

The Silver Lining



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

December 2002

Sermon by Brother Don Sinn, Silverton, OR

Isaiah 9:1-7 and St. Matthew 1:18-25 and 2:1-12

We don't read in this account of the shepherds abiding in the fields. In the Gospel of St. Luke we can read of that. How that glorious night when Jesus Christ was born into this world, the angels did sing and did announce His birth unto the shepherds there, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." St. Luke 2:14. But I think all of us know the story. All of us have heard it and we sang it most all of our lives. We have heard those beautiful carols announcing and telling us again the old story.

Loved ones, we rejoice in this day because it was the beginning of the salvation for us. It was the beginning. But the more important part we all know was when the Lord concluded His work here on this earth and hung on Calvary's cross, shedding His blood for us. Making an atonement for our sins. That is why He came and that is why He was sent by the Father. Every one of us here today have so much to be thankful for in this because we had no way of salvation. We had no way that we could find a way back to God. Because we had sinned and we had gone astray. As Isaiah said, "All we like sheep have gone astray..." Isaiah 53:6. We had no way that we could be reconciled again with God. We could not do good deeds. We could not walk in the light of the law because we had already failed. Sin had already come into our lives and spoiled it. So we needed a Saviour. One that was able to once and for all take away our sins. All the blood of goats and of bulls and of all those things that foreshadowed Jesus Christ, that the Jewish people kept as God's priests, and revealed to the world that there would need to be sacrifice for the remission of sin, all those things were concluded there in the coming of Jesus Christ as that perfect lamb, that sacrifice for us.

We read together how He came. He came as a babe. I believe it said there in Isaiah, "...unto us a child is born..." Isaiah 9:6. So He was born and we read the account how it actually came to pass so many hundreds of years later that He was born there in Bethlehem. But it does not stop there because Isaiah said, "...the government shall be upon his shoulder..." Isaiah 9:6. The government shall be upon his shoulder ...we think, the government. Most of us think of government as having a president and a legislature and congress as we have in this country. Maybe a kingdom where there is a king that is over all, which was common in that time. We think of someone that rules. We think of someone that has authority - absolute authority. Someone that is able to grant the needs of the people. Jesus Christ is our King, isn't He? He came here to be the head of the government, the government of all His people. The government of Christianity. He is the king of it, the leader, the ruler.

The other name was given to Him. He says, "...shall be called Wonderful..." Isaiah 9:6. How many of us today know Him as Wonderful? I think every one of us that have been baptized in the precious blood of Jesus and have received that peace that He gives us in our heart, we know Him as Wonderful because He is wonderful to us. He can be wonderful to every one of you today. He is Wonderful. There is no other thing, person, place that is wonderful in the sense of this here. We use that term sometimes lightly. But really, wonderful - that is Jesus.

Then, loved ones, He is a "...Counselor..." Isaiah 9:6. He is the one we go to for help. His Word directs us. It reveals to us the way to heaven. It tells us what we are. It tells us what we need to do to be right again with God. He is our Counselor. No better counselor can we have. Many of us

have sought counsel of others; our parents, our friends. Sometimes in school we have counselors, those that can direct us into things which will be good for us. But loved ones, there is no counselor like Jesus Christ. His coun-

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

December 2002

Seeking the Lost

There were ninety and nine that safely lay
In the shelter of the fold,
But one was out on the hills away,
Far off from the gates of gold
Away from the mountains wild and bare,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care.
"The Ninety and Nine",
Tabernacle Hymns, p. 231

How many saved souls are enough? How many lost souls are too many? No doubt if someone would tell us on a Sunday afternoon that by the next Sunday morning there would be ninety-nine converts in our congregation during that week we could hardly believe it. If it actually came to pass, we would be almost overcome with joy.

But how long would it take after we heard of that large number before we would think of one more dear soul - perhaps from our own family - who was still away from the tender Shepherd's care? How long would it be before we acknowledge that there are more souls who desperately need a Savior? Until all are saved it is not enough. If there is one soul lost, it is too many.

What is our duty and how do we go about seeking the lost? It would seem as though there are two issues here - the duty of the saved to seek the lost and a willingness of the lost to be found.

Jesus set the example for all of us to follow in seeking the lost. He very clearly explained His mission to His disciples. "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost" (Mt. 18:11). He also explained to the Pharisees that it was necessary to go to those who are in need. The Pharisees criticized Jesus because He ate with publicans and sinners, something which they felt was beneath their dignity. Jesus said "...They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick...for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Mt. 9:12-13). Although we do need to seek those who are lost, we must be careful that we do not go to places which may cause us to sin. Jesus warned us that we should not "...cast ye your pearls before swine..." (Mt. 7:6).

How much effort is one soul worth? Again, we have an answer from Jesus, "I say unto

you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth,..." (Lk. 15:7). He also said "For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away" (Lk. 9:25)?

Therefore, we can readily understand that Jesus' mission was to seek the lost, and He placed the value of one soul above all other things. There is nothing of the material world that is worth gaining at the risk of losing our soul.

As Jesus sent His disciples out to preach the Word, He emphasized the importance of spreading the gospel. He said "...The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few..." (Lk. 10:2). After His resurrection, Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Mt. 28:19).

Does this mean that all of us who are saved should go to the foreign mission field? The scripture makes it very clear that we have different gifts and different callings. "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (I Cor. 12:28). This does not mean that some have less value than others. We just have different functions. "For the body is not one member, but many...God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him...those members of the body,... which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:...and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness" (I Cor. 12:14-23).

How can brethren safely, effectively serve God and seek the lost? In the 1993 Memorandum the following points were explained as they relate to the missionary policy of the Apostolic Christian Church:

- We encourage the sharing of God's Word by all members of our church with anyone who has an interest in reading it.

- We encourage all members to invite their friends, neighbors and associates to our churches.

- We encourage members who find it feasible, to move to existing Apostolic Christian communities, especially those that are small.

- We encourage, especially where there is a nucleus of brethren and/or friends, the starting of new churches in areas within the United States.

- We encourage those of our members who feel a calling to assist in the establishment of Apostolic Christian Churches in foreign countries to work cooperatively with the Elder Body and the Mission Committee. For those who have this calling it is necessary that they teach, through their words and lives, the same doctrine as our church, and work separately from other groups or faiths.

We can see therefore, that the responsibility and the opportunity to seek the lost are great. We who have been fortunate enough to hear the message of salvation must be willing to share it.

What is the responsibility of those who are lost? They must be willing and they must be available. In the aforementioned hymn the lost sheep made its whereabouts known. "Out in the desert He heard its cry, Sick and helpless, and ready to die;" (Verse 3). The lost must not run away and hide. It was only after the prodigal son was willing to humble himself and start home that "...his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him" (Lk. 15:20).

Unfortunately, not all lost souls are willing to be helped. The rich young man was available, but not willing. When Jesus told him how he could be saved "...he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions" (Mt. 19:22). The price was too great and, at least at that time, the young man passed up the opportunity for salvation. Jesus did not run after him and try to negotiate a different offer. He was always available to those in need, but He did not alter the plan of salvation to make it suit the young man's desires.

We have a great responsibility to share the gospel. The lost have a responsibility to receive it. God has called us to serve Him in many ways. The rich fellowship into which we were born affords us incomprehensible opportunities that cannot be taken for granted. Jesus said "...unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required..." (Lk. 12:48).



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

A Congregation Begins In Denver, Colorado

Down through the years there had been some interest in establishing an Apostolic Christian Church in Denver. When this was brought up by Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen of Elgin, IL at the Elder Conference in August 1979, it was pointed out that Sis. Katherine Ries from Akron, OH was living near her daughters in Colorado Springs and that there were several friends that were living in the area and some of them were interested in having a Church nearby.

Permission granted for a survey

The Elder Body gave permission to survey the various congregations and see how much interest there was in having Apostolic Christian Church services in the Denver area and appointed a committee consisting of Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Bro. Tom Leman (Elgin, IL).

Report given to Elder Body

A survey was done and presented to the Elder Body at the Winter Conference in January 1980. At this time permission was given to hold services in Denver during the summer of 1980. Bro. Nathan Steffen visited the Denver area one weekend to search for a suitable site in which to hold the services. The Victory Grange Hall in Aurora was rented for Sundays through the summer.

First services June 1980

The first services in Denver were held on the first Sunday of June 1980. Brother Charles Sauder of

Tremont was in charge of the first service. Services were held each Sunday throughout that summer. Attendance ranged from about 24 to a high of about 90. Permission was given by the Elder Body to continue services during the winter. Services were held the third Sunday of each month. Later permission was given to again hold services each Sunday during the summer of 1981. Bro. Tom Leman and his family spent the summer in Aurora to help give some continuity to the services. That fall Bro. Steve Scheitlin (Elgin, IL) moved out to go to school at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Regular services begin

In February 1982, Sisters Barb Unzicker and Sue Esterling moved out from Peoria, IL. Vera Jivan, who had been with the Sister Church, gave her testimony in March and was brought into the Church. In June 1982 Bro. Doug Hohulin (Roanoke) moved out for a summer job and stayed in the area.

Ministering Bro. Tom Leman and his family moved out to Denver in June 1982 to become the first resident minister. On November 20, 1982 Elizabeth Jivan gave her testimony and was brought into the Church. The first communion service in the Denver church was held following the proving.

Church building purchased

The group bought a Church at 280 S. Revere in Aurora. March 6th 1983 the first services were held in this church. Brethren from across the land came to help with the remodeling. Dedication Services were held by Elder Bros. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL).

Current ministers

The current ministers are: Bros. Tom Leman, Mike Leman, and Nathan Lehman. On September 21, 2000, after serving as the Elder for Denver for twenty years, Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) retired and Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was appointed to be the Elder at Denver. On August 7, 2002 Bro. Mike Leman was approved as Elder by the Elder Body and was ordained September 29, 2002.

New facilities being sought

The Denver church is currently in negotiations with a property owner and with the city of Aurora to purchase a small piece of land on which to build a new church building. The new site is approximately 2 miles south and 4 miles east of the present building.

Size of the congregation

The current congregation consists of 46 brothers and sisters, who live here full time, and 4 brothers and sisters spending 2-6 months of the summer season with us. The average attendance, not counting visitors, is 85-90. The congregation is widespread. While most live within ½ hour from Church others live in Greeley, the Longmont area, Winter Park, Jefferson and west of Colorado Springs.

Areas of interest

The Denver area has a varied economic base and down through the years there have been many job opportunities here. We would invite brothers and sisters seeking employment to consider this area. Denver is the gateway to many scenic attractions in the mountains of Colorado. Visitors are always welcome and appreciated.



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

Medical-Dental Missions in Mexico

She slowly walked toward our "tent" clinic. Her steps were pain-fully slow. Lines of age graced her face and could not hide the many laborious and exhausting yester-days. The tattered rubber treaded shoes were past wearing and offered no comfort to two swollen, sore and infected feet. As she faced our group, words were not needed and her grimaces broke the language barrier. She was a Tarahumara Indian of the Copper Canyon to whom daily life remains a struggle to survive.

Without even giving a second thought, one of our nurses gently bent down, took off the worn shoes, wiped the dust off her feet and proceeded to wash, massage and cleanse each open sore. The overgrown nails were cut and trimmed and lotion applied to her feet and legs. Overcome with compassion, this nurse then removed her own shoes and socks and gently placed them on this sweet little elderly woman. It was no accident that the shoes fit.

"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." JOHN 13:14-15

Jesus set the example for all of us to go into the world serving God, serving each other, and serving all people who need to hear the message of salvation...and this very thing is what happens on a medical-dental mission to Mexico.

The need for medical and dental care extends way beyond the borders of America. Medical-Dental teams are taken twice a year

to Mexico. It is here in the Copper Canyon and Juarez that we work with the poor. These medical-dental teams have been in existence since 1986 and a love bond that is indescribable has been formed and united with this country.

The team to Juarez, Mexico provides medical-dental care to the Mexicans who live in the colonias around the outskirts of the city. They live in poverty both in physical and spiritual ways. Each day the team sets out and goes to different areas to set up work sites and clinics outside. We also set up in very remote places, on city streets, in government buildings, and even in the big Juarez prison. The average day includes treating 600-900 people.

The team to the Copper Canyon (in the interior of Mexico) is the home of the Tarahumara Indians. They are known as the "Running Indians" and actually live in caves scattered all throughout this amazing canyon. Many hours of travel each day on bumpy, unpaved roads are a reality when we set up clinics. Some of these Indians have never seen dentists, doctors; furthermore, they have close to nothing to call their very own. Their way of life includes making and selling crafts and growing their own food supply. It is here we see and treat approximately 400-700 people.

There is a job for everyone. The day starts with prayer and devotions. Then we are taken to the sites (planned months before) to set up our "pop-up clinics". It is here that medical services are rendered. The people line up and wait all day if necessary. First off, vital signs are checked, patients screened, and then the gospel of truth is given to them while they wait. Spanish Bibles and

children's Bible stories (all bought by World Relief) are distributed. There is a Bible school area set up for the children so they can listen and color Bible pictures. Then the people are seen by doctors (American and Spanish), and nurse practitioners. Nurses cleanse and dress wounds, check blood sugars and perform any other procedures needed. There are also areas set up for diet teaching, physical therapy, health education and a pharmacy.

However, the real drawing card is the health maintenance area. It is here that health kits (provided by World Relief) are distributed along with beans, rice, clothes, toys, layettes, and various other needed items. In the dental area rotten teeth are cleaned, scaled, and sometimes pulled. Dental classes are given to the children as they wait to have their teeth cleaned.

Why do we go? What good is just one week in Mexico? What difference can be made? All these questions can be answered with the example of Jesus. Our redeemer did miracles to draw people unto Him and show them the love of the Father. One simple act of love will reap a harvest beyond what we see. Through just one act of love, someone, somewhere, will be touched by the Spirit and find our God.

On both sides of the border lives are touched forever. We truly believe that there is a very unique and incomprehensible blessing for all who not only agree that humble service is Christ's way, but also go forth and do it.

For more information contact:

Cheryl Herrmann (309) 385-1082

Sally Herman (480) 807-0347

Rita Knobloch (712) 478-4546

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Occasionally at our larger home, Timber Ridge, there are groups of children or civic organizations that ask for tours. Because of the size of Timber Ridge, it is not as intrusive to have groups visit. Often the reason for a group to request a tour is educational. When we do accommodate groups, we try to keep in mind Jesus' words in Matthew 7:12. Jesus said, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Therefore we try to maintain standards of privacy and confidentiality. This is our residents' home. We also want others to view our friends who live in our facilities as interesting people with whom to interact, no matter the level of challenges. One of the points in our mission statement reads, "Believing all people have dignity and potential". We try to communicate this vision because of Jesus' words.

At times when children (such as Sunday School or Home School groups) have come, we have given information to these children on how to interact with people who have mental retardation. We might discuss how to start a conversation with some residents, what to do if you do not receive a response, if you don't understand the response or how to end a conversation with some residents. These tips and others can help us to remember that we want to treat others just as we would want to be treated. It makes us wonder, in what ways do we interact with people in our lives? Do we reflect Biblical values in our conversations with all people with whom we interact?

JANUARY birthdays at Timber

Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550 are: Nicole Delicath (6), Stephen Penn (8), Edith Wagenbach (8), Jackie Willett (19), Bruce Steffen (19), Frank Fischer (26), John Eddy (27), Tom Sides (31). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Laverna Zobrist (25). At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden Morton, IL 61550: Mary Schramm (13), Karen Blunier (14). At 650 Detroit Ave., Morton, IL 61550: Rhonda Gerst (12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Cheri Blunier

Christmas is a joyous time of the year for most of us. We love to relive the birth of Christ and feel the assurance that Christ was born and died for us. But during this season, when many families are drawn together, this is not the case for some of our families and children. Here at Gateway Woods, the residents struggle with various emotions. They long for what they see others have as a family. Christmas brings pain to them and uncertainty. Residents know and understand the meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ, but while the world is rejoicing and making plans to be with family, these residents vividly realize they can't go home or that home has not been a safe refuge. Some residents do go home for Christmas day, but it is bittersweet because they know it is temporary and they must come back to Gateway Woods to finish treatment. Please remember to pray for these residents during this Christmas season. Pray for peace in their lives. Pray for their souls.

All of our residents have been taught the hope of salvation, and the need to repent for their sins. Sometimes, though, it takes more than head knowledge; the heart must submit. While taking a resident to speak to her parole officer we nearly had an accident. We had to swerve so we wouldn't get hit. The resident realize she could have died and she knew she was not right with God. Through tears she asked, "What is it going to take for God to get my attention? I could have died." Please pray for her soul. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

What does it take for God to get our attention? We must submit to Him just as the residents we work with must do.

We would like to welcome Stacie C. to our campus in Leo. May the Lord touch her heart! We've also had several recent transitions from our Residential Program into our Foster Care program. We are thankful that God has allowed our services to work smoothly together to turn lives around!

Our Foster Care staff has recently helped facilitate two international adoptions and is currently supervising an adoption in the local area. We know that God "setteth the solitary in families," (Psalm 68:6), which means that He wants all children to have a stable and supportive family environment.

Gateway Woods School will be moving into the new school facility in mid-December, Lord willing. Our students and teachers are eagerly awaiting the day!

Please be looking for the Gateway Woods 2003 wall calendar. If you are not on the Gate Post mailing list, you should still be able to

get a copy from your local church. May the Lord bless you all during this joyous holiday season!

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Melinda Matuch**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Christmas and children are a match made in Heaven. This month we will produce our Christmas story for the moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas and brothers and sisters. Our simple telling of the birth of Jesus is a big accomplishment for our children as they sing and wear costumes. The joy on their faces when it's over is a wonderful sight.

The other part of Christmas is the anticipation. We will make decorations to take home and for our classrooms. The children will enjoy the soft carols played while they nap as well as the twinkling of Christmas lights in the dark nap room. Music time will be dedicated to Christmas songs. We will also have our Christmas party on the last day of school before the break. The staff of the preschool pray that your Christmas will be blessed with childlike joy and peace.

Please include us in your prayers. We still have an immediate need for a teacher. We ask that interested and qualified persons contact Bro. Tom Schrenk at his home number (256) 232-0037.

For information about sponsoring a preschool student, volunteer

opportunities or any other questions, please contact the preschool at (256) 233-0591.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

We have had a full and bountiful month here in Athens. The leaves are falling now and we've had our first killing frost. The cotton has been picked and the pecans gathered. Our congregation has been blessed and we are thankful to God for everything He provides for us.

Our preschool board meeting brought visitors to us. We welcomed Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH). Bro. Sam offered the Sunday School lesson and Bro. Bill provided the morning worship service.

The first Saturday evening in November was our Harvest Festival. There was a large turnout and everyone enjoyed the fellowship.

Wednesday, November 6, was a special evening. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller came to formally bring Bro. Milton and Sis. Joyce Ray back into our congregation. They had lived in Georgia for many years and have only recently moved back to the Athens area. We are so pleased that God has returned them to the fold.

We have had many hospitalized or sick this past month. They include Karla Hargrove (Mark and Debbie), and Kendra Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara) who fell and broke a bone in her foot. Others include Sis. Erin Witzig, Sis. Melinda Matuch and Sis. Katherine King. Sis. Dessie Siniard, the oldest living member of the Athens congregation, is hospitalized and very ill. We pray that her peace will sustain her throughout her remaining days.

We have been pleased to welcome home for a visit Bro. Josh Johnson. Bro. Josh is currently living and attending school in Indiana and we wish him well in his studies.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son..."

Galatians 4:4

We in Phoenix send our hearty Season's Greetings to all!

On October 25, we had a bit of rain and hail; then all was clear on October 26 in time for our annual Sunday School church picnic. A 70 degree afternoon was great for a large turnout for the picnic and singing. Thanks to everyone for your planning and work.

Thanks to our visiting minister, Bro. Curtis Kaufmann (Tucson, AZ).

Jared Wuethrich (Bro. Randy and Sis. Stefanie) injured his finger. Bro. Herb Knochel Sr. was in the hospital. Sis. Genanne Witzig was in a car accident on October 26 while driving to the Sunday School picnic. Our loving Father has touched them to make them well.

His love to all.

**ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp**

We had an abundance of visiting ministers this month. Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) all visited Tucson and lent welcome relief to Bro. Curt Kaufman on the pulpit. We thank each and every one for sharing their time and love with us.

Our love and prayers have been with Sis. Diane Funk (Bro. Fred, Morton, IL) and her family as she faces a serious medical condition. We hope they can feel our love and concern over the miles. We will continue to hold their family up in prayer daily.

We recently heard of the death of Sis. Irene Bertschi (Bro. Rudy, Phoenix, AZ). Many of us traveled to her funeral in Phoenix. Bro. Rudy and Sis. Irene were a very important part of our little church in Tucson. Our prayers will be with Bro. Rudy and his family each day also as they must continue along life's road without Sis. Irene. We know they will be comforted that she is in a much better place.

While we're praying for Sis. Diane and Bro. Rudy's family we are also praying for and thinking of Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer (Roanoke, IL) whose grandson is undergoing treatment for leukemia in Illinois. I suppose God sometimes reminds us how important our prayer life is not only to our own household but to others as well.

We are enjoying beautiful fall weather in the 70's and 80's with an abundance of sunshine. It's that wonderful time of year when our electric bill goes down, too cool to need the air conditioner and too warm for the heater.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Robin Moser**

Having recently moved to California, we were moved by the force of the first rain storm of the season. The November winds moved in off the ocean, and the waves grew in power and ferocity. Standing by the edge of the water made me think of Jesus and his disciples on

the sea of Galilee. "...Then he arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm." (St. Luke 8:24) What a mighty God we serve!

We are thankful for visiting Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) for sharing the Word with us in a Bible study on "Preparation" and again on Sunday. Our Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle also led us in a Bible study this month on "Glorifying God". We were truly encouraged and thankful to these brothers for their work on our behalf.

The angels in heaven rejoice with us as God has granted Daniel Luthi (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley) peace with God and man. We anticipate Daniel's testimony and baptism on December 22, Lord willing.

We are thankful Sis. Kay Hackenjós (Bro. Glenn) had a successful outpatient surgery this month. We continue to pray for healing for Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley), Sis. Judy Crockett (Bro. Bob), Bro. Lazlo Cser (Sis. Maria) and for all of our elderly members who cannot come to church as they once were able to. May we each do our part to reach out to those who have health needs in our respective churches (James 1:27).

Once again, the invitation is extended to all to visit our congregation in Altadena. We continue to offer travel reimbursement to ministers willing to share the Word with us here and hope to see some of you in the near future. Please contact Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle if you are considering assisting in the ministry here in Altadena.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Peggy Jevremov**

We have had so much to be thankful for this past month. On October 27, we welcomed our new Bro. Denny Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) into the fold. We thank Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) for assisting Elder Bro. Peter with this blessed occasion.

Our hearts also rejoice with Sis. Yasmin Petrovic (Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian) and Bro. Terry Koehl (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary, Prescott) as they were united in Holy Matrimony on November 17. We welcome Bro. Terry to our congregation and pray the Lord will richly bless their union.

We appreciated the many visitors we have had this past month. Among them was ministering Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN). May the Lord be his rewarder for sharing God's Word with us.

As the Christmas holiday approaches, may we not become so occupied with the planning and shopping that we shove Christ into a little corner until Christmas day when we celebrate His birth. Instead, may He be the focus of our life each day.

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

Isaiah 9:6

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA**

Nathan Reutter

This month has been a fairly

busy one for us here in Kitchener. We have enjoyed the presence of two visiting ministers. We have had two singings at nursing homes. We have had two all church singings. We had a World Relief family work night. We have had a baby born and last, but certainly not least, we have had five souls announced for testimonies. We are very thankful for all of these events.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH) and Bro. Steven Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI). We are thankful for the Holy

Ghost's presence when they stand to preach that teaches them what to say when they must preach (Luke 12:12). Otherwise we would not be fed. Indeed we feel blessed to be fed so well. May God bless all of our ministers for their efforts to feed us spiritually.

Our two nursing home singings this month were fairly well received. Some of the residents in both places were singing along with us as we sang. At one of these singings recently a middle aged man came up to me and thanked us for singing. He said the songs we sang were the old hymns he learned as a child. He said he was disappointed in his church because they had given up these songs in favor of newer songs. He said the older songs were better. This gave me much courage to be content with the songs we have.

Our church singings are also a good time of uniting in fellowship sweet with our brethren. It gives us courage to see the unity between the churches that come to serve us. This following verse seems to

capture the essence of our weekends when visiting ministers come to serve us: "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye..." Isaiah 52:8.

One evening in October we enjoyed a World Relief family work night. It gave us an activity that was constructive in the Lord's vineyard. We were thankful for the opportunity to serve the less fortunate. "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt." (Romans 4:4). We feel indebted to work for God because He has given us salvation.

We had another baby born this month (October 24). Her name is Claudia Marie. She belongs to Bro. Vinny and Sis. Justine Piticar. Her siblings are Joshua, Abigail, Caleb, Simon, Samuel, Benjamin, Phillip, and Timothy. May God bless the raising of these children. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Lastly we very much look forward to the testimonies of five souls. It is very encouraging to us to see this amount of growth in our little church. We earnestly pray that we can continue to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3) as our numbers increase.

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

"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

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of

this promise, and many more. At Christmas time, and all through the year, we are so blessed to know Him! May knowing Him bring you blessings in the coming year.

One of the blessings of knowing Him is being "persuaded that ...death...shall [not] be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39).

This fall, several in our congregation have had loved ones go to be with the Lord. Bro. Tom Leman's mother, Sis. Lavina Leman (Eureka, IL), passed away on October 30. She had been ill for some time and was in the nursing home in Eureka. Bro. Rod Schmidt's and Sis. Mary Berg's step-father, Bro. Verner Wertz (West Bend, IA), died on November 6, after a battle with cancer. Bro. Eric Huber's father, Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS), was killed in a car accident on November 14. Our prayers are with these dear ones and their families, that God would comfort them in their losses.

Children are another blessing from God; "and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Psalm 127:3b). Bro. Brian and Sis. Rebecca Pfeiffer were pleased to welcome their first child on November 2. Little Andrew Christian's grandmother, Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer, is very happy also.

Again, wishing us all the grace to know Christ and enjoy His blessings in the coming year.

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

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which

shall be to all people.”

Luke 2:10

It surely is a blessing that we can share His love with family and loved ones during this time of year. May we reflect upon the birth of our dear Saviour and how on the cross years later He gave His life for us. We have much to be thankful and joyful for.

Three families have been blessed with precious children. On October 20, Brian Russell was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Cindy Garrow. He joins big brother, Logan, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Bernie and Marie Garrow and Bro. Ron and Sis. Judy Stomberg. Lily Suzanne was born October 22 to Bro. Gardy and Sis. Suzanne Moreau. Grandparents are Gregoire Moreau and Lucia St. Eloi and Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman. On November 3, twin boys, Caleb Daniel and Ethan Jacob, were born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenn Virkler. Abigail now has some brothers to love. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler and Michael Hufnagel and Debbie Rubitschun. May each dear family teach the way of the Lord to their children as they grow and seek to learn.

Our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan and visiting Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) read to us the Memorandum. We so appreciate the wise counsel given so that we may be directed regarding things we may need to change in our lives to better serve our Father and by His grace allow us to remain on the narrow pathway. May the Holy Spirit continue to show our dear Elder brethren what the church needs to hear to remain faithful.

The Rockville Single Group was

invited to the Philadelphia, PA, congregation for a weekend of fellowship. It is truly a blessed privilege to have the opportunity to travel amongst the congregations of our faith and be strengthened with the Christian love and hospitality that our dear brethren share with us. May God bless the efforts of those loved ones.

We pray for our loved ones who have been sick or have been hospitalized recently: Sean Crohan (Dan and Sis. Carole), Bro. Clint Webb (Sis. Eloise) and Bro. Emanuel Zahner. May He heal according to His will.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

During this month we have a lot of reasons to give thanks.

We are thankful for healing. Roberta Belsley has had surgery and is back home.

We are thankful for visitors. Our ministers the past month were Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Bro. Ed Strahm (Bern, KS), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), and Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). Other visitors were from Lester, IA; Bluffton, Milford, and Remington, IN; Elgin, Fairbury, and Peoria, IL; and Philadelphia, PA.

We are thankful for the Father sending His Son into the world to die in our place. We are thankful for a government that allows us the freedom to worship and commemorate this birth.

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.

We do want to make everyone aware that for the month of January 2003, services will be held on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday. This is only for the month of January 2003, and the rest of the 2003 services will be held on the first, third and fourth Sundays.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Steffen (410) 569-3635 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 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

We welcome Sis. Adriana Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) into the family of God. Our counseling Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) was here for the blessed weekend. It has been nearly 10 years since Ft. Lauderdale's last baptism. This blessed weekend was filled with mixed emotions as we also had a farewell dinner for the Jones family. They have felt God's direction to move to Silverton, OR, area. They plan to leave in early December. They have been a very strong asset to the Ft. Lauderdale congregation, and they will certainly be missed. We pray for God's continued guidance in their lives.

Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein (Sis. Billie) had surgery this month. He is steadily recovering and we are

thankful to have him assembling with us again. Bro. Darrell has been laid up for the past several months, but we trust he has felt God's nearness during this trying time.

As the summer heat passes we look forward to the return of our winter visitors and also the upcoming Christmas season. May we remember not only His birth, but more importantly the great price that He paid.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Mary Masters**

Our congregation enjoyed a precious time of fellowship and joy when we attended our annual retreat at Lakewood. Other congregations that were there were Athens, Atlanta, Fort Lauderdale, and Sarasota. We are so thankful to our assembly speakers who exhorted us in Growing in Godliness.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving, let us remember that the greatest possession that we can have is God's love through His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we can have eternal life. Often our thankfulness becomes dependent upon our individual situations of health and finances, and yet all of us have experienced God's faithfulness in times of trouble.

Hearing of deadly tornadoes that ripped through part of Alabama made many of us stop to realize what really matters in life. Curt and Sis. Jane Huetter thankfully received news of their daughter and her family's safety after the tornado uprooted and deposited two huge trees onto and into their house. It was a terrifying sight to view the pictures sent of the house.

We thank God that He mercifully protected our loved ones as they took shelter in a closet.

We are so glad to have Bro. Wayne Rocke feeling better again after he had some surgeries. Rosemary Piper spent a few days in the hospital, and we are happy to have her back in our assembly again.

Bro. Vic and Sis. Dot hosted a very enjoyable and well attended church potluck this month at their home in LaBelle.

Last Sunday was the collection for the shoeboxes to send overseas for the Christmas project. Many of our loved ones took the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

We have resumed our Wednesday evening church services for the season.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Carol Koehl**

With much joy, we report the arrival of little Joshua Daniel Streitmatter on November 7. Welcoming him home are Bro. Jeff, Sis. Lynn, Jeffy, Gabriel and Caleb. Grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer (Fort Scott, KS).

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for being with us for several weeks in November.

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Joan Stieglitz (Leo, IN) in the loss of her helpmate, Bro. Marvin. We will all miss Bro. Marvin and his willingness to share the Word while wintering in Sarasota.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Doris Rocke (Bro. Orval) and Lucy Buser (Bro.

Ernie).

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers of love, cards, gifts, flowers, phone calls, and visits during my hospital and rehab stay. I felt every prayer that was given on my behalf. God bless you all.

Sis. Marjorie Pitman

Thank you seems like such a little thing to say for all that our children and church family have done for us following my recent surgery. It is humbling to see the love of our God in action. We sincerely appreciate all the prayers, cards, food, visits and calls. May God's blessings always be with you all.

Sis. Kay Eisenmann

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
John Brewer**

On November 3, our congregation had the opportunity once again to take part in Communion. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) traveled down to minister this occasion of remembrance. We are also grateful for retired Francesville Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman to help assist during this service. We are always grateful when we have these two brothers in our midst and are blessed of the time that they are willing to share with us.

We also appreciate the other visiting ministers who have visited us this month which include Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Athens, AL).

If you plan to be in the Atlanta area we would invite you to worship and fellowship with us. We start song service at 10:15. We also

gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Our church is in Fairburn, Georgia 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 more information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Shelia McCoy**

There are loved ones in the glory
Whose dear forms you often miss.

We will miss Bro. Bob Waibel (Sis. Ethel) as he has gone to his eternal home. Bro. Bob always made sure he got to everyone each Sunday. May the Lord comfort the family as only he can do.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Carol Steffen who has also lost her Uncle, Bro. Sam Huber. As the holidays are approaching, may we all remember as we are gathered in our family circles, to pray for those who will have loved ones missing.

When you close your earthly story
Will you join them in their bliss?

Hymns of Zion #222

"I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving."

Psalm 69:30

We were blessed this month to be able to have Bro. Wayne Laubscher and his wife, Sis. Gloria (Cissna Park, IL), in our midst. May the Lord bless our ministers

who preach the Holy Word.

"Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer and attend to the voice of my supplications."

Psalm 86:6

The Lord has answered many prayers as Sis. Kristy Kaeb is able to assemble with us again. We will continue to pray for her, her family, and their unborn child.

Wise men seeking Jesus
Traveled from afar
Guided on their journey
By a beauteous star.

But if we desire Him
He is close at hand
For our native country
Is our Holy land.

Prayerful souls may find Him
By our quiet lakes
Meet him on our hillsides
When the morning breaks.

In our fertile cornfields
White the sheaves are bound
In our busy markets
Jesus may be found.

Fisherman talk with Him
By the great north sea
As the first disciples
Did in Galilee.

Every peaceful village
In our land might be
Made by Jesus' presence
Like sweet Bethany.

He is more than near us
If we love Him well
For He seeketh ever
In our hearts to dwell.

—*Gospel Hymns #867*

Christmas blessings to all from Belvidere and may the Lord dwell

in our hearts all year around.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Rebekah Kaufmann
Ann Kellenberger**

We were blessed by many visiting ministers this past month! Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). We pray that God will continue to bless them as they serve Him.

We rejoiced with Bro. Andy and Sis. Marie Kaufmann as they welcomed home their new baby, Maggie Kaye. Maggie has an older brother, Joseph. Very happy grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann and Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

Our church family was honored to host College Weekend on October 26-27. It was a blessing to meet college students from so many of our congregations! We also enjoyed the beautiful singing on Sunday!

On November 3, we rejoiced to witness the vows of Sis. Chelby Kaeb to Bro. Jeff Sauder (Tremont, IL). Chelby's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb and Jeff's parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder (Tremont, IL). May the Lord's blessings continue in their new life together!

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Margaret Walter at the passing of her brother. Sis. Lenora Sorg was also touched with sadness at the loss of her brother, Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). Our love and prayers are with both of them.

On November 9, the Bible class hosted a fundraiser dinner for the church. They are raising money for a mission trip to Belize next summer. It was a true blessing to hear the songs the Bible class sang and to enjoy a wonderful meal!

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

Our souls have been united in
sweet union
And many precious hours have
gone by.
Our thoughts arose to Christ, our
Lord and Saviour,
And He our hearts with love did
sanctify.
We sang our songs of praise unto
the Father,
For He is worthy of our praise and
honor.
Zion's Harp #114, vs. 2

This was the feeling of our hearts as we hosted brethren from the Washington, Fairbury, and Forrest congregations for much singing and fellowship. May we endeavor to keep and increase the love that we have one for another so that our hearts may be sanctified through the truth.

We were blessed to witness the baptisms of three souls this month. They are Matt Elssasser (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon), Janelle Endress (Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev), and Kendra Baer (Ray Baer, Princeville, IL and Sis. Janna Lou Baer). We appreciate the willingness of Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) to be used of the Lord. We were so often reminded throughout the weekend that God takes pleasure in helping humble, needy souls.

We were also thankful to have ministering Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) with us this past month. May they always feel the encouragement of our congregations to preach the truth.

We rejoice with Bro. Weston and Sis. Jill Stahl as they have received God's blessing of a baby girl. McKenzie Jo is welcomed home by Candace and Chase. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Dean Stahl (Kewanee, IL), and Sis. Charlotte Stahl.

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Janelle Schlipf**

"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

The engagement of Sis. Carmen Kaiser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia) and Bro. Mike Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy), both of Tremont, IL, was recently announced in Champaign. Carmen is currently attending the University of Illinois and we wish them God's richest blessings as they continue to trust His leading.

We were privileged to host the Cissna Park choir on Sunday, October 20. We appreciate the time commitment and dedication of each one as they blended their voices together to provide us with an inspiring message through their songs.

Many students, families and friends met at church on Monday,

October 21, for our World Relief project. Thanks to so many helping hands, we were able to put together hundreds of crayon kits and hair kits for children in Mexico.

Sis. Cheryl Mangers (Bro. Dennie) and her daughter, Sis. Melissa, were able to personally deliver these kits to the children they worked with on their recent medical work team to Copper Canyon. A special thanks to each one who gave of their time and helped make a difference!

Students from Purdue University and Kansas State University were invited to U of I on the weekend of November 10. We were blessed with a beautiful fall day as we spent the afternoon raking leaves, trimming trees and doing other yard work. A special thanks to Bros. Dennie Mangers and Keith Hanson and Sis. Lorna Clauss for supervising our project! As we gathered for a supper and singing at the home of Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart's, it was a beautiful reminder of the blessings we share in our fellowship with our brothers and sisters in our faith.

Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, MX) added a special blessing to our weekend as he shared the Word with us on Sunday. Sis. Claudia Gonzalez traveled with Bro. Marshall from our congregation in Ixtlan. As she spent the weekend with us, she provided a living testimony of God's faithfulness as we follow His leading in our lives.

On November 15, we had the opportunity to welcome Bro. Neil and Sis. June Knobloch to Champaign as we met at their new home for a housewarming. We enjoy this tradition here in Champaign as we are thankful for each one who shares in

the fellowship of our small congregation.

We are always thankful for the blessing of visiting ministers and their families. A special thanks to Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) as they ministered to us this past month.

As we look forward to the joy of the Christmas season, may God richly bless each one! "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

We rejoice with two couples that have recently been joined in marriage. Bro. Ed Hohulin and Sis. Marilyn Walder were married in Bloomington, IL. We welcome Sis. Marilyn to Chicago and pray that our congregation can be an encouragement to this couple as they walk as one with the Lord.

Don Schweigert (Willard and Della) and Magdalena Salazar (Manuela) were also married this month. We have enjoyed getting to know this couple and wish them God's blessings as they establish their home in the Tremont, IL, area. Many congratulations to both couples.

We also rejoice with a third couple, George and Velda Foxe, who have just begun their repentance. It is such a spiritual "boost" for our congregation to see souls in all stages of life coming to the Lord in

repentance.

Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) was with us for Holy Communion service on October 26, as well as on Sunday the 27th for church. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) was also with us on October 30 for a topical Bible study. We express our thanks to these brothers for ministering to us.

We bid an earthly farewell to Sis. Esther Hay, a dear sister of the Chicago church for many years prior to her residence at the Fairview Haven nursing home in Fairbury, IL. We extend our sympathy to her son Bill and the rest of her family. Sis. Esther will be remembered as one who brought a smile to many faces, and we will look forward to smiling with her again in eternity.

Amidst a world in which we hear much of wars and rumors of wars, it was with grateful hearts that we welcomed our Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann home from their trip to Yugoslavia and Croatia on behalf of the Mission Committee. Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy wish to express their appreciation to the Lord for a safe journey and to all those who offered prayers on their behalf.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Denise Walder

Susan Waldbeser

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who have lended themselves on our behalf this past month. They are Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO).

Those among us who have spent some time in the hospital or had surgery recently and need our prayers are Sis. Margaret Rudin,

Sis. Laverne Farney and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann.

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

Hymns of Zion #218

Our sympathy and prayers go to the Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder family on the loss of their precious grandson, Ethan Lyle, born to Bro. Curt and Sis. Amber Wiegand (Congerville, IL). We pray that God will comfort and sustain them during the days and months ahead.

"Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth."

Psalms 71:9

How thankful two of our dear sisters can be as they move to Fairview Haven Home knowing that our precious Saviour will not forsake them now as they make this difficult move. Sis. Margaret Kupferschmid has moved this past month to Fairview Haven Apartments and Sis. Margaret Rudin has moved to Fairview Haven Home. These two sisters will be sorely missed here in Cissna Park and we pray that they can feel our love and prayers go with them.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest..." Julie Edelman (Urban and Sis. Judy) and Jared Yergler were united in marriage this past month. May their love for one another continue to grow stronger as the years pass by.

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

Psalms 127

We rejoice with Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol Stock on the birth of another son, Bradley Thomas. Welcoming him home are Mindy, Bonnie, Andy and Jenny. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Arlene Stock and Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Rinkenberger.

We are so thankful that Franklin Rocke was able to find grace to repent in the sunset years of his life. He lived in Cissna Park all of his life and a few years ago moved to Fairbury to live in the assisted living apartments. May God be with him as he makes this important step.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Arlene Banwart

"I am the Lord, I change not." (Malachi 3:6). "Oh Thou who changes not, abide with me." (Tabernacle #110) So many changes have taken place in the lives of our congregation, but it's a comfort God does not change.

Chris Miller (Betty) was hospitalized for a short time, but is home again. Sis. Marion (Bro. Jake) Miller was also hospitalized, but is now home awaiting surgery. Bro. Virgil Funk has not been able to assemble with us due to back pain.

Quentin Craig (Jim and Elda Mae) is making his home at Oakwood Estate in Morton. His brother, Duane, is residing at Linden Estate. Both of them were so happy to meet former co-workers who also live in their new homes.

It was a special blessing to host ACYF (Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship) twice in November. Bible class students, a little over 400, from twenty area churches, each shared two hymns. We pray the

songs they sang so well will touch their hearts.

Graveside services were held October 26 for Ethan Lyle, infant firstborn son of Bro. Curt and Sis. Amber Wiegand. As a congregation we truly sorrow with them and the grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Wiegand.

Visiting ministers who blessed us with God's Word this month were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Tom Lemans (Denver, CO) and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL).

"What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought." (Tabernacle #188). Kristin Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy) now has peace and is awaiting baptism.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who remembered us with cards, gifts, meals, phone calls, visits and especially with prayers since the loss of our baby Ethan. May God richly bless you for your many deeds of love and for the encouragement you have been to us.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Amber Wiegand and families

We are rejoicing again remembering the Lord's birth. One Christmas I was sent this very special poem. May it be an encouragement.

Someone Needs You

If you're feeling low and worthless
There seems nothing you can do,
Just take courage and remember
There is someone needing you.
You were created for a purpose

For a part in God's great plan,
Bear ye one another's burdens,
So fulfill Christ's law to man.
Are you father, son, or daughter
You've a work none else can do.
Are you husband, wife, or mother
There is someone needing you.
Though you may not carry honors
You can smile or press the hand
Of one who tells his story,
He will know you understand.
There are many sad and lonely,
And discouraged not a few
Who a little cheer are needing
And there's someone needing you.
Someone needs your faith and
courage
Someone needs your love and
prayer
Someone needs your inspiration
Thus to help their cross to bear.
Do not think your work is ended
There is much that you can do,
And as long as you're upon this
earth
There is someone needing you!
—author unknown

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Kay Kellenberger

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bros. Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL). We thank these brothers for bringing forth the Word.

Those who have spent time in the hospital are Bro. Albert (Sis. Dorothy) Schambach, Bro. Norm (Sis. Ginny) Schock, David Buckheister (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynette), and Bro. Bob (Sis. Lynette) Buckheister. We are very thankful that all are at home and

recovering.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Dave (Sis. Paige) Stieglitz, whose father, Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, passed away suddenly November 3 in Leo, IN. Bro. Earl (Sis. Jeanette) Moser passed away November 5. We extend our sympathy and prayers to all the family.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes..."

Rev. 21:4

Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Schambach welcomed a son, Jesse Eric, born October 27. His grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach and Ken and Anita Anderson.

The Prairie Choristers visited our congregation on November 10. A dinner was served following their singing.

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

Isaiah 9:6

Blessings and peace to all this Christmas season.

**ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Janet Zimmerman**

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

Matthew 1:21

"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the

Lord in the beauty of holiness."

Psalm 29:2

As we approach the Christmas time, may we always be thankful for Christ's birth in the lowly manner and for God's great love for mankind by giving His only begotten Son for us.

We are thankful that we could listen to the reading of the Memorandum on November 2. Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) helped our Elder Bro. Ervin with this. We pray that God will bless these dear brothers for all their labors.

Asleep in Jesus!

Oh! How sweet, to be for such a slumber meet!

With holy confidence to sing,
That death hath lost its venom'd sting.

Asleep in Jesus!

Peaceful rest, whose waking is supremely blest!

No fear, no woe, shall dim that hour

That manifests the Saviour's pow'r.

Hymns of Zion #111

Sis. Lavina Lemman passed away October 30. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Wilmer. She is also survived by three sons, Bro. Bruce (Sis. Marge), Bro. Tom (Sis. Marlene) of Denver, CO, Phillip (Sandy) of Hampshire, IL; and one daughter, Sis. Linda Schmidgall (Bro. Jerel) of Morris, MN.

Bro. Thurman "Bob" Hinrichsen died on November 1. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Laydene. He is also survived by four daughters, Linda Cooper (Peoria, IL), Sue Hodges (Bushnell, IL), Marty Van Scyoc (El Paso, IL) and Debbie Ulrich

(Goodfield, IL); two sons, Art (Roanoke, IL) and Ken (Auburn, IN); two sisters, Sis. Norma Pfaffman and Sis. Dorothy Gandell, both of Eureka.

We express our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Ruth Martin (Bro. Les) and Bro. Sam Schmidgall (Sis. Gladys) on the recent death of their sister, Sis. Irene Musselman, of Pulaski, IA.

Bro. Earl Zimmerman (Sis. Elsie) and Bro. Sam Schmidgall (Sis. Gladys) both were hospitalized for knee surgery. Sis. Bena Mae Roche was hospitalized recently and has returned to her home. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Carl Wittmer and his wife, Sis. Mabel, as he is hospitalized at this time. We pray for God's healing hand to continue to be with these loved ones and for others in our congregations that we are not aware of.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank each one for the food, cards, and gifts that I received during my recent hospital stay and since returning home. May God richly bless you always.

Sis. Bena Mae Roche

**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Tammy Hinrichsen
Joann Zehr**

On October 27, our Sunday School Bible class hosted the Congerville Sunday School. We thank ministering Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL) who were also here and assembled with us in the morning and then went to our Fellowship Hall in the afternoon for the Sunday School lesson. We trust it was an enjoyable and blessed day for all.

We always appreciate all of our visitors and extend a special thanks to the other ministering brothers this past month: Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL).

Sis. Marguerite Lorch (Bro. Ben) was in the hospital and we wish her God's healing mercies.

Two of our dear elderly sisters who resided at Fairview Haven for many years were relieved of their earthly trials and called to their reward. Sis. Eldora Walter, 89, passed away on November 2. Her children are Sis. Betty Huber (Francesville, IN), Joyce (Ted) Kupferschmid (Elkhart, IN), and Larry (Sandy) Walter, Gravis Mills, MO; and one son-in-law, Stan (Pat) Paul (Urbana, IL). One daughter, Beverly Paul, is deceased.

Sis. Esther Hay, 96, passed away on November 5. She has one son, William (Mary Pat) Hay, Chicago. One daughter, Mary Lu Roins, is deceased. Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) assisted with her funeral service.

Both of these dear sisters attended our Fairbury church when their health would permit. We extend our sincere sympathy to their remaining children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Little Sarah Lynn was born on October 31 to Jim and Sis. Renae Waldbeser. Her happy big brothers and sisters are Lee, Lynette, Thadd, and Kelly. Grandparents are Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss and Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL). May God's guidance and love be with all the family as they raise this dear little child.

Our love and best wishes are extended to Derrick and Joslyn Steidinger who were married October 19. Their parents are David and Deann Steidinger and Dan and Marcia Grosshans. May God be with them as they establish their home together.

Note: Sis. Louise Hartman is missing a London Fog coat (trench style), size 12, light tan color. Another coat was left in its place at the funeral of Sis. Eldora Walter. If you find the coat, please contact Bro. Warren Hartman at 815-692-3897.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jean Knapp Linda Anliker

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

John 3:5

Experiencing this rebirth on Sunday, November 3, were four souls. Our new brothers and sisters in faith are Joshua Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), Seth Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda), Jane Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra) and Jenny Wenger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill). We thank Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Bros. Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario) for sharing in this special weekend.

We are also thankful God's Word was freely spoken by Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA) at other times throughout

the month.

We rejoice to hear that Ben Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Trent Johnson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Til) have turned to the Lord. May they feel God's nearness and grace as they go through this time of repentance and conversion.

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

May Bro. Eldon (Sis. Stephanie) Kaeb and Bro. Reuben (Sis. Devra) Stork feel the prayerful support as they have been selected to teach our children in Sunday School.

The birth of baby girls have blessed the lives of two families. Maria Kimberly Leman has added joy to the home of Bro. Chad and Sis. Kim, Milan and Paul. Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman (Eureka, IL) are Maria's grandparents.

Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany Edelman also welcome Kelsey Laine into their hearts and home. Kelsey's siblings, Karla, Trevor, Tyler and Trenton, and grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger and Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman, are thankful she has arrived.

May God grant healing to those who have spent time in the hospital which include Bro. Duane (Sis. Janny) Schneider and Edith Honegger. (We apologize for not including Edith in a prior issue.)

We extend sympathy to Bro. Chris and Sis. Viola Metz in the death of her brother, Bro. Earl Moser (Elgin, IL) and also to Sis. Pauline Wiegand and her family in the passing of her sister. May the

Lord grant comfort to those in sorrow.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

Our hearts ache for Bro. Greg, Sis. Missy and Kassidy Post in the loss of their newborn daughter and sister, Gracee Rose. There are no words to say, but we know that God is over all and will be with them and their family.

We were privileged to hear the testimony of Sis. Erin Davis (Bro. Noel and Sis. Molly) and Bros. Travis and Troy Blunier (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eddis). How thankful we are for their addition to our church family. We pray that God would bless them in their new lives.

We have several new babies to report. Bro. Ross and Sis. Kitty Herrmann, along with Kinsey and Ambria, welcome Marisa Luann. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay Wiegand, along with Taylor, welcome Karly Erin. Bro. Kris and Sis. Heather Swords, along with Gabe, Sydney and Kaden, welcome Jayci Reed. We are thankful for these families and their new little babies and pray that God would be with them.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Carol (Bro. Harold) Hohulin, Sis. Elsie Hohulin, Bro. Denny (Sis. Carol) Martin, Sis. Heather (Bro. Kris) Swords, and Kambria Wiegand. Our prayers are with these loved ones.

Visiting ministers are as follows: Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Sis. Marian), and Bros. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou), Todd Feller (Sis. Karen), Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis), Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie), Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy) and Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol). We

are so thankful for their service to us.

Bro. Wes Knapp has retired from the pulpit. Words cannot say how appreciative we are of the years of service and sacrifice he, Sis. Millie, and their family have given to us. We pray that God would be with them and bless them richly for all they have done.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

We were saddened over the death of Sis. Dorothy Witzig, 80, who passed away on October 26. Although in ill health, she died somewhat unexpectedly.

She is survived by two sons, Bro. Bill Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Bob Witzig (Gridley); two daughters, Sis. Sally Fritz (Washington, IL) and Sis. Joyce Ferneau (Gridley); and one brother, John Schlipf (Gridley). Eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren also survive.

She was married to Bro. Ed Witzig from 1943-2000. He died on May 19, 2000.

Sis. Dorothy was a loving sister in faith, who was devoted to her church and to her children and grandchildren. Her mild, friendly presence will be missed.

On the weekend of November 9-10 four souls were proved and baptized. Taken into the fold were four young souls, Sisters Amanda Wynn, Crystal Hodel, Amanda Hodel and Traci Gramm. We wish these sisters much grace as they seek to follow the Lord. Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) was here for the occasion.

In November two more souls were added to the fold: Bro. John Kilgus and his wife, Sis. Shirley.

May God's grace be with them, now and always. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus, nephew to Bro. John, was here for the occasion.

Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) was here in November to present the topic "I am Thankful."

Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) was a visiting minister on November 10. Other ministers were Bros. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bob Meyer, Jr. (Bluffton North, IN), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN). The untiring efforts of our ministering brothers is deeply appreciated.

Bro. Jeff Thames, a Gateway Woods representative, has conducted a seminar on family finances, and managing resources from a Biblical perspective.

Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein was hospitalized for back surgery. Others hospitalized were Sis. Marge Meiss and Willis Aupperle.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

We were once again blessed with visiting Sunday Schools from Peoria and Goodfield on October 20. Our visiting ministers for the day were Bros. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kaylene, Bloomington, IL) and Erik Givens (Sis. Deb, Princeville, IL). A special thanks to these dear brothers for their labors of love.

Kathryn King passed away October 19. She is a sister to our Bro. Joe Zimmerman (Sis. Milly) and our Sis. Lois Getz (Bro. Marvin). Elsie Deppert also passed away. She is a sister to our Bro. Will Uhlman (Sis. Ellie). May God comfort these dear families.

Other visiting ministers for the month were Bros. Matthew Rassi

(Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) and Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS). May our Father in Heaven bless these dear brothers for being willing servants.

On November 6 we were blessed to have our Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL) with us for our Family Worship Service. He encouraged us to "Redeem the Time".

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, food, flowers and memorials after the passing of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Sis. Barbara Schupbach. A special thank you to all who made her move to Morton, IL, easier, through cards and visits. May God bless all of you.

*Fred, Chelly and Taryn Kaiser
Robert, Christine Baum and family*

*Joe, Connie Beer and family
Brad, Tonya Kaufmann and family*

*Tom, Tasha Steffen and family
Tate and Melissa Kaiser
Todd and Nicole Steffen*

Milly and I wish to thank all of you for your prayers, flowers, cards and food during the time of our hospital stays and surgeries. Also, your cards of sympathy, on the passing of my sister, Kay King, were greatly appreciated. May God bless you for your expression of love and thoughtfulness.

*Bro. Joe and Sis. Milly
Zimmerman*

minimum age to attend the annual Senior Citizens' Dinner sponsored by the Young Group at the Fellowship Hall, this year on October 19. The dinner was first class and the song presentations a blessing; many thanks to all who contributed to this special evening and Bro. Ken Hoerr for his closing remarks that any age is beautiful, God is changeless in the context of time and the Holy Spirit does not grow old. "The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above" (Hymns of Zion #156).

With the first frost on the ground, we know winter is coming. We are unable to stop it, but can prepare for it, even as we must prepare for the coming of the Lord. God doesn't need us; we need Him and realize how fortunate we are that there is a Saviour who died for us. The Heavenly mansions are not full but added to all the time. Follow His steps, as He is a light to our feet (Bro. Dave Obergfel 10/20).

Are we an "almost?" We thank Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) and the Bloomington and Gridley Bible Classes for their visit on October 27. We have an emptiness built into our hearts, which longs to be filled by the Spirit of God. Agape love, sacrificially given away, changes lives, and neither death nor life can separate us from it. God wants us to commune with Him, and answer with our love and lives. For the love of their God, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego went into the fire, and also Philemon and Onesimus present a practical application and contrast to the sandpaper approach.

Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) visited Ixtlan, Mexico, on October 25-28, where five souls could be

baptized, increasing the membership to 39.

The Peoria Choir, with Bro. Tim Funk, had a blessed time at Garden Grove, IA, the weekend of October 26-27.

Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) contrasted two different fishermen and their respective tactics for our family night service on November 6. His topic was "Are you ready to be caught by Jesus, or Satan?". Today, serious fishing for our souls is going on. If we are unconverted, Satan wants to keep us desperately; he tried to catch Jesus. Satan is not omnipresent and has to pick his time, but knows where we are the weakest (and allow ourselves to be in that position). It is dangerous to be alone, and sometimes together – in the wrong group. Satan uses the bait which works best and is the most tempting for us. But the lure always has a hook in it...easy to be baited and hard to spit out. His lures can be power, money, position, lots of different things. He is persistent and will come back – we must be persistent in not taking his bait. Jesus followed the same rule to be a fisher of men. Are we putting out our bait? Something people can see and feel they just got to have? Something which looks authentic? Truth is a requirement and we must live what we talk, have a passion and concentrate on hooking somebody for Jesus. Do we just serve the Lord, or love Him? We thank Bro. Erik for his compelling presentation and drawing a parallel to his own father's keen fishing passion and persistence.

The earthly struggles of Norm Rocke (87) ceased October 19 at the Skylines where he had resided since August 1996. He used his special abilities in a charitable spirit

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Peter and Mabel Weber
"O what is seventy?" – just the

(always "low bidder") for many jobs at Church, Fellowship Hall and Skylines. We express our sincere sympathy to his sons, Norman, Ronald, Tim, Michael and other family members.

Bro. Paul Wagler (89) passed away at Burlington, IA, on October 30. May the Lord comfort his wife, Sis. Ella (Thomas), and other members of his family.

We struggle in this world and eventually have to die, but there is an ultimate goal, and for true fellowship with God, death has to occur. He knows best, yet our hearts go out to the Waibel family, who lost Bro. Bob Waibel (67) on November 10 at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee, WI. Our deep condolences to his wife, Sis. Ethel, daughter Sis. Pam Ober, and son Jeff, and the rest of the family members.

Bro. Howard Herman, and Sisters Lucille Beyer and Ardith Herrmann were hospital patients; we wish them well and trust they have fully recovered. We were happy to see Bro. Jim Hoerr in church on November 17, the first time since his operation.

Even Nebuchadnezzar could be turned around for God ("I lifted up mine eyes unto Heaven", Dan. 4:34,37). Could this again happen in our time? We need to be prepared to handle the things God will put before us. Wait and listen to God, just as Ananias was instructed in his approach to Saul (Acts 9:11, Bro. Ken Hoerr 11/10).

January 5 will be the annual Silver Lining collection (\$11.00); please put your contributions into the collection boxes or mail them to Bro. Ken Hoerr, 9619 N. Rt. 91, Peoria, IL, 61615. Thank you.

We wish you a Blessed Holiday season and Happy New Year.

Note of Thanks:

We have been the recipients of many loved ones' prayers, visits, cards and gifts, for which we are so very thankful and grateful. God bless each of you for these many deeds of kindness.

In Christian love,
Sis. Virginia and Bro. Jim Hoerr

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

Mark and Sis. Paula Feucht are the happy parents of a new baby boy, Job, born on October 16. He joins Joshua, Daniel, Jesse and Will. Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht and Pat Stahl are the happy grandparents.

Recent hospital patients have been Tasha Streitmatter (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lori), Bro. Andy Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary), Bro. George Kieser (Sis. Esther), and Bro. Herman Baer (Sis. Mary). We pray the Lord will continue to heal and give them strength in these difficult times. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." (Psalm 34:19)

We are happy to announce the wedding of Scott Eberle and Jennifer Nelson which took place on November 2. Marvin and Sharon Eberle from our congregation and Martha Darling and Ivan Nelson are the parents of this dear couple. God's blessings to them all!

"And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also; for therefore am I sent."

Luke 4:43

We appreciated so much the visits on October 27 of the following ministers: Bros. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN) and Marvin Stieglitz (Sis. Joan, Leo, IN). Just one week later, Bro. Marvin was called to his Heavenly Home. It was a shock to all of us! Our prayers go out to the family, especially to our dear Sis. Renee Herrmann (Bro. Dennis) and children, Dallas, Victoria, Daniel and Destiny, who are of the Princeville congregation. We will miss Bro. Marvin's kind disposition and along with Sis. Joan, the many visits they made to Princeville.

On November 8, Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna) gave a Bible study on "Depression". Thank you, Bro. Ted, for all of the beneficial information you passed on to us. When depressed it is especially helpful to read comforting and easy to understand scriptures, such as the Psalms. Those who have gone through depression or other difficult times have an opportunity to reach out to others who are struggling. (II Cor. 1:3-7)

On November 11, Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Sue, Milford, IN) were in our midst. We are thankful for the spiritual food extended to us that day. May God add His blessings!

We will soon celebrate the birth of Jesus! "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11). May we all strive to have His

love in our hearts every day of the year! "For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death." (Psalm 48:14). We wish all of you a blessed Christmas season!

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jenell Hodel
Joan Leman

There is joy...oh, there is joy,
 Joy that never can be told,
 When a soul that long has
 wander'd,
 Comes within the Saviour's fold.
Gospel Hymns Chorus #171

There is joy in our congregation as Jason and Ali Knepp and Cody Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) have made a beginning in their walk with the Lord. We are thankful they have answered God's call to repentance. May they build a firm foundation on the Solid Rock.

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."
I Cor. 2:4

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL). Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) was here to speak at our monthly Bible study. We appreciate these brothers' willingness to be used of the Lord in sharing the Word of Life with us. May God richly bless them and their families.

The home of Greg and Rachel Braman has been blessed with the arrival of Luke Ulfers, born October 26. Welcoming him home are

his sister, Brooke, and grandparents, Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha Braker of Roanoke and Roger and Alice Braman of Goodfield. Also blessed with a little girl are Jeff and Wendy Rebbec. Mary Carolyne Elizabeth was born October 22 and welcomed home by big brother, Tommy, and grandparents, Bro. Marty and Sis. Patti Rebbec and Tim and Patty Dishinger.

At Home, 'tis well! Then let us
 hasten thither
 Through pain and death on to our
 homeland shore!
 On, boldly on! When this short life
 is o'er,
 New life will bloom for us and
 never wither.
Zion's Harp #170

Sis. Fannie Bradle was called Home to be forever with the Lord on November 2. Our sympathy and prayers are with the loved ones she left behind. There can be rejoicing as Sis. Fannie has gained her crown of victory.

Hospital patients this past month have been Jason Tibbs (Jim and Julie) and Jerry Hodel. May they each feel God's love and strengthening hand upon them.

"And she shall bring forth a son,
 and thou shalt call his name
 JESUS: for he shall save his people
 from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

As the Christmas season approaches, let us keep the true meaning of Christmas as our focus in all that we do.

Note of Thanks:

Our heartfelt thanks to all for the many acts of kindness shown to us during Ervin's illness and since

his death. May God richly bless each of you.

The Ervin Kempf family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach

We were thankful to receive the message from a visiting minister this month. May Bro. Roger Sauder (Fort Lauderdale, FL) be blessed for his labors in ministering from the Word of God.

Our congregation rejoices at the announcement of two couples. Bro. Michael Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) has become engaged to Sis. Carmen Kaiser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia). Bro. Tom Haas (Joe and Dorris Haas) has become engaged to Sis. Lisa Koch (Bro. Dan S. and Sis. Julie).

Bro. Matt and Sis. Jenni Sauder have been blessed with their first-born, Daniel Philip. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann Sauder along with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm (Goodfield, IL).

Bro. Al Aberle (Sis. Emma) spent time in the hospital this month. May he continue to have our support in prayer.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Dianne Wyss
Marcia Koch

"Then they that gladly received
 his word were baptized."
Acts 2:41

With grateful hearts, we recently listened to the testimony of five dear souls. As in the early church, they gladly received God's Word and were baptized. We welcome Bro. Caleb Pfaffman and Sis.

Elise Pfaffman (Bro. Rob and Sis. Lilly), Bro. Trent Barth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie), Sis. Heidi Pfaffman (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary), and Bro. Joel Cox (Bro. John and Sis. Ellen) into the family of God. Serving us during the baptismal weekend were Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Sis. Marian, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL).

Defining moderation as "doing things for the body that make for peace," Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL) expounded upon the value of the moderation in our walk with the Lord during a topical Bible study. Moderation is the gentleness or "sweet reasonableness" about our spiritual walk that draws others to Christ. We thank Bro. Jon for his encouraging and chastening thoughts.

We also thank Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) for his topical study: "An Omnipresent God." Bro. Trent challenged us to grow in our daily and hourly awareness that God is always present with us. As we grow in that awareness, we will become more prayerful, careful, purposeful, and joyful.

Also visiting our congregation this month were Bro. Kent Getz and Sis. Betty (Elgin, IA), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico), and Bro. Ken Weerts and Sis. Myrna (Cissna Park, IL). We thank them for their willingness to serve us with exhortations and encouragements.

We pray that the Lord will be near Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelle Schumacher and their children as they have recently moved to Germany on a business assignment for

several years. We pray that the Lord will strengthen them to be salt and light in their new home and community.

We also want to remember Sis. Sue Ruppert this month as she spent several days in the hospital. We pray that the Lord will renew her strength.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames and their children have welcomed Baby Zachary into their family circle. We all pray that we will know the Lord's wisdom as we nurture and train our children in godliness.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Tiffany Aschliman
Elizabeth Aschliman

"O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

Isaiah 25:1

It is such a great privilege to serve such an awesome God. We rejoice with our converts who have felt the joy and peace of serving Him in the past few months and are awaiting baptism. They are: Justin and Jenna Imel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon), Leah Baumgartner (Bro. Craig and Sis. Beth), Elise Vidrine (Bro. Paul and Sis. Connie) and Jason Schwartz (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joni). Our prayers are with these dear souls as they look forward to their testimonies and baptisms.

We welcomed two dear souls into the fold on October 20. Sis. Vanessa Isch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel) and Sis. Marissa Pfister (Bro. Tim and Sis. Angela) shared their testimonies and were baptized. We rejoice with our new sisters in faith

and their families.

We were saddened this month as we laid two precious sisters to rest. Sis. Queenie Barger went Home to her Heavenly Father on October 27 at the age of 99. Mourning her loss are her children, John Barger and Carol Stern (Doyle). Our prayers are with their families.

Sis. Ada Gerber passed away on November 12 at the age of 93. Our prayers are with her son, Joe Gerber, and her daughters, Gladys Gerber, Sis. Susan Kipfer (Bro. John), Sis. Virginia Gerber, Sis. Marcella Dillman, Sis. Rosemary Hagerfield (Bro. Edwin) and Sis. Martha Gerber (Bro. Dale). Sis. Ada's brothers are: Bro. Homer Heyerly (Sis. LaVera), Bro. Luster Heyerly (Sis. Martha) and Bro. Simon Heyerly (Sis. Delores). Her sisters are: Sis. Gladys Gerber (Bro. Floyd), Sis. Dulla Heyerly, Sis. Rosella Heyerly, Sis. Berniece Maller (Bro. Melvin) and Sis. Jeanette Tonner. We will miss these dear sisters; however, we look forward to a wonderful reunion with them in Heaven.

Several new babies were welcomed this month. Bro. Alan Bertsch welcomed a new grandson. Brett Timothy Lee Becher was born to Lee and Misty Becher on October 19. Brett joins his big sister, Brooklyn, at home.

Curtis John Leyse was born on October 19 to Bro. Troy and Sis. Kelly Leyse. His grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky Leyse. His big sister, Makayla, welcomes Curtis home.

Leah Jean Geisel came into the world on October 29. Her parents are Bro. Zach and Sis. Miriam Geisel (Bluffton North). Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch and Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel

(Bluffton North) are thankful for their new granddaughter.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Jaci Gerber were blessed with another little boy. Travis James was born on November 6. Travis is welcomed by his big brothers, Austin and Adam, and his big sisters, Bethany and Heather. Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois Gerber and Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Ringger are his grandparents.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the many people from our congregation who have spent time in the hospital this month. They were: Bro. Jim Reinhard (Ruth), Sis. Dorothy Frank, Bro. Kris Frauhiger (Sis. Ann), Sis. Lula Baumgartner, Sis. Irene Neunschwander (Bro. John), Sis. Pat Kaehr, Bro. Don Gerber (Sis. Justine), Bro. Harold Geisel (Sis. Ellen), Sis. Dorothy Gerber and Bro. Ray Baumgartner.

We are thankful for three visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North). We are thankful to have such willing brothers.

Bro. Lane Gerber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Christen Geisel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia) have announced their engagement. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan their upcoming wedding and marriage.

We rejoice with Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille Gerber and their family as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them God's blessings for many more years together.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you

up."

James 4:10

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Ann Meyer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me."

Matthew 19:14

Jesus bid one of these little children to come home to Him out of her mother's womb, infant Emerson Jutte, daughter of Bro. Chris and Sis. Kim Jutte. Infant Emerson will be missed by her brother Reid and sister Maggie and by her grandparents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber, and great grandmother, Sis. Mildred Gerber. We pray for healing in their great loss and the reassurance that Emerson is resting in Jesus' arms.

We are also prayerful for Sis. Martha (Bro. Dale) Reinhard over the loss of her mother, Sis. Ada Gerber (Bluffton, IN). In addition, we send our sympathies to Sis. Eleanor Strahm on the passing of her brother, Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

We were thankful for the safe return of our Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner on their safe return from Europe as they were visiting there on some Mission and World Relief matters. We are so thankful for Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen as they are so willing to serve God's flock.

We rejoiced this month with Bro. Zach and Sis. Miriam Geisel as they welcomed their first bundle of joy into this world, Leah Jean. The thankful grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel and Bro.

Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch (Bluffton, IN).

Spending some time in the hospital this month were Sis. Imogene (Bro. Walter) Aeschliman and Bro. Harold (Sis. Ellen) Geisel. We continue to lift Sis. Becky (Bro. Lonnie) Bertsch up in prayer as her treatments are getting close to being finished.

May we all remember no matter what trials we may face, great or small, that the Lord gives us this promise:

"Be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jessica Murray**

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

Ephesians 5:20

We give many thanks to God this past month for the healing strength He has given those who were in the hospital. Sis. Lorna Putt is back home and recovering after a stay in the hospital. We pray the Lord continue to provide you with healing. Our prayers were with Sis. Cyndi Daniels as her mother went through open heart surgery. May the healing power of the Lord continue to be with you. Bryce Murray, son of Bro. John and Sis. Jessica, is recovering from an appendectomy. May we continue to pray, for there are always those who are in need of prayers.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to our dear Sis. Betty Huber as her mother, Sis. Eldora Walters

(Fairbury, IL), has gone to her rest. May you find comfort in the Lord.

As the Lord taketh He also giveth. We rejoice with Bro. Brad and Sis. Barb Neihouser as they welcomed a new son, Jessie Andrew, to their family. Jessie has a sister, Cecelia, and brothers, Kirby and Luke, to welcome him home. We also rejoice with Bro. Kurt and Sis. Valerie Leman as they welcomed Garrett Lewis into their family. Older brother Winston was there to welcome him. May the Lord continue in His blessings.

We would like to express our thanks to our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and his wife, Sis. Joyce, were here to share in the Word. Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and his wife, Sis. Diane, were here Wednesday evening for a topical Bible study on exercising thankfulness. What a privilege it was to learn so much. Thank you, dear Brothers, for your blessings.

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

**Sue Levy
Sandy Lichtle**

We rejoice with Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeni Hart on the birth of their precious son, Luke William, born on October 17. He is welcomed home by his brothers, Jacob and Caleb, and his sister, Caitlin. Luke's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry Hart and Dean and Julie Rieke, all from Goodfield, IL.

On October 19-20, a group of Sunday School students from Wolcott and West Lafayette visited us. A blessed weekend of planned activities and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Bill and Sis. Conni Witzig

on the passing of Bro. Bill's mother, Sis. Dorothy Witzig (Gridley, IL) on October 26. We pray that the Lord will be a strength and comfort unto the family in this time of loss.

The Mortonaires and their families came to Indy the weekend of November 2-3. We enjoyed a blessed weekend of fellowship and listening to hymns of praise being sung. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." (Psalm 100:1-2)

We appreciate the efforts of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) who shared the Memorandum with us on November 9. Also visiting us this month was Bro. Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ). We are thankful for the servant hearts of our dear ministers and their wives as they take the time to share God's Word with us.

We are thankful that little B.J. Blume (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise) was able to come home from the hospital after nearly three months since he was born prematurely. We pray that God will continue to daily strengthen little B.J. and encourage his parents as they care for him at home.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

As we approach this Thanksgiving season, let us remember to take the time to give thanks to God for all the blessings He has given us. We in LaCrosse are very thankful that Sis. Ruth Heinold is doing much better, after a short hospital visit and we enjoy

seeing her back in church. May each one have a blessed holiday season!

We rejoice with Bro. Ben and Sis. Kendra Stoller on the arrival of a new family member. Maria Lynn was born on November 4 and will be welcomed home by her big sister, Lucy. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart (West Bend, IA).

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We welcome Sis. Julie Zimmerman who has been serving for some time at Gateway Woods as an assistant to the houseparents in the East House, and Bro. Kirt Reimschisel who has been worshipping with us. May they both feel at home here.

We intercede in prayer for our members at The Cedars: Sis. Mary Lantz, Sis. Helen Maxfield (Pete), and Sis. Helen Zimmer. Sis. Helen is adjusting well, and she continues to attend church services. Her address is Room 101, 14409 Sunrise Ct., Leo, IN 46765. Sis. Katherine Norr is also moving to The Cedars. We pray for an easy adjustment and contentment. We were happy to have Sis. Marie Bertsch back in church following weeks at home recovering from sinus infection and pneumonia.

Bro. Gene Stoller underwent surgery at Mayo Clinic and is receiving therapy there. We hope he can soon return to his home.

Bro. Marvin Stieglitz entered the hospital early Sunday morning, November 3. In about seven hours the Lord called him to his heavenly Home. It was a great loss to the Leo congregation and his family. Sur-

living are his wife of 48 years, Sis. Joan; sons, Elder Bro. Lynn (Sis. Leonda), Bro. David (Paige) of Elgin, IL; three daughters, Sis. Elizabeth, Sis. Renee (Bro. Dennis) Herrmann of Princeville, IL; Sis. Marlise; a foster son, Dustin Donovan; and eleven grandchildren. Also surviving are brothers, Russel, Bro. Oliver (Sis. Emma Jean), George Jr.; sisters, Sis. Lenora Sorg, Sis. Eleanor Strahm, Sis. Lavada and Sis. Imogene Stieglitz. Our prayers and sympathy are with the family in their time of grief. Bro. Marvin would have been 73 years old on the day following his passing. He served in the ministry for 34 years. Memorial Services were held on November 7. Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) officiated at the service. We thank them for their comforting words and pray God bless them.

“The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.”

Psalm 92:12-13

On Saturday evening, November 16, Anna Pfister gave her testimony of faith in the blood of our Saviour as a covering for her sin. She was baptized Sunday afternoon and we welcome her as our sister in the Lord.

Sunday evening, November 17, we partook of the Lord's Supper. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and Bro. John Stoller served us. We reviewed Christ's last hours, crucifixion, burial, resurrection and ascension from Luke 22-24. “Peace be unto you.” How thankful we are

for this privilege of Communion with our Saviour. May God grant us the desire to serve Him daily as we remember His great sacrifice.

The Shining Star

Long – but the time draws nearer,
The Bridegroom comes from afar;
When the night of the age is darkest
We shall see the morning star.

Evil is growing stronger
And hearts are sick with fear,
But our hope is getting brighter,
For we know that the hour is near.

Faint in the dark skies gleaming –
Faint on the roaring seas,
But it heralds the dawn of glory
And it hastens the day of peace.

The glory, the peace He is bringing
The King who comes from afar
And to him who overcometh,
He will give the Morning Star.

Peace and blessing to all this
Christmas season.

Note of Thanks:

Words can't express, nor can we ever completely acknowledge all the prayers, gifts, acts of kindness and expressions of comfort at the passing of Marvin Stieglitz, our husband, father, grandfather and brother. We were overwhelmed by what we saw and experienced as our church family showed their support. We view every act, gift, expression and prayer as a tribute to a man we loved. Though we miss him, our faith in the promises of God through His Son, Jesus, gives us hope for a great reunion. On behalf of the extended family of Marvin Stieglitz, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Joan Stieglitz

Beth Stieglitz

Lynn and Leonda Stieglitz and family

Dennis and Renee Herrmann and family

Marlise Stieglitz and Dustin Donovan

Dave and Paige Stieglitz and family

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Paula Haab
Stacey Feller**

On November 3, we enjoyed our annual Thanksgiving program. Thanks to all the Sunday School children and teachers who faithfully prepare for these programs for the church to enjoy.

Those spending time in the hospital or undergoing surgery have been Rosemary Piper (Ray) while residing in Ft. Myers for the season and Bro. Cap Beer (Sis. MaryAnn). We are thankful for their recoveries, and wish them a healthy winter.

On November 3, Bro. Bill and Sis. Stacey Feller, along with Michael and Olivia, welcomed Ashlyn Marie into their family. Happy grandparents are Bro. Will and Sis. Sue Schieler (Milford) and Sis. Mary Ann Feller (LaCrosse, IN). Just five days later, Ashlyn's future playmate was born when Bro. Brent and Sis. Pam Beer opened their hearts and home to little Claire Elizabeth born November 8. Austin and Hope welcomed their new sister, along with grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Beer (Milford) and Sis. Erma Stoller (Latty, OH). May God bless these new tiny ones and give their parents much wisdom in the formative years ahead.

Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton

North, IN) blessed us one Wednesday evening with a topical Bible study on "Guarding the Heart." Our Elder Bro. Ray Sinn also spent a recent Sunday with our congregation. We thank these brothers for their willing service.

Our Sunday School and young group honored the veterans in our church by serving them a dinner around Veteran's Day. Each veteran took time to speak of their experiences. Thank you to all who took part, and especially for the past service of these to whom we owe thanks for our freedom.

Seth Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) was recently announced as having peace with God and fellow man. Our prayers are with Seth, and we look forward to a special weekend for him in the near future.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward

On November 9-10, Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) came over to assist in the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Alan and Sis. Erica Craig. It was humbling to hear them testify how the love of the church drew them to desiring the Lord in their life.

Then on November 17, Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), along with Bro. Alfred Bahler, helped read the Memorandum to us.

Every Christmas, I'm inspired when I find something written about the Babe of Bethlehem from a different perspective.

*Hypothetical Questions to ask
Mary, the Mother of Jesus*

(this is only meant as
spiritual food for thought)

1. How did Jesus respond when He

- saw other children giggling during the church service?
2. When Jesus saw a rainbow, did He ever mention a flood?
 3. Did you ever feel awkward teaching Him how He created the world?
 4. When He saw a lamb being led to the slaughter, did He respond differently?
 5. Did you ever see Him with a distant look on His face as if He was listening to someone you couldn't hear?
 6. How did He act at funerals?
 7. Did you ever accidentally call Him, Father?
 8. Did His brothers and sisters understand what was happening in His life?
 9. When someone referred to Satan, how did He act?
 10. What did He and cousin, John, talk about as young boys?
 11. Did He ever wake up afraid of the dark?
 12. Did He ever get angry when someone was dishonest with Him?
 13. Did it ever occur to you that the Lord to whom you were praying was asleep under your roof?
 14. Did He do well in school?
 15. Did He ever have a friend by the name of Judas?
 16. Did He ever come home with a black eye?
 17. Did you ever count the stars with Him and...succeed?
 18. Did you ever ponder at mealtime - that's God eating my soup?

"And Mary pondered all these things but kept them in her heart."

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Samantha Schafer
Kara Beebe

The Sunday School youth re-

mind us of our many blessings in their Thanksgiving program. Their scriptures, poems, and songs encouraged us all to, "Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people." (I Chron.16:8)

Among these blessings were the many visitors that fellowshipped with us this past month.

We were challenged by the message from visiting ministering Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North).

In this Christmas season we see beauty around us. The most beautiful realization is that Jesus' coming and sacrifice has washed us white as snow.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Darel and Janet Walker

We held our quarterly all church potluck on November 10. It was nice to have several visitors from the Bradford, IL, and LaCrosse, IN, churches join us. We enjoyed a delicious meal and sang songs of praise to our Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Garry Bucher recently reminded us to examine our walk with God. He preached from Luke Chapter 8 and taught us about the parable of the sower. We are all familiar with the story of the seed. Some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air devoured it. Some fell upon a rock and sprung up quickly, but withered in the heat of the day because it lacked moisture. Some fell into thorns, but the thorns choked it out. But a little seed fell on good ground, sprung up and bore fruit a hundredfold. What kind of soil are we? Are too many of us like the thorny soil? Having heard the Word, we go forth, but choked with the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life, we bring no

fruit to perfection.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23

We pray that God's healing hand will be upon Sis. Caroline Lester (Bro. Ed) who is recovering from a broken ankle.

What an exciting time to be alive! Recently it was reported that an antique box was found in Israel. The box contained what is believed to be human remains and had this inscription on the box, “James, the son of Joseph and brother of Jesus”. Apparently the box was damaged in shipping to the United States and is now being examined by experts in Canada. The American press is reporting that this is the first archeological discovery that bears the printed name of Jesus. Perhaps this will awaken our sleepy nation to consider the truth of God's Word and the gift of His Son, our Lord and Saviour.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Nettie Haab
Diana Houston**

We have been blessed to have many visiting ministers this past month. They have been Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Sis. Joan, Leo, IN), John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kay, Bloomington, IL), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Ken Schneider (Sis. Loretta, Remington, IN), Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH) and

Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO). We appreciate and give thanks for your willingness to come and share God's Word with us.

We are enjoying our new lunch room addition for the convenience and extra space we now have for fellowship together and more room for us and our many welcomed visitors. Thanks to all who so willingly helped with each part of construction and painting, etc.

Such a joy to welcome Bro. Rustin and Sis. Amanda Meister to our congregation as employment has brought them here from Indianapolis.

“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do towards you.”

1 Thess. 3:12

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Erica Wagenbach
Luann Gerber**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Hymns of Zion #97

Our congregation was especially blessed the weekend of November 2-3 when our dear friend, Nancy Scott, gave her testimony and was baptized. It is always so refreshing to hear of a dear soul who was lost, but always felt God's presence in her life and always had a desire to serve Him. We all came away from the weekend feeling uplifted and so very thankful for our wonderful Saviour! Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus

(Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) was with us to help Bro. Alfred for the weekend.

On Wednesday evening, November 13, we were pleasantly surprised to find Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico) in our midst. Bro. Marshall challenged us to reach out to those around us so there will not be empty places on the benches when we come to church! We have a responsibility even here in our little town of Wolcott and we appreciate Bro. Marshall's encouragement to “bring them in”.

The weekend of November 16-17 we heard Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), along with our own Elder Bro. Alfred, share with us the Memorandum. There is always something new to hear and we cannot appreciate enough the weight these dear brothers carry when they have such a love for their flocks. They can only share their love and concern for us, but it is up to each one of us individually to absorb it and apply it or let Satan do his work. Let us not only be hearers, but doers, as we go about our daily routines working towards our heavenly goal. We enjoyed a church potluck supper and a singing with the Remington congregation on Sunday evening. What a blessed weekend!

**IOWA, BURLINGTON
Brenda Schulz
Lana Metzger**

The visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) and our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). We want to thank them for their service and

ask that they visit our congregation again.

Our dear Bro. Alvin Paul Wagler (Sis. Ella) passed away on October 30. He was a good light and pleasant to be around, but we hope to see him again in Heaven. He was a song leader, a church custodian and he also fulfilled many other roles in our church over the years. Let us keep in our prayers and thoughts his dear wife, Sis. Ella, as well as his only surviving sibling, Sis. Mathilda Frank. Both reside at Prairie Ridge Care and Rehabilitation, the care center in Mediapolis, IA.

Let us pause and look around us at God's beautiful nature at this time of year.

Soon there will be no leaves on the trees or flowers to color the landscape, but life will appear again next spring. Let us thank God for these changes for they make us appreciate His beautiful Creation even more!

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, gifts and cards with the passing of our husband, brother, and uncle, Bro. Alvin Paul Wagler. May God bless you!

The family of Alvin Paul Wagler

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

God's plan fulfilled as He had
willed
Then came the Christ on earth.

Almost since the beginning of
time, people waited anxiously for
the coming of the Messiah. Perhaps
some began to doubt or even gave

up hope. But God's timing is always perfect and when the time was right the birth of our Saviour took place just as had been prophesied in Isaiah 7:14, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" and again to Joseph in Matthew 1:21, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

And now many years after the birth, death and resurrection of our Saviour, we wait anxiously for His second coming to earth, when we can be set free from the clutches of Satan and be forever with the Lord in His kingdom of bliss.

Yet we understand well the feelings of the writer who penned these words:

Here the labor is so hard,
And the workers are so tired.
And our weary hearts are
Yearning for a rest.
And we find we're getting anxious
To be in that happy land,
Where we'll receive such
Peace and happiness.

We may look into the skies
And tears may fill our eyes.
For our burdened heart grows
heavier each day.
First we cry, Oh Lord, please
come,
Come and take Your children
home.
And then we look around us
And we say...

Wait a little longer, please Jesus,
There are so many wandering out
in sin.
Just a little longer, please Jesus.
A few more days
To get our loved ones in.

Bro. Orville Moore is spending

some time in the hospital and we trust that he can feel God's nearness and know that Jesus cares and God's grace is sufficient for our every need.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

Voices were lifted in melodies of worship, when a choir from Peoria, IL, visited. How blessed we are, to be able to share fellowship with others of our precious faith. We certainly enjoyed their visit.

We appreciate visits from ministering Bros. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). Our thanks go to each one for traveling many miles to share God's Word with us.

Our hearts are saddened, and our prayers ascend for God's tender mercies extended to comfort the family of Elder Bro. Sam Huber. Bro. Sam and Sis. Jeanette spent untold hours caring for the spiritual needs of our congregation when he was our counseling Elder. Our deepest sympathy to Sis. Jeanette and family.

Our sympathies also to Tom and Dawn Moser and children in the death of Tom's father, Bro. Earl Moser, of Elgin, IL. The loss of an earthly father can be so hard, even when that loved one has been ill. We trust our Heavenly Father will comfort them.

Although partings on earth are full of sorrow, we know that comfort can be found in the promise of a heavenly reunion for those who love the Lord.

Two new little bundles of joy have arrived in our family. Matthew David was born on November

7 to Sara and Duane Lester of our congregation. He has an older sister, Anna.

Stella Jayne, born October 28, is the new blessing in the home of David and Julie Clark of Des Moines. The babies share Sis. Willa Clark as grandmother.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Diana Butikofer

Luke tells us of the shepherds who heard the angels saying, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and Jesus lying in the manger. Upon seeing this, they spread the gospel from the angels. "And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:18-19).

These verses and others like them have often caused me to wonder what the result of her pondering was. Did she really understand, at the time, God's purpose for her son and what He would endure while here on earth? Did she fully realize that He would save from eternal destruction each one who accepted His invitation?

As we think about the Christmas season, get involved in the busyness that we've built around it, and even hear shopping days countdowns, let's take time to ponder the gift of Jesus Christ. Let's not stop at a vision of a cute sanitary manger scene, but move on to a ghastly, embarrassing picture of a perfect and wonderful Man who al-

lowed us to frame, scoff at, torment, and kill Him with the hope that we would someday realize what we did and ask that same all-powerful God we spit upon to forgive us. That's humbling. The amount of grace and love needed for this is astounding!

IOWA, LESTER

Dawn Knobloch

Dawn Metzger

On October 20, the engagement of Bro. Seth Miller and Sis. Lori Nester was shared with our congregation. Parents of this couple are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley Nester and Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller (Smithville, OH).

The weekend of October 26-27 was uplifting as Bro. Brian and Sis. Angie Metzger shared their testimonies and were baptized. We rejoice and pray God will always be with them. Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger are Bro. Brian's parents. Assisting our Elder in this work was Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). Ministering brothers here were Bro. Kevin Banwart and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). Visiting us later was Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL). We appreciate these brothers coming to speak the Word of Life to our congregation.

A number of families have experienced the joy of a new baby. On October 24, two little boys were born. Isaac Jeremy was born to Dustin and Michelle Knobloch. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Ron and Sis. Sandy Feucht. Great-grandparents are Emil and Ruby Feucht and Sis. Estelle Leuthold. Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley, along with their children, Sis. Kristin, Stacey, Chad, Grant, Shannon, Lorna, and

Haley, welcomed Clark Robert into their family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch. On November 7, Hayley Mae was born to Mitch and Amy Knobloch. Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger are Hayley's grandparents and Sis. Zelma Knobloch is her great-grandmother. Ambria Joy was born to Bro. Dudley and Sis. Sara Knobloch on November 9. Talia is now the big sister. Also welcoming her are grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch, along with great-grandmother, Sis. Esty Metzger.

We also experienced sadness this month as many lost a loved one from their family circle. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen Metzger and family at the loss of Sis. Joleen's father, Bro. Verner Wirtz (West Bend, IA). Our thoughts are also with Jerry and Deb Larson and girls at the passing of Jerry's father, Bervin Larson. On November 15, Sis. Salome Knobloch from our congregation suddenly passed away. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Merle and Shelly Knobloch, and their children, Trevor and Brittany. Also surviving are three sisters, Sis. Elgeva Knobloch (Bro. Arthur), Sis. Viola Kellenberger and Sis. Della Metzger (Bro. Silas, West Bend, IA), and one brother, Ernest Kellenberger (West Bend, IA). Also mourning Sis. Salome's loss are Sis. Elaine Kellenberger, Sis. Paulina and Sis. Emma Knobloch, Bro. Willy and Sis. Helen Knobloch and Bro. Andy and Sis. Freida Mogler and their families. Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) along with Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dean

Messner (Winthrop, MN) were here to share in Sis. Salome's funeral service.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Connie Knobloch (Bro. Derek), Caleb Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther) and Bro. Pete Van Wyhe (Sis. Susan). We remember them in our prayers and trust that God is with them.

After being gone for some time furthering her education, Sis. Jeanette Feucht has found employment in our area. We welcome her back into our fold.

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

Isaiah 9:6

**IOWA, PULASKI
Katrina Knobloch**

O Come, little children, O come one and all;
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small.
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night
To be your redeemer, your joy and delight.

Gospel Hymns #861

As we approach the Christmas season may we always remember the gift of Salvation God has given to us.

Many thanks go to our visiting minister this past month, Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield IL).

Andrew Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy) was hospitalized this month. We are thankful that he is

again able to assemble with us.

**IOWA, WEST BEND
Berniece Banwart
Lori Skoglund**

Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above,
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
In fathomless billows of love.

Gospel Hymns #746

We rejoice with three converts who have sought and found peace: Joleen Grimm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose), Rustin Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley) and Carl Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane). The first weekend in December has been set aside for their testimonies and baptisms.

After many months of failing health with all of the accompanying discomforts, our dear Bro. Verner Wirtz was called from this life on November 6. We offer our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Betty; and to his children: Sis. Judy (Bro. Dennis) Fehr; Sis. Joleen (Bro. Marvin) Metzger, Rock Rapids, IA; Bro. Mike (Sis. Lila) Wirtz, Goodfield, IL; Bro. James (Sis. Joan), Charles (Sis. Trela), Doug (Angie) Wirtz; and stepchildren, Bro. Rodney (Sis. Cindy) Schmidt, Longmont, CO; Sis. Mary (Bro. Bill) Berg, Berthoud, CO; Sis. Twyla (Bro. James) Wulf, Morris, MN; Sis. Joleen (Bro. Rodney) Edelman, Bern, KS; and 29 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 13 step grandchildren. He also leaves sisters, Lydia Edwards, Adeline (Al) Spencer, Nora Springs, IA; and sisters-in-law, Sis. Hulda Wirtz, Marguerite Wirtz, Lucille Wirtz, Emmetsburg, IA;

and Beverly Wirtz of Crystal Lake, IA. We appreciated Bro. Verner's willingness to serve in many capacities in our church, but many of us will remember him especially for faithfully, diligently leading us in songs of praise. It truly was one of his great loves and we benefited from it.

Sis. Rosene (Bro. Clifford) Grimm spent some time in the hospital. May we never forget to pray for those who are suffering...whether in body or in spirit.

May God bless you all this Christmas season.
May Bethlehem's Star be seen as the reason.
And guide thee to the perfect peace
When every fear and doubt shall cease,
And may thy home such glory know
As did the stable long ago.
—Anon.

**KANSAS, BERN
Sally Strahm
Lori Baumgartner**

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..."

Luke 15:7

We are so thankful that God has answered prayer and has given grace to those dear souls that have sought His forgiveness. Our prayers are with Jody Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane) and Heath Koburn (Peoria, IL) as each have made a beginning in repentance. We are happy to welcome Heath into our congregation while he is stationed in the military at Fort Riley, KS.

The weekend of October 19-20

we were able to hear a presentation from Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and other personnel from the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped (Timber Ridge) in Morton, IL. We thank each one for sharing with us.

We appreciated the visiting ministers that have shared God's Word with us during the past month. They were Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO). We thank both of them for laboring on our behalf.

"For I am the Lord, I change not..."

Malachi 3:6

As each one of us experience changes in our lives, may we each have the assurance that our Lord changes not. He is always there to guide and comfort in every adjustment. Bro. Harlan Stoller has had a change of address as he is now a resident of our Apostolic Christian Care Home in Sabetha.

Bro. Don Menold (Sis. Pat) needs our prayers as he has undergone tests at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and will be needing treatments in the near future. Sis. Pearl Miller was in the hospital and we are thankful that she is home now. Undergoing surgery during the past month were Leanna Fehr (Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy). May each one experience healing according to our Lord's will.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights..."

James 1:17

Bro. Trent and Sis. Rita Menold

have been blessed with a precious gift, their first-born son. Braden LeRoy was born November 16. Grandparents are Bro. Joe, Jr. and Sis. Kathy Rokey and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter (Sabetha, KS). We rejoice with this dear family.

As we enter the month of December, we remember the birth of Jesus Christ, our Christmas gift. He was sent by the Father to earth a universal gift for each and every person to partake of. Let us reflect on how He was born and laid in a lowly manger (because there was no room for Him in the inn), how He lived a perfect life, and how He died on the cross and then rose from the grave, becoming the author of eternal salvation for all who will obey Him. Picture what life would be like if Christ had never come as our Christmas gift...no Christ, no promise of rest, and no hope of eternal life. As we give and receive gifts during this season of Christmas, let us not neglect to thank the Father for His most precious life-saving gift, Jesus Christ.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Ruth Bahr**

We are not promised another day. The sudden death of Bro. Sam Huber (Sis. Jeanette, Sabetha, KS) who lost his life in a car accident, brought that to mind. We sympathize with his family. Internment will be here in Evergreen Cemetery.

Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) so ably ministered to us this month.

KANSAS, KIOWA **Laura Wagenbach** **Jennifer Stewart**

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Our church here in Kiowa would like to wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas and a very peaceful New Year.

We were saddened to learn that Bro. Larry Frieden was diagnosed with lymphoma this month. He has started treatment and seems to be doing very well.

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

Thanks to visiting ministering Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS) for bringing us God's Word this month. May the Lord richly bless him for his labors of love.

Stacie Zimmerman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara) and Aaron Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb, Silverton, OR) have announced their engagement. We wish them God's grace and blessing as they walk the path of life together.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch are the grandparents of a new little granddaughter, Kendra Marie, born to Bro. Duane and Sis. Jill Gudeman (Congerville, IL). Big brothers, Daniel and Brandon, welcome him home.

As we commemorate the birth of Jesus, may we rejoice in God's wonderful gift of salvation to mankind. Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

KANSAS, SABETHA**Mary Kay Wenger
Jeanelle Plattner**

Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Edelman's home has been blessed with the addition of a son, Thomas Bradley. He is welcomed by his brothers and sisters and grandparents, Clif and Sis. Barbara Edelman and Elvin and Beverly Goodman.

God has looked down on our congregation with favor as He saw it was time for the selection of a minister. We appreciated Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) sharing in this work. Bro. Brandon Plattner (Sis. Rhoda) has submitted to the Lord's will to be of further service to Him as our new minister. Our prayers are with Bro. Brandon and Sis. Rhoda.

Our hearts go out to the family of retired Elder Bro. Sam Huber whose life was suddenly taken in a car accident on November 14. We remember in prayer his beloved helpmate, Sis. Jeanette; his daughter, Sis. Karen Beyer (Bro. Martin); and sons, David (Istanbul, Turkey), Bro. Gordon Huber (Sis. Sharlyn) and Bro. Eric Huber (Sis. Marcel, Denver, CO). We thank Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) for assisting with Bro. Sam's funeral at Sabetha, as well as many of his former co-laborers who supported by their presence and prayers. Burial took place at Fort Scott.

Other ministers this month included Bros. Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), and James Kaeb, Galen Rokey and Edwin Strahm (all of Bern, KS). We are thankful for God providing for our every need.

There is an added blessing in the lives of first-time grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter. Braden Leroy Menold was born November 16 to Bro. Trent and Sis. Rita Menold (Bern, KS).

**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY****Aaron Plattner**

We are grateful to add more to our young group as Bro. John Wales (Don and Sis. Carol, Kansas City, MO), Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona, Bern), Brooke Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn, Sabetha), Tricia Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy, Detroit, MI), Vanndy Frieden (Bro. Larry and Sis. Millie, Kiowa), and Erica Wenger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie) have begun attending Kansas State University. After this semester, Troy Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan, Bern) will be graduating. We wish him the Lord's blessings as he pursues a job in Kansas City. We pray for the Lord's guidance as they further their education. This semester is already quickly winding down and we thank the Lord for leading us through another semester. We have been blessed with two new converts, Jody Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane, Bern) and Heath Coburn (Robert and Sis. Michelle, Peoria, IL) who has recently been transferred to Fort Riley, which is very close to Manhattan. We are blessed with his presence and wish them both the Lord's blessings and guidance. "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10)

This past semester we enjoyed Elder Bro. Kent Heimer's (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) Bible Study about

Matthew 22:37: "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." We appreciated his service as well as everyone who traveled to be with us. We were also blessed and surprised to have Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) minister to us. He was on a business trip to a nearby city and spent a Wednesday evening with us. We always are thankful for the support we receive from parents and ministers to travel to Kansas State for Wednesday night services.

We pray that all have a blessed Christmas holiday and look forward to a break from our academic work! "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and his family were our welcome guests on October 20. We here at Wichita appreciate Bro. Jay's willingness to minister to our needs.

Sis. Kathleen Gallatin underwent major surgery recently. We praise God for His healing power. Sis. Kathleen is recuperating at home. We look forward to seeing her in church in the near future.

Our part of Kansas has been blessed with moisture and mild temperatures this fall. As of this writing, we have not yet had a killing freeze; therefore the trees have kept their foliage and the leaves have developed those deep autumn

colors. We can enjoy Ozark splendor right here in our own vicinity.

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel and Sis. Shwanda have moved to a new location. Their new address is 9783 S.W. Santa Fe Lake Rd., Augusta, KS 67010. Their telephone number remains the same, 316-795-0643 as does their fax number, 775-3674.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber
Rose Watson**

Our congregation was pleased to hear that Matt Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle) was called unto repentance; may God grant him the grace as he starts a new journey with the Lord.

We had a family work night, at which they made over 100 prenatal and craft kits to be sent to World Relief. We had a Harvest gathering for our teens and families at Sis. Laura Blough's home and we thank her for all of her work putting it together. It was an evening of fellowship for all.

We hosted the Eastern Regional World Relief weekend on November 8-9. We thank all who attended.

We would like to thank the following ministers and their families for spending time with us this past month: Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Ron Palito (Akron, OH), and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL).

As we start getting busy for the holidays, let us not forget what the upcoming holidays are all about. Let us all take time to be thankful for the life God has given us here on earth and the hope for eternity, along with the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

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

Psalm 106:1

The Lord has richly blessed our congregation and we have many reasons to give thanks at this Thanksgiving time.

"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

Mike and Nancy Ruegsegger have professed peace with God and man. We look forward to the time when they can share their testimony of faith with our congregation.

We also rejoice with Clyde and Millie Wackerle as they have begun their repentance. We are so thankful that our heavenly Father is still calling souls, even at the sunset years of life.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Colossians 3:16

The Bay City congregation was recently taught and admonished through the music of the Detroit choir, which visited our congrega-

tion recently. There are many family connections between the Bay City and Detroit churches and it was a true blessing to have so many of us together again. We thank the Detroit choir for their willingness to be used and for sharing their special gift with us. It was a weekend full of blessings that we will cherish for some time.

Visiting ministers with the Detroit choir were Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue) and Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa). Also visiting this past month was Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL). Special thanks to each of these brothers for their willingness to be used in the service of the Lord and may He continue to bless and guide each one of them.

Special prayers go out to Sis. Loretta (Bro. Windsor) Mosher and Clyde (Millie) Wackerle who were both hospitalized this past month. May the Lord continue to heal and restore them to good health.

As we enter into the Christmas season, may we always remember the Babe of Bethlehem and the true reason why we celebrate the season.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Sarah Beard
Holly Barton**

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:13-14

"Glory to God in the highest
And peace on earth to men,"
May the Christmas song
The angels sang
Stir in our hearts again

And bring a new awareness
That the fate of every nation
Is sealed securely in the hand
Of the Maker of creation.
For man, with all his knowledge,
His inventions and his skill,
Can never go an inch beyond
The Holy Father's will.
For all of man's achievements
Are so puny and so small,
Just anthills in the Kingdom,
Of the God who made us all.
For, greater than the scope of man
And far beyond all seeing,
In Him who made the universe,
Man lives and has his being.

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

He Who became a Baby holds all things in His hand. Isn't this a comforting thought, particularly in these times? God is not a distant being; He walked on this earth and continues to direct everything from His throne above!

The Gridley, IL, choir did not sing about the Savior's birth when they were with us recently, but they sure did sing about the Savior! We were so blessed by their song and fellowship the weekend of November 2-3. They brought along ministering Bros. David Zehr and Steve Baner, and we thank them for giving of themselves on Sunday.

The following weekend, our Detroit choir visited Bay City, MI. It was another inspiring weekend and we were so appreciative of their hospitality. We pray that they likewise received a blessing.

Blessed be the "Maker of creation, Who holds securely in His hand the fate of every nation." Wishing one and all a blessed Christmas season!

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Diane Stewart**

Visiting us this past month has been Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO). Then Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) and Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) shared the Memorandum with our congregation. We were also blessed to have with us visiting ministering Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT) and Jeff Luthi (Altadena, CA). May God richly bless these brothers and their families for their labors of love.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Bernadine and Bro. Don Miller and their family in the death of Sis. Bernadine's mother, Hilda Bussler.

We here in God's winter wonderland extend to each of you God's blessings for a most joyous holiday season!

Note of Thanks:

While it has been some time, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for all the love and support during Rachel's battle with leukemia and the bone marrow transplant. The meals, cards, gifts and most of all, the prayers on our behalf, were so much appreciated. May God bless each one of you for your deeds of kindness.

Darci and Sis. Rachel Kent

Brooke, Macy, Tanner and Logan

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Cheryl Messner
Katie Messner**

Thy holy Word does teachings give
In faith, and hope, and love to live;
For this, O, Lord, I thank Thee.

Should I not seek within this time
A foretaste of the joys divine
And for Thy home prepare me?
Salvation is the noblest part;
Impress this deeply on my heart.

Zion's Harp #102

We appreciate God's Word brought to us through Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN).

Those who have been in the hospital include: Bro. Dave Wulf (Sis. Nancy), Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Dawn), Bro. Leonard Wulf (Sis. Violet), Bro. John Zeltwanger (Sis. Mabel) and in September, Heather Moser (Bro. Todd and Kim) spent time in the hospital after a car accident. We are thankful God has healed where it is His will.

We rejoice with Bro. Gary Nohl and Sis. Heidi Stoller as they were united in the Lord on November 10. May God bless them as they begin their lives together. Parents are Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl and Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller (Latty, OH).

Our congregation has been blessed with a couple of new babies recently. Brandon James was born on October 26 to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joan Kellenberger. He is also welcomed by his big brother, John. Tiffany Eileen arrived on November 14. Her parents are Bro. Trevor and Sis. Jody Schmidgall. Tiffany joins Luke and Tory. May God continue to bless these dear families as they grow.

We extend sympathy to those in our congregation who have lost loved ones recently. Bro. Verner Wirtz (West Bend, IA), the father of Sis. Twyla (Bro. Jim) Wulf passed away. We also want to extend our love and support to Sis. Jeanette (Nohl) Huber, formally from Morris, along with her family who lives

in our area, with the passing away of her dear husband, Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS). May God comfort and provide for our loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers have also been with Bro. Jerel and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and family as Sis. Linda's mother, Sis. Lavina Leman (Bro. Wilmer), from Eureka, IL, was laid to rest.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank our dear Brothers, Sisters and friends in our home congregation and across the miles for all of the prayers, gifts of love and support we received while Aaron was hospitalized. Our family is so thankful for God's healing hand upon him. God's blessings to each one of you.

Bro. Shane, Sis. Ruth Jones and family

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Marilyn Messner
Ginny Stoll

Our hospital patients were Bro. Boots Messner, Bro. Mike Messner, Sis. Delores Messerli and Tom Miller. God heard our thoughts and prayers and all are at home recuperating.

The annual 55 and over supper was well attended. We enjoyed the delicious meal and the interesting discussion after. May God continue to bless the students and teachers for their efforts.

Trustee and Sister groups held their annual meetings. Bro. Verl Schmidt was voted in for trustee secretary. Bro. David Messner replaced Bro. John Elder for trustee. Sis. Becky Braulick will be Sis. Nancy Van Diest's assistant for the sister group. We thank them for their efforts, and may God continue to bless them.

November 4 was a blessed and exciting day for Victoria, Trey, Stephanie, Michael and Thomas as David Andrew was welcomed into the family of Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll. May God watch over them.

Note of Thanks:

May God bless our dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ and also our dear friends for their prayers, visits, cards, and telephone calls, before and after my surgery. I truly believe our Faith is a Faith not only to live by but a Faith to die by. God bless our Brotherhood.

Bro. Boots Messner

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we realize how truly blessed we are and how much we have to be thankful for. We live in a country that allows us many freedoms we must never take for granted.

The weekend of November 9-10 brought Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) to assist our Elder Bro. Don Braker in hearing the testimony and participating in the baptism of our new sister in faith, Heather Persinger. Sis. Heather gave a wonderful testimony and we are very happy to have her as an integral part of our congregation. Also with us that weekend was ministering Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS). We thank these brothers for their labors on our behalf.

We additionally want to thank Bro. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) for coming to minister to our assembly also this month.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Marti
Kristen Leman

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

II Tim. 4:2

Our congregation has been blessed to hear the Memorandum letter read to us. Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) was here to assist in this work. Also, ministering Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) brought forth God's Word. We appreciate their labors spent on our behalf. May each of these brothers feel the Lord's rich blessings.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

"Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus."
(Neal L. Maxwell)

One Sunday we were reminded that our timing isn't God's timing. Zacharias and Elisabeth thought that it was too late for them to have a baby. But according to God's plan, the birth of their son, John, was at the perfect time. Mary thought that it was too early for her to have a baby. But Jesus was born exactly when He was supposed to be born, just as the angel had said. We can be so impatient and demanding. It is difficult to "wait upon the Lord". But what a mess we can make of things if we don't wait for God's direction and go-ahead.

In August, ministering Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) spent a Sunday in St. Louis. I

apologize for omitting his name from the list of visitors. We are always richly blessed by Bro. Dave's visits. Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) and Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN). We thank them and all of our visitors.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Susan Haerr

We are rejoicing along with the angels in Heaven over two new converts in Taylor. Brian Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris) and Jeremy Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) have committed their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ and started their repentances. We know God will bless and guide each of you and we will do our part to lift you up in prayer often.

We were also very thankful and excited to hear of the birth of twins in our congregation. Jonathan Lee and Natalie Dawn Wegman were born October 29 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman. It was a very special day for big brothers, Brett and Philip, and big sister, Kristen. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr, Taylor. Maternal great-grandmother is Sis. Evelyn Wysong, Sabetha, KS. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman, Oakville, IA. May God bless these beautiful new babies and their family.

Those receiving medical care in the last month include Sis. Ruthie Hoerr (Bro. Louis), Sis. Rosie Massner (Bro. Allen), Irene Riney (Gene) and Jane Reiman (Lester). May God bless and heal you.

We were grateful that Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington,

IA) was here to minister to us. Thanks for taking the time to come and for being willing to share. We were truly blessed.

A number of our Bible class students were blessed to be a part of special events at Oakville, IA, and Congerville, IL (ACYF) in the last month. A special thanks to all those who took the time to organize and invite all of us.

As we move into the holiday season, I pray we all find countless reasons to be thankful and countless ways to share Jesus Christ to all who do not know Him yet. God bless you. Please come visit us here anytime.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were thankful to have ministering Bros. Everett Gerber and Jerry Isch share God's Word with us this past month. Bro. Jerry (Sis. Linda) was with us on the weekend of October 20 and Bro. Everett (Sis. Nancy) assembled with us on November 3. We certainly appreciate these brothers' willingness to stand and proclaim the Truth to us.

Our prayers were with Sis. Linda Graves, Sis. Celia Virkler, Bro. Ted Herzig, Urban Karcher and Sis. Rachel Snyder as each committed to surgery over the past few weeks. We are thankful that Sis. Linda and Sis. Celia are again able to assemble with us.

Urban Karcher was recently transferred from the Lowville hospital to their Extended Care Facility for treatment and we pray for the Lord to extend His hand of healing upon him. His wife, Sis. Julia Karcher, has also now returned to the Lewis County Extended Care. We are thankful that the Lord al-

lowed her to spend much of the last year at her home under the care of her family and that her husband, Urb, was able to bring her to church during that time. What a blessing it was to gather in their home for a singing on the weekend of October 19. This reminds us how quickly things can change in such a short span of time. May the memories of such a beautiful evening, singing praises to our God, help carry them through the days ahead and may they know that they are greatly missed in church on Sunday.

Our prayers for comfort extend to Bro. Clifton (Sis. Bessie) Farney and family in the passing of his brother, Bro. Clifford, in Rockville, CT.

In sorrow and pain Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.
When burdened with care,
When thou wouldst despair,
Then call on thy loving Redeemer.
He'll lighten the load, and level the road
And bear thee on hands of compassion.
He's gentle and kind, rich blessings thou'lt find;
His Word gives thee peace everlasting.

Zion's Harp #46

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven over a dear one that has answered the call to repentance. Our prayers go out to Norma Conde throughout the coming days as she chooses to walk in the footsteps of our Lord and Saviour. We are thankful to be reminded that the teachings taught in childhood and at church are never forgotten. What a blessing to see a dear one returning to the roots in which she

was raised. May this give us each courage, to never give up hope, for the Lord is all powerful.

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.

Zion's Harp #52

Correction: It was Sis. Bernice Hirschey's 80th birthday that we celebrated together in September.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Sis. Mary Ellen Walker and Bro. William Saylor (Rittman, OH) were united in marriage on Thursday evening, October 24. Sis. Mary Ellen's son-in-law, Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) assisted in the wedding service. May the Lord continue to be with the newlyweds and bless their lives together.

Elder Bro. Curtis Frank (La-Crosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. David Graf in sharing with our congregation the Memorandum. May God bless our Elders and their efforts in sharing with us various precious truths recorded in the Word. We appreciated Bro. Curtis and Sis. Lyla staying for Sunday services.

We thank visiting minister Bro. Gary Maibach of Smithville for visiting us. May God bless Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann for their efforts.

Charlotte Kaufman has returned home safely from a trip abroad with her daughter Karen. Some of the places they visited

were Budapest, Holland, Germany, etc.

Bro. Joe Grossenbacher was hospitalized, but we are thankful he was able to be released. We hope he continues to improve.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

We were so very blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month. Joining us were Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI).

As the fall season comes to a close, it was time to hold our annual fall clean-up for the church. We were so thankful for the visiting brethren from Fairbury church who came to help us with our work. A small congregation truly appreciates all willing helpers when there is work to be done.

Once again, a large group gathered for our World Relief work night. Many college students spent the evening with us and it was a blessing for all who attended.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

Bro. Larry Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) was announced to be married to Sis. Cheree Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica) of Nashville, TN, on October 27. May God be with these two dear souls as they make plans and look forward to becoming one in the Lord.

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

Sweep over my spirit forever I
pray,

In fathomless billows of love.

Gospel Hymns #746

It is this wonderful peace that the songwriter pens that Will Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) feels in his heart. We trust God to continue to be with you in the coming weeks as you look forward to the weekend of your testimony.

Our congregation gathered to hear the reading of the Memorandum on the evening of November 2. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) was here to aid our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter in this work. May each of us look deep in our heart and apply the words that we heard. We appreciate the efforts put forth by our dear Elder Brothers and trust they can feel our prayerful support.

We were thankful to have several visiting ministering brothers with us during the month. Those who visited were Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Beirne Messner (Morris, MN). May God bless you each one for bringing forth the Word of Truth.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Bonny Wenninger

During the month, Mike and Kelly Keysor welcomed Delaney Marie into their home. She is also welcomed by big brother Jacob. Her grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor.

Sis. Lorene Hackenjos (Bro. Myron) and Sis. Melanie Hackenjos (Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorene) were hospitalized during the month. We pray for their healing and healthy return to church to worship with us.

We rejoice with Randy and Theresa Letso as they begin their repentance. Theresa is the daugh-

ter of Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvne Stoller. Allison Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori) has also begun her repentance. We look forward to her support in our Young Group. We trust God to give them the needed grace and strength to allow Him to convert their lives.

May God comfort the family of Sis. Joni Wenninger (Bro. Randy) at the death of her young nephew, Ben Saylor. Bro. Oliver and Sis. Imogene Stieglitz also experienced the sudden death of Bro. Oliver's brother, Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). Sis. Sharon Keysor (Bro. George) also laid to rest her mother, Marie Zink. The mother of Sis. Leann (Gus) Schlatter, Sis. Irene Bertshi, also passed away. Our prayer would be that the Lord would fill the void and give a peaceful comfort to each of their families.

The Elder brothers on the Agenda Committee met here in Latty to propose plans for the upcoming conferences. Let us always remember the Elder brothers in prayer, as we are often unaware of their many duties and responsibilities. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) also stayed to assist Elder Bro. Ray in the reading of the Memorandum of the Brotherhood Conferences. We ask God to bless these brothers as they serve God and each of us in the office of Elder. Through God's grace may we put into practice the counsel that was given through the Memorandum.

We had several other visiting ministering brothers gather with us. They included Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN). Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bro.

Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) gathered with us the weekend of a wedding. We trust God will continue to give strength to these brothers to preach the truth.

That wedding united Sis. Heidi Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) and Bro. Gary Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janis, Morris, MN) on November 10. We will miss Sis. Heidi, but realize that she will be warmly welcomed in Morris. We do look forward to their visits back to Latty.

Those of our congregation also experienced another example of God's great power during the month. A tornado traveled through the southeastern area of our county. Our brethren were spared tragedy and great loss, but many of our community were not. We were able to assist them by providing for their many physical needs. As we are instructed in James 2:16, "And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"

As you read this, the holiday season will be upon us. May the peace of that Bethlehem night be real in each of our hearts as we prepare for the seasonal activities.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

Bro. John and Sis. Julie Grimm were blessed with a bundle of joy. Joel Matthew was born on October 18. His brothers and sister are Joshua, Josiah and Julia. Joel's thankful grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou Grimm (Princeville, IL) and retired Elder

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder.

God in His mercy called Sis. Donna Gabor to her eternal reward on October 22. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to her husband, Bro. Dale; her children, Scott (Lori), and Lynette (Mark) Rau; her mother, Sis. Kathryn Beer; her brothers, Bro. Rex (Sis. Marilyn), Delbert, Bro. Ken (Sis. Pat), Bro. Alvin (Sis. Janet), Dennis (Sandra); and her sister, Kathy Stacey.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and our Elder Bro. Mark Masters read the Conference Memorandum to us on Saturday, October 26. Bro. Aaron also ministered to us on Sunday. We appreciate their labors of love.

We bid farewell to Trent Carey who has relocated to the Wooster Christian Children's Home. Trent was reared and cherished by Bro. Chad and Sis. Tamara Griffey for awhile.

Our annual Fall outing was on October 27 at the Richland Rural Life Center. We thank our dear Sunday School Superintendents, teachers, and everyone involved.

Christine Ramsey (John and Dawn) has turned to the Lord in repentance during this past month. We thank God and pray that He will continue to help her each day.

There was much gladness the weekend of November 9-10 as we were blessed by the testimonies and baptisms of four souls. They were Bro. Elmer Oesch (Doris), Sis. Sara Sabo (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon), and Bro. Jason and Sis. Nora Sabo. May God bless Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) who both traveled to help labor in the ministry that weekend.

Sis. Alice Graszl (Bro. Frank),

Bro. Ken Beer (Sis. Pat), and Sis. Viola Popp (Bro. Lawrence) have all been hospitalized recently. We continue to offer prayers on their behalf.

Believing it is the Lord's will, the engagement of Bro. Marlin Miller (Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene) and Sis. Tonya Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie) was made known unto us. May they feel God's nearness and direction as they plan for their wedding on February 2.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank our many loved ones who remembered us on our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless you all.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder

OHIO, RITTMAN

Anna Schar

Sandy Zollinger

Werejoice with Bro. Jim and Sis. Pat Rufener and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY) as their daughters, Kyann Rufener and Denise Baltic, have begun their repentance. We pray for them much grace as they walk this path.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). May God bless them for their efforts in bringing forth the Word.

The engagement of Bro. Chad Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan) to Sis. Cindy Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) from Junction, OH, was made known. As was the engagement of Bro. Marlin Miller (Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene) to Sis. Tonya Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie) from Mansfield, OH. May the Lord bless these two couples as they continue to seek the

Lord for guidance and direction in their lives.

We also pray the Lord will bless the union of Bro. William Saylor and Sis. Mary Ellen Walker. They were united in marriage October 24 in Akron. On November 2 was the wedding of Diane Maag (Robert and Sis. Martha) to Joe Little (John and Sally Little). May these couples feel the prayers of those they love.

Kevin and Missy Stoudmire are first-time parents to Gerald Owen who was born on October 10. Grandparents are Gary and Susan Murray.

We are thankful Ruth E. Beery is once again able to assemble with us after a recent hospital stay.

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

Numbers 6:24-26

OHIO, SARDIS

Terry Zollinger

"And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother."

St. John 11:19

Bro. Gary Zollinger (Sis. Terry) has our condolences in regards to the great loss of his brother-in-law, Dan Braid (Karen), on October 17. Dan was only 50 years old and had a terrible battle with cancer. We pray that Karen is comforted by our precious Lord.

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."

Psalm 73:26

Sis. Hazel Riggenbach spent time in the hospital. Thoughts and prayers are sent, hoping she is feeling better. Sis. Hazel recently had her 90th birthday.

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for his is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalm 106:1

"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

"This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you."

Exodus 12:2

The holidays are here amongst us. Let's remember who blesses, cares, and abides in our hearts and homes and not get lost in the busy days during these times. Let's be thankful every day and not just on Thanksgiving Day. It was prophesied in the first books of the Bible of the coming of the Lord. Let's remember the birth of Jesus, but especially the meaning of His death. And we are soon starting a new year. We should remember our covenant that was made with God to be faithful servants always.

Note:

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due in January. The suggested donation is \$11. Please put the donation in the appropriate box so

that Bro. Dana Indermuhle can take care of sending the payment.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Carrie Stoller**

Peace, perfect peace,
In this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace
within.

Hymns of Zion #26

Converts, Autumn Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane) and Jill Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois), have both reported that they have found this precious peace. May their faith continue to grow as they await baptism.

It is always encouraging to see the Lord's hand in drawing two souls together by faith. The engagement of Bro. Seth Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith) to Sis. Lori Nester (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley, Lester, IA) was made known to us. May they feel the Lord's nearness during this time.

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

Ephesians 5:31

We have two new babies to report this month. Cheyenne Renee was welcomed and adopted into the home of Bro. Dean and Sis. Bonnie Maibach. Cheyenne was born on September 11 and is also welcomed by her sister, Lindsey, and grandparents, Sis. Helen Maibach (Rittman, OH) and Marian Reutter (Rockville, CT).

Bro. Scott and Sis. Patty Indermuhle were thankful for the safe arrival of Tyler Joseph on Oc-

tober 24. Siblings, Natalie, Kevin and Douglas, as well as grandparents, Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet Indermuhle, are thankful for this little one. May both parents feel the Lord's direction as they strive to raise their children in the fear of God.

May the Lord grant healing and strength to those who were recently hospitalized. Sis. Marilyn Uhler (Dale) recently had surgery and Bro. Gaylord Beery (Sis. Cheryl) is recovering from a work accident.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Dee Beard**

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices
Who from our mother's arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

As we approach the holiday season, may we rejoice in the blessings from our Lord.

We are thankful to Elder Bro. Mark Masters for sharing the Word with us on a recent visit to Toledo. May he be blessed for his service in the Lord.

Bro. Walt Rager was recently hospitalized. Our prayers go out to him and Bro. Al Weigele as they heal. Bro. Al had foot surgery this past month.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

This past month our congregation was able to partake of Holy

Communion served to us by Elder Bros. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) and Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN). We sincerely appreciate the efforts of our Elder Brethren and their willingness to minister to the spiritual needs of our small flock here in Portland.

Other ministering brethren who visited us with their families are Bros. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), all from Silverton, OR. As always, we thank all visitors who joined us for worship this past month. Special gratitude to the visiting ministers and their families. We appreciate their unfailing support. May God bless you all.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Kuenzi

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Cor. 11:24-25

On October 19, we were able to remember the Lord's death and suffering on the cross as we gathered for Communion. How humbling it is to remember that our Lord didn't have to die, but went to the cross willingly to pay the price for our sins. Our heartfelt thanks to Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) who assisted our Elder Bro. Art Metz in the duties of the weekend.

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

Genesis 2:18

This month we rejoice with Jon Dettwyler (Bernie and Margaret) and Katie Andreas (Rod and Laurie) as they were married on October 26. We wish them God's blessings in their marriage.

Believing that God has drawn their hearts together, Bro. Ryan Hari (Harold and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Regina Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) announced their engagement. We wish them God's nearness and direction as they plan for their wedding on December 29.

Also announcing their engagement this month was Aaron Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb) and Stacie Zimmerman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb, Gridley, KS). They are planning to be married in Gridley, KS, on May 24, 2003. We share with them in their joy and wish them the Lord's blessings.

The Sunday School is our delight.
We love it more and more;
'tis here we learn to do the right
And live for evermore...

Hymns of Zion #73

The Lord has blessed our Silverton congregation with many children. It has become necessary to split up some of the larger classes into smaller groups. Five new Sunday School teachers were given the opportunity to teach these children. Our prayers are with Bro. Todd Haun, Sis. Marianne Kraft (Bro. Richard), Sis. Tamara Kuenzi (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane), Sis. Melissa Kuenzi (Bro. Todd) and Bro. Eldon Metz (Sis. Al-

ice).

Separated from loved ones across many miles, it gives us great comfort to sing the words of the song "Blest Be the Tie", knowing that we have a hope to meet again someday. This was the concluding hymn sung at a farewell singing for Sis. Jen Kloter (Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon, Rockville, CT). We will miss Sis. Jen as she has felt God's leading to return to her home church in Rockville after making her home in Oregon for a few years. We wish her God's blessings and continued direction in every step she makes in life.

In the hospital this month was Sis. Becky Von Flue (Dan). Our prayers are with them as they anxiously await the arrival of their child.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

We rejoice this month as Lauren Wiegand has found peace from God our Father and has experienced a full repentance and conversion. Along with parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle, she looks forward to a January proving and baptism. Our prayers are with Lauren and her family in this time.

Also this month we were pleased to hear of the engagement of our Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Daryl and Sis. Norma) to Sis. Jami Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita, Fairbury, IL). We wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they prepare for a new life together in Him.

As our children begin preparing for the Sunday School Christmas program, and we hear those familiar hymns again, we ourselves are

filled with a childlike anticipation of the blessed Christmas season. May we do everything we can to set a good example for them that they may know the true Spirit of Christmas.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

It is with humble joy that we share the engagement and coming marriage of our daughter, Sis. Cheree Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica), to Bro. Larry Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) from Junction, OH.

This month we have been reminded by our visiting ministers of the miracle of salvation and our deliverance from sin, and thus our duty to serve God with our whole being. We are so grateful for the willing service of our visiting ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO), retired Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA), and Bros. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), and Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL). We have also received many blessings from the fellowship of brethren and friends from Athens, AL; Oakville, IA; Congerville, Gridley, Peoria, and Tremont, IL; Lexington, KY; Morris, MN; Lamar, MO; and Rittman, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We do not have visiting ministers scheduled for the weekends of 12/22, 12/29 and 1/5, but our schedule resumes in 2003 with the following churches: Bradford, IL (1/12); Wolcott, IN (1/19), and Bay City, MI (1/26). We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song ser-

vice. 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

Carrie Beyer

In St. Luke 2:11, an angel of God speaks to frightened shepherds: "For unto you is born this day... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." This verse is particularly exciting, I think, because of the words unto you. They describe precisely why Jesus Christ came. He wasn't just born unto Mary or Joseph, but "unto you" – for every sinner desperately in need of a Saviour. During this Christmas season, we wish that everyone may experience constant, beautiful reminders of Christ's love!

Since the beginning of the summer, Bro. Eric Zimmerman (Morton, IL) has been a welcome addition to our small congregation. Now that his Austin internship is over, we wish him many blessings as he continues his education and career.

We'd also like to thank Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and Bros. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO), Ronald Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL), Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL), and Charles Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie; Elgin, IL) for serving as ministers in San Marcos over the past month.

The January calendar shows visiting ministers from the following churches: Smithville, OH (1-5); San Diego, CA (1-12); Gridley, IL (1-19); and Lamont- Gridley, KS

(1-26). We extend a hearty welcome to anyone else who may be in the area to worship with us. Let us know if you would be available for fellowship on Sat. or Sun. evening or during the week. And please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. Contacts are (Austin area) Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt, 512-360-3379; Brian and Terri Kaisner, 512-266-0178; Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger, 512-933-1380; Dale Kaisner, 512-255-7583; (Round Top/Houston area) Bro. Bill Zeltwanger, 979-249-5102; (San Antonio area) Sis. Dorothy Martin, 210-658-1968; (Ft. Worth area) Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer, 817-989-0868; and (Corpus Christi area) Sis. Dorothy Wenger and Joy Pipkin, 361-526-5556.

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. Take Exit #206; the hotel is on the southwest side access road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Joyce Nohl

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

Isaiah 9:6

As the busy holiday season approaches, may we remember the most precious gift ever given: Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

On November 10, we were privi-

leged to have Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL) visit our congregation with their sons, Kevin and Brandon. May God bless Bro. Dale and his family for their service to the Lord. We hope Kevin will come visit us again soon; he is presently working in Monterrey, Mexico.

Any winter visitors planning to visit the Valley for Sunday worship may want to contact Bro. Leland Plattner (956) 765-5612 or Bro. Lloyd Nohl (956) 581-8266 for location and schedule.

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

"In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Thess. 5:18

As the Thanksgiving season came and went, I was able to reflect on the past two years here in Rio Bravo, and I realized that I have so many wonderful blessings to be thankful for. May each of us take a minute to reflect on this past year and never forget all that God has done for us. I am thankful for His abundant grace, His forgiveness, His mercy and His unconditional love. I am thankful for the life lessons He has taught me while here in Rio Bravo, the trials, the tribulations, the joys and the triumphs. I am thankful for relationships with fellow missionaries, team members, our deaf students, our Mexican staff, the nationals, and family and friends back home. I am thankful for answered prayers and for the many promises found in God's Word. I am thankful for the freedom to worship and for a country where I am free to believe in God. I

am thankful for the ability to hear and for the ability to serve those who cannot hear. I am thankful for sign language—a means of teaching the deaf of Christ. I am thankful that God has called me to Rio Bravo.

For many months, we have been praying for the expansion for the ministry and it is very evident to all of us that God is answering our prayers. We have several new missionaries that hope to be joining the staff of MCCS within the next year. Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick and family (Washington, IL) and Sis. Kim Kaiser (Morton, IL) are currently attending language school in San Jose, Costa Rica, and plan to arrive in Rio Bravo in the spring of 2003. John and Kathy Clow (Plainfield, IL) and Tony and Fairly Cooper (Murfreesboro, TN) are currently in the process of raising support. And, there are several other individuals that are currently going through the ICCD application process and, Lord willing, will join our staff within a year or so.

So, you may ask, what are we going to do with so many people? Well, we don't have all of the an-

swers, but we know God does, and we continue to trust Him. God has not only been expanding the ministry people-wise, but He has also been opening up doors to start new campuses in other parts of Mexico, and as those campuses develop, there will be a need for each of these future missionaries.

In September, I was blessed with an opportunity to travel with Ernest Clark, General Director of ICCD, and his wife, Mary; Nono Beale, Director of MCCS, and his wife, Kate; and Dr. Roberto Rodriguez and his wife, Norma, to several different locations in Mexico. We traveled to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon; Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas; and Valladolid, Yucatan. In all three locations we had the opportunity to meet with the governor of the state and/or his representatives to see about the possibility of opening a school in the various locations. We were warmly received in all three areas and are currently in the process of pursuing land opportunities. None of the campuses are a definite go at this point, but we continue to trust the Lord and are willing to follow Him wherever He may lead.

In November, Ernest Clark returned to Valladolid, Yucatan and Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, to investigate the land possibilities. God continues to open doors one at a time and we are excited to see where He will lead each of us. May we all be willing to go wherever His paths may take us.

We would like to extend a warm invitation to anyone that is interested to attend a Rio Bravo reunion/presentation the weekend of January 4-5, 2003. It will be held in the Peoria, IL, Fellowship Hall on Saturday the 5th and will begin at 5:00 p.m. There will be a dinner and a presentation that will be given by the ICCD/MCCS staff. Then on Sunday everyone is invited to Washington, IL, for church. Nono and Kate Beale and their children, Bibb and Sadler, Ray and Tanya McDaniel, Corry Moore and myself will all be present. We hope many of you can make it to share in this time of fellowship. For further details, please contact Bro. Ron Kellenberger (Washington, IL) at 309-383-2325. Hope to see you there.



Silver Threads

Whose Are The Children?

Whose are the children?
 They are born in a hospital amidst a hubub,
 And rushed off to the nursery in a big plastic tub.
 Whose are the children?
 They are taken home and sat down in front of TV
 To watch things that are definitely not fit to see.
 Whose are the children?
 They are sent off to a babysitter or even day care
 So Mom can work and get them out of her hair.
 Whose are the children?
 They are sent off to preschool to get a good start.
 But who is going to shepherd the heart?
 Whose are the children?
 Next, it is to kindergarten, they need that, too
 So they can learn to color, draw, play and glue.
 Whose are the children?
 Then, it's elementary school, it's a must
 So they can "socialize" with others on a grand yellow bus.
 Whose are the children?
 Middle school comes next, let's get them involved,
 In band, drama, cheerleading, and all kinds of ball.
 Whose are the children?
 Now it's high school - a definite need
 Where they will learn all they need to succeed.
 Whose are the children?
 The next move has got to be college
 Since you can't get a decent job without knowledge.
SO, WHOSE ARE THE CHILDREN?
 The answer by now is plain to see
 They belong to a Godless society
 Of teachers, coaches, peers, and Hollywood
 That care nothing about what God says they should.
 Their parents have given up their God-given roles
 In hot pursuit of their own selfish goals.
 Oh, Lord, wake us now before it's too late
 To reclaim our children from this awful fate
 To train them for Jesus and shepherd their heart
 And teach them Biblical truths right from the start.

—submitted by a Sister in Christ

Dying for Me

Dying for me, dying for me,
 There on the cross He was dying for
 me;
 In my deep sorrow I feel His great pain,
 There on the cross He was dying for
 me.

Dying for me, dying for me,
 Hanging on nails He was dying for me;
 One nail in each hand and one in His
 feet,
 Jesus was hanging and dying for me.

Cruel is that death, hanging on nails,
 For hours the cruel torture tears at the
 soul;
 For it was Jesus who bore it and died,
 Jesus was dying, was dying for me.

How can we pay Him for His pain,
 That can save us from that 'ere lasting
 shame;
 By repenting and dying to sin,
 Jesus has died, yes, has died for us all.

Will we take heed to that blest call,
 Kneel at the cross to make Him our
 King;
 To rule and to guide our lives ever
 more,
 Jesus has died and bore it for us all.

*Can be sung to the tune of "Wounded for
 Me", pg. 345 in Tabernacles
 Written by Bro. Ben Knapp*

Sermon continued from page 2

sel is truth, verity, righteousness. He can show us the way through the maze, the darkness of this world even to heaven.

His name also is "...The mighty God..." Isaiah 9:6. The Mighty God - do we ever think about that? Jesus and God are one. In another place we read there, in Matthew it said, "...and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." St. Matthew 1:23. Emmanuel, which is God with us. God in the flesh - Jesus Christ. A mystery, the Trinity. But loved ones, He is God. He came as God in the flesh. One with God, He told us. Doing only the things that God would want Him to do. Saying only those things. Jesus Christ is equal and is God with us. He is God in the flesh. So loved ones, let us rejoice in that we don't just deal with someone that has not power. We don't deal with a king that is still under another. But we deal with God. God with us. Emmanuel. Jesus Christ.

Then He is also called "...The everlasting Father..." Isaiah 9:6. Not just to stop at Calvary, not just to conclude His work and perish. But everlasting. Without beginning, without end. Jesus Christ. That is our Jesus. The One we sing about. The One that was born in a manger. The One that this day has come to pass that we can gather together and we can worship together about. Jesus Christ, the everlasting Father.

And finally, "...The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. The Prince of Peace. In Jesus we find peace. True peace, a lasting peace. Not the talked about peace of the world. Not the peace as negotiated around tables by different arbitrators or ambassadors of countries. We talk of peace here that is everlasting. Without end. I think there is many of us when we read the papers today and we see the turmoil of the world, that we long for that everlasting peace. Loved ones, in

this world we cannot find that peace. We have to come to Jesus Christ to receive peace, this everlasting peace. Because He is the Prince of this peace.

So today as we consider this, what does it take? What does it take to come to Jesus Christ? What does it take to receive everlasting peace? We read together of the wise men. They didn't know I don't think, the whole account. They didn't probably even know the prophets and what was prophesied in the land of Judah that someday a Saviour, a Messiah would be born. But why the Bible calls them wise is because they recognized something special was happening. They did not stay in their own lands, did they, with the knowledge. But they got up and they headed out, following the distant gleam of a star, a light that shone into their lives. They had faith to believe it was leading them to a king, the King of Judah. They wanted to come and worship Him. They evidently saw that there was something special going to be here. That was faith, loved ones, faith in action. They did it. They got up on their camels, or whatever mode of transportation they took and they followed the gleam of that star, in faith, believing it would lead them.

If our light that shines unto us today seems far and distant, as long as it is just a twinkling little light, loved ones, and it is the light of Jesus Christ, it will lead us to the same place that theirs led them to. It will lead us through subtlety, through deceit as it led them. They went to Herod. They thought, well they will go to the government there and found out because this has got to be big. It had been revealed to them that this was for a king. They went to talk to Herod. He did not know anything about it. He deceitfully told them, "...Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also." St. Matthew 2:8. We know how Herod dealt with the

children of that land a short time later, thinking he could stamp out a competitor, killing all the children in that area.

We see how that star led them on until it says, "...till it came and stood over where the young child was." St. Matthew 2:9. They followed the light. They followed that light. They kept their eye on it. They put aside their homeland, their wives, their families and they headed out to see Jesus. That is what we have to do today, too. That is how we make our beginning, loved ones. We follow that light of Jesus Christ and we come to the light. Then we are wise men and women. Then we truly can be called wise, because herein alone is truth. Herein alone is something of value beyond anything we can have in this world. These men recognized that and they came and it was revealed to them. God did not leave them in darkness any longer, did He? He did not shut the light off. He did not take away the star, even after they went and enquired of Herod. He gave them that light. He led them to that place where Jesus was. They found Him, didn't they?

It says they did not just come in and say, "Oh, here He is", did they? No. They bowed before Him. They humbled themselves before Emmanuel - God with us. They humbled themselves. We do that in repentance, loved ones. We humbly come to Jesus at the foot of the cross where He shed His blood, trusting in that blood. We come to Him and find our peace, our redemption. We find our forgiveness. And then, loved ones, we bring also the gifts, as these men so many years ago brought these precious gifts - precious gifts.

I often think about that because as little children, we don't have money maybe. We start feeling we would like to do something for our parents. Christmas day comes and we know

Sermon continued on next page...

Sermon continued from page 45

Mom and Dad are going to be buying us presents. I remember as a young child feeling sometimes, I just want to do something for Mom and Dad. I would like to buy them something but I don't have any money. I remember going and talking to Mom and saying, "Mom, I want to get you something." And I remember her telling me, "Well, you just give me a kiss here and be a good boy. That is the best present you can give me."

That is what we want to think about when we talk about our heavenly Father. What can we give God, who owns everything, can make everything, who created the world and everything we have and are? But there is a little song that says, "What shall I give Him, poor as I am? If I was a shepherd I would give Him a lamb. (That is not anything, is it?) If I was a wise man, I would do my part. What shall I give Him? I'll give my heart." That is what we need to give. We need to come to Jesus Christ in love. He gives us a kiss of peace, doesn't He? Give Him our life. Then, loved ones, we receive that peace. That is when we receive that peace which we read about here today. That is what is so important in our lives, isn't it? Peace - the absence of turmoil, the absence of strife. The absence of war, fightings, doubtings, fears, tremblings.

It is one of those precious words in our English language, isn't it, this peace? It can come into our souls and then we can truly enjoy our life here and the life to come. We can truly know that the star we are following, the star of hope, the star of faith will lead us to see Jesus again. We see Him and we know Him in the Spirit. But someday we will see Him face to face the Bible tells us, if we continue following and don't turn back and don't give up.

We read together, too, of how the wise men had come and found Him in a house. So we know it was probably

some time after He was actually born. It was not on the same night, necessarily. Because already Mary and Joseph had found a house. We know that all the inns and the homes were taken when they came until that one inn keeper gave them a place to rest, a place that at least was out of the weather there in the manger. A lowly place, wasn't it? We would say today, He is in a barn. Born in a barn. I do not think any king or ruler today would look back and want to reveal that fact that they were that humble and meek. But Jesus Christ is humble and meek.

We love it when we see true meekness and true humility, don't we? We see that in little children and that is why they are so precious. Because they can show us what true humility and true meekness is. Jesus showed us perfection in that because He was meek and humble even after He became an adult. How many of us today can really feel that we are always meek and we are always humble? I think about myself and I know all or at least part of the pride and the arrogance and the things that rise up within us. And I cannot say that. I would like to be. I would like to be like Jesus. I would like to be able to really, truly always be like Him.

So we keep following the star, don't we? Even sometimes it seems to flicker before us, the little light that leads us on to Him. But if we keep our eyes tuned to it, we don't take our eyes off it, they cannot be clouded, they cannot be side tracked by other lights that might even be brighter and appear to be brighter, that come into our lives. We cannot become disappointed, discouraged if our effort and our goal is to follow the light.

Let us be careful, loved ones, today. Because we live in a time of affluence. We live in a time where we can buy each other all the goods of the world. Many of us have a lot of them in our homes. We surely don't want them to

keep us from occupying our proper place with a group of pilgrims that are following the light, do we? Nor do we want to have them keep us from seeing clearly the light, because their glamour and their light is blinding us. Then we would fall back into the place where it says the land of Zebulun and Naphtali was in. Where dimness would be coming over our eyes and darkness would be once more a part of us. I think, loved ones, all of us that know Jesus Christ as Wonderful, as our Counsellor, as our Prince of Peace; I think all of us know that Jesus Christ is the light we want to follow. He is the One that we want to eventually see. Because He alone gives us the promise of eternity. Everything else we have, everything else we can buy will fade away, will rust, will corrupt. Jesus does not. Jesus never fails. He will never fail us.

So loved ones, as we think about this today and we rejoice together, let us keep our hearts joyful because of the promise, because of the hope, because of the joy that we have in Jesus, not in the things of the world. Even if we are little children here today, even if we have had many presents we have gotten at home - Mom and Dad have fulfilled a lot of our desires providing for us, providing us something to do to enjoy ourselves - let us not forget Jesus. If we follow Jesus, we can have that promise that our soul shall rise from the graves, if it be that it lieth there, and shall join our loved ones that are there also. What a light, what a glory, what a splendor that will be when He comes again! Loved ones, we will be so thankful that we have followed the light, as the wise men of old. That we have seen His star. Not only saw it, but followed it. May God give us grace today that every one of us would fix our eyes on that star and follow it.



CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2002, 2003

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
MEBSH	Jan. 2-10, '03	Les Cayes	Craig Emch	Grade School	9	100%
AWA-FRW	Jan. 9-17, '03	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4	100%
AWA-T	Jan. 9-17, '03	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	50%
AWA-B	Jan. 9-17, '03	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2	100%
MEBSH	Jan. 30 - Feb. 7, '03	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	9	50%
Palm Grove	Jan. 31-Feb. 8, '03	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	70%
SEED	Feb. 6-14, '03	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
MEBSH	Feb. 13-21, '03	Les Cayes	Rich Bertschi	Grade School	9	100%
SEED	Mar. 13-21, '03	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
Palm Grove	Mar. 28-Apr. 5, '03	Puit Sales	Mike Reinhard	Grade School	11	0%
AWA-FRW	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4	100%
AWA-T	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	50%
AWA-B	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2	100%
MEBSH	May 5-23, '03	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	0%
JAMAICA						
CCCD	Jan 2-10, '03	Montego Bay	Greg Herman	Deaf School	50/60	100%
CCCD	Mar 7-15, '03	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	50%
CCCD	Mar 14-22, '03	Deaf Village	TBA	Work Place	40	50%
CCCD	May 23-31, '03	Deaf Village	Ted Hirstein / TBA	Work Place	40	100%
CCCD	Jun 28 - Jul 5, '03	Deaf Village	(1) Smithville, Akron, Rittman BC	Work Place	70	0%

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		jmmaibach@valkyrie.net
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	rbeebe@surfpure.com
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		gberman@juno.com
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	309-923-9154 or 941-485-4302	same as phone number	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
Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		lemangm@mtco.com
Ted Habegger	260-694-6765		th@parlorcity.com
Mike Reinhard	248-427-0396	248-427-0396	mreinhard@msn.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

Attention: Sunday School Superintendents: Now is the time to reserve your place for a 2003 Sunday School work project at the Caribbean Christian Center of the Deaf in Jamaica, which is already filling its 2003 project calendar. We do not want you to be disappointed by not getting the schedule date you want. All interested in scheduling a project should feel free to contact Bro. Kevin Sauder, PO Box 354, Tremont, IL 61568-0345. Phone/Fax (309) 925-2409 or e-mail: ksss@dpc.net.

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

877-370-9988 (toll free)

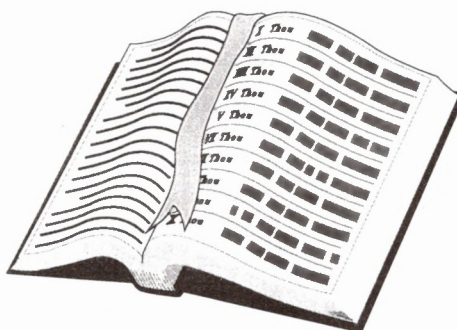
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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

At the recent elder conference, the
elder body approved a request for a na-
tional World Relief Office. The staff at
the office will perform the following
duties:

- 1) Perform administrative duties
for World Relief.
- 2) Answer questions concerning
World Relief and work teams.
- 3) Warehouse and ship World Relief
brochures, forms, and literature.
- 4) Provide information and vision
of World Relief to visitors.

Everyone is welcome to contact this
office if they have World Relief related
questions or needs. The office is lo-
cated in the lower floor of the
Remington Fellowship Hall.

Contact Information:
Administrative Coordinator
Stan Virkler

Apostolic Christian World Relief
16448 S US Highway 231
Remington, IN 47977-8822
219-261-3200 (phone)
219-261-3280 (fax)
information@acwr.org (e-mail)

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
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Volunteer Needs For the Navajo Project

There is an immediate need for installers for floor tile, kitchen cabinetry, and bathroom components. Finish carpenters are also needed. Please contact: Bro. Arnold Gerst, 1107 Madonna Dr., Quincy, IL 62305-7149, phone 217-223-8424, or via e-mail: agerst@rnet.com.

Mexico Work Teams 2002 - 2003

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone & (e-mail)</u>
Juarez	Dec. 27 - Jan. 3, '03	Construction	Doug Schock dcschock@juno.com	641-929-3377
Juarez	Jan. 4 - 11, '03	Construction	Grant Gudeman gudemaga@purdue.edu	765-743-2243
Juarez	Jan. 11 - 18, '03	Construction	Steve Gerber steveslandscape@adamswells.com	260-824-9561
Juarez	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Kurt Ifer kurt@stevesconstruction.com	260-824-2829
Imuris	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley jtooley@mcdavisco.com	480-460-4531
Agua Prieta	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman socks@bnin.net	574-773-4373
Juarez	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Rick Yergler ryergler@yahoo.com	260-824-4513
Agua Prieta	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman socks@bnin.net	574-773-4373
Rio Bravo	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Ron Kellenberger kberger@mtco.com	309-383-2325
Juarez	Mar. 20 - 27, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082
Imuris	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley jtooley@mcdavisco.com	480-460-4531
Rio Bravo	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Pete Aberle	309-925-5969
Rio Bravo	Jun. 14 - 21, '03	Construction	Chad Kaeb gal220@hughestech.net	815-962-0612
Rio Bravo	Jun. 28 - July 5, '03	Construction	Joe Maller jmaller@adamswells.com	260-565-3211
Rio Bravo	July 5 - July 12, '03	Construction	Timothy Lehman timothy.lehman@ey.com	913-236-5721

If anyone would desire to go to Mexico at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or e-mail: mfiechter@parlorcity.com



The data below consists of a variety of historical facts. On occasion, the "Remembering" column will feature miscellaneous topics that are not necessarily related.

Thanksgiving

On November 28 our nation celebrated "Thanksgiving". A special day has been set aside since 1863 for Americans to give thanks (to God). As we reflect on the general concept of giving thanks, there are a host of things to be thankful for, not the least of which is religious freedom. We are able to assemble without fear of governmental persecution. The constitution of the United States guarantees the right for each citizen to worship according to individual conscience. There is no mandate to support a state church. The right to worship freely is a wonderful blessing.

For true believers in Christ, this has not always been the case. The early church suffered terrible persecutions. Our Anabaptist forbearers had to endure harsh persecution in the 16th century. This resulted, however, in the movement's growth.

When our church denomination was founded in Switzerland, government authorities did not take kindly to the establishment of any group that pulled away from the state church. They were sometimes hounded by police.

Bro. Samuel Froehlich was dismissed from the Swiss State Church for preaching an evangelical doctrine, and for refusing to adopt the practice of infant baptism. He and his dedicated brethren in the 1830's and 1840's were harassed for preaching from the Bible and advocating adult baptism (based on faith, repentance and conversion).

They vowed to each other they would keep the faith, "whatever the cost might be." The early days (in Switzer-

land, etc.) were not always easy as evidenced by the following:

—Once in 1837, Bro. Froehlich conducted a worship meeting from 2:30 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. to escape the attention of civil authorities.

—Night meetings (in secret) were not uncommon. Once, during 1841 at Teufenthal, brothers and sisters were together from midnight until 5:30 a.m.

—On April, 1842, Bro. Froehlich came to Hauptwil to visit a newborn son. He was thrown in jail overnight.

—In 1843, Bro. Froehlich was expelled from Zurich and labeled a "dangerous sectarian".

An American Jailing

In America, due to constitutional protection, civil persecution was virtually nonexistent, save for misunderstandings growing out of non-combatant military service during both World Wars. A jailing of brethren took place at Macon, GA, during World War I.

This incident happened when Elder Barthol Rapp (Morton, IL) and Bro. Gustave Bucher (Gridley, IL) went to visit boys from church serving at Camp Wheeler near Macon. These two men went to hold worship services for those serving in the Army.

They gathered in a room in Hotel Lanier in downtown Macon. About 20 or so soldiers and the two older brothers crowded themselves into a room. They locked the door and pulled the shades. German hymnals were handed out and singing began (in the German language); this at a time when our nation was at war with Germany.

The sounds of German singing soon wafted through the halls and down to the main lobby. Bystanders were offended. Police were summoned, and police broke up the meeting – and marched the entire group down to the nearest police station and jailed them.

In their defense, the group indicated that General Leroy S. Lyon, of Camp Wheeler, had approved the meeting. City authorities were able to confirm this, and the men were released.

A headline in the *Macon Daily Telegraph* read, "German Religious Services Broken Up By The Police." The article went on to explain that permission had been granted, but the local civilian police were not notified.

Gridley, Illinois

News of this arrest soon traveled north. In Gridley, Illinois, townspeople heard of the jailing – for soldiers singing in German at a time when that nation was our enemy – and a reaction occurred. One Saturday night a group from town scrawled (in yellow paint) the slogan, "NO MORE GERMAN" on the front of the church. When the brethren arrived at church the next morning they were stunned, and became fearful. This incident resulted in switching over to the English language in worship, after having used German since the church was established in 1870.

Please note: "Remembering" is asking for historical articles, letters and other written artifacts relevant to Apostolic Christian Church history. If you have any, please feel free to forward them to this column, P.O. Box 404, Pontiac, IL 61764. They may or may not be used in this column.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

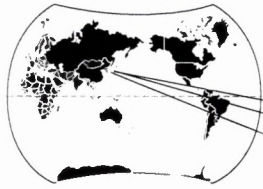
Next Issue:

Bro. Froehlich's Appeals to the State

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Christ Was Made Perfect”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The idea that Christ needed to be made perfect is probably as big a shock to you as it was to me. Nevertheless, in Hebrews 5:9 we read, “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” This insinuates that at some time, there was something about Christ that was less than perfect.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of the perfect Son of God, who was born as a babe in Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago. I am willing to be taught as to what the verse in Hebrews means, but it may be that any imperfection was in the human body in which He came to dwell. Certainly His spirit was perfect because He was equal with God. John 5:18, “Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”

When it was decided that the Son of God would become a human being, there was risk involved. The human body is subject to

temptation differently than a spirit is subject to temptation. At least Christ was tempted very severely for 40 days and 40 nights as recorded in Luke 4:2, “Being forty days tempted of the devil.” Evidently, Christ could have yielded to the temptations of the devil. He was not preprogrammed to be victorious over all temptation. This involved a risk. Hebrews 4:15 reads, “But was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

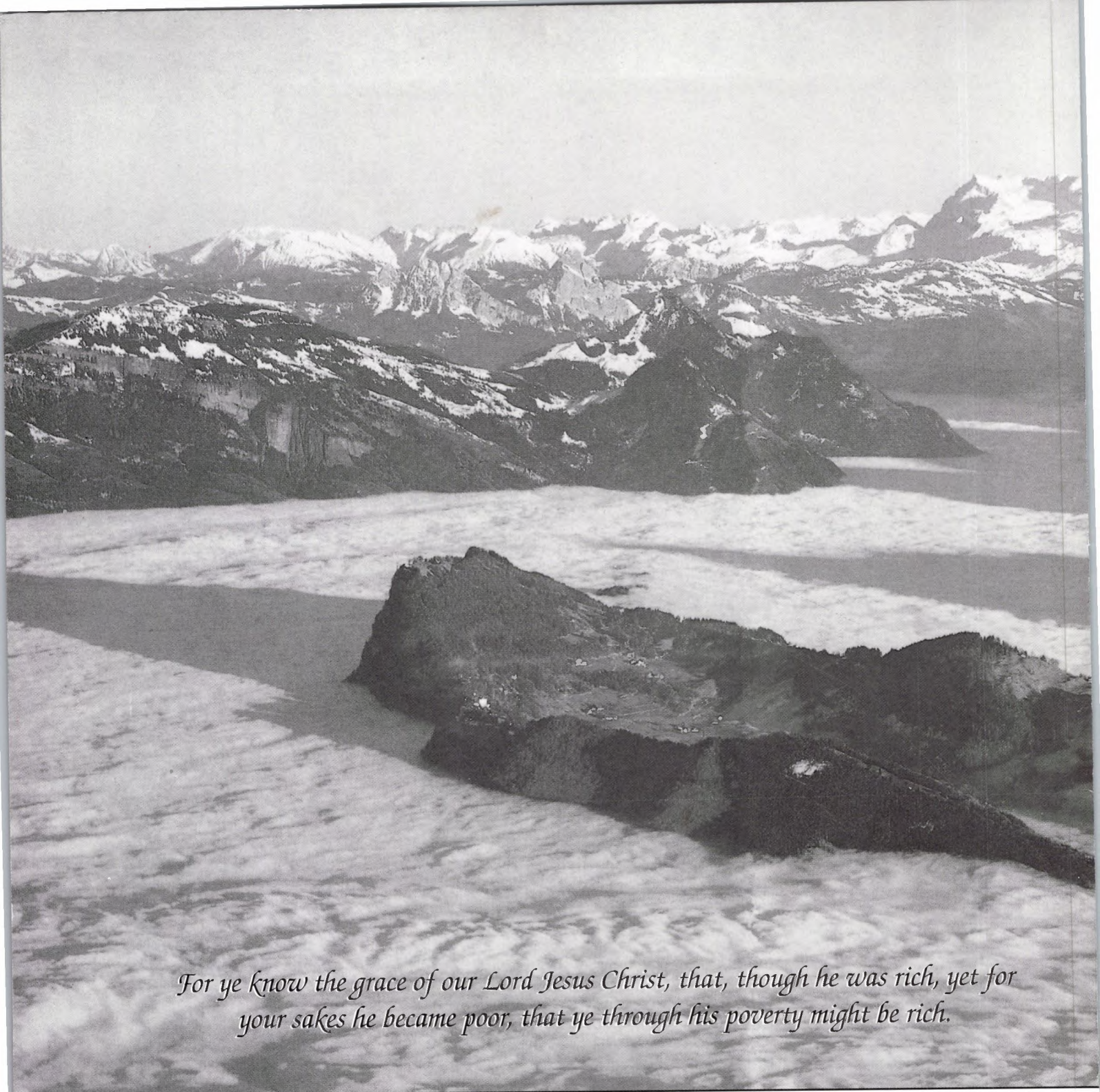
In Hebrews 5:7 we read that Christ, “Offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears.” This sounds like His experience in the Garden of Gethsemane. The next verse says, “Yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.” Maybe we also, have to learn obedience by the things which we suffer.

When Christ came to earth He escaped being under the curse of sin because of the virgin birth. However, His situation was similar to that of Adam and Eve in that He was subject to temptation.

However, this second Adam stood the test and was made perfect by resisting all temptation. Romans 5:19 reads, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” Christ in the flesh was not perfect in the sense that His earthly body was subject to temptation. However, He did win the battle with Satan and we are very thankful for that. We, also, need to persevere and win the battle with Satan, thus fulfilling Christ’s commandment, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

Yes, Christ was not automatically perfect as a human being. He struggled and suffered, by virtue of which He was made perfect. What a Saviour!

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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.

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