



# *The Silver Lining*

*Where is He that is born King of the Jews?  
For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship Him.*

December 2000

## “BE UNITED IN ONE ACCORD”

Sermon by Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell, Sabetha, KS

### Psalm 30 and Acts 1

The overwriting of the Psalm that we read in our first reading in this Bible says, “Thanksgiving For God’s Mercy.” It really does somewhat summarize a feeling that we have in our hearts, doesn’t it, as we gather together on the Lord’s day? We can have our memories sharpened and our minds brought into focus to be thankful unto God for His mercy. We need to be reminded of all the things that He has done for us, the many opportunities that He has made available unto us, to be reminded of His holiness, His goodness, and all that we then have the opportunity to be partakers of.

Then to be active in giving back unto God what He wants most from us, and that is to show within our countenance how much we love and respect Him, how much we want to serve Him and to be obedient unto Him so that He is glorified in our walk. That is really the only thing we can do for our Lord after He has cleansed us from sin and unrighteousness. He has made us free and clean from those things that contaminated us by the giving of His Son and the shedding of His blood. Then what can we do in return for Him?

That can’t be summarized by just saying that if we give our self unto Him willingly to be of service unto Him, to let our countenance, let our activities, let our attitudes, let our whole being reflect that we want with our whole heart to be obedient unto our God and our Father for

what He has done for us. That is really all we can do for Him. If we seek then to serve Him with that diligence, He will bless us, He will share with us so many wonderful things that are so much beyond anything that we could physically hope for or could even comprehend to maybe list out or ask for on our own. Those blessings just flow back onto us.

We really can’t out give our God. It really doesn’t matter what we give to Him in submission unto Him, what we sacrifice of ourselves of our own personal beings, of our time, of our earthly possessions, whatever it might be, there really isn’t anything that we possess—absolutely nothing at all that we possess—really belongs to us. It all belongs to God; He just gave it to us.

So then if we are discontented with those things, we really don’t feel like even in our very own being that we are actually owners of that. It really belongs to God, doesn’t it? If we give it back to Him and if we just let everything that we possibly do be a glory unto Him, the blessings then from Him will abound and they will flow back to us in greater abundance than we can possibly imagine.

We think that the Psalm writer really did have that attitude, didn’t he? He starts here saying, “I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me.” (Psalm 30:1). He is saying there that even though he had foes on this earth, his

union with his Lord was greater than any distress that he felt in having foes.

We do all have foes, don’t we? We deal and struggle with things in life and sometimes the people in this

*Sermon continued on page 43*

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

#### January

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

Next correspondence due:

#### For January Issue

(16 Nov News - 15 Dec News)

**Due: 20 December 2000**

The Silver Lining (Vol. 54, #12)

RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561

**USPS 496780**

Published Monthly By The Apostolic  
Christian Church of America

*Counselors:*

*Ervin Knecht, Ron Schambach*

**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 2000

### The Fear of God IV

In the three previous articles on the fear of God, the primary attention centered on the definitions of the fear of God and the primary benefits that can be derived by developing a truly reverent fear of God.

This final article of the series will concentrate primarily on how we can learn the fear of God.

How can we learn the fear of God? We know that God will help us to "Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear" (Ps. 119:38). To learn the fear of the Lord, we must have the desire, the willingness to learn and the ability to ask for it. "Teach me thy way, O Lord;..." (Ps. 86:11). The Ethiopian eunuch, when asked if he understood what he read replied "How can I, except some man should guide me?" (Acts 8:31). He wanted to know the truth. He wanted to be taught. He had traveled from Ethiopia to Jerusalem, a very significant distance, to worship and to learn about the truth of God's Word.

Just as the Ethiopian was willing to search, we must also search for the truth. Jesus, in the parables about the lost sheep and the lost piece of silver (Lk. 15:4-10), reminded us that we must search diligently for that which is precious to us. Our search should begin with the Word of God: "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read:..." (Is. 34:16). Patient searching will help us learn more about God: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Ro. 15:4).

In addition to being teachable and searching diligently, we must be willing to receive the fear of the Lord. The rich young man that ran to Christ for advice was anxious to learn and willing to search, but he was not willing to act on the instruction that would have provided him with the peace he sought. When told what he must do "...he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved:..." (Mk. 10:22). How unfortunate it is if we are

unwilling to receive and act upon the instructions that will bring us into the fear of God.

Likewise, we must also be willing to grow in love and in our willingness to walk according to God's commandments. "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (De. 6:5). If we would serve God completely, we must go beyond mercy, kindness, humbleness, meekness, longsuffering and forbearance. These are critical but we are reminded that "...above all these things put on charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness (Col. 3:14).

If we truly love the Lord, we will then want to do His will. The fear of God will bring to us the desire to walk after his commandments. "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it" (II Jn. 6).

The scripture provides us with numerous examples of those who feared, served and loved God and of the impact that this obedience had on others. At a time when the world was so wicked that God decided to destroy man from the face of the earth, He saw there was still one who was faithful. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord...Noah was a just man...and walked with God" (Gen. 6:8-9). Noah feared the Lord and followed God's instructions even though, in the eyes of the world, he must have looked very foolish. Noah's fear of God, his faith and his obedience saved his family.

Further, Abraham was asked to be obedient in the most difficult of circumstances. Having had faith to believe that he could have a son in his old age, he was then asked to sacrifice his son. Just at the point of offering his son God stopped him and said "...for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me." (Gen. 22:12). What would have happened to Isaac if Abraham would not

have had the fear (reverence) of God so firmly established in his heart that he couldn't immediately recognize God's voice? The fear of God caused Abraham to do what was right.

Finally, Joseph, when in a position to inflict punishment upon his brothers for the evil that they had done, refused to repay evil for evil and said unto his brothers "This do, and live; for I fear God:" (Gen. 42:18). He realized that the events which occurred in his life were part of God's plan "...for God did send me before you to preserve life" (Gen. 45:5).

Time and space do not permit a recounting of all who faithfully served God. Hebrews, Chapter 11, provides a brief list and discussion of many who feared God, endured much affliction and, in the process, helped to preserve faith in God. Likewise, in the New Testament, many faithful pillars feared and served the Lord that we can know of the benefits of serving God.

The scripture is very clear in describing the necessity and benefits of the fear of God as it relates to both the terror and the reverence of God. In the Revelation of St. John, the two extremes are clearly described. "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...But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and ...all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone:..." (Rev. 21:3-8).

The fear of God can bring us to repentance. The fear of God can also draw us very close to Him as we learn to reverence and love Him for all He has done for us. Both extremes in the fear of God are designed to separate us from sin and bring us to a faith that will last through eternity.



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

## **Work in Mexico began with the earthquake in 1985**

**W**orld Relief involvement in Mexico dates back to the earthquake in Mexico City in the mid 1980's. During the work in Mexico City, some of our brothers became acquainted with Chito Aguilar of Juarez, which is a border town near El Paso, Texas.

### **Working with local people**

Chito was feeding children in the poorest areas of Juarez. He and his wife, Lydia, were offering meals to children if they would come and listen to a Bible story and do some singing first.

Our brothers were moved by Chito and Lydia's sincerity and at that point asked for World Relief to become involved. Since that time, our Apostolic contributions have purchased many meals and several flannel graph sets. Recently, some brothers and sisters were able to see the lunch program in action.

### **Former recipients are now helping others**

Probably the most touching part of this experience was the fact that the young women who taught the Bible story to the children were at one time recipients of the meal and story themselves. This program has had far reaching benefits within their communities. Chito and Lydia have hopes that we can help to feed children in other areas in the near future.

### **Helping school children**

World Relief has some involvement in a school in the Granjas Community of Juarez. The children are taught Godly principles along with their regular curriculum. The schoolteacher feels that learning English is vital for the students to rise from the poverty they are in. Bilingual people are able to acquire better jobs.

### **Brethren begin to build basic houses for the needy**

After our initial involvement with Chito, it was requested that World Relief become involved with building small homes for the very needy and sending medical teams to give rudimentary care to the poor.

At this time, World Relief sends five to seven construction teams to Juarez annually. Each team will construct two or three homes. Team members will range from young boys and girls with no construction experience to seasoned carpenters. Many long lasting Christian bonds are established and fortified on a work team.

### **Branching out to bring medical and dental care**

The medical/dental teams are normally sent to Juarez in March and September. They will occasionally visit the Copper Canyon, which is a very scenic area deep in the Mexico interior. Chito feels that this is an opportunity for the Tarahumara Indians to be influenced by God-fearing people, as many of them are influenced by strange doctrines. The

medical teams will see from 3000 to 5000 people in a weeklong campaign. They discuss standard hygiene in addition to the medical and dental exams. The dental teams do many extractions. The medical teams pass out many health kits and other items put together by the sewing groups and Sunday School classes of our local churches. The Mexican people wait in long lines to see the medical team volunteers and look forward to them returning!

### **Work team schedules are printed in this issue**

If you are interested in a trip to Juarez, you can find the work team schedule for 2001 in this issue of the Silver Lining.

### **New opportunities to serve the needy in Arizona**

World Relief has become involved in Agua Prieta, just south of Douglas, Arizona. There is a project there called "Agua Viva" which means "Living Water". At this time, a school is being constructed. World Relief hopes to become involved with an orphanage nearby called "Rancho Feliz" which means "Happy Ranch". The orphanage is well run but has many needs. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman from South Bend plan to lead two work teams in March in this area.

### **Assisting an orphanage in Imirus, Mexico**

Another area in which World Relief has become involved is at an orphanage in Imirus, Mexico that is south of Nogales, Arizona. Bro.

Jerry Tooley of Phoenix is involved with the work there and God willing, World Relief intends to do some additional construction there. To date, our southwestern brethren have done most of the work, but they would enjoy involvement of other brethren throughout the country.

If interested in this project, contact Bro. Jerry and Sis. June Tooley at (480) 460-4531.

### Work groups being assembled to assist deaf village

International Christian Center for the Deaf (ICCD) is a deaf village located in Rio Bravo, Mexico about 100 miles from Zapata, Texas. ICCD is similar to the CCCD projects in Jamaica. World Relief plans to send two work groups in March and one in June. This project is in the early stages, so the deaf children are not on site at the present time. Further details on these work teams can be found in this issue of the Silver Lining.

### The Apostolic Christian Church in Ixtlan, Mexico

The work in Ixtlan, Mexico is continuing. Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold have been very active in the community there and the church is growing. To this date, National World Relief involvement has been minimal. The Mission Committee oversees most of the work there.

### The Mexico Board extends its thanks to all

The Mexico Board is thankful for the involvement of the brethren in the projects in Mexico to this point and we pray that God's blessings will continue.

SUBMITTED BY BRO. MIKE FIECHTER



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

The harvest truly is plenteous,  
but the labourers are few... Matthew 9:37

### Bro. Samuel Froehlich's grave has been renovated

The Apostolic Christian Church was begun in Europe through the efforts of Bro. Samuel Froehlich. He was born in Switzerland in 1803 and died in Strasbourg, France in 1857.

The life story of this pioneer in faith is recorded in several books. One is "Apostolic Christian History", and another is "Marching to Zion", both available from Apostolic Christian Publications.

### His life ended in Strasbourg

Bro. Froehlich spent the last several years of this life residing in Strasbourg. The house in which he preached still stands, having been converted into apartments. Two sisters in faith who live in that city were born in this house.

Froehlich's health deteriorated during his last years, and on December 28, 1856, he delivered his last sermon. He closed his eyes in death on January 15, 1857 at the age of 53½ years.

### Burial in Strasbourg

The mortal remains of Samuel Froehlich were buried in St. Helena Cemetery. A plain granite grave-stone has marked his final resting place for decades.

In order to maintain a grave in

Europe money must be paid every twenty years or the spot is reused. The congregation in Strasbourg paid these costs for many years, and in about 1995 the Mission Committee placed a sum of money in Strasbourg to cover these costs permanently, since the local congregation is diminishing, and as of this writing have discontinued regular services.

It is also customary in Europe for the family to maintain the surface of the grave. Here again for years the local brethren kept up this work. On a visit there several years ago, brethren from Strasbourg and USA



saw the benefit of renovating the grave surface to make it maintenance free. The original stone was taken up and a flat granite slab placed over the grave surface. The lettering on the stone was highlighted, and the stone itself reset on the granite slab.

The epitaph in the German language states,

THE MEMORY OF  
THE JUST IS BLESSED

PROVERBS 10:7

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

As we gathered around the Thanksgiving Day dinners at our homes, we were thankful for all the blessings that God has given to us this past year. "Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings; see what God hath done." First, we are thankful that God has given us His direction through the Board of Directors and Mission Statement. Next, we are very thankful for the comfortable homes that He has provided for the people we serve. Of course, this would not be possible without the financial and prayerful support from all of our members and friends in our churches. Another blessing that all of our people are thankful for is the opportunities that they have to be a part of the community through work and leisure activities. In November, our people enjoy getting ready for the Christmas holidays by writing cards, shopping for gifts, going out for dinner, listening to Carolers, and decorating their homes.

In the midst of the busyness of the day, we all paused to say "good bye" to Melinda Crouch from Timber Ridge. She passed away on October 30. She came to live with us in 1972 and has been a part of our lives for a very long time. We will miss the excitement in her face when she saw her Mom coming to visit.

JANUARY birthdays at TIMBER RIDGE are: Nicole Delicath (6), Stephen Penn (8), Edith Wagenbach (8), Bruce Steffen (19), Jackie Willett (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

**Tim Sauder**

"Every purpose is established by counsel..." (Prov. 20:19). "Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established." (Prov. 24:3). "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." (Prov. 11:14).

These scriptures served to set the purpose and guide the process of our recent Strategic Planning Retreat which included our Board of Directors, Management Team and Counseling Elder plus a handful of other "advisors". We as fallible human stewards over a godly ministry set out to examine who we are, why we are here and where Gateway Woods should be over the next five years. We were mindful that "Except the Lord build the house, thy labour in vain that build it..." (Psalm 127:1)

The Lord has called these various brothers and sisters together at this time, with specific experiences and abilities for His purpose. We have each been given a measure of wisdom and talent to apply and invest or bury and squander. As sowers, we have been given seed to sow, oil to till and water to apply but the Lord grants the increase. Success and the measurement of it are His. We seek His face. We want to be in His will. We are wise to make prayerful plans but with the condition of James 4:15, "For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live and do this, or that."

Out of our sessions came a plan with seven goals or challenges which we will further develop into action:

1. to purposefully seek to know God's will
2. to clearly define the programs and services we will offer
3. to communicate what we do

and why we do it

4. to further develop our donor and funding base

5. to maximize the Board as God's resource

6. to develop a plan to deal with government regulation

7. to further develop our volunteer network

Please pray for us as we continue and that Gateway Woods might ultimately fulfill Proverbs 11:30, "The fruit of righteousness is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." Sometimes we must wait a long time and look in unusual places for fruit. Lately we were encouraged to hear from four different former residents, some who left here over a decade ago, who are either in prison or just released. In each case, they wrote of their recent commitment to Christ or their seeking hearts along with their need for prayer.

We had a delightful and insightful visit from a three-member delegation from the Navajo Christian Foundation in Arizona. They, along with some Apostolic Christian World Relief volunteers, met with various staff to hear and see how we deliver residential services to troubled children and families. We had great fellowship as two very different cultures learned about each other.

We are thankful to be fully staffed. That also brings lots of change and transitions, which can be a challenge. This prompted us to sing at a recent staff meeting "Be Still my Soul" and "I know Whom I Have Believed". In every change, He faithful will remain" as we pray for one of our Assistant Houseparents, Sis. Judy Gehring, who has been laid up with a serious ankle injury and for foster parents and foster children. This is because two of our special needs foster children have been adopted by their foster parents!

Finally, we're excited that we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary

during the year 2001. A committee of former and present staff, residents and board members has been formed to plan some key events and communications. Stay tuned for more news and look for our 25th Anniversary Calendar in the mail or at your church.

---

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Athens, Alabama  
Tom Schrenk**

As we approach the holiday season, we find many reasons to be thankful. God has been so good to us. Sometimes as we consider the world that we live in, and realize and consider that this is not our home, that we are given this time to make ready for that eternal home with God, it really does concern and place a burden on our hearts for the lost people that live serving self and this world and time. In this holiday season we take extra time during the week of Thanksgiving to impress to our little ones the meaning of being thankful.

Along with this we will spend three weeks learning about Jesus, how He came into the world as a baby, and what it meant to the people of that time, and also what it means to us today. On Thursday evening, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. the children will present to their parents and grandparents what they have learned about the birth of Jesus.

The staff here at the Preschool want to thank all our brothers and sisters and friends that have so faithfully supported us during the 20 years that the Preschool has been operating. We cannot begin to mention names, or churches, but you know who you are and we humbly say "thank you" and may all have a very good and blessed holiday season. We are reminded daily of how important it is to have the prayers of those we love.

---

**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Joan Reinhard  
Louise Hall**

October 21 was the date for a Harvest Festival that was held at the Fellowship Hall. Young and old alike enjoyed participating in the games and activities and meal that night. Many thanks to the ladies who helped with the planning and food. It was a good reminder, as we start the Thanksgiving season, to be thankful for the many blessings that the Lord has given us.

The weekend of October 28-29 we had quite a bit of company. It was the Preschool Board Meeting, and we had some others here also. Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) were here and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda) stayed over on Sunday and had the service for us. We had some others here that weekend from Bluffton, Milford, Wolcott, IN; Lexington, KY; West Bend, IA; and Bay City, MI.

We appreciate very much the effort put forth by Bro. David Bertch this month as he came and spent a week working on the church and Fellowship Hall sound systems. Last Memorial Day, we had a very large crowd, and our sound system was not adequate. Bro. Dave has been working to correct the problems so we will be ready for next year. We also appreciate him being willing to lend himself for our Wednesday evening service on November 1.

We had been very dry here for the last few months, so the rain that came on Saturday, November 4, was needed even though it changed our plans for a cookout at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. We still got together in Tennessee and ate and sang inside that evening. We had some visitors from Atlanta, GA, and Denver, CO, with us and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) shared God's

Word with us the next day on Sunday.

That Sunday morning, November 5, Bro. Lavoyd Moore was taken up to Athens-Limestone Hospital where he was treated for dehydration and severe pain. He felt better by Tuesday, and was released to go home, but he is still undergoing chemotherapy treatments and would very much appreciate your prayers. He has his good days and his bad days as he goes through this difficult time.

Special thanks to some who came from Peoria and Washington, IL, to donate their time, material and talents on behalf of the Tennessee Fellowship Area on November 13-15. Some of the Athens people came up to join the visitors in a huge landscaping job here in Tennessee. The area really looks nice and we appreciate the beauty of the place all the more. If anyone is going to be in the area, we invite you to come and enjoy some time here, or just stop by for a quick peek. For directions, please call Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard at (931) 424-5838.

We had some other visitors here this month from Bluffton, IN, and Alto, MI.

---

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX  
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

*Luke 15:10*

Even more joyous is the next step. Beth Cooke and Tricia Lawson were baptized October 29, after sharing how God touched their hearts to "Come unto me" the previous night.

Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) came to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich with the testimonies and baptisms.

Sis. Beth is the mother of two fine

children in Sunday School: Aaron and Kelsey. Sis. Tricia is the daughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson.

Our annual Sunday School/church picnic was also on October 29. It is always a time for wonderful fellowship and singing.

Our Heavenly Father knew just what we needed. After three inches of rain during the week, He gave us a sunny 71 degree day.

At this Thanksgiving time, we each have much to be thankful for. In Phoenix, "our extra" is our many winter residents have come home. Yes, we have more love to share!

Bro. Jerry and Sis. June Tooley were on vacation when their grandson was born. Kaden Douglas was born to Stefanie and Douglas Rose on August 3.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Joe Braker and Bro. Curt Kaufman's sermons this past month.

Kari Niemeyer and Tom Riek exchanged wedding vows in an outdoor ceremony on November 18. May God be in your hearts and your home.

Sis. Valerie Knobloch and Bro. Michael Howell exchanged their vows in Lester, IA, on November 19. Sis. Val spent six years in Phoenix. May God bless you two as you establish a Christian home. Several brothers and sisters journeyed to the wedding from Phoenix. Their home church will be Bay City, MI.

There is always work to be done when Tuesday's World Relief meeting comes around. We are grateful for the brothers and sisters who are involved in this mission work that is close to home.

Retired Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach was recently hospitalized. Bro. Ed Frautchi had arm surgery. Sis. Lucille Richardson is still recovering from foot surgery in September.

We send our love and greetings

from our church to yours at this blessed time of year.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

*Acts 20:35*

---

## ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

### Jane Hodges

After praying for God's direction for the last several weeks, the Prescott members were interviewed by Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and John Lehman (Bern, KS). The conclusion was that it is not yet time to vote for a minister for our church. We were advised by Bro. Jon to not be discouraged, but to take encouragement from Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." We thank our Elder brothers for their love, guidance and all the time they gave to help us. May God richly reward them.

We will continue to have ministers come from Phoenix and other churches as directed by the Mission Committee. The list for the next year has already been completed. We have been so blessed in the past by all that have come to minister to us and invite all of you to come worship with us.

Our ministering brothers this last month, besides the two Elders already mentioned, included Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Ken Lawson (Phoenix).

---

## ARIZONA, TUCSON

### Lisa Knapp

November 5 was the day set aside for our deacon, Bro. Loren Knapp, to retire from the ministry and also retire as our deacon. A reception was held after church services to thank

Bro. Loren for his willing service as a minister and a deacon. We can't thank Bro. Loren enough for his service on the pulpit and years of service to the Tucson church. At times like this we tend to reflect on the past. Looking back I recall many wonderful times spent at Bro. Loren's home at countless BBQ's, singings and ACYF activities like bonfires and Sunday morning breakfasts in his backyard. I know the Lord will bless Bro. Loren for the time and hospitality he has given the Tucson church. We pray God will continue to bless Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan as they enjoy their retirement years together.

As Bro. Loren steps down from his position as deacon and minister, Bro. Curt Kaufman will be left alone on the pulpit to serve as our only minister for the time being. We will all be praying for Bro. Curt, his wife, Sis. Caroline, and their family as Bro. Curt steps up on the pulpit each Sunday and Wednesday evening. He may appear to be alone up there but we all know God will be with him each step of the way. You are in our prayers, Bro. Curt.

We thank Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and ministering Bro. Ken Lawson (Phoenix) for being with us on November 5 for Bro. Loren's last Sunday on the pulpit.

We are enjoying a fall that actually feels like fall (at least to Arizonans) this year as our temperatures have been in the low 60's to mid-60's for quite a few weeks now. We occasionally creep up toward the 70's, which is our normal temperature range for this time of year. We have been having quite a bit of rain along with our cooler temperatures as several storms have made their way through Arizona over the past few weeks.

---



**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA****Jim Klotzle**

Greetings from Altadena!

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

*Matthew 1:23*

God with us...what an awesome miracle! God was here on earth with us over two thousand years ago for a short time. Today, He is still alive and just as real in our hearts! As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ this season, let's also celebrate the Life that continues in His faithful ones. Emmanuel!

God with us!

We need not fear;

Jesus crowns with life eternal;

Faithful let us be while here,

Till God ends our pilgrim journey;

Trumpets for the conflict sound;

Up ye valiant, stand your

ground!

We were grieved to hear that Sis. Adela Chavez's mother passed away in Ixtlan. She and her daughter, Sis. Letty, went to Mexico for the funeral shortly thereafter.

Bro. Jeff Luthi was in the hospital this month to have a stint replaced in his bile duct. His hepatologist has given a positive report, for which we are thankful. His family thanks you for your continued prayers.

We welcomed the safe return of our dear ones who traveled to India in October. God watched over them and blessed their visit.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) and Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego,

CA).

We welcome Bro. Daryl and Sis. Edie Wieland back to Southern California for the winter.

**COLORADO, DENVER****Mike and Heather Katanic**

We rejoice with Caleb Leman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) as he has decided to turn his life over to the Lord. God never fails to answer the many prayers brought to Him by His servants.

We also were blessed to hear Tom and Theresa Katanic have found peace and look forward to baptism. We wish them God's nearness at this special time in their lives.

We will miss Bro. Mark and Sis. K'ren Kuenzi and their boys, Cole and Nicolas, as they have been worshipping with us while Mark was on a work project in Wyoming.

We wish everyone a blessed Christmas, taking the time to reflect on the birth of our Lord Jesus during the busy holiday season.

We invite those of you who are in the area during the week to join us at our Wednesday evening service. Please note that we are now starting our Wednesday evening service at 7:30.

**CONNECTICUT****ROCKVILLE****Cherie Galat**

"Be not content this babe to know, Nor stay at Bethlehem, But go with Christ to Calvary's brow, Beyond Jerusalem." (Hymns of Zion #36). As believers, we do not just need holidays to remind us of what God has done for us. Every day we can thank Him for sending Christ to earth for the beautiful plan of salvation so that we might have a hope of eternal life. Let us seek to have a peaceful holiday, one where we can quietly ponder His mercy, grace and

love rather than being overwhelmed with the busy-ness of the holidays.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven with the news that Seth Webb (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jayne, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) has turned his life over unto God in repentance. Seth is working here in Connecticut and we pray for God's continued guidance in his life.

Two families have been blessed with dear children. Little Rylan Michael was born to Luke and Lee Hoffman on October 13. Grandparents are Bro. Michael and Luann Hoffman and Patricia Schmidt. Bro. Glenn and Sis. Erika Bahler welcome Isaac Nathan into their lives. He was born on October 23 and his grandparents are Bro. Owen and Sis. Donna Bahler and Bro. Michael and Luann Hoffman. May God give wise counsel unto these parents to bring their children up according to His holy will.

"My loving Father, Thou dost take me, To be henceforth Thy child and heir." (Zion's Harp #41). We welcome our new brothers into the fellowship of the Lord's body, Bro. Doug LaPlante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri), Bro. Gardy Moreau, and Bro. Michael Zahner (Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie). Assisting our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in this work was Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA). May they always look unto their Heavenly Father for guidance and help as they walk upon the pathway of life.

We had the blessed privilege to be instructed and exhorted by our dear Elders by the reading of the Memorandum. Assisting our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan was Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). May God bless them both for their service unto us and may we apply the teachings and instructions to our lives.

October 29 was the wedding day of Bro. Everett Gerber and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman (Philadelphia,

PA). We welcome Sis. Nancy to our congregation and hope she feels the sincere love that we have toward her.

We bid our dear Sis. Suzanne Hoffman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella) a fond farewell as she has moved to Kansas. May she always know that she is dearly loved here in Rockville and may she feel the love of the brethren in Bern, KS, as she fellowships with them.

Our prayers are with Sis. Janet Goric as she recovers from her recent hospitalization. May God heal according to His good and holy will.

We express our sympathy to dear families who have lost loved ones. Our prayers are with Sis. Helen Gottier upon the passing of her husband, Albert Gottier. He also leaves his sons, Robert (Lisa), and Timothy; daughters, Patricia Gottier (Bruce Kaufmann), Janet LaPointe (Philip) and Rosemary Toth (Greg); sisters, Bertha Kunzli, Martha Giacomini and Louise Blinn (Russell), and other family and loved ones. May God also comfort the family and those who so lovingly took care of Sis. Anna Tschudin upon her passing. May we continue to pray for those who have special burdens to bear and wish to be released out of this life to go unto their Heavenly Father.

---

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

#### Henrietta Meyer

As we celebrate Christmas, may we remember that the birth of our Lord and Saviour is the real reason for the celebration.

Our ministers the past month were Bros. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors this month were from Mor-

ton, IL, and Richmond, VA.

During their visit, the Elders shared the Memorandum with us. We are thankful for their love and concern for us.

We miss Ken and Roberta Belsley who have not been able to assemble with us due to Ken's back surgery. We were able to fellowship with them when they hosted potluck when the Elders were here.

Due to many in the area traveling to be with family, we will not be holding services on December 24.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. (Virginia Department of Transportation has changed the Exit Number from the one that is in the Ministers Book, but it is still the same Route number.) 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 FT. LAUDERDALE Gretchen Webb

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

*John 14:1-3*

We rejoice with Seth Webb (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jayne) as he begins his

walk with the Lord. We pray that God will bless him and guide him.

A memorial service was held for Bro. Tom Cholak on November 19. Bro. Tom was a member of the Ft. Lauderdale congregation for a number of years. He passed away in October and we pray that God will continue to comfort his family during this difficult time.

As the winter season approaches, many of our winter residents will be returning. We wish them a safe return to our congregation and look forward to their arrival.

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

*Luke 2:10-11*

As the Christmas season approaches, may we all remember the precious gift we have been given and the true reason for the season.

---

### FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS Dorothy Beer

We're happy and thankful to have many of our winter residents return and worship with us again.

Our church had a picnic at our home in LaBelle on November 5. It was a good time of fellowship, good food, and singing.

Besides retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), our visiting ministers were Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We thank the Lord for their willing service.

Thanksgiving Day is in a few days. While most of us will be "stuffing" ourselves, let us not forget to thank God for all endless blessings, and also pray for the less fortunate.

*The First Thanksgiving Day*  
 The pilgrims left a foreign strand  
 And sailed across the main,  
 And landed on New England's  
 shore,  
 That faith they might retain.

Some say the first Thanksgiving  
 day  
 The pilgrims did ordain  
 Was when they offered thanks  
 and praise  
 For life and food and grain.

It was a day of gratitude  
 When stormy voyage was o'er,  
 When they had landed safely  
 there  
 On cold New England's shore.

The rolling sea behind them lay,  
 Before them, trees of pine,  
 With thankful hearts they knelt  
 in prayer  
 And praised God's help divine.

The pilgrims marked the Plym-  
 outh Rock  
 Where they had knelt to pray.  
 And still it stands memorial of  
 That first Thanksgiving Day.  
 —Henry Beer

---

### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl

We enjoyed a blessed weekend on October 28-29 as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Frank and Angela Keifer. Frank's parents and sister were able to be here from Germany. We also appreciated having Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) join us for the weekend.

Our November potluck was in honor of Bro. Orval and Sis. Doris Roche for all their years of dedicated service to the Sarasota church.

We also want to thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for so willingly ministering to us this past month.

Our winter residents have started to return to Sarasota, and we want to give them a hearty welcome! We sincerely appreciate all their love and support.

---

### GEORGIA, ATLANTA Keith and Carol Kaufman

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

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

*Zion's Harp #7, vs. 2,3*

We appreciate each ministering brother who shared God's Word with us this past month. They were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Tom Leman (Denver, CO). May the Lord richly bless them for sharing God's Word with us.

We look forward to having more visitors during the winter. Sunday services start at 10:15 and 12:30. Song service is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you are in the area, please plan to worship with us. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd. (Highway 92), Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 64. Go west four miles and the church is on your left. Please contact

one of the following brothers to let us know of your plans. This helps us to plan our Sunday lunches and Sunday School. Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 463-0701 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335. Thank you.

---

### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Doreen Moser Sheila McCoy

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

*Psalms 95:1-2*

As Thanksgiving has come and gone, may we all have had a chance to spend time with family and friends. Hopefully we found time to bend our knees and thank our Lord for all the blessings and trials in our lives. We have so many blessings to be thankful for but it is often in the trials of life that we are most blessed and grow spiritually.

We again spent time singing at our local rest home. The children spent time after we were done singing shaking hands with the residents. This small gesture always brings a smile and hopefully lifts the hearts of those that can't come and go, as we are able to.

Thank you, Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), for once again taking the time to read and exhort on the scriptures at our monthly service in Madison, WI. We are always blessed for coming together one with another, a respite from the world.

Jesus knows thy conflict,  
 Hears thy burdened sigh;  
 When thy heart is wounded,  
 Hears thy plaintive cry;

He thy soul will strengthen,  
Overcome thy fears;  
He will send thee comfort,  
Wipe away thy tears.

As the death angel has visited our congregation and loved ones are missing from family circles, may we turn to the Lord for comfort. Bro. Benji Hodel who has been attending church in Belvidere, lost his sister, Sis. Amy Hodel (Peoria, IL). Many from our congregation attended the visitation. Jerry Darlington has also lost his Aunt. May the memories you have of your loved ones help you through the days ahead.

Who is he that cares and watches  
O'er our life and soul's estate?  
Who is he that thus has drawn  
us?  
Christ alone, His love is great.

Although our Heavenly Father watches over us from on high, we are thankful for our faithful ministers and Elders who watch over their flocks here on earth. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach and Bro. Nathan Steffen spent a Sunday in Belvidere this month.

"We never know the love of the parent till we become parents ourselves. When we bend over the cradle of our own child, God throws back the temple door and reveals to us the sacredness and mystery of a Father's and Mother's love."  
—author unknown

Marissa Rose has arrived to bring joy to the home of Bro. Brent and Sis. Michelle Knoblock. Marissa has two older brothers and a big sister to welcome her home.

We were blessed with many visitors the weekend of November 4-5, as it was Invite-a-Friend weekend. We as a congregation were blessed

by you visiting and hope you took many blessings home and will come again soon.

We have missed our friend, Alice Thompson (Bob), as she has been home ill. We hope the Lord restores her health so she can once again assemble with us.

Our church building has made great progress in the last month. It is fully enclosed and shingled. Many hands have made the burden of building a church seem light. Thank you to all who have given of your time and talents. Any brethren interested in volunteering will still be very much appreciated, as there is much to be accomplished. Please contact Bro. Clint Heinold at (262) 695-8108 or at heinold@prodigy.net.

It isn't far to Bethlehem  
Where lies the newborn King:  
It isn't far to Bethlehem  
Where holy angels sing.

The wise men saw the guiding  
star  
That led them where He lay;  
The shepherds heard the heavenly  
song  
That brought the better day.

We, too, may go to Bethlehem  
And find the Saviour Child;  
We, too, may hear the angels sing  
Their hymns of mercy mild.

Our hearts are God's new Bethle-  
hem,  
Where Christ is born anew.  
It isn't far to Bethlehem  
If He is born in you.  
—*J. Harold Gwynne*

May the Christmas season be filled with many blessings and may we remember the gift that was born in the lowly manger for you and I.

## ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Shawn Masters Dana Knapp

Our church family feels so blessed to finally be in our new church. It has been exciting to see how God has worked over the years and we outgrew our old building. We held our first service on Wednesday, November 1.

Our Sunday School enjoyed a Harvest Party. This is such a good way to keep the focus on Christ during Halloween. It provides a fun alternative to other secular events. We also donated Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families in the area.

We had many visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), retired Elder Bro. Dan Koch and Bro. Dan Koch, Jr. (both of Tremont, IL), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN). We appreciate your willingness to share the Word.

Jacob Zimmerman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Pam) began his walk with Christ. It is so encouraging to see God at work! God bless you and strengthen you.

Sharon Brame (Sis. Catherine Brame) is engaged to Scott Seath (Bob Seath and Jeanne Seath). Clayton Daily (Bro. Ben and Sis. Mary) is to be wed to Natalie Druhan (Jerry Druhan, Bloomington, and Gwenn Druhan, Orland Park, IL). God bless you as you begin your lives together.

We want to welcome Bro. Jeff and Sis. Crystal Cargill. They have two sons, Jonathan and Brandon. Our church family is happy to have you worshipping with us.

Bro. Andy, Sis. Jill and Trevor Lehman have moved to Leo, IN. They are going to be serving at Gateway Woods. We will miss you deeply, but admire your willingness to go where He leads. May God bless you

for your faith.

Bro. Herb Steffen (Sis. Georgia) laid his earthly father to rest. Sis. Joy Blunier had a niece pass on. We pray for God's comforting hand on your hearts.

Several from our congregation were hospitalized this month. They were Bro. Dale Lemman (Sis. Mary), Bro. Bill Denick (Sis. Shirley), Sis. Betty Steffen (Bro. Earl) and Sis. Jay Martin (Bro. Tom).

---

### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

#### Chad and LauraLee Plattner

We are very sorry we forgot to report that our Bro. Brent and Sis. Michelle Knobloch and their children, Britny, Austin and Zachary, have moved to the Belvidere area and are attending church there. They are truly missed in Bradford and we wish them God's richest blessings as they reestablish in that area.

Our prayers are with Bro. Elwin (Sis. Loretta) Rumbold as he has been hospitalized this past month. We pray God will strengthen him and allow him to come home soon.

---

### ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

#### Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Thanksgiving has now passed and the Christmas season is upon us. Our Sunday School classes had their annual day of doing baskets for a few needy families in our area, an activity common to countless churches. According to our son, three families received groceries to make their holiday one with plenty of food on the table. We are often reminded and pray for "those less fortunate" around us, but it seems that the holiday season is when we see this most clearly. We know that the material measures such as dwellings and clothes and "things" don't ensure

happiness, love, and contentment, yet we know that having essential needs met allows people to move on to focus on other areas of life. Most of us don't worry about making enough money to feed our family or pay to heat our dwelling. In fact, most of us probably go through our day without realizing how blessed we are in comparison to others with whom we come into contact.

I remember my first realization of just how poor some of the kids I went to school with were. I was in elementary school and the Fairbury church Sunday school did Christmas baskets. Several groups went out to each deliver a few baskets and sing carols to the recipients. As children, we viewed this as more of a fun outing than as a serious outreach effort. It was at the home of one girl in my class, a girl who was sometimes made fun of, that I saw how poor her family must have been. The house was rather run down, probably more drafty than ours, and I'm sure that the cars in the yard were many years older than the oldest car in our caravan of carolers. The mother came to the door to receive the bags and bags of groceries and had tears as we sang some carols. We jumped back into warm cars and headed off to the next stop, but I had learned who a few of "those less fortunate" were. Looking back, I realize that there were likely many reasons she had tears. Many years have passed since then, but the lesson I learned through delivering baskets of food was one that stayed with me. As Joel took part in delivering baskets to a needy family, he had the opportunity to understand a little more about those around his community and what we can do to help them. As the busy time of Christmas is upon us, let us remember the greatest gift that could be given to our world, a gift that can be received by the poor or the rich, the gift of salvation

through Jesus.

Our students hosted College Weekend in late October. The weekend was well attended, with our church filled to overflowing. It's a real blessing to host a gathering of so many enthusiastic young believers. Students from many college campuses representing about 28 individual church congregations gathered for the weekend to learn more about being "Fishers of Men", sharing the Gospel with those around them. In addition to the focused Bible Study, each college group presented a program of songs on Saturday evening. Many thanks go out to all who helped with the weekend, particularly to the ministering brothers who presented to the large groups or led small discussion groups.

Our appreciation and invitation to return is extended to Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Kevin Knapp and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) for ministering to us over the past month.

---

### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

#### Jill Rager

"Hereby know ye the spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:"

*I John 4:2*

At first glance this does not appear to be a Christmas verse, but after pondering this verse each day this week, it became more and more appropriate to our modern day celebration of Christmas. The term "the spirit of Christmas" is used loosely throughout the month of December. It can mean a variety of things from a cheerful disposition to a feeling of guilty frenzy to do, do, do all activi-

ties that "claim" the word "Christmas" as an adjective.

I was challenged by this verse to question everything supposing to be in the spirit of Christmas that comes into my life this holiday season as to whether or not it really is confessing "that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh", for that is the true spirit of Christmas.

We rejoice this month at the birth of two baby girls. Alexa Grace Steffen was born November 1, to Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane Steffen. She is welcomed by her siblings, Jade, Brock and Sierra, and grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene Steffen (Goodfield, IL) and Don and Sis. Helen Brown (Roanoke, IL).

Manna Rose Rassi was born November 7 to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget Rassi. She is welcomed by her big brother, Carl, and grandparents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi and Bro. Gary and Sis. Teri Zollinger (Sardis, OH).

We extend sympathy to Sis. Gladys Fisher at the loss of her sister, Sis. Wilma Lehman, who was battling cancer.

We are grateful for the two visiting ministers we had this month. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) assisted with our fall Communion service and Bro. Ed Strahm (Elgin, IL) presented a topical Bible study on a Wednesday evening. We appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

---

**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**  
**Cheryl Eisenmann**  
**Darlene Walder**

Have you made your Christmas list?

Thought of everyone?

Grandpa, grandma, mother, dad, Daughter, too, and son?

Have you made your Christmas list?

Giving's in the air!  
 Nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts,  
 Friends from everywhere.

Have you made your Christmas list?

Yes, beyond a doubt!  
 It is Jesus' birthday, too,  
 Did you leave Him out?

Make His gift the first of all!  
 "Inasmuch as ye  
 Did it to the least of Mine,  
 Ye have given unto Me!"

Christmas gift to all the world—  
 Dearest, first and best!  
 When I make my Christmas list  
 His name will lead the rest.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Art Baurer (Princeville, IL), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), and Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We want to thank each and every one of these brothers for ministering to us and their wives for being there for support.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Velma Rinkenberger and her family at the passing of her dear father, Bro. Dan Steiner (Tremont, IL). Also we received word of the death of Sis. Rosella Knapp (Gridley, IL). She is the wife of Bro. Larry and the sister-in-law of Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Greiner from our congregation. Our prayers have been with you at these difficult times.

We heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Matt Waldbeser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan) to Sis. Jerilyn Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheryl) from the Lester, IA, con-

gregation. We pray for their upcoming wedding that it is blessed with God's presence.

Bro. Lee Hoffman (Merle and Elsie) and Sis. Shalome Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl (Morton, IL) spoke their marriage vows on November 19. They will be making their home in New Orleans, LA. Bro. Lee will be teaching and working with inner-city children. They certainly would benefit from our prayers.

We rejoice when we hear of souls coming to the Lord in repentance and we want to report that our friend, Vernon Clauss (Joanne), has felt the call of God and Josh Walder (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon) has felt called and has answered also. We are thankful that these two men have felt God's gentle pleading.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder are also rejoicing with their two daughters, Adrea Wells (Ryan) and Amber, who had a special weekend on November 11-12 when they were given the opportunity to give their testimony of faith and be baptized.

Sis. Emily Eisenmann was hospitalized for a few days and we are thankful that she is on the mend. With the cold weather upon us, we never know when sicknesses or the flu bug might hit and so we are thankful when we are all feeling good. God be praised.

---

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Glenna Rinkenberger**

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Bro. Nelson (Sis. Kathy) Rocke of Tremont who was taken unexpectedly from this earthly life. Those who attend here are Sis. Shirley (Bro. Virgil) Funk and Sis. Judy (Bro. Vern) Wettstein.

Our thanks and appreciation go to God first and to our visiting minis-

tering brothers as they let Him speak through them. Bros. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) were with us October 22.

This union of our hearts,  
Shall stand through grace in Je-  
sus;  
We walk the path of life,  
While cheer and trust increases.  
Where God in truth abides,  
Where two join hand and heart,  
We find a three-fold cord,  
Not lightly rent apart.  
*Zion's Harp #79*

Also on October 22, Bro. Isaac Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) was joined in Holy Matrimony to Sis. Melissa Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan) at Lester, IA. How thankful we are when we see God work in the hearts of our single brothers and sisters that His will can be done. May they look to Him in all things.

Our congregation continues to be blessed by little bundles from Heaven. October 30, Molly Joann joined her brothers, Nathan and Justin, and parents, Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda Steffen. Molly's grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois Steffen and Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht (Eureka, IL). Martin Lee was born November 7 to Bro. Leon and Sis. Leann Kaeb. Siblings, Wesley, Loren, Nelson and Miranda, welcome him home along with grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. MaryLou Kaeb (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Merle and Sis. Gladys Kaisner (Fairbury, IL). Our prayer would be that all these children could be reared in the nurture and admonition of God's Word.

We continue to pray for the loved ones who are shut in due to age and ill health.

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Kay Kellenberger

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

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

*Zion's Harp #7, vs. 1,3*

We have been abundantly fed through the Holy Spirit by the laboring of our visiting ministers. We would like to extend our love and appreciation to the following ministering brothers: Bros. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). As the faithful Word was expressed over the pulpit, "God has perfect timing". Isn't it so true in our lives how often we want God's time to be now, but always in the end our Heavenly Father shows us that His time is perfect.

May God lead the lives of Jeremy and Kerry Schambach as they begin their married life together. May Bro. Ed and Sis. Gayle Schambach and Richard and Sherry Poore welcome a new son and daughter into their families.

As the Christmas season surrounds us and the new year approaches, may we all keep our focus on our Heavenly Father's most precious gift, Christ Jesus.

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

derful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

*Isaiah 9:6*

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

We are always glad when we can report converts who have peace. We are thankful for Bethany Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn), Kalsey Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris), Jill Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine), Kevin Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda) and Todd Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy). Our prayers are with each one and we look forward to their testimonies and baptisms.

Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) was with us on Saturday evening, November 4, to assist our Elder Bro. Ervin in reading of the Memorandum. May God richly bless our Elder Brothers for all their labors spent on our behalf. The trumpet has been sounded loud and clear. We are thankful.

God has blessed Bro. Kevin and Sis. Julie Kupferschmid with a precious baby girl, Kelsey Rose. Kelsey was born October 24 and she has one sister, Lanae, to love and help take care of her. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna Kupferschmid and Randy and Tereza Schertz, all of Eureka.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Caroline Moser who is hospitalized at this time with a broken hip.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Sis. Wilma Lehman who died November 6. She leaves behind her husband, Bro. Clarence; a daughter, Sis. Janet Walker (Darel) of Valparaiso, IN; two sons, Jim (Michelle) and Tom (Kathi) of Eureka; three sisters, Sis. Dorothy Hartter and Sis. Deloris Martin of Eureka and Sis. Gladys

Fischer of Chicago; three brothers, Bro. Walter Wittmer and Bro. Morris Wittmer of Morton and Bro. Carlton Wittmer of Eureka. May God comfort these dear ones as they grieve the loss of their loved one.

This past summer Dale Graf was injured in a car accident and has not been able to assemble with us since. Anyone wishing to send Dale a card may use the address below. Please print your card.

Dale Graf  
Center for  
Comprehensive Services  
Mill House  
P.O. Box 2825  
Carbondale, IL 62902

The Apostolic Christian home of Eureka has openings for RN's, LPN's and CNA's on various shifts with flexible hours. Please consider this opportunity to serve our elderly with loving care in a Christian environment. Contact Sis. Jane Stoller at (309) 467-2311.

It will soon be Christmas. May we each take time to ponder upon the true meaning of Christmas for therein is the true blessing. May God's blessings be upon each one.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank our dear brethren and friends from far and near for your love, prayers and encouragement since Quentin's accident. It is our prayer that God will richly bless you for your many deeds of kindness.

*Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda Wuethrich and family*

*Reminder:*

January is collection month for the Silver Lining in Eureka. Address changes would be appreciated.

## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Sally Fehr  
Joann Zehr**

We are so happy for Heidi Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky) as she has turned to God in repentance, and we wish her God's grace.

The home of Bro. Alan and Sis. Wendy Edelman was blessed with Eric Michael, born October 25. Big sister and brother are Megan and Klint.

The engagement and approaching marriage was announced of Bro. Ned Bahler (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne) and Sis. Anna Fehr (William and Helen). We wish them God's blessings.

Bro. Rodney Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) and Sis. Denise Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna) were united in marriage on November 12. May God be with them as they establish their home. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL). We appreciate their willingness to bring us God's Word.

We thank our other visiting ministers this month: Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). Also, Bros. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) visited us along with the Roanoke Bible Class. It is always an inspiration when our youth assemble with us.

Bro. Alpha Steffen, 92, passed away on October 21. May God comfort his dear wife, Fannie; and sons, Bro. Wayne (Sis. Linda) of Hudson, Bro. Henry (Sis. Lola) and Bro. Chris (Sis. Kay) of Fairbury, and Bro. Herbert (Sis. Georgia) of Cropsey. Bro. Alf was a small man in stature, but he had a deep and steadfast love for God, the church and his family.

We have had various ones in the hospital due to accidents and illness. They are Kyann Fehr (Bro. Nathan

and Sis. Marsha), Bro. Carl (Sis. Becky) Kieser, Sis. Elsie Bachtold (Bro. Willis), Sis. Esther Kiefer, and Marion Rieger (father of Sis. Karen {Bro. Albert} Steffen). Also, Derek Stoller (Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara) had his tonsils out and we missed reporting Jenna Hale (Troy and Sis. Annette) who had her tonsils out awhile back.

We also pray for God's mercy and grace to Ralph (Rosie) Hoffman who is seriously ill and is seeking God's forgiveness in repentance. He is in Texas right now for treatments. May God be near both he and Rosie.

As I wrote this, I had to think—it seems we've had all the phases of life—birth, death, marriage, joy, sadness and sickness—but we should be so thankful that God is abiding and only "a prayer away".

## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp  
Linda Anliker**

May the light of our Lord forever shine in the lives of our new brothers and sisters in faith. Making their covenant with our Lord in baptismal waters were Bro. Mark and Sis. Ruby Bolliger, Sis. Amy Schlatter (Sis. Sherri) and Bro. Ben Leman (Sis. Donna). Although their fathers have gone to their eternal destination and could not share in this joyous occasion on earth with their children, we heard how a father's spiritual influence lingers on after they are gone.

We thank Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bros. Chris Wuethrich and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) for visiting and lending themselves in service of our Lord.



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

*Genesis 2:18*

Exchanging vows of Holy Matrimony on November 5 were Bro. Kraig Edelman (Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Carrie Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly). As they unite their hearts in love, may the covenant they make stand and endure where God shall ever abide.

As four couples announce their engagements, may they put their trust in God. Bro. Shawn Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne) and Sis. Tami Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) sought the will of God as they are planning a late December wedding. With faith in the Lord, Bro. Tory Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Wendy Dotterer (Sis. Kathy) are making plans for a January wedding. Feeling the Lord's guidance, Bro. Mike Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Lavonne) and Sis. Marsha Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary) are making February wedding plans. Also, Ryan Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeannette) and Melissa Kidd (Jim and Audrey Hetherington, Forrest) are making April wedding plans.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller are the grandparents of two new grandchildren. God has blessed Jay and Jolene Mueller with the safe arrival of Jessica Elizabeth. Bailee is happy to have a sister. Jessica's other grandparents are John and Edna Haas (Fairbury). Welcoming home Rollie Joseph are Ron and Vicki Mueller and Reagan and Royce. His other grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Fairbury).

In our prayers are Sis. Jean (Bro. Bill) Aberle and Bro. Art (Sis. Velda) Huette, as they have spent time in the hospital. May the Lord continue

to be with them and provide His comfort and care.

We express our sympathy to Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier in the death of their granddaughter, Sis. Amy Hodel (Peoria, IL).

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

#### Heather Hohulin

What a blessing it is when God brings two people together. Bro. Scott Rinkenberger (Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg) and Sis. Heidi Knapp (Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy) were united in marriage this last month. We pray that God will bless their lives as they grow together in love.

Our prayers are with Sis. Kelly (Bro. Rob) Wiegand as she is on bedrest awaiting the birth of a precious baby. We hope that the hours don't seem too long.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Connie Allen (Bro. Gary) as she had surgery this month. May she feel God's healing hand.

We hope and pray that Sis. Brenda (Bro. Chuck) Hinrichsen can feel the prayers of her church family. She continues to be in a lot of pain. We trust that God will provide for her needs.

We were privileged this month to have a lot of visiting ministers. Bros. Paul Zimmerman, Brad Gudeman, Erik Givens, Wayne Leman, Ed Sauder, Brian Huber, Darren Plattner, Andy Moser and Jim Rinkenberger all served us. We hope they felt the love of our church. May God bless them richly.

As the Christmas season approaches, may we remember the ultimate gift that was given to us. God sent His Son, who was born, walked upon this earth, and then died on the cross and shed His blood, so that we could someday leave this imperfect world and be lifted up to His awaiting arms. What joyous words, to hear Him say, "Well done thou good and

faithful servant...enter thou in..." (Matthew 25:21).

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

#### Perry A. Klopfenstein

It is always inspiring to gather together to hear the testimonies of those who have repented and found peace with God and man. Then, too, it's encouraging when the church stands to reflect their satisfaction.

On November 18-19, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Kyle and Monica Edelman and Doug Hodel. Truly, we welcome them into the church, Christ's body here on earth.

Yet, on earth joy is mixed with sorrow. Sis. Lucille Hofmann, 89, passed away on October 27. She was survived by four sons: Roger Davis, Pontiac; Montelle Davis, Ladson, SC; Doug Davis, Bloomington; and Bradley Davis, Chillicothe; two daughters, Carol Porter, Peoria, and Sonja Hughes, Gridley; two sisters-in-law, Cleo Rich and Margaret Davis, Pontiac; also 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Sis. Lucille was married for 32 years to Lester Davis. He died in 1973. She was married to Silas Hofmann, Sr. for 8 years. He passed away in 1985.

Sis. Lucille brought a sense of sincerity and kindness to our congregation. A hard worker, she was always ready to pitch in when help was needed.

Bro. Silas Witzig passed away on November 2 at age 90. He was married to his dear wife, Sis. Viola, for 63 years. She died on October 24, 1999.

He is survived by a daughter, Janet Hauser, Gridley; a son, John Witzig, Lake Forrest, FL; two sisters, Sis. Hulda Stoller, Eureka, and Sis. Marie Kaufman, Morton; and five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Although on the quiet side, Bro. Si was friendly and nice to be around.

Bro. Alwin Funk, 86, died on November 7. He is survived by a son, Joe W. Funk, Tallahassee, FL; two daughters, Mary Ann Schwitters, Lakeland, FL, and Nancy Damery, Springfield; a sister, Sis. Louise Witzig, Morton; and a brother, Roy Funk, Gridley. Other survivors are nine grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren.

Bro. Alwin and his wife (Sis. Alice Funk, who died on January 4, 1998) were married for 50 years. They were baptized on the same day, July 21, 1968.

Having come into the church at age 54, Bro. Alwin reflected a special affection for the faith. He took part in offering prayers, and one could readily sense his love for God, and God's ways.

A daughter, Megan Jo, was born to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Sonja Endress on October 8. She has an older brother, Mitchell, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Marge Feucht (Lester, IA) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Cindy Endress (Peoria, IL). May God continue to bless this couple as they strive to train up their children in the ways of the Lord.

Michelle Schlipf and Jeffrey Brooks were united in marriage on November 25. He is from Prophetstown. She is the daughter of Bro. Enid and Sis. Lila Schlipf. His parents are Arnold and Jane Brooks, Prophetstown. We wish them the best in life and we surely appreciate their attendance at church.

Bro. Harold Stoller was hospitalized for foot surgery. He is recovering, thanks be to God.

---

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney**

**Cheryl Wuthrich**

November 19 was the wedding

day for our Sis. Shalome Knobloch and Bro. Lee Hoffman. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch and Merle and Elsie Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL). The congregation was encouraged from Revelation 19:7 where Christ compares the coming of His kingdom to a wedding for which we must be prepared. We wish the Lord's continued blessings and guidance for Bro. Lee and Sis. Shalome as they strive to serve Him.

Morton was privileged to host the ACYF activities this month. On November 5 and 12, young people of our congregations gathered to sing and fellowship. It was a blessing to have them.

The Lord has blessed two families with precious new babies. Domniq Robert was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Tonya Kaufmann on October 23. His grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser and Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane Kaufmann (Tremont, IL).

Bro. Andy and Sis. Erin Witzig are the parents of Samantha Ann born on November 18. Bro. Andy and Sis. Erin now attend the Athens, AL, church. Samantha's grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Mott and Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig, all of Morton. We wish both of these new parents Godly wisdom in rearing their children.

We would like to thank the ministers and their families that visited us this month. They were Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL).

#### *Note of Thanks:*

I would like to express my appreciation and heartfelt thanks to each and every one for the cards, gifts of love, phone calls, visits and especially your prayers during my recent surgery and convalescence. God bless each one.

*Sis. Norma Zeller*

---

### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Peter and Mabel Weber**

Instituted in Eden, confirmed by Jesus! A special couple, on a special day (October 29) when a new chapter began in the lives of Bro. Andrew Honegger and Sis. Rachael Waibel, which they will pen together. Many guests, but One special One: Jesus, Who introduced them to each other for a match made in Heaven, based on what He had done for them. Focus on God, love Him and everything will fall into place, with Jesus in the middle. Give-and-take makes a marriage work; communicate and be open with each other, anticipate each other's needs, write little notes of encouragement, be there for one another, complete the good work God started in you. Bro. Dave Oberghel had the wedding sermon, Bro. Ken Hoerr pronounced them man and wife and we wish them the richest blessings for their life together.

I Cor. 15 addresses the resurrection. The resurrected Jesus was seen of many. They did not see wrong as they would not have gone into martyrdom if they had not witnessed the resurrected Lord. If this doesn't count, life itself doesn't make sense. The fact that Jesus is alive forevermore is the basis of our faith, which is unique of all world religions. Our life on earth makes sense in the truth that God is God and sent Jesus, Who became the firstfruits of the resurrection, the only head of any religion Who will live through the ages. "Then cometh the end" (vs. 24). This should get everybody's attention. Total helplessness is coming with zero power over circumstances, but we have the promise of God that He won't forsake His own. The plea goes out that nobody goes to sleep tonight without

having the promises of God. Thanks, Bro. Mike Rieker, for your meditation on 10/29.

We must ask ourselves, "What is our Rock? and what will take us from birth to death and beyond?" "He is the Rock, His work is perfect" (Deut. 32:4). What happens when the rocks shake? After earthquakes, stress disorders take place because what they trusted in, is gone. Does the Rock turn into sand and sediments and disappear? What do we trust in? Our jobs, friends, family, knowledge? We have to trust first in God and let this relationship be based on the Rock. "For Thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for Thy name's sake lead me, and guide me" (Psalm 31:3). Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder" (Luke 20:18). It will grind us to powder, if that Rock is not Jesus. We thank Bro. Tim Funk for his family night service on "The Rock" on 11/1.

November 4 provided the opportunity to examine ourselves while listening to the testimonies of Marla Hoerr, Nicole Hoerr, Katie Sauder and Stacie Rumbold. They made a conscious decision not to let sin be part of their lives and to publicly say they will remain true and faithful. Peace is the proof of God's love; submission is when we do the things we don't want to do. Baptism is the conclusion of the repentance stage. The Church will be blessed by our willingness to be submissive and the do's and don'ts serve to protect us. Be not directed by your nature, but go against it, take life seriously, turning aside from youthful lusts, put safeguards in place. You are responsible to the rest of the body. We thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for his assistance with testimonies and baptisms and Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

for their visits.

Bro. Nelson brought the Word to us on November 5 from Acts 26. Not like Agrippa before Paul, we must get past "almost" and be fully persuaded. Our calling is, when we hear the Word of God. "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:21). Everything we see will melt with fervent heat, but not My Word. It was a blessed day and we welcome four young sisters into our fellowship and wish them God's blessings. Exercise daily...walk with the Lord.

Sis. Esther Hoerr (94) concluded her walk of faith November 8 at the Skylines, where she had resided since 1992, leaving a legacy of the fruits of the Spirit. God is faithful and goes with us each step of the way as life becomes more basic. What she had here, pales compared with the glories of Heaven. We extend our sincere condolences to Bro. Ken Hoerr and his sister, Marilyn Hessing, and their families. Sis. Amy Hodel (27) entered into the joys of her Lord November 9, leaving a deep void in the family of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Gail. "What a day it will be, when my Jesus I shall see"...and we would not want to hold her from the glory of God. Our sincere sympathy goes to her family.

On November 12, the wedding day of Bro. Jason Strahm (Taylor, MO) and Sis. Courtney Hoerr, we welcomed Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Ed Strahm (Elgin, IL) and James Kaeb (Bern, KS) and many other guests. Bro. Ed's text was I Cor. 7. It took a miracle to put the stars in place, and our calling is not less miraculous than Paul's, with the same end-result. But we have to work today to be part of the miracle of saving our soul by grace through faith. With the Lord first in our lives, we have hope of eternal life, and nothing else matters. The disciples

walked away from the biggest catch of fish in their lifetime, because when God calls, it is time to answer, as, with no exception, we all want to go to Heaven.

Bro. Kent Heimer based the wedding sermon on I John 4:7-12. God is love and knew years ago that this day would happen in their lives. Long ago, He wrote "love" in red at Calvary. Marriage is God's idea and if it were not for Jesus, we would not be here today. Don't major in the minors, communication is the main thing, don't compete with each other but complete each other to become one. Bro. Ken Hoerr further added enduring advice: verbalize your love, back it up with deeds, exercise patience and be kind, provide what your mate needs, build up the love bank, be careful how you handle each other, be gracious, have a poor memory for wrongs, endure all things, don't let Satan have a part of your lives. May the Lord bless and keep you.

We are thankful the hospital stays were short and the recoveries good for Sis. Vera Irions and Bros. Tom Rieker and Norb Schneider.

WANTED: Resident couple to manage Fellowship Hall functions, maintain buildings, shelter, parking lot and all surroundings, including 12 acres of grass, trees, flowers. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joy Hoerr (with Tecca Joy) accepted this responsibility and moved into the on-site apartment on 11/2. May God bless them for responding to this need and their efforts in the service of God for the benefit of our congregation.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Martha Peters wishes to express thanks and appreciation for the love and kindness extended to Martha during her short illness and the funeral.

**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Mary Ehnlé**  
**Crystal Streitmatter**

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

*Matthew 1:21*

The Christmas season is again upon us, a time for rejoicing. Our humble Saviour, Jesus, was born in a lowly manger that He might walk upon this earth and shed His blood for our sins. There seems to be nothing upon this earth that gives us the true contentment as does our salvation.

We are also rejoicing that three new little babes have been born to families in our congregation. Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce Rumbold welcomed Grace Nicole on October 14. She is welcomed home by Zachary, Ethan and Hannah. Grandparents are Raymond and Joanne Rumbold and Bob and Geneva Morse.

Bro. Darwin and Sis. Robin Stahl also had a little girl on November 5. Grandparents are Sis. Charlotte Stahl (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner. Chloe Nicole is welcomed home by big brother, Reid.

Amy Rose Christ was born on November 10 to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie. She has three sisters, Beth, Lena, and Molly, and one brother, Karl, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ and Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold (Bradford, IL).

Our sympathies are extended to Bro. Harold Steiner (Sis. Karen) as his father, Bro. Dan Steiner, from the Tremont congregation has recently passed away.

We appreciate the efforts of our visiting ministers within this past month. They were Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Will

Schieler (Milford, IN), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA).

May our hearts be settled in the spirit of giving this Christmas and our minds focused on the true meaning of the season.

A temporal kingdom to rise and to wane,

Was not the Christ's mission on earth to attain.

Then what was His purpose in coming to earth?

To establish a kingdom in hearts by rebirth.

—Bro. Henry Beer

---

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

If our greatest need had been information,

God would have sent an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,

God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,

God would have sent us an economist.

But since our greatest need was forgiveness,

God sent us a Saviour.

Truly we all rejoice in how God has provided for our greatest need by sending His most precious Son to live among us. And at this time that we think upon Jesus' birth, let us consider the reason, for "it is not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free."

We rejoice with Luke Fischer who has realized his need for salvation and has gone to the foot of the cross in repentance. His parents are Bro.

Kevin and Sis. Annette. We pray he will willingly give his whole heart to the Lord to experience the miracle of conversion.

We wish to thank the visiting ministers who labored for us this past month: Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Jeff Grimm and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN). Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) encouraged us as we are "Ambassadors for Christ" for our Bible study. We were reminded how we are representatives of our heavenly home. He also informed us that in the Hebrew language, martyr and witness are the same word—quite humbling to think about, as we are willing to be a witness for our Lord, but are we also willing to be a martyr for Him?

We're thankful that Craig Janssen (Bro. Fred and Sis. Sheri) has "died to self" and was buried with Christ in baptism on November 19 following a testimony of faith. We welcome Bro. Craig into the family of God and pray he will let his light shine bright in this ever darkening world.

We pray for continued healing to those who have been hospitalized recently: Bro. Lloyd Gerber, Bro. Jerry Sauder, Sis. Wilma Fischer and Matt Hoffman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann).

Our annual nursing home bazaar was held November 4 and thanks to many, it was quite successful. Few realize the labors of love that goes on "behind the scenes" so that this can take place. May our Heavenly Father be each one's Rewarder for these deeds.

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*

---

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi**

**LaVonne Wagenbach**

Our congregation rejoiced this month when two souls testified of God's grace and mercy and then became baptized. With thankful hearts, we welcome our new Bro. John and Sis. Misty Sauder into the family of God.

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) assisted with the testimonies. Additional ministering support that weekend included Bros. Jeff Thames and Ed Fritz (both of Washington, IL), and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We also appreciated Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for laboring in our midst. We trust God will bless each one for their part in ministering the Word to us.

There was also sorrow among us as another soul has left his earthly home for the heavenly reward. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family and loved ones of Bro. Dan Steiner Sr. They include four sons: Bro. Dan (Sis. Shirley), Bro. Joe (Sis. Marcella), Bro. Richard (Sis. Ann), all of Tremont; Bro. Harold (Sis. Karen) of Princeville, IL; and three daughters, Sis. Barb Dill of Tremont; Sis. Velma Rinkenberger of Cissna Park, IL; and Sis. Carol (Bro. Cloyce) Gress of West Bend, IA.

There were some in need of hospitalization this month, including Sis. Terrie Ehnle (Bro. Russ) and Sis. Ella Schweigert. May God's healing and comfort be showered upon them.

We would like to welcome those who have recently made Tremont their home congregation for a period

of time. With us most recently are Larry and Inga Simms with their children, and Sis. Christy Gress.

---

### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Sue Ruppert**

**Denise Romersberger**

"And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?"

*Mark 4:40*

Anxiety and fear are problems that afflict us and for which doctors can do little. Sometimes these lead to other problems. For example, a young man age 45 suffered a heart attack, which was caused mostly by his anxious lifestyle. The doctors could help by prescribing medications, exercise, and a healthy diet, but they could not stop his worrying.

God knows that humans are prone to fear. Often angels began their messages with "Be not afraid." In the story from Mark, the disciples fear death on the raging sea while Jesus was at their side. I think, if people were fearful with Jesus in the boat with them, how can we possibly manage in fearful storms today?

But we, too, have Jesus with us every moment. Jesus' love is so great He faced life and death on this troubled earth and rose victorious to win our eternal life. Jesus told His disciples before His death: "Let not your heart be troubled..." (John 14:1). The words are real; the Saviour's presence is real. Jesus' promise remains true: "...I am with you always..." (Matthew 28:20). We need to exercise our spiritual muscles daily in God's Word. With Spirit-powered faith we can face all storms and claim Jesus' power: "Be still."

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL). We thank both of you brothers

and your wives for coming to be in our midst and proclaiming God's Word in its truth and purity.

Sis. Barb Slagel and Sis. Sue Ruppert both underwent surgery this past month. Both are recovering well and appreciate your prayers as they continue to recover.

We wish to congratulate Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Walder as they completed the paper work and were granted full adoption of their son, Ozzy. May the Lord continue to bless their family as they grow.

---

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Tonia Isch**

**Beth Aschliman**

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

*Luke 2:7*

It's hard to believe we are going to celebrate Christmas again so soon. Time flies by so quickly. WE rejoice in the miracle of Jesus' birth.

We have the miracle of another convert in Bluffton. Brandon Troxel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Dahlys) has started his walk with Jesus. WE rejoice with Brandon and his family.

Bluffton spent a blessed weekend witnessing baptisms as five souls were taken into the fold. Bro. Matt Reinhard (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dar), Bro. Ryan Donaghy, Bro. John Sprunger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila), Sis. Sara Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Amy Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari) were baptized on November 12. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Sis. Shirley, Milford, IN) and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Ed with testimonies. Also visiting Bluffton was Bros. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Wayne

Lehman (Sis. Shirley, South Bend, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North). WE want to thank all these brothers for spending time with us in Bluffton.

We send our warm wishes to three loving couples as they celebrate wedding anniversaries. Bro. Earl and Sis. Marjorie Stucky are celebrating 60 years of marriage. Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyllis Dotterer are celebrating 50 years and Bro. Bob and Sis. Evie Gerber are celebrating 50 years. Congratulations!

Just starting their married life together are Audra Gerber (Bro. Rex and Sis. Lavon) and Dan Claghorn (Ron and Grace). Dan and Audra were married on November 4. We wish them God's rich blessings.

We were saddened by the death of our Bro. Paul Baumgartner (Sis. Justine). After 48 years of marriage, Bro. Paul went to be with our Lord on October 25. He will be greatly missed by his dear wife and sons, Dennie and David, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

We extend our prayers and warm wishes to Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonia Isch as they were blessed with a new baby, Madelyn Rose. Madelyn was born October 20. Ryan and Sophie are happy to have a new sister. Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz and Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch are thankful for a healthy baby.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister brought their first baby, Kaitlyn Marie, into this world on October 21. Al and Becky Pfister and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann Rager are the happy grandparents.

Aaron and Kara Frey have a new baby girl, Anna Grace. Anna was born October 30. WE rejoice again with grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann.

Also, first-time parents are Bro. Kris and Sis. Heidi Reinhard. Julia

Ann was born on November 1. Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard and Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter are thankful for a beautiful granddaughter. We rejoice with these families.

Spending time in the hospital this month was Bro. Harold Geisel (Sis. Ellen), Bro. Roy Reinhard (Sis. Vergene), Bro. Leon Gerber (Sis. Pat), Sis. Beulah Baumgartner and Kylie Baller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Shelly). It is our prayer that each one feel God's peace and healing.

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

*Luke 2:14*

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Naomi Ringger wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts of love and the encouraging phone calls during her illness and passing. May God bless each one.

---

**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Rhonda Maller  
Ann Meyer**

We're rejoicing with the angels that Lyla Fischer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce) has surrendered her young heart to the Lord in repentance. May the Lord be her strength in the years ahead.

Our church really appreciated having Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) visit and bring us the Word. We welcome him back soon.

What fun it is to look around church on Sundays and see precious babies in their parents' arms. How innocent and sweet. We all have a duty to keep the church strong and true for these little ones for the future.

A son, Noah Lane, on October 11

blessed the home of Joe and Michelle Barger along with sisters, Hailey and Ashlyn. His grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Carole Lane.

Al and Becky Pfister were thrilled to add another granddaughter to their family. Kaitlyn Marie Pfister arrived October 21 to Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber (Bluffton).

Bro. Ked and Sis. Adrienne Moser received another gift from God on November 4 when sweet Tianna Danielle was born. She joins sisters, Arissa and Cierra, and loving grandparents, Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat Moser and Bro. John and Sis. Becky Maggart.

We had three loved ones that have spent time in the hospital this month: Sis. Rhonda Maller, Sis. Lorene Geisel and Bro. Jeff Bertsch. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to heal them.

After seeing how divided our nation is during the election of our president, let us remember how important prayer is. We do not have to panic, but put our trust, not in any government, but only in our God!

"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

*Psalms 34:17*

---

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE  
Pam Huber**

"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

*Isaiah 65:24*

Do you remember the anticipation of Christmas as a child? There is nothing like planning and preparation to really make us anxious for something. I remember one Christmas when my mother had gone shopping and after bringing the gifts

home, locked them up in my brothers' room until they could be wrapped. Of course, we were bursting with curiosity! So, when no one was looking, I tiptoed upstairs and pried the door open just enough to peek inside. There on the floor were our gifts! Sad to say, it wasn't very exciting opening that gift and I wasn't nearly as thankful as I would have been otherwise. Isn't the verse above a little like this? How many times have I prayed to the Lord, only to be told "wait"? We can hinder God's perfect work in us by our worry, anger and selfishness. Yes, sometimes His answer is "wait" and we can learn so much, when our hearts are willing. We must also consider the latter portion of this verse and remember He has heard us, and "...he is faithful that promised." (Hebrews 10:23).

It was such a blessing to host the Eastern World Relief review meeting last month, as we had many visiting ministers join us for Sunday services: Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH), Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Ben Manz and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). Thank you for your sincere love for the Lord and all your efforts throughout the year.

We also enjoyed having Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) with us this past month and appreciate the opportunity to look at God's Word with new eyes.

This past month we have been listening to the Conference tapes. We appreciate the challenge and edification put forth by the Elders.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We "give thanks for every remembrance of you," our Brothers, Sisters, friends and co-laborers. We were humbled and very grateful as we received assurance of your prayers through phone calls, meaningful cards and many other expres-

sions of love following Wendell's heart surgery.

*Wishing you God's blessings,  
Wendell and Marcella Gudeman*

---

### INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford

Christian love is a three-fold cord that need never be broken. We remember this as we say farewell to Bob and Heather Schini and their children, Michael and Alexis, who are moving to Remington, IN.

We are happy to welcome two new babies to our fellowship: Isaac Jay Wiegand, whose parents are Bro. Jay and Sis. Lorri, and Ireland Beebe whose parents are Mark and Julie.

We also welcome two families who have recently moved into the Indianapolis area: Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev Roche from Philadelphia, PA; and Jim and Sheli Remick from Ohio.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) and Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH) and Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN). Bros. Ray and Alfred presented the Conference Memorandum.

Whether we live in the city or the country, we are now making preparations for the Christmas season. Before we plan menus, purchase gifts, and mail greetings, let us first prepare our hearts. When we remember God's love for us, and how He sent Jesus to reconcile us to Him, the holiday menus, the wrapping of presents and the letters and telephone calls will take on a special significance. These activities will reflect the joy in our hearts because we know that our Redeemer lives!

"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it

together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

*Isaiah 40:5*

---

### INDIANA, LACROSSE Jeremy and Natalie Freed

Our congregation was blessed to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Joel Troxel. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach and Bro. Chris Wuethrich was here with us to minister the Word and assist Elder Bro. Curt Frank with this joyous event.

We share the sorrow of our dear Sis. Kathy Nuest (Dan) as her uncle has passed on. This family has endured much loss in recent months. We pray for the grace of our Lord Jesus to help them through these trying times.

Our ministering brothers were blessed with the opportunity to help with services at Purdue and Ball State Universities this month, and were accompanied by members of our congregation. We pray for the safety and spiritual welfare of our young people at colleges around the land, and hope that they will seek God's guidance as they pursue their calling.

---

### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

The Holy Spirit's presence was felt as Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and Bro. John Stoller served the Lord's Supper to us on November 4. Bro. Lynn brought out that the Lord is our true Shepherd.

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

*Phil. 4:6*

We have many prayer requests for God for our church family. Sis. Judy Gehring fell and badly

sprained her foot; she has it elevated for two weeks now. Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz has an open sore on her leg and has been hospitalized for several days to receive treatment. Bro. Eugene Stoller's son, Doug, was diagnosed with a malignant growth on the brain. Bro. Gene has been taking him for radiation treatments. Bro. Paul Fischer damaged a tendon in his foot and is experiencing a lot of pain. He is scheduled for an MRI for a correct diagnosis, before treatment can begin. Bro. Jeff Fritz is still on crutches and/or a wheelchair from his break, but is attending services.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

*Phil. 4:7*

Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) came to help Elder Bro. Lynn on the pulpit when he was alone one Sunday. We ask the Lord's blessing for his service.

We welcome Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta Schafer who have relocated from Indianapolis, IN, to Leo. Sis. Lauretta is counselor at Gateway Woods, and Bro. Bruce has a position in Fort Wayne, IN.

Also we welcome Bro. Andy and Sis. Jill Lehman from Bloomington, IL, who have come to serve as alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods.

This is the month we rejoice in remembering the gift of God to the world and send greetings to one another.

Christmas Greetings from Almighty God:

**I AM A GOD OF LOVE:**

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the

world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

*I John 4:9-10*

**I INVITE YOU TO COME:**

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

*Isaiah 55:7*

**I WILL MAKE YOU MY SONS:**

"But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

*Gal. 4:4-5*

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

*John 1:12*

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

*Acts 3:19*

"Fear not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

*Luke 2:10-11*

---

## INDIANA, MILFORD

**Pam Beer**

**Marguerite Hoerr**

Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in pre-

senting the Conference letter to us. Accompanying them were their wives, Sisters Ann Sinn and Lyla Frank. We thank them for coming to share with us.

Sis. Edna Lehman and Lorene Stookey were saddened recently by the loss of their brother-in-law, Ralph Roberts. Ralph was the husband of their sister, Helen. We extend our sincere sympathy to their family, especially to Helen and their son, Mike.

Amy Cockburn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) suffered a concussion as a result of a train accident as she was traveling from London to Scotland. Several people were killed in the accident. Amy was hospitalized for a couple days. We're so pleased to report she's recovered and is at home with her parents, who are so happy to have her with them.

Bro. Don Beer was pleased to have his family gather with him on a Sunday recently for his 80th birthday. Bro. Don and Sis. Ruth are an integral part of our church family and are appreciated by all of us.

Ministering Bro. Jeff Thames provided a very enriching weekend for us recently. He taught a topical study regarding families and children on Saturday and ministered to us on Sunday. His wife, Sis. Brenda, accompanied him and his family. May rich blessings fall on him and his lovely family for his contribution to the Milford church.

Our Thanksgiving Program 2000 was a source of enrichment for all of us. Sunday School children sang their hearts out with the encouragement of their loving teachers. The songs shared by the brothers from Purdue were soul searching, as were the songs by the Adult Choir.

The presentations by Bro. Matt Pamer, Bro. Don Beer, Sis. Mary Lehman and Bro. Bill Troup were inspiring and thought-provoking.

Bro. Matt told of his love and re-



spect for our country and church after migrating from Hungary and then from four years in a displaced persons camp in Germany.

Bro. Don shared his experiences during four years of service in WWII and told of hungry children following the GI's for food.

Sis. Mary related her teaching experiences in an inner-city school and the challenges facing her kindergarten students: poverty, foster homes, single parent families, some not even knowing who their fathers are. Their challenges become her challenges and God helps her to teach them.

Bro. Bill shared his journey through months of cancer and his thankfulness for remission ten years later. We're so grateful to the committee members, Bro. Bill and Sis. Stacey Feller, Bro. Shawn and Sis. Marci Reinhard and to Reg Beer and Megan Piper. May God richly bless them for this service to our church.

I've enjoyed reporting for the Milford church these past two years, and working with Sis. Pam Beer has been a real blessing. It's time to turn this privilege over to another Sister and I sincerely hope, whoever it is, will receive the same bountiful "loaves and fishes" I've experienced in doing it.

---

### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Rochelle Ward**

We have been blessed with above average visiting ministers this month. Bros. Eric Givens (Princeville, IL) and Scott Shafer (South Bend, IN) shared the pulpit one Sunday while Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) assisted in reading the Memorandum and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) exhorted us on "Invite-a-guest" Sunday.

On October 21, Zachery Price

(Sis. Jane Price and Mike Price) took Karena Holder (Mark and Debbie Holder, Wolcott) to be his wife. His grandfather is Bro. Herb Schieler. May God's grace be multiplied upon them.

As we approach this holiday season, let us be reminded to seek the true spirit of Christmas where Christ is honored far above and beyond the idol of materialism.

---

### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Hope Bucher**

Harvest has drawn to a close. We celebrated our annual Harvest Dinner this month. The occasion featured an afternoon program with teachings from Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN). Many others participated in the program through poem or song including the Indianapolis Choir and special numbers from the Bollier family. After the program, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the men of Valpo church. Thank you to those who participated in our program, helped prepare the meal or simply came to fellowship with us on that day.

This month, we grieve the loss of life and celebrate the gift of life. Sis. Wilma Lehman of Eureka, IL (mother of Sis. Janet Walker of Valpo) passed away on November 6. Our prayers are with our Sis. Janet and her family through this time.

Seth Michael Bucher was born on November 13 to Bro. Lance and Sis. Hope Bucher. He was welcomed home by his big brother, Joshua. We are so thankful for this miracle of life.

---

### INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Geoff and Angie Ginzel**

"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come

unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

*Matthew 19:13*

This month little Isaac Jay Wiegand received a joyful welcome into the world by his parents, Bro. Jay and Sis. Lorri, on October 27. He was welcomed home by his big sister, Kaya.

We are thankful for God's grace and healing mercies. Our counseling Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman has fully recovered after his surgery.

We would like to thank the following ministering brothers and their wives for visiting us in the past month and allowing God to use them to bring forth His message: Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella, Francesville, IN), Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis. Kris, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). A rotation has been established so we look forward to our visitors, and thank God for them.

If you are in the area, please join us on the first and third Sundays at 10:00. For local correspondence, contact our trustees, Bro. Dick Meister (765) 567-4704, Bro. Duane Schieler (765) 567-2922 or Bro. Neil Widmer (765) 497-4709. Our counseling Elders are Bro. Wendell Gudeman and Bro. Curt Frank.

---

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Mary Beth Lehman  
Beckie Lehman**

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend on us we pray:  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.

As Christmas approaches and we honor the birth of Jesus Christ, let us also remember the cross and empty tomb as we rejoice in God's most precious gift.

Especially thankful for a Saviour

are our recent converts, A.J. Waibel (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia) and Ben Royer (Gary and Debbie). We apologize for failing to report previously this major event in A.J. and Ben's lives. We rejoice with them and lift them up in our prayers as they follow Jesus. A.J. has another great need for prayer as he underwent major back surgery on November 13. He's now recuperating at home. God give you strength and relief as you heal, A.J.!

We appreciate the efforts of our visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) came to help Bro. Alfred share the Memorandum with us. Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) also brought us God's Word.

Cassidy Paige is the second daughter to be born to Michael and Kelly Minniear. Cassidy's sister is Kelsey and grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna. May God bless this family circle.

---

**IOWA, BURLINGTON**  
**Brenda Schulz**  
**Karla Gerst**

We are thankful to have had a number of visitors in the last two months. Among them were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and his wife, Sis. Sandra. May they feel the rich blessings of the Lord for being willing to be used in His service.

We have also bid farewell to three dear souls who have moved to other congregations. Sis. Judy Gehring has moved to Leo, IN, and Bro. Darin and Sis. Twila Massner have moved to West Bend, IA. We wish them the Lord's blessings and guidance as they move on in their lives.

God bless you on your pilgrim  
way,  
Thro' storm and sunshine guid-  
ing still;  
His presence guard you day by  
day,

And keep you safe from ev'ry ill.

God bless you, and the patience  
give  
To walk thro' life by Jesus' side;  
For Him to bear, for Him to live,  
And then with Him be glorified.

God bless you! God bless you!  
Bless and keep us all in Jesus'  
love,  
And, when our partings here are  
over,  
Take us to the joys above.  
*Gospel Hymns #514*

---

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

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

*Matthew 1:21*

We are all sinners by nature, by habit and often by choice. As we read in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" and according to Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death". As we approach this Christmas season, may our hearts be filled with thanks and praise to God for the gift of His Son in whom is our only hope of forgiveness, mercy and life eternal.

Progress continues on our new church and we continue to be thankful for all who have come and volunteered their time, talents and love on our behalf. "...your work shall be rewarded." (II Chronicles 15:7)

Paul Pulfer (Sis. Evelyn) is currently in the hospital. We trust that he is feeling God's nearness and renewed strength daily.

**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Willa Clark**

As we rush through this Christmas season, we are bombarded with advertising and media slogans. My all-time favorite must be "Wise men still seek Him." We have a tendency to set the Biblical Wise Men apart as wealthy kings, something most people here on earth will never be. However, we can seek the Christ with the same fervor in our hearts. We can bring, not expensive myrrh and frankincense, but the very best of our heart, our soul, and our time.

We have been blessed with visitors this month. The Prairie Choristers of Roanoke, IL, warmed our hearts and filled our church with songs of praise.

We also enjoyed guests from the Winthrop and Pulaski Bible classes.

Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Frank Sauder and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). We thank them and their families for the effort they put forth.

---

**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! We were blessed with many visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN) and Wes Moser (Lester, IA). We sincerely thank these brothers and their families for traveling to share God's Word with us. We also want to thank Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) who so willingly came to give some spiritual guidance to the sisters who met in the Iowa City area for a fellowship weekend. May we take the loving advice to heart.

We lovingly welcome Hope Elaine, newborn daughter of Bro.

Ben and Sis. Wendy Weyrick, to our congregation. Everyone is enjoying having babies to hold again, as it's been awhile here. We wish them God's richest blessings and Heavenly wisdom as they seek to bring her up in the Lord.

We also welcome Sis. Eunice Feller who recently moved from Valparaiso, IN, to live closer to her daughter. We look forward to her assembling with us when she can.

It's hard to imagine that by the time this news reaches our homes, Christmas will nearly be here. May each of us, like Mary, ponder the miracle of Jesus' birth in our heart.

One of our visiting ministers shared a story with us that I will paraphrase here. As Jesus often used parables to relate a spiritual truth, may this story touch and teach our hearts to be less concerned with material things and be aware of the needs of those around us.

A young and very successful businessman had recently acquired a sports car of which he was quite proud. Driving a bit too fast down a neighborhood street lined with parked cars, he thought he saw something, but didn't stop until a brick sailed out and smashed into the side door of his new car. Slamming his brakes and backing up to the spot from where the brick had been thrown, he jumped out of the car and angrily shouted at the small boy standing there, "What do you think you are doing? That brick caused a lot of damage to my new car. Why did you throw it?"

With tears dripping down his face, the boy answered, "Please, Mister, please! I'm sorry! I threw the brick because no one else would stop!" He pointed around the nearest parked car. "It's my brother, Mister," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up." Sobbing he asked the now subdued man,

"Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the young businessman tried desperately to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. Straining, he lifted the young man back into the wheelchair and took out his handkerchief and wiped the scrapes and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be okay. Then he watched the younger brother push him down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long walk back to the sleek, shining sports car—a long and slow walk. He never did fix the side door of his sports car. He kept the dent to remind him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at him to get his attention.

---

### IOWA, LESTER Dawn Metzger Sue Warner

Prayer and encouragement is important for our hospital and surgical patients this past month. They were Sis. Ione DeHaan, Sis. Melisa Feucht (Bro. Roy), Brandon Knobloch (Bro. Dietrich and Sis. Lexia) and Bro. Lawrence Wulf. Dean Knobloch took a very serious fall from a loader at a construction sight, but can be thankful his life was spared.

Bro. Isaac and Sis. Melissa Rinkenberger had a blessed wedding day on October 22. They will be making their home in Congerville, IL. We will miss you, Sis. Melissa! Sharing the weekend with us were ministering Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL).

A beautiful baby girl was born to Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue Warner on November 25. She has been named Rachel Naomi and joins her brother, Matthew, and sisters, Maria, Abbey,

Sarah and Anna, in their Christian home. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner and Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Silverton, OR).

October 29 found our assembly quite full for the wedding ceremony of Bro. Thadd and Sis. Wendy Knobloch. May God richly bless this union with many healthy, happy years. That same day, we heard the engagement of Sis. Jerilyn Knobloch to Bro. Matt Waldbeser of Cissna Park, IL. Parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser. Bros. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Darin Fehr (West Bend, IA), Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) joined us for the weekend. Thanks for being with us!

Bro. Andy and Sis. Freida Mogler enjoyed their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house for family and friends on November 4. We wish them God's continued blessings! Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) shared the Word of Life with us on Sunday.

Logan Earl Metzger made a safe arrival into the loving arms of his parents on November 9. Bro. Jared, Sis. Carla and Leah are his happy family. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger and Bro. Roger and Sis. Eileen Hartter (Sabetha, KS).

On November 12, many from our congregation traveled to Morris, MN, for the wedding ceremony of Bro. Benji and Sis. Leah Kellenberger. We welcome Sis. Leah to Lester and hope it will soon feel like "home"!

Along with all the joy we experienced this past month, we also felt sorrow. Liz (Moser) Wulf's funeral service was held on November 8. Left behind to grieve her loss is Emil

(her husband of 61 years), 11 children, 45 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, four brothers, and three sisters, one of whom is Sis. Martha (EA) Feucht of our Lester congregation. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to this large family.

*Note of Thanks:*

Our heartfelt "thanks" for the greeting cards, flowers, and gifts given on our 50th wedding anniversary. And to all those hosting—our children and relatives. Only God can bless you!

*Bro. Andy and Sis. Freida Mogler*

---

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

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Carol Steiner (Bro. John) in the sudden passing of her brother-in-law, Bro. Nelson Rocke (Tremont, IL). May the Lord continue to comfort and strengthen the hearts of this dear family.

We rejoice in the recent betrothal of Sis. Heidi Bajema of Lester, IA (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twila) to Bro. Ryan Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy). May the Lord be near these dear ones as they plan and make preparation for their life as one with Him.

We are thankful for our visiting ministering brothers this past month. What a blessing we receive from each one. They were Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), as well as Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA).

David and Tami Lanz are rejoicing as first-time parents in the birth of twin daughters, Krissa Kay and Kenna Jean. After a few extra days

stay in the hospital, because of being born a little premature, both girls are home now and seem to be doing well. Also thankful for their safe arrival are their grandparents, Bro. Rod and Sis. Twila Bajema (Lester, IA) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz. May the Lord be near these dear ones as they strive to raise the little ones He's entrusted to their care.

---

**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**Katrina Knobloch**

Bro. Virgil and Sis. Katrina Knobloch are thankful for the precious gift of their son, Jesse Glenn, born November 7. Jesse is doing well but remains hospitalized at the time of this writing due to his early arrival. Big sister, Olivia, is anxiously awaiting him to join her at home. Grandparents are Sis. Laretta and the late Bro. Orvie Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR).

Bro. Lee Esslinger is recovering at home from surgery he had in November. May the Lord's nearness be felt as he continues with therapy.

Our congregation is grateful to Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) for ministering God's Word to us. May our Lord continue to inspire, as well as comfort, His servants.

May our faith and trust remain in the One who came so humbly into this world, and gave Himself completely for us all.

---

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

Bro. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) was our visiting minister this past month. May God bless him for lending himself in preaching His Holy Word. We always appreciate Bro. Bill and Sis.

Susan's visits as they come to visit their son, Brent, and Lisa in our neighboring town.

Spending a few days in the hospital has been Ben Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori). We are thankful that after surgery, Ben is again back to college. Sis. Katie Ludwig has moved from the West Bend Care Center to a nursing home closer to her son and family. She would appreciate getting mail. Her new address is: Katie Ludwig, Fellowship Village, Inwood, IA 51240.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol Gress on the death of her father, Bro. Dan Steiner, of Tremont, IL. Also to Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber on the passing of her sister, Elizabeth Wulf (Emil), of Lester, IA. May these families feel God's loving arms around them and the prayer of many as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

We welcome Sis. Joyce Banwart who has moved here from Florida. May she find much contentment living near her family again.

*The Gift of God's Love*

All over the world at this season,  
Expectant hands reach to receive  
Gifts that are lavishly fashioned,  
The finest that man can conceive...

For, purchased and given at  
Christmas

Are luxuries we long to possess,  
Given as favors and tokens  
To try in some way to express  
That strange, indefinable feeling  
Which is part of this glad time of  
year

When streets are crowded with  
shoppers

And the air resounds with good  
cheer...

But back of each tinsel-tied pack-  
age

Exchanged at this gift-giving sea-

son,  
 Unrecognized often by many,  
 Lies a deeper, more meaningful  
 reason...  
 For, born in a manger at Christ-  
 mas  
 As a gift from the Father above,  
 An infant whose name was called  
 Jesus  
 Brought mankind the gift of  
 God's Love...  
 And the gifts that we give have  
 no purpose  
 Unless God is part of the giving,  
 And unless we make Christmas a  
 pattern  
 To be followed in everyday living.  
 —Helen Steiner Rice

---

### JAPAN, SHIODA Akihiro Ito

We had a fellowship meeting on November 3, which was a Japanese holiday called Culture Day. We have such fellowship meetings twice a year, summer and fall. At that time, the weather was not good, but we had a precious discussion about the future of our church. At first, Bro. Willis Ehnle talked about the history of our church, why and when it was built and how it was brought up by God's grace. Secondly, there was the explanation of the plan to rebuild our Tokyo Church. We also heard that two young men are repenting and that they are willing to help our church.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”  
*Philippians 4:6-7*

All of us hope our church will grow more and more with God's

love. That fellowship meeting brought many good things to our hearts.

Our Shioda Church has had several regular visitors recently. We pray for them, that they will notice their sins and start to repent.

We thank God for recovering Bro. Uchida's health. He couldn't come to church for several weeks because of falling down the stairs. Fortunately, he had no fracture, though.

We are soon to welcome Thanksgiving Day. At that time we would like to share what we are thankful for, and also, a helpful piece of advice we have received.

---

### JAPAN, TOKYO Jana Klaus

“Come unto me, all ye that labor 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*

This was a key verse in the Bible meditation at our monthly ladies' meeting this past Thursday. Is it not a beautiful and comforting invitation from our Lord Jesus?

We were thankful to have a visit from Bro. Phil Baurer (Princeville, IL) who was here on business. Poor Phil had quite a trying time as his luggage went off to Shanghai and didn't catch up to him until four days later. We hope that the reporting of this doesn't scare off any potential visitors!

With thankfulness and pleasure we announce the date of Makoto Inoue's (Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie) baptism here for December 24 with his testimony the afternoon before. The baptismal service is to take place right after the Sunday

School Christmas program, so we hope that many believers and unbelievers will be able to attend this rare and wonderful event! We hope for a blessed day and many lives changed for the better.

We heard from a couple reports that the Elders' recent trip to India went very well and we praise and thank our living gracious God with them.

---

### KANSAS, BERN Lori Baumgartner

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”  
*II Cor. 9:15*

As the Christmas season approaches, we think of Jesus Christ, our Christmas gift. We must agree with the Apostle Paul that Christ truly is a gift that is beyond description. How can we describe the mercy of God in sending His only Son as a babe to be born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger (because there was no room in the inn)? He grew to manhood and lived a perfect life until His death on the rugged cross, where His blood was shed for all the world, not just a chosen few. And now, He sits on the Father's right hand, interceding for us. Because of Him, fear, despair, punishment, terror, hell and death have been replaced with confidence, hope, pardon, peace, Heaven and eternal life! Let us thank our Father for Jesus Christ, our hope of salvation!

When a Christian dies  
 Precious is the Prize  
 Lasting joys for days of sorrow  
 Rest from conflict on the morrow  
 Follows when he dies...  
*Hymns of Zion #248*

We want to express our prayers of sympathy to Bro. Wayne and Sis.

Linda Edelman and their family upon hearing of the death of Linda's father, Bro. Otto Sinn (Sis. Marian), of Silverton, OR. He passed from this life on October 13.

Although rain threatened, the weather moderated, and we enjoyed a blessed evening of fellowship as we gathered for our annual fall picnic on October 22. Our hearts were warmed as the voices of the young and old blended together in song at the close of the evening.

We are thankful for God's traveling mercies as Elder Bro. John Lehman is safely home again after spending time in Japan and a few weeks in India assisting groups of believers over there.

We rejoice with Sis. Rita Hartter and Bro. Trent Menold who were joined together in Holy Matrimony on November 5 in Sabetha. Sis. Rita's parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter (Sabetha) and Bro. Trent's parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey. We gladly welcome Sis. Rita into our congregation and pray that God will guide them as they establish their home.

The following weekend, November 12, many from our congregation traveled to Peoria, IL, to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Jason Strahm (Taylor, MO) and Sis. Courtney Hoerr (Peoria, IL). Bro. Jason is formerly from our congregation and his parents are Clayton and Sis. Miriam Strahm. Sis. Courtney's parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Joann Hoerr (Peoria, IL). We pray for God's blessings on their marriage.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Paul Grimm (Sis. Katie) who was hospitalized recently and is battling a serious illness.

We wish to welcome to our congregation Sis. Suzanne Hoffman (Rockville, CT) who has accepted employment near our area. Sis. Suzanne's parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman (Rockville).

May she feel at home here.

There is beauty all around,  
When there's love at home...  
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,  
When there's love at home.

*Hymns of Zion #64*

We are thankful that God has granted Bro. Rueben and Sis. Stella Moser 65 years together as husband and wife. Their 65th wedding anniversary was October 23. May the Lord continue to bless their lives as He has in the past.

---

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Joleen Sinn

Sis. Ruth Sinn spent some time in the hospital again and has decided to move to Medical Lodge. May God bless her with peace and contentment in her new home.

We were blessed to have two visiting ministers this month: Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO). We would like to thank them and their wives for coming and sharing with us.

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

*Matthew 18:3*

We have felt the joy of having a new convert this month. Taylor Wine has given his life over to his Creator. May he feel God's presence in his life and know the peace that comes from serving Him.

We have been blessed with other visitors over the past month. It is such a blessing to meet and greet others of like faith and we thank everyone for visiting with us.

### KANSAS, KIOWA Laura Wagenbach Jennifer Stewart

To me is given boundless mercy,  
A gift that I did not deserve.  
Such wondrous love, it is so  
marv'lous,  
That such for me should be re-  
served.  
But since I know I will rejoice,  
And praise Thy mercy with my  
voice.

*Zion's Harp #220*

As this Thanksgiving season approaches amidst all the turmoil our country is in (as of the time of this writing we still have no president-elect), the need to thank God for His mercy is more needful than ever.

George Washington's 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation:

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and

protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3rd day of October, A.D. 1789

*(signed) G. Washington*

On November 5, we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane) and family to share our Sunday services with us. We deeply appreciate all our visiting ministers as we don't have them all that often.

We are thankful that Sis. Helen Murrow is up and about after her recent illness.

---

**KANSAS  
LAMONT-GRIDLEY  
Sarah Somerhalder**

We want to thank Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) who was with us Sunday, October 22. May the Lord richly bless him for proclaiming God's precious Word to us and for speaking to us Sunday evening on "Our Heritage". It was certainly a blessed day.

Our sympathy is with Sis. Matilda Beyer (Life Care Center of Burlington, KS) in the passing of her brother, Roy Shif. Also, our prayers are with Sis. Matilda who was admitted to the hospital after suffering a fall causing a laceration to the forehead requiring stitches.

Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy Schrader are the grandparents of a new little grandson, Stefan Karl, born to Bro. John and Sis. Sarah Schrader (Wichita, KS). Bigbrother, Hans Josef, welcomes him home.

---

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

"But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

*Matthew 9:13*

We rejoice with Jaleen Mogler and Michelle Bahr who have heeded the Word of God and have begun

their repentance. Jaleen is the sister of Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Bro. Doug) and the daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler of Lester, IA. Michelle is enrolled at Kansas State University and spends weekends in Sabetha with her grandparents, Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise. Her parents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn Bahr of Detroit, MI.

We also share the joy of our Sis. Rita Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) who exchanged wedding vows with Bro. Trent Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey, Bern) on November 5. May our Lord's blessings, love and grace be upon them as they establish their Christian home. Our thanks goes out to the visiting ministers here that weekend: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bros. James Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Rod Bajema (Lester, IA).

Other visiting ministers occupying our pulpit this month included Bros. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

Bro. Randy Kellenberger was here to show a slide presentation to our Sunday School on his trip to Israel. We thank him for his kindness shown to our youth.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter are experiencing the joy of grandparents once again. Logan Earl was born to Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla Metzger of Lester, IA.

Our prayers are with little Joel Wiegand (Bro. Stan and Sis. Marilyn) who has undergone another heart surgery. We pray that the Lord will bless him and restore him with full health and strength.

Even as the Christmas season is fast approaching and we are busy with preparations for this blessed holiday, let us never forget the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

"O Lord, thou art my God; I will

exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou has done wonderful things;..."

*Isaiah 25:1*

## KANSAS, WICHITA

**Emma Miller**

We had no visiting ministers this past month, however, we had the privilege of being ministered to by our retired ministering brother, Bro. Al Langhofer, who assisted when one of our regular ministering brothers was unable to fulfill his duty because of absence due to traveling or because of infirmities. Bro. Max Reimschisel fits in the last category. He suffered a work related injury recently and experienced considerable pain standing or walking.

The Lord protected Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk as they were returning home after spending the day with the believers at San Marcos, TX. They were caught in a heavy rainstorm and then were hit in such a way that their car was totaled. Praise God, they were not injured and were able to rent a car and return home. I couldn't help but be grateful when I saw them the next Sunday surrounded by their children and four grandchildren. Surely they were spared because the Lord upheld them in His righteous right hand. (see Isaiah 41:10)

Bro. Philip Bowers is leading the Wednesday evening Bible study on the books of Peter. Bro. Phil has a talent for teaching and is willing to be of service for the Lord.

We rejoiced to hear the announcement that Stafen Karl Schrader was born to Bro. John and Sis. Sara on November 11. He has a brother, Hans, and grandparents, Sis. Kathleen Gallatin, and Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy Schrader (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer plan to attend the graduation exer-

cises for their grandson, Mike Peyton, who will complete his basic training at Ft. Benning, GA. Mike has asked for prayers and guidance as he continues in his training.

It is our custom in Wichita for the Sunday school students to join the adults in the assembly room to sing hymns before morning services begin. Nearly every Sunday, some child requests the song, "Jesus Loves Me". That song does not just apply to children. We adults have that same assurance and should be strengthened each time we sing it. Several years ago we were singing it in Sunday School when the song leader corrected us by pointing out that it is "Heaven's gate" not "gates" that open wide.

By the time this article will be in your hands, Thanksgiving will have passed and we will be in the thick of Christmas plans. May we keep Thanksgiving and Christmas in our heart every day and be comforted by the fact that "Jesus loves us because the Bible tells us so."

## KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

**Glenda Neukomm**

"I will lift mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

*Psalms 121*

We're so thankful Bro. Alex Neukomm is recovering. He broke two bones in his foot when he fell while hiking with the young group here in Kentucky.

On Saturday evening, November 4, we had a potluck and singing. A group of young members from Champaign, IL, were our guests. Also, on Saturday evening, November 18, we enjoyed another potluck and singing. This was the weekend three couples who were Rebecca Germann's aunts and uncles, along with her parents and sister, Sis. Jana, and daughter, Emily, visited us. We are very grateful to the Lord for these blessed times of fellowship.

As we read in I John 4:14, "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." We are reminded of the special meaning of the approaching season. Let us humbly consider our Lord and all He has done for us as the Christmas time comes again. With thankful hearts, may we reach out to others this season and put emphasis on the reason for the season—our dear Saviour's birth.

We were so very blessed to have ministering Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) this past month bring us the Word. We pray the Lord will richly bless them.

We always appreciate visitors and extend a welcome to anyone. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

## MEXICO, IXTLAN

**Lorenia Sibaja**

"Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here."



*Mark 16:6*

It is so wonderful the great promise that our Heavenly Father has for every one of His children: salvation. On November 5, our little church in Ixtlan held its first funeral service. We said good-bye to our dear Sis. Delfina Rodriguez Duenas, who had passed away the night before at 98 years of age. She leaves behind her children, Jesus Lira, Salud Campos Lira, Sis. Lidia Portida Lira, Francisco Lira, Sis. Carmen Cervantes Lira, and Sis. Adela Chaves Lira. Sis. Delfina was baptized on November 3, 1996, at 94 years of age. "I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2).

*Meet Sis. Lorenia Sibaja:*

"I was not raised in a Christian home. Some of my sister's friends, whose parents had met our minister and his wife, invited my sister to come to church. Then a little while later I, too, began to attend Young Group with my other sisters. I enjoyed coming and I enjoyed it more and more each time. I could see the love that the minister and his wife and everyone else had for us. At the time I was still in high school when I started to come, so I started to hear the message of salvation and I lost all desire to spend time with my classmates. When I heard the sermons, I felt a great conviction, but I also understood the great gift that the Lord had given us. I knew the Lord was calling me. I remember one time in one of the services it was said, 'The Lord has given you a great gift. Accept it today, because you don't know if there will be a tomorrow to receive it. The Lord is waiting for you with a great love. He is calling you and He wants to give you a new life.' After this I felt a tremendous conviction. Even though I was a great sinner, I knew the Lord was waiting for me with great love, and so I decided to surrender my life to

Him. On July 25, 1998, I began my repentance. As I gained confidence in the Lord, I could feel His wonderful peace within me. It did not even matter if I died because I knew I would be with my Heavenly Father. I was baptized on January 23, 1999, along with my older sister. Not long after, my mother and another sister were also baptized. I am so thankful for those who the Lord has sent to teach and show us His wonderful way. Most of all I am thankful to the Lord for His great gift, His love, His blessings, and His strength which He gives us every day. I am also thankful for each of my brothers and sister in the faith. I want the Lord to use me to share His Word and share His great gift of salvation. I only want to surrender my life completely to the Lord (Romans 8:38-39). I know the Lord's will is perfect. He has since led me to take the step of marriage to Bro. Curt Schmidgall."

---

**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Sandy Schutte**  
**Kristen Plattner**

Thanksgiving: Grateful acknowledgment of favors or gifts; the act of giving thanks, especially to God, for blessings spiritual, temporal and eternal.

Public schools today teach it was a time the Pilgrims thanked the Indians for their help. What a shame that these people who left Europe to escape religious persecution would be so dishonored. The Pilgrims invited the Indians to witness to them. They must have shared with those Indians the same salvation in Jesus that we should be sharing today. Do we have to wonder why we are having trouble choosing a President? J.C. Holland wrote "The heart is wiser than the intellect." It's why Christ lives in our heart. We can rationalize just about anything, but

faith is a matter of the heart. One of the ministering brothers shared with us this month that we are spiritual creatures. We have to choose who's spirit we will live in, "...choose you this day whom ye will serve...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

In the last two months, the people of this community have been touched by death of ones from 9 days old to 102 years old. We have watched people we know bury mothers young and old. Our children have lost a friend who took her life, for reasons we will never know. Maybe these people didn't come to church with us, but have we taken the time to comfort one of these? This is the season to drop them a note or pick up the phone to let them know we know they're hurting. This is the time of year to be thankful, and this is the time of year to show just how you are by reaching out to others. Lamentations 3:22, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not." Our prayers go out to all who have lost loved ones, especially Sis. Darlene and Rick Goodwin on the passing of their grandson, Jacob Allen Mutschler (9 days old), so quickly from this life. "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." (Nahum 1:7)

We have so much to be thankful for as Stephanie Gerst found peace with God in October and was taken into the fold November 4-5. We would like to thank Bros. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) and Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN) for sharing the day with us. What a refreshing uplifting weekend, knowing that the door of grace is still open.

Thank you to Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for spending time with us and sharing the Word.

Congratulations to Sis. Louise

Desotell on the birth of her grandson, David Jeffery Morris (parents are Jeff and Pam Morris of Grand Rapids). Congratulations also go out to David and Tanya Steffen with the birth of their daughter, Cheyenne Alia Steffen, born November 13. Excited to welcome her home is big sister, Brooke. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen, Judy Haglund and Ted Carlson.

Prayers of praise go out that Sis. Margaret Wingeier's leg surgery went well and is able to assemble with us again. She has since spent time in the hospital for other medical reasons. Sis. Christine Wingeier is also in need of our prayers as she has not been feeling well. Pray the physicians can find the cause of her ailment so the healing process can begin.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities: who healeth all thy diseases."

*Psalm 103:2-3*

---

## MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Peggy Jackson  
Rhonda Knochel**

With Thanksgiving and Christmas here again, we are filled with joyous anticipation. The question is, what is it that excites us? Is it the relatives coming to visit, the food or the gifts? It is so easy to lose ourselves in those pleasures that we forget the one thing that we should be thankful for at Christmas. We forget the importance of what happened all those years ago in the tiny village of Bethlehem. Sure, we read the story, but do we truly internalize it's eternal meaning? If so, I am convinced that our greatest joy at this time of year wouldn't be what we are celebrating or how we are celebrating, but who we are celebrating. May it be so in your heart this year.

We rejoice over the marriage of Bro. Mike Howell (Mike Howell Sr. and Pamela Howell) and Sis. Valerie Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheryl, Lester, IA). We pray that God will be at the very center of their relationship as they begin their life together. We are so thankful that Sis. Valerie will be joining Bro. Mike here in Bay City and want to extend a warm welcome to her.

Our sincere thanks are extended to Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and his family for coming to Bay City to aid Elder Bro. Andy Virkler in the reading of the Memorandum. We hope that they will be blessed for giving so freely of their time and energy to serve our congregation.

There is nothing quite like the excitement of having a new little one join us. This month we rejoice with Alan and Vicki Schlatter as they welcomed Evan Thomas into their family. Evan joins big brother, Travis, and older sister, Carlie. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Margaret Schlatter and Steve and Sally Walczak.

We had two sisters spend time in the hospital this month. They are: Sis. Shirley Wright (Bro. Gary) and Sis. Dolores Munsel (Bro. Fred). We pray that God's healing touch will continue to be upon them and that they may feel His nearness in their recovery.

May God bless each of you in the month ahead.

---

## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Bonnie Bedolla  
Crystal Ramsier**

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

*Luke 15:10*

With her decision to give her heart to God, Michelle Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn) caused a lot of rejoicing in our congregation, as well as in Heaven. We're thankful that grace is still being given and our prayers are with her as she allows God to convert her heart.

Tiffany Wieland (Mark and Joy) and Jerry Kondraciuk were united in marriage on November 4. We wish them many happy years together, filled with God's blessings and guidance.

We're thankful that Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) returned safely from a three week trip to India. Elder Bros. John Leman (Bern, KS), John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and their wives traveled with him. The group was blessed with a stop in Japan to fellowship with our beloved brethren and friends there, and had the opportunity to assess the spiritual and physical needs of the staff and the people served by the Rural Gospel Medical Mission, to assess the effectiveness of the mission operations, and to counsel, teach and fellowship with the believers there. May God continue to guide and bless this work.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

*Psalm 32:8*

Bro. Bill Gerst (Sis. Judy, Alto, MI) held services at Woodhaven this month. The Woodhaven residents are always grateful for the opportunity to attend church and we're glad for Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy's willingness to serve them. We also appreciate Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) visiting and teaching us from God's Word.

There is never a shortage of people who need our prayers. A number of people in our congregation have

been struggling with various health problems. Sis. Vi Barton, Bro. Dan Knochel, Bro. George Popp, Sis. Maria Sabados, Sis. Ann Tachar, Bro. Floyd Wieland and Bro. Guy Wieland, along with their families and caregivers, all need our continued prayers.

Our Detroit Choir enjoyed a blessed weekend November 4-5 when we traveled to Gridley, IL. We had a wonderful weekend of fellowship with their congregation and with each other on the bus. Praise God for the blessing of fellowship and for the opportunity to sing praises to Him!

---

**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Delores Sauder**

We are excited to welcome Bro. Matt, Sis. Lynn, Zachary, Molly, Morgan and Nicholas Musselman to our church family. We hope they can feel at home here.

Jamie and Jodi Pelzel are exited first-time parents as they welcome little Lucy Elizabeth. May God grant them the grace to train up a child in His ways. Sis. Carol Ann Messner (Winthrop, MN) is the happy grandmother.

We are thankful that occupations on occasion bring brethren to our area. Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) were among us and shared with us the Word of God.

Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) assisted our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) in reading of the Memorandum. We thank these brothers for their love and concern for our small congregation.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to several in our congregation, including Bro. John and Sis.

Jane Wiegand in the death of Sis. Jane's brother, Bro. Nelson Rocke, of Tremont, IL; and to Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae Dill in the death of Bro. Dewayne's grandfather, Bro. Dan Steiner, of Tremont, IL. May God fill the void in their lives.

As we look forward to the celebration of Christmas, let us not forget it's true meaning.

---

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS  
Cheryl Messner  
Dianne Kellenberger**

We appreciated having Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) here to share God's Word with us this past month.

On November 4-5 we were bountifully blessed when six precious souls told how God has worked in their lives. Those born again out of water and spirit were Heidi Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa), Paul Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), Alexis and Mitchell Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley), Savanna Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen), and Kayla Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Debra).

We were reminded what a great lamentation it will be when the day of grace is ended, and those that heard the Word preached, and knew they should repent, suddenly realize they've been left without. A lamentation that will be in all eternity!

On November 12 we witnessed the marriage of Bro. Benji Kellenberger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley) of Lester, IA, and Sis. Leah Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl). We pray they will serve God and one another faithfully.

This union of our hearts  
Shall stand through grace in Jesus;  
We walk the path of life,  
While cheer and trust increases.

Where God in truth abides,  
Where two join hand and heart,  
We find a threefold cord,  
Not lightly rent apart.

*Zion's Harp #79*

Let us be thankful that we as a nation have a day set aside to give thanks to God for all that He has done for us.

---

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP  
Carol Ann Messner  
Marilyn Messner**

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

*Matthew 25:13*

Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) was here to assist Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner with the reading of the Memorandum. We were reminded that meekness is the noblest virtue, every Christian's honor bright. The Lord came to serve and not to be served.

"Therefore fear thou not...I will save thee from afar...For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee..."

*Jeremiah 30:10-11*

Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) helped in the proving and baptism of Sis. Sue Sward. We rejoice with her sister and family, Sis. Jamie and Bro. Verl Schmidt. We welcome her into the family of God.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine, Bay City, MI) here for Wednesday evening services. We appreciate the time and effort to all ministers who come and serve the Winthrop congregation. May God bless them all.

Our annual after 55 supper was held. The Sunday School classes prepare and serve. The youth and the

older people have a good time sharing and listening together. We thank the Sunday School and their teachers for their efforts of love.

First-time parents of Lucy Elizabeth Pelzel are Jamie and Jodi of Shakopee. Lucy entered the world on October 26. Sis. Carol Ann Messner is the maternal grandparent. We pray for God's blessings on this new family.

How quickly Christmas comes upon us year after year. We always say we will be ready next year and then it's here. We pray all will be ready to meet the Lord's return because we will not be able to say "I will be ready next time." Let us rejoice in the love God has shown by sending His Son to live among us and in our hearts. "And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14)

*Note of Thanks:*

We, the family of Bro. Ray Messner, wish to express our deepest appreciation for all the kind deeds, the prayers, flowers, food, phone calls, cards and to everyone who helped in any way during and after the funeral. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

*The family of Ray Messner*

God looked around His garden  
And He found an empty place  
He then looked down upon the earth  
And saw your tired face.

He put his arms around you  
And lifted you to rest  
God's garden must be beautiful  
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering  
He knew you were in pain  
He knew that you would never  
Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough  
And the hills were hard to climb  
So He closed your weary eyelids  
and whispered, "Peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you didn't go alone  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.

---

**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Komari Neal**

The hearts of our congregation were filled with joy this month as we witnessed another dear soul enter the fold. Our dear friend and convert, Gayle McAfee, gave her testimony before the church on November 11. As always, this was a special time for each brother and sister as we examined our own lives. We not only witnessed the proving of our dear convert, but we also proved ourselves. Are we not truly blessed to have this opportunity?

On Sunday, November 12, we prepared to witness the baptism and laying on of hands for Gayle. During the afternoon service, the scripture fell open in Matthew, Chapter 4. This seemed so appropriate as Matthew Chapter 3 tells of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. Then, Chapter 4 of Matthew gives the account of Satan tempting Jesus in the wilderness. Are we not tempted as well? Do we not feel Satan buffet us even after our conversion and commitment to Christ? And there, in Matthew Chapter 4, we read of the many temptations of Christ and learned how He humbly resisted and set the perfect example for us. Our prayer is that each brother and sister in Christ may strive to follow the example set by our Lord, Jesus Christ, to overcome.

We were also blessed to hear the reading of the Memorandum. The

encouragements, admonishments and directions from the Elder Body also help us to examine our lives and strive to overcome the things of this world.

Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) assisted our own Elder Bro. Don Braker with the proving, baptism and the reading of the Memorandum. Ministering Bro. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) was also with us. We thank these brothers for their labors and support.

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

*I John 4:4*

---

**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Kristen Braker**  
**Kristi Huber**

We were privileged to gather for worship services on a Thursday evening because of visiting ministering brethren in our area. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) with us.

We also gathered on Saturday, November 4, to hear the reading of the Memorandum and the exhortations of our dear Elder brethren. We are thankful to have had Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) assist our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi on Saturday evening and again minister God's Word the following day. May God richly bless these brethren for ministering the truth to us.

---

**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Rachel Schrock**

"If you miss the first hymn of the song service, you have missed the first blessing of the day," a minister recently quoted an older member's admonition regarding Sunday

morning promptness. How true it is that this time of praising our Lord also brings blessings to those who are doing the singing—if they are considering the words that they are singing, that is.

We have also been blessed this past month as the following ministering brethren have visited us: Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and Bros. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). May God's nearness be felt by each of these brothers as they willingly serve Him.

As we are now in the holiday season, let us consider the many blessings that we oftentimes take for granted. Besides those mentioned above (praising the Lord in song, visiting ministers), we enjoy so much more: fellowshiping with the saints, good health, freedom of religion, loving family members...the list goes on and on. May we all strive to remain thankful throughout the coming year and try not to take our blessings for granted.

---

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Peg Haerr

The Harvest Celebration was held at Bro. Dan and Sis. Tina Sutter's. We thank them for hosting this event.

The Bible Class traveled to Morton, IL, to sing at ACYF on November 5.

November 12 was the wedding day of Bro. Jason Strahm (Clayton and Sis. Miriam, Bern, KS) and Sis. Courtney Hoerr (Bro. Joe and Sis. JoAnn, Peoria, IL). We wish God's richest blessings upon this couple and welcome Sis. Courtney to Taylor!

Several from our congregation traveled to Elgin, IA, and Belvidere, IL, to help on work projects.

Bro. Ben Knapp has moved to Eu-

reka. We wish him happiness in his new home.

We extend our sympathy to Dean Redd (Gaye) on the loss of his brother, Charles, and to Bro. Mike Stratton (Sis. Cheryl) in the passing of his father, Walter. May God continue to help these families through these difficult times.

Oliver Michael was born to Michael and Carrie Sherman of Peoria, IL, on October 28. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr and Gayle and Sharon Sherman of Yates City, IL. Great-grandmother is Berniece White of Yates City, IL.

Taylor John was born to John and Julie (Doyle) Gerst on November 9. His brother, Tyler, welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Marge Gerst, Ron Doyle, and Darlene Doyle, all of Quincy, IL. Great-grandparents are Bro. Leslie and Sis. Mayme Gerst of Mediapolis, IA. We're happy that John is doing better after spending time in the hospital. May God grant patience and wisdom to these families as they raise their little ones!

We are thankful for answered prayers that our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and Sis. Dona returned safely from their trip to visit our churches in Japan and The Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India. The R.G.M.M.I. is under the guidance of the Mission Committee and the Elder Body with the assistance of World Relief. Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona, along with Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) left home October 4 and returned home October 27 (Sis. Connie returned following the visit to Japan). They express thanks for all your prayers and support of this work through your contributions to the World Relief and Mission funds!

### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

*Ephesians 5:20-21*

Thanksgiving will soon be here when we must give thanks for Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

On October 22, we had with us ministering Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and we also had visiting brothers and sisters from Fairbury, IL; Toledo, OH; and West Bend, IA.

On Sunday, October 29, we had visiting brothers and sisters from Rockville, CT.

On Saturday, November 4, we had Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) with us. We had a potluck supper and then we had the reading of the Memorandum from the recent Brotherhood Conference. Bro. Andy assisted Elder Bro. Duane Farney for the reading. We thank Bro. Andy for being with us.

We also had ten sisters with us from Smithville, Rittman and Mansfield, OH.

Sis. Julia Karcher was admitted to the hospital, but she was able to assemble with us the following Sunday. Sis. Esther Rauhe entered the hospital but is home now.

---

### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We were blessed to have the following visiting ministers give us inspiring messages recently: Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Mark

Steiner (Smithville, OH). May the Lord reward them for their loving efforts.

---

## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Anita Steiner

On October 29, we had an appreciation potluck and singing for Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) who has been our Elder for the past 17 years. He has turned over his responsibilities for shepherding our flock to Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). May God bless these two brothers—Bro. Eugene for all he has done for our church and Bro. Mark for the duties placed upon him.

On November 3, we had a World Relief night. We enjoyed a night of fellowship and doing our small part to help those that are less fortunate.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). May God richly reward them for their efforts.

Employment has taken Travis Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) to North Carolina. May God provide for him. His new address is as follows:

Travis Banks  
112 South St.  
Moyock, NC 27958

---

## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Cindy Schlatter

Two of our converts feel that they are at peace with God and all man. These converts are Larry Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Micah Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon). May God continue to be with you as you look forward to the weekend of testimony and, Lord willing, baptism.

Several in our congregation were either in the hospital, or had a mis-

hap that laid them up a few days, but thankfully did not require hospital stay. We are thankful Sis. Cathy Manz (Bro. Mark), Bro. Corbin Schlatter (Sis. Audrey) and Samantha Bauman (Sis. Peg) are assembling with us again.

Elder Bro. Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH) was with us a few weeks ago to assist in reading the Memorandum. It was a blessed evening for our church family to be both admonished and encouraged as we daily strive to live our lives for our Lord and Saviour. We trust God will bless you, Bro. Andrew, and also Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) who brought the Word to us this past month. Please come back and visit us again as the Lord would open the way.

We extend our sympathy to James McCullough (Sis. Julie) in the passing of his dad. Time and events in this life are often pondered in our minds why they have to take place, but we must take courage and remember that all things are in God's hands. Our prayers will surely be with you and your family.

---

## OHIO, LATTY

### Kathy Sinn

### Heidi Hackenjos

We thank our visiting ministers for their visit and their willingness to break the "bread of life". They include: Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) and Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN). May God continue to bless them and their families.

God has answered many prayers during the month. Alan Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) has begun his repentance. Blane Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) has been announced as having peace with God and all men. May God continue to bless and keep Alan as he walks this

new walk, and Blane as he approaches a time of testimony and baptism. As we have learned that the Lord "will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5), may our converts be able to testify of it, too.

We gathered for the reading of the Memorandum of the Brotherhood Conferences. What a blessed evening to hear the warnings from the shepherds of our souls. May our obedience and submission to these warnings be the strength that will hold up their arms. Also let us remember all of our Elders in prayer.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vicky Laukhuf welcome another grandchild. A son was born into the home of Brant and Sis. Katie Zuber, who along with "big sis", Kayla, welcome Braden Alan. Our prayer would be that God's presence would always be felt in this home.

Our Sis. Florence Stoller (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Bro. Ken) have yielded to surgery during the past month. We look forward to the time when they can again gather with us. May God be with them as they heal, giving them strength to endure the pain.

Bro. Delmar and Sis. Marguerite Stoller commemorated their 50th wedding anniversary. We pray that God will continue to bless them and their family circle in the coming days and years.

As the temperatures drop as well as the leaves and the wind starts to blow, we realize that harvest is past for another season. We certainly need to thank our Heavenly Father for the many blessings again this year. The greatest blessing being the gift of His Son. Remember to put Him in the center of our holiday gatherings and as a Silent Listener in our daily conversations.

---

**OHIO, MANSFIELD****John and Marci Pfeiffer**

Our Conference Memorandum was on November 4. We thank Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and our Elder Bro. Mark Masters for their efforts. We pray the Lord will richly bless them.

We enjoyed our annual Fall Outing at the Richland Rural Life Center. The children played games and after a potluck meal, we sang hymns.

Those who were ill or spent time in the hospital this past month were Tony Eichof, Ella Erhart, and Bro. Frank Graszl (Sis. Peg). May God be with them.

Our sympathy is extended the family of Joe Sferro, who passed away. May God comfort your family as only He can.

Bro. Jared and Sis. Stephanie Hill are the parents of a daughter, Alaina Marie. Alaina was born on November 11. Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann Domka and Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda Hill are now grandparents!

**OHIO, RITTMAN****Cheryl Hartzler  
Beth Beery**

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more: neither

shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

*Revelation 7:9,13,14,16,17*

Thro' the gates to the city  
in a robe of spotless white,  
He will lead me where no tears  
will ever fall;

In the glad song of ages  
I shall mingle with delight;  
But I long to meet my Saviour  
first of all.

I shall know Him,  
I shall know Him,  
And redeemed by His side I shall  
stand,

I shall know Him,  
I shall know Him  
by the print of the nails in His  
hand.

*Gospel Hymns #740*

Four souls have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, "...to whom it (righteousness) shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead." (Romans 4:24). On October 21-22, testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Katrina Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Bro. Stephen Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois), Bro. Luke Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Elaine Baltic, Lexington, KY (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Betty, Lexington) were witnessed. Many visitors were here to share in the joy, including Elder Bros. Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Robert Walder (Congerville, IL), Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH) and ministering Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Mark Steiner and Glenn Riggenbach (Smithville, OH), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH).

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

*II Peter 3:9*

We are thankful that Julie Bauman (Sis. Nancy and Dale) and Shane Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan) are not willing to perish, by repenting and being converted. We pray that they will have the power of the Holy Spirit.

The unity in marriage of Todd Mowrer (Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mowrer) and Jamie Bauman (Daryl and Ivy) was witnessed by many on November 11. May the Lord bless them as they walk this life's journey as one. "So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well..." (I Cor. 7:38).

Joining the family of John and Sis. Cynthia, Rachael and Rebecca Nussbaum on November 2 is little Renee Ellen. "...for joy that a man (woman) is born into the world." (St. John 16:21). To share in that joy are grandparents, John Nussbaum, Sr. and Elizabeth Arko, and Erwin and Geraldine Wagner.

"...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

*St. John 16:33*

Our surgical patient this past month was Bro. Jonathon Hartzler (Sis. Mary) and our medical patient was Sis. Mary Ellen Bauman. Whether we are spiritually (such as written in Zion's Harp #47) or physically "o'er long burdened", we need the prayers of those we love, praying for the peace of God.

Christmas will soon be here, the day we remember Christ's birthday, the time God promised, God in human flesh who was soon to redeem us from our sins. God knew our

greatest need.

*God Knew Our Greatest Need*

If our greatest need had been information,

God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,

God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,

God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,

God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,

So God sent us a Saviour.

—author unknown

**OHIO, SARDIS**

**Angie Figel**

No room for the Saviour, no room in the inn,

No place in its shelter, without or within;

And yet in its shadow, the comrade of kine

Was born in the darkness, your Saviour and mine.

*Gospel Hymns #858*

Don't crowd the Lord Jesus out of your heart. Leave it wide open for Him so He may freely do His will.

Thad Eli was born into the lives of Bro. Dana, Sis. Joy and little Caleb Indermuhle. Grandparents who feel truly blessed are Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle and Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard (Toledo, OH).

Our visiting minister was Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH). We appreciate Bro. Gary's service to the Lord and to us.

May God bless his efforts.

Hospitalized this month was Thad Indermuhle (Bro. Dana and Sis. Joy) and Stephanie Alrutz (Bro. Allan and Sis. Janet Indermuhle). We pray that God will touch the lives of little Thad and Stephanie with His healing hand.

**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**

**Ruth Gasser  
Edith Miller**

“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. 21:4*

Following a four-year battle with cancer, our dear Bro. Ben Maibach, 50, was called to his eternal rest. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Linda; his daughter, Jennifer; and son, Benjamin; as well as other survivors, including his parents, Bro. Roy and Sis. Mabel Maibach (Rittman, OH); and brothers and sisters, Bill (Nadida), Bro. Ken (Sis. Sue Ellen), Bro. Steve (Sis. Dawn), Nancy Bates (Jim), Sis. Karen Riegenbach (Joe), Jane Curie (David), Sis. Betty Bachman (Zane), Marge Maibach, Sis. Sandy Dotterer (Bro. Gary) and Deb Ramseyer (Don).

We wish to thank Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) for spending a Sunday with us recently. May God bless him for allowing himself to be used to bring forth the Word of truth.

We are thankful we can report another soul has turned her back to the world and wishes to follow in the steps of the Saviour. We wish Shannon Bauman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer) an abundance of grace as she begins this new walk of life.

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

*Matthew 1:21-23*

As Christmas approaches, we are once again reminded of Jesus' power to save us from our sins. We are thankful for the promise that God is with us. We wish for each of you Christmas blessings.

**OHIO, TOLEDO**

**Rebecca Beard  
Edie Fetter**

“For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord;”

*Jeremiah 30:17*

It is our prayer that all who are in need of healing would feel the hand of the Great Physician. Recent surgical patients have been Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon), Sis. Connie Sancraint (Dave) and Sis. Freda Rehklau.

Sis. Sarah Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee) has found employment in the Detroit area. We wish her God's blessings and will miss her presence in our congregation.

**OREGON, PORTLAND**

**Louisa Gallup**

This past month we enjoyed visits from several Elder brethren and their wives. After having spent some time with our neighboring congregation in Silverton, Elder Bro.



Aaron Steffen and his wife, Sis. Loretta (Alto, MI), stopped by Portland and joined us for a church dinner. Later that evening, we listened to Bro. Aaron as he talked about the early beginning and history of the Alto congregation. It was very interesting and inspiring to hear how a congregation grew from only one person to the current attendance of well over 200 souls. We finished this pleasant evening by singing some hymns together. We do thank Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta for their loving support. May the Lord bless them both.

On November 5, we held our annual Communion service. It was a blessed day and a very special time together as brothers and sisters in Christ. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Elder Bros. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton) and Wes Knapp (Sis. Mildred, Goodfield, IL). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to give of themselves.

We also thank Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele, Silverton, OR) for bringing us the Word recently. We appreciate all visitors who came by and hope they will do so again when they can.

---

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

The congregation was pleased to hear the good news that three dear souls have the faith to believe that they have received the Lord's forgiveness and peace. They are Todd Haun and Nelson and Lisa Kuenzi. Parents are Dorothy Haun of Salem, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara Kuenzi and Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Lester, IA). The weekend of January 7, 2001, is planned for their opportunity to come before the brethren with their testimonies of faith. We look forward to this blessed time and hope that they will feel our prayers for

God's nearness in this special time of their lives.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) was here the middle of October and with our Elder Bro. Art Metz served the Lord's Supper to the Silverton brothers and sisters. Our Lord said "...this do in remembrance of me" and in obeying His request we are humbled anew at His great sacrifice, in our place.

Little Collin James Zollinger made his welcome appearance on November 14. Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa, Brianna and Carson Zollinger complete the family circle at home. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi, all of Silverton.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Robert Miller (Portland, OR). Their willingness to serve is appreciated.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Our heartfelt thanks to all for the prayers, letters, food and many acts of kindness shown us, during the loss of our dear husband, father and grandfather. May God richly reward each and every one.

*The Otto Sinn Family*

---

### **PENNSYLVANIA** **PHILADELPHIA**

#### **Nathan and** **MaryElizabeth Gasser**

This month we rejoiced as Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman were united in marriage. May the Lord bless their marriage as they begin their new life together. We also thank Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumberg, NY) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for being with us and for sharing the Word.

We also gathered this month to listen to the tapes of this year's

Brotherhood Conference. We were reminded of the many blessings we enjoy as we walk a life of faith here on earth, and also of the many responsibilities we have to our Lord and our Saviour who makes this life possible for us. May we strive together for greater unity in our families and our congregations, and for a greater light and witness in our communities as we strive to be ambassadors for the Lord.

---

### **TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE** **Mike and Monica Fritz**

We have enjoyed the Word of Life brought to us recently by willing ministers, including Bros. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty, Roanoke, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL) and Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL). What a joy and privilege we have as God's children to be encouraged, admonished, and strengthened by messages from brothers across the land as we all walk together toward our heavenly goal.

Throughout the month, we also enjoyed the fellowship of many visitors from Athens, AL; Eureka, IL; Bluffton and Francesville, IN; Lamar, MO; Latty and Rittman, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We meet every Sunday. We normally have visiting ministers scheduled on the first and third Sundays of each month, and tape services on the other Sundays. We also meet on Wednesday evenings for singing. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

---

### TEXAS, CENTRAL

#### Dan and Pam Sauder

We are thankful for those who have recently moved into the central Texas area and are supporting our small worship service. Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger from Francesville, IN, have felt moved to relocate to the Austin area. We welcome them as well as their six children, Serenity, Jasmine, Eli, Gideon, Boaz and Hogan. Additionally, Dale Kaisner has settled in Austin, coming here from Melbourne, FL. Brian, Terri and Bradley Kaisner will appreciate having some family close by.

Visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us recently were Bros. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS), Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN), Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, OR) and Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL). We truly appreciate those who are willing to be used by the Lord for our benefit.

Our services are currently being held in one location. We are meeting

at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35 approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Exit at #206 and find the hotel on the northwest side access road.

Our January schedule of worship services and churches sending ministers include: the 7th (Bluffton, IN), 14th (Morton, IL), 21st (Bern, KS) and 28th (Tremont, IL).

We extend a welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (979) 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 and Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger (512) 933-1380.

---

### TEXAS, ZAPATA

#### Joyce Nohl

#### Mary Plattner

This is the season that we anxiously await as our winter visitors

begin to return for the winter months. Each Sunday we are able to greet someone new that has returned for the winter.

Thanksgiving tradition for us has been having a service on Thanksgiving Day followed by a traditional dinner in the church which we again did this year. This was started years ago as very few of our residents have extended families here in Zapata. Those with families look forward to spending it with the congregation.

We are pleased to have Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger (Washington, IL) join our congregation. She is teaching and doing administrative work at a school for the Deaf in Rio Bravo, Mexico. We certainly welcome Jennifer as she worships with us each Sunday. The School for the Deaf has been one of the work projects that our church has given support to.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

world. Our needs and our foes and our concerns are all very different from each other, but we know that we each and every one had them. Satan doesn't give any of us a day off or a free ride. He is ever about us trying to destroy us or to steal away our close fellowship with God or to seek to damage us or to steal away our peace. Our foes are ever about us.

It goes on to say, "O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness." (Psalm 30:2-4). We really need to be reminded often of His holiness, don't we? To let a song of gratitude well up in our hearts and if we actually verbalize or utter a sound of singing praise unto Him, we know that those things lift our hearts up. They strengthen us and they do us good, but even more so, they touch the very heart of God. The song and the melody that we have in our heart that is focused on bringing praise to God touches the very heart of God. It makes Him appreciate and love us even more, if that is even possible.

It is hard for us to comprehend just how much God really loves us. We know that we can't comprehend when we think of what He did for us in the sending of His Son and being willing to shed that innocent blood to make Jesus suffer on our behalf. It is just impossible for us to comprehend how much God loves us.

Then to think that we can actually do things in this life as we walk here in our weakness. It seems like so often we stumble and we fall so short of our own expectations of ourselves. The Father sees just how little we are and how often we fail. But we know that He is willing to overlook so many of those things, especially if our attitude is one of submission and is one that really is focused on serving Him and in pleasing Him instead of Him pleasing us. It does bring a glory unto Him. He remembers that! His memory is perfect and there isn't anything that we could possibly give up. There isn't anything that we can possibly do in service unto God that goes unnoticed by Him. He remembers all those things.

Someday when we come to that Day of Judgment, those things are all going to be weighed in balances, aren't they? We are just thankful for His mercy because of His willingness to forgive us, and because of our faith in the shed blood of Jesus that He would be willing to forgive us of the sins that we are all guilty of. God is willing to forget that. Then to think that His perfect memory would remember all those little things that we might have been able to do by His grace brought a glory unto Him.

It says, "For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (Psalm 30:5). It reminds us that there really is a balance of difficult times and then of blessings in our lives. It is necessary that there are times

when we have to feel the anger of God and when we transgress or when we do something that we need to feel His correction. We know that it hurts and it causes us discomfort, but we really do need His chastisement, don't we?

If we were not chastised by the Lord, we would be so terribly spoiled and we would become so ungrateful and we would go our own way and God would receive absolutely no glory at all. We need His continual presence and His chastisement to help us draw closer unto Him, even as children need to be chastised by their parents so they are shaped and nurtured into that which we try so hard to make them turn into. God is really doing the same with us.

"For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (Psalm 30:5). After those difficult times, there is fruit, isn't there? Sometimes we re-examine ourselves and make corrections after some time to grow and to let some of the memory of the pain dissolve away. Then the fruit comes in a renewed zeal to walk closer to Him and to really avoid those things that cause us difficulty. Then joy comes in the morning as we feel the warmth even of the love of God as He flows back into our heart.

We read of a special time here in our second reading in this first chapter of the Acts. Here we are reminded of the time that the disciples were together with Jesus after

*Sermon continued on next page...*

*Sermon continued from page 43*

His crucifixion and His arising from the grave. That was a special time that He spent with them. We have to think of the words that He shared with the disciples in those moments right before He was taken up to be with His Father in heaven. Such precious advice. Not just advice, but they are instructions for us even today, aren't they, as we come into memory on these things?

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." (Acts 1:4-5). That Holy Ghost was something that they really didn't understand, was it? They really didn't know just how precious the gift was going to be. They really didn't understand how much help and how much they were going to depend upon the strength, the understanding, the guidance, and the blessings that they would receive when the Holy Ghost was shared freely unto those who had been cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

So we really do live in a special time, don't we? It would have been special to have been there physically with Jesus at that time, but I think we have it even so much easier today. Yes, we do live in a time when the struggles in the world are evil and we have so many concerns that it would be so easy to feel in utter despair. The Holy Ghost has been shared without reservation unto

those who have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus and the understanding that we now have.

These disciples really lived in a somewhat spirit of confusion and maybe looked at this whole thing as a bit mysterious, didn't they? It is true that their understanding was granted unto them in the time to come. If we would read on through the books, we would read how fruitful they were and how blest they were when that Spirit did come into their hearts. We have it so abundant around us today and with us. We should never ever take for granted that precious gift that was given at that time.

"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Just reminds us that their understanding wasn't clear. "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." (Acts 1:6-7). That particular verse also reminds us that our vision isn't perfectly clear either, is it? We are not supposed to understand perfectly what the Father's plans are. We understand perfectly if we are obedient unto God. We understand perfectly what His will is, if we seek to know His will. If we seek with a diligent heart to do His will, we will know what His will is.

His will is defined for us here in the Word and it is without error. But it is not for us to know the Father's plans, is it? He tells us as much as He knows that we will need to know. He reveals unto us and He

metes it out to us in a measure that He knows that we are going to need it. It really isn't something that should cause us to be distressed when we really can't figure out and we don't understand what the Father's will is. Sometimes there are situations in our lives that don't go the way that we absolutely thought they were supposed to go. We thought that we knew and knew what to expect when things don't go the way we thought or the way we wanted. We just have to be submissive to the memory that we carry and the instructions that we have here. We don't always know what the Father's plans are.

Even if we know what the Father's plans are, we don't always know and we certainly don't know His time table, not the way He knows it. It is not given unto us to know that. It is really something that we don't need to know but to just be thankful for the time and opportunities that He gives us, and for the understanding He does give us and then be content. He wants so much for us to be content.

It goes on and says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8). That really does describe where we are today, doesn't it? We really understand those who have tasted of the power of the Holy Spirit. We really understand just how meaningful that is. Each one of us who have shared in that gift know just how

impossible it was for us to stand up against the wiles of the devil when we were in our unconverted state and didn't have that Holy Ghost as a source of power and of strength.

We know how the Holy Spirit is able to do in us things that, as we look at ourselves in all honesty, know that it was impossible without the Holy Spirit that we could ever overcome this or could have been able to do this or that. It is a precious thing, isn't it? That Holy Ghost is such an important part. It is an absolute necessity within our lives. It has to be the driving force of our every conscious thought, and our every action. But we also think that this gift that has been given to us is capable of so much power. It is also so fragile that the relationship that we have with that can become tarnished. We can lose that precious gift. That power is available unto us if we keep ourselves clean and if we keep ourselves pure and sanctified in the eyes of God.

We only become cleansed by the blood of Jesus. He takes us as wretched and unworthy creatures as we are in this life. Then He cleans us, purifies us and He makes us holy in His sight through the washing of the blood of Jesus. Then it is up to us to maintain that purity. It is up to us to maintain our vessel so that we are a fit vessel for the Holy Spirit. God wants to give us that Holy Spirit that is absolutely everything we will ever need to overcome anything in this life that we will ever have to deal with. But it is up to us to maintain our vessels as a fit habitation for that Spirit.

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11). That very thought should just really put a lump in our throat, shouldn't it? Doesn't it just touch our hearts to think how wonderful it is going to be when Jesus comes to gather His own? In such awe, they must have looked up into those clouds as they saw their beloved Lord and Saviour being taken up out of their sight. We have to wonder what was really in their hearts. It is hard for us to comprehend and it is even harder to comprehend what our hearts might be when we look up and we see Him.

We have a promise here. These two angels who came and explained it to His followers said that He "shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11). We are told later in the books how He is going to come in the clouds and that every eye will see Him...every eye will see Him! Each and every one of us! There are some whose eyes have grown dim and maybe can't see so well anymore, but I really believe that when Jesus comes, our focus, our eyesight, and our perception is going to be perfect. I think that God is going to want every creature and every man on

earth to see Him perfectly. We are going to be there and see Him.

Then the disciples returned. "Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet...And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode..." and it lists all of the disciples here. (Acts 1:12-13). God kept track of each and every detail, didn't He? He knew the names of everyone who was in attendance. He knew what was in their thoughts. He knew what was in their minds. He still remembers it today. Those things are not forgotten by God.

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication..." (Acts 1:14). It really is the way we want to be together also, isn't it? Don't we want to be considered and don't we want to be viewed by God in exactly the same light that God viewed that group of believers? He looked at those men, Mary, and to the brethren and He saw a group of people there who were in prayer and supplication all in one accord. He wants us to be together like that today. He wants us to live like that throughout our whole lives so that we are continually in prayer and supplication toward Him. To be together, as a body of believers, that we be in one accord.

It takes maintenance and it takes effort but we all serve just that one God and we are all recipients of just that one Holy Spirit. He is not divided. He is not diverse. He doesn't have many faces. He really is only One and He shares to us equally as

*Sermon continued on next page...*

*Sermon continued from page 45*

we need so we can be in one accord. That is His desire for us. He wants us to be of that mind, to all be the same, and to all serve Him the same.

“And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)” So they did have a good size gathering. “Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.” (Acts 1:15-17). We all know the story about how Judas through his transgression fell and lost his place to be numbered among the twelve.

Now the apostles were going to fulfill the instructions of the Word, where It says, “For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishopric let another take. Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.” (Acts 1:20-22). So at that time and so it is the same today, isn't it? We try in our human weakness and

in our human understanding but according to the promptings of the Spirit of God, we try to maintain a good Godly order that is defined in the Word of God.

They were instructed in the Word of God that they were going to have to face this situation and there was going to be one whose habitation would be desolate and another would have to be appointed and his bishopric let another take. So they sought by the instructions that they understood in the Word to find a replacement, even for Judas.

“And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.” (Acts 1:23-26). The situation today is very much different, isn't it? There hasn't been a brother that has fallen from grace and that there is a replacement being sought for. I really don't think that it is a coincidence that God would have opened the Word to this Scripture this afternoon.

He is telling us and reminding us

that there is going to be times when there is going to be a need to have a selection of a servant. That is what they did here. They selected a servant, and look how they did it. They prayed and committed it unto the Lord, and said, “Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show whether of these two thou hast chosen.” (Acts 1:24). It really is so important. They didn't come unto the Lord and seek approval for their own personal opinions. They came unto the Lord and asked which of these two hast Thou chosen.

It really needs to be in our minds also, doesn't it? When we consider the appointment of a brother like we are considering this afternoon or it doesn't matter if it is for any of the church offices, whatever it might be. There are many, many duties and responsibilities in the faith that it is always in our heart. It is always our desire to have the Lord's will be done; not our own will. What is the Lord's will? He certainly has one. If we are standing in grace with Him and we seek to be perfectly aligned in unity to Him, He will reveal it unto us. We just pray that His will would be done and that He gives us that clear focus and that clear understanding that we can always be together in these things.



## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2001

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, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail [thitzhome@juno.com](mailto:thitzhome@juno.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail [ksss@dpc.net](mailto:ksss@dpc.net).

Country	Project	Date	Location	Coordinator	Facility	Count	Percentage
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 4-12, '01	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	9	60%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jan 3-10, '01	Montego Bay	Mark Criss	Deaf School	60	100%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	Jan 18-26, '01	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	100%
Haiti	AWA-T	Jan 18-26, '01	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
Haiti	AWA-B	Jan 18-26, '01	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational Sch.	2	100%
Haiti	MEBSH	Jan 25 - Feb 2, '01	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	9	(*) 50%
Haiti	SEED	Feb 15-23, '01	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 2-10, '01	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 8-16, '01	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 9-17, '01	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder (TBA)	Work Place	40	95%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 15-23, '01	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	9	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Mar 16-24, '01	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	SEED	Mar 22-30, '01	Les Cayes	(*) Art Mueller	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Apr 6-13, '01	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz (Washington, IL)	Grade School	11	(*) 60%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 7-14, '01	Deaf Village	(1) Peoria B.C.	Work Place	50	80%
Haiti	MEBSH	Apr 19-27, '01	Les Cayes	Nathan Gerber	Grade School	9	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 11-19, '01	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder (TBA)	Work Place	40	100%
Haiti	AWA-FRW	May 25 - Jun 01, '01	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	100%
Haiti	AWA-T	May 25 - Jun 01, '01	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
Haiti	AWA-B	May 25 - Jun 01, '01	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational Sch.	2	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 2-9, '01	Deaf Village	(2) Gridley B.C.	Work Place	55	100%
Jamaica	(*) CCCD	Jun 9-16, '01	Montego Bay	(4) Belvidere B.C.	Deaf School	40/50	50%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 30-Jul 7	Kingston	(*) (5) Bluffton B.C.	Deaf School	50/60	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 21-28, '01	Deaf Village	(1) Ak-Rit-Sville BC	Work Place	50/60	100%

**CCCD** = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf  
**MEBSH** = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti  
**Palm Grove** = Mission of Haiti  
**S.E.E.D.** = An Agricultural School & Extension Service  
**TBA** = To Be Announced  
**(\*)** = Changes or additions since last issue

**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  
**(\*)** = Held for College Student Participation

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	309-691-6739	arbauman@juno.com
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	219-299-8173	robertebb@lightdog.com
Mark Criss	309-693-2532		redemed1@aol.com
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Les Gerber	219-824-2734	219-824-8048	
Nathan Gerber	219-565-3414		
(4) Clint Heinold	262-695-8108		heinold@prodigy.net
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
(2) Dennis Hodel	309-527-5447		dbhodel@juno.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
(3) Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		jimaibach@aircraftbraking.com
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302		tbmiller@mymailstation.com
Art Mueller	608-676-4365	608-676-5200	amueller@ticon.net
Dean Pashek	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
Bob Pflederer	309-266-5853	309-676-8455	
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
(*) (5) Jerry Rausch	219-824-2387	219-824-8580	brothers.keeper@juno.com
(1) Jim Rieker	309-693-1721	309-693-1721	
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	ksss@dpc.net
Duane Schieler	765-567-2922	765-567-2922	
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851	
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		

**- NOTICE -**

Repair and Distribution of  
Worn Bibles,  
Bible Story Books,  
Hymns of Zion,  
Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn  
Books

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S  
HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO  
NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DIS-  
TRIBUTE THEM.**

Please get your books to us or  
the Goodfield World Relief Cen-  
ter.

Books are mainly distributed to  
India, Philippines, and Africa.

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

### **Apostolic Christian Counseling Services**

73 East Queenwood Rd,  
Morton, IL 61550  
309-263-5536 (local#)  
309-263-6841 (fax)

**877-370-9988 (toll free)**

- \* Individual, marital, and fam-  
ily counseling
- \* Free information about emo-  
tional/psychological problems
- \* Referrals to qualified mental  
health professionals in your  
area
- \* Telephone consultations with  
a counselor
- \* Staffed by professional coun-  
selors and registered nurses
- \* **All calls are strictly confi-  
dential**

### **USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC**

A free eye clinic is being estab-  
lished in Ixtlan, Mexico, by Bros.  
Dr. Loren Schrenk and Dr. Bryan  
Stoller. Used eyeglasses are  
needed to support this effort.  
Please send your used prescrip-  
tion eyeglasses (with cases if avail-  
able) to:

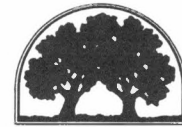
Bryan Stoller  
817 S. Locust  
Pontiac, IL 61764

### **Gateway Woods Auction**

Saturday, August 18, 2001

### **Call To Subscribe**

Please call the Gateway Woods'  
Office at 888/443-4283 to receive  
The Gate Post, a free newsletter  
about Gateway Woods published  
three times yearly.



### **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Gateway Woods offers three  
\$2,000.00 scholarships to stu-  
dents enrolled in undergraduate  
or postgraduate work leading to a  
degree in a social services field.  
The scholarships are available to  
any member of the Apostolic  
Christian Church or friend who  
attends on a regular basis. A de-  
scription of the scholarship and  
application are available by writ-  
ing or calling Bill Eisenmann at  
219-627-2159. Applications need  
to be returned to Gateway Woods .

### **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: biblelist@parlorcity.com



## MEXICO WORKTEAMS 2001

### CONSTRUCTION

#### RIO BRAVO - ICCD

*(International Christian Center  
for the Deaf)*

**March 3-10**

Team Leader -  
Bro. Chad Lantz  
219-565-3463

**March 24-31**

Team Leader -  
Bro. Mike Fiechter  
219-597-7330

**June 16-23**

Contact Bro. Joe Maller  
219-565-3211

#### AGUA PRIETA PROJECT

**March 3-10**

Team Leader -  
Bro. Wayne Lehman  
219-773-4373

**March 10-17**

Team Leader -  
Bro. Wayne Lehman  
219-773-4373

#### JUAREZ PROJECT

**March 3-10**

Team Leader - Bro. Kurt Ifer  
219-824-2829

**March 10-17**

Team Leader -  
Bro. Jeff Sauder  
217-367-1427 or 309-925-3215

**March 24-31**

Team Leader - Bro. Jeff Leman  
219-565-3815

## MEDICAL TEAMS 2001

#### JUAREZ

**March 15-22**

Contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann  
309-385-1082

#### JUAREZ or COPPER CANYON

**August 29 - Sept. 5**

Contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann  
309-385-1082

**PLEASE NOTE:** The A.C. Mental Hotline that has been in operation for many years has become a part of Apostolic Christian Counseling Services as of March, 1 2000.

The old hotline number (800-747-9049) **HAS BEEN CHANGED** to:

**(Toll free) 877-370-9988**

*Please make this change in your address book.*

## Silver Threads

### The Night Before Jesus Returned

'Twas 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 the babe 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 Jesus 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 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 Father above.  
With those who were ready He 'rose without sound  
While all the rest were left standing 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 we had been ready tonight.  
In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;  
The coming of Jesus is now drawing near.  
There's only one life and when comes the last call,  
We'll find that the Bible was true after all.

—author unknown



*This issue ends the concluding remarks by Elder Bro. Noah Schrock at the funeral service for Bro. Dale Aeshleman in 1945 at Bluffton, IN.*

We are afraid to place much confidence in any human solution, in any human formula, because we know who is loose in this world—none other than the devil. The devil of all nations who will also seat himself at that peace table as the unseen delegate, who is present at every peace conference and sows the dragon teeth that produces future wars and when once he is cast into the bottomless pit and when Jesus Christ will come as King of this universe, then the world will know what constitutes good government. And then there will be a great many of the people, and earthly rulers who will crawl into the caves and cry for rocks to fall upon them.

Now is the time for us to turn to God, those of us who have not known Him, and seek His kingdom. It would contribute a great deal to the comfort of this family if by this occasion a soul could be moved to turn from the world and from sin to God and become converted. If a soul could be saved, they could feel, they could see the purpose and reason. I hope they can be able to experience this comfort.

### **Serving In The Military**

The death of Bro. Dale Aeschleman—as a noncombatant brother-in-faith serving in World War II—and his death and subsequent funeral has received quite a bit of coverage in the Silver Lining.

This has been for a special reason. While our brethren in the Apostolic Christian Church have been very patriotic over the years and loyal to the United States government, our young brethren, and a big share of unconverted friends of the truth, have served in the U.S. Army as noncombatants.

In this, our young men register for selective service at age 18. If they are subsequently conscripted (i.e., “drafted”) into

the military, they submit to the draft, but with the provision they will not bear arms for the purpose of killing. This is legal, and our government has allowed this procedure, based on sincere religious conviction.

Today (in the year 2000), there is presently no draft. It ended in the 1970’s by order of President Richard M. Nixon. Thus, a generation or more has elapsed wherein our young men have not been called to serve in the military.

Because of this, young men today hardly have any perception of the possibility of serving in the Army; neither is there much consciousness of years ago when our young brothers and friends yielded to the call of the U.S. government and willingly went off to their training camps, and many eventually went into combat unarmed!

It will benefit today’s youth if they are able to understand that during the time of World War II, nearly 1,200 of our church’s brothers and friends left home and assisted (aside from killing) American efforts. They entered the Army and went into basic training. At this time, many suffered verbal abuse for not taking arms. After basic training, they were given a 30-day furlough to return home and be with loved ones.

The departure to return (from home) to their military units after the furlough was a time of tears and heartache for those left behind. As a young boy left, there was no assurance he would ever return home again. World War II was a fierce conflict with many deaths and casualties. The United States lost 405,399 dead and 670,846 wounded. Bro. Dale Aeschleman was one of those who gave his life.

Our church should be thankful—indeed very thankful—for a benevolent and reasonable government who respects a stand for conscience sake. The provision allowing one to serve in the military (and potentially in combat, unarmed) has

worked well. In this way, because we cannot kill (according to God’s Word), we can still serve as medics to treat the wounded and dying. We thus remain true to two authorities—to God, and to our government. The former exceeds the latter. That is a wonderful policy for our brethren here in America. It was not always so, and especially in eastern European nations.

The belief in not bearing arms is centered on Scriptures. One of the ten commandments is “Thou shalt not kill.” Further, in the New Testament, the Word is clear that the true believer must not kill or resort to violence. War itself is the very antithesis of Christianity.

Scriptures in the New Testament that support peace and love are:

Matthew 5:39: “But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

Matthew 5:44: “But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good unto them who hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

Luke 3:14: “...Do violence to no man...”

Romans 12:19-21: “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but, rather, give place unto wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in doing so, thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

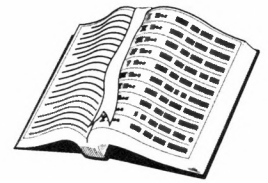
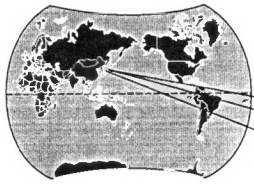
*by: Perry A. Klopfenstein  
Gridley, IL*

**Next Issue:**  
Areas of Church Growth

# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

## 希望の光



### “Peace Makers”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angels sang to the shepherds, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

This would indicate that Jesus was to be a peace maker. If we repent, believe and obey, He certainly does give us peace with our Heavenly Father. I treasure that peace in my heart.

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matthew 5:9). We are called to be peacemakers and we must consider how well we are succeeding in that calling. If you try to make peace between two other parties, you may find that they both turn against you. If you try to make peace between yourself and someone else, the other party may not cooperate except on his or her own terms. This calling is not so easy to carry out.

In Luke 12:51 we read, “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division.” Here we have a

contrast between the peace we have in our hearts regarding being ready to meet God, and peace on the earth between human beings and nations. The latter is hard to come by. The question we must ask is “Why?”

The truth of the matter is that we human beings are filled with “self”. In Romans 6:8 it is written, “Now if we be dead with Christ...”. If this verse means anything, it means that our selfish nature should be gone, once we are converted. However, the amazing thing is that it keeps popping up, even among us believers. I have sometimes thought, mistakenly I hope, that my friends and associates before conversion got along better than we do in the church. Forgive me, please, for such a thought. However, it may be that the devil is working overtime in the church, to destroy the peace which Christ calls us to have and promote. We must not live in a make-believe world.

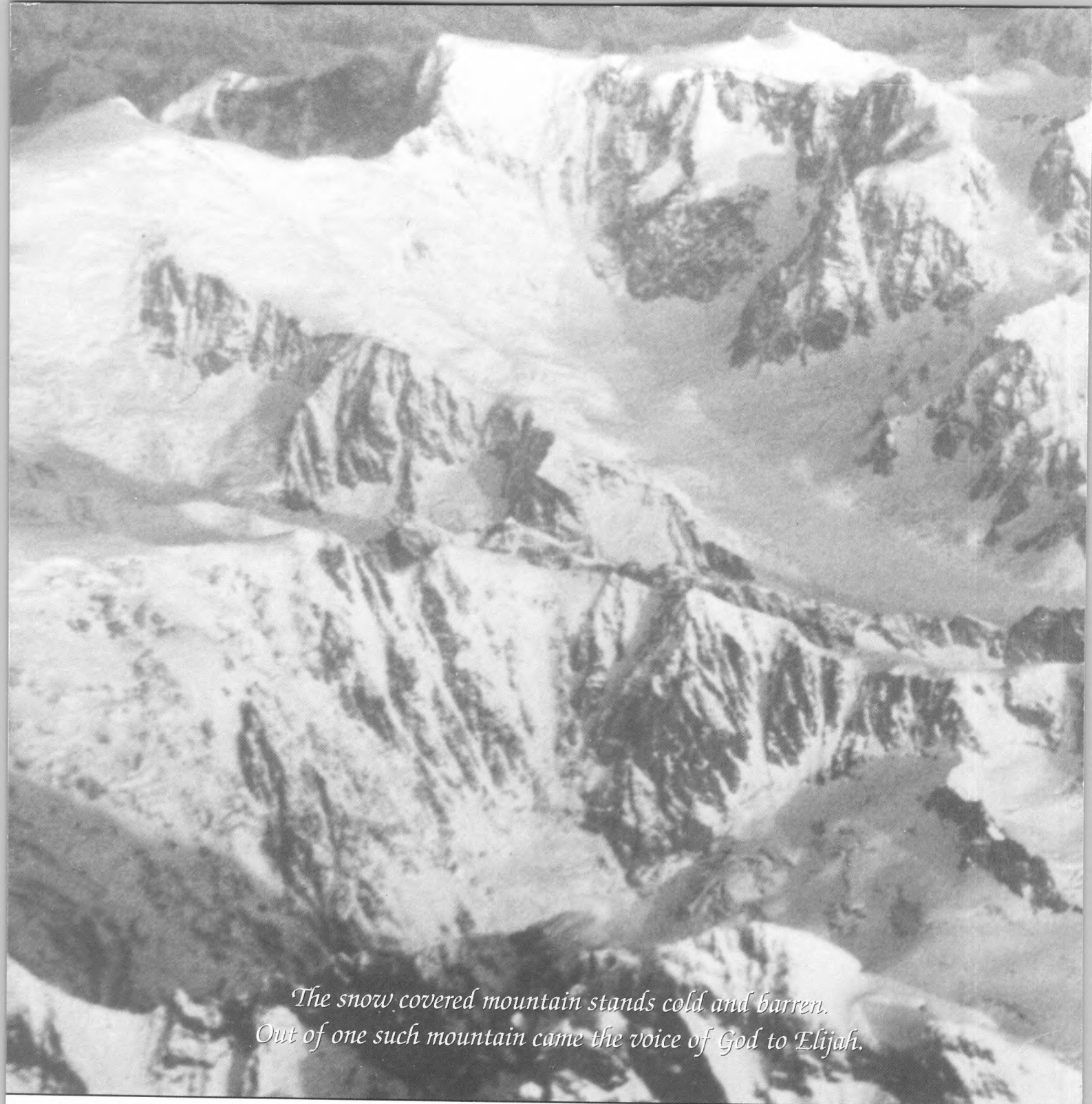
I want to praise my brothers and sisters more, and never criticize

them; only caution or warn them in a soft and loving voice which puts myself lower than them. We have got to do better and avoid patting ourselves on the back.

In order for us to follow Christ as peace makers, we first need to have peace in our own hearts, with God and with other human beings. Our hearts must be free from malice, grudges, or an unforgiving spirit. Jesus said, “But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:15)

I have said, on the basis of Scripture, that peace between human beings and nations is hard to come by. Again, on the basis of Scripture, I believe the problem is that we are not dead to self. Whatever the cost, let’s pray that we can all be dead to self. Then only will we be able to be peace makers, and then only will our own peace and happiness in Christ Jesus overflow in our hearts.

## 希望の光



*The snow covered mountain stands cold and barren.  
Out of one such mountain came the voice of God to Elijah.*

THE SILVER LINING  
RR2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561



\*\*\*\*\*3-DIGIT 609

6285 205

LK 449

Mrs. Charles Walder

3RD ST

CISSNA PARK IL 60924

2nd Class  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Roanoke, IL  
and  
additional offices  
USPS 496780