

The Silver Lining



God giveth newness of life each Spring as winter's dormant days pass away.

February 2002

“THE LIGHT OF JESUS SETS US FREE”

*Sermon by Elder Bro. Wes Knapp, Goodfield, IL
Judges 7 and John 8:12-59*

Loved ones, we have read a few verses together and it is a tremendous amount of comfort and encouragement to every one of us. We could have read the whole chapter, but my eyes fell on verse twelve when I first opened this. “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 8:12. We are in a time and we are in a situation like we have never been in before in our life. We have a beautiful opportunity today to be encouraged to stay in this Light. If we are truly walking with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we are not walking in darkness. If we are truly walking with our Lord and Jesus Christ, we are in the Light.

Now we can be so thankful that we do have that Light shining in us, because as the days proceed, we don't know what they have to offer. But we do have that beautiful, beautiful Light that we can have confidence to know that irregardless of what they are, there is that glorious end to each one of our lives that some day every one of us gathered here can enter those realms of heaven. Brother Jeff shared that with us this morning and how true that is. Sometimes we can kind of take it for granted and sometimes we can kind of let it pass over us, but we are in reality now.

I was reading in the paper, I think it was yesterday, when in the town of Bloomington, the increase of people going to church is from twenty to sixty percent more

than they ever had. Bibles and Bible story books are being sold at an increasing rate. They have never seen anything like it before. People have gotten their eyes open and they do not realize what is ahead of them but realize not knowing not realizing what is ahead of us. There is evidently a degree of concern and perhaps fear in the hearts of many, many people. Lately, there should be.

I just hope for the American people for our nation, this is not foxhole religion. When things get tough, we have a tendency to turn to God. Brothers, sisters and friends, we need to stay on track and stay tuned to God every day of our life, even when things get better quickly and it doesn't look like they are going to. But we do have a God in heaven who knows our hearts and knows our desires and how thankful we are that we have this God in heaven who is looking over us. It is pretty evident in the very new future there might be an invasion in Afghanistan.

I am not here to preach the world situation but it does tie in. If that invasion takes place, you can well believe that we here in America might come under some things that we have never ever seen in our country before. We have been witness to that nearly three weeks ago. We haven't even begun to see what could happen in our country with the way the things are going on in the world—the terrorists. Evidently they are planted throughout a lot of nations in the world just waiting to strike and we

do not know where that strike may be. Where will you be tomorrow? Where will I be tomorrow? If the electricity is out, not just a power failure for a few hours or a few days, I am talking about the electricity out and gone!

Sermon continued on page 44

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

February 2002

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

Except Ye...

Nominal Christendom espouses the philosophy that if you accept the Lord Jesus Christ you will be saved. It is true that we must be willing to accept the instructions of the Lord and to have faith to accept the redeeming power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We also need to be willing to accept the instructions of the Word of God and to be willing to accept responsibility for our behavior. There is, however, no scripture in the King James version of the Holy Bible that gives us hope of salvation by merely "accepting Christ". There are many scriptural passages that instruct us that we must follow His teaching in order to prepare ourselves so He will accept us.

There are many passages of scripture that contain the exhortation "except ye". "Except" when used in this manner means "unless". Therefore, when scriptural instructions are accompanied by "except ye", there is a requirement that must be fulfilled if we want to gain the acceptance of the Lord.

In the Old Testament account of the defeat of the children of Israel by the men of Ai, Joshua asked the Lord why they were not delivered from their enemies. The Lord told Joshua that there was sin in the camp and He would not "...be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you" (Jos. 7:12). Sin separates us from God. Only if we are willing to remove sin from our lives can we have confidence that the Lord will be with us and bless us. It was not until Achan and the forbidden goods were destroyed that the fierceness of the anger of the Lord was turned away from the children of Israel.

There are numerous instructions in the New Testament that are just as definite. In response to a comment about some who had lost their lives in terrible circumstances, Jesus said "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Therefore, the scripture is very clear that repentance is a requirement for salvation. This is reinforced by the teachings of the disciples after Christ's resurrection. "Repent ye, therefore...that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;" (Acts 3:19).

Jesus also made it clear that we must become converted and turn away from sin. When the disciples asked Jesus who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven he said "...Except ye be converted...ye shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven" (Mt. 18:3).

This concept is reinforced in numerous passages throughout the scriptures. Peter was told that after he was converted, he was to strengthen his brethren (Lk. 22:32). In one of Peter's sermons he instructed his listeners that they should "Repent... and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." (Acts 3:19).

Repentance and conversion are necessary steps to become a child of God. There are additional requirements. Christ told Nicodemus that "...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (Jn. 3:5). Nicodemus could not understand this. Christ explained that it was the love and power of God that made it possible. From the human point of view this certainly seemed impossible, but from God's point of view it is not difficult for those who will love and serve Him.

We can be born again and have our sins buried in the death of Jesus Christ because "...God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (Jn. 3:16-17).

After the death and burial of the old sinful nature, there must be fruit. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained that it was not enough to appear to be righteous and to outwardly follow the commandments. In a statement that must have been shocking to those who were listening, Jesus said to the multitude, "...except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:20). Most people thought the scribes and Pharisees were righteous, but clearly they were condemned because they laid heavy burdens on "...men's shoulders; but

they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers" (Mt. 23:4). To be of value, righteous appearance and words must be accompanied by righteous behavior. It is not enough to merely look and speak like a child of God. There must also be fruit.

We are also commanded to remember that Jesus willingly gave His life to pay the price for our sins. "...Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you" (Jn. 6:53). We must be so much "at one" with Christ that we must take part in His suffering and death by being in communion with Him and our brethren.

Faithfulness is also required. After we have received the blessings of repentance, conversion and baptism, we must continue to remain in His service: "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me" (Jn. 15:4). We must be committed to be faithful to God as long as we live. We cannot be as the dog that "...is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (II Peter 2:22).

We must be willing to give all for the Lord. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" (Jn. 12:24). Jesus gave His life for us. We must be willing to dedicate our lives to Him.

Our service to God must be complete and without reservation. If we do not serve the Lord consistently, we send a very confusing message. Paul instructed the Corinthians that "...except they give a distinction in the sounds,...who shall prepare himself to the battle?...likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken?..." (I Cor. 14:7-9).

Not every issue that is important to be a child of God has been included here. God has provided us with an opportunity to learn what is necessary for salvation. We must be willing to search the scripture and to submit to His plan so He can accept us into His kingdom.

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times.

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, 1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

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

The Mission Committee is the arm of the Church with the responsibility of carrying out the goals and purposes of spreading the gospel.

This committee was first established at a conference in Bluffton, Indiana in 1958. Presently 9 elder brothers serve in carrying out its functions.

The Mission Committee works in cooperation with the World Relief Committee to meet spiritual and humanitarian needs around the world.

Before reaching beyond the local level with the gospel, there must be a firm foundation built upon hearts cleansed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the primary effort of the church is to communicate the gospel through the example of a sanctified life with a ready testimony of what Christ has accomplished.

Having experienced the blessings of the love of God and fellowship within our brotherhood, we extend our hands of love and mercy toward all mankind, in fulfillment of the scripture which says...

...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. MARK 16:15-16

How it is funded

The Mission fund is dependent upon contributions from Apostolic Christian congregations as well as other generous individuals. Collections are taken up on the local level, the funds being forwarded to the secretary-treasurer.

In recent months, donations have leveled off. This comes at a time when our opportunities for spreading the gospel message are rapidly increasing. There are always more needs than available resources.

The Mission Committee counsels together as often as necessary,

discusses requests and projects, and appropriates the funds. Any work which is considered to be of a spiritual, as opposed to humanitarian effort goes through this committee.

The Mission Committee Supports...

- ◆ Mission programs in the U.S. and other countries.
- ◆ Bible Distribution - throughout the world.
- ◆ Hymn Book translation and dispersion.
- ◆ Printing and distribution of sermons and other materials.
- ◆ Establishing and aiding new congregations.
- ◆ Church building construction.
- ◆ Supplements printing costs of the *Silver Lining*.
- ◆ Recording and distribution of sermons on cassette tape.

The Mission Committee humbly asks you to keep these needs in mind as you disburse your personal financial offerings to the Lord's work. The funds are disbursed in the following areas:

- ◆ **USA**
Throughout the entire land — assisting in the items listed above
- ◆ **Canada**
Supporting small congregations.
- ◆ **Mexico**
Mission work in existing churches. Bibles and hymnbooks in Spanish.
- ◆ **Central & South America**
Bibles and Hymnbooks in Spanish
- ◆ **India**
Rural Gospel and Medical Mission.

◆ Europe

Helping build churches in Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, Ukraine, Croatia and Germany. Translating and printing Bibles and hymnbooks.

◆ Japan

Mission work in existing churches.

How can I be involved?

Bible Distribution

There are many established methods each local church can use in this work. Bibles are available from distribution centers in Bluffton, Indiana and Eureka, Illinois. Foreign language Bibles are available for distribution in other countries.

New Congregations

Where there is a nucleus of brethren in an area without a church, the Mission Committee is supportive of starting congregations.

Evangelism

Any brethren who feel a personal calling to assist in spreading God's word and to labor in His service should work closely with their local leadership, and then with the Mission Committee. There are established guidelines for such efforts, and each situation is handled on an individual basis.

Be a Good Neighbor

Invite your friends and neighbors to church services.

Financial Support

Contributions to help support these programs can be sent to:

PHIL STETTNER
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN MISSION COMMITTEE
1780 N 450 E
BLUFFTON, IN 46714
(219) 565-3499



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN World Relief

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

The primary goal of Apostolic Christian World Relief is to provide humanitarian aid and volunteer labor to alleviate human misery and suffering throughout the world. World Relief projects provide blessed opportunities to serve our Lord by sharing our resources and abilities to benefit both the soul and body of those in need. Work teams have opened the door for participation by many brothers, sisters, and friends and involve helping those in the USA, as well as in foreign lands.

Many have made experiences that have altered their priorities in life and brought new appreciation for the teachings of Christ. The World Relief Committee works in cooperation with the Mission Committee to meet humanitarian and spiritual needs around the world.

May God richly bless every effort as we seek to work in unity to serve others by meeting human needs and thereby communicate the love of God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

How Projects are Selected and Funded

Collections are taken on the local level, and forwarded to the national World Relief Treasurer. The World Relief Committee meets on a regular basis to review existing programs and evaluate new ones. Funds are then allocated to finance approved projects. The World Relief Committee communicates these projects to the churches through local representatives.

Four counseling elders serve as chairman and vice-chairmen. Twelve other brothers are chosen as regional committeemen from areas representing our brotherhood across the nation. This committee sets policy for the entire organization.

Serving under the direction of the World Relief Committee are five

boards based on geographic areas: Caribbean, European, Mexico, India and US, each of which is chaired by a member of the national committee. These boards manage projects, sending material aid and work teams in response to needs. The Child Sponsorship Board and the Distribution Center Coordinators board also are under the direction of the World Relief Committee.

As is often the case in humanitarian efforts, needs far exceed our ability to assist the unfortunate. The World Relief Committee endeavors to assist those who need it the most, prayerfully considering each case. They rely upon your prayers and support. Funds are disbursed in the following areas:

USA

- ◆ Helping rebuild and send materials to areas throughout the country devastated by floods, earthquakes, fires, droughts or storms.
- ◆ Material aid for prison ministries, children's homes, halfway houses, and food pantries.
- ◆ Distribution centers to inventory and distribute clothing, food and medicines.

Europe

- ◆ Food, supplies, medicines and self-help for Ukraine, Yugoslavia, Romania, Croatia and other countries.
- ◆ Vehicles for transportation and distributing food.

Caribbean

- ◆ Work teams in Haiti and Jamaica for trade schools, medical assistance, water well drilling, food distribution, veterinarian and agriculture assistance.

Mexico

- ◆ Medical/dental work teams.
- ◆ Home construction work teams.
- ◆ Lunch programs and health kits for disadvantaged families.

India

- ◆ Oversight of Rural Gospel and Medical Missions providing humanitarian aid for food, medical needs, orphanage buildings, and education.

How Can I Be Involved?

Sewing, Crafts and Soap Making

There are many opportunities on a local level to make quilts, bandages, layette kits, sewing clothing and several essential craft items. Tons of soap are made each year, and shipped to needy countries. There's work for everyone!

Distribution Centers

Many opportunities exist for personal assistance in our seven Distribution Centers, sorting clothing for distribution, repairing furniture, packaging food and medicines as well as other items.

Child Sponsorship Program

An opportunity to be directly involved in the lives of children born in economically distressed areas of the world.

Work Teams

Work teams are organized frequently for projects in the U.S., Haiti, Jamaica, and Mexico. Schedules are published to give volunteers the opportunity for service.

Representatives

Each local congregation has its own representative. This is a vital link in our chain of service. He can provide answers to questions about the opportunities mentioned above.

Financial Support

Contributions to help support these programs can be sent to:

JERRY BAUMAN
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORLD RELIEF
9652 STERLING ROAD
RITTMAN, OH 44270
(330) 925-6163

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES

Part IV - Professional Counseling

"Bear ye one another's burdens,
and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

One component of Apostolic Christian Counseling Services is professional counseling that occurs at the office in Morton. The office is located at 73 East Queenwood Road in Morton, IL. Because of the location of the office, most of the clients seen at ACCS are from Central Illinois. However, at times, individuals travel to Central Illinois for a one-time consultation visit.

Members or friends of the church who want to enquire about counseling services can call the toll free number 877-370-9988. This number can also be found in the minister book and in the Silver Lining. All calls coming into ACCS are answered by an automated voice-mail system. The person making the call is asked to leave a message with information about how to contact them. All information left on the automated system is completely confidential. One of the counselors will return the call within 24 hours to talk about the type of services needed.

Before setting up the first appointment, the counselors talk with interested individuals about what their needs are, how urgent the concern is, and how closely it is related to doctrinal or spiritual issues. If there are currently no openings in the counselors' schedules, the caller must decide whether to go on the ACCS waiting list or to accept a referral to another counseling service. Usually these services are local counseling practices that have met

with ACCS staff and been educated about specific Apostolic Christian Church doctrine and practices so that they can provide services in a supportive way.

When someone comes to the office for counseling, they are asked to complete a number of forms common to any professional service. These are used to develop a treatment plan, coordinate with medical providers and provide mailing and billing information.

The number of times a client is seen for counseling entirely depends on the individual needs of the person. Some people may only be seen once or twice while others may be seen regularly for a year or more. The frequency of appointments (i.e. weekly, monthly, etc.) will also vary by the client and the counselor.

Services to clients include teaching and reinforcing the application of Biblical truths to life, education and treatment for concerns like depression and anxiety and teaching new skills to help couples and families communicate and understand each other better. The need for a physician to assess medication and medical concerns is also considered.

The issues that clients discuss in counseling are kept confidential in accordance with the law. However, sometimes it is helpful to work directly with a person's Elder/minister or with a family member. In these cases if the client is willing to sign a release of information, the counselor will involve others in the counseling process.

The Apostolic Christian Church Elders have always had the responsibility of assisting people with mental health and relationship problems in the course of shepherding their churches. They have sought to better understand the needs of people in their churches

and to support them in a way that encourages their spiritual soundness. Over time there has been a growing recognition that in some cases it can be helpful to seek out professional counseling to address some of these problems.

Naturally, Elders are concerned about whether a professional counselor will support a struggling person in their faith. Some Elders have found professional counselors in their communities that they have been comfortable referring people to. However, at other times there have been concerns raised about the counsel given by certain counselors.

One of the main reasons for the creation of ACCS came because people wanted the assurance that their faith would be respected by the counselors they work with. The development of the counseling services was a specific response to those concerns. Since ACCS opened March 1, 2000, there has been a very positive response to ACCS offering professional counseling.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

What will the New Year bring? This is often our thought when we pass from one year to another. Changes have already taken place at two of our eight facilities. At Oakwood Estate we were happy to receive Kristi Knapp from Fairbury, IL, into the 16-bed facility. She is a welcome addition and we look forward to getting to know her. At Timber Ridge, the Lord called Sam Grimm Jr. Home on January 19. Sam came to the home July of 1972 during the first year of its operation. He lived here for 29 ½ years. Sam was the brother of Bro. Earl Grimm and Sis. Alvina Streitmatter (both of

Princeville, IL) and Sis. Emma Dale Baer (Morton). The staff and residents at Timber Ridge will truly miss him. We also anticipate a few more admissions yet in January.

The Fairbury and Roanoke, IL, church sent groups to sing with the residents at Timber Ridge in January. We want to thank each person who gives of their time to help sing. Even the residents who are severely and profoundly mentally retarded are lifted by these beautiful hymns. One can see it in their faces. We would encourage each one to join song leaders when your church is to come. You will receive a blessing and you will give a blessing. Eureka, IL, church hopes to bring a group on February 8. On March 8, the Gridley, IL, and on March 15, the Peoria, IL, churches are scheduled. The Friday Evening Song Service is held at the Timber Ridge multipurpose room and begins at 7:00 p.m. All are invited.

March birthdays at TIMBER RIDGE, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550 are: Judy Grimm (6), Susan Crose (15), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Tom Christensen (20), Edna Haynes (23), Jon Wilhelm (26), and Nancy Meister (31). At OAKWOOD ESTATE, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Maretta Rokey (6), Sheila Steffen (9), and Richard Bundy (12).

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

Jeff Schumacher

Obedience is such an interesting 4-syllable word. Interesting, in that it evokes fairly strong emotion depending on where you are at in your life. As a child you were constantly reminded to do it. As a parent you were constantly "discussing" it with your children. As a Christian, it should be what we strive for. It

seems a little ironic that what we were so frustrated with as a child becomes our "life's work" as an adult. Talk to any Christian and they will tell you that even now, obedience is a difficult thing at times. I am thankful that we have a merciful God, who in His wisdom, gave us so many examples of obedience in the Bible and how He blesses us because of our obedience.

Many times during the time of the exodus of the Israelite nation, it is written that they were blessed because they were obedient. I John 3:22 says, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." As we see in the I John verse, because we are obedient, God answers our prayers. Because we are obedient, He blesses us.

We are definitely blessed here at Gateway Woods. God continually answers our prayers for staff, financial support, and for children and families to minister to. We are currently fully staffed in all of our programs. Gateway Woods would like to welcome Bro. Jeff Waibel as counselor and say farewell and "thank you" to Bro. Bill Eisenmann and Sis. Danielle Wirtz. Both will be sorely missed. We thank you for all your prayers for us in this area. We look forward to your continued financial support as we look to expand our school program to better serve the children that God brings us to minister to. We also appreciate your prayers for the children that God will bring us, that their hearts would be opened while they are here so we can "plant a seed". With this in mind, we would like to welcome Corey W. and Vanessa F. to the West House.

We look forward to having two Representative Meetings this year. The first one will be held at the

Roanoke Fellowship Hall on February 23. The second meeting will be on March 23 in Leo. At either meeting, you will hear testimonies from staff and clients, information about the programs and the progress of our new school building, Auction information, volunteer and Representative tips. If you plan to attend either one, please contact us.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Melinda Matuch**

Ho, ho, ho, hosanna!
Ha, ha, hallelujah!
He, He, He, He saved me,
And I've got the joy of the Lord.

We sing this song, "The Laughing Song," one or two times a week during our morning circle time. It is not unusual to hear the children sing it more often than that as they play. Hearing the children laugh and sing together is a daily, joyful reminder of why God puts us here.

We have been blessed with a fairly mild winter and have been able to take advantage of it and spend more days than usual outdoors. When 24 children spend the entire day indoors together, it can be a challenge to channel all of their energy constructively.

This month we will talk about our emotions, especially about showing love toward others and God's love for us. We will also talk about controlling our emotions and not letting hurt or anger cause us to lash out at others. We will also have a Valentine's Day party. By the end of the month we will be able to see and discuss the changes that spring brings.

At this time, we would like to express our appreciation for all the brothers who serve our little ones by

serving on our preschool board. We could not operate as we do without your generous donations of time and talents. It is the children who benefit the most. May God bless you and your families.

The mailing address for any preschool correspondence is:

Apostolic Christian Preschool
15284 Hastings Road
Athens, AL 35613

ALABAMA, ATHENS

**Joan Reinhard
Louise Hall**

We have appreciated an extended visit from Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH). They have come and spent about a month here in Athens and we wish to thank Bro. Sam for ministering to us spiritually and for both of them for giving of themselves in ministering to all of us in many physical ways. The support they have shown our Athens church has been very much appreciated.

Sis. Maryann Samora had some of her family from Colorado visiting here with us again, and we appreciate the visitors that we had from Bluffton, IN.

There have been many of our congregation who have been sick and/or in the hospital. We are thankful for a measure of healing for our Sis. Amanda Glass, Sis. Katherine King and Sis. Ruby Ross who have spent time in the hospital last month. Gwen Chandler (daughter of Sis. Hazel Vibbert) and Mark Hargrove (Debbie Haggemaker) have both had surgery and are recovering well. We are also prayerful for Sis. Dessie Siniard, Sis. Corrine Thomas, Sis. Hazel Vibbert, and Sis. Louise Haggemaker who have all been not feeling well. We also ask the Lord's healing hand on Bro. Tom Schrenk as he fell

and broke his arm down in Zapata, TX. As our earthly bodies show signs of time marching on, we pray that we can continue to invest in our heavenly dwelling so we are ready someday to enter into the joy of the Lord.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory."

Psalm 73:24

December 30, 2001, was a beautiful, but chilly day, in Goodfield, IL, when Sis. Janelle Hohulin and Bro. Jeremy Ebert exchanged wedding vows. Their parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy Hohulin and Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Ebert (all of Phoenix). A large group from Phoenix attended the wedding to share in the happy occasion. We pray God's blessings on our dear couple and welcome Sis. Janelle. A reception was held January 20 in Phoenix.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson and Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller (Indianapolis, IN) are happy to announce the engagement of their children, Tricia and Joel. A March 9 wedding is planned in Phoenix.

We enjoyed services on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, along with several visiting ministers: Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan), and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). Our thanks and appreciation to each of you.

A big group of workers headed to Mexico via Phoenix the end of December to work at the orphan's home.

Our sympathy to Sis. Leona

Messner Siegle and Bro. Ernie on the death of her sister, Sis. Anna Eberhard, on December 20 in the Morton Handicapped Home. Sis. Ann visited Phoenix often after living here from 1975-1977. Burial was in Oakville, IA.

We have several who need our prayers - please join us. Sis. Linda Zollinger and Sis. Marie Beery both had knee surgery. Sis. Lucille Richardson has been home bound for several months. Evelyn Howley has been doctoring for several weeks for an injury.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, calls and gifts received during the time of my sister, Sis. Anna Eberhard's, death and funeral. Your love and support was especially appreciated as Ernie and I were in Phoenix and had to fly back to Iowa. May God be your Rewarder.

In Love,

Leona Messner Siegle

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

January 20 was one of the high attendance Sundays (approx. 65 people) with many visiting brethren, who came to worship with us after spending a week volunteering their time on a Navajo Indian Reservation in northern Arizona. A dinner was served at the church before they left to go their separate ways. We wish to thank all of them for including the Prescott church in their visit to Arizona. We appreciate the fellowship from other churches.

Sis. Elena Kornja, her son George, and Bro. Henry Volz have been ill and unable to attend church for a few weeks. We miss them being with us and pray for their recovery.

Our ministering brothers this last month included Elder Bros. Roy

Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), and Bros. Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Herb Knochel, and James Emch (both of Phoenix, AZ). We thank them all for their love and service to us and the Lord.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We are thankful for the visit of Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) who were gracious enough to travel to Tucson and serve the Tucson church as our first visiting minister on the rotation list. We can't thank them enough for the efforts of love and willingness to serve. We hope they enjoyed their time in Tucson.

Our Sis. Sandy Bauer (Bro. Brad) learned of the death of her grandmother shortly after the holidays. Our prayers are with Sis. Sandy and her family in Illinois as they mourn the loss of their loved one. Sis. Sandy traveled to Illinois for the funeral and we are thankful for her safe return.

Our winter visitors are arriving weekly and we are enjoying greeting each one. They have enjoyed some beautiful sunny days with temperatures in the 70's and some of us Tucsonans (like me!) are enjoying the last few days which have been cloudy and cooler with just a few sprinkles of rain teasing us. A little something for everyone, we aim to please!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

We praise Thee, Lord, with pow'r to save!
Thou didst arise from death and grave.

Thou hast dispelled the pow'rs of night;
Our life is now revealed in light.

Since Jesus rose, there's strength and life

To help me through this earthly strife.

O, Saviour, grant that I may be Thy faithful servant, pure and free!

O, thou redeemed, do glorify The Saviour, who now lives on high!

And there He intercedes for thee; He lives in all eternity!

Zion's Harp #123

What a rich heritage of music we have! These old hymns contain a deep spiritual message and theological soundness that many of our contemporaries lack. When we completely empty ourselves of all wicked things, we must quickly fill that space with the things of God. Hymns provide an anchor to hold onto, a beacon to follow, and a harbor in which we may safely rest and replenish our souls.

Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) and ministering Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ) and their families visited us this month. We thank them for their contribution to our fellowship and Bro. Peter for assisting in the reading of the Memorandum.

We received a good report from Bro. Jeff Luthi's doctors after surgery: an answer to prayer! We pray now for full recovery, that he could continue in the Lord's work; ministering in his family, community and congregation.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

We have been blessed this past

month with many visitors. We appreciate each one that comes and shares with us. We were privileged to have the Memorandum shared with us. Elder Bro. Peter was assisted by Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA) and Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL). Other visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT).

Bro. Doug Wagenbach and Brent recently were on a work team in Haiti. Hearing their experience causes us to truly appreciate all the blessings that we take for granted in this country.

This past Sunday the betrothal of Sis. Melinda Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy) to Bro. Loren Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby, Morris, MN) was announced. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings in their marriage.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

CANADA

Nathan Reutter

This month has been a fairly busy one for our little congregation. Aside from our visiting ministers, we had our Sunday School program. We also had services on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and a couple of all-church singings. We always enjoy getting together as a church family, and it makes it even more special when we have visitors in our midst.

Our visiting ministers and their wives this month were as follows: Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz (Junction, OH). We are thankful that we have heard the pure, undefiled Word, which can only come from a cleansed and purified heart and

mind. May God bless all who minister the Word of God in truth.

We appreciated hearing the Truth also on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. These holidays (holy days) allow us extra opportunities to be with God's children and to learn more of God's will and expectation for us. It is wise for us to not go to church out of habit during these times, but rather to go with anticipation that we can again be taught of how we should behave ourselves and redeem the time we have.

This is also true for the times we can spend with believers when we sing together. It is not just a time of thoughtlessly singing familiar songs and hymns. Rather it is a time when we can seriously contemplate if and how God's will is being accomplished in our lives. Many places in Scripture remind us that singing is important in a Christian's life.

We wish you God's blessings in the coming month. We pray that you will consider coming to visit us. We love to have drop-in visitors. It means a lot to us to see that other brethren actually think about us and care enough to come. May the Lord direct your path.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike and Heather Katanic

Our small congregation was blessed to witness the wedding ceremony of Sis. Kathy Leman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene) and Bro. Art Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian, Sabetha, KS) on December 30. How encouraging it was to have so many visitors with us on such a joyous occasion, including Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO).

We also had Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) come and share God's Word with us this month.

Nineteen brothers headed to Arizona on a work team were in Denver for the weekend and stayed with several families here. We enjoyed having so many visitors for our monthly singing on Saturday evening.

We welcome Don Metzger from the West Bend church to worship with us as he has moved to the area.

We wish all God's blessings in the new year!

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

The Journey to Zion

Then onward, sister, brother;
Let us go hand in hand,
With joy in one another,
In this bewildered land.

Zion's Harp #185

As another year closes and a new one begins, may we continue to walk together in faith helping each other along the narrow path of life.

We remember His birth in song as many of us sang Christmas carols to some of our brethren at their homes. Also at this time of year, our Sunday School joined their voices in praise to our Lord and Father at our annual Christmas program. May the hearts of these dear children and young adults be touched with His love.

I give my heart alone to Thee;
Use it for Thy design!

This vain world's I would never
be,

Dear Lord, but wholly Thine.

Zion's Harp #163

In the past weeks, our congregation was blessed with two weekends of baptisms. On December 16, Bro. Walter Limberger (brother to Sis. Anna Thompson) and Bro. Walter

Spielman were baptized. On January 6, four sisters were welcomed into the fold: Sis. Marcy Bahler (Bro. Ron and Sis. Bonnie), Sis. Jayme Lanz (Bro. Barry and Karen), Sis. Holly Reutter (Bro. Dean and Sis. Miriam) and Sis. Laura Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy). Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) assisted our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in the service. Also visiting in past weeks was Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). We are thankful for the pure, unadulterated Word of Life that our dear ministering brethren share unto us. We are thankful for the reminders and the importance of praying for our ministry.

We recently had our annual business meeting in which many brethren were elected to new offices to serve us. For those who are retiring from their positions, may God bless their efforts.

Our prayers are with those of our loved ones who have been sick or recently hospitalized. May God be with Sis. Linda Lanz (Bro. Greg), Bro. John Moser and Bro. Ken Virkler.

May God give comfort and provide solace to the family of Sis. Anna Heintz upon her passing out of this life. She leaves her sons, Everett Heintz (Joan) and Alden Heintz (Judy), daughters, Carol Chase (Richard) and Lois Klimek (Joe), sister-in-law, Sis. Ida Welti, and extended family.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

As a trav'ler home returning
From some far and distant land...

Zion's Harp 198:1a

During the holidays many of our

congregation were traveling. Whether it was Florida, Illinois, Indiana or India, we are glad everyone has returned home safely.

With the holidays and lots of people traveling we met only two Sundays the past month. Our ministers were Bro. Shawn Metzger and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). We are always glad to see them and their dear families.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30; afternoon service begins at 12:15. Over the next few months there will be a few Sundays when we can not meet at the hotel, so we will be meeting in a home. Please call anyone in our congregation to find out the exact location and directions.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that also. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE

Nancy Rocke

Our counseling Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) read the Memorandum to us. We also had Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) with us. May the Lord bless them.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Robert Huber (Sis. Doris) in the passing of his brother, Bro. Leroy

Huber (Sis. Clara), from Eureka, IL.

Lee Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) graduated from high school in January. As he has completed a milestone in his life, may he look to God for direction. We wish him God's blessings.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Dorothy Beer

This is the time of year our church is filled with winter residents and visitors. We appreciate and welcome each one, and pray they are blessed with God's sunshine and love.

We were blessed to have the following ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein and his wife, Sis. Linda (Francesville, IN); Bro. Earl Beery and Sis. Suzanne (Rittman, OH) and their family were here over Christmas. Our thanks to them.

On January 13, after church services, we had a BBQ. A time of good food and good fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank each and every one of you who helped to make our 50th wedding anniversary a special day for us with cards, letters and gifts of love. We pray God's love and blessings on each one of you.

Bro. David and Sis. Kay Eisenmann and family

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl

We are so thankful to have Sis. Lorane Martin move back to Sarasota. We sincerely missed her while she was living in Illinois.

This past month we were blessed to have the following ministers: Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott,

IN) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), retired Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), and Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL).

Hospital patients have been Sis. Esther Kupferschmid (Rockville, CT), Sis. Elsa Champ (Rockville, CT), and Ben Rassi (Morton, IL). Our prayers are for their continued recovery.

In December we were happy to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann. Most of their family was here to share in this special occasion.

Sarasota's 25th annual Christmas Program was held on Sunday, December 23, followed by refreshments in the dining room. We want to thank all the students, teachers, and all others involved who gave of their time and talents to help us remember Christ's birth.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank each and every one of our family friends, neighbors, and loved ones who made our 50th wedding anniversary a special day with beautiful cards, letters, and gifts of love and kindness. We pray God's blessings on all of you.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann

GEORGIA, ATLANTA John Brewer

We are thankful for the visiting ministers in the past month that have taken the effort to fellowship and to be used by God to bring forth the Word on Sunday. Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) came down this month

to be with us.

As always, we look forward to brethren and friends that come visit and worship with us. We start song service at 10:15. Our church is in Fairburn, GA, off I-85 southwest of Atlanta. We are 15 miles south of the airport on exit 64 (Jonesboro Rd.) 4 miles due west after you get off the exit. Please contact Bro. Tom Waldbeser (770) 463-4788, Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335, Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, or Bro. John Brewer (770) 304-8706 if you need further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Shelia McCoy**

Out in the highways and byways
of life

Many are weary and sad;
Carry the sunshine where dark-
ness is rife
Make the sorrowing glad.

Tell the sweet story of Christ and
His love,
Tell of His pow'r to forgive;
Others will trust Him if only you
prove true,
Every moment you live.

Give as 'twas given to you in
your need,
Love as the Master loved you;
Be to the helpless a helper in-
deed,
Unto your mission be true.

Make me a blessing, Make me a
blessing,
Our of my life may Jesus shine;
Make me a blessing, O Saviour, I
pray
Make me a blessing to someone
today.

Melodies of Praise #80

As another New Year has dawned, may we pray for help each day anew to be a blessing to souls here on earth. May we strive most of all to be counted worthy by our Heavenly Father, to some day spend eternity on high.

'Tis not command nor mere de-
ceit
That makes men come on bended
knee
To seek His holy face,
To seek His holy face,
When'er the soul's deep needs
arise,
In fears and trials it relies
On His sustaining grace,
On His sustaining grace.
Hymns of Zion #205

Many prayers were sent heaven-ward as Alex Heinold (Bro. Thad and Sis. Elizabeth) spent a few days in the hospital this month. We are so glad to have him back in church and see his smile again.

Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and his precious wife spent a Sunday with us. Thank you, Bro. Gary, for proclaiming the Word and, Sis. Edie, for always lending a helping hand.

It has been a quiet month here in Belvidere as many were traveling over the holidays. We are thankful for traveling mercies and appreciate having everyone home again.

He does not lead me year by year,
Nor even day by day;
But step by step my path unfolds;
My Lord directs the way.

—unknown

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Shawn Masters
Ann Kellenberger**

We want to congratulate our re-

cent college graduates. Sis. Molly Hodel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine), Sis. Tara Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Candy), and Beth Koehl (Russ) all graduated from ISU this past December. May they feel God's wisdom and direction as they pursue new pathways.

On January 6, Sis. Tonya Scott (Sis. Janelle and the late Bro. Don) and Bro. Shane Knapp (Bro. George and Sis. Fern, Goodfield, IL) were united as one in Christ. Elder Bro. Wes Knapp, Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger, and Bro. Bruce Hohulin (all of Goodfield, IL) helped to make the day extra special.

On December 30, Bro. Kan Umemura was baptized in our Tokyo, Japan, church. Bro. Kan is an ISU student we have been blessed to have worshipping with us. Once he has completed his education, he will be returning home to Tokyo. Elder Bro. Everett and Sis. Beverly Hari were able to witness his baptism. They both feel truly blessed to have worshipped with our dear brothers and sisters in Tokyo.

Our church family rejoices with Sarah Cook, Barb Knapp, Marlena Loy (Bro. Matt and Sis. Barb), and Norma Jean Zimmerman (Roger) as they begin a new life in Christ.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Chad and LauraLee Plattner

We are thankful to have Bro. LeRoy Streitmatter (Sis. Esther) joining us again for worship and fellowship after his recent hospitalization. We pray that he will have a complete recovery.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL). May God bless them for their ministry.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all the love shown us in so many different ways during Elwin's illness and passing. The visits, phone calls, cards, gifts, food, prayers and support were very much appreciated and shall never be forgotten. Each and every act of kindness was truly a blessing, and helped us all so much through this difficult time in our lives. In all humility and thankfulness, we pray for God to bless you all.

Humbly,

Sis. Loretta Rumbold and Family

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA**

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Sis. Keyna Langhofer, a student at Indiana State University who frequently worships with us, has been engaged to be married on May 26 to Bro. Joshua Martinez of Indianapolis. Sis. Keyna is from the South Bend, IN, church. We wish them many, many happy years together.

Love's Prayer

DEAR Lord! kind Lord!
Gracious Lord! I pray
Thou wilt look on all I love,
Tenderly today!
Weed their hearts of weariness;
Scatter every care,
Down a wake of angel wings
Winnowing the air.

—James Whitcomb Riley

With the end of the fall semester, we've had a few December graduates. These include Bro. Doug Brewer, who will be working in the Peoria area for the Illinois Dept. of Transportation. Sis. Christine Ginzler of Urbana has taken a position as a nurse in the oncology area of Carle Hospital in Urbana. Bro.

Neil Stoller is presently working in Urbana and seeking a job in agriculture, and Bro. Phil Rassi has relocated to Kansas City for an engineering job. We congratulate each of these young people as they complete this stage of their education and go into the world of work.

Mostly through their coming to visit family in our church, we had the privilege of having several visiting ministers over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Those who were here were Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), and ministering Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Alan Schambach and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). Additionally, many families were in during the month as they passed through making the stops associated with the holidays. This time of year is always pretty sparse with regard to students, so it is especially nice to have the return of some family members who have moved on come back to see us. We thank each of our visitors and, most of all, we thank God for protecting each traveler.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Jill Rager

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:"

Romans 12:4

It seems we have been fulfilling many new roles of service this month as I consider the changes that have occurred.

On December 28, Joan Elizabeth fulfilled her role as the youngest member of the family of Bro. Mike and Sis. Gretchen Zimmerman. Assuring baby Joan that she is loved, siblings Rose, Lucas, and Lois, as

well as grandparents Jim and Lois Vietti and Bro. Leland Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) have been faithful in their duties.

Moving into the new year, on January 13, Sis. Jaron Grimm (Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Adrian Montgomery (Bro. Marion and Sis. Barbara Meiss, Fairbury, IL) formalized their new roles as husband and wife before God and a cloud of many witnesses. Among the many guests were the following visiting ministers: Bros. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), and Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL). We appreciate the service of these brothers and pray that God will bless the marriage of Bro. Adrian and Sis. Jaron many times over.

Sis. Penny Stahl will be assuming a new role as she begins a period of service in Ixtlan, Mexico. Although we will certainly feel Sis. Penny's absence, we send her off with the love and support of the Chicago church as well as the support of the Mission Committee.

We bid another farewell to Bro. Ben Hartter, who has been in our area on several occasions in his pursuit of a degree in physical therapy. We wish him well as he returns to his home church of Roanoke, IL.

We want to express our gratitude and support to three individuals who have graciously agreed to serve our church in new roles. Bro. Rod Anliker will serve as a church trustee, and Sisters Luann Eisenmann and Robin Moser have accepted Sunday School teaching positions.

"So we, being many, are one body

in Christ, and every one members one of another.”

Romans 12:5

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Denise Walder
Cheryl Eisenmann**

At our Christmas program on December 19, we were inspired with verses and songs our Sunday School children shared with us.

We have two deaths to report this month. Sis. Ernie Eisenmann passed away at Fairview Haven Nursing Home. We extend our sympathy to her sister, Sis. Helen Janssen, and her brothers, Bro. Herman Bauer and Bro. Kenny Bauer. She has a sister-in-law, Sis. Mary Bauer, who we want to remember. Also, Bro. Ben and Sis. Evelyn Rudin's great-grandson, Collin Knight (Wes and Rhonda), died on January 7. May we lift this family up in our prayers.

We are grateful to the following ministers for serving us this past month: Bros. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We appreciate the service of each of these brothers and know God will bless each of you.

We held our annual business meeting on January 9, with the election of new Sunday School teachers. Our prayers will be with Bros. Nathan Walder and John Fehr and Sisters Denise Kaeb and Beth Steffen. Our new trustees are Bros. Melvin Young and Vernon Clauss.

Our hospital patients this month include Bro. Bill Rinkenberger, Bro. Curt Sauder and Sis. Sylvia Knapp. May God restore each one to good health.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks to all of you for the love and concern shown to our family before and since Dad's death.

The George Winger family

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Glenna Rinkenberger

“And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”

Romans 13:11

Kayla Steffen has awakened out of her earthly sleep to seek her soul's salvation. We rejoice with her parents, Kent and Sis. Beth, and their families.

Once again, loved ones of our congregation have lost family members. Our sympathy goes out to Tony and Rachel Nohl following the death of his grandfather, Ivan Nohl (Goodfield). Also suffering a great loss are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder and their children after the death of retired Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Gloria's stepfather.

“And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundred fold...”

St. Luke 8:8

Children are like seeds. Our prayer for each one would be that they would spring up and bare fruit an hundred fold. Another daughter has joined the household of Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynnette Knepp. Holly Noel was born on December 26 to join her siblings, Dawn, Heather, Joshua and Ivy. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Norma Stahl and Sis. Nancy Knepp (Washington, IL) and Gary Knepp.

Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Jeff) McClure

had surgery and is back assembling with us. Sis. Emma Schieber fell and broke her hip. She is also doing well. May God's healing hand continue to be on these sisters.

Bro. Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO) joined us for our final New Year's Eve service in our present building. We are seeing a lot of “lasts”. We are thankful and grateful to God for His many blessings in the building of our new church. Thanks also go to the many hands that have made the building possible, along with the planning and cooperation of all involved.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each one that sent me cards, gifts, food and prayers for my 90th birthday on December 20, 2001. May God richly bless you all.

Humbly, Sis. Adele Stahl

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Kay Kellenberger**

Wonderful story of love:
Tell it to me again;
Wonderful story of love:
Wake the immortal strain!
Angels with rapture announce it,
Shepherds with wonder receive
it;
Sinner, oh! won't you believe it?
Wonderful story of love.

Wonderful story of love:
Tho' you are far away;
Wonderful story of love:
Still He doth call today;
Calling from Calvary's mountain,
Down from the crystal bright
fountain,
E'en from the dawn of creation,
Wonderful story of love.

Wonderful story of love:
 Jesus provides a rest;
 Wonderful story of love:
 For all the pure and blest;
 Rest in those mansions above us,
 With those who've gone on before
 us,
 Singing the rapturous chorus,
 Wonderful story of love.

Wonderful! Wonderful! Wonder-
 ful!
 Wonderful story of love!
Gospel Hymns #838

God's love is truly wonderful. As children of God, we have all experienced the one true love. May we daily cling to the love that our Heavenly Father so freely supplies.

May we continue to uplift our shepherds and ministering brothers as they diligently seek to bring forth God's Word. The Elgin congregation has been blessed by the faithful service of the following brothers: Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and John Stoller (Leo, IN).

Our Bible Class recently has had the opportunity to experience Juarez, Mexico, for a week on a work team. Many of our students commented about how humbling it was to hear, "You are an answer to our prayers." We often take for granted the abundance of blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us. It is so important for each of us to daily count our many blessings. Our ministry here on earth is to be a faithful servant, sharing the Gospel to others, as we take heed to our dear Saviour's leading.

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

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

Matthew 25:31-40

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

On January 5 we laid to rest our dearly beloved retired Elder Bro. Leroy Huber. Bro. Leroy was a faithful shepherd who lovingly and diligently cared for his flock for many years. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Clara; and to his children, Bro. Gary Huber, Sis. Ila Bradle (Bro. Roger), Bro. Stan Stoller (Sis. Lola), Bro. Jim Stoller (Sis. Jane), all of Eureka, Sis. Gloria Walder (Elder Bro. Bob) of Congerville, Sis. Twylla

Streitmatter (Bro. Floran) and Sis. Jane Ehnle (Bro. Kurt), both of Princeville, Bro. Steve Stoller (Sis. Anna Marie) of LaCrosse, IN, and Bob Stoller (Sis. Janice) and Sis. Carol Braker (Bro. Jerry), both of Lamar, MO. Also to his brothers, Bro. Robert Huber (Sis. Doris), Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and Bro. Reuben Huber (Sis. Marie), Fairbury; and sisters, Sis. Emma Steffen (Bro. Dave), Gridley, IL; Sis. Wilma Huber and Sis. Pauline Rocke of Eureka.

Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL), Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) and Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) assisted with the services.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. Bros. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR) and Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester, IA) were our visiting ministers recently. May God bless them for their labors.

We are thankful that Melinda Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue) has recently sought the Lord in repentance. May God's grace be with her as she builds upon the firm foundation, Jesus Christ.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Bill Kempf (Sis. Clara) who was diagnosed with acute leukemia. We certainly pray for them and their family and trust God will provide those things that are needful and most helpful.

Sis. Frieda Schaefer of Tremont died December 29, 2001. We extend our sympathy to her sister, Sis. Corine Hartter, and sister-in law, Sis. Dorothy Hartter (the late Bro. Dan).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Clara Huber on the death of her brother, Bro. Carl Rassi, of Morton.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Gramm on the sudden death of their son, David Gramm, of Indiana, who passed away on January 22. We pray that God will comfort them at this time of loss.

Two couples have recently announced their engagements. Joni Martin is engaged to Jeremy Zacha. Their parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Martin and Bro. Gary and Sis. Connie Allen (Goodfield). They plan to be married April 27, 2002.

Aaron Anliker became engaged to Angie Hodel. They are planning a September 14, 2002, wedding. Their parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker and Steve Hodel (Goodfield) and Teri Kidd (Eureka). We pray for each of these dear couples that they may seek after God's council and direction for their lives.

Thus my longings, heav'n-ward
tending,
Jesus rest alone on Thee;
Help me, thus on Thee depend-
ing;
Saviour, come and dwell with me!

Although all the world should
forsake and forget Thee,
in love I will follow Thee, never
to quit Thee,
Lord Jesus, both spirit and life is
Thy word,
where is there a joy which Thou
dost not afford?
Zion's Harp #65, vs. 3

Note of Thanks:

Our hearts are saddened but so uplifted by the outpouring of love we've experienced through Leroy's passing.

Jesus said, "What you have done

unto the least, you have done unto me." We appreciated each one who came and also for the many cards and gifts. God bless you.

Sis. Clara Huber and all the children

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Tammy Hinrichsen
Joann Zehr

Bro. Jesse Huber (Sis. Donna) had surgery and we are thankful that he is recovering and wish him God's healing mercies.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with Ron and Sis. June Slagel and Dale and Sis. Elaine Mowery and their families in the death of Sis. June and Dale's father, Russell Mowery. May God grant them comfort.

Two homes were blessed with new baby girls. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori Hartman welcomed Hannah Rose on January 13. Philip, Caleb, and Ruth are her big brothers and sister. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman and Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown. Troy and Sis. Annette Hale welcomed Anna Elizabeth on January 16. She has a sister, Jenna, and a brother, Luke. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Jay and Roberta Zimmerman. May God help these couples as they raise their families.

During the Christmas holiday season, we were blessed with visiting ministers who brought their wives back "home" to the Fairbury congregation. A special thank you to Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), and Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA). We also thank Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) who

spent a Sunday with us and brought us God's Holy Word.

It is hard to believe that the year of 2001 has already come and gone. But we are so thankful that God's Word is always steadfast and sure in this troubled world.

In summary for 2001, we had 4 weddings, 5 deaths, 4 baptisms, and 6 births. May we each look to God for our help and strength in the coming year.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

John 6:35

Taking of the bread of life in repentance is Mark Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra). With humbleness of heart, may he accept the grace from God, which will enable him to walk a new life with Him.

Seeking the Lord's will in their lives are Bro. Lucas Nussbaum (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb) and Sis. Raya Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) as they are planning a March wedding. May they feel the Lord's guidance during this time.

We who in love are bound,
Now say, Farewell!
The parting hour will sound,
Farewell, Farewell!
Although we now must part,
Abides with you my heart
In fellowship and love!
Farewell, Farewell!

We sang this hymn together as we said farewell to Sis. Kristi Knapp (Sis. Laura). Sis. Kristi has moved to Oakwood Estate in Morton, IL. We

will miss her and hope she will come home often.

We want to express our thanks to Bro. Jim (Sis. Diane) Koehl and Bro. Alan (Sis. Marcia) Gerber for having served as Sunday School teachers for the past ten years. We know God will bless them for being His willing servants to our youth.

We have been richly inspired by visiting ministers, Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). May God bless them for their labors on our behalf.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Jane and Tom Bounds and family and to Bro. Richard and Sis. Marian Rieger in the death of Sis. Jane's father and Bro. Richard's brother, Harvey Rieger.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks to all you dear ones for the farewell singing, gifts and dinner outings. Many thanks to all who picked Kristi up throughout the years for young group gatherings. May God bless you, and be with us all, as Kristi moves to Oakwood Estate in Morton.

Sis. Laura and Sis. Kristi Knapp

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Heather Hohulin

We are so blessed to be able to welcome four new brothers and sisters into our family: Bro. Ron and Sis. Cassandra Wiegand, Bro. Fred Wiegand and Sis. Jacki Steffen. We are very thankful for them and pray that God will continue to bless their lives with peace.

It seems that we have had a steady stream of weddings these last few months for which we are thankful. It is always a blessing when God brings two people together. Sis. Janell Hohulin and Bro. Jeremy

Ebert became one. Their parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy Hohulin (who are missed in our Goodfield congregation; they now assemble in Phoenix) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Ebert of Phoenix.

Also joined as one were Bro. Shane Knapp (Bro. George and Sis. Fern) and Sis. Tonya Scott (Sis. Janell and the late Bro. Don).

Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan) and Sis. Laura Mott (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) of Morton were also united in marriage. We pray that God will continue to be with each of these couples as they start new lives together.

Looking forward to being joined as one are Sis. Emily Zeltwanger (Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda) and Bro. Nate Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan) of Roanoke. May God be with them.

A little girl, Bailee Nicole, was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kerstan Plattner. Madison, Kelsie and Logan will be good helpers to their new baby sister.

Also welcoming home a girl are Jason and Mindy Anderson. Little Celeste Maree is their first child.

Our prayers are with Bro. Larry Bauman (Sis. Betty) and Sis. Marie Kieser (Bro. Alfred) as they have been in the hospital. We hope they can feel those prayers. May God be with them.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Fred Knapp (Sis. Marge, Congerville, IL), Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) and Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Peoria, IL). We are very thankful for their service to us.

"Carried by the Angels to the land of rest..." as the song goes, gives such comfort when someone we love leaves us here below. The

family of Sis. Phyllis Zobrist would like to thank each of you who thought of us during our time of loss. The cards, flowers, food, phone calls, visits, memorials, and support we received were overwhelming! She would never have believed how many lives she touched in her walk here below. "Small may seem the service, sure the great reward, here the cross, but there the crown of joy!" Thanks again and God Bless!

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

An especially enriching Bible concept that lends itself to much instruction for us today is the Lord's teaching about the believer having oil in his/her lamp; that is, being full of God's Spirit. He refers to those whose lamps were full (the wise) and those whose lamps were empty (the foolish).

Wisdom and foolishness continue on yet today and if we are not careful, our lamps can be deficient of oil when the Bridegroom comes.

How wise we are if we keep our lamps trimmed and full of oil, so when the Bridegroom comes we can be ready and "go in with him to the marriage." (Matt. 25:10)

Sis. Candace Stoller was announced to be married to Bro. Michael Dohman. They are both from Gridley. Her parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller. He is the son of John and Sis. Judy Dohman. We wish this young couple the blessings of God.

A girl was born on January 11 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Cynde Stoller and was named Patience Marie. Her siblings are Jeremiah (3) and Faith (2). Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Karen Stoller and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein (Eureka, IL). Great-grandparents are Sis. Marie Stoller, Bro. Art and Sis. Donna

Wettstein (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

Ethan Levi Kiefer was born on December 11 to Scott and Sis. Lisa Kiefer. Siblings are Larissa (11), Zachary (8), and Lukas (2). Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Kiefer and Mark Williamson and Nancy Williamson (both of Lexington).

On January 24, a boy, Kiefer Otto, was born to Daniel and Karin Pannier of Benson. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Kiefer and Don and Robin Pannier (rural Benson).

Nash Briley Stoller was born on January 10 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Haley Stoller. This child has a brother, Kezton (3). Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf and Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardean Stoller, all of Gridley. Great-grandmother is Mary Heck (Roanoke).

Visiting ministers were Bros. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Sharon Rinckenberger of our congregation has been ill.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Christie Zeller

We were so blessed to have Bro. Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN) and also Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) with us this past month to bring us God's Holy Word.

Two dear souls went to be with the Lord: Sis. Anna Eberhard (Oakville, IA) who resided in our Restmor Nursing Home, and Harold Warner (uncle to our Sis. Lynn Garber). We pray for their families.

We want to welcome two dear families to our Morton church family. They are Bro. Earl and Sis. Kay Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie Bahr (Strahm) and their children, Brock, Kendon and

Katelyn (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We are very happy to have them in our fellowship.

On January 2 we were very thankful to rejoice in the celebration and marriage of our Bro. Don Hermann and Sis. Mavis Kaiser. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Our hearts are thankful for the safe return of our loved ones from Haiti and Jamaica this month. They are Bro. Bill Kaufman, Bro. Jerry Miller, Bro. Kip Taufer, Bro. Jay Knobloch, Bro. Luke Wuthrich, and B.J. Wiedman. We are truly grateful for willing servants.

The Perfect Gift

Not a present wrapped in fancy paper...

But one wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Not a pretty bow on top...

But a crown of thorns.

Not under a tree...

But hung upon a tree.

This is the Perfect Gift...

May we never forget!

—words from Bro. Scott Schafer

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Peter and Mabel Weber

The Christmas program on December 16 reminded us to "Turn your eyes upon Jesus." He became like us, so we can become like Him. Our spiritual life must be alive and well and we must have total faith, like little children. They don't understand everything; neither do we. When a little boy was asked to describe faith, he replied: to believe what you know ain't so.

Is "Cruise to Nowhere" (as advertised) our life, or do we see the gift of God as our way to Heaven? Do we know Him? ... or of Him? He has the power to turn sinners into saints as we see Him as baby, and King on

the cross. We want to open a present which will stay with us forever, change us, perform a miracle. (Bro. Jeff Neihouser, recently installed in the ministry at Francesville, IN).

If you are fearful of what happened September 11 and experience new vulnerability, the gift of salvation means more. If you don't know Jesus, it's time you do. (Bro. Rich Sutter, Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) meditated on Acts 17. Paul separated the truth from a lie when he told the Athenians of the "Unknown God" and that there will be a judgment day. The price has been paid, we need to get right with Him; He wants to rescue us. Let's use His grace.

Bro. Rich Sutter's Christmas sermon was based on Luke 2. Christmas is just one of the wonderful things God has given us. Jesus is the remedy to our problems and the only way to the Father. He was born to help, not hinder, so we become better in what we do. Pass on the good news, as one beggar told another: I've found bread. When God is on our side, we are on the right side. Put your faith in something which is eternal. Give a gift to Jesus: do with haste what you need to do. The best is yet to come.

We thank these brothers and their families for their visits and sharing the Word with us on December 23 and 25.

Are we concerned with what's ahead in the New Year? After Jacob died in Egypt, Joseph's brothers felt uncertain about their future, but he reassured them not to fear but have faith (Gen. 50). Today, we can come boldly before the throne of God. He is only a prayer away and will bring light into darkness and hope where there is no hope. We thank Bro. Doug Wagenbach and his family

(San Diego, CA) for their visit on December 30 and his meditation.

New Year's Eve ... a good time to consider where we are in regard to our Heavenly Father. He called us to be a separate people, carry the cross, name the name of Jesus, depart from all iniquity. The main thing is to reach the Heavenly Home. "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:14). A good resolution for 2002 is: A LITTLE SIMPLER. God condemned His child to death for us. Don't walk with the world. Do we put in front of our eyes the very things which tempt us? Is grace an opportunity to walk the way we want? "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Cor. 10:12). God shares His comfort with us when we call upon Him so we can comfort one another through the multiplication of the Spirit. We thank Bro. Rick Plattner for the final 2001 sermon, which was followed by Hymn #232, "Make me more perfect."

Five nieces and nephews came from Germany to attend the funeral of Sis. Anna Baer (98), who went to her rest on January 1. Her life reflected Psalm 116: "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplication." Sis. Clara Scherer (95) passed away on January 2 and we express our sympathy to her daughter, Sis. Gloria Hunziker, and son, Richard, and their families. There were 21 deaths at the Skylines in 2001. Are we ready to meet our Maker and have Him claim us at the Lord's return?

We thank Bro. Mike Rieker for talking to us about "Our Christian Life in the Workplace and Business" at our family night service on January 9. Our life is Church, family and work and should be based on "Love the Lord with all thy heart and thy

neighbor as thyself" (Matt. 22:37, 39). Display the love of God, put the Lord first without a great ego (Edging God out) and, as a customer, be satisfiable. We are to strive to know our little niche rather than be all things to all men at all times. Do you portray Jesus and Him crucified and would you be known as a child of God by your actions?

A Bible Study for 18-25 year old Sunday School graduates was recently started. It meets the first and third Sunday (10:00 a.m. on the lower level of the Church) of every month and is directed by Bros. Mike Rieker, Tim Funk, Bob Rumbold and Chad Herman. They are currently studying the Book of Revelation and are grateful for the interest and attentiveness. If you are not already attending, would you consider joining this group?

A group of 61, who spent nine days in Jamaica working at the school for the deaf, was under the spiritual oversight of Bros. Ken Hoerr, John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and enjoyed many blessings of working and worshipping together.

Ashley Renee (#3) was born January 8 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Kristi Triplett and we extend our sincere congratulations to them and grandparents, Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley Triplett and Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker.

"Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?" (John 6:42). Jesus portrayed a servant-nature and the bread of life ... a very simple staple, yet it represents life eternal. Why did Jesus come to this earth? He is the only one who could save us from our terrible disease, which made us immobile, slave to habits, subject to wrong perspectives. Without a

change, there is no conversion. (Bro. Ken Hoerr 1/13).

At our annual business meeting on January 13, Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer thanked all who have contributed so much to the well-functioning of our church. Bro. Bob Hoerr succeeds Bro. Norb Schneider as trustee and Bro. Russell Rumbold is taking over as trustee and treasurer for the Skylines from Bro. Willis Hunzicker.

Sis. Ruth Huthmann is undergoing chemotherapy and we wish her the healing mercies of the Lord. After several weeks at the Skylines, Sis. Viola Herman has returned to their home, where Bro. Clarence is her primary caregiver. May they feel God's nearness in their daily walk of life.

Where are they now?

Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich have been living in Indianapolis, IN, for several years and attend church there with their four children. Traever (at Purdue) is converted. Bro. Dan is employed by Eli Lilly. When they travel to our area, they usually visit their families in Eureka and Washington.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Gertrude Baurer Sauder wishes to thank all who supported them so kindly during mother's struggles with her macular degeneration, digestion problems, and then the last week and a half with the final stroke. May God bless you all. Your visits, prayers, cards, flowers, food and memorial contributions are among the kind, thoughtful acts of love we so deeply appreciated. Jesus, we thank Thee for providing peaceful eternal rest for all who love and follow Thee.

Roy, Ken, Sherry, Steven and Vicki Sauder

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

Our congregation has been blessed with three new babies. They are precious “in His sight” and also to us.

On December 26, Marcus Dale brightened the home of Bro. David and Sis. Kara Blunier. Little Faith welcomes her brother home along with grandparents, Sis. Joyce Blunier and Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford, IL).

Bro. Bob and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman are first-time parents of a precious boy, Jonathan Robert, born January 5. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Madlyn Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Floran and Sis. Twylla Streitmatter.

Ministering Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey Braker welcomed little Joshua Daniel on January 11. He has many excited siblings which are Nathan, Matthew, Stephen, Emily, David, Philip, Jason and Karen. Grandmother is Sis. Edna Martin.

We are appreciative of our visiting ministers, Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN).

“Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”

Psalm 97:12

We are spiritually fed in abun-

dance, not only by our visiting ministers, but also by our loyal Princeville Brothers who are led by the Holy Spirit, to feed our flock.

Bro. Nathan (Sis. Esther) Martin was a surgical patient. We miss his presence at church and pray that he will improve enough to be back with us soon. Bro. Joe Martin broke his elbow and has a long way to recovery. Our prayers are with him, too. May God give him courage to endure the healing period.

The funeral of Sis. Anna Baer (Bro. Carl, deceased), was held at our church on January 4. She was a resident at the Apostolic Christian Skylines.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Walt Joos would like to express their appreciation for all the expressions of love and support in his recent passing. May the Lord bless you!

We wish to thank the ministers, relatives, friends and neighbors for all the prayers, cards, telephone calls, flowers and food received during the time of our loved one, Elwin Rumbold's, illness and death.

Sis. Lucille Rumbold

Sis. Jeanette (Bro. Richard) Graham

Sis. Marlene (Bro. Jim) Plattner

Sis. Joyce (Bro. Glen) Metzger

Sis. Marie (Bro. Ezra) Knobloch

The family of Katherine A. Baer wish to thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, memorials, acts of kindness and love shown to our dear mother in her later years and six years at the Skylines Home and now in her passing. All was very much appreciated and will not be forgotten. God bless each one!

Sis. Diane (Bro. Bill) Streitmatter and Family

Don (Carol) Baer and Family

May we continue to pray for guidance in this New Year. The Lord will provide for our needs if we put our trust in Him.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jenell Hodel
Linda Hodel

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

How thankful we are, as a church, to realize this, and to be reminded that our prayers for the Holy Spirit to work is where the power comes from. We thank those who have visited us to provide “powerful messages” to us this past month. They are: Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) who gave a Bible study on the Middle East.

May we be fervent in praying for healing to those who have suffered illness. Those hospitalized recently include: Sis. Carol Feucht (Bro. Randy), Bro. Todd Harris (Sis. Andrea), and Jerry Schumacher (Sis. Jane). We apologize to Sis. Patsy Kaeb (Bro. Bill) as she was also, but failed to mention it earlier.

We will all miss our dear Sis. Norene Herbst who went to be with our Lord on January 17. She is survived by many cousins.

We ended the year on a beautiful note by baptizing three dear souls into their death of the old nature to rise a new creature in Christ. They are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn Ott and Bro. Tyler Sauder (Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie). One never tires of witnessing this most sacred act, and it truly takes us back to when we made those vows, and if we are not as close

to God as we were, we need not wonder who it is who moved. The closer we get to the Shepherd, the more we see of His love.

Funeral services were held on January 5 for Sis. Clara Scherer (late Otto). Our sympathy is extended to her son, Richard (Annette), and daughter, Sis. Gloria (Bro. Willis) Hunzicker, and families.

We heard the engagement of Bro. Nate Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan) to Sis. Emily Zeltwanger (Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda, Goodfield, IL). Also making wedding plans are Dan Magnuson (Dan and Judy) to Jayme Zeman (Bill and Malinda). May God lead, guide and direct them as they prepare for this next step in their life.

We are happy to report the birth of a baby girl to Bro. Todd and Sis. Kathy Moser on January 9. Carolyn Renee is welcomed home by Bradley, Curtis and Elizabeth, and grandparents, Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for remembering me with cards and gifts on my birthday and at Christmas. God bless you all.

Doris Bowald

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach

We have reason to rejoice because two more souls have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Bro. Jeff Rocke (Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Tom Haas (Joe and Doris, El Paso, IL) testified of their conversion, and by faith were baptized on December 30.

Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton,

OR) came to Tremont to assist with the testimonies and baptisms. Other visiting brethren this month included Bros. Dewayne Dill and Duane Rocke (both of Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL). We are thankful for the service of each one.

During this difficult time of loss, our thoughts and prayers extend to our Sis. Arlene Huette (Bro. Ken) in the passing of her sister, Sis. Mildred Schlipf (Gridley, IL). Our sympathy is also with Bro. Arnold Rassi (Sis. Lydia) since the death of his brother, Bro. Carl Rassi, Jr. (Morton, IL). Bro. Darel Hofsess (Sis. Mary Alyce) also experienced the loss of a loved one since the passing of his mother, Alice Hofsess. Sis. Frieda Schaefer has likewise passed from this life to one that is eternal. May God grant comfort to her children, Sis. Josephine Schaefer, Bro. Maurice (Sis. Marge), and Sis. Kathy Zuercher (Bro. Jerry), all of Tremont, IL; Sis. Karen Martin of Detroit, MI; Ernie (Sharon) of Rochester, MI; and Linda Ziegenhorn (Roger) of Loathe, KS. We also had a funeral service for Bro. Elmer Brunner who was laid to rest. May each person who is grieving over the loss of a loved one feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise."

Jeremiah 17:14

Whitney Miller (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jane) spent some time in the hospital this month as well as Sis. Dorothy Stuber (Bro. Glenn). We wish them God's healing.

A new child has been born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner. Titus Todd was welcomed home by his siblings, Mahlon, Joseph, Daniel, and

Hannah. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster (Burlington, IA). Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Koch have been blessed with a second child. Big brother Micah and his grandparents rejoice in the safe arrival of Abigail Lyn. Her grandparents are Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch and Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch (Lester, IA). Bro. Jim and Sis. Karol Holmes have begun the adoption proceedings for their little boy, Moise, since the approval from his legal mother was given. Grandparents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis Holmes and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Gluek. May God grant wisdom and grace to each parent as they raise their children "...in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

Bro. Phil Rassi will be missed in our Tremont congregation. He will be making Kansas City, MO, his new home now that he has accepted a job there. Although we are sad to see him depart, we wish him abundant blessings from the Lord.

God be with you till we meet again.

Hymns of Zion #216

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Dianne Wyss
Marcia Koch

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

John 14:1

Our Elder Bro. Ron Messner read this encouraging text of scripture on the eve of the New Year 2002. Jesus gave His followers this commandment in the midst of unsettled times. He did not ask them to put

their hearts at rest because of the absence of uncertainties or dangers, but rather because they believed in Him and His trustworthiness. Bro. Ron in a similar fashion encouraged us to rest in the certainty of God's sovereignty and in the completeness of Jesus' redemptive work.

We were thankful for our visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Doug Wagenbach and his wife, Sis. Lillian (San Diego, CA), Bro. Randy Kellenberger and his wife, Sis. Karen (Kansas City, MO), and Bro. Ken Weerts and his wife, Sis. Myrna (Cissna Park, IL). We are thankful for God's Word brought forth by the Holy Spirit.

Bro. Rich Dreeste was recently hospitalized for some medical complications. We are thankful that he was able to return home, and we pray that he will know the Lord's nearness during this time of recovery.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Tonia Isch
Beth Aschliman

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Cor. 5:17

We rejoice with Brian Steffen (Bro. Allen and Sis. Arlene) as he takes the hand of Jesus. We are so happy for him and his family and wish him God's grace.

We celebrated this past weekend, January 12-13, as we listened to tes-

timonies and witnessed baptisms of four young souls. Sis. Hope Clough (deceased Sis. Kathy), Bro. John Frauhiger (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny), Sis. Alysa Fiechter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Fonda) and Sis. Lolly Harder were taken into the fold. Rejoice!

Elder Bros. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) were here to help Elder Bro. Ed with this wonderful weekend. We welcome them back to visit us again.

We were saddened by the death of Frank Steffen. Frank passed away on January 3. His mother, Sis. Freida Steffen, will miss him and we will keep her in our prayers.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Julie Lehman were sent an angel, Lyndsi Ann. Her brothers, Landon and Logan, and big sister, Lauren, are happy for new playmate. Grandparents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Cathy Stucky, are thankful for a healthy grandbaby. Lyndsi Ann was born December 30.

Bro. John and Sis. Nicole Johnson (Indy) have their first child, Tonner David. Tonner was born December 7. Bro. Vic and Sis. Peg Reinhard rejoice for their first grandson. What a blessing.

Our church family rejoices with Bro. Nathan Mueller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri) and Sis. Rachel Schwartz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan) as they were joined hand in hand on December 30. What a wonderful Christmas gift. We wish them God's rich blessings as they start this pathway.

We have had several young people spending time in the hospital this month. Josh Fiechter (Bro. Brad and Sis. Lynn) suffered a bad break to his leg. Kristen Kaehr (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan) was hospitalized for her gall bladder and Madelyn

Isch (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonia) spent time in the hospital with pneumonia. We wish them all God's healing so they can be back in church with us.

Sis. Dorothy Frank has moved to Christian Care. We pray she will find God's peace in her new home.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Rhonda Maller
Ann Meyer

"Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil."

Isaiah 1:16

We have two precious converts that have asked the blood of Jesus to cleanse them. We rejoice with Amanda Fritts (Roland and Kathy) and Casey Terhune (Steve and Sandy Pastore). They saw the light in some of our believers at high school and were drawn to church seeking the light in their own lives. Thank you, young brothers and sisters, for not hiding your light under a bushel, but shining brightly where ever you go.

On December 30, Bro. Nathan Mueller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri) promised his love to his new bride, Sis. Rachel Schwartz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan, Bluffton). We pray God's blessings upon them as they start a new household, serving the Lord together.

We have many loved ones that have been sick, or hospitalized. Sis. Dorothy Fischer (Bro. Richard) and Bro. Stan Geisel (Sis. Cindy) are recovering from surgery. Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bro. Rod), Sis. Velma Fulkerson and Bro. Bob Troxel (Sis. Mary Jo) need our prayers and encouragement as they face their illnesses. May the Lord be their source

of strength in their time of need.

Several from our congregation helped at the recent MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) meat canning project. A portion of canned meat is donated back to our church. These cans are sent to Romania and Eastern Europe in the food packages that World Relief sponsors. The BDC (Bluffton Distribution Center) gave their year end report recently. We learned that over 2,000 volunteers are used each year in the food packaging and other projects carried on there. We say a big "thank you" to each one of you volunteers from Bluffton and the surrounding churches that come and donate your time.

"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat."

Matthew 25:34-35

Our congregation was challenged at our New Year's Eve service, by Bro. Nile Bucher, to ask ourselves an important question each day. "What can I do to bring delight to our Father's heart?" We do not want to be caught just meeting some minimum standards as a Christian. May it be our goal every day in this year of 2002 to "bring delight" to our precious Lord.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts."

Mark 5:17

It is hard to imagine that after seeing Jesus cast out the unclean spirit from a man, the people wanted Him to leave their town. Do

we ever ask Jesus to depart from our presence? When we resist the Holy Spirit's prompting for whatever reasons, aren't we doing the very same thing? Thankfully, He loves us and does not give up. Let us follow the example of the man whose spirit was cleansed, and willingly follow wherever He leads.

It is with great joy we announced the engagement of Sis. Julie Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) to Bro. Aaron Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny). God be with you as your relationship grows stronger through Him. "...a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Eccles. 4:12)

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

Howard Murray, father of our dear Bro. John (Sis. Jessica), passed away on December 27. We pray for grace and peace for their family at this hard time.

Charity Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy) is moving to Arizona and will be greatly missed. Our hearts and prayers will be with her as she makes the many adjustments of moving and settling into a new place. "... The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another." (Gen. 31:49)

There were many in our congregation this past month who were ill, hurt or spent some time in the hospital: Courtney Isch (Bro. Burt and Sis. Karlene), Ryan Neihouser (Bro. Marty and Sis. Angie), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki), Bro. Carl Gutwein (Sis. Yvonne), Sis. Nola Wuethrich (Bro. Rich), Sis. Barb Wuethrich and Bro. Elmer Anliker (Sis. Emilie). We thank God that most are now healed or on their way to recovery.

Visiting ministers this past

month were Bros. Neal Widmer (Lafayette, IN), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). We so appreciate the effort it takes to travel from home and we pray you are as blessed from it as we are.

Note of Thanks:

In humility and thankfulness, I wish to thank my dear family, my dear Church family, secret pals and Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel Anliker for all the Christmas letters, gifts and kindness during this past year. God bless you one and all.

*Lovingly in Him,
Sis. Minerva Wuethrich*

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Sue Levy Gail Bradford

We rejoice with Bro. Aaron Zeller and Sis. Julie Huber, whose engagement was recently announced in Indianapolis. Their parents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller and Bro. John and Sis. Bev Huber (Francesville, IN).

In our recent elections, positions of responsibility were filled as follows: Bro. John Lichtle for trustee; Bros. Cory Gerber, Stuart Gutwein, and Sam Holliger for ushers; Bro. Brad Cook for missions coordinator; Sis. Marcelle Gress for kitchen committee; Bro. Scott Klopfenstein for sound system controller; and Sis. Sandy Lichtle for Silver Lining correspondent.

The congregation voted to return our Wednesday evening services to 7:00 p.m., effective January 23.

We wish to send our prayers and thoughts with Sis. Sarah Bollier as she goes to help Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold in Ixtlan, Mexico.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

Sweet Recompense

After the clouds the sunshine,
 After the winter the spring,
 After the shower the rainbow,
 For life is a changeable thing.

After the night the morning,
 Bidding all darkness cease,
 After life's cares and sorrows,
 The comfort and sweetness of
 peace.

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller at the passing of Bro. Steve's father, retired Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL). May God grant you much comfort and peace during this time of loss. How thankful we can be that we have the hope of meeting once again on those heavenly shores!

Bro. Glen Heinold (Sis. Sandy) has undergone surgery this past month. We are thankful he is recovering quickly.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN). We thank each of you for your willingness to share the Word with our congregation.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and their son, Bro. John, visited us Wednesday evening, December 19. We were blessed by Bro. Steve's message. On Christmas Day, Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and family attended the service and we thank

Bro. Greg for his timely message. We always rejoice when they come.

We gathered New Year's Eve at church for services, seeking God's direction in the days ahead.

We are happy for the quick recovery of Louis Garman (Sis. Ruth) from pneumonia and short stay in the hospital.

We welcomed Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller back from their travels and trip to Jamaica. They were with a work team for ten days. His morning message on January 13 was on Genesis 5 and Ephesians 1 and 2. He brought out how everything in the Old Testament points to Jesus and the New Testament points to the Old Testament or Jesus. In the genealogy of Genesis 5, Adam to Noah, the meaning of their names forms a sentence which points to Jesus. Man (Adam) was appointed (Seth) mortal (Enos) sorrow (Cainan) but the blessed God (Mahalaleel) shall come down (Jared) teaching (Enoch) his death shall bring (Methuselah) the despairing (Lamech) comfort and rest (Noah). In ten generations over a 2000 year period God gave a message of His Son. Ephesians 1:8-9, "Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself."

On the evening of January 16, Elder Bro. Lynn and Bros. John and Brace, conducted a topical Bible study "What is your vision for the church?" There was good response. A vision for ourselves will permeate the church. What we perceive in others is often what we are ourselves, good or bad. So our vision for the church can differ greatly. Our vision should be based on the Bible.

"Come now, and let us reason to-

gether, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18

INDIANA, MILFORD
Paula Haab
Stacey Feller

On Christmas Day, we appreciated having Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and his family with us and thank him for ministering the Word.

A warm celebration took place on a chilly day, December 29, as Kim Troup (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne) became the bride of Brad Brown. We wish the couple God's richest blessings as they walk this life together and set up a new household.

Those with health struggles in recent weeks have been Mary Cockburn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Harold Emch (Sis. Kathryn). May the Gentle Healer restore these loved ones as we lift them up in prayer.

We held our annual business meeting in early January, and offices were filled as follows:

Trustee: Bro. Tom Price; Sunday School teachers: Bros. Fred Beer, Randy Beer, Phil Price, and Sisters Carol Haab, Carol Hurd, Mary Lehman, and Kathy Schlipf; Food Committee: Sis. Anne Troup; and Silver Lining Reporter: Sis. Paula Haab. During these meetings, we are reminded of the many who give so much so willingly to make the church function smoothly, and we are grateful for the services of each.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward

Serving us Christmas Day services in the ministry was Bro. Ed

Fritz (Washington, IL).

Joined together as husband and wife in the Lord on January 6 were Bro. Dana Nieman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay, Smithville, OH) to Sis. Leo Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb). Ministers sharing the day with us were: Bros. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and the bride's uncle, Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). Bro. Dana was already living in our area so we are thankful to have another young couple join our church fellowship. Their address and phone is Box 33, Reynolds, IN 47980, (219) 583-4743.

The results of our annual meeting held the first Tuesday of the new year were: Church trustee: Bro. Ron Clark; Fellowship hall trustee: Bro. Greg Schneider; World Relief sewing: Sis. Esther Bahler; Parkview Haven Board: Bro. Walt Bahler; Sunday School teachers: Bro. Chris Hartter, Bro. Stan Virkler and Sis. Amanda Scheitlin.

Our 2001 church statistics include: five baptisms, six babies, six converts, one wedding, one wedding reception, one funeral, two graveside services and our Elder ordination. As I read these numbers, several words come to mind. Food! Ushering! Clean beds! As our grandmothers used to say, "many hands make light work." It remains a testimony to the unsaved souls around us when we can work together in our common duties to serve each other during each family's special event.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Samantha Schafer Kara Beebe

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

Several from our congregation had the blessed opportunity of accompanying other young people for a week of service and fellowship in Agua Prieta, Mexico. They returned home safely with grateful hearts for all that God has granted them.

Bro. Man Huynh from the LaCrosse, IN, congregation will now be attending church here at South Bend as he has accepted a job in the area. Our small flock receives a blessing each time it grows in number.

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) gave of themselves as they shared the Memorandum with us. It is an encouragement to be reminded of their love and concern for the spiritual well-being of our church today.

We were thankful to have Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman with us again after their time of absence. Prayers are crucial as Sis. Shirley continues her daily physical battles. We as a congregation wish to uplift them in prayer and give them our love and support.

During the winter months, we gather in homes for Wednesday evening services. Please contact a minister if you plan to fellowship with us.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Darel and Janet Walker

We all enjoyed a nice Christmas program presented by the Sunday

School children on December 8. Thanks to all the Sunday School teachers for working with the children to put together such a nice program. May God bless them for their efforts.

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

Micah 5:2

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel".

Isaiah 7:14

We were blessed by an inspiring Christmas Eve service. Bro. Andy Moser taught us how Christ's miraculous birth was foretold several times by the prophets in the Old Testament.

A visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL). Thanks to Bro. Dale for bringing us an inspiring message and for his service to our congregation.

Our little church has been blessed, and we rejoice that several precious souls have come to the Lord in repentance. Casey and Dustin Bucher (Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie) have made a beginning in a life of service to the Lord. Also coming to the Lord in repentance are Eddie Lester (Bro. Ed and Sis. Caroline) and Shawn Ames (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joyce). We rejoice with their families and pray that they will allow God to lead, guide, and direct them during this time of repentance.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Nettie Haab
Diana Houston**

As we begin a new year, the events of September 11 seem to fade away and life somehow returns to normal. Continue to pray for our President and government leaders.

We rejoice with AJ Waibel (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia) as he has found peace with God and man and looks forward to baptism.

We extend congratulations to Purdue graduates, Sis. Missy Wuethrich, Sis. Jenny Gutwein (Bro. Luke) and Bro. Paul Virkler (Sis. Miranda) and pray for God's direction as they pursue the future.

We welcome newborn Maggie Rose Wuthrich, born December 21, to Bro. Ross and Sis. Erin. Maggie Rose joins her sisters, Ellie and Josie, at home.

Our congregation rejoices in the engagement of Bro. Aaron Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny) to Sis. Julie Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) as they make plans and look forward to living for the Lord together as husband and wife.

We thank the following visiting ministers for being willing to bring forth the Word: Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller (Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN), Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihouser (Francesville, IN), Bro. Fred and Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Congerville, IL).

Please join us at 10:00 a.m. for Sunday services if you are planning to be in the area. For local correspondence, contact our ministering Bro. Neal Widmer at (765) 497-4709. Our counseling Elders are Bro. Curt Frank and Bro. Wendell Gudeman.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Erica Wagenbach
Luann Gerber**

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

Another year of mercies
Of faithfulness and grace
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress
Another year of praise
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service
Of witness for Thy love
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

May we ever take to heart the words of this precious song as we begin another year, 2002. It seems that the older we get, the years don't seem as long as they used to and it makes us even more aware of how important it is to live daily for Him.

The Wolcott congregation started out the new year with services with the Remington church. We thank Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) for his willingness to expound on God's Word.

We had our annual meeting the first Monday of the year and want to thank our outgoing teachers, Bros. Bob Gerber, Jeff Bahler, Mark Schwab and Jason Furrer, and Sisters Suzanne Schieler, Rachel Schwab and Laurel Widmer, for be-

ing willing to teach God's Word to our youth each Sunday and nurture the seed that we pray will grow through the years. Incoming teachers are: Bros. John Lehman, Rob Lehman, Bruce Furrer and Dale Banwart and Sisters Elaine Bahler, Shari Schwab and Sheri Bahler. May God grant them the patience and love needed to teach these precious souls.

Visiting ministers recently have been Bros. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) and Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI). We were blessed by their humble words and welcome them back any time.

We have two new babies to bring joy to their parents and grandparents! Jeff, Sharon and Daniel Niece are excited to welcome little Kyle William into their hearts and home! Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rita Furrer. Also excited to open their hearts and arms to another precious baby girl are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Bahler. Little Nanci Elizabeth will get plenty of attention and love from big sisters, Abigail, Emily, Hannah, Sarah and Chloe. Nanci's grandparents are Bro. Leonard Baumgartner and the late Sis. Nancy (Bern, KS) and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Brenda Schulz
Karla Gerst**

Once again we were thankful to have visiting ministers with us this past month. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and ministering Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) shared the Word with us.

Our congregation felt a loss in the past month as Sis. Ruth Reiman passed away. Our thoughts and

prayers are with her children, Ed and Marge Streeter, Ed and Dorothy Rinkenberger (Spring, TX) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst (Alto, MI), and with her many nephews, nieces, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Note of Thanks:

The Ruth Reiman family wants to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and many deeds of kindness in the passing of our Mother.

Ed and Marge Streeter

Ed and Dorothy Rinkenberger

Bill and Judy Gerst

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord...”

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Scott, Sis. Leona, Kari and Sarah Fehr are happy to have a son and baby brother join their family circle. Jacob Glen arrived on December 31. His grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenagene Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Gene Schmitt (Winthrop, MN).

While recently thinking on some of the doctrines and traditions of our Apostolic Christian faith, I thought on the fact that most of our churches have more than one minister, and believe that this tradition, along with many others, certainly has merit. Not only does it permit for the blessings and necessity of travel amongst our ministers, but it also gives congregations throughout the land a better understanding and perspective as the Word comes forth, directed by the Holy Spirit, by ministering brothers with varied occupations, backgrounds, struggles, and insights. Yet how encouraging

it is that the truths remain unchanged as our ministers are in one accord with the teachings of God's Word.

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this month. Our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) was with us January 6. On January 13, Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) was here to visit our congregation and minister unto us. Our thanks to both for willingly lending themselves, and we pray that both they and the Word will be blessed.

Reminder: February is our month to collect for the Silver Lining.

**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark**

What will it feel like to arrive at the feet of God on Judgment Day? Will we hear the words “Your debt is paid”? I recently had some costly but necessary car repairs. When I asked for the bill, the mechanic said, “Someone came in and paid this much” and showed me quite a large figure. I was shocked and humbled. Why me? What did I do to deserve this gift? Nothing. I didn't deserve it. I cried tears of thankfulness and tears of unworthiness that day, and I cry again today. Yet I wasn't the only one blessed by this gift. The receptionist said, “It was like an angel came in that day. I was feeling so low, but that act made me know there are still good people on earth.” We never know how far the ripples of our actions might reach. This undeserved gift from a generous heart on earth is a reminder of the great gift God has given. He sent His Son, so that when the Book of Life is opened, we may hear the words, “Your debt is paid.”

December and January visitors

have been Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), and our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). We thank them for their labors of love to share God's Word with us. We also thank the many other visitors we have had. God has blessed our part of the Midwest with excellent weather for winter traveling.

**IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer**

In the midst of all the hype about Valentine's Day and the talk about love, let us remember God's gift of true love to us, His Son's death on the cross.

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus, the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love
me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

For me it was in the garden
He prayed: “Not My will, but
Thine;”
He had no tears for His own
griefs,
But sweat drops of blood for
mine.

In pity the angels beheld Him,
And came from the world of
lights
To comfort Him in the sorrows
He bore for my soul that night.

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calv'ry,
And suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
“Twill be my joy thro' the ages

To sing of His love for me.

How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall every be:
How marvelous! How wonderful!
Is my Saviour's love for me.

Hymns of Zion # 174

We will miss Ryan Eland (Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce) when he leaves to join the Air Force in February. Our thoughts and prayers, both for safety and spiritual guidance, go with him. We pray that he can be a light to everyone he comes in contact with.

It was a blessings to have Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and his family with us Christmas Day. We had the privilege of having Bro. Doug assembling with us for a few Sundays over the summer while Sis. Clara was in the hospital in Iowa City, so it was nice to have Sis. Clara and the rest of their family with us as well. We pray God will bless Bro. Doug for sharing the Christmas story with us.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

It is a joy to share the news that Kristin DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) is seeking the Lord through repentance. We rejoice with Kristin and her family. It brings back many emotions for each of us to think upon that time in our lives. How thankful we are that God provided the grace for us to humble ourselves and take advantage of the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

January 5 was the wedding day for Arlyn and Nancy Metzger. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann are Arlyn's parents. We welcome Nancy and her family into our community and congregation. Dean Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherry) and Renae

Larson have announced their engagement.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Florence Knobloch (Bro. August), Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd, and Sis. Marlys (Bro. Lynn) Doorneweerd. We pray for each one who carries the cross of illness.

Kiley Ranae is the newborn daughter of Craig and Kelly Metzger. She was born on December 24 and has a brother, Parker. Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger are her grandparents and Sis. Donna Metzger is the great - grandma. On January 6, Isaac Joseph was born to Cathi Meyer and Dan Aschliman. Bro. George Meyer is his grandpa and Sis. Emma Meyer is Isaac's great - grandma. The family of Bro. Duane and Sis. Ann Wulf are thankful to have a new baby boy in their home. Garret George was born on January 16 and is welcomed home by Cassidy, Axel and Zachariah. Grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi Wulf (Morris, MN).

We always appreciate our ministering brothers who so willingly give of themselves on our behalf. Our visiting ministers this past month were: Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL).

In the year 2001, our congregation had 20 births and 2 deaths. May we all seriously consider the sole purpose for life here on earth, to serve our Creator, and keep His commandments. Let us strive to attain that goal in this new year 2002.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach

We want to thank our visiting ministers this past month. May the Lord continue to bless them for their labors. They were Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN).

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Bro. Myron Schulz in the loss of his brother, Don Schulz. May the Lord strengthen them in their time of loss.

Bro. Herb Kuperschmied was recently laid to rest. Our prayers are with his dear wife as she has so faithfully stood by his side over the years as his body and health began to fail him. May the Lord give her the strength she needs now to carry on. We also think of their son, Gary, and his family at this time and pray they can feel the strength of our prayers at this time offered on their behalf. Before Herb's mind and body began to fail him, so many of us can remember his strong, quiet faith and example as well as the many physical duties he carried out in the maintenance of our church. Also, many of the children now grown to be adults remember him so well as the candy man.

We recently heard of the passing of Dorothy Austin, the mother of our dear Sis. Kelly Lanz (Bro. Monte). May Sis. Kelly feel our thoughts and prayers for her and her family at this time of great loss.

We are thankful Bro. Ted Wiegand is recuperating so well after having a rather serious accident on his way to work. May the Lord continue to grant him healing and strength in the weeks to come.

Recently we held our annual business meeting to take care of the many physical needs of our church.

We are thankful to those whose terms have ended for their faithful service. May the Lord bless them for their labors. Those selected to serve new terms are: Bros. Ryan Frank (cemetery), Marc Wagenbach (trustee), Dan Frank and Gerald Wagenbach, Sr. (Fellowship Center), Brent Frank and Randy Steiner (ushers) and Sisters Arlene Siegle and Lori White (kitchen committee), Monica Wagenbach (World Relief). We are thankful for each one who is willing to serve.

IOWA, PULASKI
Katrina Knobloch

We want to thank Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) for sharing God's Word with us Christmas Day.

Elder Bros. Everett Hari (Sis. Beverly, Bloomington, IL) and Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Doug Schock in the reading of the Memorandum. We are so thankful for the wise counsel and guidance of our Elder body. Elder Bro. Everett Hari spent Sunday with us, and we appreciate his labors.

The Princeville, IL, Bible Class came and enjoyed a weekend of fellowship. A special thanks to all who made this weekend possible.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Lori Skoglund
Berniece Banwart

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers who proclaimed the Word of Truth. May God bless Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bros. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl) and Kent Getz (Sis. Betty), of Elgin, IA, and Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN).

We rejoice with Quinn Dahl-

hauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen) as he claims peace from God. We look forward to his testimony on January 26.

We welcome to our congregation Sis. Clara Anliker, who recently moved to West Bend from Madison, KS, and is making her home with her sister, Sis. Lela Banwart. We wish her God's blessings as she makes these adjustments in her life after the recent loss of her dear husband, Bro. Sam Anliker.

Andy and Jamie Fehr are thankful first-time parents of Alex James born on December 27, 2001. Grandparents, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte Fehr, along with James and Vonnie Shouse of Laurens, IA, are happy with this new little one in their families.

Several of our loved ones have suffered illness recently. Surgical patients were Bro. Mark (Sis. Deb) Bruellman, Pam Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne), and April Rongved (Julie and Kevin Jordon). Bro. Verner Wirtz received medical care in the hospital and at home. May they all feel the prayers offered in their behalf.

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

James 4:14

Two from our congregation have recently passed from this life. On December 16, Bro. Lawrence (Sis. Elba) Schneider died after reaching the age of 83. He will be greatly missed by his dear wife and children, Marilyn (Phil) Gardner of Algona, IA, Bro. Gary (Sis. Sue) Schneider, Louis (Joni) Schneider, David Schneider, of West Bend, and Charles (Chris) Schneider of

Dousman, WI, along with 15 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and sisters, Sis. Edna Banwart and Sis. Nima Fehr.

On December 22, 2001, Louis Schafer, who had been residing in the West Bend Care Center, passed away. He was 89. He leaves behind a son, Ronald; daughter, Donna Brechler, of Milford, IA; 6 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren; and 3 sisters-in-law, Sisters Edna Banwart, Nima Fehr and Ella Schneider. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Marie, in 1953. These dear families have also lost their sister, Lillian (Schneider) Lehman, of Lebanon, MO, who passed away on December 13, 2001, at the age of 92. May God comfort those who are grieving as only He can.

So many changes take place in a single year. Our congregation has welcomed 10 newborns (3 girls and 7 boys) and said farewell to 7 souls who had lived long lives on this earth. There were 5 baptisms, and 4 weddings.

Life is full of joys and sorrows. May we take the time to do as Paul wrote to the Romans, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep". Romans 12:15

How Little It Costs
How little it costs, if we give it a thought,
To make happy some heart each day!
Just one kind word or a tender smile,
As we go on our daily way.

Perchance a look will suffice to clear
The cloud from a neighbor's face;
And the press of a hand in sympathy
A sorrowful tear efface.

One walks in the sunlight, another goes
 other goes
 All weary in the shade;
 One treads a path that is fair and
 smooth;
 Another must pray for aid.

It costs so little; I wonder why
 We give it so little thought;
 A smile, kind words, a glance, a
 touch
 What magic with them is
 wrought.
 —*Mary D. Brine*

JAPAN, SHIODA

Eiko Nozawa

The new year started with much sunshine. And the same old scenery looked brighter and newer in the sunlight. Soon after I was baptized, I remember, the same old world looked brighter and newer in God's light to me.

We are grateful that our Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle and his wife Sis. Lois got home safely on January 12 after spending about 3 weeks in the States. It was so good to see them again on the next day at church.

A new brother in the Lord, Kan Umemura, was baptized at Tokyo Church on December 30. It was a great joy for all of us. From our congregation, seven of us went to witness the baptism. This was a very interesting experience for a young mother from Shioda. She started coming to church lately and wants to repent. Her husband also attends church when he can. She's been very interested in Christianity, so she went to a Christian college. She wanted to have a wedding vow before the living God, so they married in a small chapel built for weddings. After officiating at their wedding ceremony, Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle

invited them to come to our church. That's how they started attending our church. It's her and our prayer that some day in the future she will be a part of our congregation.

We miss Bro. Akihiro Ito, who is in the States again to study. May God protect him, especially when he has to drive on the icy, snowy roads.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

We send you Christian greetings of joy from Tokyo. As we reflect back on the year 2001, we see how it started out with sadness with the passing of Sis. Marie Inoue's dear mother and of our dear elderly Sis. Horiuchi, but how it ended with great joy with the testimony and baptism of our young college student, Kan Umemura, on the last weekend in December. A mixture of trials and joys fell between, and overall we can surely say, the Lord has been very good to us and we look forward to another year of "serving Him with gladness" by His grace.

As was planned, Elder Bro. Everett Hari and his wife, Sis. Bev, did indeed join us for the joyful occasion of Kan's special weekend. Our church really appreciated their love, openness and honesty, and laboring on Kan's, and all of our, behalf. We were also thankful to meet Bro. Chris Lao (Chicago, IL), a fellow college classmate of Kan's, who came to Japan for the first time, and also Bro. Makoto Inoue who was back from Purdue on winter break. The weekend was full of blessings from the Lord and we were thankful too that a vanload from Shioda could also join us. We were humbled and encouraged by Kan's testimony of how he came since first grade to Sunday School, but did not stop, as so many do, when he reached junior high, and that was the precise time

that the Lord reached out to him and gave him the desire to come for his soul's sake rather than just the sake of friendship with the Inoue's son, Makoto. He was able to grow even more in the Lord, when he bravely went off to college in Normal, IL, and chose to gather with our brothers and sisters and friends in the Lord of the Bloomington/Normal congregation. It was there he found the grace to repent, and we thank Elder Bro. Everett, his wife, and many others for their time and efforts spent with him for his soul's sake. We will continue to hold him up in prayer, as we all know the devil does not give up, but what a joy to remember the promise in Scripture, "Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world."

We had mixed emotions at our farewell lunch for Bro. Matt Brake (Sardis, OH) on Sunday, January 6, as we are all going to miss his fellowship and support; but we sure appreciated that he was willing to be a part of our congregation and even made great effort to learn and use the Japanese language. He spent nearly 6 months in Yokohama interning at a Japanese company. We are thankful for the ties that we now have to yet another one of our precious churches in America and hope that many of us can visit there in the future. We welcome Bro. Matt back here anytime!

Sunday, January 20, we enjoyed a special guest, Ben Weber, who came for the second time, on his way back from visiting relatives in America. He had come for the first time last January as he works as a lawyer on the Micronesian Island of Yap and likes to stop by Japan to break up the long trip. He has relatives from his mother's side by the name of Emch who attend our Phoenix, AZ, church and were originally

from Rittman, OH. We learned a lot of interesting facts from him about life in Yap and appreciated that he took the time to worship with us. He taught himself the Japanese alphabet, thus, he could enjoy singing hymns with us which we thought was quite nice. We look forward to future stopovers from him!

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Gal. 6:2

I think it is safe to say that our Sis. Urushino would appreciate thoughts and prayers as she and her husband are encountering various struggles as he recovers from his attempted heart surgery which ended up with complications. In addition, her grandson is scheduled to have surgery in early February for his cleft pallet. Please do remember to uphold her and her family in prayer for strength, and especially to be drawn to the Lord through all of this.

Thank you to all who love and remember us in prayer!

KANSAS, BERN
Sally Strahm
Lori Baumgartner

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”

I John 4:7

Isn't it comforting to know that each of us are loved by God and are of equal importance in His eyes? There are many times in our lives when we can feel God's love toward us and often it is shown to us through other people. It might be a simple, small act of love, but the beautiful far-reaching effect that it has on the

receiver is often unknown to the giver. I'll always remember the love shown to me by a certain older sister in our congregation. As a young, new, bride away from my home church on Sundays, I felt a special attraction to this grandmotherly figure that made me feel welcome and a part of the Bern congregation. I fondly remember her sharing gardening tips and even extra produce from her bountiful garden. Then came the time when we learned that she had a terminal illness. One Sunday she expressed to me that she was thankful that it was her and not me with cancer, as I was now a young mother expecting my second child. I remember thinking, "What a loving, selfless thing to say." Not long after that she passed away, but her little expressions of love will remain in my heart forever. Let us each remember to pass the love of God on to others. These simple little gestures just might be the "ray of sunshine" someone else is needing.

“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 4:10

We are so thankful that Lindsay Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) has been given the grace to repent. May she feel the loving support of her family and our congregation as she seeks God's forgiveness for sin in her life.

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord...”

Psalm 127:3

We are thankful to report two new babies in our congregation. First-time parents, Michael and Yalana Edelman, were blessed with

a daughter, Molly Marian, on December 20, 2001. Her grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman and Darrell and Sue Schuette of Sabetha, KS.

Alyssa Lanae was born on January 12, to Bro. Adrian and Sis. Harriet Strahm. She is welcomed home by one brother, Laif. Her grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm and Bro. John and Sis. Esther Orcsik of Ontario, Canada.

December 29, 2001, was a special day for Scott Zollinger and Bethany Edelman, who were joined as husband and wife. Bethany's parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman, and Scott's parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Silverton, OR). May they seek God's guidance as they establish their home in the Silverton, OR, area.

Spending time in the hospital during the past month were Pauline Esslinger (Waymer) and Greg Grimm (son of Sis. Marie Grimm). We pray that the Lord will provide healing as He sees best.

We have appreciated the visiting ministers that have come and shared God's Word with us during the month of December. They were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michelle, Silverton, OR). We thank them for their labors on our behalf and may each one feel welcome to come and visit us again.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 8. We want to express our appreciation to those brethren who have held positions during the past year and we offer our prayerful support to those who have new responsibilities given to them this year. May we all realize

that each of us have a responsibility - to pray for the church that all things may be carried out in peace and unity and for the glory of God.

On January 10, Elder Bro. John Lehman conducted a Bible study on "Attitudes of pride and humility". May we take the many scriptures to heart as we know that our attitudes will strongly affect every aspect of our lives. Humility will draw us closer to God and pride will only draw us away from Him.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Ruth Bahr**

Our small congregation was uplifted this past month by visitors from various places. Special thanks to Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL) for serving on the pulpit.

We look forward to the baptism of Bill and Jane Boge and Ryan Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen) who were announced to feel at peace with God and man.

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

We would like to wish each and every one a very happy new year with many blessings from God, and we give out an invite to come and visit our congregation anytime.

We were thankful for each of our visiting ministering brothers this month. May God bless Bro. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) for lending themselves in God's service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Kelly Stewart and his family as his mother was just diagnosed with kidney cancer. It has already spread to her bones and lungs. We pray that God will help ease her pain and help her go peacefully to her

eternal home.

This is definitely the cold season. Many of our congregation have lingering colds. We pray for their returning health and God's hand of healing for them.

Our hospital patient last month was Gabe Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny). He was admitted for dehydration but is well and home again.

KANSAS **LAMONT-GRIDLEY** **Sarah Somerhalder**

Our visiting Elders and ministers this month were Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bros. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Ed Strahm (Bern, KS). We wish them the Lord's richest blessings for bringing us the Word of Life.

Sunday, December 30, was the funeral of Sis. Edna Somerhalder. She lived the last five years of her life in the Apostolic Christian Retirement Village in Sabetha. We are thankful to God she could go to rest so quickly and didn't have to suffer.

Sunday evening, January 6, Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch hosted a farewell singing for Taylor Wine. Taylor will be working in San Diego for several months. We certainly wish him the Lord's blessings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Paul Wernli (Bro. Roy and Betty) and Sis. Hannah Grimm who were hospitalized this month.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks to every one for the many deeds of kindness shown to our dear mother and grandmother during her ailing years and brief illness and for the many prayers, cards, flowers, food and words of encouragement since her passing.

Your love and kindness will always be remembered. May the Lord reward and bless each one of you.

The family of Sis. Edna Somerhalder

KANSAS, SABETHA **Mary Kay Wenger**

Tasha Knobloch (Bro. Steve and Sis. Rose Ann) graduated from Manhattan Area Technical College with a degree in business and computer technology. We wish her God's blessings in her occupation.

We held our Christmas caroling, ending the evening with an abundance of holiday goodies and fellowship.

We extend sympathy to the family of Sis. Edna Somerhalder, who passed away in December. We will miss her attendance as well as her daughter, Sis. Sarah Somerhalder (Gridley-Lamont, KS), who frequently visited her.

Bro. Art Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian) and Sis. Kathy Leman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO) were married December 30 in Aurora, CO. May God bless this union in Him. We welcomed Sis. Kathy to our congregations with a wedding reception in Sabetha on January 13 as well as having ministering Bro. Tom Leman present.

We were privileged to have ministering Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) with us for our New Year's Eve service. He read from Psalm 139 and Revelation 3:14-22. The importance of reading God's Word and drawing closer to God was said to be the best investment we can make. In order for the church not to become lukewarm, it begins with each one of us as an individual. The evening was concluded with the following year-end statistics: 8 births, 3 baptisms, 1 death, and 5 weddings.

**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY
Tamra Kaeb**

“The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.”

Proverbs 11:6

Classes have resumed once again on our college campus and we welcome two new faces among us. Bro. Tony Frey (David and Joyce, Bern) has returned from Kansas University and Dona Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb, Philadelphia) joins us from Pennsylvania. In December, Travis Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon, Sabetha) graduated from K-State and has moved home to the Sabetha area for employment. We will miss his enthusiastic smile but wish him God’s nearness as he moves on with his life. We trust that God will bless our studies and our fellowship this last semester of the school year.

This past semester we were blessed to hear the Word of God from Bros. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). Once again we express our heartfelt thanks to all our friends and family who make the efforts to worship God with us on Wednesday nights. The following brothers from Bern presented us with topical Bible studies: Bro. Jim Kaeb discussed serving God in our occupations, Bro. John Lehman spoke on being an ambassador for Christ, and Bro. Galen Rokey shared the attributes of being a disciple for Christ. Our semester Bible study was given by Bro. Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS) concerning the

true meaning of offense from a Biblical perspective. Those from home who show us their support are gratefully appreciated.

On January 6, Bro. Quinton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara, Kansas City) and Sis. Heather Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy, Detroit, MI) made their marriage vows before God, family and friends. We gladly welcome them back to K-State as they both plan to finish their degrees before moving on. Sis. Amber Bahr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) shared her testimony with the brethren and was baptized on January 13. We rejoice with her and wish her God’s continued grace and guidance in her walk with Him.

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

The second weekend of each month is our designated visiting minister weekend. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and his wife, Sis. Jane, from the Lamont-Gridley congregation spent January 11 with us. We are grateful for their willingness to spend their time and energy in our behalf.

We are thrilled to have a beginner’s Sunday School class once again. With Sis. Kathleen Gallatin as teacher, William Setser and Hans Schrader are beginning their Sunday School experience.

Our congregation welcomes Sis. Tillie Diel as she worships with us. Sis. Tillie and her husband, Marvin, have moved from Kiowa to Wichita so their daughter, Georgia, can be involved in their health care. We are especially pleased to have her grandsons in our Sunday School.

I recently made a plea through this column for help to locate sources from which I could purchase appropriate CD’s for my invalid

husband’s listening pleasure. I asked—I received. Praise God for my heritage!

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Glenda Neukomm**

Just recently I read of the account of Joseph in Genesis 39. He must have felt a stabbing pain in his heart when his brothers sold him to Midianite slave traders. The hurt must have been unbearable. Yet he was able to overcome this tragic setback. He stayed in fellowship with God (Gen. 39:2). He did his job well (Gen. 39:4-6). He refused to be swayed by temptation (Gen. 39:7-12). When he was rejected by his boss, and unfairly so, he remained committed to God (Gen. 39:20-23). Rejection by people happens, but for the Christian, rejection by God will never occur. If we cling to God, His love and care will carry us through.

So much can be learned from Joseph’s experiences. What a remarkable example he was for us.

We rejoice with Sis. Elaine Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Tom Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda, Mansfield, OH) as their engagement was announced. We wish them God’s blessings during this time.

Our hearts are overflowing with joy as we recently have two converts. Rachel Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) and Scott Germann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca). How humbling to see the Lord’s work in their hearts as they turn to Him in repentance. Our prayers are with them and we wish them God’s special grace at this time.

Also our converts, Kyle and Philip Germann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca), were announced for peace, and are looking forward to baptism. We rejoice with them.

We appreciated Bro. Andy Stoller

(Smithville, OH) coming on Friday evening, January 11, to assist us in carrying out our annual business meeting. We felt the Lord's blessing.

We were very blessed to have ministering Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Dan Beer (Milford, IN), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), and Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH) bring us the Word over the past couple months. May the Lord richly bless them.

As the New Year 2002 is well upon us, we extend a welcome to anyone. We always appreciate visitors. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Gloria Gonzalez

In this month of December we remembered our Lord Jesus Christ was born, like a gift or a present from God, so that we could all be redeemed. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (I Corinthians 8:9). We need to keep it in our minds, in our hearts, and our lives. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever all through eternity.

Our visitors this month were ministering Bro. Darren Plattner and his wife, Sis. Sue (Champaign, IL), along with their family. It's a blessing to see God's love between one another. We thank them for their help. We can see that we all have a focus, and our focus is God.

Our Christmas program was a blessing. We learned about our precious Saviour Jesus Christ's birth. The Sunday school and the young group sang some hymns to glorify God this day. "So teach us to num-

ber our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psalm 90:12)

Meet Sis. Gloria Gonzalez

Greetings from Mexico! I am Gloria Gonzalez, a sister to Rosario and Claudia. I didn't grow up in a Christian family, but when I was a little girl I usually attended Sunday school with my little sister, and I enjoyed it. But, when I was 12 or 13 years old I attended junior high school. I began to spend time with friends and at parties. I loved it more than things of God. When I was 15, it was my last year in junior high school, and I began to attend church again. I saw the love, joy, peace, etc. of the brothers and sisters, and I wondered why am I not happy? One night I could not sleep. I was very sad because I was thinking "what about my life?" Immediately I prayed, "Oh, Lord I need Thee, I need Thy help because I don't know what I am going to do." It was then that I felt God's will. He was calling me. I was sixteen years old when I gave my life to Him. Now I know that no one loves me like God. I had lost some friends and didn't go to parties anymore, but I had found my best friend forever, Jesus Christ! I was baptized in February 2001.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Rose Watson Terri Huber

As the rush and bustle of the holiday season fades behind us, we embrace the year 2002 with renewed desire to serve the Lord with all our days, in all our ways! The annual business meeting was held in January, with opportunities for service filled as follows: Usher, Bro. Brian Knudstrup; Trustee, Bro. Jim Blough; Secretary, Bro. Terry Steffen; World Relief, Sis. Luanne Kaeb; and Kitchen committee, Sis.

LaBeth Dunham and Sis. Laura Blough. Bro. Ott Schlatter retains the office of Treasurer. Consensus has also been reached to go forward with plans for construction of a fellowship hall.

Prayers for God's healing hand go out to Carolyn Barry, Danielle Oesch, Melva Oesch, and Tanya Steffen, who underwent surgery, and Marilyn Byam, who had extensive surgery on her foot and other injuries after a recent car accident. We wish all of them speedy recoveries.

Thank you to Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) for offering his services as visiting minister.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Judy Gerst (Bro. Bill) at the passing of her mother, Sis. Ruth Reiman (Oakville, IA). We also remember Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi) in the loss of his grandfather, retired Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka, IL).

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort."

II Corinthians 7:6

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel Peggy Jackson

We here in Bay City are always thrilled to have visitors and there is special joy when those visitors happen to be ministering brothers. We were thankful to have Bro. Hartzell Kaisner and his wife, Sis. Mary (Detroit, MI), here with us this month. Bro. Hartzell's heartfelt enthusiasm, in sharing the truths of God's Word, is always an inspiration.

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

Luke 15:7

Our congregation rejoiced with Clinton Wackerle (Ileean) as he expressed his need for a Saviour and began his repentance. Our prayers will continue to be with Clinton as he goes ahead in this process.

We had some who spent time in the hospital this month. They are: Bro. Bob Knochel and Sis. Margaret Schlatter (Bro. Dave). It is our sincere prayer that they will be restored to full health and we are thankful for the Saviour's presence by their side.

May God be near each of you in the month ahead.

Reminder: February is collection month for Bay City.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Sarah Beard****Holly Barton**

The new year began with some blessed weekends for our congregation. On January 6 we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Heather Hitz and Bro. Quinton Snyder (Kansas City, MO). May God continue to lead them as they seek to serve Him together and finish their schooling at Kansas State University. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz and Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara Snyder (Kansas City, MO).

The following weekend we joyfully welcomed Bro. Brandon Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn) and Sis. Amber Bahr (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev) into the body of believers. May their faith continue to grow strong and their lives be a witness for Christ at school and wherever the Lord leads them.

We had a number of visiting ministers for these two weekends, including Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bro. Randy Kellenberger and Bro. Brandon Emch

(both of Kansas City, MO), Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), and Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI). We also welcomed Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) for our monthly Woodhaven service. We so much appreciate all these brothers and their families being with us.

Our prayers are with Dorothy Leman (Chuck) and Sis. Ann Tacher as they both recuperate from knee surgery and with Sis. Karen Martin and Sis. Julie Dawson (Bro. Steve) on the death of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Frieda Schaefer (Tremont, IL).

We said farewell this month to Bro. Jeff Waibel, who has completed his master's degree in social work and is now working at Gateway Woods in Leo, IN. We enjoyed the time Bro. Jeff spent with our congregation and know that God will use his talents and education in his work with children and families.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS****Diane Stewart**

We bid farewell to Bro. Justin and Sis. Jory Metzger living here for pharmacy school. Justin is now doing his internship and they have moved and will attend the Lester, IA, church. They were a vital part of our church family, always willing to help wherever needed.

We are so happy to have Sis. Rachel Kent assemble with us again after having a bone marrow transplant and being in the hospital. "The prayers of a righteous man availeth much."

MINNESOTA, MORRIS**Cheryl Messner****Dianne Kellenberger**

We're so thankful for the Godly

instruction given this past month from visiting ministers. Those serving us were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bros. James Koehl (San Diego, CA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH).

Strive aright when God in mercy
His compassion turns to you,
That your soul so long o'er burdened,

Freed from sin might live anew.
Zion's Harp #47

Greg Reuter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn) has turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray for him God's grace to build a firm foundation.

God has blessed us in many ways this past year. Among those blessings we had 13 births, 3 baptisms (also 1 baptism in Regina, Canada), 4 weddings, 6 new converts, and 6 funerals.

God is still tenderly calling those that are yet without the fold.

While Jesus whispers to you,
Come, sinner, come!
While we are praying for you,
Come, sinner, come!
Now is the time to own Him,
Come, sinner, come!
Now is the time to know Him,
Come, sinner, come!

Hymns of Zion #103

We rejoice with two families that have received precious little bundles from Heaven.

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi Messner and son, Clint, welcomed little Valerie Joy into their hearts and home on December 18. Grandparents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger and Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner.

Also, Bro. Terry and Sis. Connie Timmerman had their first son, Ty-

ler Ray, on January 8. Courtney is Tyler's big sister and mom's little helper. Grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon Koehl and Don and Marcia Timmerman.

Those spending time in the hospital were Sis. Lillie Luthi, Sis. Virginia (Bro. Don) Schmidgall, and Candice Koehl (infant daughter of Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelley Koehl).

May God watch over them as they recover.

Shane and Bridget Joos were blessed with their first child on December 27. He has been named Gideon Albert. Grandparents are Jerry (Pete) and Cathy Joos and Don and Janet Spencer. Great - grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Edith Joos.

On January 11, Martha Marie joined the family of Bro. David and Sis. Janet Schmidgall. Rachel is thrilled to have a little sister. May God grant guidance as they raise their precious daughters.

Praying that God will provide abundant grace and understanding to Robert Lesmeister who has begun his repentance. His parents are Paul and Sis. Barb Lesmeister.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Carol Ann Messner
Marilyn Messner

"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Romans 5:1-2

Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, all of West Bend, IA) were here to assist in the proving and bap-

tism of Bro. Nick Schmidt. Our congregation rejoices with his parents, Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie, and other family members.

Repent Ye!

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;

Heed the Word of God today!

Haste to flee His condemnation;

Seek the straight and narrow way.

Evil are the worldly pleasures,
 Leading to eternal fire;
 Seek the everlasting treasure,
 Ere the day of grace expire.

The 60th anniversary celebration of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt was held December 23 by their children. Some of their favorite hymns were sung by the immediate family.

A card shower in honor of Sis. Geraldine Messner's (Bro. Harold) 80th birthday was remembered by many.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to extend a thank you to all our brothers, sisters, relatives and friends who came or sent cards to help celebrate our 60th anniversary. May God bless you always.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt

Sis. Geraldine Messner wishes to thank everyone who remembered her 80th birthday with cards and gifts.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey

This past month we have had the privilege of hearing two visiting ministers bring forth the Word. We thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Bro.

Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL) for their efforts.

The weekend of January 6 found a majority of the Kansas City congregation in Detroit, MI, for the wedding of Bro. Quinton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara) to Sis. Heather Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy). We'd certainly like to thank the Detroit church for all the hospitality, love and kindness shown to us.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

It is with these words that Bro. Quinton and Sis. Heather have chosen to follow the Lord's direction in their lives.

On December 30, Tristyn Riley was born to Amity Wales and Russ Saterfield. Grandparents are Sis. Carol Wales and Donald Wales and Don and Marlene Saterfield. We are thankful for each new life.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Marti
Kristen Leman

We were blessed to hear the proving and testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Kayla Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha. We are thankful to greet her as a sister in faith. Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) was here to assist in this work. Also ministering the Word to us that weekend were Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS). May the Lord's blessings rest upon each of these brothers for their labors.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as Dana Braker (Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller) is seeking the

Lord in repentance. We pray she will feel God's grace and guidance as she makes this most important step in life.

Bro. Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA) visited our congregation during the past month. May the Lord's blessings rest upon him for ministering the Word to us.

Our annual business meeting was held in January 8 at the church. Our prayers are with those who have been given new responsibilities. We thank those who have fulfilled their duties.

Our prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones. We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Edna Somerhalder (Lamont-Gridley, KS) who has gone to meet her Lord. Her brothers and sister from this area are Bro. Raymond (Sis. LuEtta), Oscar (Mary), and Bro. Leonard Braker (Sis. Bonnie), and Sis. Alice Marti (Bro. Charles).

We also extend our sympathy to the family of retired Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Sis. Clara) of Eureka, IL, who passed out of this life on January 2. His son and daughter are Bob Stoller (Sis. Janice) and Sis. Carol Braker (Bro. Jerry).

Wyatt Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) was hospitalized for surgery. Betty Thiebaud (Jack) and Bro. Raymond Luthi (Sis. Violet) have also spent some time in the hospital recently. May they each feel the Lord's healing hand according to His will.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

Our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and Sis. Dona (Taylor, MO) spent the first Sunday of the New Year with us, and some of us from our congregation were blessed to have fellowship with them on Saturday afternoon and evening. We appreci-

ate their love and concern for our little church. Bro. Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) also spent a Sunday here. We thank them.

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

1 Timothy 2:3-6

We read this in church several days after having a most interesting conversation with a couple who told us of their journey to Christianity. High school sweethearts, they married shortly after they graduated, and proceeded to have three children. She was Jewish, and he was Catholic, but she was hostile to Christ, and for nine years they raised their children as Jews. They were interested in spiritual things, and deeply explored Eastern religions, looking to fill a void in their hearts. A business partner of the husband invited them to church, and they started attending. The wife felt obligated to go to promote the business relationship. As she heard the Word, she thought about reading the New Testament so she could better defend why she didn't believe it. After hearing a sermon based on Ephesians, she decided to start there. Reading directly about Jesus in the Gospels was more than she could face, but as she read Ephesians, it rang true to her. The loving God portrayed there was a new concept to her, and her stony heart was softened. She told one of her friends that she was reading the New Testament, and she now felt like it was the truth, and that Jesus was who He

said He was. Her friend was hostile, and said that she wasn't interested in hearing it even if it were the truth. With time, the woman became a believer, and her husband soon followed. She has had many cultural and social issues to deal with, but is happy to share her testimony with others.

This was a reminder to me to 1) Daily be an authentic representative, or ambassador, of Christ to those with whom I rub shoulders; and 2) to never make my own judgment of who will or will not be interested.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Susan Haerr

What a miracle it is when we witness God changing a heart and life! We are thankful to announce that Luke Knapp feels he has peace with God and man. His testimony and baptism are set for the weekend of April 6-7. Luke is the son of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and the grandson of Bro. Ben Knapp (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Zelma Knoblock (Lester, IA).

Our annual business meeting was held Wednesday, January 9. We are thankful for all who played a part in that meeting, and we are truly thankful to see how blessed we are as a church in many ways. God bless all who give generously throughout the year. May we always remember that giving can be done in many forms. I pray that we each use the gifts God has given us to reach out to others.

We thank our visiting minister, Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) for being with us in the past month. May God bless him and his family.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

Our prayers have extended to Alice Rumpf (Bro. Walter) and Sis. Anna Mellnitz this past month. Alice experienced a broken hip after falling in December, and we pray for the Lord's strength upon her in the difficult recovery ahead. Sis. Anna underwent surgery in early January, and we are thankful that she received a good report from her doctor.

"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Philippians 4:12-13

We also remember Grace Briot (Sis. Karen Farney's mother) and Gladys Lomber (Elder Bro. Duane Farney's grandmother) in prayer as both have met with illness and hospitalization and are now residents of the extended care facility.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

Many hearts were gladdened at the news of the healthy arrival of a new baby girl. Morgan Pamela was born to Tony and Erin Aubel on December 28. Rejoicing with them are first-time grandparents, Brad Jr. and Joyce Herzig and Gary and Sharon Aubel and great-grandparents, Brad and Sis. Jeanie Herzig and Richard and Aileen Robbins. May the Lord guide them in the raising up of this precious gift from Him.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

A winter storm caused us to cancel our planned New Year's Eve potluck and singing. We are thankful, however, that as winter is upon us, that we have had the opportunity to witness the beauty of God's handiwork around us each day. As we view the freshness and cleansing created by a fresh snowfall, may we be reminded of the spiritual cleansing that needs to take place in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole.

I want Thee forever to live in my soul.

Break down every idol, cast out every foe;

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

Lord Jesus, for this I most humbly entreat.

I wait, blessed Lord, at Thy crucified feet.

By faith for my cleansing I see Thy blood flow;

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

Hymns of Zion #210 vs.1,3

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

We have two marriage engagements to report: Bro. Andy Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) to Sis. Mary Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Peter Bodrogi to Sis. Laura Ramsier (Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen, Rittman, OH). We wish both couples the Lord's blessings and guidance to

continue in their lives.

We appreciated having visiting Elders with us for evening services: Elder Bro. Arthur Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH).

Bro. Ron Palitto and Bro. Greg Henico, Sr. have returned from being with a work project in Haiti. We appreciated their willingness to be of service in Haiti and are thankful for their safe return.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Anita Steiner**

On January 19, Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) read and exhorted to us the Memorandum. How fortunate we are to have these Elder brothers that care for each one of us. May God richly bless them for their efforts.

The following day we had our annual business meeting. Election results are as follows: Bro. Bill Sauder replaces Bro. Larry Banks as trustee, Bro. Larry Banks replaces Bro. Neil Knobloch as Sunday School superintendent, and Sis. Lori Whitman will continue to serve on kitchen committee. We want to thank for their past efforts those who have completed their terms, and we want to encourage and support those that will start serving.

We were blessed with two other visiting ministers in the past month: Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). May God bless them for their efforts.

**OHIO, LATTY
Kathy Sinn
Heidi Hackenjos**

Our prayers are for the healing of several brethren in our congrega-

tion. We are thankful that Sis. Marilyn Kipfer (Bro. Ephraim) and Bro. Marvin Klopfenstein (Sis. Mary) have experienced God's touch of healing strength as they recover from health difficulties. We are grateful that they are again able to gather with us.

God's hand has also touched Heather Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) as she has answered the call of repentance. We rejoice with her and her family. May she also feel our prayers. We also keep our other converts in our prayers as they work out their soul's salvation with fear and trembling.

We are thankful that the call of the Lord and the strengthening of the brotherhood continues to be preached by our local ministers as well as those visiting. We wish to thank Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) for their visit during the month.

We welcome Sis. Sarah Jacobs (Bay City, MI) to our congregation as her work has brought her here for a time. May she feel the warm welcome and love of the brethren as she gathers with us.

January 1 we gathered for our New Year's Day service and business meeting. Elder Bro. Ray Sinn updated us on the changes that occurred in our congregation during the year 2001. We experienced 9 births, 4 deaths, 6 baptisms, 3 weddings, and we have 11 converts. May God continue to be ever near those whose lives have been closely affected by these changes.

The results of the voting to fill offices were announced the following Sunday. The elected brother for Sunday School was Bro. Jerry

Klopfenstein (Sis. Cherry), sisters for Sunday School were Sis. Patty Gerber (Bro. Dave) and Sis. Denise Plummer (Bro. Rick), brother for church trustee was Bro. Randy Wenninger (Sis. Joni), brother for fellowship trustee was Bro. Kurt Sinn (Sis. Lisa), sister for kitchen committee was Sis. Leann Stoller (Bro. Rod), brother for fellowship hall scheduling was Bro. Rick Plummer (Sis. Denise), and the brother for Christian Country Villa trustee was Bro. Rod Stoller (Sis. Leann). We pray that the duties can serve as a blessing to these brethren and their families. Our thanks go to those whose terms have expired.

We again recognize that several of our brethren have traveled to the south for the winter. We pray for their safe travel and God's presence until we meet again.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

Visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). We are thankful for their efforts to travel and share God's Word with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Roma Them (John) whose sister, Shirley Pruner, passed away. May God comfort their family during this loss.

We remember loved ones who have been hospitalized for illness or surgery. Sis. Dorothy Durkin, Sis. Helen Ramsier (Bro. Wally), Sis. Alice Graszl (Bro. Frank), and Elmer "Bud" Sauder are in our thoughts and prayers.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank every one of you who took part in celebrating our golden wedding anniversary on Sunday, December 23. Thank you

for your presence, for your cards and other gifts, for your good wishes, and especially for your love and prayers. We are overwhelmed. May God richly bless each one of you.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Marcella Sauder

OHIO, RITTMAN

Anna Schar

Sandy Zollinger

The holidays were once again brimming with activity. It is nice to get back into a normal flow. We did, however, appreciate all of the visiting ministers who served us during this busy time of year: Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Ron Palitto, Steve Pamer, Paul Gasser (all of Akron, OH), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) also served at the nursing home. May God bless them for their efforts.

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY) as their daughter, Rachel Baltic, has begun in her repentance.

We also want to remember Bro. John Calame (Sis. Margaret) in prayer as his sister, Claudia Crosby, passed away.

Those hospitalized were Sis. Kathleen Shane (Bill), Sis. Martha Beery, and Troy Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer). We are thankful to have them home again. I'm sure our prayerful support is appreciated.

Engagements this month were Sis. Mary Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha) to Bro. Andy Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) of Akron, OH; and Sis. Laura Ramsier (Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen) to Bro. Peter

Bodrogi of Budapest, Hungary. A February wedding is planned for Sis. Laura and Bro. Peter. We pray the Lord's grace and guidance as they make their plans.

United in marriage were Sis. Cheryl Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Milan Indermuhle (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH). Sis. Cheryl will be missed in Rittman, but I'm sure the Sardis community will welcome her.

OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

"As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters."

Proverbs 25:13

We appreciate Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL) visiting this past month. It is always a blessings whenever Bro. Matthew, Sis. Bridget, and their dear children spend time with our congregation.

"Children's children are the crown of old men."

Proverbs 17:6

Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake are thankful grandparents again. Bro. Cliff and Sis. Gina (Smithville, OH) have a new son, Collin Matthew, born on December 12. Collin's maternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller (Smithville, OH). Collin also has two sisters, Jayde and Lorelle, who eagerly help with his care.

"I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands."

Psalms 143:5

New Year's Eve was a chance to gather at the Fellowship Center to sing hymns, read the Word, and reminisce.

In sickness or health, in suffering or pain,
In storm-laden skies, in sunshine and rain,
God always is there to lighten your way
And lead you through darkness to a much brighter day.

—Helen Steiner Rice

Sympathy thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Dale and Sis. Virginia Riegenbach in the loss of their great-nephew, Thomas Riegenbach, Jr., on January 3.

Clara Stalder is still unable to attend church due to her husband, Bob Stalder, who is in the hospital because of an automobile accident. He is being transferred to a rehabilitation center in Pennsylvania.

After spending time in Japan, Bro. Matt Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) has safely returned. He plans to make his residence in this area.

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

Proverbs 18:22

With gladdened hearts, most of the Sardis congregation traveled to witness the joining of hands and hearts in Holy Matrimony on January 13 of Sis. Cheryl Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Milan Indermuhle (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda). We would like to welcome Sis. Cheryl as she and Bro. Milan make their home together in this area.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Ruth Gasser Edith Miller

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow... For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

James 4:14-15

On three different occasions this past month, our loved ones had an unexpected turn of events in their life. On New Year's Day, Bro. Steve Bauman (Sis. Connie) became ill during church services. He was taken to the hospital and remained there for several days. Thankfully, he has recovered and is assembling with us again. A few days later, Sis. Ruth Gasser met with an automobile accident. Although her injuries will take time to heal, we're thankful it was not more serious. She remains confined at this time, but is improving day by day. We just received word that Sis. Alma Maibach (Tug) had to be hospitalized due to a heart problem while visiting relatives in Phoenix, AZ. Although many miles from home, we trust she can feel our prayers and support during this difficult time. Sis. Mildred Hartzler was also recently hospitalized due to pneumonia. She is home again and feeling some better, but has not been able to come to church yet. May she likewise feel our prayerful support.

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:15

We thank those who visited us and brought forth the Word of Truth, including Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), John Stoller

(Leo, IN), and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL). May the Lord be their rewarder.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

We have three new babies to report this month. On December 22, Bro. Garth and Sis. Sheila Gucker welcomed their firstborn, Max Christopher. First-time grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Gloria Hartzler. On December 29, Collin Matthew Brake arrived to bless the home of Bro. Cliff and Sis. Gina and sisters, Jayde and Lorelle. Collin's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller. On January 10, Bro. Adam and Sis. Ann Uhler became first-time parents to Lane Marie. Also welcoming Lane are grandparents Dale and Sis. Marilyn Uhler and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep."

Romans 12:15

We extend our sympathy to those who have recently lost loved ones. Linda Maibach's father passed away, and Joan Gasser's (Ed) mother departed from this life.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalms 127:3

We are delighted to join Bro. Seth and Sis. Faith Beard in welcoming Olivia Mai to their family. She was born January 15. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach (Smithville, OH).

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup

"To every things there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven..."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

This was the beginning of the sermon Bro. Ed Knecht gave us during our New Year's Eve Service. A very timely chapter to reflect upon at the end of yet another year which has gone by. We do not know what the Lord has in store for us in this new year, but we do know that He is with us every step of the way.

And so we hope and pray that Bro. Ray Cooper (Sis. Ginny) will feel the Lord's presence and comfort as he is being treated for his heart condition. Bro. Ray was hospitalized briefly, but is home now. We wish him and Sis. Ginny strength and courage to endure this time. Many prayers are being offered on their behalf. We miss Bro. Ray in church and sure hope he will be able to assemble with us again soon.

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick..."

James 5:15

Our congregation had again the privilege to enjoy visiting ministering brethren who gave of themselves in bringing us the Word. We appreciate them and their families so much. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bros. Ed

Knecht (Sis. Judie), Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele). These families and all other visitors add many blessings to our Sundays. May God bless you all.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Kelsey Kuenzi

Though troubles assail
And dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail
And foes all unite,
Yet one thing secures us
Whatever betide,
This promise assures us:
"The Lord will provide."

Zion's Harp #86

Sometimes our plans are altered and roads in our lives take different bends. We can't see the future, but are thankful we can trust that God will be with us no matter what happens. Hospitalized this month was little Kaitlin Kuenzi (Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky). We are thankful that she is home now and is recovering well.

Elisha Natalie Snook arrived a month early on January 8. Welcoming her are her parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Colette Snook, and sisters, Shalyse, Kiara, and Kyra. Grandparents are Vance and Sis. Liz Snook and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (West Bend, IA). Elisha was hospitalized a few extra days due to being premature. Thankfully, she was able to come home and seems to be improving.

Visiting ministers for the month included: Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO). We appreciate all their labors on our behalf.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our heartfelt

gratitude to our brethren and friends across the land. We truly could feel all the love and prayers offered on our behalf when our daughter, Kaitlin, was in the hospital. At times like this, we realize how precious our faith is.

Humbly,

Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky Kuenzi

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

Our small congregation gathered on New Year's eve to worship and sing songs to our Lord, in gratitude for His love and protection in the year past, and in supplication for His continuing care in the year to come. What a blessing we enjoyed to assemble in peace and fellowship, away from the distractions the world has to offer on New Year's eve.

In anticipation of partaking in Holy Communion next month, we received an exhortation to prepare ourselves for this sacrament. We look forward to joining in unity with our brothers and sisters, and pray that this time of preparation would draw us closer to each other and to our God.

We also were pleased to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and his wife with us this month. Bro. Mark assisted our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand in reading the Memorandum letter to our congregation. We appreciate both brothers and their willingness to serve and share with us. May we all strive to adhere to the things we heard and strive for ever greater unity in the faith.

Finally, this month we held our annual business meeting. We had occasion to fill a few positions and thank those who held these positions in the past year. We are grate-

ful for all those who are willing to labor on our behalf in service to the church.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We have been blessed in the past month by the ministry of our willing ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), and Bros. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT) and Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). They have encouraged us to continue to learn and grow and to always be prepared and watchful as we allow God to work through us, in love serving one another. We have also been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends from Bluffton and Milford, IN; West Bend, IA; and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Alto, MI (2/24), Indianapolis, IN (3/3), Detroit, MI (3/10), Roanoke, IL (3/17), Bluffton North, IN (3/24). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday (3/31). We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service. 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, SAN MARCOS

Dale and Amy Ringger

We are thankful that part of the Apostolic Christian Church mission includes serving our congregation with pulpit ministry and fellowship. Bros. Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie,

Congerville, IL), Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) were here during the last month. Additionally, we were blessed with visitors from West Bend and Eureka.

The schedule of ministers for March is the following: March 3 - Forrest; March 10 - LaCrosse; March 17 - West Bend; and March 24 - Rittman. On Easter Sunday, March 31, we will be having a taped service.

We continue to meet for services 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 southwest side access road.

We extend a welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. Also, let us know if you would be available for fellowship on Saturday or Sunday evening or during the week. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (979) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 266-0178; Dale Kaisner (512) 255-7583; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger (512) 933-1380.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Joyce Nohl

We express our thanks to the ministering brothers that come and share God's Living Word with us. They were Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO). May God richly bless them for their labor of love.

Our annual business meeting

was held on January 20. Elected was: Church trustee – Bro. Myron Schulz; dinner committee – Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz; Usher – Bro. Roland Messner; Sound System – Bro. Wayne Ruefener. May the Lord bless each one as they proceed with their duties. We thank those who have fulfilled their duties: Bro. Harley Bruellman served as trustee; Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messner served on the dinner committee; and Bro. Richard Bricker as usher.

Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan) suffered a broken wrist while working on his home. We give thanks to God that he was spared serious injury.

The following was written and submitted by Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger:

“The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.”

Psalm 23:1-3

What a wonderful blessing to know that the Lord has designed the pleasant places in life for us to take time out and rest. He has designed us with a necessity for rest and He so faithfully provides opportunities for us to spend time in quiet with Him. May we all take advantage of the quiet times He has for us and take time out to be alone with Him.

The past two months have been busy ones as the holiday season has come and gone. The first weekend in December the ICCD staff was

blessed with the opportunity to travel to Bluffton, IN, for a Rio Bravo Reunion. Nolton “Nono” and Kate Beale and their two children, Bibb and Sadler, Joe and Alice Parker and their three girls, Joanna, Emily, Eleanor, and myself spent four days in Bluffton. It was a blessed experience as we were reunited with many of the loved ones that have been down on the past work teams. We appreciated the love and hospitality that was extended unto us and we also appreciated all of the hard work that went into making our trip a special one. A special thanks to all of those who took part in the weekend.

December 8 marked the first annual MCCS Garage Sale. Throughout the year the many team members that come to help on the construction of our campus leave behind clothes, shoes, and other items. Our staff worked hard to clean and sort the many items that were left and we then had a “garage sale” and allowed all of our deaf students’ families and all of our Mexican staff to go “shopping” and gather things for their families. Each family left with 3-4 garbage bags full of clothes and toys. They were all very thankful and it was a blessing to see their smiles. Thank you to all of you that left and/or donated items to our school. Due to a lower income level, most of our students’ families can only afford the bare necessities, so thank you for making their Christmas an extra-special one.

We had our annual Christmas party on December 15 with over 150 in attendance. It was a special time

to watch the families of our deaf students and our staff fellowshiping and getting to know each other better. The Christmas story was presented in sign language to our students and we were encouraged to see the deaf children so interested. Our prayer would be that some day they may fully understand the true meaning of the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for our students and their families.

Now that a new year has begun, we look forward to new adventures and new blessings. One of our newest blessings is Corry Moore, the newest member of our missionary staff. She joined our team on January 4 and, Lord willing, will be with us for a minimum of two years. Corry has a Master’s degree in Deaf Education and will be the head teacher on campus. We look forward to this year, as we are certain that our school and our students will advance to the next level. God so faithfully continues to provide.

January 19 marked the arrival of our first work team of the year. After a couple of months without work teams, all of us are excited as more life is brought to the campus once again. It is such a blessing to work with the many volunteers that come to give of their time. The first Apostolic Christian team of the year is scheduled for March 30 – April 6, 2002. If you would be interested in joining that team, please contact Bro. Ron Kellenberger (Washington, IL) at (309) 383-2325 or kberger@mtco.com. May we all continue to labor together for the bettering of His kingdom.



Sermon continued from page 2

"I am the light of the world." That is what Jesus said. So if it would go out, you and I need to realize that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. He is the bright and shining Light that we can look to. Let us not just look to Him now when things are a little bit tough. We should have been looking at Him every day of our life and we need to continue to look to Him, because He is our only hope. He is the only refuge irregardless of what might happen.

You can say, "Wes, that is pretty easy for you to say." It is, but it is a lot harder to live, isn't it? Let us take courage. We have a God in heaven, so lean on Him and He will stand beside us. Maybe it will cost us our life, I don't know. You don't know. But the ultimate of your soul and my soul, where can it go? Where is it going? Where would it be tomorrow if something disastrous would happen right now? But that answer isn't heaven. I have some work to do. I need to get to the Light. We need to come into the Light. He promises that if we stand in the Light, we won't walk in darkness. Let us not let the darkness come by candle light. We staggered around and we didn't know where we were going. Some of us stumbled and fell and we had to pick ourselves back up. We had to get on track. We don't want that anymore, do we?

We can be encouraged — so encouraged! — by the Word of God when He said, "...he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12. Not this physical life, but the spiritual life we are talking about here—that life that is going to last

for an eternity. Not one that is going to last sixty, seventy, eighty, ninety and maybe one hundred years old. That is not the life we are talking about. We just use that life to prepare for the spiritual life for eternity.

The Light of Jesus Christ. The Light of the world. The Light that can set us free. Sure we have doubts and sure we have concerns. I have concerns about the younger generation. I don't have so many concerns about myself, but for our children and our grandchildren. I don't know what they will have to go through. I don't know what I am going to have to go through yet.

It just really hit me. "I am the Light of the world." It doesn't say just us here in Goodfield. It doesn't say the Apostolic Christian faith. He said the Light of the world — the whole world is entitled to this Light. They didn't believe Him. There were so many that did not believe Him. There were so many in the past right here in our own nation that did not believe Jesus Christ. They were probably going to church and might have even confessed themselves as to be Christians, but I don't know whether they believed and that is not for me to judge because God is going to judge them.

But there is something happening that all these people are beginning to see the church is the place where they should be going, and not the golf course, or watching the TV, or ball games or whatever it might be. They finally decided, "I had better go back to church. I had better get close to God." There is something lacking. Brothers and sisters, that should not be

lacking in our lives. I don't want to walk a life without God. We have that beautiful heritage. Church should be our priority. Reading the Word should be our priority. Is it? What about God shining from our light? What are you? We are a minority.

God opened the door to the Book of Judges. Evidently there were twenty-two thousand and it was narrowed down to ten thousand. Finally it was narrowed down to three hundred and they were in three companies of one hundred and they overcame. God was with them. They were victorious, if you will remember compared to the world. Brothers and sisters, we can be victorious! We are going to be victorious over other nations and over other countries. That is not the victory we are talking about. We can be victorious over the spiritual death of our soul. That should turn a light on for every one of us.

As we sit here today, I know that I am on the winning side. I know that my God and my Saviour Jesus Christ lives and I want to be committed to that winning team! Most of us have taken the opportunity to be a soldier of that winning team. Let us stick with it because we know that is the only way that is going to win. Nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom, we don't know who is going to win. But we know who the winner of our spiritual soul is going to be. We make ourselves available and that is Jesus Christ and God. That is where our victory is at!

"Thy Word, O Lord, forever is a mirror where we see." That is why we come to church. That is why God parts the pages for us. We

don't come with a prepared sermon. I didn't know what was going to be opened this afternoon. Brother Jeff didn't know what was going to be opened this morning. It really didn't make any difference, but the Word of God is new every time we open it. "Our faults and duties as they are, are likeness unto Thee." The wrath of God lies on the world. On those thousands that laid on, and three hundred conquered them.

"The wrath of God lies on the world on whom its ways pursue. Yet, grace enough is found in God to live in him anew."

That is the calling that you and I have today, to live in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ anew. Just because we happen to consider ourselves members of this precious faith, we don't have it made yet. We don't have it made yet, and we won't have until we enter those realms of heaven and Jesus Christ can meet us there and He says, "Come in, good and faithful servant, come in." How sad it is going to be and I hope not one assembled here this afternoon will have to hear the words, "Sorry. I don't know you." That is going to be sad. You know, loved ones, it is going to be for eternity. There is going to be no time to turn around. There is going to be no time to make any changes. That is over with. You have to make up your minds right now to come to the Light.

Verse twenty-one, "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." John 8:21. Kind of sad, isn't it? There are people in the world who let Jesus Christ go by and not acknowledge Him for

what He is. In the attack day, and what was happening then, that is what Jesus was trying to tell them. He said, "I am here. I am walking with you. You see the miracles and you have a partial belief in me, but not completely." He said, "You are going to die in your sins." Because the other day, there was something there in their lives that was maybe a little bit more important to them than Jesus Christ.

We can be encouraged if you will today. Do not let anything come in our lives that is more important than Jesus Christ because I tell you if there is, it is an idol. It really is. It is an idol. I am not going to point them out. We have various idols. We probably all do but it can be an idol to us. We have to put ourselves in perspective. Who are we? What do we think we are? Who created us? We are absolutely nothing here on this earth. Sure, we got jobs and we like to think we are something and I guess we are. We are trying to do God's work, aren't we?

"Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world." John 8:23. Jesus was trying to show them. He said, "I am not of this world. I was in heaven and God sent Me down here to help you people get to heaven. You are from heaven. You were created from heaven. You have mothers and you have fathers." He said, "I am from above. God sent Me. You don't understand that." Do we? Beyond a doubt? Do we?

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24. That is a concern, and it is probably go-

ing out to part of the world today. Do we really believe in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, and that alone? Or, are we trying to climb up some other way to enter in, rather than through the doorway of Jesus Christ and His atoning blood? If we are, we are the same as a thief and a robber. We know that a thief, robber or liar will not get to heaven. Plain facts. Written in the Word. If we believe the Word, we believe that.

Jesus goes on and said, "I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him." John 8:26. This isn't Jesus' words; He was inspired by God even though He was the Son of God. He said, "I am telling you what God wants me to tell you." Think of it. This is taking a little more elevation. He is sharing with you and me this afternoon what God wants us to know. It is written in red letters and that is what we believe to be what Jesus said. He was inspired by God to show those people and to show you and me that this is what God wants us to know, to believe on my Son, Jesus Christ and you will have the Light of the world.

"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." John 8:29. Brothers, sisters, friends and entire congregation, I don't know what is going to happen this week. It doesn't look good, but we have confidence. We can be encouraged that God our Father will be with us irregardless of what we are doing, irregardless of what might

Sermon continued on next page...

Sermon continued from page 45

happen. Our God, our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ is going to be there with us because He loves us. If we will make ourselves adaptable to Him, He is going to continue to love us and He will love us wherever we are at. We can be one of those three hundred that overcame those thousands. We can be overcomers just as Jesus Christ was an overcomer of death and grave. He is at the right hand of God the Father.

We have no privilege to ask to be at the right hand or the left hand. God just help me to get to heaven. "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye

shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32. I will let you at that. There was a lot that we read. One of these other brothers can finish it up. Do you want to be free in slavery? Do you want to be free as a prisoner? Do you want to be free in a country where maybe our luxuries are going to be taken away? We can be free. We can be free if we go to that Light of Jesus Christ and irregardless of what might happen in the very near future. If there is an invasion and if there is a counter attack in America, our power plants, our refineries, whatever it might be that might really

jeopardize this nation as a whole, and it wouldn't take that many things to really bring this nation down to its knees. Brothers and sisters, let us be encouraged and let us take this encouragement with us every day of our lives that Jesus Christ said, "I am the Light of the world." We will not be in darkness.

Light...heaven...darkness...hell...for my soul...for your soul...for an eternity. Let us take courage and let us be encouraged by God's Holy Word.



CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2002

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. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail ksss@dpc.net.

HAITI						
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY	PERCENT FILLED
Palm Grove	Feb. 15-23, '02	Les Cayes	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	100%
SEED	Mar. 7-15, '02	Les Cayes	Robert Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
MEBSH	Mar. 14-22, '02	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	9	100%
Palm Grove	TBD	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	0%
MEBSH	May 16-24, '02	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	0%
AWA-FRW	May 9-17, '02	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Voc. School	4	100%
AWA-T	May 9-17, '02	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
AWA-B	May 9-17, '02	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Voc. School	2	100%
JAMAICA						
CCCD	(**) Mar 8-16, '02	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	(*) 60%
CCCD	(**) Mar 8-16, '02	Deaf Village	Nate Wiegand	Work Place	40	(*) 50%
CCCD	(*) Mar 23-3, '02	Deaf Village	(4) Wolcott Bible Class	Deaf School	40	50%
CCCD	Apr 1-8, '02	Kingston	(1) Roanoke Bible Class	Deaf School	50/60	95%
CCCD	May 17-25, '02	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder - TBA	Work Place	40	(*) 80%
CCCD	May 31-June 8, '02	Deaf Village	(2) Taylor/Princeville BC	Work Place	50/60	100%
CCCD	July 6-13, '02	Knockpatrick	(3) Mansfield Bible Class	Deaf School	40	80%

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	219-299-8173	robertebb@lightdog.com
(1) Kevin Fisher	309-923-7684		
(2) Kent Heimer	573-393-2440	573-769-5516	janheimer@hotmail.com
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Mark Criss	309-693-2532		redemed1@aol.com
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	309-923-9154 or 941-485-4302	309-923-9154	tbmiller@mymailstation.com
Dean Pashak	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
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	
(3) Pete Webel	419-756-2587	815-692-2851	
Nate Wiegand	309-744-5252		NATEWIEG@hotmail.com
(4) Jon Schwab	219-261-2935		jschwab@ind-pallet-corp.com
(*) Tim Lohma	913-648-3069		tlohman99@yahoo.com

CCCD = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service
TBA = To Be Announced
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton

A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott
A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont
(*) = Changes or additions since last issue
()** = Spring Break Timeframe

Volunteers Needed

World Relief construction teams are currently accepting volunteers for work at the Case de Elisabet Orphanage in Imuris, Sonora, Mexico. Teams are scheduled March 18th, and March 25th. The orphanage is located approximately two hours south of Tucson, AZ. Activities planned for these two teams include: plumbing, electrical, drywall, carpentry, painting, and general labor. Please contact Bro. Jerry Tooley (480)460-4531 or Bro. Mike Leman (303)751-9361 for more information.

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

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

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Morton, IL 61550
309-263-5536 (local#)
309-263-6841 (fax)

877-370-9988 (toll free)

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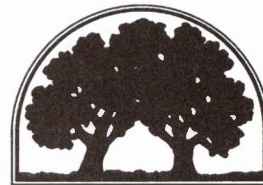
USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

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

Bryan Stoller
817 S. Locust
Pontiac, IL 61764

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.



Gateway Woods Auction August 17, 2002

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

World Relief Child Sponsorship Program

In 1998 the World Relief Child Sponsorship Program was established by the National World Relief Committee to give the members and friends of the Apostolic Christian Churches an opportunity to be directly involved in the lives of children that are born in economically distressed areas of the world.

At this time the program offers students for sponsorship in Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico. The Lord has blessed this work and we now have approximately 550 students and 63 schools sponsored through this program. The small monthly donation enables the student to receive a Christian education and learn a basic academic curriculum. The donation helps with the student's school tuition, school uniforms, supplies, and more, depending on the country.

An important part of the sponsor's contribution is to pray for the student on a regular basis. The students, in turn, are encouraged to pray for their sponsors. Blessings are received by both the students and the sponsors.

We are thankful our God has blessed this work. If you would like information on sponsoring a child, please see the Child Sponsorship Brochure made available in your church. Or you may write, Child Sponsorship Board, PO Box 36, Morton, IL 61550 to request a brochure.

Mexico Work Teams 2002

Granjas Community Center & School (Juarez, MX)

Date	Coordinator	Home Phone	Work Phone	Project
Feb 23 - Mar 2				Canopies, doors, electrical, heating, plumbing, AC
Mar 2 - Mar 9				Interior finish, painting, electrical, heating, plumbing, AC
Mar 9 - Mar 16	Kurt Ifer	260-824-2829		Front gates, interior finish, misc trim details, cleaning
Mar 16-Mar 23	Mike Fiechter	260-565-3402	260-565-3412	Finish details
Mar 23-Mar 30	Jay Grube	260-597-7330	260-820-0335	Finish details

If you are interested in helping with this project and there is no coordinator listed, please call Bro. Bob Meyer, Jr.

Mexico Work Teams 2002

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone & (e-mail)
Agua Prieta	March 9-16, '02	Construction	Wayne Lehman	260-773-4373 socks@bnin.net
Juarez	March 9-16, '02	Construction	Kurt Ifer	260-824-2829
Imunis	March 9-16, '02	Construction	Jerry Tooley	480-460-4531 jtooley@medavisco.com
Agua Prieta	March 16-23, '02	Construction	Wayne Lehman	260-773-4373 socks@bnin.net
Juarez	March 16-23, '02	Construction	Mike Fiechter	260-597-7330 mfiechter@parlorcity.com
Imunis	March 23-30, '02	Construction	Jerry Tooley	480-460-4531 jtooley@medavisco.com
Juarez	March 23-30, '02	Construction	Jay Grube	260-565-2402
Rio Bravo	March 30-April 6, '02	Construction	Ron Kellenberger	309-383-2325 kberger@mtco.com
Juarez	April 3-10, '02	Medical	Cheryl Hermann	309-385-1082 cherylh@mtco.com
Juarez	June 5-12, '02	Construction	Milford Bible Clss	260-831-4684
Rio Bravo	June 22-29, '02	Construction	Joe Maller	260-565-3211 jmaller@adamswells.com
Juarez or Copper Canyon	October 23-31, '02	Medical	Cheryl Hermann	309-385-1082 cherylh@mtco.com

If anyone would desire to go to Imuris at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact Bro. Jerry Tooley

Heft Cassette Tapes

Selling these lovely tapes has proved to be such a blessing to us, and we hope to all who have purchased them as well. We enjoyed "meeting" all of you who ordered them by phone, mail, or in person.

Though we still have a nice supply on hand for sale, we will not be reordering any more tapes. These cassettes make wonderful gifts for all occasions.

The early proceeds from the sale of these tapes were donated to the Vienna church renovation project, then for relief work in our churches in Romania after "the wall" came down, and now the moneys are being used for the Hallein, Austria church addition and remodeling effort.

Through the years, \$32,000.00 from the sales of 4600 tapes has been sent to Bro. Josef Farkasch, the producer of these lovely cassettes. The 3 cassettes contain the first 48 hymns from our old "Heft Long Book", most of which are instrumental in nature. Bro. Farkasch is now the elder of the Hallein church and it appears these demands will prevent him from producing the 4th cassette. However, we will make them available should he complete this project.

Cassettes now available as long as the supplies last may be obtained from:

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

or

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

Cassettes I, II, and III cost \$8.00 each plus \$.75 shipping for each tape



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

From time to time "Remembering" will focus on individuals. This in no way intends to lift them up or honor them, but rather to point to what God has done through them.

In this instance, a letter is shown written by Elder Isaac Gehring of Sardis, OH. It is dated December 9, 1892, and is directed to a family in Wayne County, OH (the Rittman area).

In this letter, Bro. Gehring refers to when he formerly walked from Sardis, OH, to the Rittman, OH, area.

In our Lord and Savior, Dear Beloved Brother,

With a heart's desire I wish to visit you with a letter as a sign of love, which love is by the Holy Spirit imparted to us. So I wish you and the dear sister in Christ, your wife, like unto myself and all the saints there and in our place of abode, God's rich grace, His peace and love betide the good communion of His Holy Spirit, for a hearty greeting.

Dear Brother, I received your letter of the 24th of November. It was a blessing and consolation and joy in spirit. Yea, our precious faith that we have in common is so loving that we by it can have a foretaste of Heaven. Joy which the blest can feel, like the poet writes, "Joy that the world does not know."

I thank the Lord and you for your blessed writing. Not so, though we are not acquainted with each other personally, just the same we love each other with a sincere brotherly love, for we are true children of the Heavenly Father and have the same Savior and Redeemer who is not ashamed to

call us His brethren. And we are all members of His Holy Body; by one spirit baptized into Christ's Body, notwithstanding who we were before, and so in the Spirit we can visit each other, even if it cannot be in person.

Of course, it would be more perfect, but as it cannot be, we will be satisfied the way the Lord has left it for us and will strive to help each other to be true and faithful so we can enter into the promised rest which is promised to the children of God. Where there will be no more parting, where there it will be well resting on the bosom of our Heavenly Father, and where the earthly children will forget their pains and sorrows.

Yea, the suffering of this earthly life is only a moment compared to the long eternity. The author of Psalms writes, "The evening long lasts the weeping, but joy in the morning," and this has now come to pass with our dear sister Roth, whom we buried last Sunday (a week ago). Who thirty years and two months was sick, which can be looked on as an evening of long weeping. With a strong desire, she was waiting for this morning where she in the evening said, "In this night the Lord will come." Yea, He came towards the morning, where not only the morning star arose for her, but also the full day of Eternity and the blessed rest. Oh, such a home going; it is so beautiful, also, for such who are left behind – it shall be an inspiration to us to be true and faithful that we may then all be counted with the countless throng.

Last year I had a faint hope that I could visit you dear ones, but this hope soon faded; my leg got worse all

the time, besides other ailments. Oh, I know we could enjoy each other in the Lord and I would be heartily welcome. Some 35, 36, 37 years ago I used to walk when there were no trains to ride, but those times were also blessed times. The Lord gave me strength and inspiration, and I am glad I did go and so it always fills my heart with joy when I can hear that it is well with all the dear ones in Wayne County – and that there are still souls that come to the Lord.

I was also joyful for the dear young Sister Horn. I knew both of her parents also; slept by dear Brother Horn on the place where Brother and Sister Levi Steiner now live. At that time, Sister Beery lived there. I think it will be 35 years this winter. I will never forget that time Sister Horn and Sister Sommers were baptized; not far from Kansas or Flint where I waited a week on Sister Sommers. During the week I was at Schye's. On Sunday there was not enough room there.

I was young and could walk good. Now I am like an old horse which at any time may break down. But if I only then can receive a house not made with hands from God; Eternity which from all my heart I wish for myself and all the true and faithful, I will be satisfied. If I can live till January 19, 1893, I will be 74. Usually I can go to church yet. Oh yes, dear ones, if we as dear children follow our Lord, then we can as you mentioned, join in the hymn #145 Zion's Harp, "Our Lot is Found in Pleasant Places."

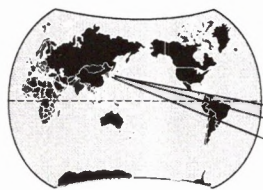
By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:

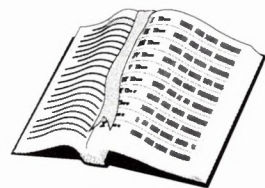
More about Bro. Isaac Gehring

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“Confidence”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

When I was in elementary school, we were taught, “Knocking out the ‘t’.” We were taught that we shouldn’t think that we “can’t” do something but that we “can” do something. It is important that both children and adults have confidence, not only to achieve, but also for their emotional well-being and for self-worth.

In Isaiah 30:15 we find the words, “In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.” This quiet confidence is a powerful force, for good and for health.

In regard to confidence, there are two extremes. Those who think they can’t do anything and those who think they can do everything. Both extremes are dangerous.

The Bible teaches that human life is sacred. Matthew 10:30, “The very hairs of your head are all numbered.” Therefore, we should teach all people that they are precious and of great value. In this way we should encourage

those who lack confidence. Even a severely handicapped person teaches the rest of us to have patience and understanding.

Those people who think they can do everything are probably a greater danger. Over-confidence sank the Titanic and Hitler’s over-confidence that Germany would rule all of Europe for the next one thousand years, brought on World War II. It is important that we all realize that without God’s approval and blessing, none of us can do anything. James 4:15, “For that ye ought to say, ‘If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.’”

Clearly, our confidence should be in the Lord and not in ourselves. Proverbs 14:26 “In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence.” In the church, if we are overly confident, we may think that God has called us to set others straight. However, if our confidence is in God rather than in ourselves, we are apt to kindly and lovingly point out things in the scripture that

may be neglected by some of the brethren. We should never put ourselves above anyone else. “In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” Philippians 2:3

The question may arise as to how the leaders in a church can keep order if they don’t put themselves above the congregation. It is my understanding that leaders in the church are to exhort and admonish with all long suffering by explaining and teaching what God says in His Word. What you think and what I think really doesn’t carry much weight.

In the case of a judge out in society, he must make his decision based on what is written in the law of the land, not on what he thinks. We must have something or someone, God, higher than ourselves, to go by, for we must not put ourselves above each other. Have lots of confidence, but mostly, let your confidence be in God.

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To God be the Glory, for He hath created all creatures to His honor.

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