me"  
E'er day of grace will cease.

—by a sister in faith

### TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

Dallas Plattner (Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary) and Carmen Prew were joined in marriage on October 30. The wedding was at Laredo, TX. We wish Dallas and Carmen much joy in their life together. May God's presence always be felt in their heart and home. They will be living in Laredo, TX.

Some of our winter residents are here. Our elected usher, Bro. Richard Bricker, and his wife, Sis.

Helen, from Mansfield, OH are here for the winter. We are looking forward to some visitors. We benefit so much from the fellowship of our visitors and encourage anyone who will be traveling south to stop and visit us in Zapata.

It is interesting to learn something of the history of our Christmas Carols. Joseph Mohr, whose father left him and his mother, lived in poverty. He became a priest and in 1816 wrote the best loved Christmas Carol "Silent Night". A friend, Franz Gruber,

wrote the music. It so aptly portrays the story of Luke 2. One can almost envision the stillness of the night and the shepherds looking at the wonders in the sky and then quaking as the angels sang their alleluias. At the same time, baby Jesus was peacefully sleeping in the manger. Little did the world know the importance of that birth. May gratitude fill our heart, for our salvation, not only this season, but every day throughout the year.





*Sermon continued from page 2*

brethren, we do you to wit..." meaning we want you to know. He is addressing these Corinthians and he is telling them, "We want you to know" "... of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;" (II Corinthians 8:1). He is talking now about a different group of churches.

He speaks to them of the great trial that they went through... a great trial of affliction. We do not know exactly what that affliction might have been. However, he said that, "...the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality." (II Corinthians 8:2). In spite of the trials they went through, in spite of the deep poverty that they had, they were willing to share with those who were less fortunate using what God had given to them.

"For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints." (II Corinthians 8:3-4). They were giving to the Apostle Paul of the material things they had to share with those who were less fortunate.

Now when we stop to think about our situation, our physical situation here in our land compared to the countless number of people across the world, we know that we are abundantly blessed. We are rich beyond measure compared to what others have.

So it seems the Word is encouraging us this evening that we should be willing to share. But there is also a sharing in a differ-

ent sense other than material things, there is a sharing in spirit, and that we would also be willing to impart to others the wonderful understanding that we have received from the Word of God.

If anyone would ask of us of the hope that is within us, if anyone would ask of us of why we do thus and so, if anyone would ask of us why do we not be conformed to the world, or if anyone would ask of us why we are a peculiar people, as the Word describes the children of God, we would be willing to impart to them that which we have come to know, and that we would be willing to impart to them what God has done for us.

Now unless there is a heart or a mind that is inquiring of those things, trying to impart that to them most likely will be unsuccessful. We can just look back to our own unconverted life and think about how receptive we would have been at that time, had someone tried to speak to us of spiritual things and of the blessings that there are in serving God.

But God is able to touch the hearts and make them receptive. So when that occasion arises, might it be that we willingly impart of that great love which God has given to us.

Then further on in this chapter, he speaks about the Lord Jesus Christ. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor..." (II Corinthians 8:9). That is something that is rather difficult for us to comprehend, isn't it? The Lord being in heaven with the

Heavenly Father and that willingly, willingly taking upon Him the form of man to come down here to this earth.

I believe that is what the Apostle Paul is referring to here when he said, "he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (II Cor. 8:9). Not rich in material things, but rich in that which is beyond all value. The material things we have just temporarily here in this earthly life are all going to be left behind. While we are here in this life, we can gather together heavenly treasurers. We can gather together those things where rust will not corrupt, moth will not enter in and destroy, but we can gather together that wonderful gift of peace and hope.

Now he gives the Corinthians here some advice. I believe he is trying to encourage them on in what they had begun in. As we begin our spiritual life in seeking the Lord, when He calls us to repentance and He shows us our great need, He would like us to press on and experience those things that He would have us to experience at that time in our life. That is a time of change and that is why we speak of it as a time of conversion, but He wants us to press on.

Now opposing that, of course, we have the enemy of our soul, and Satan wants to stop this process. He doesn't want it to start in the first place, and then if one does turn and seek the Lord, he wants to set up all types of barriers and hindrances and provide all kinds of excuses to prolong this. Hopefully trying to

*Sermon continued next page*

*Sermon continued...*

side-track the individual, we might say.

The Apostle here says, "And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. Now therefore perform the doing of it," (II Corinthians 8:10-11). Now he was possibly speaking regarding their helping others, but I think it is also applying to our spiritual life, that having begun, we would press on and through His grace carry out that which He would have us to do.

Then again as far as sharing, he says here that the most important thing is a willing mind. "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." (II Corinthians 8:12). God doesn't expect us to completely remove all earthly things from us in an attempt to help others, but He expects us to share of that which we have, not according to that we have not.

"But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want that there may be equality. As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack." (II Corinthians 8:14-15). That I be-

lieve is referring to the time when God sent manna down to the earth for the Israelite people and they were instructed that six days of the week they were to go gather that manna.

As it said here, however much they gathered, they had just enough. That I believe is what God would have us to experience also. He wants us to share one with another so that there is no great abundance on the part of one, and a great lack on the part of another.

Might it be that we who have been blessed so abundantly in material things be willing to share. As God has given to us abundance, each in a different amount, possibly than another, but that we would even, according to what we have, be willing to share.

Especially by our life, by the things we do, the things we say, and the things we avoid doing and saying, that we might share with those who have yet to come to understand that Perfect Lamb given for them and that they might see in us possibly a light that would show the way, that we would be able to share with them of that great abundance which God has given to us.

May He bless His good Word to us this evening.

#### CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

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

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

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

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

Long Book tapes may be ordered from:

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

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



## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 1999-2000

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409. Note: Bro. Harold Witzig has retired from the coordinating position.

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Oct 21-29, '99	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	100%
Haiti	AWA-T	Oct 21-29, '99	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Dec 2-10, 99	Les Cayes	Les Gerber	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 6-14, '00	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Jan 20-28, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	100%
Haiti	AWA-T	Jan 20-28, '00	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan27/Feb4, '00	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	SEED	Feb 17-25, '00	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	11	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Feb24/Mar3, '00	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Mar 3-11, '00	Puits Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 3-11, '00	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 10-18, '00	Deaf Village	TBA	Work Place	40	100%
Haiti	SEED	Mar 30-Apr 7, '00	Les Cayes	Art Mueller	Agriculture Aid	11	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 23-31, '00	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	11	40%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 13-21, '00	Kingston	(1) Roanoke Bible Cl.	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 12-20, '00	Deaf Village	Andy Bauman	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 12-20, '00	Montego Bay	TBA	Deaf School	40	100%
Haiti	Palm Grove	May 20-27, '00	Puits Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	May 25/June2, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	5	40%
Haiti	AWA-T	May25/June2, '00	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	5	40%
Jamaica	CCCD	June 3-10, '00	Deaf Village	(4) Taylor/Princeville Sunday School	Work Place	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	June 10-17, '00	Kingston	(2) Morton Bible Cl.	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 15-22, '00	Knockpatrick	(3) Mansfield Bible Cl.	Deaf School	40/50	100%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	50%
Haiti	AWA-T	Oct 19-27, '00	Les Cayes	Earl Sauder	Water Aid	4	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	TBA	Les Cayes	Bob Pflederer	Hospital Lumiere	TBA	0%

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf  
 MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti  
 Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti  
 S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service  
 TBA = To Be Announced

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti  
 A.W.A. - B.= Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton  
 A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville,  
 Remington, Wolcott  
 A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX
Earl Sauder	309-387-6357	309-387-6357
Duane Schieler	765-567-2922	765-567-2922
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591
Dean Pashek	517-662-7685	517-662-7099
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	219-299-8173
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	TBA
Bob Pflederer	309-266-5853	309-676-8455
(1) Kevin Fischer	309-923-7684	
(2) John Knobloch	309-263-1092	
(3) Pete Webel	419-529-2998	
(4) Kent Heimer	573-393-2440	
Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	309-691-6739
Les Gerber	219-824-2734	219-824-8048
Art Mueller	608-676-4365	608-676-5200

## Mexico Work Teams

**Medical - Juarez**  
**February 23 - March 1, 2000**  
 Contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann  
 (309) 385-1082

**Construction - Juarez**  
**March 4-11, 2000**  
 Contact Bro. Kurt Ifer (Sis. Angie)  
 (219) 824-2829

**Construction - Juarez**  
**March 11-18, 2000**  
 Contact Bro. Jeff Sauder  
 (217) 367-1427 or (309) 925-3215

**Construction - Juarez**  
**March 18-25, 2000**  
 Contact Bro. Mike Fiechter (Sis. Shari)  
 (219) 597-7330

**Construction - Juarez**  
**March 25 - April 1, 2000**  
 Contact Bro. Jeff Leman  
 (Sis. Val)  
 (219) 565-3815

### Director of Operations

*(formerly Assistant Administrator)*  
 Position available Feb/March 2000

#### Desired credentials:

Godly focus, committed to Church  
 Strong financial skills (CPA or equivalent)  
 Managerial experience (Staff supervision)  
 Skillful and comfortable with people  
 (Communication)

#### Benefits:

Attractive compensation and benefit package  
 Career Ladder: Opportunity for advancement  
 Positive, growth-oriented culture

*Responses handled confidentially at:*

**Woodhaven Retirement Community**  
 29667 Wentworth Avenue  
 Livonia, MI 48154-3256  
 Attn: **Randy Gasser**  
 (734) 261-9000

### 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.

### USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

A free eye clinic is being established in Ixtlan, Mexico, by Bros. Dr. Loren Schrenk and Dr. Bryan Stoller. Used eyeglasses are needed to support this effort. Please send your used prescription eyeglasses (with cases if available) to:

Bryan Stoller  
 817 S. Locust  
 Pontiac, IL 61764

### Gateway Woods Auction

Saturday, August 19, 2000



### ASSISTANT HOUSEPARENT OPENING

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents for some time now. Sis. Terri Gramm will be leaving Gateway Woods in March of 2000 so we will have an opening for a single sister, directed of the Lord, to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Jeff Schumacher  
 Residential Program Director  
 PO Box 151  
 Leo, IN 46765  
 (219)627-2159

Phil Stettner  
 Counseling Elder  
 1780 N 450 E  
 Bluffton, IN 46714  
 (219)565-3499

### - 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





### **ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE ZION'S HARP REVISION**

The Elder Body has approved the publication of a revised Zion's Harp hymnal. The Apostolic Christian Publications has a very limited supply of the prior version on hand and these will be available for sale until the existing supply is exhausted. We will not be reordering any more of the prior version due to the need to move forward with the new version as quickly as possible. We are taking great care to insure that the new printing will be of high quality. For this reason the exact timing of the availability of the new edition is not certain. Lord willing, the new edition will be available in the first quarter of next year. Should you have a desire for a copy of the old edition, you may contact the Bookstore in Eureka. If the supply is exhausted you may wish to contact your local church or surrounding churches to see if they might have copies available to meet your needs. We will make an announcement in a future Silver Lining to inform you when the new edition of the Zion's Harp is available. Thank you for your understanding during this period of transition.

*The Apostolic Christian Publications Committee*

### **BIBLE DISTRIBUTION**

*The Bible Distribution Center which was formerly in Leo, IN has been moved to Bluffton, IN.*

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

*To order, contact,*

Apostolic Christian Church

**Bible Distribution**

PO Box 30

1254 S. Main Street

Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone and Fax 219/824-5587

E-mail: [bibledist@parlorcity.com](mailto:bibledist@parlorcity.com)

### **ATTENTION WW II Veterans REUNION AT**

*Morton, IL, June 3-4, 2000*

All veterans of WWII are invited. Brothers, sisters, and friends. Watch for Registration cards to be sent to all Apostolic Christian Churches.

### **A Note of Thanks**

On behalf of all project coordinators, we want to thank everyone who gave of their time, financial resources, and prayers on behalf of Apostolic Christian World Relief Projects in 1999. We pray that God will richly bless each one of you that gave so abundantly. We look forward to continuing these labors of love into the year 2000 with your gracious support.

If anyone has a desire to share their time or physical resources with those in need, or perhaps to sponsor those with the desire to serve, please prayerfully contact the appropriate project coordinator or your local World Relief representative.

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;" (I Thess. 1:2-3)

*"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially to them who are of the household of faith."* (Galatians 6:10)



# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

### **A Century in America 1900-1999**

By 1900 — after 53 years in America — the church had an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 members. Today, there are approximately 12,500 members. There has been a five-fold increase in membership during the past 100 years.

There were momentous occurrences during the past 100 years. Things happened that could have toppled the ship of faith, but God's steady hand preserved it.

#### **1906-1908**

From 1906-1908, the church was beset by the "first split", where a division left 25 percent forming the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarean) and 75 percent constituting the Apostolic Christian Church.

The focal point of disagreement centered on the wearing of a mustache, and other ethnic differences. Poor modes of communication by the American and European elders hastened the schism. After the split, both sets of elders regretted it happened.

#### **Trial in Peoria**

In 1908, four elders and two ministers were taken to court in Peoria after a dismissed member filed suit against them for \$50,000. He asserted that after his expulsion, church leaders advised members not to purchase farm implements from him. At a much publicized trial, the church lost and the elders were fined \$1,000.

#### **Church Name**

When the United States entered World War I, many young members and friends were conscripted into the service. To serve as conscientious objectors, they had to list an official denominational name. Up until this time, there was no church name in America.

In Europe, the church had been known as Evangelical Baptists. The elders did not want to use the name "Bap-

tists" in America because of doctrinal differences with that group, especially over unconditional eternal security. They chose Apostolic Christian because they were followers of Christ and the Apostles.

#### **Brethren Jailed**

In July, 1918, several brothers serving in the U.S. Army at Camp Wheeler near Macon, Georgia, were attending church services at Hotel Lanier in Macon. While singing from their German hymnal (while our nation was at war with Germany), they were reported to the local police, who broke up the meeting, and jailed the participants, including Elder Bartol Rapp (Morton, IL) who was conducting the services. Eventually they were released after the police learned that the commanding general of Camp Wheeler had authorized the meeting. This is the only known jailing of our members in America (for their religious faith).

#### **1932**

The nation's war with Germany resulted in the church changing from the German language to English in its worship. This was not an easy transition.

In 1932, a second split occurred. One factor was changing from German to English. Another was the wish to develop a stronger sense of sanctification. About 10 percent left to form the German Apostolic Christian Church.

#### **A Sad Occasion**

During World War II, a host of brothers and friends served their country, but as unarmed soldiers, and mostly as medics. They often served in great peril. Bro. Dale H. Aeschleman, 26, Bluffton, IN, lost his life on January 31, 1945, on the island of Luzan. Elder Bro. Noah Schrock, Oakville, IA, conducted his funeral at Bluffton. This was a very sad occasion.

#### **Brother Meetings**

Because communication and travel capabilities improved over the years,

administrative cohesion was upgraded as well. Elders could meet more easily and problems could be addressed with more dispatch.

The Elder Body began to meet annually, and eventually semi-annually. In 1942, an annual letter was drafted for reading in all the congregations. This continues. In 1944, lay brethren convened at Elgin, IL for a day-long meeting. Subsequently, the annual General Conference has been a time of great inspiration and sound guidance for the church. It has accrued to the cause of unity. In some years, almost 1,500 have attended.

#### **Administrative Growth**

Many new aspects of church life were initiated between 1940-1999: "The Silver Lining" (1943); the Minister's Booklet (1945); World Relief (1965); Apostolic Christian Publications (1968); A Statement of Faith (1982); a history, Marching to Zion (1984); a booklet on Winds of Doctrine (1986); and homes for the elderly and needy.

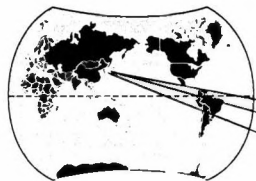
#### **Vision**

As the century began (back in 1900), the elders and ministers—amid trials and setbacks—were preaching the gospel, baptizing converts, and nurturing the members. Always, there was a striving for purity in the church, Christ's bride. Nearly 100 years later, the same patterns continue.

During this century, the church grew approximately five-fold. If the same pace continues in the coming century, and the Lord tarries His coming, the church might possibly reach 60,000 members by the year 2100. Is that possible? "The things which are impossible with man are possible with God" (Luke 18:27). It's in His hands.

*By: Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein*

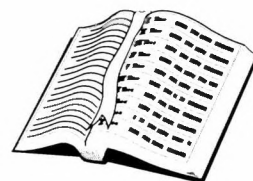
**Next Issue:** Beginning in January, 2000, "Remembering" will feature a series of in-depth articles concerning the highlights of the 20th century in the United States.



# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

## 希望の光



### “WHY CHRIST CAME”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Jesus came to loose us and let us go. In John 11:44 we read concerning Lazarus, “And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him and let him go.”

I love that last phrase. It reminds me of Moses speaking to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, as it is written in Exodus 8:1, “...Thus saith the Lord, Let my people go, that they may serve me.” God wants his people to be “let go”, not that they may use their liberty for an occasion to the flesh but that they might, by love, serve one another. (Galatians 5:13). The Bible teaches that this whole experience of being loosened and let go is so that we can serve God and serve one another. The key word in both verses is “serve”, which indicates that this is not simply a matter of receiving all of God’s blessings in order to satisfy our selfish selves.

Getting back to Lazarus, he was pretty well bound up, even

his face. This can be likened to human beings bound up with the so called “pleasures of this world”. Before conversion, it may be more than pleasure, it may be we are tied up with downright sin. Once a human being is addicted to something evil, it is difficult to break away from it. But Jesus came to get us untangled and to loosen us and let us go. I love it. It is, of course, necessary to be broken before Him and that is part of repentance. We need to be broken enough to be victorious over sin and to have the liberty to serve God with joy and peace and enthusiasm. We have been loosened and let go. You can’t improve upon this situation, it is ideal.

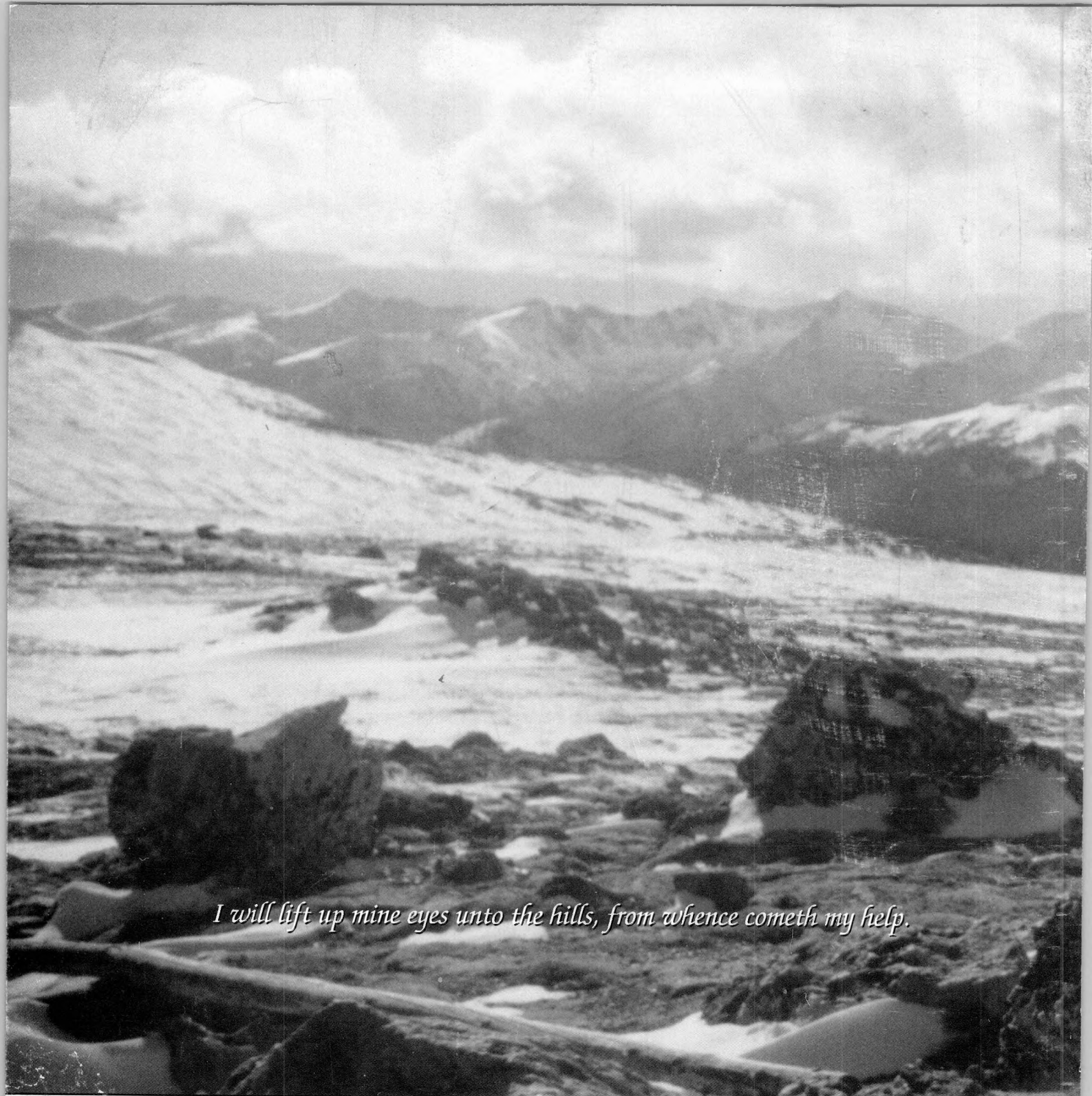
To be loosened from the power of the devil is understandable, but what about the “let go” phrase? If you are let go, you move. When we turned the horses out of the barn back on the farm, the colts would kick up their heels and gallop around the barn lot, at top speed. The older

horses had a calming effect on the rambunctious colts. And so it is in the household of faith, the older believers have a calming effect on the energetic youth, because experience has shown that all is not as easy as it may appear, and there are many dangers in the life of faith.

Therefore, the elderly, the middle aged, and the youth, move together to go and serve the Lord. We should be the kindest, most helpful people in the world. We have been let go to serve, in one way or another. It is the power of God that brought Lazarus forth and we also depend upon the power of God.

At this Christmas time, we rejoice that Christ was born in Bethlehem so that He could reveal God to us and later make that atonement for us, by which we are loosened and let go. Such glorious freedom and such glorious liberty! Christ came to loosen us and let us go!

## 希望の光



*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.*

THE SILVER LINING  
RR2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561

1\*1\*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT SORT\*\*R001

OV

GORDON GREENBANK  
10710 STEINER RD APT 24  
RITTMAN OH 44270-9780



2nd Class  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Roanoke, IL  
and  
additional  
offices  
USPS 496780